

FAITH *AND* MISSION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday 15 August
8:30 am – 4pm

*Hosted by the Australasian Pentecostal Studies Centre,
Alphacrucis University College, Sydney*



This research symposium explores the identity and mission of Christian higher education in Australia. The symposium seeks to foster interdisciplinary reflection on the role of Christian tertiary institutions in shaping intellectual, spiritual, and public life. Some of Australia's leading Christian scholars from a range of disciplines will engage with the challenges, opportunities, and distinctive contributions of faith-based higher education in Australia and beyond.

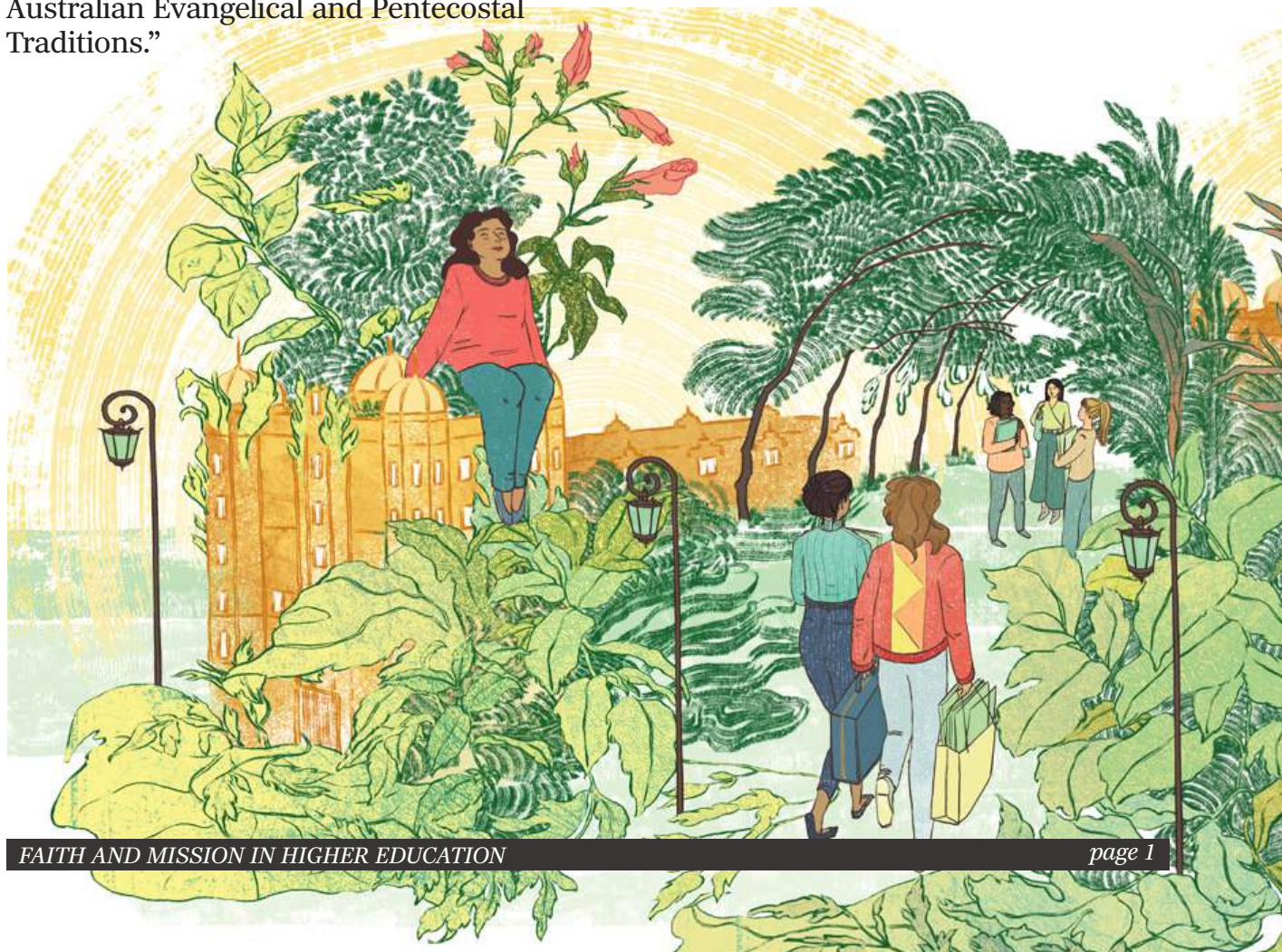
2025 CARTLEDGE LECTURE

The Cartledge Lectures were founded in 2006 in honour of the life and ministry of David Cartledge, former President of Alphacrucis and a significant leader within the Australian Pentecostal church. The annual lectures focus on Pentecostal engagement with culture and society and provide a forum for prominent speakers to explore creative ideas relating to Pentecostalism in Australia and beyond.

