



Australian Association for Religious Education

WA BRANCH

AARE CIRCULAR – JANUARY 2022

As the Professional Association for Chaplains and Educators in the field of religious education (including Service-Learning and SRE/CRE), the Australian Association for Religious Education aims to:

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

Dear AARE Members (current and prospective)

I pray you and your loved ones are safe and well. As processing issues prevented the distribution of the September Circular, much of its contents is repeated here.

Please read and forward this Circular on to all your colleagues.

Blessings & Joy

Chris Callus

WA President & National President



NATIONAL SURVEY

So we might best meet the needs of those whom we seek to serve, the AARE has reached out to all chaplains and religious educators in Australia through a national survey.

As outlined in the Survey ...

The AARE is a non-denominational, not-for-profit, professional association which has served educators from all states and territories.

While we have grown and evolved over the years, much has changed in the educational landscape of Australia; particularly in recent times.

This learning area is known by different names, including but not limited to:

Beliefs and Values, Biblical Foundations, Biblical Studies, Christian and Values Education (CAVE), Christian Foundations, Christian Living, Christian Religious Education (CRE), Christian Service Learning (CSL), Christian Studies, Christian Thinking and Practice, Living Well, Philosophy and Faith, Philosophy, Values & Religion, Religious and Philosophical Studies (RAPS), Religious and Values Education (RAVE), Scripture Studies, Service Education, Service Learning, Service Learning and Leadership, Special Religious Education (SRE), Values Education, Wellbeing and Living Well, Worldview Foundations

Results of the survey will be posted on the AARE Website.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & GUEST SPEAKER

The **2021 Annual General Meeting** of the Australian Association for Religious Education (WA) was held on **Tuesday 11th May** at Servite College and online via Zoom.

We thank and congratulate the following members who have been elected to serve on the 2021/2022 Committee.



*Helen Bunstead
Chris Callus
Tim Pearce
Susan Regnard
Mark Staer
Keely Trouchet
Andrea Tokaji
Brady Williams*

*Secretary
President
Web Manager
Vice President
Treasurer
Registrar
Committee Member
Committee Member*

Guest Speaker

We were delighted to have had as our guest speaker, **Mr Darren Reynolds** from **Destiny Rescue**. The aim of this organisation is to save children from the sex trade; employing acts of rescue, reintegration and prevention.

Darren's presentation, drawing on his own experiences and observations, was challenging, inspiring and very moving. We learned about:

- the need for, and the work of, "Destiny Rescue"
- how schools might utilise such information and engage "Destiny Rescue" within their curricula
- how we can support "Destiny Rescue" in their mission.

Our mission is to rescue children from sexual exploitation and human trafficking and help them stay free.



AARE DINNER & HONOURING COLLEAGUES



To celebrate the important work we do and the benefits we offer our students, school and the community at large, we invited your entire RE Team to gather in prayer and friendship over a meal; the universal sign of hospitality. The 2021 Dinner was held at Trinity College on Thursday 9th September. At the dinner we also honoured Chaplains and Religious Educators who have been nominated to receive an Award of Meritorious Service. It was pleasing to have 113 individuals in attendance at the Dinner.

We were privileged to have **Ms Tracy Hilton** as our guest prayer presenter. Tracy candidly shared some of her own personal life story and taught us a Spirit Blessing. It can be used to bless the spirit of a person you are with, someone you wish to bless elsewhere or yourself. It is said slowly, deliberately and with conviction. Tracy shares The Spirit Blessing here:

Spirit Blessing

I bless (name or my) spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

pause

I call (name or my) spirit to attention ... to operate in a leadership role ... with all diligence ... over my body, ... soul, ... mind, ... will ... and emotions.

pause

I call (name or my) into alignment ... with the plan ... and the purpose ... that Jesus Christ holds for my life today.

pause

I bless (name or my) spirit in Jesus' name.

Tracy also made available a most poignant book she has written: **Wasted Life Restored** for just \$15 and \$2.50 postage. Please contact Tracy Hilton directly to place an order. thilton@stmarys.wa.edu.au

We congratulate the 2021 AARE Award Winners and thank their nominators.

