

# CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

Newsletter July 2023

## From the National Chair

With this newsletter I share the image used in the kit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday and a Voice Prayer. Together we can all reflect on the image, words, and what we are being called to, especially in our roles with listening and walking contemplatively with people.

### Voice Prayer

Dear Lord,

We invite all Australians to join us,  
their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Brothers and Sisters in prayer.

We pray for a bright and just shared future  
for all who call Australia home.

We ask that Your grace of acceptance  
and compassion will guide us.

Let the Creator Spirit lead our journey with the  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples  
of this land.

May we share Your Spirit  
more deeply and celebrate the gifts

You have given us.

Help us appreciate  
true harmony and peace  
just as our Old People did;

Keep us strong,  
make us resilient and  
remember us in this time.

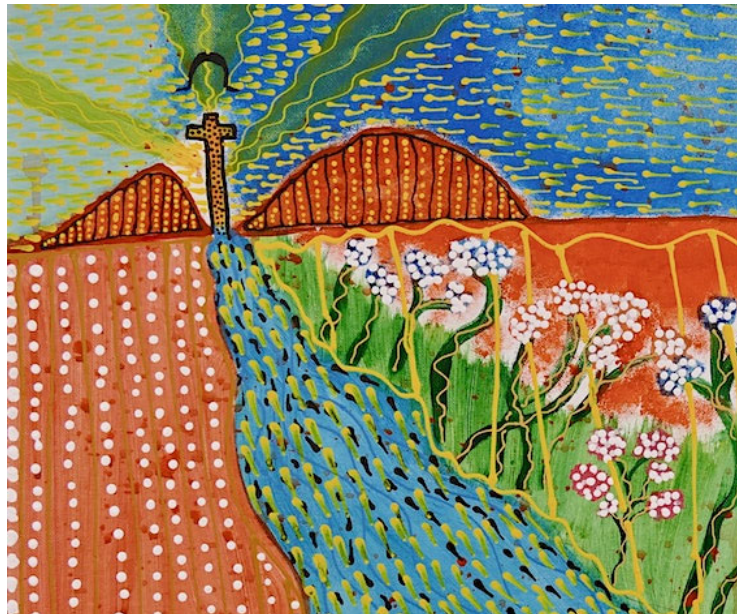
Now is an opportunity  
to change our Nation's history  
for the better.

Walk with us as we write  
a new chapter together  
and may we be one in Your love.

Amen.

With every blessing on your ministry.

Rita Malavisi rsj  
National Chair



*Artwork for National Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council  
(NATSICC)*

**Artist:** Troy Mardigan (Daly River)

**Title:** Jesus, the Living Water

This is a story about Jesus.  
This painting represents Jesus as the truth. And  
the river represents Jesus as the living water.  
It's flowing from the foot of the cross toward  
new life. And the flowers represent new life. He  
is the water of the dry land and the green land.  
And on top of the cross is the omega symbol-  
He is the beginning and the end.

# CSD Australia News

## New Members Gathering

Wednesday 19th July at 6-7pm AEST

We extend an invitation to all new graduates and new members who have joined our CSD community from 2022 and 2023 to an online gathering. This gathering will take place on Wednesday 19th July at 6pm for an hour, offering a space to connect with each other, learn a little about what CSD has to offer including professional development opportunities, CSD updates, AECSD and more. A great opportunity to connect together, be welcomed and receive a little CSD hospitality.

Please keep an eye on your inbox as a link will be sent out closer to the date to all new members.



## Renewal of Membership

Thank you to everyone for their commitment to renew their CSD membership. It has been a joy for Rita and Karen to connect with everyone over the past month. Given this was our first year of having the renewal form online we have appreciated the feedback from members of their experiences giving us an opportunity to improve, making next year's renewal process even more user friendly.

### Membership Paid

178 members were sent membership renewal requests.

148 members have paid. (83% have paid)

9 members have changed circumstances, eight becoming honorary members due to retirement.

