



Convergence Newsletter

Nr 46 — March 2018

Welcome to another edition of the Convergence newsletter! In this edition we are looking both backwards and forwards, and probably a little sideways as well. The first mini-gathering is almost here, and the rest are set and ready to enter on your calendar. There's remembering last Convergence as well as envisioning the future of Convergence. We cover that lost property you have forgotten you lost and there are several interesting events coming up to consider.

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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 receive the newsletters send email to info@convergence.net.nz and ask for it. The newsletter is produced approximately 4–5 times a year (before mini-gatherings).

Mini-gathering

Fri 16 – Sun 18 March
Journey's End

Sunday roast!

Pork for the meat-eaters,
plus something vegan
and delicious

Workshop

Linking science & spirituality

A systems workshop with our own
very talented Victor MacGill.
Sunday morning, 10am

Sat Night Party!!

International dance party

Bring your sense of adventure and
discover music from all around the world.
A mix of familiar and new.
Costumes & music welcome too.

Love up the site

On Friday and Saturday, come share the
satisfaction of turning slash heaps into
lovely firewood. Bring bags for cones. Or
trim long grass (bring a trimmer), clean
gutters, or get the sauna going.
Cooks & cleaners really welcome too!

Come for as long or as
little as you can. Bring
bedding, bunks available.

Memories and impressions

It seems like both yesterday and also an age ago that I was fully embraced by the wonderful Convergence we had this year. Each Convergence is different — but this last one was a stand-out year.

The weather. How long has it been since it didn't rain once the whole time (all right — just one little dribble)? The wood fired showers and composting toilets — so right for Convergence yet they only arrived because we lost access to Leigh Lodge. New Year's Eve — not as showy as previous years but it really hit the mark. A Cabaret in which all the acts were amazing — and so well run that it was all over before midnight (unheard of).

This was the year that people got creative, really put some energy into the things that matter, and together we pulled off a stunner of an event. I know that many of you didn't want to let go of the wonderful thing that we created, that you want more of the same — and better.

The mini-gatherings and sharing circles held throughout the year are the way to keep that feeling going — and it all feeds into the coming Convergence. I hope to see as many of my Convergence family as possible as often as possible this year.

Much love to you all — until we meet again.

— M

Convergence feedback and visioning

Summary of Convergence survey / feedback forms and visioning workshop.

Convergence visioning

We looked at the possibility of buying the Convergence site. We do not know if the church trustees are thinking about this possibility at all. They are struggling to maintain the property. With housing developments coming land prices will soon go up. We talked of the dangers of investing too much time and effort into buildings and property and thought a minimal approach to developing the site was best. We have no funds at hand for purchasing the site.

We talked about how to make the working bees more attractive, such as providing a workshop and making it more social. There is interest in a longer mini-gathering that makes it worthwhile for people coming from the Top of the South. We talked in general about ways of keeping Convergence more alive during the year and building up more mini events.

Feedback — a few key points

- The closing ceremony was enjoyed, but shortening the Angel Walk was felt by many to break the flow.
- Loud music at 8.00am from the main marque annoyed some people.
- There were concerns about the behaviour of some younger people, but matched by concern that their needs were not being met. Other people commented on how the younger people were better catered for this year.
- How to cater for people's differing needs at New Year. On the one hand the techno music and the other a more reflective meditative space. Can this be done without splitting the

- ceremony into two separate events?
- Composting toilets got the thumbs up. The toilets group needed more people.
 - Hygiene concerns were raised.
 - Having the open mike night made the cabaret better and not too long.
 - We need an info sheet about how to erect the marquees.
 - Ceremonies should be more pre-planned before the event. The meeting at Convergence should be more fine tuning rather than starting from scratch.
 - A reduced registration cost for over 60s.

— Victor MacGill

Packing up and leaving

It always amazes me how much there is to do at the very end of Convergence, after pack-up's "done", after the marquees are dropped and the container is "packed".

The last two days are full of tiny details, at least 60 person-hours of them... pack dozens of final things into the container, sort out the leftover food, sort the lost property, scrub the chiller, scrub the kitchens, loos and showers, vacuum everywhere, return hire gear, pack up the sauna, walk the site for rubbish and left-behind suitcases, clean everything, and then often clean it again. And then make sure everything's turned off and locked up, and then check it all again.

It's fun to hang around and talk and work with great people, but it's exhausting too, especially after an intense and wonderful Convergence. And that sense of exhaustion isn't the best note to end on, especially for those people who stay to help because they see the need to, not because they find joy in the work.

Next year, I'd love to have a WWOOFer for those last few days. Someone who spent Convergence just being, not working, and who can rally us all with energy and enthusiasm at the end. So if you know anyone who'd love to do this, please let me know!

— Rebecca

Mini-gatherings for 2018

These happen several times during the year and are an excellent way to socialise, meet up with other Convergence people again, prepare for the next Convergence, get a bit of site maintenance work done, and keep the ticket price down. There'll be something for everyone, not just those who want to wield a chainsaw.

