

## From the National Chair

This week we have National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (run by NATSICC) as well as NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee). Thankfully with a growing awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders it became a whole week, not just a day. The second session of the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church, also began just on Sunday and acknowledged the day. It is a time of deep reflection for the Church in Australia; a time for remembering and examining where we have come from, where we are, and where the Holy Spirit wants us to go.



Mumeri was created by Dr Lisa Buxton in August 2013 to celebrate the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney's inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mass held at St Mary's Cathedral. The theme for the Mass 'Holy Spirit in this Land' was captured in the artwork through the use of Aboriginal and Catholic symbolism.

Prayer:

*We acknowledge that God  
has been walking with  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples,  
making His Presence known  
through a continuous living culture  
over many thousands of years.  
We pray in thanksgiving  
for these ancient peoples  
who have enriched  
and sustained our continent  
over all that time.  
We praise God for the people  
who nurtured the land that we call home.*

You're invited to a NATSICC Virtual Retreat presentation by Fr Steve Fletcher MGL. In this presentation (40 mins) Fr Steve utilises rich imagery to compliment his presentation on 'Let us Dream - the Path to a better future'. We have the opportunity to create a future grounded in love and kindness for one another and Fr Steve touches upon Pope Francis' call for us to dream of that future.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z3zK3gHFtw&t=500s>

With every blessing,

Rita Malavisi

# CSD Australia News

## Membership Renewals From the Treasurer

I've had an interesting time since the end of May when all members were emailed regarding membership renewal due by 30 June 2022.

I enjoyed the engagement with members as the names on the list became real people with phone calls and emails such as about circumstances around retirement and/or a change of ministry, retreats, upcoming relocations or home renovations, or the closing of a spirituality centre.



### Memberships Paid

- 178 members were sent membership renewal requests.
- 136 members have paid. This includes 4 who paid for two years last year. (That's a bit more than 75%)
- 26 members who have paid are still due to send in their form.  
[Some have explained that they are in process, which is fine.]
- 8 members have changed circumstances, some becoming honorary members due to retirement.
- 34 members have made no response. [These figures are until 1st July.]

No mystery payments so far this year so thanks for putting your name in the reference. Your cooperation with this, as well as my notes from last year, have helped the process to run smoothly.

### Membership Renewal Forms

It's been encouraging to see that the practice of spiritual direction is alive and well throughout the country as shown by the regular supervision members are receiving and the extensive professional development undertaken. I must admit that in seeing the professional development listed my response is "Oh, that sounds interesting" and "I would have liked to have done that."

Thank you to all those who completed the form in one way or another. It is a mystery why the fillable form works so easily for some and not at all for others. I've had a wide range of responses from "Thanks for the instructions, they were really helpful" to the other extreme "I don't have Microsoft Word on my computer." All but 20 members who have returned the form managed to return it via email. This is a work in progress to create the form in such a way that all can easily fill it in on their computer.

### 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.

### Donations

Thank you to the 9 members who made a donation. A total of \$220.00 was received. Much appreciated.

Warm regards to all,  
Bernadette Micallef, Treasurer.

# CSD Australia Members

## Profile of a Member

### Sue Gesell

I am a mature, experienced and competent Counsellor, Pastoral Care Worker, Spiritual Director and Personal and Group Supervisor.

I am committed to personal growth, holistic health and a Contemporary Spirituality of the Heart. Heart Spirituality is a spirituality of loving dialogue and sensitive awareness to the mystery we call "God", this invites me to an authentic, grounded and deeply human way of being (Heart of Life 2011).

This year I have rejoined the staff at The Heart of Life as a Supervisor to the part-time Siloam students and my interest in the Presence and Emergence of The Sacred Feminine continues with the Family Care Sisters and the Omega Oz community.



**Favourite Scripture:** John 13:34 'Love one another; as I have loved you'

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

**Favourite Movie:** Too many to name, but Last One and the Next One are a possibility

**Memorable Moment:** Contemplating the 'Forget-me-not-Flower'

### Teresa O'Connor

I am a retired nurse and I have lived most of my life in northern and western Queensland. I was born in Charters Towers and educated at rural schools in Winton and Charters Towers. My nursing work took me to rural and remote communities as well as some city and large regional areas. I commenced formation in spiritual direction through the Townsville House of Prayer and Spirituality about four years ago. In addition I have almost completed a Masters of Spiritual Direction through ACU as part of the Arrupe program of the former Jesuit College of Spirituality in Melbourne. At present I am accompanying three exercitants through Annotation 19 Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius. This takes approximately 32 weeks though sometimes longer as life interrupts most people's journey occasionally. I am accompanying several other people in spiritual direction and have recently commenced facilitating reflection days and other contemplative prayer sessions.



**Favourite Scripture:** John 10:10b "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness.

**Favourite Book:** The Book of Tobit - such comfort in these ordinary people's lives.

**Favourite Movie:** Bebettes Feast

**Memorable Moment:** Many years ago I attended the opening of a residential AA program for men on Palm Island. As I listened and observed the men, many of whom I knew through my work as a nurse, I had the sudden realisation that these people really loved each other. It was a spell binding moment and I felt as though God was asking me to look out from his window, rather than my own. My perspective on life changed quite radically as I reflected on this and I still, after nearly 40 years, see this day as my real birth to life in its fullness.

