



CHARTER FOR
COMPASSION
AUSTRALIA

Australian Compassion Council
Annual Report 2024

About the ACC

The Australian Compassion Council (ACC) implements the Charter for Compassion, Australia's aim to *Deep Dream Australia A Continent for Compassion* through its:

- **Compassionate Cities Program**
- **Applying Compassion into the Charter sectors**
- **National Day of Compassion**
- **Contributing to the Global Charter for Compassion**
- **Collaborating with other Global and National Compassion Groups**



Compassionate Cities Program



CHARTER FOR
COMPASSION
AUSTRALIA

Communities
Australia



Compassionate Cities

In 2024 the development of compassionate cities across Australia grew through both the Charter for Compassion Australia and Compassionate Communities Australia. CCA was established by Dr Julian Ables and has focus on end of life.



A MAYORS' GUIDE TO A COMPASSIONATE CITY

Former Mayor of Louisville Greg Fischer and Inaugural Chair of the US Centre for Mayors and Business Leaders for Compassionate & Equitable Cities together with Compassionate San Antonio developed *A Mayors Guide to a Compassionate City*.

Greg believes that government is in the business of being an equitable distributor of resources, where the collective good can benefit the most. In those roles he asked the important question, *'Could you use a city as a platform for human flourishing? Compassionate Ballarat held a discussion on this Guide with Its City Council - the full Guide can be accessed here:*

<https://compassionateusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CompassionateUSAMayorsGuide.pdf> -



Seeds of Compassion

A major Compassionate Ballarat project was to plant seeds of compassion to promote Ballarat as a caring city underpinned by the compassionate wishes of its future leaders. Nearly 100 wishes were received from Ballarat students in Year 6 and Year 10 classes and the collected wishes were subject to a content analysis and written up under the following headings: 1) Inclusion - Acceptance – Belonging; 2) Respect - Unity – Peace; 3) Safe – Protected – Compassionate; 4) Cohesion – Harmony – Equality; 5) Thriving – Meaning – Potential. CB is now working with the City Council to make the students' wishes come true.

View Full report - [CB_Seeds_of_Compassion_SEP_24.pdf](#)

Compassionate Community, Bunbury WA

With the support of the Department of Health, the South-West Compassionate Communities Network partnered with the City of Bunbury to develop a Compassionate Bunbury Charter to facilitate Compassionate Community discussions and actions in response to illness, death, dying and grief within the Bunbury region. The Charter represents our best hope for Bunbury becoming a Compassionate Community and therefore a Compassionate City. It is accompanied by a Toolkit which outlines practical actions we can undertake individually and collectively.

