



Convergence Newsletter

Nr 50 — November 2018

Welcome to the last Drumbeat for 2018. Convergence is only 29 days away! Where on earth has this year gone?! If anyone finds it, can they please give it back?

This edition of the Drumbeat tells you how to get in early on the Convergence energy — come to the December Mini Gathering — and has some interesting ideas for Convergence itself and reflections on the theme. Then it moves onto next year, with a discussion about native planting at Journey’s End and information about a fantastic dance retreat.

Wishing you all a love-filled December and looking forward to seeing you in a month!

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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).

Mini Gathering and love up Journey's End

Fri 7 – Sun 9 Dec 2018

This is the most important mini-gathering of the year: the one where we prepare the site for Convergence. Tasks range from cleaning to weed-eating, along with mowing the meadow, sorting the sauna, and bucketing out the bore. Cooks are very welcome too, to feed the troops.

As always, there'll be a Saturday night feast. If you haven't yet experienced Don's ginger trifle, come and find out what you're missing out on.

This is always a fun and energetic weekend with lots of people, so come and help build a brilliant base for Convergence.

Come for as little or as long as you can. The site'll be open from Friday afternoon. There's some accommodation in the huts. Bring your breakfast, plus food to share for lunches and dinners.

Previous Mini Gathering

The chance to go out to Journey's End for me always is an opportunity to get out of town, into nature, and to connect with the land and the people. Journey's End magic. Walking around at night, being followed by the calls of the morepork. Lying in bed, falling asleep to a perfect full moon in the window. Silence but for the animals in the woods. The stars out there are amazing, nothing like they are in town with the light pollution.

It is great to see progress, the piles of unsightly and inconvenient pine remnants being stripped for firewood and disappearing, and Leigh Lodge getting closer to being usable again. A few of us tidied up rocks and branches from an area underneath the biggest slash pile and sowed grass, racing the incoming rain. It's been growing well, will make a good camp area, and the site owners were impressed with the effort, which also happened at short notice.

Thank you to all the helpers and contributors, and all your company.

— Volker

Theme thoughts

My initial response to this theme was that I didn't relate to it at all!

Why?

Unity, for me, is that magical place at the balance point of the see-saw of life (or indeed any individual aspect of life). I know that unity can be found anywhere people meet with a common bond, no matter how extreme. They find their own balance points. If I am unable to join in unity with them then it is all about me, not them. Thus, having spent many decades uniting with others through dance, workshops, spirituality, rituals, nudity, "healthy" food, "should"ing, etc. I find myself becoming less and less interested in those ways of coming together. (You may have noticed my usual absence from such activities? LOL) My age has a lot to do with this — well perhaps it's more about preparation for the inevitability of death?

So where do I find Unity? Ultimately it's totally within myself but also totally outside myself at the

same time. Aha! Paradox — which, for me, is always the indication of the balance point, the sweet spot, God, whatever you want to call it.

Convergence is a group of individuals, each creating their own Convergence their own way whilst, collectively, coming together in small groups throughout the year and all together once a year.

So I guess Convergence *is* a Tribe in Unity and if I find myself grumping about something, or someone, then it's up to me to do something about it to make my Convergence more uniting rather than divisive. Thus I have written this.

— River

Coffin making

Last Convergence I heard the idea about a Convergence coffin being built during the next Convergence that would be available for any deceased Convergence whanau member to use. I think it is a fantastic idea, both to reduce the cost associated with death and to put our love and creativity into a project that may bring comfort in a time of change. If this was your idea I would love to support you in making it happen, or if you have the carpentry skills/tools associated with building a coffin and would like support making it happen, please get in touch. tolucylou@yahoo.com with love

— Lucy

Opening night barn dance

Kia ora and thanks for the many responses on facebook — it seems there's a fair few folk keen to have a barn dance / ceilidh again this year.

I'm proposing to try to book the band for the opening night (29th) as an 'ice-breaker'. Would that clash with anyone else's plans? Please let me know 03 329 3355.

Aroha whanau

— Lou Warren

Co-created Enchanted Garden project

(Situated opposite chapel & includes kids' sandpit.)

Calling for all weird & wonderful contributions by interested parties please. Let's build upon last year's sculpture garden and morph it forward into enchantment for this Convergence!

Possible ideas to build upon: Colourful lights for nocturnal viewing, extraterrestrial presents, fairy folk, nature spirits, green man, pixies, etc. Keep it friendly, not scary for the littlies.