## Gemma Schooneveldt

Born in the Netherlands, I am a mother of five adults and grandmother of seven children.

Whilst fairly new to Spiritual Direction, I am not new to the various ministries of teaching, pastoral care, chaplaincy, and counselling.

My current ministry in Spiritual Direction combines the use of Sandplay as a tool to help directees' further discern the Spirit at work in their lives.

I am also a practicing marriage and funeral celebrant and volunteer half a day per week at Heart of Life, as assistant to the Secretary.

My interests include art, music, dance, movies, reading, walking and gatherings with family and friends.



- Favourite Scripture:** Deut 30:19 I have set before you life and death, both blessings and curses. Choose life.
- Favourite Book:** Love Stories by Trent Dalton
- Favourite Movie:** Walk the Line
- Memorable Moment:** A sibling reunion in 2012 where all nine of us were present. Although we regularly meet every 12 - 18 months, having all of us together to share a dinner was extra special.

## Paola Cheng

My journey to Spiritual Direction may have started well before I knew of it. The first time I was told to explore the possibility of becoming a Spiritual Director was at a day retreat. I love retreats, including silent retreats. It would take a few years before I could commit to undertaking the SILOAM program at Heart of Life. I believe that Spiritual Direction interweaves in my work as a social worker in mental health and as a mindfulness meditation facilitator and opens this vista of deeper engagement in being present and listening as we accompany others in their journey of life and often at their most vulnerable. I am deeply aware how interconnected we are in this trusted sacred space and how profoundly transformative each encounter can be for each other. It is indeed a privilege to be able to present to another in the exploration of their relationship into the spiritual journey.



- Favourite Scripture:** Psalm 139: 13-14 (NIV) For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know the full well.
- Favourite Book:** La diligence s'eloigne a l'aube / Marcelle Lagesse
- Favourite Movie:** Roman Holiday
- Memorable Moment:** Sunrise/Sunset + Fjords in Norway – Complete awe

**Welcome to new members**  
**Michael Loughnane, Lesli Townsend and Christine McCabe**

## Honorary Member

### Dr Patricia Moroney

I became an Honorary member earlier this year and have decided to retire completely from active work in 2023. I have enjoyed the luxury of a training as a Jungian Analyst at the C. G. Jung Institute in Zurich. After a seven year long training I opened my private practice in Canberra. About fourteen years later I was recommended and registered as a Spiritual Director. Most people are unaware of how much a Jungian process is spiritual. Jung found a new psychological language for those who rejected their faith so that they could receive back the baby they had thrown out with the bathwater. There can be a danger of a pseudo-spirituality developing if there is not a true and solid psychological foundation to base it on. I find I really have enjoyed being engaged with people who not only integrate their complexes but also find their way, as a result, to a very deep relationship with Christ and the Holy Spirit. My background as a



Dominican Sister provided me with a very solid and rich foundation in Theology and Spirituality and my relationship with the Holy Spirit has brought me much joy and peace. I have had many wonderful experiences in my life but the two that stand out would have to be my personal Pentecost experience of the Holy Spirit almost fifty years ago and my training at the C. G. Jung Institute as a Jungian Analyst, where I learned so much about the soul/psyche. I am planning to write over the new years.

### John Sullivan

34 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

....of being the mid-wife.....of being the friend of the Bridegroom....

....so many people committed to a yearning for a deeper friendship with God/ Jesus....

....being overwhelmed by the enormous love and generosity of God in response....

.... the embrace of Jesus..."When I got there the stone had been rolled away.." ... " It just happened "

Tears of Reconciliation with God....with another....

The Jesus who invites each one according to their uniqueness, personality and interests.....

....the privilege of being invited into the sanctity of the deep place in each one.....

..." When this Retreat began my life was like a boat smashed on the rocks....but now I'm making plans to put it back together..."

The success of this Retreat does not depend on me it depends on God and all I need to do is plug into what God is doing and run with that.....

.... The embrace of Jesus.....

" He rebuked the winds and the sea ....and all was calm.."

"The little twelve-year-old girl in me was asleep, not dead, and Jesus has awakened her. She will now take up again her journey of discovery".

SUCH A PRIVILEGE.....

## Tribute

### Vale Sr. Yvonne Harte rsj



Some years ago the Conference of Spiritual Directors was in danger of closing down. There was a conference in Hobart where an ageing group decided it was TIME! That CSD had served its purpose of supporting Religious who were opening up Spiritual Direction to many in Australia and New Zealand.

A dynamic character in Fr. Brian Gallagher MSC did not want that to happen. No one in a large group of 70 Spiritual Directors could take on the leadership of CSD. Brian as many of us know is a great writer in Spirituality but also a determined man when need be. He spoke to Yvonne Harte and I whose first response was NO we are too busy!!