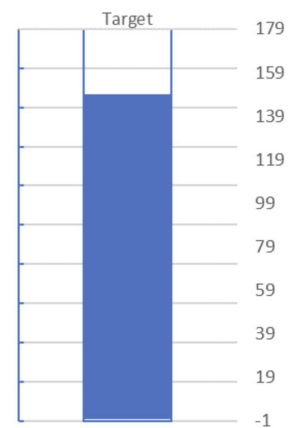
21 members have made no response. (These figures are until 1st July.)

### Memberships Certificates

Membership certificate will be issued over the coming month for those who have returned the completed renewal declaration form and paid the membership fee.

### Email Communication

The renewal process has highlighted that a few people are not receiving our regular communication. We invite those who do not receive it, or if you are aware that another member is not receiving the same information, latest happenings and newsletters please reach out to our [communication coordinator](#) to correct this and ensure all members are receiving our regular information. Thanks



# CSD Australia Members

## Voices of New Members

### Benita Tait

After completing the Emmanuel Spiritual Direction Formation Program in Newcastle (2019-2022) we were encouraged to join CSD Australia. I am looking forward to being part of a community where I am sure I will be supported and nourished personally and in my ministry as a Spiritual Director.



**A very warm welcome to our new members  
Jaclyn Joyce and Helen Glen.**

## Profile of a Member

### Margaret Wiseman

Married to Brian for 58 years. We have two children, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter. I am very much a part of their lives. I graduated as a Spiritual Director in 2000 at Sydney Centre for Religious Development. Sister Pauline Ferguson sj, was the Director of the Centre. Our formation was based on Fostering the Contemplative Listening and guided by Bill Connolly sj, who I met in Boston. I also did a course at SCRCD and received a certificate in Supervision of Spiritual Directors. After Graduation I spent a few years on the team at SCRCD for the formation of Spiritual Directors. I am also part of JISA team. I continue to offer Spiritual Direction and supervision to Directees and Directors. I am Chaplain in a Women's prison and a better chaplain for my formation in Contemplative listening.



**Favourite Scripture:** Matthew 28: 16-20

**Favourite Book:** The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr

**Favourite Movie:** The Sound of Music

**Memorable Moment:** Holding my great granddaughter the day she was born.  
Four generations of first born girls.

## Jennifer Scally

Early in my Josephite life, while teaching in rural areas, I became aware of the deep hunger of everyday people for spiritual nourishment. I then chose any future studies I have done to enhance my skill set to companion people on their journey with God. I have been privileged to be working in the whole area of spirituality for the last 30 years, be it in schools, in the diocese or as a spiritual director, retreat facilitator and supervisor. I became a member of CSD (then CRD) in 1999 when I completed my spiritual direction training. I always find that this ministry is life giving personally and continue to delight as I journey with others as they grow in awareness of their own ever deepening relationship with their God.



**Favourite Scripture:** I have come that you may have life and have it to the full. John 10:10

**Favourite Book:** Awareness by Anthony de Mello

**Favourite Movie:** The Harry Potter Series

**Memorable Moment:** Many, many years ago... walking along a beach and being ‘taken’ by God for the first time to that inner place of God and I.

## Jim Cameron

I have been a Christian Brother for over sixty years and have been in Good Shepherd Parish, Mount Isa since 1999. My ministry has been to work with adults as a resource person for Faith development. Josephite Sr. Carmel Street led my formation as a Spiritual Companion and I graduated in 2006. Each year from February to November (weather permitting) I have visited people in the smaller parishes of Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Winton, as they wish to meet for spiritual companioning. It has been an enriching experience.



