



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH, INC.

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# THE A.I.P.R. NEWS

## Inside this issue:

**The Poltergeists That Won't Go Away (Part 1)** by Colin Mitchell (pp. 1-2). In this two-part article, poltergeist disturbances and attacks in a domestic situation are reported—a cowed lady, a winged entity, and other “presences”. This case is one of a few investigations of this type that has resulted in some physical evidence.

**Premonitions (Part 3)** by James Barker (pp. 2-3). James Barker from Kingsley, WA, gives his third report on his premonitions, and describes his official dealings with a skeptical organisation.

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## The Poltergeists That Won't Go Away (Part 1) by Colin Mitchell

The following is an edited report from a lengthy investigation which began in 2007 and has been ongoing for a number of years:

Since 2000, Susan (aged 47) and her husband John (not their real names) have been living in their current house. Susan has had no previous unusual experiences other than a couple of events which seem to be related to sleep-paralysis.

In one experience someone was sitting on her bed; she felt the bed depress and saw a lady sitting there with a cowl over her head. The cowl 'blew back' from her head revealing a screaming face with all the flesh down to the bone.

On another occasion she felt 'pinned down' to the bed and she felt as though an entity wanted to get into her body. At the beginning of the year of the investigation (2007), while John was working out of town, Susan started to hear rapping on the bedroom walls, and scratching sounds in the walls; she was also having odd dreams. When John came back, he too heard scratching sounds,

though these came from under his pillow, and he felt something punching up through the bed.

Shortly afterwards, in February 2007, they installed infra-red security cameras in the carport and backyard area because they had had a theft of tools. They noticed 'orbs' in profusion on the live monitor, and these were recorded on videotape directly from the cameras.

Susan was particularly fascinated by the orbs, and felt that these were

**“Susan is continually poked, jabbed and ‘bitten’ by unseen entities.”**

“running away from something”. Susan describes herself as a person who is always helping others, and one day she went out to the area where the orbs seemed the thickest, and asked if she could help anyone in any way. After that her current problems started.

Susan is continually poked, jabbed and 'bitten' by unseen entities. She claims these have, in the past left marks, but usually they don't. However, they hurt Susan, and she finds them very annoying. It happens every day, especially in the morning.

Twelve months of constant harassment has had a severe effect on her—the unusual experiences have worn her down, and had a devastating effect on her emotionally, to the extent that she has occasionally thought of suicide. Her husband John reports that the experiences have caused a big personality change in her—she has gone from a “fat, happy, and very cheerful person, always laughing”, to a “depressed, anxious, highly-strung” individual, who has “lost a lot of weight”.

She also experiences tugging, hair-pulling, and her shirt being pulled from the back (this cannot be seen physically but she feels it). She also experiences almost constant presences or a presence around her. Susan and her husband are both desperate for the experiences to stop.

Susan's mother lives with them and she has also experienced hair-stroking and pulling and has seen a semi-transparent ball of light about the size of a tennis ball floating in the air in front of her, bobbing up and down while she was watching television one night. In the past Su-

## At My Desk

Thanks to the generous support of the Cardigan Fund, two new awards were announced in the June 2013 issue of the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology* (Vol. 13[1], p. 106): The **AIPR Original Research Article Awards**, and the **AIPR Student Essay Award**. For the **AIPR Original Research Article Awards**, there are two annual prizes—a 1st Prize of \$1000, and a 2nd Prize of \$500—which go to the respective authors of the two best original articles published in AIPR's peer-reviewed journal the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*. The **AIPR Student Essay Award** is a prize of \$500 to an AIPR student whose essay is published in AIPR's peer-reviewed journal the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*. Criteria for entry are given in the above-mentioned announcement; winners are voted for by official board members of the AIPR Committee. On behalf of the Committee, it is my pleasure to announce the two winners of the **AIPR Original Research Article Awards** for 2012—**1st Prize**: James Houran & Rense Lange for their article "I Ching Outcomes from Experimental Manipulations of Transliminality and Paranormal Belief"; **2nd Prize**: Alexander de Foe, George van Doorn & Mark Symmons for their article "Auditory Hallucinations Predict Likelihood of Out-of-Body Experience". The **AIPR Student Essay Award** for 2012 goes to Alexis Lutherborough for "Perspectives in Modeling Precognition, Presentiment, and Human Agency". Congratulations to all our winners. It is planned that these prizes will be awarded annually.