Lotsa love & light, with gratitude.

— Chrissy & The Team of Helpers

Inner Child's 5th birthday party

You are all invited.

As we all know 0 means nothing so I intend to celebrate my 5th Birthday Party at Convergence this year. It also happens to be my 5² year at Convergence. The Inner Child party will take place on the afternoon of the 30th December at Convergence.



Games will be played, music created and I am sure there will be some dancing and hilarity as well. This will be followed up with cake and ice cream which will ensure a huge turnout. What more could you want at a party other than a group of friends to share it all with.

The main reason for the advance notice is that you might like to bring a costume for the event. For boys dress up as a superhero, a king, a cartoon character, a princess, a fairy or you could even come as Elsa (from Frozen for all you old people). For girls dress up as Elsa, a fairy, a princess, a cartoon character, a queen or a superhero. It's up to your imagination what you want to wear, but remember this is a family show.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Native planting at Journey's End

A few years ago the Journey's End Committee had most of the pine trees that formed shelter belts in and around the JE campground cut down by a contractor. This was because the pines had reached an age where they had begun to come down in high winds, posing a danger to campground users and buildings.

Since that time Convergence has been invited to work on replanting the area in native forest to provide shelter and for amenity value, which suits the ethos of Convergence. Several members of Convergence have trialled planting some natives to see how they go in the conditions at the site.

We have also been on several guided walks which covered native forest replanting above Lyttelton and Diamond Harbour as part of the Banks Peninsula Walking festival to learn from others' planting experience.

At present the cleared areas are self-regenerating with self-seeded pines and eucalypts, blackberry, gorse, broom, a few natives and random weeds.

We believe that there are some options for planting at the JE site:

Option 1 — Do nothing.

This is the easiest option and the one that requires the least commitment. The scenario is that the pines and eucalypts will eventually overtop everything else and shade out and dry out most plants underneath. We will be left with a random pine/eucalypt mono-culture with an understory of blackberry and a few weeds. In many ways it will resemble what was there before the clearance — just scrappier.

Option 2 — Plant natives from Christchurch home gardens

In this scenario volunteers dig out seedlings from their homes and transplant them at JE. They would need to be watered for two years to establish (installing a basic watering system or volunteers). We'd let the blackberry/gorse/broom grow over as a nursery cover and remove the pines and eucalypts. Eventually the natives would overtop the nursery cover and shade them out. We'd end up with native shelter belts but these wouldn't be natives from the Mt Grey area. If the Christchurch natives interbred with the Mt Grey natives we would create Frankenstein monster type native mixed-up vegetation locally. Useful and pretty to look at, but probably nothing like what was at the site originally, and genetically a bit rubbish.

Option 3 — Buy plants and do it properly

We can buy plants from the DoC nursery at Motukarara that have been sourced from nearby Mt Thomas (available when we need them). Or if we order at least 1000 plants in a single batch, the DoC nursery would collect and grow seeds from Mt Grey for us (baby plants would be available in autumn 2020).

The seedlings would need to be transferred to a hardening up shelter at JE — which we would have to construct somewhere in the Service Area. They would have to be cared for and watered for another year as they re-acclimatised to the somewhat harsh JE environment. Once ready they'd be planted out as in option 2, watered for two years, eventually overtop the nursery cover and bingo —

useful, pretty to look at and genetically appropriate to the area.

The main challenge with this option is money. We could expect to pay about \$4 per plant — and we're guessing at 1000 plants to do the job properly, over several years. Then there's the watering system and the hardening up shelter to construct. We may be able to get a grant to cover some of the cost — does anyone know of suitable grants to apply for?

We'd also need permission from the JE committee to construct the shelter and watering system.

Option 4 — Grow plants and do it properly

This is the option that takes a lot of effort!

A group of dedicated volunteers would collect seeds from the remaining Mt Grey forests further up the hill and grow seedlings ourselves. This would give us the most genetically appropriate plants at low cost (in money anyway).

As with option 3, we'd have to harden the plants up, plant them, and water them for at least 2 years.