The 2025 Cartledge Lecture will be held at 6pm on Thursday 14 August. The distinguished historian of Christianity, Stuart Piggin, will speak on the idea of a Christian university. The title of his lecture is “Reason and the Spirit: The University in British, American and Australian Evangelical and Pentecostal Traditions.”

Dr Stuart Piggin is one of Australia’s leading historians of religion, widely recognised for his scholarship on evangelical Christianity, revival movements, and the cultural impact of faith in Australian history. He holds degrees from the University of Sydney and King’s College London. His doctoral research examined the formation of evangelical missionaries in the modern era.

Dr Piggin has held academic appointments at the University of Wollongong and the University of Sydney, and served as Master of Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University from 1990 to 2004.





**Dr Stuart
Piggin**

He was the founding Director of the Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity at Macquarie, where he led major research into the nation's spiritual and cultural heritage. He has also served as Head of the Department of Christian Thought at the Australian College of Theology.

His recent books, *The Fountain of Public Prosperity* and *Attending to the National Soul* (both with Robert D. Linder), are

landmark volumes in Australian religious historiography. Dr Piggin is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and in 2023 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Theology degree by the Australian College of Theology (now the Australian University of Theology) for his lifelong contribution to historical scholarship and Christian education.

His 2025 Cartledge Lecture is titled "Reason and the Spirit: The University in British, American and Australian Evangelical and Pentecostal Traditions." Religious revival has had a surprisingly seminal role in the development of tertiary education. It was a major factor in the formation of universities in the United States and the reform of universities in Great Britain – though its contribution was not always welcomed. In his Cartledge Lecture, Dr Piggin will review the rocky road of Christian participation in tertiary education, and will reflect on its future prospects in Australia.



PROGRAM

FAITH *AND* MISSION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, 15 August 2025

8:45 – 9:00	Introduction and Housekeeping <i>Jacqueline Grey</i>
9:00 – 10:30	CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: PAST AND PRESENT (Chair: David Perry) Jacqueline Grey <i>‘What makes Pentecostal Higher Education Pentecostal?’</i> Geoff Treloar <i>‘Towards a Master Narrative’ Revisited: A Framework for the History of Theological Education in Modern Australia’</i> Kristy Mills <i>‘Stirred by a Noble Theme: History and Christian Higher Education’</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 – 12:30	CORE CURRICULUM AND CHRISTIAN ETHOS (Chair: Jacqueline Grey) Paul Oslington <i>‘What Should a Core Curriculum for an Australian Pentecostal Christian University look like?’</i> Simon Kennedy <i>‘Christian Worldview, Christian Core, and Christian Catechesis’</i> Narelle Coetzee <i>‘More Than a Degree: How Christian Higher Education Compares on Student Success, Satisfaction and Employment Outcomes in Australia’</i>
12:30 – 1:15	Lunch

1:15 – 2:45 **FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN CHRISTIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION** (Chair: Johannes Luetz)

Robert Banks

*'The Distinctive Features of Exemplary Christian Professors:
Compelling Role Models from the Past'*

Daniel Anderson

*'Christian Residential Colleges and the Evangelical Leadership
Pipeline'*

Peter Sherlock

*'Doom or Boom? The Future of Christian Higher Education in
Australia'*

2:45 – 3:00 **Afternoon Tea**

3:00 – 3:50 **THE JOURNEY TO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**
(Chair: Paul Oslington)

James Dalziel

*'Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? A history of the ACT's university
applications 2015-2025'*

Tom Fletcher

Response and comments: The legal perspective

3:50 – 4:00 **Conclusion**
Jacqueline Grey



SPEAKER BIOS

Daniel Anderson is Director of the Lachlan Macquarie Institute (LMI) in Canberra. Prior to LMI, he was chaplain to Robert Menzies College, a residential college at Macquarie University. He holds a PhD from Macquarie exploring the philosophical ethics of forgiveness. He was a member of the Board of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) from 2003-2021 and served as its Chair from 2017-2021.

Robert Banks has taught in universities and seminaries in several countries, including roles at the Australian National University, Macquarie University, and Fuller Theological Seminary. His many books include influential studies of Paul and early Christian communities, as well as studies on the theology of work and vocation.

Narelle Coetzee is Director of Academic Analytics and Projects and a Senior Lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Alphacrucis University College. She received her PhD from the University of Birmingham, and her recent research projects include the voice of creation in the Psalms and the inculcation of graduate attributes within Christian tertiary institutions.

James Dalziel is Vice-Chancellor of the Australian University of Theology (previously Dean and CEO of the Australian College of Theology). His earlier roles included Dean of Education at Morling College, Professor of Educational Technology at Macquarie University, and Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Sydney. He has published widely on educational technology and learning design.

Tom Fletcher leads the national higher education practice at MinterEllison, a multinational law firm. He has assisted Australia's leading universities and private higher education providers to achieve their objectives, while navigating the broad array of risks and challenges they face in the sector. He also works in the energy and resources sector.