\* \* \*

Got something to say about the paranormal? Submit to:

Dr. Lance Storm,  
School of Psychology,  
University of Adelaide,  
SA 5005

or e-mail me at:

aiprinc@yahoo.com

Enjoy this edition of *The A.I.P.R. News!*

—Lance Storm

## The Poltergeists That Won't Go Away (Part 1) by Colin Mitchell

(cont'd from page 1)

san's mother experienced sleep-paralysis every night for 90 days while trying to fall asleep in a house where she was staying on holiday in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Susan herself has seen a blindingly bright ball of light on a couple of occasions. The first time it came in through the window glass next to the back door and floated down the passage—she saw it pass across the doorway. It was as bright as a welding arc.

The second occasion she was standing outside, near the back door, when a ball of light flew straight at her face, throwing her back into the wire door with surprise and shock.

John has not experienced the physical touching or actually seen anything, but one night when they were in bed,

at about 10.30pm, he heard a loud thump on the roof as though something heavy had landed there.

John went outside to see what it was, and while looking up towards the roof, he felt a down-draft of air as though from huge wings passing over him, and he noticed that the grass thatching on the gazebo was blowing upwards. Although he did not see anything out of the ordinary, he felt as though something big with wings had flown over him.

Susan herself sometimes sees "shadows", and in the morning, out of the corner of her eye, she often sees a figure standing with a staff near the kitchen door. While walking down the passage to the kitchen, she hears the clunk of two feet landing behind her as though something has jumped down from

the top of a cupboard; she then feels a presence behind her in the kitchen. She also feels cold breezes which give her goose bumps and cause the hair on her arms to stand on end.

The scariest thing she sees appears to be a short squat entity which crouches on top of the carport, or above the front door. This entity appears to have bat-like wings. On one occasion she returned to the house and saw it squatting on top of the carport. Feeling a build up of energy inside her, she abruptly turned and pointed at it saying "I see you!", which sent a "bolt of energy towards it". As she turned to walk away, she felt a razor-sharp cut across her back like a whip, which hurt and frightened her so much that she now keeps her head bowed when she sees this entity.

(cont'd March 2014)

## Premonitions (Part 3) by James Barker

My name is James Barker from Kingsley in Western Australia. I'm a 53 year old retired IT Project Manager—retired due to arthritis. In 2007 I approached the President of the West Australian Skeptics Association (WASA), John Happs, to enter their Skeptics Challenge, which states that they will pay \$100,000 to anyone who can demonstrate paranormal abilities, such as ESP, or predicting the future. I told them how I have dreams that come true, and have done so since childhood.

In January 2011, I posted on the *Aussie Ghosts* website my one and only prediction up to that time, of someone being attacked by a crocodile because they were swimming in an area they shouldn't have been, and that I was

watching it on the news. A month later, a boy was attacked and killed by a crocodile in the Northern Territory (NT).<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately the *Aussie Ghosts* website crashed at the end of last year (i.e., 2011), and they lost my prediction, along with years of posts. However, many months before it crashed, I had sent the webpage link to Dr. Lance Storm (AIPR).

My brother, who is a sceptic, told me that people die from crocodile attacks in the NT all the time. I did some research, and discovered that was not true. The last fatal attack had been two years previously—a fisherman, not a swimmer.

More recently, and quite perplexingly, in August 2012, I dreamt that I had a car crash by running into a P-

plater (a driver new to the road). It was such a vivid dream that I was quite worried, and took particular care driving to my Mum's that day, with my daughter in the passenger seat. I actually told my daughter about the dream, as I thought I'd better explain why we were going so slowly.

All went well, and that night I dropped my daughter off at her Karate class. The final trip of the day was to pick up my daughter from Karate. It was dark and rainy, so I took even more care. As a result, while heading East on Hepburn Avenue towards Wanneroo Road, I was only doing 60 kilometres-per-hour (kph) instead of the mandatory 70 kph. This was how I was able to pick up the headlights, *in my lane*, heading straight towards me. I

### Premonitions (Part 3) by James Barker (cont'd from page 2)

flashed my lights, then pulled over to the side of the road, just as the errant car took the first exit to its right (my left). Coincidentally, I'd fitted a car camera two weeks earlier, and captured the event.<sup>2</sup> My 18-year-old daughter is my witness, and she can also confirm that this is the first time ever I'd told her about a car-crash dream—although I'm sure Skeptics will say she is lying.

