## REV. B ANNE GEHMAN NSAC & PROFESSOR WAYNE KNOLL VISIT SPIRITUALIST COMMUNITY IN ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA



In the first week of January 2007 Reverend Anne Gehman NSAC and her husband Professor Wayne Knoll visited South Australia to speak, teach and share their knowledge of Spiritualism with the Adelaide Spiritualist community. Anne and Wayne traveled to Adelaide at the invitation of the New Age Spiritualist Mission, a Spiritualist organization which was formed in 1922, and all activities during their visit were held at the Rosa Tingey Centre, the home of the Mission.

The schedule of events began with a Lecture presentation by Professor Knoll. Wayne gave an entertaining and absorbing talk titled 'Endings & Beginnings' in which he discussed Spiritualism from a historical perspective and from a personal point of view and drew in many interesting themes. After, a Buffet Luncheon was provided where Anne and Wayne had an opportunity to meet and talk informally with the leaders of seven Spiritualist Churches as well as many others in the Adelaide Spiritualist community. In the afternoon Anne spoke on and then demonstrated the art and science of Psychometry, impressing the over 50 people present with her knowledge and skill.

During the week, Anne ran four short workshops on Psychic Awareness, Mediumship and Spirituality, Unfolding the Gift of Healing and Psychometry. Each workshop was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Much knowledge was shared and benefit gained with Anne's wonderful presentations. One evening Anne joined a small group of platform mediums and gave them advice and great guidance on how to further develop their mediumship skills.

Anne also found time in the busy schedule to undertake some private readings. All who had readings went away impressed not only by the quality of the evidential information they received but also with the gentle and loving manner in which Anne presented the messages from loved ones in the Spirit World. Anne also undertook to do a public demonstration where she gave a powerful talk about the nature of mediumship followed

by a convincing demonstration of proof of survival to over 90 people.

At all events Anne had thrilled those present with the depth of her knowledge and her wonderful mediumship but day eight proved to be a most extraordinary experience for the 22 people who were privileged to attend the seminar on physical phenomena mediumship and the séance that followed.

Most who attended were practising Spiritualists, including mediums and students of mediumship and psychic development, however Leigh Turner PhD, an Adelaide based internationally renowned scientist and electrical/electronic engineer, also attended. Leigh considers himself as an open minded objective observer with an emerging interest in the afterlife and methods of earthly communication therewith. The following words are part of his report on the events that took place.

"During the séance and demonstrations I witnessed some astounding events that completely defied rational explanation by means of the traditional science and physics that I am familiar and conversant with; hence arguably might well be attributable to paranormal spirit phenomenon."

Leigh writes of the highlights of "this most extraordinary evening" beginning with the demonstration of Transfiguration. "Anne Gehman went into a trance state in a darkened room illuminated by a monochromatic red light source sitting on a table a few feet in front of her. She was sitting against a black cloth backdrop....."during the trance (Anne) spoke in several voices and abstruse sentence structures and intonations that were clearly not her own as apparently various spirits seemingly took command of her vocal apparatus. Subsequently her face features transformed into numerous dramatically different male and female forms ranging from a very old deeply winkled woman, to a young girl called 'Sally', to a square-jawed man with Errol Flynn style moustache and thick busy eyebrows."

At one stage a particular transfiguration of an elderly woman claiming to be the deceased mother of Wayne Knoll was observed and the audible 'yes' acknowledging her identity was, as Leigh notes "heard to have emanated not from (Anne's) mouth, but seemingly from a spatial position approximately two feet above and to the right of her shoulder. At yet another stage of transformation an extra set of ectoplasmic blinking eyes seemed to be superimposed on her forehead!"

Leigh, like everyone one else in the room, was absolutely stunned by the progression of more than 8 radically different facial transformations, but this was just a 'warm-up' to the main highlight which followed after a short break in proceedings.

Three solidly built 3 feet 6 inch diameter dining room tables each with heavy central columns supported by 3 radial legs were set up in the room and at each table people placed their hands lightly on the table tops linking thumbs and outer little fingers with each other to form a continuous unbroken circle. After a period of anxious anticipation "two of the tables initially started with subtle movement followed by violent tipping, then

periodically moving and rocking like wild bucking horses, at which time the experienced mediums around the table were reporting a flood of spirit messages and affirmations flowing during the height of the physical activity!"

Leigh goes on to describe how the table movement was "both vertical (levitation!!) and horizontally disposed. It was also a very substantial and powerful motion. In one case the horizontal movement of the table was several metres, migrating in both purposeful and random directions of travel across the room, the circle of participants having to hurriedly clear away chairs and handbags in the pathway."

Leigh was "incredulously stunned by witnessing this happen". As a scientist he felt compelled at one stage to break the circle to deliberately try and introduce force to counteract the motions of the table but was simply unable to do so despite applying all of his available strength. At the peak of the table's motion "an ephemeral white mass of supposed ectoplasm appeared at the feet of the table, shortly after which the timber joint that locked the lower leg into the table's robust central turned wood column had fractured causing one of the 3 legs to completely fall off and the table to collapse to the floor! One can imagine / estimate the mechanical force that would be required to cause such structural failure"



After the session ended Leigh undertook a scrupulous detailed inspection and assessment of the tables and could "find no evidence whatsoever of mechanical or electrical contrivances that might be capable of bringing about the motion effects" that he had witnessed. In fact two of the three tables that were used in the séance were borrowed from a Mission member and brought to the Mission building just a few minutes before the start of the session and the table that so dramatically collapsed was one of those borrowed!

On the following day Anne was guest Demonstrator and Wayne Speaker at the Mission's Sunday Service. Wayne enthralled the more than 65 people who attended with an exceptional talk entitled 'Life, Death & the Afterlife', while Anne once again thrilled everyone with an evidential demonstration of survival over death of people's friends and loved ones. In turn Anne & Wayne were able to join us in an 'Aussie' style Spiritualist meeting followed by a Barbeque Lunch where everyone wanted to take the opportunity to thank and say farewell to our wonderful guests from America.

In closing I want to share just three comments received about Anne and Wayne's visit for I think they express how we in Adelaide feel.

"What a fabulous week we have all shared with Anne Gehman and Wayne Knoll! Thank you (Anne and Wayne) for providing us with such wonderful experiences and opportunities for spiritual growth and awareness. I will always remember this past week with love and gratitude." *Judi D* 

"Rev Anne is a unique person and I appreciated the opportunity to learn from her. It's been great for me in that it has expanded my mind and provided new levels of spiritual understanding and being." *Anne F* 

"This was a most compelling introduction to the discipline and realm of Spiritualism." *Leigh T* 

Thank you Anne and Wayne – as a result of your visit we have learned so much more about Spiritualism and mediumship but also most importantly about living spiritually. The Committee and Trustees of the N.A.S.M. Inc. and I, as Mission Leader, express our sincerest gratitude to you both for sharing your knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual gifts with us. Most of all we thank you for being the wonderful people you are, that was the greatest gift you shared with us all. To use an Aussie phrase Wayne learnt while in Adelaide, Anne and Wayne, you and your visit to Adelaide was "It and a bit!"







LIS AND ANNE AT ROCKFORDS WINERY BAROSSA VALLEY ON A REST DAY



WAYNE, ANNE, LIS, JIM & ROBERT



ANNE, WAYNE, LIS with ROSA TINGEY'S PHOTOGRAPH WATCHING



WAYNE AND ANNE AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS



ANNE AND WAYNE PRESENTING BOOKS TO LIS



THE AUSSIE BBQ