



Convergence Newsletter

Nr 55 — November 2019

Welcome to the last Drumbeat for 2019. Only 32 days till the Opening Ceremony!!

This Drumbeat has everything you need to know about the Mini-Gathering in the first weekend of December, which will focus on site prep, and of course, on relaxing in the sun. Then there's info about Convergence, a request for sharing task group knowledge, and a call to bring a cardboard box to Convergence to help with next winter's tree planting. And there's more musing on the theme, and a bunch of great events before and after Convergence. Enjoy!

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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 have included to mynotice@convergence.org.nz

To receive the newsletters ask info@convergence.net.nz for it (note the .org/.net difference!).

The newsletter is produced approximately 4–5 times a year (before Mini Gatherings). Contributions for the next newsletter can be sent to mynotice@convergence.org.nz, deadline is approximately 3 weeks before the Mini Gathering starts.

December gathering — site preparation

This is the final mini-gathering for the year and it's time for a big burst of activity to prepare for Convergence. We need heaps of people to:

- finish splitting firewood for hot showers. If you've never used a splitter, come and have a go, it's fun.
- make sawdust for the composting toilets.
- mow the camping areas! This is vital, because this year we can't put tents on unmown grass. We lose too many tent pegs, which get caught in machinery and cause problems for the site owners.
- clean out the well, so we have plenty of nice clean drinking water.
- move furniture and clean in Leigh Lodge, where the renovations are nearly finished (yay!).
- scrub down the toilet blocks and Amberley Lodge showers.

If heavy physical work isn't for you but you could cook for the group, you'd be very, very appreciated.

Bring your own breakfast, and food to share for lunch and dinner. Saturday dinner will be a shared feast, hopefully with Don's famous pear and ginger trifle. There's plenty of accommodation, so you just need to bring bedding and pillow.

There'll be people on site from Wednesday afternoon. Come for as long as you can — day visitors are welcome too. If you know someone who is coming to Convergence for the first time, it'd be great to bring them out for a taster. And it's not all work; there's always time to talk, relax in the sun and sit around the fire at night.

Convergence Task Groups

At the start of each Convergence, we invite everyone to join a task group, which are teams that co-create Convergence by taking on one of the tasks that has to be done during the event. These teams cover the whole of what makes Convergence such a wonderful event, from cleaners to healers and everything in between.

This year, I am hoping to have the Opening Ceremony flow more smoothly when we transition to the task groups. Task groups will be explained on laminated sheets in the Welcome tent, with signup sheets for each group. Everyone is encouraged to sign up to a task group, in the Welcome tent or during the Opening Ceremony.

I have updated some task group descriptions, but still need help with others. If you have lead or contributed to a task in the past, or know someone who has, and haven't contacted me yet, could you please do so. I'd like to pick your brain and collect living knowledge. If you'd like to lead one of the task groups (and you've been to Convergence before), please contact me as well. Several are still looking for leaders so don't hide that inner child and speak up ☺.

Contact me on 027 295 3333 or 08002bwell@gmail.com.

— Christine

Caring for the trees

Last May, an enthusiastic bunch of people planted about 3 dozen baby native trees at Journey's End. Last we checked, all but one were alive and growing nicely — a great result.

Next May, we're going to do it all again, on a much larger scale. DoC are growing us 200 trees, good tough species like Manuka that cope well with the harsh conditions at Journey's End.

We can't plant them during Convergence — it's too hot and dry — but we can do some planting prep, and we can put some love into the existing trees. Experts say that weeding is what makes the biggest difference in establishing native plantings. It's vital and highly satisfying work.

So, I'm going to organise a working group during Convergence to care for the trees. We'll water, weed, and mulch the existing young trees. And we'll prep mulch for next winter's planting. Please consider joining us!

— Rebecca

Bring a box to Convergence!

Flattened cardboard boxes make excellent mulch for baby trees. They're easy to use, they keep water in, they're very weed resistant, and they rot away after a few years when they're no longer needed.

We'll have 200 native trees to plant and mulch next May, so we're going to need at least 200 cardboard boxes — and the more the merrier.

If every family brought a flattened box to Convergence, we'd be sweet. If you've got room, please bring a box or two and make a tree happy.

— Rebecca

Theme

It looks like our theme is already very successful. Some people have taken it, modified it slightly, and are using it for their events in town: ☺

— V



Free to Be

I would love go on about this year's theme... Freedoms. The state of Being. Being a free Being. Being what exactly? ...and so on in an amusing and diverting way. But these days we have the Internet — which can bring us many cat videos LOL and also the answer to anything we type into a search engine.

So without further ado and very little effort — here is the curated wisdom of humanity on the theme of "Free to Be". Take from it what you will.

First of all there's an amusing video of kids on a Merry Go Round. If you loved Dougal on the "Magic Roundabout" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cUwVLx8K9s> you'll be ecstatic over this.

