



Convergence Newsletter

Nr 43 — May 2017

Welcome to the second Convergence newsletter for 2017. Read on for info about mini gatherings and other ways to connect with the Convergence family. A lot of good things have happened already this year, let's make the winter months a time to share together.

Thank you for everyone's contribution for this newsletter. The next newsletters are planned for approximately 2 weeks before each mini gathering. Notices very welcome, please send to mynotice@convergence.org.nz.

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Convergence Notices and Newsletter

There now is an email list for Convergence notices, which are sent out more often than the newsletter, and are better for news that can't wait. You can get more information and opt-in here: <http://convergence.org.nz/notices>.

Send notices you would like to be included to mynotice@convergence.org.nz.

Contributions for the next newsletter can be sent to mynotice@convergence.org.nz. To be added to the newsletter recipients list send email to info@convergence.net.nz. The newsletter is produced approximately 4–5 times a year.

Mini Gathering 6/7 May 2017 — Journey's End

Fri 5/5 evening to Sunday 7/5 afternoon

Lots of people needed for a weekend of connection, fun and energy. Bring food for a big potluck meal on Saturday evening, shared Sat and Sun lunches, and your own breakfasts.

The sauna will be going, create music, dance, bring games for the evenings, or have a sharing circle. Other activities welcome too. Bring instruments, but consider leaving recorded music at home.

Things we'd like to get done include:

- Dig out poisonous plants — hemlock and deadly nightshades.
- Clean guttering of cabins if necessary.
- There are still plenty of pine cones, free for the taking.
- Chip slash piles on the top field, and/or cut some more firewood for yourself if you like.
- Maybe more stripping of wall linings, as part of building renovations — details at the time.

Bring if you have:

- Gardening tools + gloves.
- Ear muffs, safety glasses, work gloves.
- Sturdy shoes.
- Crow bar, hammer, dust mask, etc., if helping with removing wall linings.

Firewood weekends continue — May, June, July

Last weekend of the month: 27/28 May, 24/25 June, 29/30 July

Want free firewood? There is still plenty of firewood left in heaps at Journey's End, that are in the way of Convergence. Please help with getting rid of the heaps, and take the firewood home with you.

These dates are in addition to the mini-gatherings at Journey's End, except that July coincides.

Contact Don 03 338 9865 (9 rings to answerphone; no email or social media).

Mid-winter celebration

24/25 June

On 24 June, after firewood clearing, we'll celebrate the work so far this year by roasting potatoes, marshmallows, banana splits and other yummy food on a big outside fire.

There were rumours of smoked ribs (seared on each side and simmered) from vegetarian deer (that didn't die from lead poisoning) for the feast, but not all rumours are to be believed...

See firewood weekends above for details.

Chapel Carpet Replacement — Help Needed Now

Feel like contributing to Convergence with a small job? We need someone to phone carpet layers for laying new carpet in the chapel at Journey's End. Check tradespeople in Rangiora before Christchurch, because it's easier for them to get there.

If the carpet can be laid on Sat 29 July (a mini gathering weekend), lunch will be provided for the tradies and helpers will be at hand. We would really like to get this done by this date.

Convergence needs quotes first. Job details:

Size of the carpet is 4.96 m × 8.00 m with rectangular shape.

Location: 202 Smarts Rd, Journey's End, Rangiora.

Take up existing carpet and take it off-site for disposal.

Replacement carpet (in 3 pieces) is on-site ready to lay. Underlay and tack strips are in place.

The site owners require Convergence to replace the chapel carpet because Convergence people have damaged it with candles (tut tut folks — this is wasting your ticket money). If you regularly use the chapel maybe this is a good opportunity to help look after your space. We're asking for help with finding a contractor, so you don't have to be in Christchurch (or nearby) to contribute.

Contact us if you can help: <http://convergence.org.nz/contact> (or Don, Gail, Volker, ...)

From Convergence to Emergence or Divergence?

