

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

August 2007

Christine's update

Hello to everyone,

It seems we have so many new people and for many of you this will be your very first newsletter. Hopefully it will keep you up to date with what's happening on the forum. As always we'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions. So feel free to contact us if you have a great idea.

Best wishes
Christine



Team UPDATE:

The Team now has its own domain name and website at www.spookspotters.com.au if you haven't checked it out, pay a visit and read about the team and what we do.

Our recent recruiting drive has been wonderful with 4 new team members being offered positions. We'd like to welcome Kells, Sas and Jacinda to our group.

Chat Roster



Chat is held every Thursday night from 9.30pm unless indicated. It goes for at least one hour and often longer than that! Here is the chat roster and guest chattist for the next few months. We'd love your ideas for topics and guest chattists. So please let us know if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer yourself!

Here is the link

<http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?topic=1413.0>

2nd August- Past lives and karma with Christine

9th August- All about orbs....lead by Christine and Chainz

16th August- Investigation discussion about the investigation on the 11th of August. Do NOT miss this session! Lead by the team.

23rd August- Using Amulets and Talismans for protection lead by Christine and Sas

30th August- Chakras and Auras with Christine

6th September- All about Mothman, Skinwalkers and Yowies with Catseyes

13th September- Remote Viewing exercise lead by ScaredyCat

20th September- One Card readings lead by Christine and other readers.

27th September- Traditional Dowsing and Electronic Dowsing lead by the team.

What happened at??

J Ward Investigation Part I

By
Scaredycat

J Ward was my first experience in an actual investigation team. I felt little bit intimidated at first being with such seasoned investigators.

J Ward is a very impressive blue stone building created at a time when penal institutions, asylums and the like were recreated to resemble buildings of home land England. J Ward is a lovely building, well constructed and it is hard not to be impressed by the grandeur of the exterior.

Once we enter the great doors you are confronted by an ambience that resonates from within, J Ward possesses a great sadness though, a sadness that in the beginning is in conflict with the first impression of beauty. For me being an empath, the walls leached sorrow, misunderstanding and gross injustice.

We begun our night with a briefing, we then begun the preliminary investigation. When we had our 1st walk through it soon become apparent that we were not alone, it seemed that the spirits of the past were lingering, it appeared to me that they were interested but shy! Once we began to understand the layout we became more comfortable and more at ease, I felt more relief in knowing that I was with a group of professional's that took this seriously! This was not some girl guides outing, this was a serious investigation, they took things seriously, thankfully not too seriously because I kept dropping everything in my hands - was it nerves, maybe!

For this investigation we separated into 2 groups, I was with Catseyes, Tomcat and Chainz. Throughout the first part

Catseyes did her thing calling forth any spirits that were lingering who needed to feel welcome! Catseyes used her Dowsing Rods to communicate, at first it felt strange when all the lights are completely turned off and you are in this foreign environment with suspected spirits, every time you went around a corner you felt that some one would jump out!

Chainz was extremely patient, and talked me through what to do, Catseyes also explained and reassured me what I could be feeling and why!

It was during our time in the first cell that I began to notice spritz of light out in the corridor, this was quite bizarre as you can imagine, since the whole place is in darkness. When we finished with each cell, we begin to ascend to the cells on the second floor, this space become much for alive and much more energized, I really tried to not be the last person in line up here because I truly did feel like if I had of turned around real fast that there would have been a non human behind me! Catseyes was still getting messages and my own empathic senses were beginning to buzz, I continued to see the same spritz of light from the second floor balcony, the only way that I can describe this light is if you were to envisage me dropping glitter over the edge and then someone shining a torch on top of it! I can assure you that I DO NOT carry glitter on investigations!

Throughout the night we would stop and go to the safe room, in the safe room you really do feel protected and covered with an energized field of sorts. While in the safe room you most certainly felt that this was the time that the spirits would begin to watch us, when we walked back into the cell area from the safe room on occasions you actually felt like you were walking through an extremely fine mist, what was this? Who really knows but it was an extremely eerie feeling.