Awardee	School	Nominator
Mrs Martine Oversby (RE Teacher)	Santa Maria College	Mrs Melissa Trolio (Head of RE)
Ms Christine Mills (CRE / Chaplain)	Katanning Primary School	Ms Martie Lotter (CRE Teacher)
Ms Eleanor Stubbs (SRE Teacher)	Katanning Primary School & Surrounding Region	Mrs Christine Mills (Chaplain)
Ms Mary-Claire Howitt (RE Teacher)	Aquinas College	Ms Emma Leopardi (Teacher)
Ms Kim Baggaley (Chaplain)	Bungaree Primary School	Sharon Albers-Smith (Principal)
Mrs Christell Lotriet (Chaplain)	Singleton Primary School	Mrs Nicky Tucker (Deputy Principal)
Fr Philip Raymont (Senior Chaplain & Head of RE, Ethics & Philosophy)	Guildford Grammar School	Ms Kara Matthews / Fr Barry Ross (Head of RE, Philosophy & Ethics / Chaplain)
Mr Vaughan Willis (Chaplain)	Success Primary School	Ms Genevieve Caddy (Deputy Principal)
Ms Cecilia Loh (RE Teacher)	Ursula Frayne Catholic College	Mr Troy Coehlo (Teacher)
Mrs Rhonda Miller (Chaplain)	Mosman Park Primary, School for the Deaf & Hollywood Primary School	Ms Christine Lewis (Shenton Christian YouthCARE Council)
Ms Rossana Hywood (Social Justice Admin Assistant)	Sacred Heart College	Mr Peter Bothe (Principal)

As we start the new year, I ask you to place the **2022 AARE State Dinner** in your diary and encourage your whole team to join us. Besides honouring those receiving recognition for their contribution, we seek to create an event in which we gather as a profession and celebrate all that we do in our work/ministry.

DATE: Thursday 8th September 2022 (Term 3: Week 8)
 TIME: 6:00pm to 9:30pm (arrival from 5:30)
 VENUE: Trinity College, Chapel then Staff Lounge

Details of how to register through *Trybooking* will be provided in Term 2.

WEBSITE

There is on-going work to make www.aare.org.au the one-stop shop for information, communication 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. To this end, members who wish to form an editorial group to provide articles etc for our Web Manager are most welcome to contact the Association.

ADVOCATING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS

On behalf of Australian Chaplains and Religious Educators, in recent years the AARE has made the following submissions. The full submissions have been loaded to the AARE Website.

TO THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WA

24th July 2020

Regarding the CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2019, BILL 157 – SECTION 124BA

Some Excerpts

“The AARE would like to express our deep concern regarding the proposed Section 124BA of the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2019. Our Submission is aimed at the Pastoral Care of students and young people.

... We ask the Committee most earnestly to hear our concerns regarding the harm that destroying the Seal of the Confession is likely to do to the children and adolescents we work with. In terms of the bigger picture of eliminating child sexual abuse, it will only be counterproductive. It will cut off the one safe, secret way many children and adolescents, ... have to deal with shame and depression, and leave them alone with entrapment and addiction. In some tragic cases, the unchallenged porn narrative will be acted out, and more children will be deeply hurt.” ...

Feedback on the Proposed Revisions to the Foundation: (F–10) Australian Curriculum

8th July 2021

“The revision of the Australian Curriculum is ... an opportunity to do more to enhance the Australian Curriculum into something closer to what it could be. , there are some glaring issues which we believe limit its capacity to provide the education our children deserve and the future world needs. ...

We consider there are several important aspects within the Curriculum that need to be urgently addressed:

1. Australia’s debt to “Western civilisation and to religion; especially Christianity.
... there is the need to make more explicit the opportunities to deepen the understanding and appreciation of ... and the contributions of religion, particularly Christianity, which underpin contemporary Australian society. ...
2. A broader definition of the human person.
We seek the holistic well-being of our children; particularly obvious by its omission is the spiritual dimension of the human person. ... Australians recognise they have their own spirituality; ... The dimensions of the human person The Curriculum should address these; especially as this broader understanding of the human person is articulated in the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration and its prior iterations.
3. A focus on community and nation-building traits.
There is currently a missed opportunity to emphasise improving the world and life in Australia by seeking:
 - a. Economic justice
 - b. Creativity and sustainability
 - c. The concepts of personhood
 - d. Individual and social justice, service and charity.
 - e. Skills of discernment – the range of skills and attitudes to perceive and judge what is best and right and good.
 - f. Ethics and ethical decision-making – this aspect of why and how we do things requires elevation above other competing factors if we are to become all we could and should be.