**Favourite Scripture:** Matthew 6:26 / Luke 12: 23-28  
(Birds of the air and lilies of the field)

**Favourite Book:** Ilia Delio “Ten Evenings with God”

**Favourite Movie:** Top End Wedding

## Peter Hay

I have been engaged in spiritual direction since 2010. I have a background in education, leading the Edmund Rice Amberley Retreat Centre for 10 years and then co-ordinating formation for the Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice Ministries across Oceania. For the last 2 years I have been engaged in the Heart of Life Centre programs; Siloam for training Spiritual Directors, Emmaus for training Supervisors and the training Spiritual Leaders. One of my passions is the exploration of Ecology and Spirituality. As part of the Siloam program I teach the Ecological Spirituality seminar. As humans we are becoming ever more conscious of our co-creative potential as belonging to a greater community of life that makes up our magical, fragile and tiny blue planet Earth.



**Favourite Scripture:** Job 12:7-10

**Favourite Book:** I have just finished reading *Cosmogenesis An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe* by Brian Swimme. An inspiring insight into how each of our own lives mirror the evolution of our universe.

**Favourite Movie:** *Shawshank Redemption* this was a favourite of my Year 10 students when I taught them Religious Education

**Memorable Moment:** Viewing sun sink below an expansive horizon at Lake Mungo in south west NSW. As the sun dipped below the horizon the sky would become a myriad of colour bringing reality to the sense of fire and love that is our sun. The wide and empty silence is transfixing.

## Edna Anderson

I migrated to Australia from the Philippines as a spouse on 2nd of May 1982. I have a son named Joseph, and a 14 year old grandson. I loved volunteering, especially in all church activities.

I was commissioned in March 2018, as Spiritual Companion. I've been blessed with various opportunities to serve, to help and to share my talents. I pray to God to always give me light, wisdom and understanding, so I can serve someone's soul.

**Favourite Scripture:** Hebrew 13:5  
Keep your lives free from the love of money and be satisfied of what you have

**Favourite Book:** *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale

**Favourite Movie:** *The Sound of Music*

**Memorable Moment:** The day I've been commissioned as Spiritual Companion



## Rob Jones

I love to journey with pilgrims and have a passion for spiritual formation. Most of my time is spent on the edge of spiritual institutions, walking with those in liminal space. I greatly enjoy training leaders to facilitate 'safe circles' where people are listened to and heard. Often these circles become their community to belong to. Nothing like being listened to, heard and loved and walking with God.

- Favourite Scripture:** Isaiah 61: 3
- Favourite Book:** Falling Upwards by Richard Rohr
- Favourite Movie:** Nothing particularly
- Memorable Moment:** Listening to a pilgrim who I have walked with for years, sharing his encounters with people on the edge at a busy Hospital Emergency Department.



## Marlene Marburg

I grew up in Melbourne, Australia and became a Diagnostic Radiographer for 25 years and a Secondary Teacher for three years. I have been writing and publishing poetry since I was a child. I studied theology and spirituality extensively and have been a spiritual director and giver of the Spiritual Exercises since graduating in 2007. I am also a supervisor trainer. In 2016, Bernadette Miles and I founded Kardia Formation Pty. Ltd. where our desire was and is to nurture and strengthen the spirit and release the potential of persons who seek formation with us. Currently we offer spiritual direction, the Spiritual Exercises, supervision and Ignatian Formation Programs online via Zoom which makes equitable access for our overseas and remote learners.

I believe there is a holiness about the converging of all aspects of a person's life at any given moment.

- Favourite Scripture:** "For this reason I kneel before God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of God's glorious riches you may be strengthened with power through the Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all God's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Eph. 3: 14-19)
- Favourite Book:** Usually it is the one I am reading now:  
Our unforming: De-Westernising Spiritual Formation by Cindy S Lee
- Favourite Movie:** Most memorable movies are 'Sophie's Choice' and 'Ordinary People'
- Memorable Moment:** Looking at God's vastness at Boroka Lookout, Gariwerd (Grampians) Victoria, Australia and feeling one with it.



# CSD Australia Professional Development

## Date Claimer

Save the dates for monthly professional development sessions via zoom.

