



Campfire IN THE Heart

What's On: Summer Update 2026



All blessings of hope and peace to each of you dear friends of Campfire in the Heart in this New Year, may you find joy each way you turn!

We've just spent three wonderful days with our Campfire Companions board, gathering in the guesthouse at St Benedict's monastery at Arcadia, reflecting on so many aspects of Campfire and its operations.

All over again we reaffirm our commitment to Campfire in the Heart as a sacred place of retreat, in the spirit of love we, the Campfire community welcome all who come, its culture of quality and safety so long a part of the place. As we've been listening to people over the past year, there's something about the place that

inspires affection. Someone described it as being like a Christian ashram. certainly for us there's sense of the spirit hovering there, with frequent small miracles, more than we could ask or imagine ... something not easy to describe except that in the [testimonials](#) on our website you'll see what it's meant to different people.

Maybe this will be the year for you to 'come and see', to drink deeply from its offerings. We'd love to be with you there, have a look at our variety of offerings.

Much love,

Judi & Paul for the Campfire Companions board, and staff



Thanks to Chris who booked himself a personal retreat stay in one of our [Airbnb cabins](#) in January, and left us this review!

Instead of 5 stars, I rate Campfire in the Heart:

- 1 heart, full to overflowing

- 1 spirit, refreshed and inspired

- 2 legs, tired and happy from walking new paths and climbing ancient rock formations.

I deeply desire to return again. I encourage anyone who wants soul-enriching solitude or community to book in an extended stay at Campfire in the Heart.

Grateful thanks to Nicola and her wonderful team of gracious, generous hosts. I rate this not 5-stars, but the countless stars visible overhead each night.

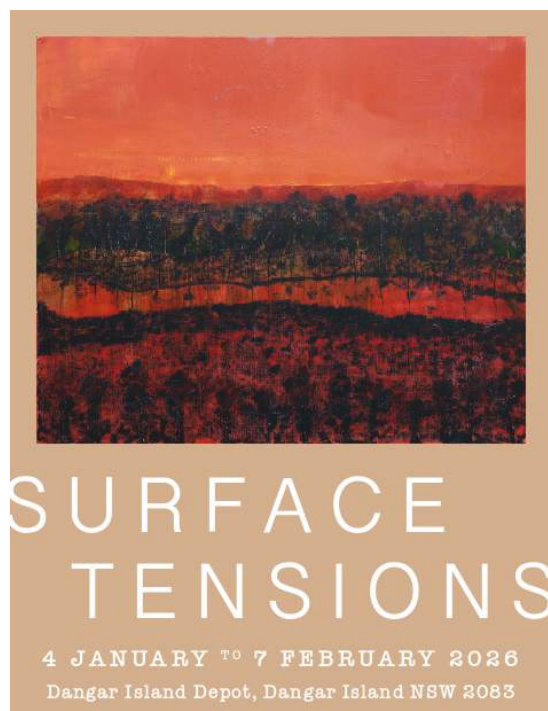
Latest news

'Surface Tensions' Exhibition

Paul Taylor's latest artwork collection is currently being exhibited on Dangar Island from 4 January – 7 February, **with all proceeds being donated to Campfire in the Heart.**

“Over the last 12 months I have continued to experiment on various surfaces with works inspired by times spent at Dangar Island and in Central Australia. I hope you enjoy this rotating exhibition.”

[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](#)



Be Still and Know

A three-day silent retreat led by Friar Bernard McGrath, from St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia (NSW), with a 2-day option as well.

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](#)

Weekly events



Monday Meditation



Labyrinth Walking

Mondays 5:30 pm

Resumes 2 February

Suitable for beginners, as well as experienced meditators.

[More info](#)



Campfire Reflection

Wednesdays 6:30 pm

Resumes 18 February

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

[More info](#)

Sundays 2 - 4 pm

Walking the labyrinth can symbolise being on a pilgrimage to a sacred place, a journey to our centre and an opportunity for learning and transformation.

[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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