

Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of WA

“People Caring For People”



**2026 ONE DAY SEMINAR &
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th April 2026

The Ingot Hotel
Great Eastern Highway Redcliffe WA 6104

Registration for Day Program &
CCA WA Board Nomination Form

Message from the CCAWA President

As the CCAWA Board prepare to start to plan for the annual seminar they try to source a range of topics that they feel would be of interest to members and sponsors attending the event. This year they are looking at how and where we can gain support not only at the time of death but before and after. Our key note speaker for 2026 is Gary Crombie and his best friend Levi. Gary, a Vietnam Veteran, suffered PTSD however when the opportunity arose to have Levi as his support dog, his life was turned around not only benefiting Gary but the lives of many others. You will all be inspired by Gary's heartwarming story with Levi by his side.

There will also be presentations from a range of speakers which we are sure you will all find interesting, these are outlined further in this preliminary program.

After the overwhelming success of the 2025 seminar at the Ingot Hotel, the CCAWA Board made the decision to return to the venue due to the service received and the location being ease of proximity for everyone travelling by road or air. The Ingot Hotel, Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe WA 6104 is close to the Perth CBD, major attractions and 10 minutes from the Perth Airport.

The CCAWA Board will also be providing delegates with an afternoon workshop to discuss bringing in line documents used in regional shire councils for ease of use to funeral directors, council administration and general cemetery staff.

There will be the opportunity to attend a casual and informal dinner and networking to follow in the evening of Thursday, 16th April followed by a full day of sessions including the AGM on Friday 17th April. The seminar dinner on Friday evening will conclude the event.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Redcliffe in April for our 2026 One Day Seminar and AGM.

Mrs. Christine McGrath

President, Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of Western Australia

2026 CCAWA Board Elections

At the 2026 Seminar and Annual General Meeting, four Board positions including Secretary, Treasurer and two Director positions will become vacant. All four positions are for a two year term.

Becoming a CCAWA Board member is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to contribute to the development of the cemeteries and crematorium business across Western Australia.

In addition to contributing as a Board member, membership on the Board can be a valuable professional development opportunity – regardless of your usual position of employment.

Cemetery and crematorium staff with any level of experience – or even inexperience – are encouraged to put their hand up as a Board member. The Board meets a minimum of four times a year, on a Friday, with travel subsidisation provided to Board members from regional cemeteries.

If you have any questions about nominating as a Board Member for 2026/2027, please contact the secretary, Mrs. Anne Dixon on 0409 681 536 or email ccawasecretary@gmail.com

**Remember, without an active Board, there will be no Association.
Please give consideration and express your interest.**

Introduction

As in previous years, this year's one day seminar titled **"People Caring for People"** is again offering a range of interesting and varied industry related topics. The CCAWA Board encourage not only management and administration staff but all cemetery and industry employees, including funeral directors and monumental masons to attend this worthwhile annual event. It is as great opportunity to listen, learn, see the latest products and make industry connections. Please complete the registration form and return it to the Secretary, Anne Dixon – full details can be found on page 12 of this document.

Registration closes on Friday 27th March 2026.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

The President and CCAWA Board of Directors will offer a workshop on Thursday afternoon, **16 April 2026**. This session will include an open forum focused on document completion procedures, identifying the correct documents to use, and ensuring accurate record keeping.

Funeral directors and monumental masons will also have the opportunity to share their preferred documentation formats, with the aim of supporting a consistent process for all shires.

The informal dinner will be FREE for those who have registered their attendance for the workshop and for the full day seminar on Friday.

There will be a charge if you only attend the dinner and not the workshop.

We look forward to welcoming you at this event! **Register your interest on page 12.**

“People Caring for People” 2026 CCAWA SEMINAR PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The session times have been finalised for this year's seminar, an overview of topics to be covered are listed here to allow for early registration for the CCAWA 2026 Seminar titled **"People Caring for People."**

The seminar will be officially opened on Friday, 17th April, 2026 by the Hon. Minister, Hannah Beazley MLA, via a pre-recorded message, followed by the General meeting and AGM.

The 2026 Peter MacLean Award winner will be announced during the day and the presentation of the award will be made to the successful recipient.

The topics to be covered will give delegates a fantastic range of useful information relevant for administrative staff through to operational and outdoor teams. Also included will be the latest updates and trends in equipment, plaques and memorial keepsakes.