<https://communityconnect.bunbury.wa.gov.au/compassionate-bunbury-charter>



Compassionate Tasmania Palliative Symposium

2024

COMPASSIONATE TASMANIA

PALLIATIVE CARE SYMPOSIUM

HOBART

THURSDAY 13 JUNE

Presented by



Palliative Care
Tasmania



Tasmanian
Government

Supported by

searson buck
the power of people



Applying Compassion into the Charter Sectors

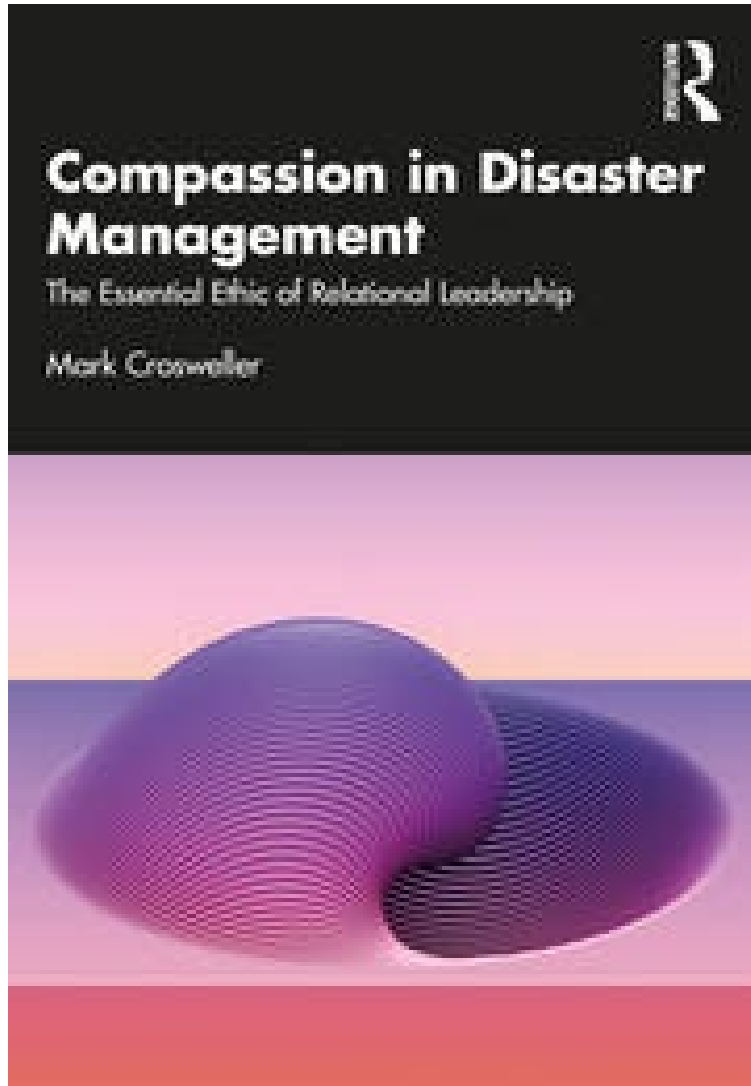


Compassion in Communities

To grow a common understanding of how we can all apply compassion in our community the social scientist and Australian Charter Ambassador, Hugh Mackay AO was invited to speak at a public forum on his latest book - *The Way We Are: Lessons from a lifetime of listening*.

In his talk Hugh drew on thousands of interviews over a lifetime of research, concluding that we have come to a critical period in our country's social evolution, and he outlined the compassionate steps we can all take to contribute to the healing of our local community.

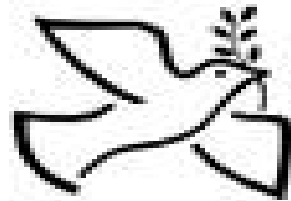
Compassionate Leadership



ACC organised an online webinar on *Compassion in Disaster Management*, a newly released book which asks: should leadership minimise suffering? Author Mark Crossweller argues yes: offering leaders, especially those in disaster management a way to improve their ability to lead, serve and protect others during disasters.

Dr Mark Crossweller has 40 years of experience of providing strategic policy advice on disaster management with local, state and federal governments and is a member of the Australian Compassion Council.

Peace and Compassion



National Coordinator, Peace Sector Madonna Quixley, and Compassionate Ballarat recently unveiled the first community Peace Pole in Ballarat. Ballarat Multicultural Council, Ballarat Interfaith Network, Let's Talk Peace Ballarat, Compassionate Ballarat, BGT Jobs and Training partnered to deliver the pole with the message 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' in several languages displayed on the pole. The structure, situated at Barkly Square has been installed as part of a global movement aiming to foster peace between nations & cultures.

The Science of Compassion - Research

A new report on the science of compassion by Dr Lynne Reeder and Dr Marcela Matos entitled *Future Directions in Compassion Science* was released. Research in compassion science is consistently finding that the motivation of compassion fosters improved mental and physical health, and has profound effects on social relationships in families, groups, communities and between communities.

