

# Farewell to our National President 2004-2017

Dr Genevieve Milnes joined the Christian Counsellors Association in Western Australia as a member in 1994 before there was a National Association. In 1996 she joined the WA committee and by 1997 had become part of a team that was discussing the formation of a national association. Christian Counsellors Association of Australia (National) was inaugurated in 1998 - the year that Genevieve became the first state president of the CCAA (WA).

The national body of CCAA existed alongside the six state associations and the heads of the state member associations gathered together twice a year to conduct business. Genevieve was the National Secretary for some time and worked tirelessly for many years on membership issues, creating the first member application forms. She became the National President in 2004, following the past presidents - Rev Peter Bean who had succeeded Rev Bruce Redropp, the inaugural president.

Many of Genevieve's dreams for CCAA came to pass in the thirteen years in which she was National President such as:

- Status of CCAA. Genevieve worked with other organizations to raise the status of CCAA among other professional counselling associations across Australia by insisting on professional standards.
- Accreditation and PACFA: Genevieve was vitally involved in the negotiations with the Psychotherapists and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) as a nationally recognized accreditation agency. In the early years CCAA had higher standards for accreditation than PACFA so conforming to the new standards was not difficult even though the process was tedious.
- The CCAA Handbook. This recorded all of the decisions and processes of CCAA into a user-friendly manual.
- The Association Journal (Counselling Connections Across Australia) was begun in 2008 as a high quality publication that provides a forum for Christian Counsellors to publish, as well as a valuable professional resource.
- National Conferences became a biennial feature – Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Perth, Brisbane, and Adelaide.
- International participation in Christian Counselling. Genevieve represented CCAA at the New Zealand Christian Counsellors Association as their guest speaker in 2011 forging closer ties. In 2010, she was a delegate to the International Christian Counsellor's Conference in Nashville

where she was invited to present a 'Rewiring' workshop to over 100 participants. At the Nashville conference Genevieve formed lasting connections with Arch Hart (ICC), the President of the South African Christian Counsellors and the CEO of the Association of Christian Counsellors - United Kingdom where she was the Guest Speaker at the National Conference in 2013.

As president, Genevieve brought a fresh sense of fellowship and warmth to the meetings. Camaraderie amongst the state delegates to National Council was high and business was conducted alongside laughter, prayer and enjoyment.

Genevieve worked incredibly hard for the organization - spending many hours being available to the council members, setting up the policies, responding to trouble spots with her friend, colleague and vice-president Phil Henry who was incredibly supportive through her years as president.

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Genevieve as our President. We wish her success with her continued practice and studies (she is presently modifying her Rewiring Therapy into an App for students as part of her EdD research).

Thank you, Genevieve, for your tireless energy and your dedicated service to Christian Counsellors Association of Australia.

We will miss you Genevieve.