The seminar is a must-attend event for those wishing to provide the highest level of service for WA families at their time of bereavement, whilst ensuring that all the 'boxes are ticked' and the process from start to finish is as smooth as possible.

THURSDAY 16 th APRIL	WORKSHOP	
1.45pm	Meet in Foyer	
2.00pm	Workshop	Hotel Conference Room
4.30pm	Workshop Ends	
6.30pm	Casual Dinner & Networking	Hotel Conference Room
FRIDAY 17 th APRIL 2026	SEMINAR & AGM	
8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	Official Welcome	Minister Hannah Beazeley - Pre-recorded Message
9.15am	Acknowledgement to Country	Christine McGrath – CCAWA President
9.20am	CCAWA General Meeting & AGM	Christine McGrath - CCAWA President
9.30am	ACCA (Australasian Cemeteries & Crematoria Assoc.) Update	Ben Kelly CEO - ACCA TBC
9.40am	2025 Peter MacLean Award Winner Update	Anthony Marriott - City of Busselton
9.50am	Peter MacLean Award Presentation 2026 Presentation Peter MacLean 2026 Award - Peter MacLean AM PSM JP will present the 2026 Peter Maclean Award for contribution to the cemetery industry. Proudly sponsored by 2026 Major Sponsors and ACCA.	Mr. Peter Maclean AM PSM JP - Past CEO of the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board and Emeritus Fellow and Life Member of ACCA
10.00am	Major Sponsor Presentation – Phoenix Foundry Update	Joe Campbell & Kelly Mulchay
10.15am	Morning Tea & Trade Viewing	
10.45am	Major Sponsor – Arrow Bronze Update	Hymie Jechilevsky & Brendan O'Connor
11.00am	Key Note – The Lifeline of “Levi” and how he cares for Gary.	Gary Crombie & Levi
11.40am	Major Sponsor – PlotBox Update	Martin Jackson & Kris Miller
11.55am	Presentation - SaCAS : Service and Creative Skills Australia	Natalie Turmine, CEO
12.15pm	Presentation : A Day In the Life of a Mortician and in the Mortuary.	Jessie Piper-Lilley William Barrett & Sons Funeral Home

12.35pm	Major Sponsor – Everlon Update	Rodney Claxton & Fenella Richards
12.50pm	Lunch & Trade Viewing	
1.30pm	Major Sponsor – Chronicle Update	Sam Gibb TBC
1.45pm	Presentation : Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace and the Effects of Musco Skeletal Injuries in the Workplace.	Mark Lewis - Senior Inspector Scientific Officer Occupational Health & Hygiene Team
2.15pm	Funerals Australia (formerly AFDA) Update	Craig Renshaw – WA Divisional President
2.25pm	Presentation : What Happens After The Funeral?	Michelle Moriarty - Grief Connect
2.55pm	Major Sponsor – Final Touch (Aust.) Update	Chris Harrington – Business Development Manager
3.10pm	Presentation : Doing It Safe, Getting it Right.	Fiona Hurst - Footprint Training
3.35pm	Afternoon Tea & Trade Display	
3.20pm	Major Sponsor – Hyqual Update	Online Presentation
3.35pm	OAWG (Office of Australian War Graves) Presentation: Who Qualifies & Completing Applications for Recognition.	Simon Geraghty - Director, Office of Australian War Graves, Official Commemorations and Information Services
4.00pm	Overview of Workshop from Thursday Afternoon	
4.10pm	Q & A on any topic	
4.15pm	Seminar Close	CCAWA President - Christine McGrath
6.15pm	Pre – Dinner Drinks	Hotel Conference Room
7.00pm	Dinner	

Peter MacLean Award Presentation

Presentation of the 2026 Peter MacLean Award with take place with the winner being announced and presented with their Award.

Keynote Speaker – Gary Crombie & his support dog, ‘Levi’

Imagine a future where proactive mental health support isn’t confined to therapy offices, but walks alongside you, sensing distress before it escalates. For many living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), that future is already here, thanks to the unwavering companionship and specialized training of

service dogs. But the story of these incredible animals is rapidly evolving, moving beyond simply mitigating symptoms to potentially predicting and preventing crises – and their impact could soon extend far beyond the veteran community.

