

## How often do CAW members get together?

CAW's major annual event is the CAW P&G (Pagan Summer Gathering), where members and guests come together for workshops, ritual, fun and our Summer Rite.

Several times a year, CAW holds Sacred Connections, which are Members Only events, where members grow closer with one another through discussion, sharing and ritual.

More informally, our Members spend time with one another throughout the year to enjoy each others company!

## Where did CAW come from?

### Originally, in the USA

The Church of all Worlds was founded in 1962 by Tim and Martha Zell (now known as Oberon and Morning Glory Zell), and Lance and Penny Christie. Incorporating in Missouri in 1968, CAW became the first of the (Neo) Pagan Nature/Earth religions to obtain full Federal recognition, and was best known in the 1970s for publishing "The Green Egg", one of the first and foremost pagan journals at the time.

### In Australia

The Church of All Worlds (Australia) was brought to Australia in March 1992 by Caroline Tully. It became the first Australia-wide legally recognized (Neo) Pagan Nature/Earth religion in November 1992, and is presently incorporated in New South Wales as a religious education organisation. It is administered by a National Management Council.

## The Book that started it all!

The Church of All Worlds is loosely based on the book by Robert Heinlein "Stranger in a Strange Land". In the novel, a stranger, Valentine Michael Smith, was an Earthman born on Mars and raised by Martians. Among his many adventures upon being brought to Earth was the formation of the "Church of All Worlds". This 'Church' was built around 'nests', a combination of a congregation and an intentional community. A basic concept was 'grokking', that is, the ability to fully encompass anything in a wholistic manner.

CAW originally emphasised the experience of non-possessive love and the joyous expression of sexuality as divine union. Today, this is a lesser part of CAW, as we each make our own choices regarding our relationships and relations with others.

There is also the acknowledgement of water as being the source and sustenance of life, with the ritual sharing of water being the most fundamental rite of CAW. As recognition of immanent divinity in each person, the common greeting of "Thou art Goddess; Thou art God". There is also the precept of "growing closer" in all ways and forms.

The current generation of the Church of All Worlds Australia, Inc, is also very much inspired by Starhawk's book "The Fifth Sacred Thing" which presents a vision of a future society that would mirror CAW's philosophies, aims and objectives.

# Church of All Worlds Australia, Inc

CAW

is ...



For more information please see  
[caw.org.au](http://caw.org.au)

or contact our Secretary  
[secretary\(at\)caw\(dot\)org\(dot\)au](mailto:secretary(at)caw(dot)org(dot)au)

An Information Guide for New and  
Prospective Members

# Church of All Worlds Australia, Incorporated

## Australian Membership Affirmation

- In dedication to the celebration of life in its many forms, I hereby declare my commitment to a way of life that is ethical, benevolent, humanistic, life-affirming, ecstatic and ecologically sane.
- I subscribe to means and methods that are creative rather than destructive, tolerant rather than authoritarian, gentle rather than violent, inclusive rather than exclusive.
- I pledge myself to harmonious eco-psychic awareness with the total biosphere of Holy Mother Earth. Like an ancient tree, I have my roots deep in the Earth and my branches reach for the stars.
- I acknowledge my personal responsibility for myself, to my fellow humans, and to the whole of nature; and I recognize this total responsibility, in each of us, as the source of our infinite freedom to become who we are and do what we will.
- I dedicate myself to my own inner growth and development that I may be of greater service to myself and the world around me
- For these reasons I recognize Divinity both within and without, and I say to myself and others:

“Thou art Goddess, Thou art God”

## Mission

To evolve a network of information, mythology and experience to awaken the divine within, and to provide a context and stimulus for re-awakening Gaia and reuniting Her children through tribal community dedicated to responsible stewardship and the evolution of consciousness.

## What is Paganism and Neo-Paganism?

Paganism and Neo-Paganism are very general terms covering a wide range of Nature-based religious or spiritual practices and beliefs. These include those who identify themselves with Shamanism, Witchcraft, Wicca, Voodoo, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sufism, Spiritualism, Asatru, and many other religions based on those of the ancients and of indigenous peoples all over the world.

The word “Pagan” comes from the Latin *Paganus* meaning peasant or country dweller (“Heathen” has a similar meaning and origin). As a religious term, it is correctly used by anthropologists to designate the indigenous folk religions of particular regions and peoples.

Many (but not all) of those who have joined in the revival of the ancient practices think of

themselves as Neo-Pagans, indicating their understanding that not only can we never truly know the ancient ways as so much knowledge was lost or deliberately destroyed, but as our lifestyles are very different to those of ancient times, we have adapted these practices for the modern world.

Neo-Paganism is a natural religion—a religion of the living Earth. Viewing humanity as a functional organ within the greater organism of all life, rather than as something special created separate and “above” the rest of the natural world, Neo-Pagans seek not to conquer Nature, but to harmonise and integrate with her.

## What CAW can do for you!

We are a tribe. We support each other. We get together socially and spiritually on a regular basis

We have an optional system of study to help guide you towards your spiritual goals. This system requires dedication and commitment over a number of years.

We have Clergy and are working towards a system of Ministry to provide spiritual and life guidance.