At Convergence earlier this year there was a distinct feel of a shift in energy at the event. The fact that the site had been somewhat altered by the removal of many trees, and the scars and mess left behind by the contractors, all obviously had a profound effect on many who attended, and indeed on many who did not attend. Changes had to be made to adapt to the new Convergence environment from that which we had known in preceding years and at the end, the words "that was the best Convergence ever", or similar, were frequently heard.

Why?

For me, Surendra nailed it when he said "How about changing the name of the event from Convergence to Emergence". Discussion continued here and there and someone proposed that this year's theme be "From Convergence to Emergence".

A new "Introduction to Heart Sharing Circles" circle started up at 10 a.m. in the Water tent, which emerged from the 7.30 a.m. sharing circles over the stream.

A new "Wild Women's Circle" emerged from the usual 4 p.m. "Women's Circle".

Some people thought these new ventures were creating divergence but, for me, their emergence totally complemented the existing circles giving more choice. The 7.30 circle still served those who attended and (I have it on good female authority) apparently the same happened for the women.

Seems to me that I/we have the choice of either fighting change and having 'Divergence' or embracing change and having 'Emergence'. Within myself I have resisted letting go of editing the Convergence newsletter until this year when, suddenly I found myself embracing that change and handing it on to the new team who appear to be full of fresh energy.

Thus a new look Convergence newsletter has emerged.

So — the theme for this year? "From Convergence to Emergence"?

River

Amana's Birthday Leaving Party

Sat 13 May, from 7:30 pm, 41 Grantley St, North New Brighton

Potluck, mask party (wear a mask that you feel expresses you, and clothes to match). Bring food and drink to share, musical instruments. All welcome.

Autumn 2017 Weekend for Men

Queen's Birthday Weekend — Friday 2nd – Monday 5th June 2017

Rotoiti Lodge, St Arnaud, Nelson Lakes

Our Autumn 2017 Weekend for Men will be held at Rotoiti Lodge, St. Arnaud, Nelson Lakes, over Queen's Birthday Weekend. We'll connect over an evening meal on Friday 2nd June, followed by an introductory circle, sharing our intentions for our time together. Our weekend will evolve from that process and we'll finish up around 1 pm Monday 5th June 2017.

It's in the kitchen preparing food for others where we grow our community of men, in our circles where we deepen our connection, and in our play where we celebrate as men.



This weekend offers the opportunity to step outside our daily lives, lives that may define and limit us. Learning from past experience, we'll use both sharing circles and open space to allow each one of us the opportunity to claim what we need for ourselves.

There will be opportunities to offer processes, facilitate a discussion on a topic that is real for you, walk in nature, or simply take time out. This is not a workshop, but rather an opportunity to co-facilitate our time together.

Music has been an evolving theme of late. I love guitars, drums and voices, especially when I have access to the words for songs, either on paper, or projected up on the wall so we all have the opportunity to sing. So, bring what you need to make music together.

A continuing delight for me are the men who return time after time bringing their evolving life stories, and the new men who bring their life experiences and enquiry to enliven our circle with new perspectives and fresh ideas.

Accommodation will be \$35/night, a little more if you can afford it. However, if money is tight, talk to me and we'll support your attendance. Bring your own breakfasts and food to share for combined lunches and dinners, which we will prepare communally.

Do come prepared to take responsibility for what you need and to participate fully. Be ready to embrace the richness of a shared enlivened experience with open-hearted men. If it feels right, please actively spread the word and possibly invite another man to come with you.

Regards,

Murray (03) 546 4927 inglisforestry@xtra.co.nz

Mini Gathering Dates for 2017

This year's dates are:

- 6/7 May
- 29/30 July (winter social, with roasting fire)
- 14/15 October
- 9/10 December (BBQ, and final site preparation for Convergence)

Put these dates in your calendar now if you haven't already, and join in weekends of socialising, fun, and helping care for the site so our ticket prices stay low. Usually someone is there from Friday afternoon/evening. It's well worth participating, for keeping the Convergence energy up and not having to wait a whole year.

Details for each weekend will be sent out closer to the time. Go to <http://convergence.org.nz/notices> to be added to the notices list if you aren't already.