

Swedenborg Association of Australia President's report for 2022

Perhaps to state the obvious, this year has generally been for very many people and also for the SAA, a much freer and less inhibiting year than the previous two years. Hopefully that whole three-year experience makes us appreciate what we are able to do and our ability to meet up as well as being online to share things.

In passing, I'd like to mention this year's 'specific', not here but in Ukraine. The reason I'm mentioning it is that there was, not that many years ago, and hopefully still, a Swedenborg activity not very different from the Swedenborg Association we have here. People, youngish people too, met, shared, and got real benefit from reading, presenting, discussing and socialising in Swedenborg-related things, in a town called Dnipropetrovsk. This year, and in the week I'm writing, the area has been under attack. Let's give them our prayers and support, and appreciate our relative security, never to be taken for granted .

One of the ever-beating pulses of the Swedenborg Association this year has been the number of and variety of events running regularly during the week and through the year. The variety is impressive, direct Swedenborg things, with reading through Swedenborg books, with open-sharing opportunities to meet to open up with others about anything spiritual, with beyond but linked to Swedenborg sessions where the spiritual ideas of other figures are drawn on. More recently, an art course has taken off, with one series on Correspondences completed (can art ever be completed?), and a second one now underway. This has been, like many of the other events, a mix of people physically present and joining in online. It augurs well that all these events continue on and have been going a good time.

A small but regular feed goes on, of new interest from people making enquiries about Swedenborg and the spiritual material that is in his writings, perhaps just wondering what it is all about, or sensing that this seems to be quite different from set religion and dogma, or coming into contact from advertising or hearing/reading something, or from the very much there is online. It shows that a percentage of people would be and are interested in spiritual material which is related to our inner and personal states.

There is a lot of regular presentation in various ways online. SwedenborgAustralia is the Youtube focus, there is our Facebook page where excellent and relevant and often timely things are posted, concurrent with events or things many people are talking about. There is the E-news, more directed to what is happening and coming up. And there is the SAA website which covers a huge presentation of and collection of material and where what's going on is highlighted and linked for joining in. The website now has a complete (wow!) archive of all issues of the journal, Candela.

Speaking of which, 2022 celebrated 30 years of the existence of the Swedenborg Association of Australia since July 2nd 1992. This important fact got promoted, and the main and now historical coverage was in a full issue of Candela bringing memories, appreciation, past events, many photos and a lot more for everyone to enjoy. Good work!

As President, and your behalf, I want to thank Joe Vandermeer for so much, to thank Ruth Duckworth for steering the production of each Candela, Michael Chester for dealing with finance and uploading great stuff online and keeping records of engagements, Wayne Kasmar for being secretary, Howard and Debra for committee input and valuable contributions, Liz Kemmis for coming in and assisting at the Centre, and, no doubt, others.



Julian Duckworth