The later part of the night we investigated the West Wing, as we opened the door and entered several of us heard an extremely audible "ooooohh!" there was no doubting that we heard it because several of us commented on it! Christine's group then proceeded to investigate the West Wing while Catseyes group continued up stairs.

On our return upstairs we felt drawn to the conference room; luckily the guardian of J Ward Doug had unlocked this room, so we went in. On arrival in this room the EMF began to sound, the thermometer could not decide between temperatures, we again looked for electrical cabling that could be setting off the EMF meter, we found an electrical cord under the carpet; the EMF was still extremely reactive even though the cord could be discounted!

After this excitement we again converged on the safe room and talked about our night findings. Our next stop was the underground kitchen, this room was stoked in historical impressions; the stone work in this kitchen was smudged with fire smoke of long ago! The steel grated windows brought you back to the reality that you were in a prison kitchen! The feeling of being watched was increasing in these parts of J Ward, if you closed your eyes you could see meat hocks hanging, flour flying, heat, food cooking and fire sizzling!

This room was opened onto a hallway, that bypassed the stairs to go upwards to the main foyer, as you past the stairs you were drawn into the darkened doorway of the under ground bathroom. This bathroom was a complete contrast to the rest of the building, the walls were stained, the general consensus of this room was that traumatic things occurred and a lot of sadness resulted. The room was window less constricted, and stagnant! This was one room that people couldn't wait to get away from; the ambience here was not one of beauty to grandeur but one of silent suffering, what happened here we asked ourselves?

J Ward on a whole is a beautiful building that welcomes visitors of today to glimpse and briefly share in the life of people incarcerated back in time gone before; the building was built to survive the years, to house the memories and to shape institutions today.

I truly encourage people to make the time to visit our past to so that we can truly appreciate today.

The Last Forum Dinner By Catseyes

On the 29th Of April Scaredy Cat and I set out on an expedition to find the Ha Long Restaurant in Footscray. We were armed with a Melways and Scaredy's hand written notes and without any dramas at all we found the place! I mention this with amazement because I would never have found it if I had been on my own!

We were lucky enough to score a car park only metres from the door, thank God, as I was wearing my new stiletto-heeled boots.....designed for those who are vertically and horizontally challenged!

Due to Scaredy Cats almost super natural sense of direction, we were first to arrive and after standing around outside for a couple of minutes, we decided to go on in and sit down to wait!

We didn't have to wait long! Eventually Christine, Darren, Sargent Jazza, Chainz, Leigh, Sas, Lotsa Kids, Julie D and Mr Julie D had arrived! It was great to finally put a face to Lotsa, and trust me she's even nicer in person, if that is possible!

It was great to get together and we chatted and ate for hours. Some naughty person snuck in a bottle of whiskey and slipped it into Chainz's drinks...happy little drunk that he was! LOL! (Ohhh was that me?) The food was great and the company better!

Finally, we had to call it a night and we split up to go our separate ways. Sas and Leah following us, in hopes of finding their way back to the Bolte Bridge! Someone had moved it!! Three cars in convoy desperately searching and never found it! Scaredy Cat, who seems to have unbelievable faith in my psychic abilities past me a blank piece of paper and said to read her the directions! I thought I was going blind! After we realized, we had to pull over so

we could all have a laugh and then we were off again. Luckily there was this big thing sticking up on the skyline which turned out to be the West gate Bridge...and we were saved!

It was a great night, with great people and everyone who missed out needs to make sure they come the next time! You won't regret it!

[Next forum dinner 29th Sept WALHALLA MINERS CAFÉ](#)
[Here is the link](#)
<http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?topic=3416.0>

The hunt for Robert Sterling, and finding Lilly Sheppard

By Lotsakids

On New Years Eve 2006, Chainz, Darren, Sargent Jazza and Christine took a trip out to J Ward, the old lunatic asylum at Ararat. After the name Robert Sterling had come to her, Christine had felt strongly compelled to go to J ward, a place that she had previously known little about.

By all accounts it was an interesting trip, but there appeared no link or information to this Robert Stirling, and a Google search didn't reveal much apart from a little snippet that referred to a Dr Robert Stirling [spelt there as sterling], as a photo in the Monash Uni medical library history collection.