ACC Scholars Network

The Network continued to support the research into compassion occurring across Australian universities. Work on the Special Issue of the Australian Journal of Management on Compassion in Organisations is almost complete and the published journal will be released early in 2025

Some of the articles in that journal will include

- 1) *The effectiveness of brief workplace compassion-focussed training in improving wellbeing of stressed school employees;*
- 2) *Not just a 'nice to have': Team compassionate care behaviours and patient safety;*
- 3) *Battling the Barriers to Compassion in Organisations.*

Australian Journal of Management

Volume 49 Number 4 November 2024

Articles

| | | |
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| 1 | Strategic deviation and investment inefficiency Dimitri Ranasinghe and Ahsan Habib | 531 |
| 2 | Managing digital assets on death and disability: An examination of the determinants of digital asset planning literacy Adam Steen, Chris Graves, Steven D Alessandro and Henry X. Shi | 561 |
| 3 | Make a good impression: Recommend different products for self-presentation Lili Wang, Hanyu (Yuki) Chen and Xuan Zhang | 581 |
| 4 | Did outside directors' firm-specific accumulated knowledge benefit the firm's stock performance during COVID-19? Dharmendra Naidu and Kumari Ranjani | 605 |
| 5 | CEO cognitive competencies in managing turnaround: Complexity and focus Xin Liang | 636 |
| 6 | The role of digital technology in communication and information flow in the Australian Superannuation industry Janin K. Hentzen, Arvid OJ Hoffmann and Rebecca M Dolan | 657 |
| 7 | Silent victims: Negative effects of observing workplace deviance on employees' emotional exhaustion and workplace thriving Mamoon Arshad, Muhammad Abdur Rahman Malik and Shoib Anjad Hussain | 678 |
| 8 | Research performance of management scholars in Australian group of eight universities Michael Shayne Gary, Mahreen Khan and Juan Rios-Ocampo | 700 |
| 9 | Financial reporting in times of crisis: The case of the Serbian developing economy during COVID-19 Vladimir Obradović, Milan Čupić and Dragomir Dimitrijević | 722 |
| 10 | Governance of digital supply networks: Systematic literature review and research agenda Jakob Keller-Rainer, Lasch and Sabine Matook | 740 |
| 11 | Money matters, but what else? Mature worker motives and the importance of gender, age, socioeconomic status and age-inclusive HR practices Vanessa Loh, Myra Hamilton, Marian Baird, Nate Zetina, Andreea Constantin, Daniela M Andrei, Gretchen A Petery and Sharon K Parker | 790 |

Retraction Notice

Retraction Notice: "Indigenous businesses in Australia: A supply chain management perspective" NPI-NP24



ACC Scholars Network

Sadly late this year the ACC Scholars Network Director Prof Felicia Huppert died. The members of the ACC Scholars Network honour the significant contribution to research into compassion science made by Felicia. The Network was established in 2018 and comprises researchers from across Australia, and over the years it has partnered with the University of Sydney's Body, Heart and Mind in Business Research Centre to hold annual conferences to support and encourage this research and application in all organisational and policy settings. Felicia's energy and world-class expertise has advanced compassion science in Australia in a way that simply wouldn't have happened without her Directorship of this Network. We are all immensely proud to have been her colleagues and to have shared her journey in compassion science. The soon to be released Special Issue of the Australian Journal of Management on *Compassion in Organisations* will be dedicated in memory of Felicia.

Interfaith

Flourishing Democracy: Australia and a 2024 of Beauty

In Australia, despite the misery conveyed in daily media, we have so much beauty to appreciate, and so much freedom to create more beauty, said Bishop Philip Huggins, the National Coordinator of the Charter for Compassion's Interfaith sector in a published article. Philip reflected: *that our relationships support and are themselves helped by living in a functioning democracy, noting that our inner democracy of the 'golden rule' flourishes best when there are supportive democratic structures which encourage compassionate living.*

Full article here:

<https://johnmenadue.com/flourishing-democracy-australia-and-a-2024-of-beauty/>

Rewilding the Soul: Self-Compassion and the Natural World

Anastasia Goussios a registered psychologist, eco-therapist, teacher, and lover of the wild ways of the soul, held a webinar with ACC member Joanna Giannes where she explored the relationship between the human world and natural world, challenging reductive notions of separation, inviting us to recognise the interconnectedness that binds all forms of life together, be they human, animal, fungal or plant life. We were inspired to embody our role as caretakers and stewards of the Earth, cultivating a deep sense of compassion and respect for all life.