To make these fun, we want to have a Saturday night party, and run a workshop. If you'd like to organise a party or offer a workshop please contact us.

This year we have put the July gathering into the school holidays and there are thoughts of making it longer to make it worthwhile for anyone from further afield to participate. Convergence is a co-created event so here is an opportunity to make a long July gathering happen.

More details will be available closer to each gathering, in the emailed notices and the newsletter. We aim to have the newsletter out about 2 weeks before each gathering. Don't forget to send in your event etc. notices for it. See page 1 for contacts.

This year's dates

The start is on Friday afternoon sometime, finish Sunday afternoon, except for the July one. Put these in your calendar now!

- 16–18 March (moved from 9–11 March)
- 11–13 May
- 11–15 July (or up to 1 week, starting Mon 9 July)
- 12–14 October
- 7–9 December (also BBQ, and final site prep for Convergence)

These dates are on the 2nd full weekend of those months (except for March). The camp site is essentially unused this year, so if there is sufficient interest we can gather during the remaining months as well, or make any of the gatherings above longer than Friday to Sunday.

Firewood weekends

Help clear away the remaining debris piles from the logging operation, and take away a trailer full of free firewood. (Yes, help first.) Bring food to share for lunch, and protective gear if you have it. Stay for the day or the weekend. No cost for site or firewood. No deliveries!

These are on the last full weekends of each month, arranged by Don and Chris. Chainsaw lessons provided free.

Lost property

Each year there are a large number of items left behind. Please check the camp site carefully before you leave, don't forget the fridges and freezers, and do go past the lost&found boxes as well, you might not have realised you lost it yet.

Putting your name and mobile number on things makes it much more likely that you'll get it back!

The lost&found items are kept by Judith and David again this year, thank you! Contact and other details are here: <http://convergence.org.nz/lostfound>

Co-creative heart sharing weekend

Saturday 28 April — Sunday 29 April

Heart Sharing weekends are happening regularly in the Top of the South. We have a monthly pot-luck in Christchurch with a heart sharing circle after, but they become much more powerful if there is more time to go more deeply into the issues that arise, and if we embody what has been shared.

Victor MacGill and Monika de Neef are starting on a small scale with limited numbers for the first one in Christchurch and will be limited to 12 people. Hopefully this will encourage other people to offer a weekend at their home, or at another venue.

We have one spare bedroom for a single person or a couple, and ample space for campervans etc. either in our drive way or on the street nearby. It would be good to have some ritual around the weekend, so offers or ideas about a welcome, activities like chi gung, tai chi, music, meditation, etc. would be welcome. We are thinking of a shared potluck lunch on the Saturday and Sunday, and a

delivered meal from Hare Krishna's or something similar for the evening. Snacks and drinks provided. Preference will be given to people able to commit to the whole weekend. If you miss out hopefully there will be another soon. Spaces will probably fill pretty quickly, so be in quick.

Email victorandmonika@gmail.com confirming that you can commit yourself to the whole weekend, telling us dietary needs and anything you can offer.

Victor: 022 326 4157 and Monika: 022 092 2158

Embodied intimacy — A holiday for body, heart and soul

From 29 March till 1 April Sybille is offering "A Holiday for Body, Heart and Soul" in Tui Treefield. This event is full, but if you'd like to go on the waiting list, please contact Sybille. She would love the Convergence tribe to be there, whatever it takes, hoping for a nice mix of Tui Community, open floor tribe and Convergence people to support something new to emerge...

Retreat in Wainui bay, Tui Treefield

"All knowledge until it's in the body, is still a rumour." — unknown

Open Floor is a fun, transformative dance practice. Human beings are born to move. With dance we thrive — physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. On the Open Floor we honour the importance of creating a safe space for people to turn up and take time to simply be, just as they are. People gift themselves time to arrive home to their own bodies, and get an opportunity to discover their own unique way of moving & dancing. Any movement exercise offered up by the teacher is designed as a doorway inwards; each person's movement response will be different and just right.

The offerings at this retreat will be a mix of stirring music with clear guidance to inspire wild dances and tender ones, connections between dancers and solo. Every session will be building on the one before, guiding us slowly deeper. We start first with the physical body, feeling and connecting with our own body, then going on a journey. Every session will be unique and different, allowing and exploring new ways to build trust and community and to learn more about ourselves. Over the 4 days open floor movement practice there will be offerings of mindfulness tools and an offering of handouts at the end of our time together.

Heart sharing circles are powerfully connective — both with the self and the whole group. Through simple active listening, and honest sharing, a mutual exchange takes place that allows for deep empathy to emerge. Heart sharing supports growth, authenticity and a natural transformation. In this retreat we have a powerful group of experienced facilitators with years of familiarity with heart sharing.

As a group we will walk to Wainui Falls, a beautiful big waterfall that for many of us here on the land holds sacred strength and power. If wanted there is a chance to climb up to the top of the waterfall or have a swim. It is a rather special place. Depending on time and who likes to do it, there is also the option to rock hop up to the waterfall.

