

## Swim teacher's disapproving email to 'cult' members

# Bad burps & scolding

STEPHEN DRILL  
IN LONDON

SECRET emails have revealed how a NSW swim teacher bizarrely scolded fellow UK "cult" members for not "truly stepping forward and embracing" the program, which was holding up their "evolution".

Emails sent by Simone Benhayon, 34, provide a rare insight into the communication within Universal Medicine, which started in Byron Bay and claims to have centres across the world, and reportedly involves followers burping out bad spirits and going to bed at 9pm and rising at 3am. They also follow a strict diet, which bans alcohol.

The group, which has been described as a "cult", had been operating in the one-pub village of Tytherington, two hours west of London. It also has a testimonial on its website from a man who graduated from the same college as Princes William and Harry.

Ms Benhayon is a swim teacher in the UK and daughter of the group's founder Serge Benhayon (inset), a former tennis coach who says he is the reincarnation of Leonardo da Vinci.



He started Universal Medicine in Goonellabah in 1999. In an email obtained by The Daily Telegraph, Ms Benhayon addresses followers as her "family" and mentions "time travel experience". "As we are all part of the picture, all are part of the puzzle," she writes.

Her emails mainly discuss targets for online "comments". She also voices her disapproval over a lack of comments: "It feels as though there are people taking advantage of the program by saying they are on it ... but are not truly stepping forward and embracing it which is not only holding back their own evolution but the rest of the group who are ... ready for the next step."

In 2018, the NSW Supreme Court found that Universal Medicine was a "socially harmful cult".

Ms Benhayon did not answer the door at her home this week. Her father did not respond to calls or emails.



Swim teacher Simone Benhayon. Picture: creativeaquatic.co.uk

## Body found in parkland

A BODY was yesterday found by police searching for an elderly man who had been reported missing from Fairfield two days earlier.

The body, which was found about 3pm in a remote area of the Western Sydney Parklands, was yet to be formally identified. But police believe it is a 73-year-old man reported missing from Fairfield Hospital on Friday night.

The man was last seen leaving the hospital about 7.30pm, when police were notified. Initial inquiries suggest his death is not suspicious. A report will be prepared for the coroner.

## Boys 'cash for sex' case

A MAN faces child sex offence charges after allegedly procuring teenagers at a shopping centre on Sydney's northern beaches.

Police yesterday said they arrested a 60-year-old man at a Mona Vale shopping centre about 3.30pm on Saturday after reports the suspect had approached a child.

The man faces numerous charges and officers will allege in court that he offered two boys, aged 13 and 14, money to conduct sexual acts.

The matter is now before the courts.