This whole episode confounded me a bit. If I didn't have a crash, how can I dream about having a crash? Does this mean that the dream is more of a warning than an actual vision of what is going to happen? As I've said before, the whole 'time thing' confuses me, and I have no answers, and this just made it worse. Maybe I wasn't going to crash anyway, but just the shock I had from a near miss made me dream about it.

It's only the second time that I've had a car-crash dream; the first being around 35 years ago when in Brisbane. I had a recurring dream of a car crash. Again, I was very (over) careful driving, until I was told that my brother had had a car crash.

My theory on precognitive dreams is that when something stressful/exciting/dramatic happens to someone (not everyone does this; children seem to be the best senders) their mind(?) 'sends' a signal. The more stressful the situation, the further back in time the signal is sent.

In 2006 a young girl was murdered. Many months before it happened, I saw it through her eyes in a dream. It was the most vivid, horrible nightmare I've ever had. I saw what looked like stable doors in two parts, with the bottom half separated from the top half, and a really

large toilet. The thought was that I was never going to get away from this horrible, horrible man, who had a cigarette. I also saw a building I knew, called King Arthur's Rotating Restaurant, located in Victoria Park in Perth, WA. It was such a vivid dream that for a while I wor-

spine.

I noted on the news footage, that the toilet door had a metallic, reflective bottom half, which made it look as if the door was in two parts. I have no idea where the cigarette comes into it, as I don't think Arthurs smokes, and there was no mention of it in

#### **“when something . . . dramatic happens to someone . . . their mind ‘sends’ a signal.”**

ried about my own daughter, but I was pretty sure the girl in my dream was a toddler. I kept my eyes and ears on the news, because I thought if a toddler was abducted, I would point the police to the hotel next to King Arthur's Rotating Restaurant.

It just shows how hard it is to interpret these dreams, and how frustratingly close they are in meaning. The fact that Dante Arthurs (note the spelling) murdered that poor little girl in a shopping centre toilet in 2006 broke my heart and sent shivers down my

the police reports.

This 'nightmare' dream is extremely rare. In my whole life I've only had three of this intensity, which to put on a scale, would be 10 out of 10. All the other precognitive dreams would be on a scale of around 2 to 5 in intensity. All three 'nightmares' have had me waking up in a cold sweat, shaking. The first was in the late 1980s when I dreamt of being in a barracks(?) because there were beds lined up in a row. At the bottom of my bed was a box, and in the

box was a very small ghost that was never going to go away. I discovered a few days later, that very night, my closest friend had a miscarriage in hospital (I'd misinterpreted the rows of beds as a barracks)—I didn't even know she had been pregnant.

The third and most recent 'nightmare' was when I dreamt my ex-wife was screaming out our daughter's name because something terrible had happened to her. As I woke, I could still hear her voice calling out our daughter's name (my ex-wife was in her own home many kilometres away). For the next nine months I was worried sick every time my daughter left the house. Approximately nine months later my daughter was seriously assaulted. Ψ

(cont'd March issue, 2014)

#### Notes:

1. [www.abc.net.au/news/2011-02-20/boy-snatched-by-croc-might-still-be-alive-police/1949962](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-02-20/boy-snatched-by-croc-might-still-be-alive-police/1949962)
2. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBq1oIunfv4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBq1oIunfv4)



The *Australian Journal of Parapsychology* features research articles on ESP (extra-sensory perception), PK (psychokinesis), and the afterlife.

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(see page 4)

The Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research is a non-profit community association. Based in Sydney but with a worldwide membership base, it was established in 1977. The aims of the organisation are:

- To collect, assess and disseminate factual information about claims of psychic (paranormal) phenomena.
- To support and encourage parapsychology (the scientific study of paranormal phenomena).
- To undertake or promote activities (e.g., fundraising, social activities, etc.) in support of the above.

**Looking for information on the paranormal?** The AIPR has fact sheets on:

- Psychic and mystical experiences of the aborigines
- Psychic and psycho-spiritual development
- Healing
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- Apparitions, ghosts and hauntings
- Out of body experiences
- Near-death experiences
- The human aura

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.aiprinc.org](http://www.aiprinc.org)

## Quid Nunc by Hannah Jenkins

### Out of the Armchair: A Philosopher Grabs a Clipboard and Dons a Lab Coat

When I wrote my first column for *THE AIPR NEWS*, I had at that very moment completed my PhD in philosophy. I wrote: “I mean *just* then. Really, no jokes. I’ve just now finished typing out the acknowledgements page, tidied up the bibliography and, well, I am thinking, ‘that’s it, done’.”

