




Southern Spring on Towerland Wilderness 2022

On Towerland, there is a constant conversation between Earth and Cosmos; in Spring the conversation becomes a song.

For these past two years, entering now the third, with still no end in sight, it has often felt that the only song left in the world is lament. Despite the uncertainties, we have thought otherwise – we turn our will to inviting all those interested in open exploration through challenging times, to join at least something of three separate but interweaving movements through the last week of August and the month of September, 2022



29 August – 2 September
(arrival 28 August, departure 3 September)

In Conversation

We know that holding conversation open does not simply mean that anything goes. Conversation is not 'just talking'. The rigour of conversation arises through the meeting between openness and clarity. We must stand upright, even as we hold ourselves open to the 'other', and what the 'other' has to say. Conviction and conversation make for difficult, perhaps incompatible bedfellows. But – the search for truth is the mark of good conversation.

Seeking the Space Between

In the space between you and me
Within me, and within you
Lie fathomless depths
And breadths

Among us, in community
Each one of us carries and brings
These infinite worlds
Filled with yesterday, today,
And tomorrow.

In a world that asks full presence of us,
full awakeness –
Can we bring our inner worlds to one another
In ways that invite fullness of meeting
That allow meaning to be shaped through
Open, true encounter?

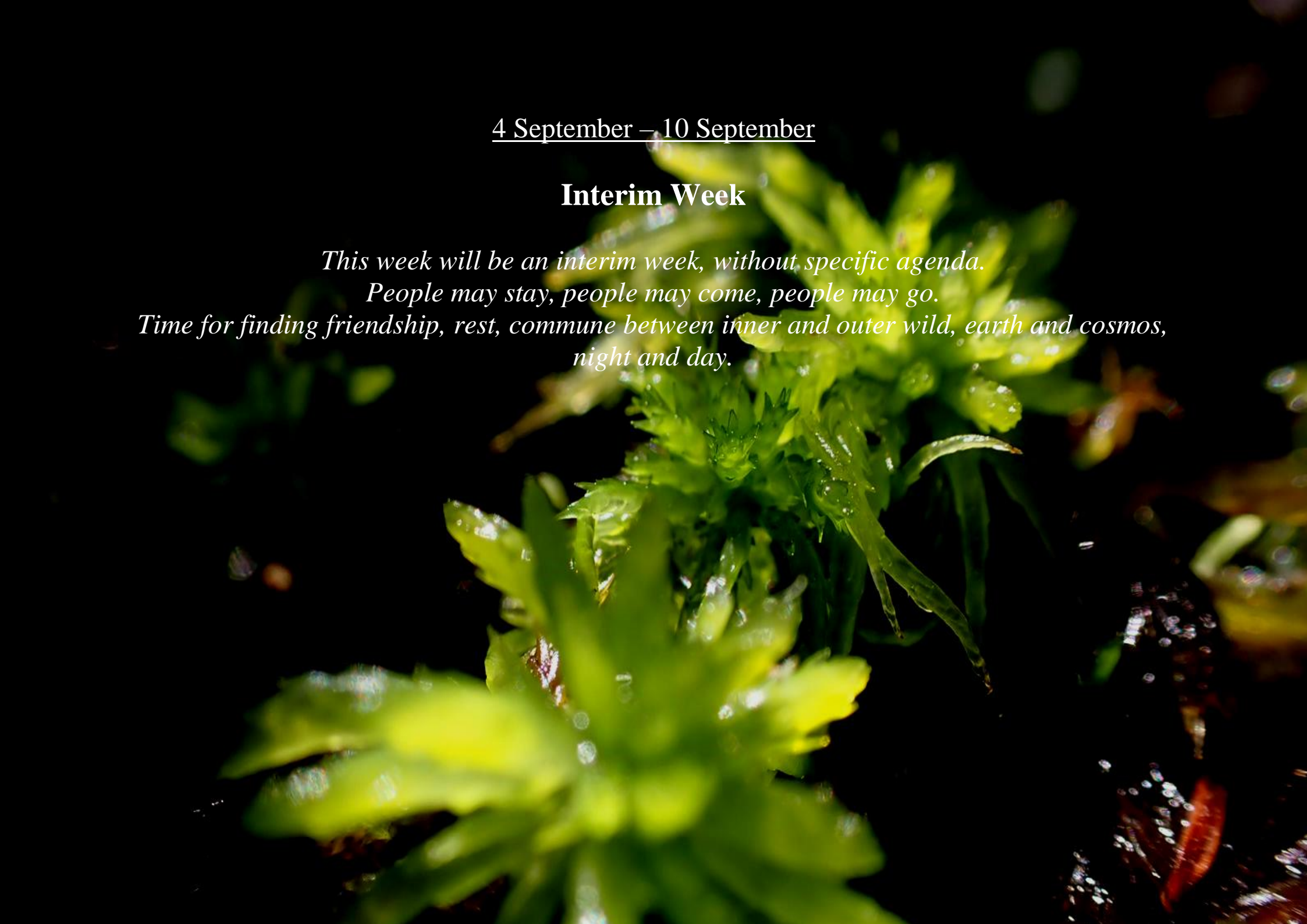
New forms are being asked of us;
New ways of finding and creating meaning.