The Lifeline of Levi: A Veteran's Journey and a Growing Need

Royal Australian Navy veteran Gary Crombie's story, like many others, underscores the profound impact a service dog can have. After years of silent struggle with PTSD stemming from his time in submarines, Crombie found a lifeline in Levi, a golden retriever trained by Dogs For Life. Levi doesn't just offer companionship; he anticipates nightmares, provides grounding during anxiety, and facilitates social interaction – a crucial element often lost in the isolation of trauma. This isn't an isolated case. A 2023 study by the National Centre for PTSD found that veterans with service dogs reported significantly lower rates of suicidal ideation and improved overall quality of life.

"I can't look after myself, how could I possibly look after a dog?" Gary initially questioned, a sentiment echoed by many potential recipients. But the transformative power of the human-animal bond, coupled with rigorous training, consistently proves otherwise. The key lies in the dog's ability to detect subtle physiological changes – increased heart rate, shallow breathing, muscle tension – that precede a PTSD episode.

Gary and his best friend Levi's story is sure to inspire you.

Additional Speakers

Fiona Hurst – Doing It Safe, Getting it Right

Fiona Hurst from Footprint Training Fiona's extensive experience across horticulture and landscaping led her to work in the funeral services industry. She has been an educator for 18 years, originally working with Holmesglen Institute in Victoria. From there she has developed partnerships working as a lead practitioner in this field with Cemetery associations in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the National body including Queensland. Her knowledge and expertise in safety and best practise is the main focus of her consulting business.

Her passion and knowledge have helped influence changing practises within this industry. Over the past 14 years Fiona has developed innovative models for delivery of training for a range of cemeteries across Australia. She has delivered Certificate III in Gravedigging, Grounds and Maintenance in both Western Australia for The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board and in Victoria for The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and the Geelong Cemetery Trust. In addition, she has facilitated Certificate III in Cemetery and Crematoria Operations for the MCB. Fiona has supported CCAWA over the last 3years providing 2 day training courses for those in WA attending all areas of the state. Training sessions have been held in Perth, Busselton, Albany, Geraldton to Kununurra in the north.

Fionas passion is to provide a catalyst for all learners within the Funeral Services Industry to develop best practice standards via a flexible training model.

Senior Inspector Scientific Officer Mark Lewis - Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace

We are all aware of the consequences of the use of drugs and alcohol in the workplace, while representing your organization and being in uniform off site.

A range of factors, both at the workplace and in people's personal lives, impact on the ability to work safely. The use of alcohol and/or other drugs may be one of them. Alcohol and other drugs usage becomes an occupational safety and health issue if a worker's ability to exercise judgment, coordination, motor control, concentration and alertness at the workplace is impaired, leading to increased risk of injury or incidents to themselves or others. Co-workers may be placed in difficult situations, expected to cover unsafe work practices or faced with reporting a fellow worker. Workers must take reasonable care of their own safety and health and not endanger the safety and health of others at the workplace. The

consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs while at work is therefore unacceptable, except in relation to any authorised and responsible use of alcohol at workplace social functions. Workers should present themselves for work and remain, while at work, capable of performing their work duties safely. For employers, alcohol and other drugs can cause a range of problems. In some cases, their use may lead to loss of life, injury and damage to plant or equipment. Employers have a general 'duty of care' obligation to ensure that, as far as practicable, workers are not exposed to hazards and risks that could arise from workers being impaired by alcohol and/or other drugs and, where they may arise, address them through a systematic risk management process. This guidance note is presented as a starting point to address relevant issues where usage of alcohol and/or other drugs may have occupational safety and health considerations at the workplace including Musco skeletal injuries.

Michelle Moriarty – Life After The Funeral

Founder of Grief Connect | National Award-Winning Social Worker | Keynote Speaker

Michelle Moriarty is a national award-winning social worker and the founder of Grief Connect, a service dedicated to helping individuals, workplaces and communities navigate grief with clarity, compassion and confidence.

Through her counselling services, community programs and professional education, Michelle supports people after a death and provides practical frameworks that make the grief journey less overwhelming. Her work includes After the Funeral: The Unspoken Next Steps e-guide, individual counselling, and tailored programs designed to help organisations communicate about grief with greater understanding and care.

She is also the creator of The Grief Language Project, an online education program launching in 2026, and the Connect Cards, a set of practical conversation tools that help professionals—including funeral directors and crematorium staff—feel more confident supporting those grieving.

Combining lived experience, clinical practice and community advocacy, Michelle's work honours grief while empowering people to rebuild, reconnect with life, and move forward in their own time and in their own way.

