



## **CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS, AUSTRALIA**

### **Triennial General Meeting**

6 September 2015, Nunyara Conference Centre, Adelaide

### **MINUTES**

The Triennial Conference of Spiritual Directors, Australia commenced at 11.30am, 6 September 2015 at Nunyara Conference Centre and concluded at 12.30pm.

#### **Present**

Tim Moloney, Chair; Kathleen Spokes, Minute Secretary.

Twenty-seven CSD Members, list attached (Appendix 1).

#### **Apologies**

Thirty-one CSD members, list attached (Appendix 1).

Tim began the meeting with an acknowledgement of gratitude to Cecilia Rogers, Secretary & Treasurer, for her work for CSD Australia and for her support of Tim as Chair in particular.

#### **Minutes of AGM, 21 September 2012, Knox Centre, East Melbourne**

These minutes were tabled. Acceptance moved by Carey McIver, seconded by Mary Cresp. Accepted.

#### **Chair's Report**

- Tim acknowledged and commended the work of the Interim committee formed six years ago that led to the reinvigoration of CSD Australia under the present structure.
- The importance of succession planning was highlighted and led to some discussion.
- Tim expressed thanks to present Reference Group.
- The Chair's Report is appended hereto (Appendix 2) and will be made available on the CSD website shortly after this meeting.

## **Financial Report**

Under supervision of Cecilia Rogers, and with prudent investment of finances, CSD remains in a healthy financial position. Tim expressed his indebtedness to Cecilia for the Financial Report, which is appended hereto (Appendix 3) and will be made available on the CSD website shortly. It was noted that a significant expenditure of \$23,878 related to the provision of the eConference in 2014. The Chair advised the meeting that exploration is underway to source a cheaper means of delivering an eConference in 2017, eg webinar.

## **Election of Chair**

Tim vacated the chair and Peter Hay chaired the session. Tim remained the only nomination. Moved Jill Dance. Seconded Jill McCorquodale.  
There being no other nomination, Tim was re-elected Chair unopposed.

## **Confirmation of Executive Appointments**

Tim acknowledged the work of the Regional Co-ordinators over the last three years. All but the NSW Regional Co-ordinator are able to remain in the role for another year (till the end of 2016) so that their positions will become vacant after the completion of the Regional Conferences. A search for a replacement for the NSW Regional Co-ordinator is underway.

## **General Business**

Judy Backstrom gave a brief update on two issues that AECSD has been addressing:

- Insurance – After much exploration, AECSD recognises that it is not a regulatory body and therefore cannot facilitate insurance requirements of members of spiritual director associations.
- Mandatory reporting – this is a legal requirement.

Judy alerted the meeting to a letter that was published on the AECSD website addressing these issues and referred members to the relevant section of the website for further explanation.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

\* \* \*

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **List of Attendees & Apologies CSD Australia Triennial General Meeting 6 September 2015, Nunyarra Conference Centre, Adelaide**

#### **ATTENDEES**

Judy Backstrom	Margaret Cousins
Mary Cresp	Kathy Cuthbertson
Jill Dance	Valerie De Brenni
Carmel Drew	Sue Gesell
Yvonne Harte	Peter Hay
Shirley Hayden	Kevin Hennessy
Johanna Klep	Rita Malavisi
Jill McCorquodale	Michele McCourt
Carey McIver	Tim Moloney
Therese Quinn	Angela Slattery
Liz Anne Smith	Jan Sobotta
Kathleen Spokes	Dawn Sullivan
Margaret Trevethan	Therese Wilson
Lynette Young	

#### **APOLOGIES**

Sue Barker	Bill Brennan
Rae Brooker	Chris Chaplin
Elizabeth Costigan	Maureen Delaney
Nerida Drake	Malcolm Drake
Mary Flynn	Patricia Foley
Coral Foo	Brian Gallagher
Anne Maree Jensen	Jasmine Linke
Zena Liston	Jenny Scally
Ed Love	Alice-Anne Macnaught
Margaret Mithen	Carmel Moore
Christa Murphy	Patricia Nugent
Lynette Pearce	Marie Therese Ryder
Di Shearer	Catherine Smith
Bill Tarrant	Carmel Tedesco
Lis Teggelove	Carol Tomlinson
Edmund Travers	

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Chair's Report CSD Australia Triennial General Meeting 6 September 2015, Nunyara Conference Centre, Adelaide**

This morning I take pleasure in presenting to you the Triennial General Meeting 2015 for the Conference of Spiritual Directors, Australia (CSD) here in Nunyara Conference Centre, Adelaide.

Six years ago in Hobart, CSD was facing a crisis and due to the insight of Brian Gallagher and others, our association had new life breathed into it when Brian assumed the role of National Chair, Kevin Hennessy took on the Treasurer's role and Yvonne Harte became the Secretary. During the three years of their leadership, CSD reviewed its practices and at the next meeting in Melbourne in 2012, Brian, Kevin and Yvonne proposed a new structure. The new structure became that of a National Chair, a Secretary/Treasurer and a Webmaster. There was also the invitation for regional groups to be established to provide for closer connections in state or local areas.

