

## keeping philosophy alive



SCAN ME FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
CONTENT!

# About Us



Philosophy is life and energy, it is the spirit that drives your daily thoughts and actions. More importantly, it is a key that can unlock one's potential to live consciously and authentically. New Acropolis is a place to explore this capacity on a personal and social level. Committed to the comparative studies and practical application of classical philosophy; understanding of cultures and principal of volunteering. We invite all to our philosophy school with talks, events and courses. Come and experience how deeply sweet life can be.

Philosophy	Culture	Volunteering
Practical philosophy helps us to know and improve ourselves. It is a way of life, not an intellectual attitude, committed to the best aspirations of humanity.	Culture broadens our understanding of life, and fosters a spirit of mutual respect and solidarity; strengthening human dignity and facilitating harmonious coexistence.	Volunteering is the natural expression of a spirit of union with life and humanity, and manifests in the practice of values such as altruism, commitment and striving for the common good.





New Acropolis opened its doors for the first time in South Africa in June 2006, and so we are fast approaching its birthday, and closing its first decade in this amazing country we all call our home.

Firstly, we would like to thank all of you, for showing an interest, and participating, through attending events, classes, and / or volunteering with us. Your thirst for wisdom and a better world is the rich soil which nourishes us, and will carry us to ever greater heights.

On this note, we are happy to announce that we will be consolidating our Ferndale & Braamfontein branches, into one larger and oh-so-much-more-awesome branch in Braamfontein. Keep your ear to the ground and pay us a visit once we have moved, we'd always love to see you!

Another exciting announcement is that in the interest of saving the worlds ecosystem, we are scaling down on paper usage – so you will notice the magazine you hold contains only adverts for our program of activities.

**The full magazine containing articles and more additional content is available at the following location: <http://goo.gl/ozwk0o>**

Find the weak links, expose flawed arguments & reveal old & new truths with modern philosophy

**STATE YOUR**  
New Acropolis Braamfontein

Thursday  
7th April | 7pm  
**DEBATE**

Image courtesy of Roanoke College

# Self Defence Training: Krav Maga

"It is true that a victim who fights back may suffer for it, but one who does not almost certainly will suffer for it." - Jeff Cooper

Tuesdays | 6pm  
New Acropolis Braamfontein

## *Keeping it Real?*

Do we walk through life wearing a face which does not match our inner world? What drives us to do this? Is there a better way?

When: Monday 18 April | 7pm  
Where: New Acropolis Braamfontein





# SpaceforRent

Have an event and need space?  
Rent one of our comfortable rooms for any  
event.

New Acropolis can accommodate you!

## EVENTSINCLUDE

Various workshops from art, photography, meditation and lectures. Host a lunch or dinner party for friends or business, meet-up evenings: book / movie clubs, networking, launch a product or exhibition, dance, yoga, martial arts, company functions.

### Garden Area

For unconventional workshop, party or event

### Café Gaia

A large café to suit your product launch, lunch or dinner party



### Studio Space

Host lectures, workshops and physical activities



### Library Classroom

Audio visual equipment available for use



072 300 1274

[info@newacropolis.org.za](mailto:info@newacropolis.org.za)

[www.newacropolis.org.za](http://www.newacropolis.org.za)

411 Vale Avenue, Ferndale



# keeping philosophy alive

This is the question and the statement of this issue of our magazine.

It could be seen as a question, because we can ask ourselves: Are we keeping philosophy alive? Do we want to keep it alive? If philosophy is the Love of Wisdom, do we want to keep on loving Wisdom?

Which brings us to the statement: PHILOSOPHY IS ALIVE.

Years later we look back to ancient times to the time when Philosophy was conceived. This was a historical moment in which some great men and women could observe an even more ancient world fading away. This was a world which had schools of Mysteries available in all corners of earth. Places which studied nature and its expression. Studied the way nature affects us and the way we affect nature and one another. Those schools had unlocked the secrets of nature and taught it to those who were willing to listen, and more importantly to practice those teachings.

Observing the dwindling interest in the schools of mystery while mankind continued to fall more and more into the currently admired materialistic way of life; into a selfishness which does not have much space for interaction with nature or even the observation of nature - not even

our own. The great men and women of the past realised that they need to record these teachings about the mysteries of nature as well as they could before they disappeared completely.

This process was akin to the construction of a gate - a gate which was designed to save the mysteries from being lost, but was also designed for the future readers, you and me, who could use the pages as a gate, allowing the reader into the mysteries of the past. The gate of philosophy which allows us to read back into the mysteries, where we find ourselves and all the secrets of nature revealed.