Jacqueline Grey is Professor of Biblical Studies at Alphacrucis University College. Her most recent publication is *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation: Participating in God's Story of Redemption* (Baker Academic, 2024), co-authored with Paul Lewis, which is part of the Foundations for Spirit-Filled Christianity Series. Alongside her academic work, she represents Pentecostalism in two bilateral international ecumenical dialogues (with the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion), and is a member of the World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order.

Simon Kennedy is a Senior Research Fellow at Alphacrucis University College. He is also a Fellow of the Danube Institute in Budapest and an affiliated Senior Research Fellow at the University of Queensland. He is an intellectual historian who has published on natural law, the history of Christian thought, and educational theory. His most recent book is titled *Against Worldview: Reimagining Christian Formation as Growth in Wisdom* (Lexham, 2024).

Kristy Mills is Executive Pastor of Horizon Church in Sydney, and a board member for Australian Christian Churches International. She is currently doing postgraduate research in Pentecostal political participation through Charles Sturt University.

Paul Oslington is Professor of Economics and Theology at Alphacrucis University College. Previously he held a chair jointly in the School of Business and School of Theology at Australian Catholic University, and was Associate Professor of Economics at the University of New South Wales. He has held visiting positions at Oxford University, the University of British Columbia, Regent College Vancouver, and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has published widely on the economics of religion and the history of economic thought.

Stuart Piggin has held academic appointments at the University of Wollongong and the University of Sydney, and served as Master of Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University from 1990 to 2004. He was the founding Director of the Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity at Macquarie, where he led research into Australia's spiritual and cultural heritage. He has also served as Head of the Department of Christian Thought at the Australian College of Theology (now the Australian University of Theology). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Theology degree from the Australian University of Theology in 2023 for his lifelong contribution to historical scholarship and Christian education.

Peter Sherlock is Professor and Associate Director of Yindyamarra Nguluway at Charles Sturt University, a national hub for thought leadership on

issues of justice, equity, and belonging. For the past decade he has been a leading figure in Australian theological education, serving as Foundation Vice-Chancellor of the University of Divinity, Chair of the Council of Deans of Theology, and President of ANZATS. His most recent book (with Daniel Nellor) is *Theology Matters: How Thinking About God Shapes Australia* (Coventry Press, 2024)

Geoff Treloar, although formally retired, remains research active as Research Fellow at the Australian University of Theology and Visiting Fellow in History in the School of Humanities and Languages at the University of New South Wales. He is the author of *Lightfoot the Historian* (Mohr-Siebeck, 1998) and *The Disruption of Evangelicalism: The Age of Torrey, Mott, McPherson and Hammond* (IVP/SPCK, 2016). His current research is on the history of theological education and the biographies of several contemporary Australian theologians.



THE AUSTRALASIAN PENTECOSTAL STUDIES CENTRE

The APSC was founded in 2001 to promote research into Pentecostal and Charismatic movements in Australasia and beyond. Today, the centre brings together the world's largest community of researchers working in the field of Pentecostal studies. The centre promotes work in this field by coordinating research projects, hosting doctoral students, organising conferences and seminars, and publishing the *Australasian Pentecostal Studies* journal. Particular areas of research concentration include the

interface between biblical studies and Pentecostal theology, and the complex dynamics of spiritual experience in Pentecostal communities today.

The centre also hosts the annual Cartledge Lecture, which was founded in 2006 in honour of the life and ministry of David Cartledge, former President of Alphacrucis and a significant leader within the Australian Pentecostal church. Former speakers in the lecture series have included Frank Macchia, Amos Yong, and Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen.

APSC Archive

The centre is home to the largest collection of Pentecostal and charismatic archival materials in the world, including an extensive repository of oral sources and collections of the movement's early literary documents.

The collection includes journals, denominational magazines, church archives, letters, diaries, photographs, slides, minute books, artefacts, 16mm films, videos, cassette tapes and vinyl records.

Australasian Pentecostal Studies Journal

The *Australasian Pentecostal Studies* journal, founded in 1998, promotes interdisciplinary research into a wide range of areas relating to Pentecostal scholarship. It publishes work from leading Australasian scholars, but also has a worldwide mandate in this era of globalised Christianity. The journal's goal is to contribute to Pentecostal scholarship in a way that is interdisciplinary, ecumenical, and highly contextualised.

Previous contributors to the journal have included Shane Clifton, Jennifer Anne Cox, Jacqueline Grey, Mark Hutchinson, Julia Kuhlin, U-Wen Low, Frank Macchia, Gerard Moore, Neil Ormerod, Paul Oslington, Tanya Riches, Monica Short, Bruce Stevens, Steven Studebaker, A. J. Swoboda, Wolfgang Vondey, and Amos Yong.

Illustrations by Cat O'Neil

