



# Common Dreams 2019

— Sacred Earth —  
Original Blessing, Common Home

## Program and Information

11-14 July  
Newington College  
and  
Pitt Street Uniting Church  
Sydney

[2019.commondreams.org.au](http://2019.commondreams.org.au)



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation,  
traditional owners of the land on which we gather  
for this conference,  
and pay our respects to Elders past and present,  
and to emerging community leaders.

We acknowledge that this land was taken from the First Peoples  
without their consent, treaty or compensation.

We acknowledge that this land was, is,  
and always will be Aboriginal land.

Newington College  
200 Stanmore Road, Stanmore NSW 2048

Pitt Street Uniting Church  
264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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## **CARBON FOOTPRINT**

Please bring your own re-useable cup (with cup and lid labelled with your name) and your own water bottle (fountains available around the school campus). Conference tote bags, pens and paper will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own. Printed copies of the program will be available, but you may also access the program booklet via the website.

## **VENUES**

### ***Newington Secondary College***

200 Stanmore Road, Stanmore

The school is well serviced by train and easily accessible by car. There are 70 parking spaces on site and on-street parking is available in surrounding streets. Some car parks will be reserved for presenters, organisers, and people with disabilities.

- The conference plenary sessions will be held in the Centenary Hall.
- Elective sessions will be held in Classrooms W8,9,10,11,12,13 in W Block
- The Pre-Conference gathering will be held in the Chapel.
- Morning meditation will also be held in the Chapel.

Campus Map on the back cover of this booklet.

### ***Pitt Street Uniting Church***

264 Pitt Street, between Bathurst and Park Streets, CBD.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Stanmore Station is on the T2 Inner West line and trains leave every 15 minutes from Town Hall, Central and Redfern Stations. 8-minute walk to Newington.

Pitt Street Uniting Church is a 2-minute walk from either Town Hall Station or Museum Station. Numerous buses stop nearby.

Go to <https://transportnsw.info/> for timetables. If you don't have an Opal Card you can use a credit card to tag on and off the trains (credit card fares are a little higher).

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

There are ramps and lifts throughout the Newington Campus for easy access to buildings and classrooms where the electives are held.

Disability access at Pitt Street Church is via the ramp on the south side of the Church. Stanmore Station is NOT wheel chair accessible.

## **BOOKSHOP**

The Bookshop is located at the back of Centenary Hall.

It will be open at the following times:

Friday 12 July	10.30-11.15am, 12.30-1.30pm, 2.30-3.15pm
Saturday 13 July	10.40-11.10am, 12.10-1.10pm, 3.10-3.40pm, 5.35-7pm
Sunday 14 July	11-11.30am

## **MEALS**

The Newington Cafeteria will be open in the morning for tea, coffee and light snacks throughout the Conference.

Morning and afternoon tea is provided for all participants

### ***Full Program***

Includes Friday lunch, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner

### ***Short Program***

Includes Saturday lunch and dinner.

### ***Thursday and Friday Dinner, and Sunday Lunch***

These meals are the responsibility of participants. See pp. 12-13 for café and restaurant suggestions in Stanmore and near Pitt Street Church.

## **MORNING MEDITATION**

Rev Alex Sangster and Rev Ian Turnnidge will lead meditation in the school chapel on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8:15am.

## **QUIET SPACE**

The chapel will be open during the conference.

## **LOST PROPERTY**

Please hand in or collect any lost property at the Registration Desk.

## **FIRST AID**

If first aid is required, please consult any of the conference officials on duty. Our officials can be readily identified by the brightly coloured vests they are wearing.

## **PRESENTER INFORMATION**

For information about presenters and the presentation extracts, please visit [2019.commondreams.org.au](http://2019.commondreams.org.au)

## **ELECTIVES**

On Saturday, ten electives will each be offered twice. Please choose your two electives using the sign-up sheets next to the Registration Table in Centenary Hall.

