


ASPIA Newsletter – November 2018

 Our next ASPIA partner support group meeting will be this coming **Saturday 3 November** and our Presenter will be **Clinical Psychologist Jeroen Decates**.

Jeroen is well known to the group as he has been presenting at our meetings, counselling with our members and contacts, and running groups related to Asperger's Syndrome for 15 years. From his clinical experience he is constantly developing new insights into Asperger's Syndrome in relationships, and for our November meeting he will share these insights with us, answer our questions and provide the education, guidance and support for partners that he does so well.

A little biographical information: Jeroen is a Clinical Psychologist who offers a "Neurodiversity Friendly Practice". He has degrees in Psychology and Social Sciences from the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands, practicing Psychology in the Netherlands from 1976 and moving to Australia in 1982. In 2014 Jeroen retired from Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Health Service's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service where he had worked mostly in the position of Senior Clinical Psychologist for over 28 years.

Jeroen has developed his own model of conceptualising the AS condition. This pragmatic model has been developed over many years' learning from working with his clients and their partners/families. Jeroen uses many anecdotes to highlight his work with ASD people and their families.

Jeroen now runs his own practice "the WaterShed" in Hornsby, and in 2017 began offering sessions in the Zed Three Specialist Centre in Canberra.

Jeroen's Hornsby practice is at: Suite 2/284 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby NSW 2077, Phone (02) 8911 1164, email info@jdpsy.org

The Zed Three Clinic in Canberra is at: 173 Strickland Crescent, Deakin ACT 2600. Please phone the Zed Three Clinic direct for appointments with Jeroen there: (02) 6109 8830.

Please join us from 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start.

ASPIA meeting location: Club Burwood at 97 Burwood Road, Burwood (Sydney) (corner George Street)

Who can attend: Partners and family members seeking support from the non-Asperger perspective.

Cost: \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members (membership is \$55 per year and includes several benefits including borrowing books from the library and being part of a private facebook group.)

Parking: The cheapest and closest parking is directly behind the Club in **John Street**. Wilson car park - \$5.

Lunch Club: Bistro area from 12 noon for those who'd like to chat over lunch before the meeting.

Dinner: Staying back afterwards for a drink or dinner has become popular.

ASPIA's remaining Meeting Dates for 2018

- November 3
- December 1

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF ASPIA'S NEW WEBSITE

ASPIA

Providing support to partners of adults with Asperger's Syndrome since 2003

ASPIA's web developer NOLA NORRIS and I would like to make the exciting announcement that **ASPIA has a brand new website**, published just over a week ago. It still contains the old content (some of it updated and revised), but a modern new look and feel, with much greater capacity and versatility.

ASPIA's original and much loved website with the familiar images and colours was launched almost 13 years ago to the day, and we have enjoyed amazing interest and traffic to the site – sometimes up to 1000 hits in a week. It truly has been the hub of our effectiveness, and achieved everything we hoped, and much more.

Nola has now attended to the transfer of the domain name from the old website to the new, and your internet search will now take you to the new website.

Of course, we will all feel some sadness leaving behind the old familiar images and presence, but it has been getting harder and more complicated for Nola to attend to website updates and uploads still using very old technology and programming language. She has been keeping an old computer alive just for this purpose alone, and it's been touch and go for a while.

The new website will have the capacity to link through to social media, etc, and there may be some features that will make the distribution of the monthly newsletter/meeting announcement a little simpler. We'll explore all these possibilities as we get used to using it.

Please visit the new website and explore it. We hope you love it. www.aspia.org.au

Brief Thought

You may remember that for our October meeting we announced that we were watching a video presentation by Tony Attwood and Michelle Garnett on "Understanding your Partner". Those attending the meeting found this excellent. It was like a condensed version of the workshop content they gave us back on 10 March this year.

The video/MP4 comprises two 40 minute sections, and it is available for purchase as a download for just \$16.50 from the Minds and Hearts Website. Very well worth watching, and saving on your computer for watching again.

<http://www.mindsandhearts.net/events/online-events/understanding-my-partner-with-as>

Hoping to see many of you at our November meeting!

As always, my best wishes to all,
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