

Religion is of life, and the life of religion is to do what is good
(Doctrine of Life 8)

The New Church is an international organization of people striving to improve their conscious relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, the one God who rules heaven and earth.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone, and invite you to take what you like and return it freely. We use the Bible and the Heavenly Doctrine revealed by the Lord and published by Emanuel Swedenborg to guide us in our lives, especially in our relationships. We freely share our love and understanding with each other, and try to give one another support in our spiritual journeys.

Our pastor is **Rev. Garry Walsh**. Garry grew up in the Hurstville congregation and is pleased that together with his wife and children, he is able to serve this group as their pastor. He is available on call to help people work through any of the life issues that affect their relationship with themselves, their neighbours and their Lord.

Worship Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 AM. **Sunday School** for children ages 0-14 runs concurrently with the Sunday Worship service. In summer there is child minding during the services.

Young People's Group is held every second week.

Doctrinal Classes are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month (summer excepted) beginning at 7 30 pm. Tea and social precede the class on the first Friday each month at 7.00 pm..

Discussion classes on fundamental New Church teachings are held on Wednesdays at 9 30 am.

The Swedenborg Bookroom, at 22 Dudley Street, Penshurst, contains books by and about Emanuel Swedenborg for sale or loan. It is open by appointment.

Our Address is 22-24 Dudley St., off Hillcrest Ave. in Penshurst
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<http://www.newchurch.org.au/hurstville>
Call or come at anytime.



The New Church Newsletter

Hurstville Society November 2004

This month's Hurstville Society Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our good friend Dave Buck. His charming personality, keen mind and quick wit will long be missed.

DAVID JOHN BUCK

Memorial Address

David Buck was born in London on the 14th of January, 1922. He grew up to become the young man with the soft heart and the keen mind that so many of us have grown to love. He was a family man and an adventurer. He was a man who loved to tell a story or share a joke. He was a man of principle and conviction. He is someone who will dearly be missed.

As a young man Dave had another great love, motorbikes. He had recalled the time in 1940 when he was riding his motorbike through the

streets of London when the German bombs began to fall. He had no choice but to jump off and quickly find a place where he and his bike could hide.

David hoped to find a way to continue his love affair with motorbikes when he joined the army soon after. And, as it turned out, he was able to gain a position as a dispatch rider. He recalled how much he enjoyed meeting up with the Americans because their bikes were bigger and more powerful than the one's he had known.

The war often proved to be far from the adventure that Dave had anticipated. His life was often in grave peril. There were ghastly horrors from those years that are too terrible for the returned service men and women to ever talk about. There was one thing though that Dave was very happy to talk about. This was his experience with the many men he fought along side with. These were men who earned his unending gratitude and respect. The famous Gurkha soldiers were a particular inspiration to him. He came home with a Gurkha knife that had 16 notches in it. He told his family that this was the number of trees he cut down. Dave's British regiment fought along side these men through Syria and the Western Dessert. From there he went on to experience the unspeakable horrors of the war in Burma.

Dave returned to England with tuberculosis and malaria. It would prove to be a long climb back to health. It was no doubt in the Lord's Providence that working in the London hospital where he was recovering was a young trainee nurse who caught his eye. Or, perhaps it was he who caught her eye. Their romance blossomed. Vera would travel to see him when he was relocated to a series of other hospitals during the long process of his recovery.

In those days the British government would give a small pension to returned servicemen. They also offered a one-time payout option. Dave happily took the £200 payout and bought himself another bike. It seems like Vera's mother was less than thrilled with Dave taking her on dates on the back of the bike.

his home in Perth to be with other family members before her passing. Our sympathies go to all in the Smuts family.

Health issues seem to have plagued our extended church family in recent times. **Phillip Richards** has become the latest person to experience poor health, being recently diagnosed with a serious heart complaint requiring by-pass surgery. We pray that Phillip will soon be back to his old vibrant and cross-country running self.

It is sad to hear that **Ted Simmons** is also experiencing poor health. But on a brighter note, it was pleasing to hear that Ted was feeling well enough to attend the recent wedding of his grandson, **Peter Kennedy**.