## **ART EXHIBITION BY REV DOUG PURNELL**

*The Blue Chapel* will be exhibited at the Common Dreams Conference between 9.30am – 4pm on Friday 12 July and Saturday 13 July. The paintings will be exhibited in the Old Chapel, behind the Drama Theatre. The exhibition is after the spirit of Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman, Henri Matisse and others, who have worked to create spaces that evoke a sense of spirit and mystery.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

<b>THURSDAY 11 JULY</b>		
AFTERNOON		
3.00 – 5.00pm	<b>Pre-conference Gathering/Discussion (optional)</b> – <i>Introduction to Progressive Religion and Common Dreams</i>	Chapel Sue Jarrad
4.30	Registrations Open	Centenary Hall
EVENING		
7.00	Acknowledgement of Traditional Landowners	Centenary Hall
7.05	Introduction and Local Arrangements	
7.10	<b>Music</b> – <i>To the Least of These</i>	Rachel Collis
7.30	<b>Welcome to Country</b> – Aunty Esther Carroll	
8.00	<b>Public Address 1</b> – <i>Spiritual but not Religious: The Future of Religion and of Spirituality and of the Earth</i>	Matthew Fox
8.30	Evening Close	

<b>FRIDAY 12 JULY</b>		
MORNING		
8.00	Registrations	
8.15	Meditation (Optional)	Chapel
9.00	Acknowledgement of Traditional Landowners	Centenary Hall
9.05	Introduction and Local Arrangements	
9.10	<b>Welcome to Conference</b>	Greg Jenks
9.25	<b>First Art Intervention</b>	Alex Sangster Ian Turnnidge
9.35	<b>Keynote Presentation 1</b> – <i>Time to Publicly Acknowledge the Creation Spirituality of our Aboriginal Custodians.</i>	Norm Habel Anne Pattel-Gray
10.30	Morning Tea/Coffee. Bookshop and Art Exhibition	

11.15	<b>Keynote Presentation 2 – <i>Common Home and A Just Society</i></b>	Rod Bower
12.15pm	Explanation of Evaluation Process and Distribution of Conference Evaluation and Feedback Forms	Dick Carter
FRIDAY AFTERNOON		
12.25	Lunch/Networking/Book Shop	
1.30	<b>Keynote Presentation 3 – <i>In Judaism it is actions that count above all in healing the world</i></b>	Jonathan Keren-Black
2:20	Afternoon Tea/Coffee. Bookshop and Art Exhibition	
3.15	<b>Singing – <i>Progressive Voices: Songs for Hope and New Life</i></b>	Heather Price
4.00	<b>Interactive Panel Presentation – ABC Q&amp;A Style Format</b> <i>Living Creation Spirituality Here and Now: Practical wisdom for a sustainable humanity</i>	Moderator Greg Jenks, with Val Webb Anne Pattel-Gray Rod Bower Johnathan Keren-Black
5.00pm	Travel to Pitt Street Uniting Church. Participants to organise own meal nearby.	
FRIDAY EVENING - Pitt Street Uniting Church: 264 Pitt St, Sydney		
7.00	<b>Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir</b>	
7.30	<b>Two Songs and a Short Story</b>	Kavisha Mazzella
7.45	<b>Public Address 2 – <i>On Being Deeply Human in a Time of Earth-Crisis and Apocalyptic Warnings</i></b>	Matthew Fox
8.45	<b>Song</b>	Kavisha Mazzella
9.00	Evening Close	



<b>SATURDAY, 13 JULY</b>		
MORNING		
8.00	Registration	
8.15	Meditation (Optional)	Chapel
9.15	Acknowledgement of Traditional Landowners	Centenary Hall
9.20	Housekeeping Announcements etc	
9.25	<b>Second Art Intervention</b>	Alex Sangster Ian Turnnidge
9.30	<b>Keynote Presentation 4</b> – <i>We Rejoice in and Courageously Honour the Rich Diversity of Sex, Sexuality and Gender Within the Cosmos</i>	Ro Allen
10.30	<b>One Woman Show</b> - Crow (Part 1)	Alex Sangster
10.40	Morning Tea/Coffee. Bookshop and Art Exhibition	
11.10 Simultaneous Elective Sessions (to be repeated in the afternoon)  <b>In the W class-room block</b>	1. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Of Old Trees, Stardust, and Moments of Wonder: A Short Introduction to Religious Naturalism</i>	Rex Hunt
	2. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Jesus and the Transforming Influence of Friendship</i>	John Smith
	3. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Art Making and Reflection on Process</i>	Doug Purnell
	4. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>The Poetics of the Sacred Imagination</i>	Joel McKerrow
	5. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Post-colonial theology and sovereignty</i>	Chris Budden
	6. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Deep Despair, Ferocious Hope</i>	Jason John
	7. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Preparing a Common Dreams Statement of the Heart</i>	Norm Habel
	8. <b>Interactive Discussion</b> – <i>Religious Freedom or Religious Privilege? LGBTIQ reflections.</i>	Ro Allen and Margaret Mayman
	9. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Marguerite Porete: Hearing the Voice of a Beguine Mystic in Today's World</i>	Cathie Lambert