With these, Australia can become the leading light to the world; to be a nation of noble pursuits.

4. Recognition and support for religion; a major influence.
.... Developing an understanding and appreciation of religion has the potential of being a great unifying force in developing a more harmonious society that brings together many cultures and religions.

.... We urge decision makers to pause and consider carefully some of the implications of changes proposed. This is an opportunity to make some valuable and positive improvements to what our children will be taught.

TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

28th October 2021

Regarding the legislative protection of Religious Freedoms

Some Excerpts

.... “In the best interests of justice, in harmony with democratic principles and for the good of Australian society, we urge the Commission to retain the exemptions in Section 73(1)-(2) in full. If the Commission is serious about supporting fully-informed consent and the true freedom to choose, it will protect the wishes and rights of the majority of Australian in this matter.”

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal notices have been sent out. For those who have not yet taken up or renewed their membership for 2022, you are most welcome to do so and support your professional association. Member discounts apply to the Annual Dinner.



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Remember that in recognition of the hardships the Covid-19 Pandemic has had on many of us, the AARE has reduced its membership subscriptions to help support our members.

We now only accept membership subscriptions through the Association website: www.aare.org.au
Please renew your membership through the website.

Log on to the Website

www.aare.org.au

Navigate through to the Registration Page

<https://aare.org.au/registration/>

Complete the membership details

Indicate whether you wish to register as an Individual or Organisation.

- Individual
 - *Standard* was ~~\$70~~ \$50
 - *Concessional (Student, Volunteer, SRE/CRE Teacher)* was ~~\$40~~ \$20
- *School/Institution* was ~~\$200~~ \$150
- *Library / Overseas* \$70

Identify the State (eg WA) with which you are affiliated

Fill in the other fields

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
Finances: treasurerwa@aare.org.au

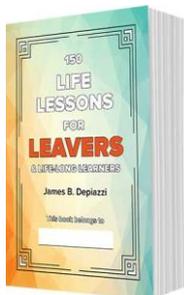
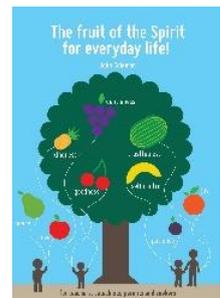
While assisting with obvious efficiencies, this means that you also automatically become members of the National Association and the State Branch.

PROMOTIONS

The fruit of the Spirit for everyday life! By John Coleman

... for teachers, catechists, parents and seekers which offers a realistic values-approach to living that can be easily adopted as a whole-school approach, within a church community, for families

Order through: [The fruit of the Spirit - Spectrum Publications](#)



150 Life Lessons for Leavers by James B Depiazzi.

... a collection of life lessons, questions and quotes to accompany students on the journey through their last year at school and throughout the years ahead.

Through on-line book sellers.

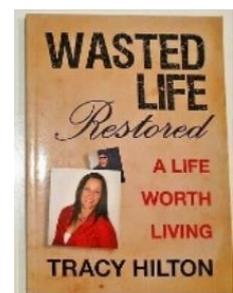
For bulk order school discounts contact James at depiazzi.james@gmail.com.

A Wasted Life Restored: A life worth living by Tracy Hilton

... Embracing all that life has to offer

<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/203123805491>

Or contact Tracy Hilton direct to place an order. thilton@stmarys.wa.edu.au



Eternity

Remember when millions of people around the world saw this image on our Sydney Harbour Bridge in 2000?

Then the book by Roy Williams and on the DIDUNO website –
<http://www.diduno.info/arthur-stace-mr-eternity/>

Now the film <https://eternityfilm.com.au/>



The film was officially launched with skywriting above Sydney Harbour earlier this month and reached over 1 million people through the news and social media. We have much more planned.