Vera Buck has a new address. She is now living with family in Newcastle at 3 Clinton Avenue Adamstown 2289.

October proved to be a month for travelling. **Mike** and **Kerry Lockhart** are returning home from a month-long visit to the U.S.

Meanwhile, **Naomi Heldon** has just returned home from an even longer holiday through South-East Asia.

In addition, it has been nice to receive a visit from **Scott Simons** who has travelled over from the U.S. to begin work in Queensland.

Heading in the other direction are **Barry and Lynn Smith** who have now returned to their home in Florida after a month with **Garry and Laurel Walsh** and family in Hurstville.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Cliff Adamou** (2nd), **Jesse Horner** (3rd), **Brian Heldon** (8th), **Cathy Kermond** (11th), **Ashley Walsh** (27th) and **Lori Heldon** (30th)

that the Hurstville Society effectively began.

Those in attendance at the Society meeting on the 17th of October strongly supported the idea of conducting celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of this meeting. It is a time when we hope that our new Executive Bishop Tom Kline might be able to make his first visit here and it is a time when we can invite dignitaries and have displays that showcase the Society's past.

There will be no better occasion for us to show our community what the Hurstville Society stands for. And, there will be no better opportunity to launch the Society into the future. We need as many people on board as we can to make this possible. Following his return from South Africa on the 5th of November and before the AGM on the 14th, Garry Walsh will hope to speak to as many members of the Society as possible to gauge their interest in supporting this anniversary and to put together a committee that will work to pull everything together. The intention is to announce the make up of the committee at the AGM on the 14th. Everyone has skills that will be of use as we set about organising this. So please, consider getting involved if you possibly can.

One further note on the 100th anniversary. An Assembly of the General Church that will take place in Bryn Athyn in early June 2005 provides us with a unique chance to showcase the history and announce the anniversary of our congregation to a large and international audience.

Society News

David Buck's passing was not the only sad event to touch our lives over the last month. After a long illness, **Robert Cooper's** mother Marie passed into the spiritual world. Robert had been lovingly serving as her primary care person over recent years. Our sincere condolences go out to Robert and Huiling.

It is also with sadness that we note that **Raymond Smuts'** mother has also recently passed on. Raymond was able to travel to South Africa from

Before the war, Dave had begun a traineeship with an electrical instrument company. It seems that they were pleased to have him back once he was able to resume work. And, it wasn't long until Dave and Vera were married. Their first child was a son named Michael. A few years later they had a daughter. She, tragically, died as an infant. It was not until 1963 that doctors were able to overcome the RH incompatibility disease that claimed her young life. Dave and Vera desperately wanted to love and raise more children but were medically unable to have more of their own. So, they chose to adopt. Robert was only 3 months old when he became the newest member of their family.

These were years when England was still in a post-war rebuilding phase. As part of that, the British government began to sponsor a company decentralisation campaign. The instrument company that Dave worked for made the move to the far north-west corner of England. Dave was selected to be one of the key employees involved in the training of locals in the new plant. It was here, as far from London as you can get in England that the family grew up.

During this time Dave returned to school, taking night courses to obtain what was referred to as an ONC, or Ordinary National Certificate in Electrical Engineering. It was perhaps an unfortunate title for such a difficult course of study. In 1964 Dave was offered the chance to relocate to the operation the company had now set up in Milperra here in Sydney. It is perhaps surprising that it was Vera's father who suggested that he would be making a mistake if he didn't take advantage of the offer. We feel blessed that they have been here ever since.

It is hard not to be touched by the special person that is David Buck. Always a deeply religious man, he spent years asking questions of ministers within a variety of churches, often finding that the answers he received fell short of satisfying him. His family members describe him as a "practical" Christian. His natural tendency is to view life through the eyes of an engineer, looking to make intellectual sense of the Lord's message.

It was some time in the late 1960's that Dave tuned in to a radio

program given by former Hurstville Society pastor Doug Taylor. Who knows how many of Doug's talks he ended up hearing? Something in Doug's presentation of the New Church message must have rung true for him. Several years passed however before Dave and Vera began to attend services here. They became members in 1992.