Brian in his gentle, convincing manner received a yes from Yvonne and then me that we would be commitment to restructuring CSD for 12 months. Well two and a half years after many meetings, we increased the membership, communications network and local state leadership to see CSD alive as well. Yvonne was disciplined, that dreamers like me came up with good ideas but they had to be seen through in practical ways. As secretary, supporting Brian Gallagher, creative ideas became reality. Our first International conference through satellite, beaming a seminar of Korean Spirituality with Paul Beirne was so successful. No zoom in those days; people locked themselves in from New Zealand, throughout Australia, the Pacific Countries and beyond. Membership grew and a new way of communicating the values of CSD were far reaching. Thanks to Yvonne Harte and the encouragement of Brian Gallagher MSC.

I was at Yvonne's funeral to give thanks to God for women who dedicated her life to education, pastoral ministry and a Master's degree in Spirituality. Her direction helped so many people discover God in new and deeper ways. Her sense of humor, banter of her blue and white Carlton football team were never on the agenda of our meetings but we did devote some time to who had won and lost on the weekend. Today's CSD owes gratitude to Yvonne Harte for helping in the re-founding of a very valuable support organization to Spiritual Directors through Australia and beyond. BHP many years ago advertised in the media that they were the quiet achievers in the Australia industry. Yvonne was that in the history of the Conference of Spiritual Directors.

We give thanks to God for her giftedness.  
Kevin Hennessy CP



Yvonne Harte, Kevin Hennessy, Brian Gallagher  
CSD Australia Interim Executive 2010-2012

# CSD Australia Professional Development

## Date Claimers

Save the dates for monthly professional development sessions via zoom.

### **Contemplative Supervision: An invitation to grow - Lynette Dungan**

Saturday August 20th 9.30am - 11.00am

### **Silence - Sally Longley**

Saturday September 10th 9.30am - 11.00am

### **Exploring an article together: More information to come**

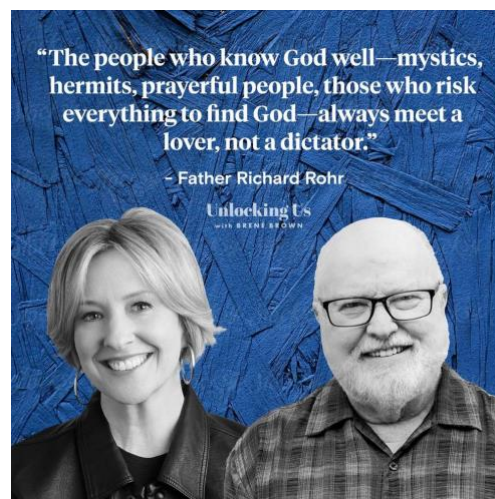
Saturday October 8th 9.30am - 11.00am

## May Professional Development Feedback

Here are some comments from participants from the last professional development.

### **Discussions of the latest podcasts with Brene Brown and Richard Rohr on Spirituality, Certitude and Infinite Love.**

- I was very happy with the whole session. I really enjoyed the breakout groups. An added bonus was the opportunity to get to know others I have not met before.
- It would have been better if the time for sharing was longer. With a group of four, more time would have been valued. Fortunate that one of the group assumed a leadership role. That kept the sharing continuing.
- It worked well with sending out links to podcast well in advance and having the link actually work.
- Thanks for the variety of input and ways of interacting.



## AECSA News

The working party dedicated to the National Register are currently compiling a report after the Discernment Circles held in March/April.

It will be circulated when completed.



Australian Ecumenical Council for  
Spiritual Direction

Serving the Spiritual Direction  
Community of Australia

## Other News

### From Heart of Life :

#### Taster Session for Supervision or Spiritual Directors

August 27th 9.30am - 11.00am

Is there someone you know who could be a great spiritual director? Invite them to the Taster Session at Heart of Life. Or are you being called to be a supervisor? Then the Emmaus Program is for you. You could also attend the Taster Session at Heart of Life.

For more information please refer to Heart of Life website: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)



### From Kardia :

#### Grace Upon Grace: Eight Day At Home Retreat

October 10th - 18th

Kardia is offering you an invitation to join them in forming a community of prayer during an eight-day retreat while you are at home.

The retreat will be drawn from the book *Grace Upon Grace* by Marlene Marburg. You can make this a silent retreat or a retreat in daily life. You can choose to pray with one or more readings from the daily suggested readings.

Each day the group will meet on zoom for group sharing (no more than five people) with a spiritual director. Upon registration, you will be given simple instructions on how to access and use Zoom.



### From Wellsprings :

#### Spiritual Companions

July 12th 10.00am - 1.00pm

Professional Development for Spiritual Companions: Being Part of the LGBTQIA+ Community - a brave space to learn together as spiritual companions with Teash Taylor.

In person at WellSpring Center Ashburton, Melbourne.

Check out the Professional Development program in What's On on the website, [www.wellspringcentre.org.au](http://www.wellspringcentre.org.au)



### 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 please see

<https://csdaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/Santa-Casa-3-fold-Mar22-FINAL.pdf>

