

Conference Program 8.30 – 9.00: Registration

9.00–9.10: Opening Session. Welcomes, acknowledgement of country, outline of aims of SACHN and of the conference, house-keeping: Judith Raftery

9.10–9.30: Setting the historical scene: David Hilliard

9.30–11.00: Session One – three papers. Chair: Judith Raftery

9.30–10.00: Dean Eland: SA Ecumenism following the National Conference of Australian Churches, 1960

10.00–10.30: Lynn Arnold: The role of the Churches and Christians in the South Australian Anti-War Movement, 1967–1973

10.30–11.00: Malcolm McArthur: Dissenters' and 'Croweaters' in Schools, 1947–1990

11.00–11.30 MORNING TEA (Provided)

11.30–1.00: Session Two – five papers

Stream A: Chair: Brian Chalmers

11.30–12.00: Brenton Griffin: 'You've Seen Their Temple; now back to the Bible': the localisation of the Mormon Church in SA, 1945–2000

12.00–12.30: Yianni (John) Cartledge: The Greek Orthodox Church in SA

12.30–1.00: Josephine Laffin: Impact of the Second Vatican Council on SA Catholics

Stream B: Chair: Ros Gooden

11.30–12.00: 1970s Bronwyn Ellis: Early days of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship in SA

12.00–12.30: Margaret Gunn: Tom Atherton: daring to speak out?

1.00 – 1.40 LUNCH (BYO)

1.40–3.10: Session Three – four papers

Stream A: Chair: David Hilliard

1.40–2.10: Caroline Adams: 'I will give so that I may live': The Wells schemes in SA in the 1950s

2.10–2.40: Tim Harris and Peter Burke: Howell Witt: pioneering Church of England ministry in Elizabeth, SA, 1957–1965

Stream B: Chair: Brian Dickey

1.40–2.10: May Kuan Lim: How an overseas student movement began in Adelaide and its impact on the city and beyond

2.10–2.40: John Walker: Growing Up Baptist in the 1960s and 1970s

2.40–3.00 AFTERNOON TEA (Provided)

3.00–4.00 Session Four – two papers Chair: Brian Dickey

3.00–3.30: Martin Bleby: Geoffrey Bingham and the New Creation Teaching Ministry

3.30–4.00: Brian Chalmers: Searching for Souls: Billy Graham's 1959 Adelaide Crusade

4.00: Closing Session – John Walker: Summing up, thanks, future plans

The South Australian Church History Network is a group of historians from several Christian denominations – currently Anglican, Baptist, and Uniting Church. SACHN was established in 2022 when South Australian members of the Australian Association of Mission Studies joined with others to

- encourage the study of the history of Christianity in South Australia,
- promote the recognition of South Australian religious history within the broader history of South Australia, and within the religious history of Australia as a whole,
- host conferences and/or other public events during South Australia's annual History Festival.

Our long-term aim is to ensure that the history of Christianity and of the churches is appropriately represented in South Australia's bi-centennial celebrations in 2036. In line with this aim the network held a one-day conference in 2024 on the theme 'Paradise of Dissent Revisited (1836–1900)' which explored the impact of Christianity, and especially Nonconformist Protestantism, on South Australia's early political and economic development.

A half-day conference in 2025 explored how changes to government policy and funding arrangements since the 1990s have impacted on church-based welfare organisations and on the involvement of local churches in social welfare services.

Current members of the SACHN are Dr Brian Dickey, Rev. Dr Dean Eland (Secretary), Dr Ros Gooden, Dr David Hilliard, Dr Judith Raftery, and Rev. Dr John Walker.

For further information contact the secretary Rev. Dr Dean Eland sachurchhistory@outlook.com 0419 112 603 or Dr Judith Raftery, judith.raftery@gmail.com

South Australia's History Festival 2026

**The South Australian Church History Network
invites you to explore**

The Changing Shape of Christianity in South Australia between 1945 and c.2000



Saturday 23 May 2026

8.30am–4.00pm

**UCA Church of the Trinity
318 Goodwood Road, Clarence Park**

Generous parking on northern side of the site.

Morning and afternoon tea provided. BYO lunch.

Donations by cash or Tap'n'Go will support the aims of SACHN

Registrations required before 16 May by email:

sachurchhistory@outlook.com