

Study Week

Gurdjieff's Contemplative Exercises and Movements

18-23 January 2027

The Gurdjieff Society of Newport

(founded by George and Helen Adie, continuing Gurdjieff's Work)

**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre
Central Coast (NSW)
8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South**

He had been telling us wonderful stories of his plans to build on the steeply sloping ground ... and to make this place in the future the centre of his work. He said that without a place where people could live and work together, his method could never give the best results. ... He said: "There will be a house at the top of the hill where I will rest from my labours, and to which only my nearest will come. Below will be a hall like the Study House, for Movements, classes and lectures, and under that will be rooms where visitors will live."

J.G. Bennett, *Witness* (Bennett Books Edition), 216

At the Contemplative Exercises and Movements Study Week, 18-23 January 2027, we shall devote ourselves to the applied study of the authentic ideas and methods of G.I. Gurdjieff; with a special emphasis on the ideas as a whole, the exercises and Movements, and with the influence of the music.

The Gurdjieff Society of Newport has held several intensives. At our July 2026 Residential, we foregathered, for the first time, in the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre on the MacKillop Peninsula. This retreat house is surrounded on two sides by the Kincumber Broadwater. It used to be a boys' home and orphanage run by the Brown Josephites (the St Mary of the Cross Sisters). For generations, the boys learnt reading and writing, arts and sciences, and how to make tools,

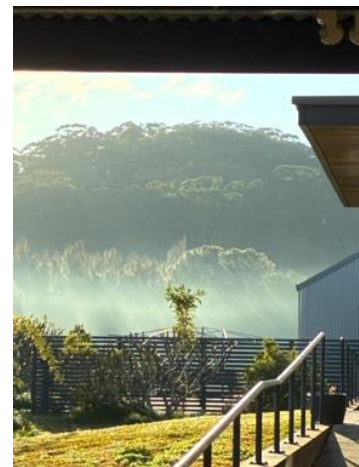


bake bread, and farm. Immediately adjacent to it is the old sandstone church, built in 1842, still in use, where St Mary and her nuns would pray, and in the backrooms of which they made their dormitory. Around that is a traditional churchyard of graves, surrounded by a number of fields. The Centre's web site provides an idea of the property and its

atmosphere: <https://mmsm.org.au/centres/central-coast/> Several people commented that as soon as they entered they grounds, they felt that they were somewhere special. If prayer and the honest work of children and the nuns leaves a trace on the earth, it has done so here.

In a significant change from previous periods together, our accommodation and activities were all housed in the one centre. There is a separate hall for Movements, a conference room for meetings and contemplation, and dining and tea rooms, as well as outdoors facilities. We had the entire event catered, so that we could devote all of our time to the applied study of the authentic ideas and methods of G.I. Gurdjieff. As indicated, we employ the contemplative exercises, the Movements, the music, readings from Gurdjieff and his pupils, and the tasks he instituted to help one remember oneself during daily activities. There was free time available on each day, and of course, if someone needed to rest, they did so. But it was patently the most intense, and quite arguably the most fruitful period we had yet had. The pace was challenging, but supportable.

And now we are returning there, having learnt a little more about how to make the best use of the premises and our time. As indicated, all accommodation is on the site itself. Both single and double rooms are available, as required. All rooms have an *en suite* bathroom, with kettles, sinks, refrigerators, and basic kitchen facilities near at hand. The entire event was fully catered (breakfast, lunch, supper, morning and afternoon tea), with the result that all could participate in all the gatherings, all the Movements. There was free time each afternoon, and optional recreations (e.g. walking along the shores of the Kincumber Broadwater, or resting).



The Centre is approx. 13 miles from Gosford Railway Station, itself about 80 minutes by train from Central Station. The residential commences at 10:00am on Monday 18 January, and ends at 2:00pm, after lunch and one final meeting, Saturday 23 January 2027. Those travelling from afar may wish to book in or out a day earlier or later. We can arrange that, for a reasonable cost. Ideally, all bookings would be finalised by 1 December 2026. We would ask all those attending to ensure that they remain until the close of the Study Week, at 2:00pm on the Saturday, and thus to book flights and connections so that they do not need to leave early.

Fees are \$1,800 all inclusive. Enquiries may be addressed to the following:

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For the Gurdjieff Society of Newport, see <https://gurdjieffnewport.au/>