This was the birth of Philosophy, the love of wisdom, which was the best step towards the preservation of wisdom for the future.

And here we are, fortunate to find the gate to mysteries, thousands of years after its construction. What do we do with this gate? Merely observe it? Or do we try to open it - unlock the rusted lock and break the thick chains?

The secret is in opening the gate. How do we do it? It is much more simple than it would seem. If you love Wisdom and its application; if you like learning new things, the things which will help you become a better you. And not only do you learn these things - but apply them in the search for betterment of yourself and the world around you. You have already succeeded

to push the gate enough in order to peek through a tiny crack. One short glance is normally enough in order to encourage you to never stop searching for wisdom. It is to glance into a future of endless possibilities, finding yourself walking in an endless spiral towards finding yourself and all the other secrets of life the more you stay the course.

So, although we really need to keep Philosophy alive and express it more and more in our lives? Yes - if we would like to

have full lives, filled with Wisdom and decision, NOT ones of idleness, observing how they pass in front of our eyes without our real participation until one they we look around and all we can do is ask ourselves: "How did I get here?"

In every step we take towards wisdom and its application, through each step towards self-improvement we prove:  
**PHILOSOPHY IS ALIVE!**

by Guy Hazon

A photograph of a person in a red dress standing on a fallen log in a forest. The person is facing away from the camera, looking down a stream. The text is overlaid on the image.

**We often forget that WE ARE NATURE. Nature is not something separate from us. So when we say we have lost our connection to nature, we've really lost our connection to ourselves.**

**~ HUMANITY ~**



# PHILOSOFILM



**Sun 24 Apr  
5pm**



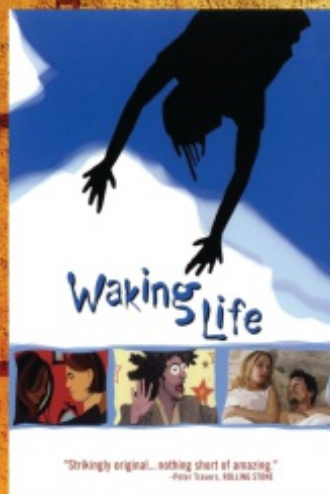
Death is not  
sad. The sad  
thing is most  
people don't  
live at all.

- Peaceful Warrior

**Sun 22 May | 5pm**



**Sun 24 Jul  
5pm**



**Sun 19 Jun  
5pm**

**All screenings are free of admission!  
Bring your own snacks.  
Secure parking available.  
New Acropolis Braamfontein  
12th Floor, Orion House,  
49 Jorissen Street,  
Braamfontein**



Image courtesy of Fred Andrews IV

# Know Thyself

Embark on a voyage of self discovery  
as we use the tool of philosophy to get  
a fresh look on who we are!

When: Thursday 5 May | 7pm  
Where: New Acropolis Braamfontein

*Public Talk*

# WHO am I ?

*Talk on the nature of consciousness -  
Who is the I and who is the me? How  
are they different.*

*Where does our consciousness reside,  
and how can we work with it to  
transform our lives?*

**Thurs  
19th May**  
7pm

New Acropolis, Braamfontein  
12th Floor, Orion House,  
49 Jorissen Street,  
Braamfontein

# Life (n.)

**Definition.** noun, plural: **lives.** (1) A distinctive characteristic of a living organism from dead organism or non-living thing, as specifically distinguished by the capacity to grow, metabolize, respond (to stimuli), adapt, and reproduce.

So from our definition, something which is alive is distinguished from that which is dead by virtue of its capacity to grow, metabolise, respond to stimuli, adapt and reproduce. In New Acropolis we seek to keep philosophy alive – and using our definition above, I have set out to examine how we do this – in a hope that in doing so I can convey to you our reader – a little more of who we are and what we are about.

We are constantly engaged in a process of growth, and not just on the level of organisational growth. When we accept new students and members into our organisation, we grow, and we are glad for this – but it is not the only growth we experience, nor is it the only growth we seek. As philosophers we seek depth in life, and simply swelling in numbers is one dimensional “flat” growth.

More importantly we seek the growth of each and every person who comes through our doors, whether for one event, or to attend a course. This vertical growth

is the important growth – it is the reason why we study philosophy – to become better individuals who are abler in all areas of life. As we enrich ourselves we enrich not only our school, but also humanity and the world as a whole.