True conversation
Enlivens
Enlightens
Enlarges
Reveals what is living in the field.

Conversation
is a quest, a reaching for truth, a journey of discovery, the creation of the world discovered.
Conversation
is a Being who guides encounter,
enables us to make visible what is happening in the space between.

We come together to meet this Being,
To discover its Form.

In this five-day process, we will spend time in grounded and delicately held conversation, interspersed with solo time in silence, movement, and nature connection, creating the space to enable and enhance a focused, enlivened and generative conversation, giving us the experience of conversation as fire for transformation.



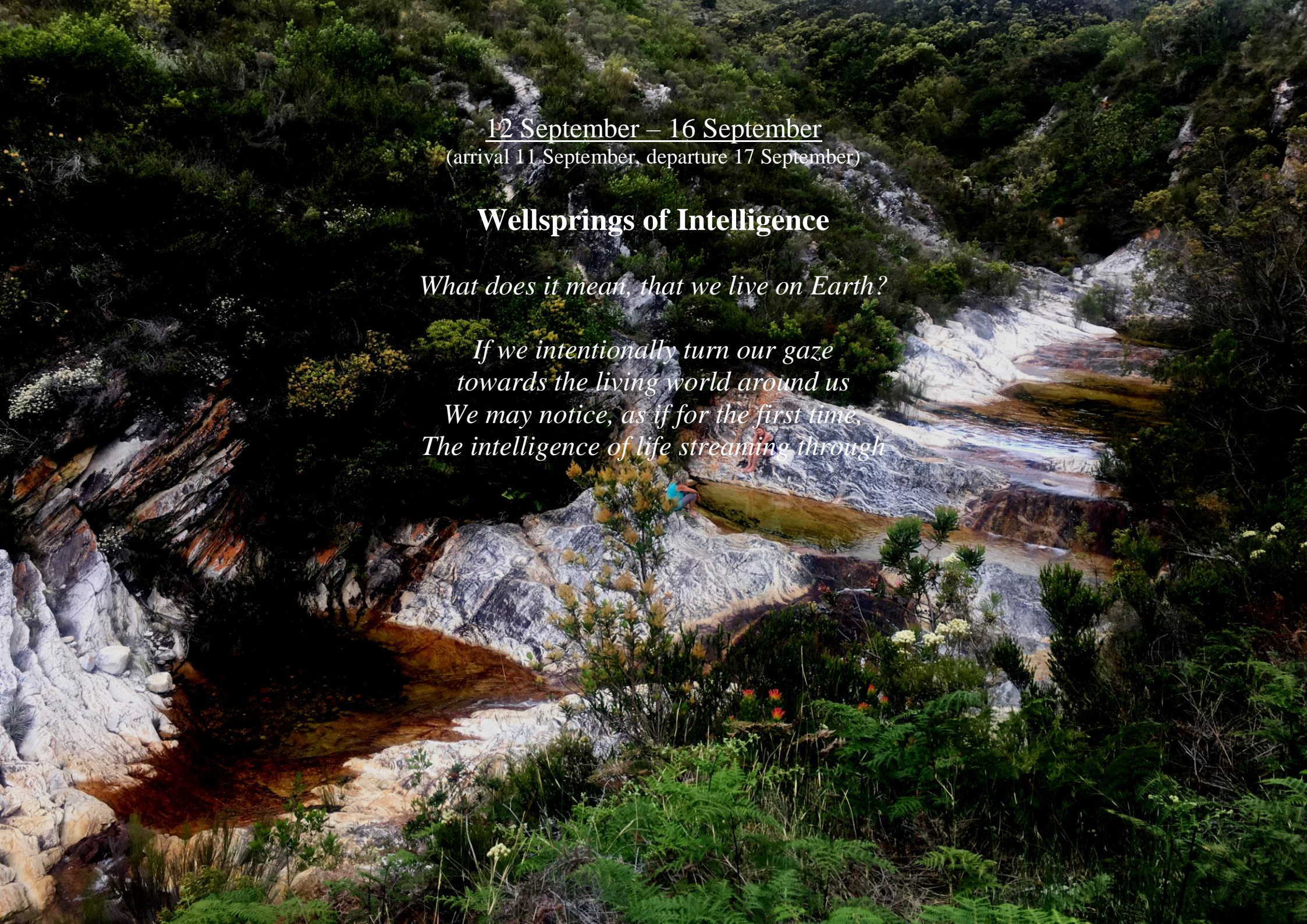
4 September – 10 September

Interim Week

This week will be an interim week, without specific agenda.

People may stay, people may come, people may go.

*Time for finding friendship, rest, commune between inner and outer wild, earth and cosmos,
night and day.*



12 September – 16 September
(arrival 11 September, departure 17 September)

Wellsprings of Intelligence

What does it mean, that we live on Earth?

*If we intentionally turn our gaze
towards the living world around us
We may notice, as if for the first time,
The intelligence of life streaming through*

Nature and the Human Being

Midst these times of chaos, turmoil, and alienation
Where our attention turns so easily
towards distraction
and lamentation
and dogma and division.
We move further into a constructed world,
losing proximity to natural process.

If we intentionally turn our gaze
towards the living world around us
We may notice, as if for the first time,
The intelligence of life streaming through:
How all living organisms create themselves
out of themselves;
A continuous cycle of living and decaying,
Of coming into being and of dissolving;
The interdependence
of all beings living
in a harmony of artistic precision.

We enter the processes of nature
and observe the nature of intelligence.
Our breath with Earth breath
forming one pulsing whole.

The intelligence of life,
thinking itself into manifest Being
streams through us.
Our constructed environment too,
imprints itself upon our processes of thinking –
while emerging out of them.

The streaming intelligence of nature
Through which we arise,
meets the freedom to choose
paths of our own making.

Thus we consider –