These new arrangements were adopted at the Melbourne meeting as a pattern for the future.

I wish to acknowledge here Brian Gallagher's inspiration and vision in reinvigorating CSD. Along with Kevin and Yvonne, Brian revived CSD through hard work and determination for something in which he believed and loved. I record here our thanks and best wishes to Brian, Kevin and Yvonne.

#### **New CSD Structure:**

In 2012, I nominated for the position of National Chair and was elected unopposed. Cecilia Rogers had been appointed Secretary/Treasurer by the previous team as had Chris Chaplin msc as Webmaster. Cecilia is paid regularly by CSD, and Chris Chaplin receives a nominal amount at the end of each year.

Upon taking up the role of Chair, I organised a Reference Group to assist with CSD matters. Kathleen Spokes sgs, Carol Dyer along with Cecilia, Chris and me formed that group. We have met bi-monthly and have worked on various issues and events concerning CSD. We are all Victoria-based, which helps getting the group together.

Jillian Dance rsj, is our CSD representative on the Australian Ecumenical Council of Spiritual Directors (AECSD) and joins our meetings via Skype or phone from Hobart for most of the Reference Group meetings.

CSD relies on the work of the Regional Coordinators who work at the grass roots to keep connections and networking alive amongst CSD members. I express appreciation and gratitude to :

- Mary Therese Ryder from WA
- Mary Cresp from SA
- Michele McCourt from VIC/NT
- Carey McIver from TAS
- Liz Anne Smith from ACT
- Nerida Drake from NSW
- Margaret Trevethan from Nth QLD
- Irene Alexander from Sth QLD

These people have done sterling work and provided spaces for our members to gather and enjoy fellowship and sharing of ideas. Nerida Drake (NSW) is completing her three year term and we hope to have a replacement for her soon. I thank Nerida for her dedicated work and wish her well in her ministry.

As mentioned, the Reference Group meets every two months and we produce a newsletter every alternate month. This has been well supported by the Regional Coordinators who have generously provided reports and articles for the newsletter. We would like to see the newsletter grow with items from across CSD, Coordinators and members, that represent diverse interests and points of view. We would welcome reviews of music, books, films, art presentations, etc, that you believe would assist or be of interest to CSD members.

As mentioned above, Carol Dyer and Kathleen Spokes were approached to lend their support to the Chair, Secretary and Webmaster and provide extra voices to our deliberations. Both Kathleen and Carol have been invaluable contributors to the Reference Group's discussions. Within the Reference Group, we have a healthy representation of male and female, religious and lay.

### **Conference Cycle:**

The conference cycle adopted by CSD has been as follows:

- 2012            AECSD conference
- 2013            CSD regional conferences
- 2014            CSD eConference
- 2015            AECSD conference

We intend that cycle will become the norm and presume that the following pattern will continue:

- 2016            CSD regional conferences
- 2017            CSD eConference
- 2018            AECSD conference

The CSD regional conferences were successful and followed different patterns according to the local group, whether it was a one or two-day or weekend event, residential or non-residential. It was pleasing to see that all CSD members were invited to attend all the regional conferences whether it be their region or not. I congratulate our Regional Coordinators for their ingenuity and creativity in implementing local meetings.

It was decided after some consultation that the Regional Coordinators be asked by the Reference Group to remain in the role for one further year to plan and present the regional conference. Our current conference cycle put the onus on the Regional Coordinators in their first year to prepare the local conference. It was thought best that we will invite Regional Coordinators to complete their three year term after the regional conference and then be invited, after consultation with the Reference Group, to continue for another three years or invite another local member to take on the role. This means that the current group of Regional Coordinators will complete their term at the end of 2016 with the following three year term concluding at the end of 2019.

### **eConference:**

In 2014, CSD held the second of our triennial eConferences. The topic was *The Trinity – a Place of Deep Listening*. Dr Mary Coloe pbvm gave a very successful and stimulating presentation exploring themes of John's gospel. The conference was ably facilitated by Chris Chaplin msc. In the reflection part of the day, we were fortunate to have spiritual directors, Peter Hay and Dr Joan Wright Howie, who formed a panel to reflect with Mary on her presentation. We engaged the Broken Bay Institute to provide the technological wherewithal. The main group gathered at Edmund Rice Centre, Amberley, Lower Plenty, Victoria, which provided the space for an audience and a place for reflection. Following the eConference, many DVDs of the event were purchased.

We were able to attract interest nationally and internationally for this event. I pay tribute to Cecilia Rogers, our Secretary, who did an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to make eConference work so well.

