



# Australian Association for Religious Education

WA BRANCH

## AARE CIRCULAR - MARCH 2020

### Dear AARE Members

– current, former, prospective

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

I am sure you have already heard many comments about the current COVID-19 crisis and are very well aware of the impact it is having on all of us so I will resist the temptation to add my own except to say:

- We must continue onwards
- Have hope & take courage - this too will pass
- In the future we will read about the pandemic ...  
*“The community rallied to support and care for each other ... isolation and other measures eventually came to work to contain the virus ... a vaccine was developed, effectively ending the threat ...”*



As they have for many others, our plans for the year have been amended. Please read this – even if only about the AGM.

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### 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



It is important that we have strong and representative participation at the **2020 Annual General Meeting** of the Australian Association for Religious Education. This will be conducted on-line using Microsoft Teams.

- Date: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020
- Time: You will be invited to logon from 5:00pm Meeting to commence at 5:15pm
- Afternoon tea: Feel free to make yourself something delicious to eat ... enjoy.

#### Please register

your (virtual) attendance through the Trybooking link so you might receive the invitation and access to the meeting.

It is relatively easy to use but instructions will be sent prior to the meeting.

You are welcome to nominate yourself or another to serve on the 2020/2021 AARE Committee.



Please do so through the TryBooking link. Vacant Executive positions will be determined by the newly formed Committee at our first (on-line) meeting.

### 2020 MEMBERS FORUM

This year’s planned Members Forum, which occurs with the AGM, has been postponed until later in the year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Forum was



to be with special guest, **Pastor Rev Dr Margaret Court AO MBE** - Australian sporting legend and Chief Pastor: Victory Life Church. Topic: “The changing social and political landscape and implications for religious educators”

## MEMBERSHIP

In recent months we have embarked on making significant improvements to the Association's website and the way in which Chaplains and Educators can register as members. Renew your membership through the website.

- 1) Log on to the Website  
[www.aare.org.au](http://www.aare.org.au)
  - 2) Navigate through to the Registration Page  
<https://aare.org.au/registration/>
  - 3) Complete the membership details
    - a) Indicate whether you wish to register as an Individual or Organisation.
    - i) Individual
      - *standard individual memberships* \$70
      - *concessional membership (F/T student, unwaged, SRE/CRE Teacher)* \$40
    - ii) Organisation (school or institution)
      - *organisational membership* \$200
    - iii) Overseas member \$70
  - b) Identify the State with which you are affiliated
  - c) Fill in the other fields
- 4) You will then be contacted regarding payment details and login access

Please advise us should you have any difficulty with:

- Membership: [membershipwa@aare.org.au](mailto:membershipwa@aare.org.au)
- Finances: [treasurerwa@aare.org.au](mailto:treasurerwa@aare.org.au)

Association Membership is for the school year, 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December with a three-month grace period; Memberships are due by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year but this has been extended to the **end of April** for 2020.

## PART OF A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



While each State Branch manages its own affairs and addresses the needs of its members at the local level in the manner it sees is best, there is strength in recognising that this is a national professional body.

To this end, we invite members to register through the Associations' website so once registered, membership is made to the National Body but affiliated with their particular State. Effectively nothing changes for the member; it is the "behind-the-scenes process" of registration that will change. The Membership fee goes through the National body and then to the relevant State; hence the importance of accurately identifying the State affiliated.

## 2020 CALENDAR

### Passing the Baton

(Children's Workers' Training Day & Expo)

- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February
- 9.00am - 4.00pm
- Mt Pleasant Baptist Church



### Christian Service-Learning Network Workshop

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- 4:00 – 5:30pm
- Aquinas College

### AGM & Members' Forum

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- 5:00 to 6:30pm
- Servite College, Tuart Hill
- Rev Dr Margaret Court
- **Now on-Line** - Register through TryBooking



### Gather Education / Perth Together

(Christians coming together in unity and praying for our city)

- Launch & Month of Prayer (tba)

### Nominations for AARE Awards

- Forms available on-line
- Opening date Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May
- Closing date Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July

### Annual Dinner and Awards Night

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September
- 6:00pm – 9:30pm  
(Arrival from 5:30pm)
- Trinity College, East Perth



### Kristallnacht Commemoration

("Night of Broken Glass")

- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November
- Venue & Time (tba)

### Network Meetings & other events

Check the website

## WWW.EBSITE

There is on-going work to make [www.aare.org.au](http://www.aare.org.au) the one-stop shop for information, communications and resources with anything related to chaplaincy and religious education.

We seek to partner with resource and service providers to facilitate and promote what they offer. Members are encouraged to contact us to promote, showcase and share their work.

## OUR HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Having its origins in the 1960s, the Australian Association for Religious Education is the professional association for Chaplains and Educators that seeks to support all those united in a quest to educate others in the field of religious education (including service-learning, SRE/CRE, spirituality, ethics, philosophy, and values education)

Although the AARE is a professional association, the overwhelming majority, if not all, involved in these fields, are faith-filled people who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of their students; for many, this is their vocation in life.

The AARE has traditionally been composed of Christian educators. While remaining in harmony with our origins and purpose, the Association has grown into a **non-denominational professional association** open to all who work in the fields of religious education, chaplaincy, service-learning ... whether it be in Christian (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Uniting Church, etc), Independent, Islamic, Jewish or Government schools.

The **AARE aims** to:

- (i) promote Religious Education as an important part of the educational landscape
- (ii) represent, support and promote the religious educator and the co-operation and understanding among "religious educators" and
- (iii) facilitate the ongoing development of religious education and related fields within schools, universities and other educational institutions.

As with any association, strength and value comes with belonging.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership of the A.A.R.E. provides a range of benefits. Over the years many members have found it an organisation that has supported them personally and professionally, while helping them to enhance their own ministries and educational work.

The Association seeks to:

- (1) represent Religious Educators and Chaplains with educational bodies & forums:
  - National (eg APTA, ACARA)
  - State (eg PTCWA, SCSA & DET)
- (2) meet their varying needs by providing a range of resources and events.
  - Member-only access to new Website (coming soon)
  - Local, State & National networking
  - Professional Development (incl: Local Professional Learnings, State and National Conferences)
  - Resource-sharing
  - Discounts to Association functions
  - Collegial support

In Western Australia, the Association also provides recognition of meritorious service for chaplains and educators through State Awards presented at its Annual Dinner, traditionally held in September.

Nomination Forms are available on-line.

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*Blessings & Joy*



*Chris Callus*

WA and National President  
Australian Association for Religious Education

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