	10. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and eco-spirituality in action</i>	Thea Ormerod Warren Talbot
SATURDAY AFTERNOON		
12.10pm	Lunch/Networking/Book Shop	
1.10	<b>Communal Singing Experience</b> – <i>Empty Sky - Sacred songs from world traditions</i>	Kavisha Mazzella
2.10 Simultaneous Elective Sessions (repeat of morning program)  <b>In the W class-room block</b>	1. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Of Old Trees, Stardust, and Moments of Wonder: A Short Introduction to Religious Naturalism</i>	Rex Hunt
	2. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Jesus and the Transforming Influence of Friendship</i>	John Smith
	3. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Art Making and Reflection on Process</i>	Doug Purnell
	4. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>The Poetics of the Sacred Imagination</i>	Joel McKerrow
	5. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Post-colonial Theology and Sovereignty</i>	Chris Budden
	6. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Deep Despair, Ferocious Hope</i>	Jason John
	7. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Preparing a Common Dreams Statement of the Heart</i>	Norm Habel
	8. <b>Interactive Discussion</b> – <i>Religious Freedom or Religious Privilege? LGBTIQ reflections.</i>	Ro Allen Margaret Mayman
	9. <b>Presentation</b> – <i>Marguerite Porete: Hearing the Voice of a Beguine Mystic in Today's World</i>	Cathie Lambert
	10. <b>Workshop</b> – <i>Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and eco-spirituality in action</i>	Thea Ormerod Warren Talbot
3.10	Afternoon Tea/Coffee. Bookshop and Art Exhibition	
3.40	<b>Film</b> – <b>Australian Premiere</b> – <i>American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel</i>	Robin Meyers
5.35	Dinner/Networking/ Book Shop/ Art Exhibition	

SATURDAY EVENING		
7.00	<b>Performance</b>	Roje Ndayambaje Joel McKerrow
7.30	<b>One Woman Show - Crow (Part 2)</b>	Alex Sangster
7.40	<b>Public Address 3 – Restorative Justice</b>	Anne Pattel-Gray
8.45	Evening Close	

<b>SUNDAY 14 JULY</b>		
MORNING		
8.00	Registrations	
8.15	Meditation (Optional)	Chapel
9.00	Acknowledgement of Traditional Landowners	
9.05	Housekeeping Announcements etc	
9.10	<b>One Woman Show - Crow (Part 3)</b>	Alex Sangster
9.20	<b>Keynote Presentation 5 – <i>Holding Hope and Acting Out: Engaging Tradition and Doing Ethics in Times of Conflict and Crisis</i></b>	Margaret Mayman
10.20	<b>Interview with Matthew Fox</b>	Matthew Fox interviewed by Val Webb
11.00	Morning Tea/Coffee.	
11.30	<b>Interactive Discussion with Matthew Fox</b>	Moderator: Val Webb
12.25pm	<b>Conference Summing Up and Closing Address</b>	Greg Jenks
12.50	Alex Sangster and Song from <i>Empty Sky</i>	Alex Sangster Kavisha Mazzella
1.00	Close	

## CAFÉS AND RESTAURANTS

### *Cafés and Restaurants near Newington*

**Salisbury Hotel**, 118 Percival Road, Stanmore

Pies, main meals and counter meals at reasonable prices. Bookings:

<https://www.salisburyhotel.com.au/kitchen>

9-minute walk (on other side of Stanmore Station). Lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$

**Adam's Pizzeria**, 104 Percival Road, Stanmore

Phone: 9569 9872

9-minute walk (on other side of Stanmore Station). Open from 5pm. \$

**Little Turtle Vegan Thai Restaurant**

10-14 Stanmore Road, Enmore. Phone: 8068 7554

Bookings: <https://www.littleturtlerestaurant.com/>

11-minute walk. Lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$

**Nowa Vegan Café**

109 Crystal Street, Petersham. Phone: 7901 1966. [www.cafenowa.com.au](http://www.cafenowa.com.au)

12-minute walk. 9-3 and 5-9pm. \$-\$\$

**Oxford Tavern**, 1 New Canterbury Road, Petersham

Phone: 9357 5455. <https://www.theoxfordtavern.com.au>

Modern pub food.

12-minute walk. Lunch and dinner. \$\$

### **Coffee and Breakfast (8-10-minute walk)**

**Big Brekky** 316 Stanmore Rd, Petersham

**Paper Cup** 57/161 Cambridge St, Stanmore

**Little Mule Café** 136 Percival Rd, Stanmore

### *Cafés and Restaurants near Pitt Street Church*

**The Edinburgh Castle Hotel**, 294 Pitt Street, Sydney. Quality pub meals, casual dining. Phone: 9264 8616. <https://edinburghcastlehotel.com.au>

**Vanto**, Queen Victoria Building. 1st Floor.

Authentic Italian, including wood fired Naples style pizza, handmade fresh pasta.

