



Convergence Newsletter

Nr 49 — October 2018

Less than 11 weeks till Convergence! (Where has the year gone??) Early bird tickets will be on sale during the month of November. Get in early for significant savings.

The pendants are being made as I write this, the same wonderful shower and toilets as last year have been hired again, and other planning is nicely in hand. Now's a great time to think about how you want to contribute: workshops, music, and wwoofing are all great opportunities.

The last weekend in October is the second-last Mini-Gathering before Convergence, and the last one will focus on site prep. This is our last chance to meet our firewood commitments to the Journey's End committee and set ourselves up for Convergence itself. Many hands make work fun, so bring yours to Journey's End for a few hours, a day or the weekend.

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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 ask info@convergence.net.nz for it (note .org/.net). The newsletter is produced approximately 4–5 times a year (before Mini Gatherings).

This year's theme

At the Maxi Gathering, we worked on the theme for this year's Convergence and came up with a powerful theme after Lesley led us in an inclusive and collaborative process.

First, we discussed the state of the world this year and what we feel society — and ourselves — needs to hear. The whole group were concerned about the trend towards isolation and division within society. Then we wrote all the themes previously put forward and collected on a white board and eliminated the ones that didn't resonate with any of us. Then we discussed the themes that were left and wrote words on the board as they came up.

From those words, we created a shortlist of themes, which we voted on. And a clear winner emerged... (drum roll)...

"One Tribe in Unity"

So plan your tribal rituals, think about how to create unity, and let's bring that energy to Convergence and our lives in the months leading up to it.

Mini-Gathering: firewood and feasting

Evening Friday 26 – Sunday 28 October, Journey's End campsite

This weekend will focus on making firewood for Convergence itself — we've burnt a lot this year and without a good effort we might run short.

We need two or three teams of people to cut firewood, work a log splitter and stack wood.

There will be chainsaws for everyone who's keen (and has used one before). Bring earmuffs and work gloves if possible.

More trailers would speed things up a lot, so if you've got a trailer, please bring it.

We're not sure if there'll be enough firewood for people to take away, sorry. It'll depend on whether we get enough done for Convergence on Saturday. There are heaps of pine cones you're welcome to gather up; bring your own bags.

There'll be a Saturday roast feast (meat and vegetarian options), and the cabins are available for sleeping. Bring breakfast and food to share for lunches and Saturday night dinner.

Call Don if you've got any questions: 021 0259 3229.

Kitchen wwoofers

Are you keen to help build Convergence through wwoofing in the kitchen? Or do you know someone who is? Wwoofers help in the kitchen about half the time, in return for a free event ticket. It's a great community to be part of — people have made friends for life — and many find the kitchen to be the true heart of Convergence.

Contact info@convergence.net.nz for more info if you're interested.

One Tribe in Unity

Quite a few moons ago I attended my very first Convergence. I remember mixing with all these strange and strangely dressed people with their mixed-up Maori/Native American/Celtic ceremonies, the food blessings and the intense conversations about crystals, chakras and divas. I remember too that after a few days, when I'd picked my figurative jaw off the lunch field, that the thought occurred to me "I've found my tribe."

These were a self-selected bunch of people that I could connect with, who — broadly speaking — saw the world in the way that I did. People with whom I felt safe enough to share deeply, and with whom I could talk about the sort of stuff that would get eye rolls from most folks.

This was me finding my tribe. At last.

So now "One Tribe in Unity" is the theme this year. My tribe will be gathering again to see the New Year in. There will be connections and re-connections. Missing links and new links. Old favourites and new experiences. The flavour will be a bit different this year, but as always, together we will create something unique and beautiful.

The funny thing is that if some are not participating, or even actively pulling against the flow, it doesn't seem to matter much. It all goes into the Convergence pot, and yes some people will stir it up, but over six or so days light, heat and pressure will be applied to the mixture, and the result — much as the food from the kitchen — will usually be yummy and nourishing in all kinds of ways.

So for me the unity I see is the collective result of our efforts or non-efforts over time. The various strands weaving together to form something greater than all of the energy of the individuals combined. Something that cannot be planned, or deliberately created, or anticipated, but something that we who attend will cause to happen by our very attendance.