Unfortunately there was no photo accompanying that particular snippet. Christine then posted the story in the investigation forum, and Whisper and I jumped in to help unravel the story.

One of the problems with looking up old records is that often names are misspelt, in the case of this one, we found the spelling both as Stirling and Sterling.

Whisper found some information relating to the death of a couple of Robert Sterlings, one in 1930 and one in 1958... Both could have been the person we were looking for, but then I uncovered a couple of photos, one of which belonged to the information Christine had already found.

These photos showed the same man, one when he was younger, with a friend, the other as an older distinguished gentleman, obviously well to do judging by his clothes. They were dated 1878 and 1900 respectively, and Christine was able to identify the photo as being the man who was the Robert Stirling we were after. These photos were held in the archives section of the Melbourne University library, and led us to believe that this Robert Sterling was indeed a doctor.

Further researching uncovered more about his life and family and that Dr Robert Stirling was in fact a surgeon and was nominated in June 1901 to be "Honorary Medical and Surgical Staff representative on the faculty of Medicine of the Melbourne University", a position for which he was renominated and held from 1902 to 1905. There is a prize at the University today that is given in his name.

The next step now that we had found the man, was to find out what connection he had with J ward, and what he

wanted..why he had come to Christine?.

An investigation at J ward was organized, and while no further information on Dr Stirling was forthcoming, someone else stepped forward and made contact with the team while they were there.

While the team were visiting the married staff quarters during their investigation, they had contact with a little girl who told them her name was Lilly. She was very young and frightened of another dominating entity in the same area, and since she was in the staff quarters, it was feasible that her father would have been employed at J ward and her family lived there during that time.

Other information gathered was that Lilly had died from a short illness and didn't realize she had died. She was very frightened, and the team decided to cross her over so she could finally be with her family and at peace.

As a researcher my job is to gather the information the team gives me after an investigation, and to verify the existence of the people they have been in contact with. Sometimes the information is very clear and easy to find, other times it's just the odd piece here and there, like a jigsaw puzzle with many pieces missing. Luckily I like jigsaw puzzles.

There was very little information to go on, but I like a challenge so working with the name Lilly and using the dates 1880-1930 based on Dr Robert Stirlings lifetime as a doctor [it was him who had instigated this trip to J ward in the first place], I typed her name and the dates into the Births Deaths and Marriages of Victoria search page, concentrating on a death date.

5 Lily's showed up in that search, 3 were adults, and since we knew our Lily was a child, these were discounted. The remaining 2 were Anne Lillian Mclean aged 7 and Lilly Sheppard aged 3.

I first followed up the information for Anne Lillian, as she was the older of the 2 children and her age as written on the index fitted with what the team had said about Lilly. This little girl was the daughter of Elizabeth, her father was unknown, and after some searching, it was found that her age was in fact 7 months not 7 years. There was no information that linked her with J ward directly, Anne Lillian died in 1885 and is buried at Ararat cemetery in a paupers grave.

The other little girl whose given age was 3, turned out to be Lilly Sheppard, daughter of William S and Annie Simpson. I had previously found a snippet of information regarding a William Sheppard who was employed as a warder at J ward. Could this be the same one?.. Lilly's father?. If so then this Lilly could very well be the child who made contact with the team in the married quarters.

I obtained Lilly Sheppard's death certificate. She was the 6th child of William Sheppard [occupation warder] and Annie Simpson, and one of twins born in 1894. Lilly died at aged 3 months in February 1895 after having diarrhoea for 14 days.

Her father William was indeed a warder employed at J ward, and had been there since 1884, so it is more than probable that he lived with his family in the married quarters.

It seems that we had found 'our' Lilly. She is buried in an unmarked grave at the Ararat cemetery, which will very soon have its own plaque so visitors will know who she was, and that she is remembered.

There are still questions to be answered though:

Why if this Lilly died at 3 months of age, did she come across as older to the team?... One theory is that she needed help, and as a baby, she couldn't convey that so in the spirit realm Lilly was able to grow to an age where she could communicate.

What after all this was the link with Dr Robert Stirling?

