

# Report to the Annual General Meeting 2 October 2015

## Newsletter and Website

Noel Cheer

**Introduction.** There are two recognised styles of communication between a central body and its distributed members: 'push' and 'pull'. In our case, the Steering Committee can send 'push' information via letters, emails and Newsletters or it can arrange for the recipients to 'pull' information from the Website.

**My role** is to provide both the formalised 'push' and 'pull' by managing, respectively, the Newsletter and the Internet Website.

**The 'Sea of Faith Newsletter'** is produced and distributed each second month. As Editor I solicit, find, and accept book reviews and short monographs from any source that provides worthwhile material. Though it is a vehicle primarily for the distribution of the works of local members (I even write a small percentage of the copy myself) I would repeat my annual plea for more local input.

Producing the Newsletter is a collaborative process. I typeset the copy using Microsoft Word, editing it as I go. My wife, Shirley Dixon (more skilled than I in such matters) fine-tunes the grammar, punctuation and spelling. The printing is done by the printing department of the Wellington City Council which provide excellent print quality at an acceptable price. Peter Cowley, in his Steering Committee role of Membership Secretary, provides pre-printed labels to Yvonne Curtis who puts the Newsletters in envelopes and mails them. Emailed Newsletters (about one-half of the total) which readers receive at a reduced fee, are sent by Peter. Some gratis copies (paper or email as appropriate) go to overseas contacts and to selected libraries in New Zealand.

I thank these co-workers: Shirley Dixon, Peter Cowley and Yvonne Curtis.

I started working on the Newsletter in May 1995 with Issue 16 by typesetting the copy produced by the then editor, Lloyd Geering, for which I gained the title 'Joint Editor'. By the middle of 1996 the full editorship mantle lay on my shoulders where it has remained. Issue 120 was sent out recently. While I have no wish to relinquish the role, democratic processes or mortality might reclaim it.

The eight-weekly cycle of collecting, collating, editing, typesetting and commissioning its printing and distribution continues smoothly. The modest amount of feedback (all positive) that I get is gratifying. Critical feedback is also welcomed but such contributors should be aware that their own gem of critique could easily be countered by someone else's. In this case the editor must assume the role of referee.

**The Website** is located at [www.sof.org.nz](http://www.sof.org.nz) and is freely accessible by anyone. It provides 'bulletin board' information (such as SoF committee and local group contact details and Conference details) and archival information (such as back-number Newsletters and papers from past Conferences). I update the Website in real-time – that is, when the needed changes become obvious. A person skilled in creating and maintaining websites will observe that the coding methods used are 'naïve' rather than 'sophisticated' (think '*Chopsticks*' rather than Liszt). This is a deliberate policy on my part which would assist my speedy replacement as webmaster when this proves necessary.

Our website is hosted by Godzone NZ – a Christian organisation that imposes no restraints or obligations on us – except to pay a fee.

**Noel Cheer**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Webmaster**

**18 September 2015**