The Reference Group's concern following the eConference was the high expense of \$24,000 that was incurred. We have been deliberating ways of holding an internet seminar that may be cheaper than the way we have done it up to now. We have not charged attendees for the eConference but it is one of our major expenses in the triennium and we need to monitor what is an effective way, practically and cost-wise, to engage our members nationally (and internationally) in an seminar of some description. An alternative may be to hold a webinar instead of an eConference. A webinar is far cheaper. Our investigations into this are underway.

### **AECSO:**

We are appreciative of the work of AECSO, who do the important work of monitoring how spiritual direction maintains its high standards, and holds the integrity of the ministry as it is practised among its member institutes and associations.

AECSD has no income stream other than what the member associations provide. CSD has donated \$3,000 in each of 2012, 2013 and 2014 . The CSD member on the Council was Jill McCorquodale until around Oct 2013 and she was succeeded by Jill Dance, until 2017.

### **Membership:**

According to our database (at 29 August 2015), CSD has 254 members, made up of 209 women (82%) and 45 men (18%).

Those 254 members are made up of 160 Religious (63%) and 94 Lay members (37%).

We also offer Honorary memberships (free) to our retiring members, allowing them to remain informed about what is happening at CSD and in the spiritual direction community generally. In most cases, this is gratefully accepted. We currently have 5 Honorary memberships.

As at a few days ago, Cecilia reported that about half of our members had paid their membership renewals, and more are coming in now as a result of a reminder email during last week.

### **Future:**

We are indebted to Chris Chaplin, Webmaster, for the wonderful work he is doing to develop the new website. The CSD website is currently being revamped and designed to be interactive. It will include a full members' section allowing for their contributions on coming events, relevant articles, helpful information, resource-sharing and networking. Alongside this, we are developing a new CSD logo. These are all exciting new improvements that we hope will prove worthwhile and engaging for members.

### **The Question of Incorporation:**

CSD is currently an 'unincorporated Association'. In other words, an unregistered, not-for-profit organisation.

There are basic obligations or expectations associated with running an unincorporated Association including:

- acting as trustee for the Association's purposes
- acting as trustee for the Association's funds
- having a management committee
- having a constitution,

all of which we do.

We are aware however that remaining unincorporated may limit our potential to develop and grow CSD. The incorporation of an Association however is complex, especially given that it is managed on a State/Territory basis, not Federally. It is important to note that, generally, an Association is restricted to carrying on business in the State or Territory in which it is incorporated.

Some of the obligations that will govern CSD if it is incorporated include:

- having a committee responsible for managing the Association
- having a public officer
- holding an Annual General Meeting once every calendar year
- lodging an annual statement every year
- keeping accounting records that in some States, must be audited and lodged as Financial Statements
- having a common seal.

We continue to consider whether incorporation is a way to develop our Association. If we do opt for this path, it will mean a lot of work, time and energy. We will consult with members for their input and feedback.

### **Succession Planning**

Succession Planning is always a difficult issue but we ask members to offer themselves to take on roles within CSD so that it continues to breathe life for its members through gatherings, networking etc.

### **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

Professional Indemnity Insurance continues to be a thorny issue but AECSD is leading the investigation in this matter.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, I wish to thank all CSD members for their encouragement and support to the Association. I am indebted to Cecilia, Chris, Kathleen and Carol for the professionalism and dedication to ensure CSD works well for all its members. During the past three years, CSD has grown and still offers a home to a large number of spiritual directors and we hope that it will continue to do so into the future.

Kindly note that this Chair's Report, the Financial Report and eventually the Minutes of this meeting, will be uploaded to the CSD website so that they can be viewed there.

I hereby conclude the report.

*Tim Moloney cfc*



## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Financial Report CSD Australia Triennial General Meeting 6 September 2015, Nanyara Conference Centre, Adelaide**

This financial report covers the period **13 September 2012 to 30 June 2015**, that is approximately two years and nine months.

#### **1) Memberships**

a.	for the 10 months to 30 June 2013, we received	\$6,160
b.	for the 12 months to 30 June 2014, we received	\$8,990
c.	for the 12 months to 30 June 2015, we received	<u>\$7,888</u>
	Total:	<u>\$23,038</u>

#### **2) Income & Expenses**

##### ***Income:***

The total income for the reporting period consisted of:

a.	Membership subscriptions	\$23,038
b.	Interest received	<u>\$1,988</u>
	Total:	<u>\$25,026</u>

##### ***Expenses:***

Major expenses during the reporting period were:

a.	eConference 2014 (after donations & DVD sales)	\$23,878
b.	Payments to Secretary/Treasurer and Web Manager	\$10,165
c.	Donations to AECSD (\$3000 in 2013, \$3000 in 2014; yet to pay \$3000 for 2015)	\$6,000

### **Balance Sheet**

This shows the current financial status – as at **30 June 2015**

Term deposit (Investment account)**	\$5,170
Current account	<u>\$11,378</u>
Total:	<u>\$16,548</u>

\*\*\$25,121 was transferred from the Investment account on 7 April 2014 towards the eConference 2014 costs