IGNITING THE POWER OF COMPASSION FOR
A MORE JUST AND PEACEFUL WORLD



National Day of Compassion



2024 National Day of Compassion

Each year the Australian Compassion Council holds a National Day of Compassion to provide a meaningful opportunity for all Australians to participate in learning about and in practicing compassion. The launch included presentations from the CEO of the global Charter for Compassion, Marilyn Turkovich on its involvement in the 19th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates – National Ambassador Hugh Mackay on Compassion and Deep Connection - and the inspiring young students from Ballarat Grammar reading their compassionate wishes for their city.

Sessions offered throughout the National Day

In 2024 the Theme for this Day was -
Compassion and Deep Connection.

The events offered throughout the Day featured six facets of Deep Connection including in: Indigenous Justice - Contested spaces - Peace Culture - Repairing Relationships - Innate Connection with our Environment - Dealing with our Distracted World.

You can access all the recordings from this day here:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFQpo8As6ohYUe5pjvdVtdaHgXCNhKjQV>





Deep Connections Through Deep Justice - with ACC member Terry Ayling

Katie Kiss is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and a proud Kaanju and Birri/Widi woman – in her session she spoke about deep connection through deep justice and reflected on last year's unsuccessful National 'Voice to Parliament' Referendum, including next steps in the process of truth-telling and treaty as well as progress (or not) in the 'Closing the Gap' agenda. In 2024 Katie attended the 'Garma Festival and, the 'Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Conference in Geneva, where she issued statements about the key issues facing our indigenous people, and reflected more broadly on Australia's human rights record in the light of the 'UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'.

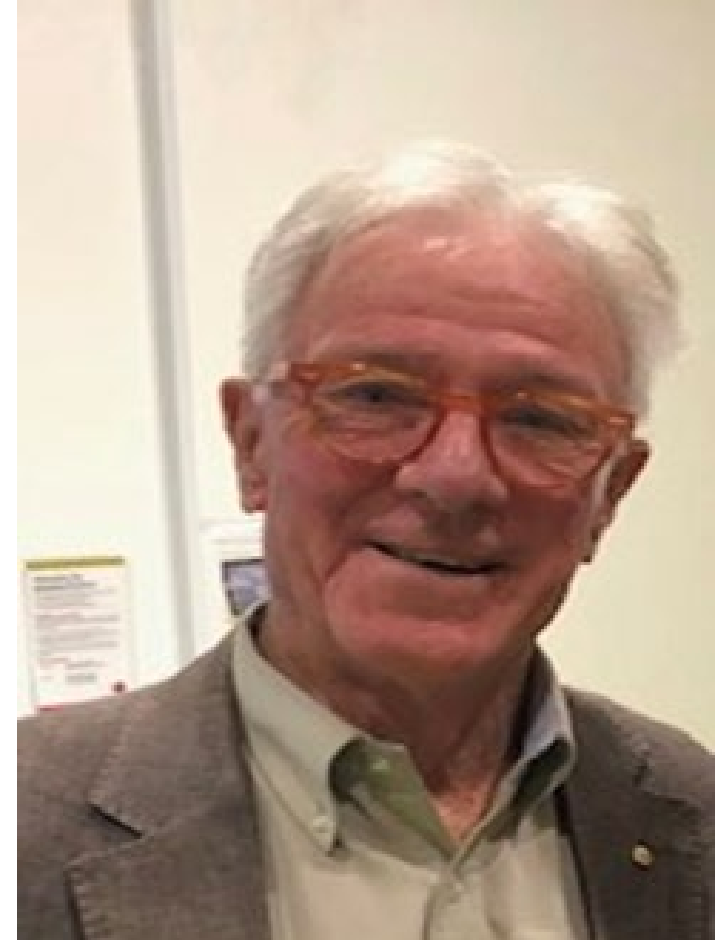
Creating deep connections with Peace Culture through new narratives: inspiration and imagination - *with ACC member Madonna Quixley*

