

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear AIPR members,

Welcome to the June edition of the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*.

As the recently elected new president of the AIPR (the organisation which publishes the journal) I thought I'd take a few words to introduce myself and outline some new and exciting developments that the AIPR is undertaking at the moment.

I have recently completed a PhD in philosophy at the University of Tasmania. The topic I focussed on was telepathy and psychokinesis and explanation in the sciences. I came to the conclusion that the debate over the existence of the evidence for psi is best construed as a problem regarding explanation of apparent psi effects. More specifically, that there is no doubt that the evidence for psi shows that psi effects have been obtained—the burning question now is how best to explain the phenomena?

I maintain that the answer will be found if psi theorists (of all ilks—from the fraud theorists to the quantum theorists) are aided by access to mainstream funding and conduct their research in co-operation with mainstream science. My hunch is that psi effects are not as anomalous to mainstream science as they are assumed to be and that it is the history of explanation of the phenomena as once supernatural that will be the key to solving the mystery of psi, which as yet remains unexplained.

The *Australian Journal of Parapsychology* continues to aid in this endeavour by providing a forum in which psi and developing psi theory can be explored that is both scientific and accessible to a lay audience. This is a very important undertaking and many thanks are due to current editor Lance Storm, managing editor Robb Tilley, and former editor Michael Thalbourne for creating and maintaining a professional forum for discussion in Australia and overseas.

Interest in psi continues to grow in both the public and academic arenas. The AIPR has consequently undertaken some new developments in order to provide more forums for discussion and education regarding psi.

The AIPR now runs a course through the internet aimed at a first year university level and interested students can undertake either a Certificate in Parapsychology and continue on with a Certificate in Advanced Parapsychology. The first students are completing initial units now. We are also keen to gain university accreditation for the courses and we will announce the outcome in due course.

This year also marks a renewal of an Australian public lecture by a prominent psi researcher and mini-conference for interested professionals.

We will keep you informed of more specific details as they come to light. The hope is to organise a public lecture in one of the major capital cities each year, which will be followed by some formal conference sessions.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the ongoing challenge of understanding psi. I find it an exciting and rewarding area to be involved with—I hope you do too.

—*Hannah Jenkins*