What does it mean, that we live on Earth?

In this five day process, we will spend time observing the world around us, and the world within us; we will create places and moments of silence to deepen our gaze; we will begin to discern the manifestations of intelligence; and we will explore thinking-as-expression-of-intelligence, and what this, therefore, asks of us.

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a pattern of light and shadow on the path. The path leads towards the background, flanked by dense foliage and trees.

19 September – 2 October

Being led by Writing's Thread

A Writer's Retreat

Come for a few days, a week, the full time – the choice is yours – the longer, the further your writing might lead you.

A Writer's Retreat

Open to anyone wishing to gift themselves a time within a true wilderness environment for silence and solitude, deep listening, attentive observation – this will be a time dedicated to writing as an increasingly important and necessary way of engaging with our current personal and global context.

Our vision is for writers to have the opportunity to meet other writers, to perhaps form pairs or groups amongst peers, and – for the duration – to be a community of writers engaged in the solitary practice of their craft whilst finding support and inspiration.

We will be offering, at different times, ‘facilitated’ writing and observation exercises, which you are free to attend or not. Observation exercises in the mornings, phenomenological writing ‘seminars’ on some afternoons. For the rest of the time, we will be on hand to help with your writing if and as you require, and you are also utterly free to pursue your writing without any facilitation at all. The only request is that we share the evening meal together, those who are there at the time.



Practicalities

In Conversation: R8800 all inclusive

Interim week: R1000 pppn up to 3 nights

3 nights or more: R800 pppn

Wellsprings of Intelligence: R8800 all inclusive

Being led by Writing's Thread: R1500 pppn, up to 5 nights

5 nights or more: R1100 pppn

Southern Spring all inclusive 35 nights: R39600

Should any of the above programmes speak to you and you would like further information, or to make a booking, please contact Léla via email at *proteusinitiative@gmail.com*.

Our websites:

www.towerlandwilderness.org

www.proteusinitiative.org