



Convergence Newsletter

Nr 44 — July 2017

Welcome to the third newsletter for this year. Yay, we've had a good fire roast, and don't worry, there's another one very soon at the July mini gathering! Also: memories of Scott Mieras, chapel carpets, big news about Leigh Lodge, sharing circles, and thoughts about emerging divergence, or was it diverging emergence?

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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 (before mini gatherings).

Mini-Gathering 29/30 July 2017 — Journey's End

Fri 28/7 evening to Sun 30/7 afternoon

This weekend in July is in the middle of winter and at the darker time of the year, so traditionally there is more socialising. Hey, it's OK to come only for the socialising!

Come 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. If people wish to bring out marshmallows or potatoes that's great, there are plans for another fire.

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.

Come and stay for the weekend, or for as little or long as you like. Some accommodation is available. As it falls onto the last weekend of the month, some people may cut some firewood for themselves. Do bring a lunch and stay for the day if you want firewood, because your trailer won't just fill itself... There are opportunities to learn how to use a chainsaw.

Things we'd like to get done include:

- Prepare chapel for Sat morning 10:00 carpet laying. Move chairs, heavy piano, sofas.
- Replace big hammer handles. Don will get parts.
- Strip remaining wall linings (as marked) from Leigh Lodge.
- Burn remaining slashings from second slash pile on top field.
- Start up the wood chipper and chip more of the slash piles.
- Cut some more firewood for yourself.
- Clean guttering of cabins if necessary.
- There are still plenty of pine cones, free for the taking.

Bring if you have:

- Ear muffs, safety glasses, work gloves.
- Sturdy shoes.
- Crow bar, hammer, dust mask, etc., if helping with removing wall linings.
- Safety gear for chainsaw work (please bring your own if you have it, limited spares available).

June fire roast

An energetic group gathered for the last weekend of June, and had a big bonfire, cut yet more firewood, talked around the log burner, and soaked up the heat in the sauna, then lost it again in the river. The roast dinner was really good too. Got FOMO yet?

Chapel carpet replacement

A carpet layer will replace the chapel carpet in the morning of Sat 29 July at 10:00. Big thanks to Lisa for phoning around and arranging that! And she doesn't even use the chapel herself, but wanted to help where she can. Thanks Lisa!

Leigh Lodge non?-availability

Hey Convergees, there is going to be a real issue with Leigh Lodge by the next Convergence — basically it won't be available at all for us to use because it will be a "construction site" by then and health and safety means that we won't be allowed into the building. At all. No plumbing, electrics, or wall linings means the lodge is of no use anyway, even if we were allowed in.

This means that we won't have the nurture space, the kitchen, showers and toilets of Leigh Lodge.

Unfortunately the Methodists who own the site probably don't have the capacity (financial or available volunteers) to get the lodge finished in time. As we see it, this leaves us with two options: do most of the renovations ourselves, or create alternative facilities.

So, if you want a comfortable experience this Convergence and can contribute to either the permanent fix or the temporary workaround below, we need to hear from you. Soonest is best, we don't have a lot of time to get this sorted. E.g. email mynotice@convergence.org.nz.

Leigh Lodge renovation work

We'd need volunteers for preparing the building for plumbing and electrical wiring, and to coordinate the work. The actual installation of plumbing and electrical wiring can only be done by registered tradespeople, however getting to that stage involves lots of tasks anyone with reasonable DIY skills can do. All work must meet building code requirements. Some funds are available for work undertaken. As always, accommodation is free. So if you are a project manager, experienced DIY person, or registered plumber or electrician we would be very keen to hear from you!

This would be a major task for Convergence if we took all of this on. Even parts of it would speed things up. The Methodists have a budget for gibbing and stopping, so we don't need to worry about that. The final painting is suitable for DIY.

Leigh Lodge won't be available for Convergence until all renovations are completed, council inspections are satisfactory and certificates are obtained, regardless of who does any work. Are we up to the challenge of finishing this by November???

Create alternative facilities

If we can't get the building finished we'll have to create temporary facilities ourselves. E.g. outside showers at Amberley Hall, a sink at the Leigh Lodge toilet block, more composting toilets, nurture space somewhere (marquees can get cold during evenings or rainy days), and so on. Volunteers are needed to design and create these facilities. This could be a great opportunity to re-visualise parts of Convergence, so if you're keen to get creative please put yourself forward to help.

Of course it's always possible to wash in the stream while dancing with the eels, use the porta-loos, bring a bucket to clean dishes in and a gas cooker for hot water, and have no nurture space...