Phone: 9267 9959. <https://www.vanto.com.au>. \$\$-\$\$\$

### **Art House Hotel**

Verge Bar. (ground floor). Moderately priced pub food.

275 Pitt Street. Phone: 9284 1200. <https://www.arthousehotel.com.au>

### **Westfield Food Courts - Pitt Street Mall**

Level One Myer Side and Level 5 Westfield side

Large range of food court options – quick and affordable \$-\$\$

**Galleries Victoria** (500 George St, also entrance from Pitt Street near Park St)

#### ***Sushi Hotaru***

Sushi, sashimi, noodles. 1st floor. Phone: 9264 9917

#### ***Yayoi Japanese Restaurant***

1st floor. Rice and miso soup accompany each main dish of meat or fish along with side dishes of vegetables. Phone: 8072 8212. <http://www.yayoi.com.au/>

#### **Lotus The Galleries**

1st floor. A rich tapestry of the new world of Shanghainese cuisine with a nod to Cantonese cuisine. \$\$\$ Phone: 02 9267 3699

<https://www.lotusdining.com.au/restaurant/the-galleries/>

#### **Grill'd Galleries**

1st floor. Healthy hamburgers and salads. Phone: 9264 9566 \$-\$\$

<https://www.grilld.com.au/restaurants/new-south-wales/sydney/galleries>

#### **The Grounds of the City**

Ground floor. Upmarket coffeehouse-inspired restaurant. Phone: 9699 2225

\$\$-\$\$\$ *Bookings online:* <https://thegrounds.com.au/Spaces/the-grounds-of-the-city/>

## **COMMON DREAMS STORY**

The fifth Common Dreams Conference draws together people from Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the world to explore ways that progressive spirituality and religion can contribute positively to the common good, so that they enhance human life rather than diminish it. This exploration is inclusive of progressive expressions of Christianity and other religious and spiritual traditions.

The seeds of Common Dreams were planted in the wake of the Cronulla (NSW) riots in 2005 when a small group of like-minded people gathered to discuss the idea of a national conference. One of the individuals who were part of those early conversations, Greg Jenks, describes Common Dreams like this:

*Common Dreams is intended to be an interfaith and ecumenical project to promote, protect and expand the role of reasonable and tolerant religion in the public space. The significance of Common Dreams as a name for this movement is its potential to invite us beyond differences derived from culture, ethnicity and religion into a shared space where we have common dreams for a better future.*

This conference will bring together a large number of people with an interest in progressive religion and it follows on from successful earlier conferences in Sydney (2007), Melbourne (2010), Canberra (2013) and Brisbane (2016).

## **THEME**

Sacred Earth: Original Blessing, Common Home is a conference for advocates of spirituality and social change, providing inspiration for progressive seekers and sustenance for practical dreamers. International guest speaker, Matthew Fox, leading exponent of Creation Spirituality, will address the conference on prophetic witness for social, environmental and gender justice. Speakers, artists, musicians and presenters will connect their work with the broad principles of creation spirituality.

## **SPONSORS**

Common Dreams is sponsored by an alliance of Australian and New Zealand kindred organisations which promote the study, discussion and implementation of Progressive Christian and other progressive religious and spiritual streams of thought and action. The alliance includes The Centre for Progressive Religious Thought (Canberra), The Centre for Progressive Religious Thought (Sydney), The Progressive Christian Network of Victoria, Progressive Spirituality Network (Queensland), St Luke's Community at Remuera (Auckland), Pitt Street Uniting Church (Sydney), The Progressive Christian Network of South Australia, St Matthew's-in-the-City (Auckland), Progressive Network of Western Australia, and St Andrew's On The Terrace (Wellington).

## **NATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The Conference Program and presenter selection is the responsibility of a National Program Committee consisting of Dick Carter, Margaret Mayman, Alex Sangster, John Smith and Rex Hunt.

## **LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The detailed organisation and logistics for the conference has been carried out by a small group of representatives from Pitt Street Uniting Church, chaired by Jolyon Bromley and Norma Clarke, with the very able assistance of Cynthia Coghill, Pitt Street's Office Manager.