Rivera Sun is an author and activist who serves on the Advisory Board of World BEYOND War and the board of Backbone Campaign. She is the editor of Nonviolence News and spoke about the power of literature in sparking imagination toward peace and helping to dissolve the cultural connections that mesmerize us into a war culture. While war and violence is normalized in books, movies, news, and other aspects of our culture, peace and nonviolent alternatives are largely ignored - fiction has a powerful potential to portray effective solutions like unarmed peacekeeping, violence de-escalation, peace teams, nonviolent action, conflict skills, and peacebuilding.



A Lifetime of Learning How to Create and Repair Relationships and Why it Matters so Much – with ACC member Bishop Philip Huggins

Dr John Hendry OAM is an educator of 50 years standing in many roles; teacher, school councillor and in leadership positions, He is one of the originators of Positive Education, and a consultant to Primary and Secondary Schools across all systems in Australia, Hong Kong, China and a consultant to UNESCO on bullying and school violence. He spoke about his forgiveness cycle model and how it applies to deep connection. He also spoke about his personal and vocational learnings and why they are so crucial now. This nurturing conversation also included music from contemporary pianist and Instrumental composer, Galliano Sommovilla who creates instrumental music for the soul and the senses.





Deep Connections in a Distracted World - with ACC member Gwen Pinnington

Sabina Vitacca inspires people to navigate the world of work in a more conscious and productive way. Starting her career in the mental health field, she now has over a decade of experience supporting individuals and organisations integrating mindfulness practices for connection with each other and their outcomes. In her presentation she spoke to deep connection into the world of work, stating that in organisations today, people are more connected with technology and yet are still experiencing a world of disconnect... change fatigued, overwhelmed, stressed, unable to make decisions and reduced productivity. She explored how mindfulness can be integrated into daily routines to strengthen genuine connections with others and the natural world, by fostering a sense of belonging and interdependence.

INTEGRATING DEEP WISDOM AND DEEP CONNECTION IN CONTESTED SPACES – with ACC member Lynne Reeder

Chloe Spackman is the CEO of Next 25 an independent think-and-do tank whose mission is to ensure Australia has what it takes to make the future its people want. Chloe spoke about how today's fractured political discourse challenges us to recognise how our emotional triggers interfere with our capacity to hear others. This was particularly so during the Voice Referendum, and Next 25's report *Contested Spaces: Australia, the referendum and constructive discussion* sought to review how we can better engage with complex policy issues. As the report notes 'we need to learn how to argue, we need to learn to negotiate difference, and we need to make space to talk about key issues that have affected us in the past, present and future.'



Realising our Innate State of Connection with the Elements of Water, Fire, Wind and Space – with ACC member Susana Sumskis

Dr Devin Zuckerman is a teacher and scholar of religion whose research explored elemental theory as a “pre-scientific theory of matter” to understand our deep connection with the five elements of earth, water, fire, wind, and space. Devin studied a Master of Divinity at Harvard University and received a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship to study elemental theory, and she spoke about elemental theory and deep connection through the lens of the five elements – specifically on how we can engage through contemplative practices to open ourselves to transformation, whether it be of our present state of mood or emotion or a deeper life realisation.





**CHARTER FOR
COMPASSION**

Contribution to the Global Charter

In 2024 The Australian Compassion Council continued to contribute to the work of the global Charter for Compassion overall through the work it does in bringing awareness of the Charter throughout Australia and specifically through its contribution to two global events - Martin Luther King 40 Days of Peace and its celebration of the Golden Rule Day.