### August

Spiritual Direction for Professional Practice with **Bernadette Miles**  
18th August 9.30 a.m - 11.00 a.m

### September

Exploring spiritual direction from the perspective of Cosmogogenesis: the understanding that the dynamics of the universe story is the primary narrative that provides a sense of identity, meaning and understanding with **Peter Hay**  
2nd September 9.30 a.m - 11.00 a.m

### October

Exploring Interculturality in Spiritual Direction with **Cathy Solano**  
21st October 9.30 a.m - 11.00 a.m

You are welcome to join all or any of the monthly sessions planned for 2023.

There is no cost or need for members to book.

A zoom link will be sent to all members in the preceding week.

If you would like a friend to join, who is a non member - please see the trybooking link below.

## Spiritual Direction in the Professional Space with Dr Bernadette Miles

Saturday August 19th 9.30am - 11.00am (AEDT)

In 2022, Kardia Formation Pty. Ltd, with the support of the Patrick and Anthony Wright Formation and Education Fund and the University of Divinity, conducted research to examine how critical reflection through spiritual direction could support teachers in developing resilience, teacher formation and wellbeing. An empirical study was conducted over 8 months with 38 teachers who were offered 8 sessions of spiritual direction. All participants completed a survey and 10 participants attended individual interviews prior to commencing spiritual direction and on completion of the eight sessions. Data collected was both quantitative and qualitative.

This workshop will explore the results of this research and pose the question:  
How is spiritual direction moving beyond the traditional and religious contexts?

Dr Bernadette Miles is one of the directors of Kardia Formation. She has completed the Arrupe Program for spiritual directors in the Ignatian tradition, Siloam and has 20 years experience in forming spiritual directors, supervision, spiritual direction, facilitation and retreat giving. Bernadette completed PhD research in 2018 which explores the contribution spiritual direction in the Ignatian tradition can make to leadership and organisational development.



Non members are welcome to join and book through [trybooking](#).

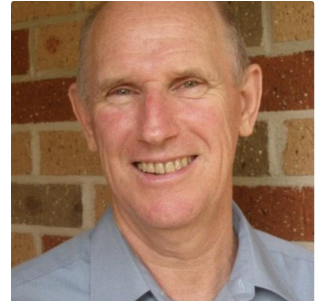
Cost is \$20 for non members.

## June Professional Development Feedback

Here are some reflective comments of what participants received from the last professional development.

### Barriers to Contemplative Listening: Enneagram Perspective with Malcolm Drake

- Further insight into my way of being with people.
- The beauty of conversing together in a contemplative space for the benefit of the ‘unseen others’ in our lives and ministry.
- How valuable silence and space is in being with another.
- Appreciated the contemplative approach with ‘more’ to be pondered.  
Thank you Malcolm and All.
- Awareness of connecting words.
- To LISTEN more - also to SELF reflect more seriously - especially on how I express my feelings or fail to in everyday life.
- How the enneagram can be a useful lens but not be about all it is.
- My main take away from it is the need to be very aware of my responses/reactions to directees but also to ensure my agenda is not actually on the menu. Self-knowledge and awareness is critically important, I believe.





# Retreat Review



## Joint Spirituality Centre Development Day: Padraig O Tuama - Masterclass: Spirituality & Conflict

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May it was a delight to return to WellSpring in Ashburton to attend a joint Spirituality Centre Day. Irish poet and theologian Padraig O' Tuama invited us all to become curious and our imagination to explore the management of conflict through the power of story and poetry. He shared his lived experience and offered us powerful examples using poetry and Gospel passages, which invited the reader to pay closer attention to conflict on many different levels.



use

The conversations held throughout the day allowed us to experience such questions like:  
*What does the word lost mean to you?*

Padraig allowed us to deepen such a question through the use of a poem by David Wagner entitled *Lost*. The phrases that stirred me were.