Simon Geraghty, Director - Office of Australian War Graves, Official Commemorations and Information Services

The Office of Australian War Graves (Federal Government) – Maintain War Graves annually over 159 locations throughout WA. From Esperance all the way up to Wyndham. Currently they look after over 6,400 War Graves and plaques.

The OAWG (Office of Australian War Graves) has provided individual commemorations for veterans and war dead in more than 3,200 general and civil cemeteries and commemorative sites around Australia. It is done hand in hand with state and local Governments and their authorities, as well privately and trust managed sites. OAWG cares for, supports and provides services to a unique and highly valued section of the Australian Community. More than 1 million people have served in Australia's Defence Forces. OAWG has provided and cares for more than 326,000 individual commemorations around Australia. More than 23,000 of these are in individual commemorations in cemeteries and commemoratives sites in Western Australia.

They are committed to ensuring that they maintain a level of service to veterans and their families that remains relevant and that is accessible to them. The OAWG is going to verify, what they do, and examine how they work together to support veterans, service personnel, and their families to obtain recognition for the service of their loved ones.

Jessie Piper-Lilley – What Inspired Jessie To Become A Mortician And Complete The Work She Performs In The Mortuary

Jessie developed an interest in her profession from a young age, and after experiencing a profound loss, and wanted to support other local families through their grief.

Providing families with the opportunity to say their final goodbyes is an important part of the grief

journey, one they will remember forever.

Jessie finds it a privilege to be entrusted with people's loved ones. It brings comfort knowing that a morticians skills can leave a lasting positive impact on families during these difficult times.

Jessie recently graduated and was presented with her Certified Embalmer certificate in New Zealand, a credit to her hard work and commitment to the industry.

Jessie is proud to be a member of the William Barrett and Sons Mortuary care team.

SaCSA – Presenter Name TBC

Service and Creative Skills Australia (SaCSA) is an industry-owned, industry-led Jobs and Skills Council funded by the Australian Government. We represent the Personal Services, Arts, Retail, Tourism and Hospitality industries.

The funeral, cemetery and crematoria sectors are included under the 'Personal Services' umbrella.

SaCSA works within a tripartite approach with industry, government and unions, to identify, forecast and respond to current and emerging workforce challenges. SaCSA provides workforce planning, training product development, implementation support, and industry stewardship, ensuring training is relevant, high quality and aligned with industry needs.

Within the funeral, cemetery and crematoria industries, SaCSA collaborates with employers, peak bodies, training providers and unions to understand workforce trends and skills needs. This includes mapping career pathways, addressing skills shortages, and supporting accessible, fit-for-purpose training that reflects the unique operational, cultural and community-focused work of these sectors.

SaCSA's purpose is to provide deeper insights and targeted workforce solutions so that industry has the right people with the right skills at the right time.

SaCSA will address the delegates on current work and projects in the cemetery and crematoria sectors.

Throughout the day we will also hear updates from *Major sponsors for 2026: Arrow Bronze; Chronicle; Everlon; Final Touch Australia Pty. Ltd; Hyqual; Phoenix Foundry and PlotBox, together with reports from ACCA and Funerals Australia previously known as AFDA.*

The sponsors updates provide us with the latest information and technology together with samples of new and available products that are useful to the unique industry we are privileged to work in.

Should time prevail, the day will conclude with an open forum question and answer session for any of your unresolved industry questions you may have, together with an update from Thursdays workshop for those unable to attend.

We invite you to forward any questions or subjects you may like answers to before the seminar and we'll endeavour to have the responses ready for the Open Forum session as other attendees also may find them to be interesting and helpful. Please email any queries/ and or questions to Secretary, Anne Dixon email: ccawasecretary@gmail.com

MUST ATTEND EVENT

All these areas come together in the sad event of a burial or cremation. The seminar is a must attend event for all in the field to gain knowledge and support of each other's specialised areas across the industry.

This seminar would not be possible without the generous contribution of our sponsors who have supported us over the years. We sincerely thank the **"Major" 2026 Sponsors** to date: Arrow Bronze; Chronicle, Everlon, Final Touch (Australia) Ltd., Hyqual Australia, Phoenix Foundry and PlotBox and **"Minor" Sponsors:** Dawsons Funeral Home Narrogin & Katanning, William Barrett & Sons, Funerals

Australia (AFDA) and of course ACCA. We could not offer a successful event like this without them and their support/ financial contributions each year.