That was March 2007. The slow cogs of academia churned and I finally graduated in December 2007. The years have flown past since and here I am now five-and-a-bit years out and 13 columns later. In that first column I also promised to share with you what would eventuate once I had more time to discover “what *really* is out there”.

Well, I am happy to report that I do have something to share even if I was wrong that, once the “thesis malarkey” was done, I would somehow miraculously have more time to undertake psi research. The intervening time has been a roller coaster which I am still

riding. After attempting and failing to gain any traction in mainstream academia, I came to the realization that what I should be putting my energies into here in Australia is developing an independent, self-funding psi research institute that can eventually support a bevy of interdisciplinary researchers. This has led me to try to get the requisite business and psi research experience necessary to bring into reality, what seems to many, an absurd unachievable dream.

Which makes me even doubly happy to report that some small achievements are being made in this direction. One of them was due to obtaining a PARE grant to undertake a replication of the Backster Effect, but with a twist.<sup>1</sup> I’d also add in a possible retro-causal dimension inspired by Daryl Bem’s *Feeling the Future* experiments that have been making quite a mark.<sup>2</sup> I would use a plant, a person, and a lie detector, to try to obtain information from the future. It all made sense to me and (as I was gratified to discover) *at least* a few others in

the psi research community.

Then I started to encounter quite a few raised eyebrows. Those who specialize in philosophy of science, I’ve been told, are not actually supposed to *do* experiments—leave that to the ‘lab rats’. But the opposite holds amongst those who do: How can anyone who hasn’t been initiated into the ways of the laboratory ever get a handle on the running of experiments and crunching of data? I have had to justify myself to both, even in casual conversation. So, I started to ponder what it was I was really doing? Could I do it? *Should* I do it? The answer, eventually was, “Yes, of course!” I think I even heard myself mutter those dangerous words, “How hard can it be?”

I was heartened to see that there was an emerging field: Experimental Philosophy.<sup>3</sup> Often shortened to X-Phi (Ex-Phi) it was a ‘new philosophical movement that supplements the traditional tools of analytic philosophy with the scientific methods of cognitive science’. Though psi is apparently still a challenge to mainstream philosophy, including this modern incarnation of it, at least I wasn’t the only one to want to get out of the proverbial armchair and grab a clipboard.

Note though that it is an armchair that is always associated with the philosopher, not a couch or a sofa. It is telling and appropriate because philosophy is a particularly solitary pursuit—you might put your arguments up for discussion but the research, writing, and analysis is all done by you, yourself alone. This is significant, as I was to find out. Making the move from dealing purely with thoughts, concepts and arguments to collaborators, machines, plants and volunteers was quite a big one. All these three-dimensional things with their own schedules and needs. I wondered occasionally just what I had signed myself up for.

Eventually a collaborator was found, equipment sourced

and tested, volunteers enticed and plants kept alive. The day arrived when I was ready to actually follow through and do as I’d written when I wrote up the grant application. It was a big moment for me, and though you’ll have to wait until I have a chance to write up the results, suffice it to say, I was encouraged on the day to see what appeared to be a replication of at least one of the effects I had anticipated. I’ll never forget that moment or the excitement that filled the room when it happened.

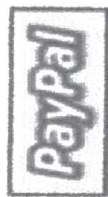
Getting to this point is exciting but opens up many more questions for me than I can answer right now. How to develop the protocol so it can be applied successfully and meaningfully? What are the ethical implications? How to manage the experimenter and decline effects? And how to manage the inevitable need to defend an exploratory, experimenter/subject collaborative approach over the more accepted ‘keep them separated’ stats-based one? On this score I do have a few thoughts because I have been pondering it since embarking on this new phase. If my approach can provide a reliable circuit for obtaining information that wouldn’t otherwise be available, then that will be enough in itself for now. What comes next? I’ll have to keep you posted. Updates on the experiment (write-ups, publications, etc.) will eventually be posted on the QIPP website: <http://www.qipp.com.au/projects.html> Ψ

Notes:

1. C. Backster, *Primary Perception: Biocommunication with plants, living foods and human cells* (Anza, CA, White Rose Millennium Press, 2003).
2. D. Bem, “Feeling the Future: Experimental Evidence for Anomalous Retroactive Influences on Cognition and Affect,” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 100 (2011): 407-425.
3. Experimental Philosophy. Retrieved September 14, 2013: <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~jk762/>

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