Martin Luther King 40 Days of Peace

Turning 'The Dream' of Peace into Action One Compassionate Step at a Time - A forum with David Hartsough, Tim Hollo, and Gem Romuld

This forum featured co-founder of both Nonviolent Peaceforce and World BEYOND War, and author of *Waging Peace*. David Hartsough has been working actively across the globe for nonviolent social change and peaceful resolution of conflicts since his personal encounter with Dr Martin Luther King Jr. David shared his experiences on practicing nonviolence to assist us in taking tangible and compassionate steps toward a peaceful world. He was joined by musician, activist and author of *Living Democracy*, Tim Hollo and Gem Romuld, Director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Australia who gave a short update on the recent meeting of the States Parties on steps to banning nuclear weapons.



THROUGH THE LENS OF
THE GOLDEN RULE

APRIL 5

GOLDEN RULE DAY

The ACC's contribution to the 2024 Golden Rule Day celebrations was a visual and expressive session with Sharon Davson to explore how we can express the golden rule through the creativity of arts. It drew on Davson's art journey in expressing compassion through a visual medium and included images of her paintings including Turning Point, On the Ark of Salvation, With Gratitude Comes Growth. Sharon is a well-known Australian artist who uses spiritual ideas along with her love for nature to create beautiful, uplifting images.

EXPRESSING THE GOLDEN
RULE THROUGH THE
CREATIVITY OF ARTS
WITH SHARON DAVSON

HOSTED BY:
AUSTRALIAN COMPASSION COUNCIL

12 AM PT / 3 AM ET / 8 AM BST / 12.30 PM IST / 6 PM AEDT

Collaborating with other Global and National Compassion Groups



Global Compassion Coalition

ACC member, Dr Lynne Reeder is on the Board of the Global Compassion Coalition and was involved in the discussion of its strategic directions. Terry Ayling has also been involved in discussions with its newly established Compassion Connectors group in Australia.

The logo for the Global Compassion Coalition is a large, solid pink square. In the bottom right corner of this square, the words "GLOBAL", "COMPASSION", and "COALITION" are stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

GLOBAL
COMPASSION
COALITION

Global Compassion Coalition

Target 1.5 degrees: What are the barriers?
with Ciara Bryne, Dr. Janet Salisbury and Dr. Lynne Reeder

The GCC invited Australian representatives to participate in a webinar on climate change at the time that scientists at the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service released findings showing that temperatures in 2023 exceeded a 1.5 degree rise above pre-industrial levels. This was the level at which world leaders had previously pledged to cap global temperature rises. Faced with the latest evidence of the inadequate progress in tackling climate change, we need to understand: what are the barriers to change?

This webinar discussed what psychological, logistical, financial, economic, and political challenges stand in the way of us making a huge leap forward in protecting ourselves and our planet from the climate crisis?

<https://www.globalcompassioncoalition.org/events/target-1-5-degrees-what-are-the-barriers/>





GOI PEACE - 2024 International Essay Contest for Young People

Each year the Goi Peace Foundation based in Japan run a peace essay contest. The theme of this year's contest was *My Experience of Overcoming Conflict*. There were 15,744 entries from 152 countries, and Dr Susana Sumskis from the Australian Compassion Council was one of the international examiners for this year's essay.



Compassionate Mind Australia

Members of the ACC continued to engage with the members of the Compassion Mind Foundation. The CMA supports the teaching of compassion-focussed approaches and provides a resource for others to access current research. It is a hub for people interested in the study and application of compassion practices, and a vehicle for the promotion of courses and community events that align with CMA's purpose.

CompassionEds

Members of the ACC participated in the monthly meetings of CompassionEds, a forum established by Dr. Venkat Reddy, *Deputy Head of Learning Community*, Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland. This group of health professionals is wanting to make a lasting impact on a culture of compassion in healthcare education through curricula, assessment, staff and identity development.





CHARTER FOR
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**Australian
Compassion
Council Members
in 2024**

Lynne Reeder – VIC

Gwen Pinnington – TAS

Michael Bartura – VIC

Madonna Quixley – VIC

Bishop Philip Huggins – VIC

Geoffrey Woolcock – QLD

Debbie Ling - VIC

Terry Ayling - QLD

Mark Croweller – ACT

Susana Sumskis - NSW

Joanna Giannes - SA

