Roseville New Church, 4, Shirley Road, Roseville, NSW 2069

CHURCH BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Each Church Bulletin will come out online or get to you posted before the end of the previous month. If anything is to go into the next one, it needs to be with me by the previous 25th, please. Feel free to contact me on 0427 938 732 or julian@duckworth.me Thanks, Julian

Minister's Message

Today, September 1st, is the first day of Spring. Nice! Enjoy! Notice the warmer, the colourfulness, the brightness, the growth, gradually coming into the world around you. The freesias are out now in front of the church manse, adding quiet beauty to the bricks and concrete which are there all year round. In a couple of weeks the freesias will have gone. So, one lesson of spring for us is to make the most of 'now' while it is with us, out there in nature, in us in our heart, mind, and spirit. Spring up … and spring out!

The word 'spring' comes from an older word meaning 'to burst forth'. Isn't that descriptive? It's true spiritually as well. One of our former ministers made a wonderful statement that the Bible verse, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. Whoever opens the door, I will come in and sup with him/her" sounds like it's a knock from outside us. But it isn't! It's a knock from inside us, of God and God's presence wanting to come out into our life and lift, restore, warm up and guide our life. I think that is just perfect.

I used to think that God 'pours' life into us. As a child, I saw a big Cadbury's chocolate ad with a jugful of milk up above the bar, pouring milk into it. A bit like God? But now I think it's much more from the inside, almost like a fountain… "bursting forth" springing up from within. And fountains are one of the most beautiful and lively objects in our world, spraying up and out into torrents and droplets. And it's what God wants there to be going on in you and me, in us all.

The gospels word for 'Life' is 'Zoe' - the girl's name. It doesn't just mean alive as the opposite of dead. It means 'lively', even 'effervescent', 'bubbly', 'champagne' ! That kind of life is God's gift of course, but we need to let it come out and help it happen in us. Think of some ways and changes that you could try and keep there in yourself, enabling the gift of lively life to come through and out in what you do and who you are.

Go well with it all… Julian

Thank you

Today is also the closing day of the visits of Rachel and Ben to our church.

Here I just want to say thank you to everybody, all of you, a large number of us, who came, took part, helped, brought things, and all of that kindness of church togetherness, for the most part, **twice**! It felt wonderful and welcoming.

News for September from the Swedenborg Centre

See the website at https://swedenborg.com.au/ for event details, news and Zoom links to join events when each event begins. Here follow a list of events for your calendar, which begin again from September 1st onwards. Note that there is no event on September 15th and 16th while Joe is attending the Council of Ministers.

Swedenborg discussions: every Tuesday (i.e. Sept. 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th) from 11am to 1pm. Any topic or question is welcome relating to your spiritual path and life. We often end up exploring an concept from Swedenborg.

Swedenborg reading and exploration: every Wednesday (i.e. Sept. 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th) from 10am to noon. We are still reading Swedenborg's True Christianity (a.k.a. True Christian Religion), a most fascinating set of teachings.

Shakuhachi Masters Concert: come and hear six masters play the the soothing sounds of the Japanese bamboo flute with Grand Master Riley Lee at Roseville New Church at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm) on Friday 11th September. Get tickets at the door or go to the above website and look for our NEWS item on it which contains all the needed info, flyer and a ticket purchasing link. Look forward to seeing you there.

With good wishes from Joe Vandermeer at the Swedenborg Centre.

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A word about the process for our next minister

Our secretary, Graham Hall, has sent out an email about this, and having gone out, it is with you, informative and very fair. I just want to say a few things. First, this whole sequence of meeting and experiencing two highly suitable and competent people has been exciting for us and for Rachel and Ben, and a lovely experience all round. The whole run of several weeks has happened well. So, we now get into the process of sounding, gathering, sensing and deciding our next minister. This should be accomplished fairly soon, and everyone involved will be informed.

September's service

There will **NOT** be a church service on Sunday, September 6th. There will be a church service on Sunday, September 20th. The person leading this one service is still to be decided.

October's services

These will be happening on Sunday, October 4th and Sunday, October 18th. Julian Duckworth will be taking the first service which will include the Holy Supper. The person leading the second service is still to be decided.

The January 2027 New Church Family Retreat at Stanwell Tops
Friday, January 22nd to Tuesday, January 26th 2027

Our annual retreat is 4 ½ months away, and a good number of people are coming. I understand there are still places available, and in fairness to the organisers, booking with a deposit should be made this side of Christmas at the very latest. The retreat is five days of togetherness, activity, fun, learning, meeting new people, and being spiritual.
For more information or to book, contact Carolyn Heldon at nciaretreat@gmail.com