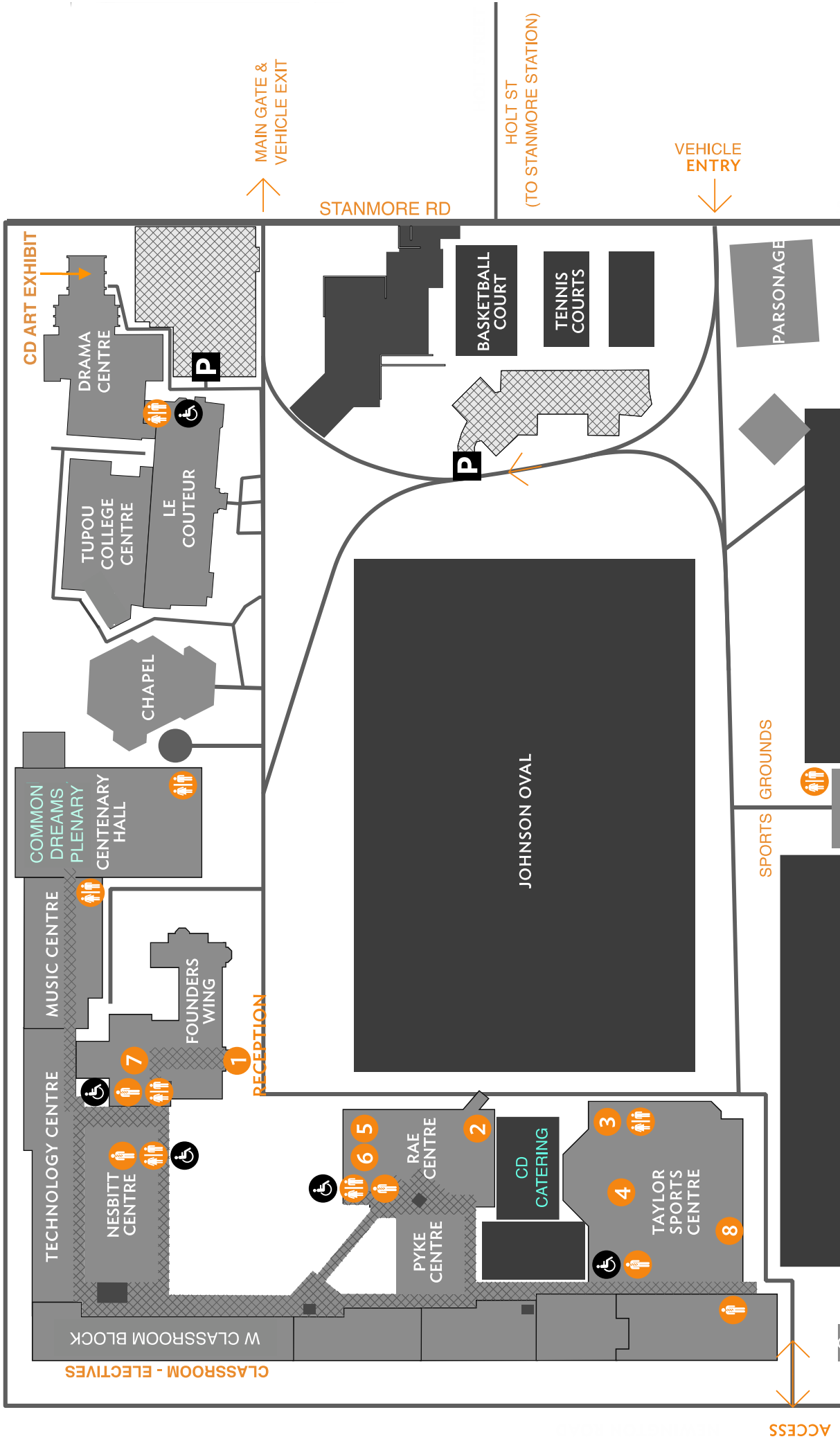
## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Telephone: 03 9571 4575  
Email: [info@commondreams.org.au](mailto:info@commondreams.org.au)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The National Program Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee would like to express their grateful appreciation to all those who have made this event possible.

Thank you for participating in Common Dreams 2019.  
We look forward to seeing you at future events.



- 1 RECEPTION
- 2 CAFETERIA
- 3 FUNCTION CENTRE
- 4 GYMNASIUM
- 5 OLD BOYS LECTURE THEATRE
- 6 LIBRARY
- 7 PRESCOTT HALL
- 8 SWIMMING POOL
- ♿ BOYS TOILET
- ♿ STAFF TOILETS
- ♿ ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

ACCESS