If we were to identify the metabolism of an organisation – a good analogy might be to look to its financial turnover. Companies consume raw resources and turn these into profits – and both the resources and profits are made essentially of one thing – money. As a 100% volunteer organisation I would say that our school is in a different category – yes we use money, but our primary source of sustenance is the goodwill of the members who make up our organisation. Unlike a company, we do not convert this goodwill into profits, nor is it discarded as waste like in an organism which exhales carbon dioxide as it metabolises the oxygen it has breathed in. This goodwill passes into and through our schools and back out again into the community, through volunteer activities which are ecological or cultural in nature, and through improvement of the individuals who participate.

In the decade which New Acropolis has been operating in South Africa we have met many challenges and won many victories – and through all of these we



have changed our environment, and changed within ourselves. We respond to the need we see in humanity, and we respond to the need we see in the world. We have attracted criticism in the past due to the fact that there is one thing which we will not issue a response to – and that is criticism itself. As an organisation we are conscious and careful that we are never ‘against’ anything. We aim to change the world by spreading light – this is the way to brighten our lives, and the world. Fighting shadows is a pointless exercise which achieves nothing other than wasting energy.

On the international stage over the course of fifty-nine years we have spread to over sixty countries and countless cities. The message of wisdom, and practical philosophy which we teach is a truly humane message, and thus relevant to all

people who live in our present time. This message does however need to be adapted to the different cultures and peoples we touch. While our core is always the same, regardless of time and space, the face is always adapted to keep engaging, relevant and useful for any given era or locale.

Lastly arriving to reproduction we definitely do, otherwise we would have never spread beyond the first branch founded in Buenos Aires so many years ago. We do not reproduce in the fashion of organisms or cells, but like a flame – passing wisdom and experience from mind to mind in a never ending movement.

Philosophy is alive and well in the world today – lived daily by Acropolitans all around the world!

by Michael Herd



"The Voyage of Life" (1841) by Thomas Cole, a series of four paintings representing childhood, youth, manhood & old age



# FIVE MINUTES OF PHILOSOPHY

**This fun filled evening will leave you wanting more! Take a whirlwind tour of philosophy through the ages in this wisdom 101.**

**WHEN: THURSDAY 7 JUNE | 7PM**

**WHERE: NEW ACROPOLIS BRAAMFONTEIN**

## FUN ACTIVITY

For all those interested in more...

The Sanskrit word "mandala", loosely translated to mean "circle", represents wholeness, and can be seen as a model for the organizational structure of life itself that reminds us of our relation to the infinite.

**Thursday 7 July | 7pm**  
**New Acropolis Braamfontein**

*Mandala*  
*Colouring*



# the key to inner wisdom



Have you ever stopped to ask yourself:  
"Who am I?", "Why am I here?", "Do I have purpose?"

"The Key to Inner Wisdom" course in practical philosophy  
is a 16 session program which will help you find the  
answers to these questions and more!

Discover how some of the greatest minds humanity has  
known grappled with the meaning in life. Learn about the  
cultures and civilisations which they belonged to.

Come check us out, you never know, it could end up  
changing your life!

Cost: R980 (Students: R380) *\*can be payed monthly*  
Bring this page with you to the first class and get 15%  
off the price of the course!

**Next Courses Opening:**  
**Mondays 25 Apr & 9, 16, 23 May @ 19h00**  
**New Acropolis Braamfontein**  
**Tel: 072 300 1274 / 082 771 8459**

A detailed street map of the Braamfontein area in Johannesburg. The map shows a grid of streets including Empire Rd, Smuts Ave, Ameshoff St, Stiemens St, Jonissen St, De Korte St, Jutta St, Melle St, Biccard St, Harrison St, De Korte St, Rissak St, Smit St, Wolmarans St, Leyds St, Queen Elizabeth, Carr St, Symmonds St, De Villiers St, and Plein St. Landmarks such as Wits Rugby Stadium, Parktown Boys' High School, Constitution Hill, and The Joburg Theatre are marked. A yellow line indicates a route through the area, passing near the M1 and M2 highways. A white box in the top right corner contains contact information, and another white box in the middle left contains coordinates. A third white box in the bottom left corner provides the specific address.

**TELEPHONE / SMS:**  
**MICHAEL - 082 771 8459**  
**GUY - 072 300 1274**

**COORDINATES:**  
**S 26° 11' 33.1620"**  
**E 28° 02' 10.9464"**

**12TH FLOOR, ORION HOUSE**  
**49 JORISSEN STREET**  
**BRAAMFONTEIN**

**info@newacropolis.org.za**  
**www.newacropolis.org.za**