*Stand Still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you  
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here  
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger*

This poem became a portal from which my imagination danced around with the concept of being Lost. It invited me to become curious about the poet's meaning of the word, and then with the help of the poet's use of imagery it allowed me to explore what it meant personally.

This created a welcoming and open environment which invited the groups to enter into dialogue about such experiences

The power of Padraig's story telling enabled us to create a welcoming open space for authentic conversations about the varied conflicts that we experienced.

It was a great opportunity to share such conversations with members of the other Spirituality Centres on the day.

Review written by Linda Di Sipio



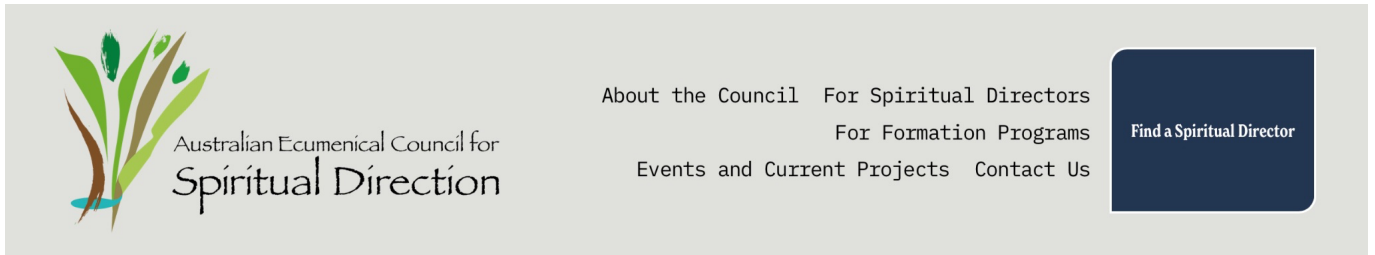
### Discover More

Explore a few resources from Padraig O Tuama

[Padraig O Tuama website](#)

[On Being Project](#)

# AECSD News



## What's happening in AECSD?

AECSD met in Melbourne from the 16th to the 17th of March 2023 and again online on the 18th of May. During these meetings we heard reports from the Spiritual Direction associations and celebrated the work of these networks. We also heard an update from the Supervision Guidelines Working Group and affirmed their progress. A substantial aspect of these meetings was discussion concerning the National Register for Spiritual Direction.

## National Register for Spiritual Direction

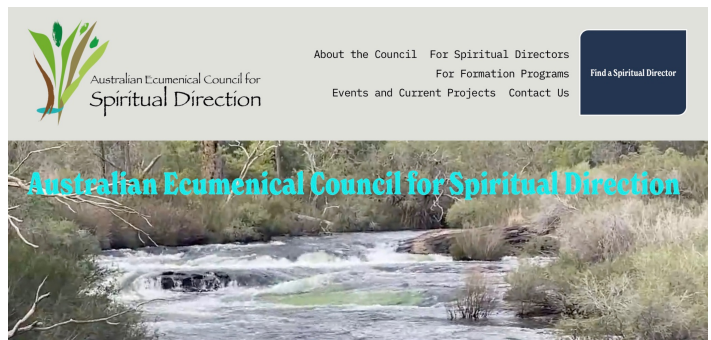
Over the past two years a working group has been exploring the possibility of a register of spiritual directors in Australia. After gathering responses from contemplative discernment circles and surveys the working group developed a model for a register which would list: name, location, contact, particular interest, and optionally photograph, spiritual tradition, and availability in person/online etc. While all spiritual directors could apply to be on the register, the register would check qualifications and ongoing professional development and supervision.

The wisdom of the larger community that has been gleaned from the working group and consultative process could thus be implemented. This could include, for example, accountability structures, regulatory issues, standardisation of policy, (allowing for the diversity, integrity and core work of each organisation), increasing safety and supporting raising the profile of spiritual direction in Australia.

