



Campfire IN THE Heart

What's On: Spring Update 2025



Dear friends of Campfire in the Heart,

*"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking
we used when we created them."*

Albert Einstein's words have a particular resonance at this time of crisis in so many spheres. How do they relate to our hopes for Campfire we wonder ...we hear a new consciousness is needed, our experience is that meditation gives us our best chance of really changing our hard-wiring, of not repeating unworkable ways.

Meditation and the contemplative life is at the heart of Campfire's offerings. Our winter retreats have been enthusiastically supported, with a recent participant commenting *"The landscape of central Australia is both visually dramatic and, in its endless and timeless spaces, somehow freeing. To go on a retreat in this landscape is truly time out of time. Stepping into an external and internal landscape that is new and different just invites an openness to explore new ways of being."*

We will offer again several weekend deep silent retreats in 2026, in April and August initially. Also two other weekend retreats especially appealing to locals at the beginning and end of June. And 5-day offerings in May and July, of interest to those living locally as well as those who come from afar. A rich variety, all based around meditation as taught by the [World Community for Christian Meditation](#), which like Campfire, is grounded in Christianity and welcomes all.

As well there will be yoga and drumming retreats, together with all the wonderful school and cultural groups who choose Campfire as their 'place', who bless us with their presence. The website is being updated as we speak, have a look and see if something calls you.

In this season of gift, we have a special download available, offered by our Meditator-in-Residence earlier this year, Rodney Marsh. He has put together a digital book [52 Blessings from the Centre](#) which can be used with groups or personally around times of meditation.

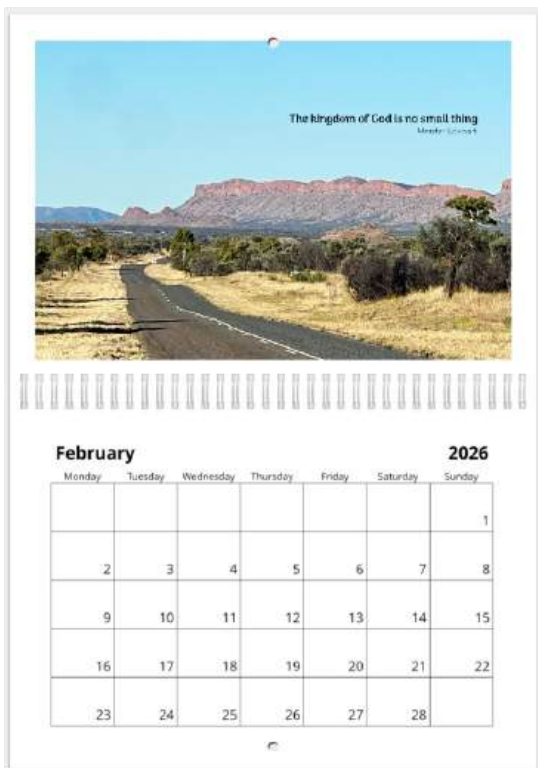
If you'd like to make [a donation](#) towards this or our ongoing efforts, it all helps in this quiet (hot) season, when costs remain high. We also have a beautiful [2026 calendar](#) for sale (see below), thanks to Michelle Vass.

Bless you, dear friends of Campfire, your big hearts for this place encourage us daily.

Judi & Paul for the Campfire staff and board



New in stock



2026 Calendar

The newest addition to our gift shop is a 2026 calendar, featuring beautiful photos taken by Michelle Vass during her time with us as Meditator-in-Residence.

Michelle has paired the photos with quotes from scripture, saints and other inspiring spiritual writers, such as John Main of the WCCM.

Cost: \$35 (incl. postage)

[More info](#)

Upcoming retreats

Coming Home to Silence

This silent retreat is offered for those who regularly practise meditation or those seeking to deepen their practice. It is a time to return to and honour the deep Silence ever present in our being. The retreat will be based on the model used at Bonnevaux – the WCCM Meditation Retreat Centre in France.

While the teaching for this retreat is based on Christian Meditation, those who practice others forms of meditation and contemplation, as well as experienced meditators from other recognised traditions are most welcome.

24 - 27 June 2026

Cost: \$390 - \$585

[More info](#)



Living Silence

Wisdom is sorely needed in our world today. This silent retreat is based on Nan Merrill's book 'Walking with Wisdom'. It seeks to offer time and space to nurture our understanding of Jesus the Wisdom of God in the silence of Campfire in the Heart.

The retreat will have a strong emphasis on ways of being present through Christian Meditation and other forms of contemplative silence, including a simple Tai Chi practice.

