

# CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

## Newsletter March 2024

### From the National Chair

#### Autumn Season Invitation

As we begin the season of autumn, the seasons have much to teach us about the reality of life. The scripture passage used for the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop is : Matthew 6:26



That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are?

Macrina Wiederkehr's reflection on this passage, teaches us to stay in the place of letting go.

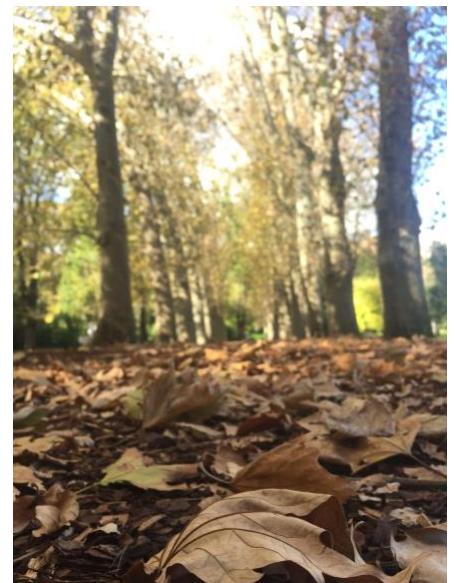
#### The Sacrament of Letting Go

I worry too much. Autumn trees ask me not to worry. They, like Jesus, suggest trust rather than worry. So often in autumn, I want to lean my head against a tree and ask what it feels like to lose so much, to be so empty, so detached, to take off one's shoes that well, and then simply to stand and wait for God's refilling. It sounds so simple, so easy. It isn't easy. But it's possible.

*Seasons of your Heart: Prayers & Reflections (1979) : Macrina Wiederkehr*

With every blessing on your ministry  
Rita Malavisi rsj

National Chair



Autumn in Fitzroy Gardens, VIC,  
taken by Rita Malavisi

# CSD Australia News

## Insurance

With the reconfiguring of Group Insurance Policies available, CSD Australia is no longer able to provide an affordable option of group policy. Members need to source their own individual Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance.

At the end of 2023, we had a few zoom meetings, emails were exchanged to help those who were covered with CSD. We acknowledge that for some members who only have three or four directees, the cost is prohibitive.

We encourage communication between members and if anyone is needing guidance please reach out to someone in the CSD community or [Rita](#).



## Email Addresses

We would like to encourage our CSD members to please check with other CSD members if everyone is receiving our emails. While we send out emails on average once every two months, we are aware a number of members have missed out on communication due to not updating email addresses, emails going to spam or simply not reaching them.

At the start of the year we updated our systems along with checking for any faults to ensure our emailing system is up to date. We seek help from our CSD community to ensure everyone is receiving communication. If you happen to know another member, just drop into conversation if they have received the March newsletter, if not then please do reach out to [Karen](#) who will ensure communication is resolved.



## Professional Development Sessions 2024

Currently we are creating 2024 Professional Development sessions with international speakers and a few locals too. We have reached out to speakers awaiting confirmation of dates.

We hope to have a date claimer email sent out in the coming weeks along with more information on the presenters and topics.



# CSD Australia Members

## Voices of New Members

### Robynne Malone

I completed the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Spiritual Direction Formation Program in 2022 then entered a year of major transition that included retirement and relocation to Penola, South Australia. I am now seeking connection with like minded souls who will provide ongoing belonging, formation and supervision.



We welcome new members this year and will hear more about them in our next newsletter : Mandy Lane, Dominique Galea, Kathy Jerin, Alison Tye and Bruce Crowle.

### Vale Carey McIver

Many are shocked to hear of the death of Carey McIver after a short illness. Carey had been a member of CSD Australia for many years. He served as CSD Australia representative on the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction for some time, and was also treasurer. Sally Jones and the Council remember his deep listening and presence, embodied discernment, wisdom, grace and a wonderful sense of humour. Our continued prayers are with his whole family at this time.



## AECSD Gathering 2024

### The Paschal Mystery:

### The wounds and the healing journey - the heart of spiritual direction

Date: Friday 5th July 6.00pm until Sunday 7th July 12.00pm

Location: Adelaide Hills Convention Centre  
145A Mt Barker Road, Hahndorf, SA 5245

Dying and rising.... death and new life... at the heart of spiritual direction lies the invitation to enter into the Paschal Mystery. Together we will explore this mystery through the lens of indigenous spirituality, transition and grief, and poetry, discerning together how this mystery may continue to inform and transform spiritual direction in Australia.

### Keynote Speakers



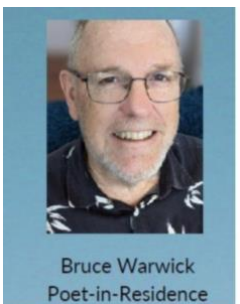
Garry Deverell is Academic Dean in the new School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Divinity, which he helped to found. A trawloolway man from northern lutruwita (Tasmania), Dr Deverell is the author of *Contemplating Country* (Wipf & Stock, 2023), *Gondwana Theology* (Morning Star Press, 2018) and *The Bonds of Freedom* (Paternoster, 2008).

Garry is a canon priest of St Paul's Cathedral in Naarm/Melbourne and a member of both the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council and the Doctrine Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia.



