

You Can Join

If you wish to become a member, please email the Membership Secretary at prcowley@gmail.com
With:

- Your name, address and phone number

- If you wish to receive the newsletter by email or printed copy. (Email costs \$20 and Printed copy within New Zealand \$50 a year, printed copy sent overseas NZ\$90 (there are approx 6 a year)

- If you are interested in joining a local group then please let me know this as well and I can forward your contact details to the nearest group.

Note: we can no longer accept cheques so payments need to be made directly to our Kiwibank account 38-9000-0807809-00 with your name and sub as references so I can identify you.

Sea of Faith Steering Committee 2020-2021

Life Members: Sir Lloyd Geering, Don Cupitt, Ian Harris
Noel Cheer (Dec'd), Suzi Thirlwall, Yvonne Curtis, Pete Cowley

Chairperson:

Ian Crumpton
ian.crumpton@gmail.com

Secretary:

Steve Collard
rosteve@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer:

Philip Grimmett
grimmettphil@gmail.com

Membership Secretary & Webmaster:

Pete Cowley,
P. O. Box 321
Gisborne 4040
prcowley@gmail.com

Conference Committee Chair: -

Local Groups Contact:

Committee Members:

Brian Ellis, Laurie Chisholm, John Thornley, Roger Wiig

Newsletter Team:

Laurie Chisholm, laurie.chisholm1@gmail.com

Barbara Purchas, Joycelyn Kirkwood

Shirley Dixon, Maria Cash

Distribution: Yvonne Curtis (print copies)

Pete Cowley (email copies)

Archivist:

Alison Eng
alison.eng@xtra.co.nz



Sea of Faith in Aotearoa

Exploring
Values
Spirituality
Meaning

In New Zealand

Sea of Faith began in New Zealand in 1992 following the formation of the network in Britain in 1989. A network operates in Australia Also. In Australia and NZ we are now SOFiA

SOFiA(otearoa) is autonomous and publishes its own regular Newsletter, assists in setting up local discussion groups, maintains a website and holds annual Conferences.

For details, see the website at sof.org.nz

Local Groups of SOFiA meet in various venues throughout New Zealand to continue the discussions.

Our formal name is
Sea of Faith Network (NZ) Inc.

The Contact for the nearest Local Group is

29/04/20

Positioning Statements

**Sea Of Faith in Aotearoa (SOFiA)
IS AN ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE** who have a common interest in exploring religious thought and expression from a non-dogmatic and human-oriented standpoint
AFFIRMS the continuing importance of religious thought and practice as a vehicle for awe and wonder and for the celebration of key social and spiritual values;
DRAWS freely upon our spiritual heritage without being bound by it;
PROMOTES the quest for meaning and fulfilment as a human activity;
PROVIDES encouragement, stimulation and support in fellowship with others engaged in the quest.

SOFiA itself has no creed.

It draws its members from people of all faiths and also from those with no attachment to religious institutions.

*The website at sof.org.nz
gives details of Local Group
contacts and access to a large
library of interesting papers.*

Why “Sea of Faith”?

The name comes from a phrase in Matthew Arnold's poem “Dover Beach”:

*The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's
shore,
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furl'd.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.*

In 1984 the phrase was used as the title of a BBC television documentary series and book by the English theologian Don Cupitt.

These traced pivotal changes in western science, philosophy and religion over the past 350 years, which together call for a radical rethinking of our faith traditions.

It was as a consequence of this TV series and book that Sea of Faith emerged, initially as a Network in the UK and later additionally in New Zealand and Australia as SOFiA – Sea Of Faith in Aotearoa and Sea Of Faith in Australia.