The present outcome is that the national spiritual direction associations in Australia – ANSD (Australian Network for Spiritual Direction, CSD Australia (Conference of Spiritual Directors), and Companions (Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises) will continue and develop their listings/registers individually rather than there being a national register or standardised guidelines.

## New Website

AECSD has launched their new website. We encourage you to take a moment to view the new design by Cathie Lambert. Along with a fresh design the site contains lists of spirituality centres, spiritual direction formation courses along with links to find spiritual directors on associations' websites. [Discover more](#)



## Other News

### Gathering of Contemplatives

Monday - Monday, August 7 - 14th, 2023

Drew Lawson has organised a *gathering of contemplatives* retreat at Santa Casa Retreat Centre 7 - 14 August 2023 and has a few places left.



The invitation to consider coming together with other contemplatives for a week of meditation and mutual encouragement and to bring blessings to creation through our unified silence. The gathering releases a powerful wave of spiritual energy greater than the sum of its parts, a wave which caresses others who are also on the contemplative path, those experienced and beginners, opening hearts, ears, eyes and minds to the more that is possible. This wave of spiritual energy also brings healing and life across creation.

Each day there will be a time of silent worship in the morning followed by some sharing ie a time of listening to each other with the ears of our hearts without the need for conversation, questions or spiritual direction. There will be another opportunity to come together for silent worship in the afternoon. Apart from the sharing in the morning we will spend the week in silence.

The retreat will begin on Monday 7th August 2023 and end on Monday 14th August 2023. It will be held at Santa Casa in Queenscliff.

[For more information](#)

### Contemplatio: Spiritual Direction in the Light of Contemplation

Tuesday - Wednesday, August 22 - 23rd, 2023

This course will be offered face to face and online as an intensive over two days. Each day will consist of:

- Three teaching sessions of 90 minutes where, drawing on the original mystical texts within their respective contexts, Kerrie will guide a meditation and offer a teaching, explaining these texts in relation to their wisdom and praxis for spiritual directors as well as for deepening in the mystical life.
- Morning, afternoon and evening guided meditation developing and practicing ways of prayer that are an expression of this wisdom.
- Opportunity for small group sharing in confidential, trustworthy, sacred spaciousness where participants are safe to explore the depths of the Spirit's drawing.
- Two follow up zoom sessions to enable the integration and stabilising of the learnings. Dates for these session will be announced shortly



This year we are offering the course face to face and online. In person gathering at [Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria.](#)

[For more information](#)

## From Heart of Life :

Windows onto God presented by Tim Lockwood cfc  
Saturday 29th July, 10 a.m - 3 p.m

The windows explored are incarnation, darkness, abundance and self- acceptance. Incarnation, seen in the broad sense of God being in the world, takes in the joy of being alive. With this joy, there is the experience of darkness, which is also part of our human reality. Abundance picks up the theme of incarnation. It reminds us that God is lavish with her/his gifts and wants us to enjoy them. Self-acceptance is linked to these themes since it means accepting both the darkness and the light in ourselves. An interactive event allowing time for reflection and sharing. In person event.

[For more information](#)



*Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

## From Santa Casa Retreat Centre :

Santa Casa, located in historical Queenscliff just 90 minutes from Melbourne on the Bellarine Peninsula in southern Victoria, is a sacred place of refreshment and nurture for body, mind and spirit. Santa Casa is available for Spiritual Directors to conduct retreats, workshops etc.

[For more information](#)



## From Eremos Institute:

Intensive Journal Workshop : Our lives are vast, multifaceted and profound

Intensive Journal workshops hosted by the Eremos Institute are offered online and in person. The Intensive Journal helps connect us with this vastness and depth by engaging the process created by Dr Ira Progoff.

See upcoming workshops, including our newest offering, *Introducing the Intensive Journal*, a 3 hour online workshop along with in person for those in Sydney.

[For more information](#)



**EREMOS**  
EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY IN AUSTRALIA