ACCOMMODATION

The Ingot Hotel situated on Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe is one of Perth's newest four star hotels, conveniently located just minutes from the Perth Airport and the CBD. The highly accessible position places you right in the centre of major attractions such as Optus Stadium, the Casino, Swan Valley, Ascot Racecourse and DFO Perth.

The Ingot Hotel have provided CCAWA with a discounted rate for accommodation, see below.

Superior Queen Room at a rates below per night with optional breakfast.

15th April - \$203.15 per room per night & optional add on of breakfast at \$30

16th April - \$211.65 per room per night & optional add on of breakfast at \$30

17th April - \$186.15 per room per night & optional add on of breakfast at \$30

The Ingot Hotels booking code will be updated as soon as available. The Ingot Hotel apologise for any inconvenience however the website is being upgraded. If you wish to book early, remember to advise the hotel you will be attending the CCAWA seminar or contact functions@ingothotel.com.au or (08) 92593888 (Functions Manager) or reservations@ingothotel.com.au or hotel reception (08) 9438 7110.

Bookings at these prices will be available until mid-March, then all rooms will be subject to availability at the time of booking.

After the booking portal closes the hotel will continue to take bookings from guests but the rooms will be subject to availability at the time of booking and price. To reserve your room please contact the hotel direct, CCAWA will not be responsible for bookings.



There are other hotels within walking distance of the Ingot Hotel on Great Eastern Highway should you wish to check out alternate accommodation.

GETTING TO THE INGOT HOTEL

The Ingot Hotel, Redcliffe is a short 10 minute drive from Perth Airports and close to the DFO and

Woolworths, Redcliffe, Perth CBD via Great Eastern Highway, Tonkin Highway or the Mitchell Freeway. Taxis and Ubers are available with a shuttle service to and from the hotel available for your convenience.

DINING OPTIONS

Breakfast will be available at the hotel if confirmed at the time of booking. Don't forget to say you are booking for the CCAWA Seminar for your discounted rate, see above details with room prices.

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea – These are included as part of your seminar registration.

Thursday Evening – A casual, informal dinner will follow after the workshop. **Both of these will be a NO CHARGE events ONLY IF you are attending the workshop and full day seminar on Friday.** *Please confirm your attendance with your registration.*

Friday Evening – The seminar day program will conclude with “Pre-dinner drinks” followed by dinner including drinks [Beer, wine & soft drink].

CCA WA WISH TO THANK ALL OUR SPONSORS AND
PRESENTERS FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2026 WORKSHOP AND ONE DAY
SEMINAR

Major Sponsors for 2026



Minor Sponsors for 2026



Attendance Details:

Please tick box if you do not wish to disclose your contact details to sponsors.

Name of Organisation:

Representatives attending:

Name: _____ Position: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Key organisation contact details for correspondence:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Attendance Details:

Thursday afternoon Workshop	No Charge
Thursday night Dinner	No Charge
Seminar Registration – Members	\$160 per person
Seminar Registration – Non-Members	\$220 per person
Friday Dinner (inc meal, soft drink, beer & wine)	\$90 per person

Please advise of any special dietary requirements:

Total attendees for Thursday Workshop _____ No Charge

Total attendees for dinner (Thursday) _____ No Charge
if attending workshop and full day seminar

Total attendees for seminar _____ attendees at a total of \$ _____

Total attendees for dinner (Friday) _____ attendees at a total of \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: _____ **PLEASE NOTE:** No refunds will be offered.

Payment Options

As CCAWA is GST exempt you may use this form as your Tax Invoice ABN: 28 572 66 09

A cheque for: \$ _____ is enclosed or funds have been transferred to: **Westpac Bank, BSB 036-168, Account No 487240.** Please include your organisation name.

Payment needs to be made by: **Friday 27th March 2026.**

Please return Registration Form and payment advice to:

Secretary, Anne Dixon
at email: ccawasecretary@gmail.com



CCAWA 2026 BOARD NOMINATIONS

NOMINATION FORM BOARD MEMBER

The undersigned representatives of Ordinary Members of the Association hereby nominate:

(Full Name): _____

For the position of: _____

Proposer: _____ Signed _____

Seconder: _____ Signed _____

Date: _____

The following background information on the nominee is provided for Members' information.
Nominations are due to Anne Dixon, Secretary CCAWA
before 8.30am Friday 17th April 2026 – or at the Seminar registration
desk.

Vacancies:

Four Director position's will become vacant including Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors, each for a two-year term.