That to me is the almost accidental unity of the Convergence tribe — the one very diverse tribe — that will be gathering on the land soon.

I anticipate that I cannot fully anticipate what will happen or how it will go — but I do know that together we will unite to create something unique and magical.

Bring your uniqueness and the magic that is you — and let's make it happen again this summer!

— Michael/Michelle/M

Enchanted Unity Garden

Last year's new "Sculpture Garden" along with the resurrection of the kids' sandpit, has been considered a success! Thanks to team effort and contributions from various interested parties. You know who you are. By the end of last year's Convergence, it seemed to have taken on a life of its own!

In view of this typical convergy evolvment, I feel a name change is in order for *this* Convergence! Hence, I'm putting out a call for dramatic, weird and wonderful contributions of magic for the new "Enchanted Unity Garden" for this year! Be great for it to be equally good, day or night! Cheers

— Chrissy

Pendant making

Renate kindly offered to make pendants again, and with a small group of dedicated people started at 10am last Sunday and made about 400 pendants for Convergence on a theme of unity. Space can run out at Tai Tane so if it's happening again next year be in quick and check with Renate first.

Thanks heaps everyone! We hope you enjoyed making them as much as we'll enjoy having them.

Newsletter contributions

Every now and then someone asks us whether an event didn't happen or whether we just didn't put it in the newsletter. The answer is that we put in everything people send us, as long as it's related to the Convergence ethos, which is the established and good policy River put in place. In the time we've been making this newsletter we've published everything we've been sent (except occasionally events that have already happened by publishing date).

We only know about events if someone tells us, so if you know of something in your region that'll interest convergees, please let us know!

We're delighted to get write-ups of past events, musings on Convergence, and anything else convergees may be interested in. Just email us at mynotice@convergence.org.nz.

Christchurch heart sharing

3 November 2018, 92 Soleares Avenue, Mount Pleasant

John has kindly offered his home again. \$5 Koha for tea/coffee & electricity — thank you. If you are not able to be there the whole day or are going to arrive late, please let me know, 021 060 0895.

Arrive anytime after 9am. We will start heart sharing at 10am.

12pm Lunch — please bring your own or something to share.

1pm Heart sharing continues. Break for afternoon tea.

5pm Pot luck dinner (optional) — please bring a dish to share.

— Suzy

Mid-year fun

Having a longer than usual gathering in July was really good for getting into the spirit of Convergence and connecting with the feel of the land at Journey's End. It can be a spiritual place. The days always finish with a shared meal and fireside discussions. The big bonfire was great, and some blokes handling it were pretty entertaining - the quote is "I never ran so fast in my life".

The weather was really good, just as for Convergence. Sure it was cold at night, but there are ways to keep warm, and the beauty makes up for it. There is little light pollution and clear skies make for myriads of twinkly stars, with moonlight reflecting off the frost covered landscape. It's worth getting up during the night. The days were warm and sunny, even sunbathing was possible at the warmest time. Can't miss an opportunity becoming one with nature. Swimming was possible too, if you're crazy enough. Aren't we all, in our own unique ways?

— Volker

Inside/out dance

I warmly invite you to join me for a 1 1/4 hour Dance Wave at:

St. Martin Community Centre, 122 Wilsons Rd., Christchurch
Thursday 18 October 7.45pm-9.15pm

Fortnightly future dates: Thursdays 1, 15, 29 Nov and 13 Dec

No experience needed, no steps to be learnt. Bring your openness to explore through dance and movement all you can be and are.

The evening will start with music that invites you to slowly warm up and then takes you on a journey where the (eclectic) music gets faster, and then brings you slowly back to a quiet space at the end. This allows you to move with whatever is present with you and to discover your own unique way of connecting to the music, yourself and (if you wish) to others.

Please bring water and wear comfortable clothes, layers are recommended. Koha/Contribution: \$5

I have been dancing all my life; in formal and informal settings and have been co-facilitating dance and drama/improvisation classes in the past. The last 5 years I have been inspired by and danced in many "Open Floor" and "5 Rhythm" classes.

If you would like more information or have questions, contact me:
027 778 1011 Barbara

Dance is not where we lose ourself.
But where we find ourself.

Gabrielle Roth

unplug yourself