It takes only a short time with the family to feel how much Dave is loved. He was always cheerful and quick-witted. He eagerly joined in with whatever activities were going on, even on those occasions when others could see that he was feeling less than his best. His sense of humour survived to the end. When those visiting his hospital bed in his last week tried to find out how clear minded he was by asking him to name the people there, he quickly responded in his own cheeky style by saying, "What is this, a barmy test?"

Dave never was barmy. And, he never will be. The door from this world to the next has been opened and Dave has been called through it. The body that in this world had been so afflicted by TB and malaria and especially by diabetes has been thrown off forever. These things will never trouble him again.

Dave is starting a new life, one with a new body that will bring him back into the vitality of his youth. It is now 5 days since he closed his natural eyes for the last time. By now, in all likelihood, he would have woken up with new eyes, eyes that will begin to see a world that is infinitely more beautiful than the one he has left behind. Perhaps he has already set his sights on a new motorbike, maybe one of those big American-style ones that he was so attracted to during the war.

This is also a time when he will begin to be reacquainted with all of those people he has loved and who have left this world before him. This does not, however, mean that he loves any less or has forgotten those who are left behind. The human spirit transcends time and space. The human heart, together with all the memories in the mind, is never lost. The true person lies in these things. In one sense Dave is no longer with us. At the same time, though, he is as with us as he has ever been.

Friday November 26th - Young People's Group. **Bishop Buss** will give a presentation to the Young People.. We are very much hoping that some of the young people from Roseville will join us for the evening.

Sunday November 28th - Society Luncheon. **Bishop Buss** will again lead the worship service. This will be followed by Pot Luck luncheon so please bring something to share. Drinks will be provided.

Given that Bishop Buss is now officially retired, we have no idea when we might see Lisa and him again. So, please mark your calendars and try to be at as many of these events as possible as our way of showing how much we appreciate the work that Peter and Lisa have done for us over the years.

Christmas Plans

This year Christmas Day falls on a Saturday. As has been our recent practice, we will hold a **Christmas Eve service** at **7:30pm**, with the **Christmas Day service** at **10:00am** in the morning. There will be **NO** service on Sunday the 26th December.

At the Society meeting it was also decided that one of our Sunday worship services before Christmas will be an **evening service** rather than in the morning. This will include a shared meal, singing of carols and a display of Sunday School projects from the year. It will take place on the **Sunday 19th December**, ensuring that there is no conflict with **Roseville's** annual carols night which will be held on the evening of the **12th December**.

100th Anniversary Plans

No doubt the biggest thing on the near horizon for the Hurstville Society is the upcoming celebration of our 100th anniversary in Jul 2005. On the 11th of July, 1905, Mr. Richard Morse and a group of like-minded New Church people from the Sydney Society gathered for a meeting to discuss the future. There are no minutes of this meeting, only the notes made in Mr. Morse's personal diary as follows. "All agreed that the 'Writings' are Divine and that their divinity is not taught at Thomas St and therefore separation is the orderly course to take". (cf p 125 *History of the New Church in Australia 1832-1980* by I A Robinson). It was at this meeting

Looking For a Good Home

Over the years the Society has tended to accumulate tables in the Richard Morse room. Not all of these are currently needed. One in particular, a 5' x 3' table with ornately carved legs is available if someone has need of it. It is in original condition and requires refinishing.

Society Meeting and Calendar Dates

At the Society Meeting held after church on the 17th of October, the following plans for November and beyond were agreed upon.

November

Friday 5th November - Doctrinal Class. There will a doctrinal class only at 7:30pm. We would normally have a dinner before class on the 1st Friday of the month. The decision was made however to hold this off until Friday the 19th to coincide with the visit of Bishop Peter and Lisa Buss.

Sunday 7th November - Work Day. A work day will take place following church. Please come along and lend Norman Heldon a hand with the tremendous amount of yard work and other maintenance that is required on our property.

Sunday 14th November. There will be a **Family Service** followed by the **Society AGM**.

Friday 19th November – 7 00 pm Dinner and Class. **Bishop Peter Buss** and his wife **Lisa** will join us on this evening for dinner and class presented by Peter.

