

Annual Report on activities of Christian Life Community Australia Inc.

It's been a busy year for CLC Australia, which kicked off with our National Assembly in Melbourne in late July 2024. Attended by over 40 delegates from across the country, the Assembly discerned three national priorities for CLC Australia and elected the current NEXCO leadership. For a few months, NEXCO had no representative from Victoria until Nicole Pryor accepted the invitation to be co-opted in early 2025. NEXCO has met three more times after the Assembly and had a one-day retreat at Campion in Kew in May.

We have had a full year with our new membership system, Membership Works, that accepts credit card payments and automatic renewals that can roll on from year to year. In the past year our number of registered members increased modestly from 143 to 148.

Four members accepted an offer of life membership: Marie Slythe, Marlene Beck, Margaret Cody and Margaret Wiseman.

There are 48 guides. A major project this year was the offer of **Keystones** for development of new leaders in our groups and EXCOs. More than 20 people attended at least one meeting.

All **regions** have an EXCO, and regions hosted four **retreats** in the past year, providing an opportunity for formation and to foster community spirit.

NEXCO has two **working groups**: a National Formation Working Group and a National Ecology Working Group. The Formation group is in the process of assessing needs around the country with a report due to be presented to NEXCO on the weekend of the AGM. The Ecology group continues to provide stimulus material for groups and individuals. Debbie dela Paz from this group has also been co-opted onto CLC's international ecology working group, taking the place of Noreen Nicholson who has stepped down to focus on other ministries.

A **National Retreat** was held in the past year and, following positive feedback, we plan to hold another in November 2026.

We promoted a NATSICC **cultural competence course** that 50 members participated in. There are ongoing partnerships with Aboriginal Catholic Ministries in Perth and Sydney.

Four Australians attended the **Asia-Pacific Assembly** in Tokyo in February: James O'Brien as an outgoing member of the animating team and Michael Walker, Fr Iain Radvan and Teresa O'Brien as delegates. Teresa was elected to the animating team, to serve a five-year term through to the next Asia-Pacific Assembly.

NEXCO's agenda in the year ahead includes fostering experiments in synodality around the country and organising a National Gathering around the middle of the year.

Dr Michael Walker

President of CLC in Australia

September 2025