From Convergence to Emergence or Divergence? Replies.

Thoughts on River's text, which appeared in the last newsletter.



I prefer the concept of Convergence (to Emergence), because it reflects the diverse strands that come together within this "family"... — Marian



I am really excited about this. It seems to sit at the forefront of the tsunami of change poised to sweep the world and utterly change the existing order of how things are done, by whom and to whom.

For decades we have had Convergence, the inward gathering, the coming together of the like-minded, a rejection of the direction of the external world, a seeking for the better alternative — a space apart from normal life where we could be sheltered, nurtured and flower — if only for a short time.

Now the world outside of Convergence ripens itself for change. The calls for a change of direction have become loud and urgent — and resonate with mainstream people. Better alternatives are being shared in TED talks and on the Internet — to millions. And at last it becomes possible to take the seeds of Convergence into a world fertile for the planting.

Is it time for Convergence to emerge into the world — for us to emerge into the world with the goodness we experience over the New Year period and to share it with those who will listen? If we have been doing the work on ourselves it is time to bring that true self into the world as well — to emerge from that hollow shell of self and spread our beautiful wings.

I see that as being both the opportunity and the challenge that "From Convergence to Emergence" offers. — Michael/Michelle

Nelson sharing circles for women and men

Two new sharing circles are being formed in Nelson. Both groups will meet fortnightly, and once every two months will come together for a shared circle. Limited spaces available for deeper intimacy.

Would you like more information?

Women contact Georgia: georgia.munro@hotmail.com or 021 203 5109

Men contact Peter: shibui.nelson@gmail.com or 021 0812 2054

Christchurch sharing circle

A monthly heart sharing circle is held in Christchurch on the second Wednesday of the month. It's a small friendly group and various members take turns hosting. It starts with an optional potluck dinner at 6pm, followed by sharing from 7:30 to about 9pm.

New members are always very welcome, including people who haven't been to Convergence.

Please contact circle@wild.kiwi.nz and don't forget to include your mobile or land-line number.

Note: We *do not wish* to have this particular notice or any contact details put on or through facebook or any other social media—thanks for your respect.

Wild women heart sharing circle (Christchurch)

Wild Woman Heart Sharing aims to facilitate growth, change & connection. It is a gathering of women desiring personal growth who share from the heart. There is a talking stick/object in the middle of the circle and whoever feels like talking holds it and speaks. Everyone else stays quiet.

We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7.30–9pm with an optional pot luck dinner from 6pm. Members with suitable homes will volunteer to host a meeting so the venue will change for each meeting.

This group is open to all women (Convergence attendees and others). Please sign up at <https://www.meetup.com/Wild-Women-Christchurch/> to indicate your attendance and receive updates of venues etc. If you don't use the internet, contact Amanda by text 021 0249 6500 or email ajc734@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

Remembering Scott Mieras

Scott William Mieras died in a bus crash near Waiau, in North Canterbury in June. Scott is greatly missed as a precious long term member of the Convergence whanau.

A stuff.co.nz news article reported that the 60-year-old ran Aotearoa Acupuncture and Tools4Healing, which offers acupuncture, holistic health treatments, and traditional oriental medicine.

Scott, who was originally from the United States, has two adult daughters, Amelia Mieras, 29, and Sophie Cooney, 33, and two grandchildren — 3-year-old Sienna and 8-month old Hazel Cooney, who also live in New Zealand.

In a statement to stuff.co.nz, his daughters wrote it had “always been clear how much [he] loved us”.

“Thank you for all the adventures we shared together and the knowledge that you have passed on to us,” they said. “You are such a gentle soul and we now pray for your eternal peace. The thought that you will remain forever close to us as your daughters is something we will always cherish.”

Convergees have echoed Scott's family's shock and grief at the loss of a gentle, kind and insightful man who put a huge amount into Convergence, his work and his friendships over the years. One contribution people may not be aware of is that it was Scott who got Convergence started on sourcing organic food, a key way we now live our family values.

Scott was also a beloved member Non-violent Communication community and is sorely missed there as well as at Convergence.

We wish Scott the brightest blessings on the next stage of his journey.



Do you have anything for the next newsletter?

The next newsletter will come out at the end of September. If you have anything you wish to have included, send it to mynotice@convergence.org.nz sooner rather than later please, but in any case by 24 September.

Items for the notices can be sent to the same address.

We have enjoyed compiling the newsletter, so please feel free to enjoy sending us material... ☺

Mini Gathering dates for 2017

This year's dates are:

- 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.