This can be taught in our schools as part of our Australian Christian heritage and we believe it would be good for parents to know about this unique Australian story.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the producer Richard Attieh richard@diduno.info or Graham McDonald graham@diduno.info.

PERTH TOGETHER

The AARE enjoys a close partnership with Perth Together. Their **2022 initiative is LOVE WA**. This is a call to fervent prayer across the Body of Christ in these days leading to the reopening of our state.

There are three main ways you can be involved:

24/7 PRAYER WALL (15 Jan – 28 Feb)

This has already begun with people committing to cover a half an hour slot in prayer in their own time and place.

We are using an easy sign up procedure generated by the global 24/7 prayer movement. It is simple for people to use and within a few days, over 1,000 slots were filled. There is room for many more! You can sign up as an individual, prayer group or church.

PRAYER AND FASTING on 1-3 February

There is a specific call to pray with fasting on these three days.

There will be many combined prayer gatherings around the city over these days (rather than doing one huge citywide gathering). Worship leaders also gathered on 1 February to do an evening of worship and praise.

2 Chron 20:22 As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

Some networks of churches are already planning to have a combined prayer room over these days.

PRAYER ON THE AIR

98Five FM will broadcast short prayers multiple times a day, pre-recorded by church leaders. This Prayer on the Air will start on Monday 24 January and go till the end of February. The reach of these prayers is significant and they will touch on issues relevant to the reopening and resulting impact of the pandemic in WA.





CREW Ministries Inc. presents

Passing the Baton 2022

Refresh & Renew!

A training day & expo for people involved in ministry to children

Register and pay by 1 Feb 2022 for earlybird discount

When

Saturday 12 February 2022
9:00am–4:00pm

Where

Riverton Baptist
Community Church,
38 Modillion Ave N,
Shelley, WA

More info & registration

www.passingthebaton.org.au

Enquiries

info@passingthebaton.org.au
Ellie Macpherson, 0424 433 665



The day includes featured speakers, a range of elective sessions and an expo with heaps of new ideas and high-quality resources for kids ministry.

- Hear quality speakers with a message for you
- Learn new skills & strategies in the elective sessions
- See quality resources in the Expo area with loads of ideas
- Renew your commitment to children's ministry
- Be inspired with interactive workshops

Registration is online and earlybird, concession, and group discounts will be automatically applied. Visit our website at www.passingthebaton.org.au for details of the program, elective options, and how to register.

Featured speakers

Dr Natalie Leitão is the Academic Principal at Sheridan Institute of Higher Education. With extensive experience from the Early Years through to the tertiary level, Natalie has been closely engaged with the broader education community throughout her career. She is currently Chair of Carmel Adventist College School Council. Natalie is passionate about sharing the gospel and nurturing authentic relationships.



Ivan Mills is the Director of Christ For All Children (CFAC), a non-denominational, non-profit, missionary organisation which serves the Body of Christ. Ivan has been a full-time Children's Minister since 1984. His passion is to reach the lost. Having ministered to children and trained workers in many nations, he knows that the harvest is truly ripe. Ivan has ministered to children and trained leaders in many nations throughout the world.

Platinum sponsor



Silver sponsor



Bronze sponsor



2022 COMING EVENTS

Christian Service-Learning Network Workshops

To be placed on the contact list or to join the CSLN Team, please contact John Richards: John.Richards@aquinas.wa.edu.au



Annual General Meeting

For the past couple of years, attendance at our AGM has been welcomed either in person or online. This year's AGM is planned to be held after school on **Tuesday 31st May**; details will be made available soon.

Awards Dinner

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Kristallnacht Commemoration ("Night of Broken Glass")



The AARE is a keen supporter of this important initiative of the Council of Christians and Jews. While details for this year's commemoration have yet to be announced, Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass) was a campaign against Jews carried out by the Nazi paramilitary forces along with civilians throughout Nazi Germany on **9–10 November** 1938. It is commemorated in Perth at around this time each year.



The name Kristallnacht comes from the shards of broken glass that littered the streets after the windows of Jewish-owned stores, buildings and synagogues were smashed.

Blessings & Joy



Chris Callus
WA and National President
Australian Association for Religious Education

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