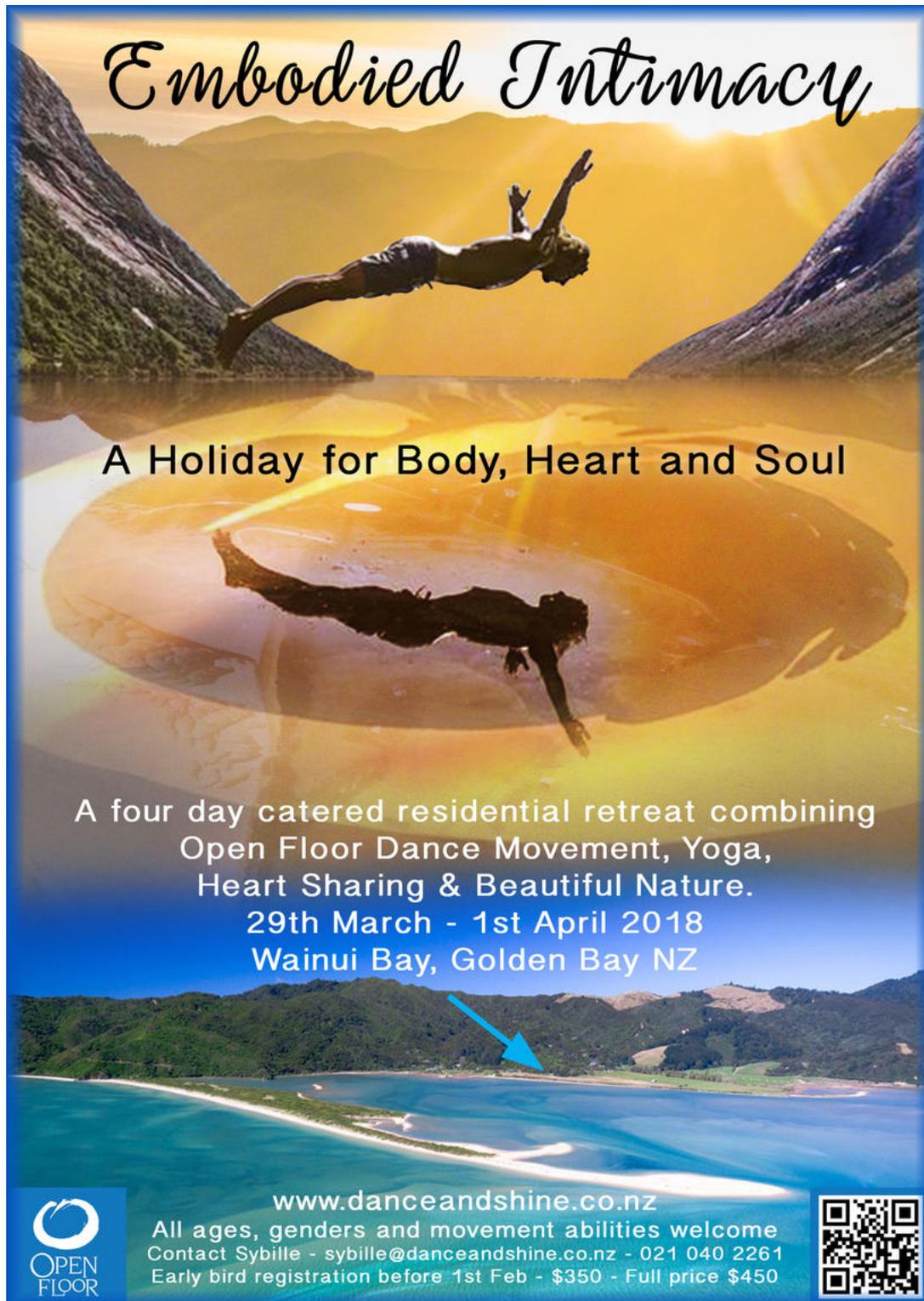
Morning Hatha-yoga sessions will support us to connect in with Self at the start of each day. No previous yoga experience is needed. Other activities can be offered by participants and team members in the free time. We also encourage each other to spend time resting and enjoying the nature and the beach.

To register please let us know:

- Name, age, nationality, contact details: phone, email address.
- Physical limitations or special needs e.g. dietary.
- You are also encouraged to share about your motivation for attending the workshop.

Earlybird rate of \$350 for the Convergence tribe 1 week from newsletter publication, \$450 after.

Contact Sybille on sybille@danceandshine.co.nz



Embodied Intimacy

A Holiday for Body, Heart and Soul

A four day catered residential retreat combining
Open Floor Dance Movement, Yoga,
Heart Sharing & Beautiful Nature.
29th March - 1st April 2018
Wainui Bay, Golden Bay NZ

www.danceandshine.co.nz
All ages, genders and movement abilities welcome
Contact Sybille - sybille@danceandshine.co.nz - 021 040 2261
Early bird registration before 1st Feb - \$350 - Full price \$450