Dr. Rachael Litchfield has been involved in cross-cultural mission work in Thailand, Cambodia and Australia for much of the last 30 years. The many complexities and stresses of this ministry led her to seek out deeper spiritual formation and sustenance through engagement in spiritual direction, contemplative practices, silent retreats, and intentional guided sabbatical. In 2020 she completed a doctor of ministry dissertation titled "A Spirituality for Transition Grief".

### Poet In Residence



Bruce Warwick has invested his life in working as a spiritual director, formator, retreat facilitator and pastor. Along the way he noticed that men and women moving into greater spiritual freedom very often find themselves spontaneously writing verse. He currently devotes much of his time to writing. He has authored two books; the second one, *Toes in Wilder Water*, is a collection of his poems and prayers. Another is on the way.

The conference is an opportunity to gather with spiritual directors from all over Australia. Gathering in person only starting at 6.00pm on Friday 5th July through until 12.00pm on Sunday 7th July.

Cost: \$350 includes meals - Friday night dinner, Saturday meals, Sunday morning tea.

Early bird: \$320 if registered before 26th April 2024

Note registration closes on the 21st June 2024.

Register Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/COOTS>

Accommodation There is accommodation at the Convention Centre venue.  
Cost will be \$189.00 conference rate per night  
Note - There are two cottages, one sleeping 8 and another sleeping 6 which is at the cost of \$250.00 per night based on 2 people, an additional \$25.00 per person per night will apply.

If you wish to stay at the Convention Centre you will need to book directly with them and they will require the first night's deposit at booking to reserve.  
Contact Convention Centre Directly via [booking website](#).

For more information about the conference contact [Jo Brown](#)

## Financial Support for CSD Members

In recognition of both the value of the AECSD gathering along with the times we are living in, CSD would like to extend the invitation to those who may find finance will restrict you from attending to apply for a grant of \$100 to contribute towards the cost of attendance.

We have created a form that has four simple questions

- Why would you like to attend AECSD Gathering?
- What would you like to get out of the conference?
- How will this contribute to your Spiritual Direction practice?
- Would you be open to sharing your learnings and experience from the gathering with the CSD community?

Simply fill in the four questions on the form which can be accessed [here](#), and [Rita](#) will be in contact to notify you of support.

Please note that it is a requirement to be a CSD member.

Any questions or require further information do not hesitate to contact [Rita](#) or communications coordinator [Karen](#)

## Other News

### Contemplatio - Mystic Heart: Spiritual Direction in the Light of Contemplation

Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th August 2024

Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria and Online.



We invite practicing spiritual directors and those interested in contemplation to a weekend of drawing on great mystical classics from the Western and Orthodox traditions, in this Mystic Heart formation offering. We will explore the Christian tradition of mystical union, delving into language such as the prayer of union, transformation of the soul in God, the unitive way, ecstatic union, mystical marriage, oneing, living in Christ, Trinitarian indwelling, boundless fulfilment, beatific vision and deification.

Facilitated by Dr Kerrie Hide,

Location: [Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria](#) and Online

[For more information](#)



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### Joint Spirituality Centre - Poetry and Prayer with Pádraig Ó Tuama

Online Gathering 7.00pm - 9.00pm (AEST)

Tuesday 5th March, Thursday 7th March and Thursday 14th March

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Kardia Formation, Living Well Centre and WellSpring Centre are delighted that Irish poet and theologian, Pádraig Ó Tuama will present on the following topics in March 2024.

- ❖ ***The Vernacular of Human Experience*** (Tue 5 Mar, 7pm-9pm)  
We all tell stories: about what happened at work; on the train to work; in the shop; on the phone. This workshop will explore stories as a container of multiple meanings, replete with literary riches, even in the everyday of simple and ordinary language.
- ❖ ***“Lord Help Me! The Ocean is So Big and My Boat is So Small”*** (Thu 7 Mar, 7pm-9pm)  
What are the forms that can help us? A raft? A little boat? Something to help you breathe? Something to help others? Yes to all, and more. This session will explore forms – collect, blessing, creed – that contain aspects of the human condition that are looking for shape and ritual.
- ❖ ***To Whom is Prayer Addressed?*** (Thu 14 Mar, 7pm-9pm)  
This session will explore the ‘you’ of prayer and poetry, a simple word that can contain multitudes: desire, yearning, accusation, doubt, knowledge & agnosticism. This word ‘you’ -one of the most used in everyday English language – imagines an interlocutor who listens, attends.

[For more information and booking](#)

## Heart of Life Upcoming Day Events



*Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

### Meaning Making, Awareness and Reflection

This reflective event offers a sacred space to reflect upon your life using a tree as a metaphor.

Facilitator: Nicole Conner (in-person)

Date: 16th March 2024,

Time: 10am - 2.00pm

### Walking the land in Autumn

This experience is an opportunity to walk the land along the Darebin Creek and parklands in Alphington, enjoying their wonder in autumn and being enriched by the spirituality of the earth. The day will invite you to a deeper sense of connection to the abiding mystery of the land to which we belong. The process of the day will include personal reflection and creative time.

Facilitator: Peter Hay (in-person)

Date: 6th April 2024,

Time: 10am - 3.00pm

[For more information and booking](#)

## From Ermos Institute Intensive Journal Workshop : Our lives are vast, multifaceted and profound



**EREMOS**  
EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

Intensive Journal workshops hosted by the Ermos

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: available to view [here](#). More information about the workshops can be viewed [here](#).

[For more information](#)

## 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](#)