That one we are still working on. The time frame fits with his time between graduating and finishing his medical training, and his appointment with the Melbourne Medical School [Melbourne Uni], some doctors and surgeons visited the asylums and hospitals in the outlying towns away from Melbourne.

Maybe Dr Stirling was a visiting doctor during the time of Lilly's illness and saw her as a patient. He had an interest in the intestinal tract, he wrote a thesis on it at one point as part of his studies.

Maybe Dr Stirling knew this little girl was in trouble and just wanted to help her.. and he found Christine knowing that she could do something.

Maybe the reason he had an affinity with Lilly was because his own daughter, his firstborn was named Lillian.

They are all maybe's, pieces of the puzzle that are still missing.

One day hopefully we can find those pieces, and complete the jigsaw that will give us a glimpse into the lives of the people who came before us and were part of our history.

We had a plaque made to place at her grave. Thanks to Researcher Extraordinaire Lotsakids for organising it. Here is a picture of Lilly's grave (now marked rather than unmarked as it was).



Want to join in on an investigation?

We have decided to make this a Team open night I guess you would call it. If you have ever thought about investigations, wanting to join or work with the team then this is one of the mandatory nights you would need to attend to be considered for team selection.

On the night you will be fed a BBQ dinner, have a team briefing, some people will assist with equipment set up, separate into smaller groups to experience monitoring equipment in the control room with the control team, be out in the field with the rest of the team in smaller groups, experience how we analyse data and findings, be a part of getting the data using the equipment, see what each person on the team does and get to have a go at some of the jobs as well.

The investigation/training night will start at 6pm and finish at about 3am so you may need to find some local accommodation in a motel before driving home as you will be fatigued.

Tea and coffee all night along with some supper.

Cost is \$50 per person. Payment is to be made in advance and is non refundable if you fail to attend. This is because we can only sell a limited number of tickets to the event and someone will miss out if you say you are coming and then don't.

We envisage only running 2 of these a year. So if you would like to be considered to come to other team events attendance at one of these nights is mandatory. It may not run again til February 2008.

We have a waiting list for all investigations at present.

We have decided to implement a couple of new things as demand is too high and opportunities are few.

For someone to come on an investigation now we must have met them first. Often a dinner or seminar type thing is the perfect opportunity to make yourself known to us but occasionally one of us will meet with you on a one to one basis in a social circumstance.

If everything goes OK after meeting you will be able to take a free spot on an investigation. However priority will now be given to people who wish to work with the team on a long term basis and who have a skill that we require. We only need so many mediums or trigger object people.

We believe by implementing these guidelines we will develop a more finely tuned team and be able to offer the best experience possible to the person visiting with the team and to the venue we are investigating.

We can take 15 people.

Location is 1 hr 30 mins west of Melbourne CBD.

Site News



That's Life Magazine!

Did you see us in That's Life Magazine? In response to that the team received more than 500 emails for assistance and they are still coming in. Here is the link <http://www.paranormal.com.au/images/Christine/ThatsLife2007.pdf>

AMAZON STORE NOW OPEN!

To assist our team which is entirely self funded, in raising money for new equipment, we have launched an Amazon Store. Here is the link for the thread explaining it all <http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?topic=3466.0>
The store has numerous categories including specialist books and investigation equipment. Here are the links for the actual shop (there is a link on the front page now) or you can visit it direct.

<http://astore.amazon.com/paranoandspoo-20/105-5809782-7168446>

Changed Forums Terms and Conditions

Please familiarise yourself with the new forum terms and conditions which affect everyone.
<http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?topic=2.0>

Changed forum rules and guidelines

Please familiarise yourself with the revised rules and guidelines which affect everyone.
<http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?topic=3.0>

EMF meters- limited stock left

Cellsensor EMF detectors are now available at a special discounted rate for forum members. The cost is \$60 each plus postage to members of the forum. Details can be found in the **Trading Portal**.



Comments or suggestions?

How can we improve? What would you like to see on the forum? Let us know what you think.

Got a ghost photo?

Send your unexplained photos for an opinion to contact@paranormal.com.au



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