Sunday November 21st. **Bishop Buss** will lead the worship service. This will be followed by a **Theta Alpha Guild AGM** and **ladies' luncheon**. Please phone the coordinator Lori Heldon on 9579 5248 if you are planning to attend to find out what to bring. All ladies are welcome and we are expecting to be joined by Lisa Buss.

Knowing this, and perhaps even feeling this, will not go all the way towards easing our sadness. It is impossible to not miss him. And, as we grieve his loss, we also pray that the Lord will be there with him on his new journey, just as He is always with us as we journey through this life and the life to come.

In Psalm 145 we read:

- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
Slow to anger and great in mercy.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all,
And His tender mercies are over all His works.
- ¹⁰ All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,
And Your saints shall bless You.
- ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,
And talk of Your power,
- ¹² To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,
And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

(Given by Rev. Garry Walsh, Hurstville New Church, 5th of October, 2004)

Australian Camp Helpers

Many of us are eagerly preparing for the New Church in Australia camp to be held at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast this coming January. Those who have attended previous camps have a sense of the enormity of the work required to put these camps together and make them work successfully. With that in mind, all of the New Church Societies around the country are highlighting the need for volunteer helpers, particularly with the Children's program. The more volunteers we have, the easier this valuable task becomes.

Affirmation and Ordination of our New Assistant Bishop

Following an overwhelming affirmative response from the General Church community, the **Rev. Brian Keith** has now been confirmed as the Church's new Assistant Bishop. His ordination into the third degree of the priesthood took place on the 17th of October during the 11:00am cathedral service in Bryn Athyn.

Bishop Keith is currently serving as the Principal of the Bryn Athyn Elementary school. Prior to this he was Dean of the New Church Theological School. He had previously served as Pastor of the Immanuel Church in Glenview, Illinois. Bishop Keith will conclude his work in the elementary school and begin his full time Assistant Bishop duties on the 1st of July, 2005.

Regrettably, many General Church people beyond North America did not receive their Assistant Bishop voting forms until after the initial deadline. It was not until the worldwide voting profile was beginning to be analysed that anyone realized that Australia was one of a number of international centres that registered no response. General Church people in Australia should have now received their ballot with instruction to regular mail or email their response by the 31st of October. Bishop Kline wants to assure all people who have only recently been given the chance to vote that despite the late date, their responses are still extremely valuable.

Bryn Athyn Elementary School

The elevation of Rev. Brian Keith into the role of Assistant Bishop has meant that the Bryn Athyn Elementary School has needed to appoint a new Principal. As some of the readers of this Newsletter have by now heard, the Hurstville Society's former Pastor, Rev. David Ayres has been called into this use. Please find below the official statement regarding this appointment.

"I am pleased to announce that the **Rev. David W. Ayers** has accepted

a call to become the new principal of the Bryn Athyn Church School, effective July 1, 2005. In addition Gail Simons has been promoted to co-principal. The two will work together as co-principals, recognizing Gail's experience and leadership in the school. David is 48 years old and is currently the Pastor in Toronto and Headmaster of the Olivet Day School there. He has a long held interest in education and is very happy to have this opportunity to serve in New Church education. He is married to Darcy Bostock and they have six children, including two sets of twins. The youngest are now in grade six. We look forward to welcoming them to Bryn Athyn and BACS next summer."

Rev. Jeremy F. Simons, Pastor

Baringa Book Club - Ladies

The current book to be reading is "The Five People You Meet In Heaven" by Mitch Albom. We will meet early in the New Year.

Request for Donations to Theta Alpha Guild

If you would like to contribute to Theta Alpha Guild it would be much appreciated.

We are a Chapter of Theta Alpha International and our uses here in the Hurstville Society are:

1. Providing General Church children in Australia with a gift on New Church Day.
2. Sending greeting cards (eg. Get Well cards) to church members and friends
3. Supporting the Hurstville Society Sunday School.
4. Housekeeping of the church's multi purpose building "Baringa".

If you would like to help please send your donations to:

Patricia Walsh (Treasurer)
157 Faraday Road
PADSTOW NSW 2211

The ladies of Theta Alpha Guild thank you for your assistance.