There are a bunch of challenges with this option:

- Time. It would take three years to get the first plants in the ground. Yes we can argue that letting the gorse, broom and blackberry go nuts for three years will provide great cover but it is going to be living heck to work through when planting out and will look totally ugly for yonks.
- Labour. We would need a large pool of volunteers to collect seeds, prick out, grow seedlings, transfer, water, construct a shelter, cut tracks through the weeds, take out the pines and eucalypts, construct a watering system and plant out. Not everyone would need to volunteer for everything — but we'd still need dozens of people.
- Skills. Who knows how to collect seeds, when to collect them, how to prick up, how to construct a watering system etc? Who can teach/guide others to assist?
- Money. Even if the plants are free, there's the watering system and the hardening up shelter to construct.
- Permission. We'd need permission from DOC and/or the forestry owner to collect seeds and from the JE committee to construct the shelter and watering system.

Option 5 — The Findhorn Scenario

This Convergence we ask the Divas Of The Land to heal JE for us.* Next year we arrive to find that a mature native forest filled with PUS (Plants of Unusual Size) has magically appeared. Job done! Woo Woo!!!

* Everybody feels a little sad when this doesn't happen and we have to go back to options 1-4.

These are just starting points to think about. During Convergence Rebecca will be leading a discussion about planting out Journey's End. Keep an eye out for the notice — we'd love to see you there with your passion and skills! If you can't make this year's Convergence and you'd still like to be involved then please make contact.

— Michael, Rebecca

Life, Love, Joy

✦ ✦ ✦

Find people who can handle your darkest truths, who don't change the subject when you share your pain, or try to make you feel bad for feeling bad.

Find people who understand we all struggle, some of us more than others, and that there's no weakness in admitting it. In fact, few things take as much strength.

Find people who want to be real, however that looks and feels, and who want you to be real, too.

Find people who get that life is hard, and who get that life is also beautiful, and who aren't afraid to honour both those realities.

Find people who help you feel more at home in your heart, mind and body, and who take joy in your joy.

Find people who love you, for real, and who accept you, for real. Just as you are.

They're out there, these people. Your tribe is waiting for you. Don't stop searching until you find them.

— Scott Stabile

✦ ✦ ✦

Embodied Intimacy retreat

A warm welcome to embodied intimacy: a 5 day retreat with Open Floor movement, heart sharing, self-discovery, inspiration and connection. We invite you to step out of your busy daily life and enjoy the exceptional opportunity to nurture yourself, to build community and to feel the great joy of being real and authentic.

Open Floor is a modern blend of conscious movement, mindfulness and artistry. It is a fun, transformative dance practice. Combining it with restorative yoga and sharing circles offers and invites us to come home to our bodies, release old stories, and waken the artist within. It is also a great opportunity to connect with a nourishing, respectful, supportive and like-minded community.

Sybille Feint is excited to offer this event with a bunch of skilled and experienced facilitators. We will come together in the stunning Wainui Bay at the Tui Events Park nestled next to the Abel Tasman national park, 5 minutes to the beach. We hope to see many of you there.

The 5 day retreat:

- Price: early bird till 1st of February \$450. Full price \$550
- Date: 6–10 of March
- Exact address: Tui Events Park, Wainui bay
- Contact: sybille@danceandshine.co.nz

The retreat includes:

- Tuition for open floor movement practise (2–3 hours a day)
- Tuition for restorative yoga (optional, 1–2 hours a day)
- Facilitated sharing circles (2–3 hours a day)
- Yummy simple food, 3 meals a day
- 4 nights camping accommodation
- Hot tub, sauna

Sybille is an experienced Open Floor teacher, facilitator, and healer who has gained a deep understanding of how to create exceptional workshops and retreats based on the need of her students.

Sybille's workshop nurtures a safe space for the participants to explore our inner selves, share with and learn from each other. Highly recommended.

— Babu Blatt, Wanaka

Open Floor movement practise

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

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.

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.

Sharing circles

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. This retreat has a powerful group of experienced facilitators with years of familiarity with heart sharing.

Restorative yoga

Restorative yoga is all about slowing down and opening your body through passive stretching. Props, rather than your muscles, support your body and your muscles are allowed to relax deeply.

We also encourage each other to spend time resting and enjoying the nature and the beach.

Embodied Intimacy

A Holiday for Body, Heart and Soul

Treat yourself to a 5 day catered residential retreat, allowing OpenFloor movement, yoga & beautiful nature to nourish you.

6-10 March 2019

Wainui Bay, Golden Bay NZ



www.embodiedfreedom.co.nz

All ages, genders and movement abilities welcome
Contact Sybille - sybille@danceandshine.co.nz - 021 040 2261
Early bird registration before 1st Feb - \$450 - Full price \$550