17 - 22 May 2026

Cost: \$450 - \$1,095

[More info](#)

Contemplating the Gospel of Saint Thomas

Join Paul & Judi Taylor for a three-day retreat of stillness and reflection, exploring the *Gospel of Saint Thomas* alongside the writings of John Main, founding father of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Through shared silence, lectio divina, and meditation, we will listen for the timeless call to discover the Kingdom within. This retreat offers space to deepen your contemplative practice, nurture inner peace, and encounter the transforming presence of Christ in the silence of your heart.

5 - 8 June 2026

Cost: \$390 - \$585

[More info](#)





Retreat with Fr. Bernard McGrath

Fr. Bernard McGrath will be returning to Central Australia this year...

A three-day retreat led by Friar Bernard McGrath, from St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia (NSW).

More info coming soon.

26 - 29 June 2026

Cost: \$390 - \$585

[More info](#)

Mind the Gaps

The landscape in which Alice Springs and Campfire in the Heart are set, with the various Gaps: Simpsons, Emily, Jessie, Honeymoon...and Pine Gap!

The gaps in our knowing and the 'gaps' in our location offer us a wonderful opportunity to reflect more deeply on what really matters, when it come to the past, the present & the future of humanity.

Led by Fr. Bernard McGrath

3 - 8 July 2026

Cost: \$450 - \$1,095

[More info](#)





Christ as Country: Creation Infused with Grace

In nature there is distinction and no separation: all is Country, all is graced. This retreat will be a chance to explore and experience this reality. To help us along will consider some Australian First Nations theology and spirituality, and the spirituality of the Christian Celts of Ireland and Scotland.

Are there commonalities in these two approaches? How can we learn from them? How might they change us? The input for this retreat will also explore the relevancy of a meditation practice for this time.

26 - 31 July 2026

Cost: \$450 - \$1,095

[More info](#)

The Gifts of Silence



Josephine Pretorius will offer a 3-day deep silent retreat “The Gifts of Silence”, with a 2-day option available. The proposed themes of the time will be around reflecting on a short reading drawn from various sources:

- * Entering the Silence – Reverence (Laurence Freeman Light Within)
- * Deepening Silence – Poverty (John Main “Second Conference” in The Gethsemani Talks)
- * Silent prayer (Maggie Ross “The Space of Prayer” in Writing the Icon of the Heart)
- * Gratitude (Sarah Bachelard “Just Now” in Poetica Divina.)

7 - 10 August 2026

Cost: \$390 - 585

[More info](#)

Reflections



Día de los Muertos

"On Saturday 2nd November, Campfire in the Heart hosted a luminous celebration of Día de los Muertos—the Mexican Day of the Dead. The evening invited people to honour the memory of loved ones with offerings, poetry, music, and shared food, transforming grief into gratitude and remembrance..."

Did you know? This celebration blends ancient Aztec indigenous traditions with Catholic beliefs. Mexican Catholics observe the holiday as a meaningful spiritual event, aligning its core themes with the liturgical calendar of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Written by Nicola Pitt

[Read here](#)

A Day in the Life of a Mediator-in-Residence

"The mornings are usually spent writing reflections or preparing for retreats and other offerings. Once a week I lead the Christian Meditation session at the Catholic Church, and I also volunteer at the Old Timers nursing home, mostly spending time with the elderly First Nations women. Mid afternoon or early evening is a good time to walk the labyrinth. What a luxury it is to have a full size Chartres Cathedral labyrinth only metres from my front door!..."

Written by Michelle Vass

[Read here](#)



Increasing the proportion of Being in my life

"During the month I was there, Campfire provided many opportunities like this for me to "be" instead of "do", and I greatly appreciated that gift. I discovered,

once again, that when I give priority to 'being' over 'doing', any doing that follows is more fruitful and meaningful. A big "thank you" to Nicola, Huss, Judi and Paul and all who supported my 'being' at Campfire..."

Written by Rodney Marsh

[Read here](#)

Weekly events



Monday Meditation

Mondays 5:30 pm

Suitable for beginners, as well as experienced meditators.

[More info](#)



Contemplative Book Club

Tuesdays 6:15pm

A reflective reading over 6 weeks of *The Spiritual Teachings of Marcus Aurelius*.

[More info](#)



Campfire Reflection
Wednesdays 6:30 pm

A pot-luck dinner, followed by time of reflection and sharing around the campfire.

[More info](#)



Online Offerings
Weekday mornings

Campfire in the Heart offers a free online meditation every weekday morning, followed by morning prayers.

[More info](#)

Have you attended our weekly gatherings or a retreat? Have you organised your own event here?

We would love it if you could leave us a testimonial on our [Google listing](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Share your feedback and help other people discover and enjoy this unique space in Alice Springs.

Interested in volunteering?



Volunteers are integral to our capacity to provide our desired level of hospitality to our guests, as well as to maintain this special environment in the midst of the desert.

Opportunities also exist for a **'meditator-in-residence'**, staying ideally between 2-6 months.

[Find out more](#)



Campfire in the Heart

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