Free to Be... You and Me https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_26FOHoaC78 is a children's entertainment project, conceived, created and executive-produced by actress and author Marlo Thomas https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlo_Thomas. The basic concept was to encourage post-1960s gender neutrality, saluting values such as individuality, tolerance, and comfort with one's identity. A major thematic message is that anyone — whether boy or girl — can achieve anything.

Free to Be... calls for specific actions to allow girls and young women to live without experiencing fear or discrimination on our streets.

FREE TO BE is a growing London based charity supporting children & young people who are struggling with social or emotional difficulties. We work using the inherent power of the outdoors, animals, nature and the arts. We believe IN muddy trainers, new challenges, self-expression, and real human relationships. Our aim is to open up a sense of adventure, freedom and possibility for (PEOPLE) who are struggling, whatever life's circumstances. Above all we believe that every (PERSON) deserves to feel wanted, special and valued and to experience joy and adventure within their (LIVES).

Imagine a weekend... where you'll be surrounded by parents who advocate for treating children (and all people!) with kindness, gentleness, and respect... a weekend where you'll be joined by lots of other families who love living, learning, and playing together... families who recognize the true joy that comes out of a life where their children are free to follow their hearts, free to trust their passions, free to learn in their own unique way... free to BE.

I've taken home some good messages here — and I hope that you have too. I'll hopefully see you on the field where we will all be Free to Be together. Much love.

— M

Pendants

10 Dunedin Convergees met last month and made 450 pendants out of white and red clay and coloured slips.

These are not yet fired, but will be when you collect them at the entrance, ready to wear showing you're part of the community and so you can get your food.

I am a big fan of flowers and can't wait to see everyone with them, with lots of love, thanks to the team of makers.

— Marie



They remind me of a cute flowery face with a stubby nose ☺. I like as well that they have 2 holes, that prevents them flicking back to front all the time when worn.

— V

Men's and Women's Summer Heart Sharing

Tui Treefield, Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 December 2019

The Men & Women's Heart Sharing is an event for men and women, singles and couples, grown out of the old Men and Women's Gatherings, and the Gender Gatherings, at Tui Community.

The Heart Sharing provides the space to explore the similarities, and the differences, between the masculine and the feminine. It offers the chance to listen in a new way, to acknowledge and honour those differences in how we may listen, view, respond and react to life, especially in our relationships with each other. This is not a workshop, and we will co-facilitate our time together.

We invite you to come join us in the Tui Treefield. We'll share a meal at 7 pm on the Thursday evening, and the heart sharing will evolve from there. We ask that you be present on Thursday evening when we first meet, be there as we begin to form our community.

Bring your own breakfasts, and food to share for combined lunches and dinners which we will cook communally. The kitchen will be the heart of the event, offering the opportunity to contribute to each other through the preparation of healthy wholesome food to build and sustain our community of men and women. The fire circle will be where we do our work.

For those with young children, your children are welcome in the Treefield during the event, though not during circles. We want to support parents of younger children to attend, and could do so by running a crèche during circle time. Don't let your caring for your children deny your Self the opportunity for restoration, growth and play.

Ideally, all would sleep on site, either in your tent, or marae style in the teaching room. The invitation is to build the energy by staying in our community of men and women. While we can adjust to welcome those who cannot attend the full event, we do urge you to be present for the entire event, to deepen both your experience, and the experience of others. Our invitation is for you to commit to attending the whole event.

Also, consider what you might want from our free time in the afternoons, a walk to the beach, working with clay or wood or paint or..., sharing music/dance/play. If you are willing to share a skill, bring materials along which you can be reimbursed for, and bring life to our group by awakening or encouraging the creative spirit in others.

The heart sharing will be a wonderful opportunity to explore your Self in relationship with men and women, and simply to rest, play, restore yourself. Do come prepared to take responsibility for what you need, and to participate fully.

The cost for the event is on a sliding scale from a minimum of \$100 – \$200 per person, more if you can contribute that. Do not let the lack of money stop you from coming, and do please talk to me if money is an issue for you.

I'm looking forward to our next Heart Sharing Event at the Tui Treefield.

Murray, 027 432 7419, inglisforestry@xtra.co.nz

Embodied Breath

18 & 19 January 2020, Fairfield House, Nelson

Cost: \$250 before 10 January, \$350 full price

A healing journey for Body & Soul

Sound Healing, Breathwork, Sacred Creative Space & Open Floor Movement.

A workshop on the leading edge of multi-disciplinary collaboration.

An opportunity to transform your relationship with your feelings.

A beautiful conscious soundscape so that you can dive into your essence.

Take a pause in the middle of a busy summer. Stop. Meet your being. Use the power of breath to dive into the fire in your belly. With mindfulness in motion, we will pause and drop deeply into our being, then step out into the world in a place of clarity and empowerment. Join international teachers, healers and performers Jeremy and Melanie Roske from Breath of Being (www.breathofbeing.net), alongside Sybille & Jay from Embodied Freedom NZ, for a deep dive into your senses and your soul.

Sybille Feint

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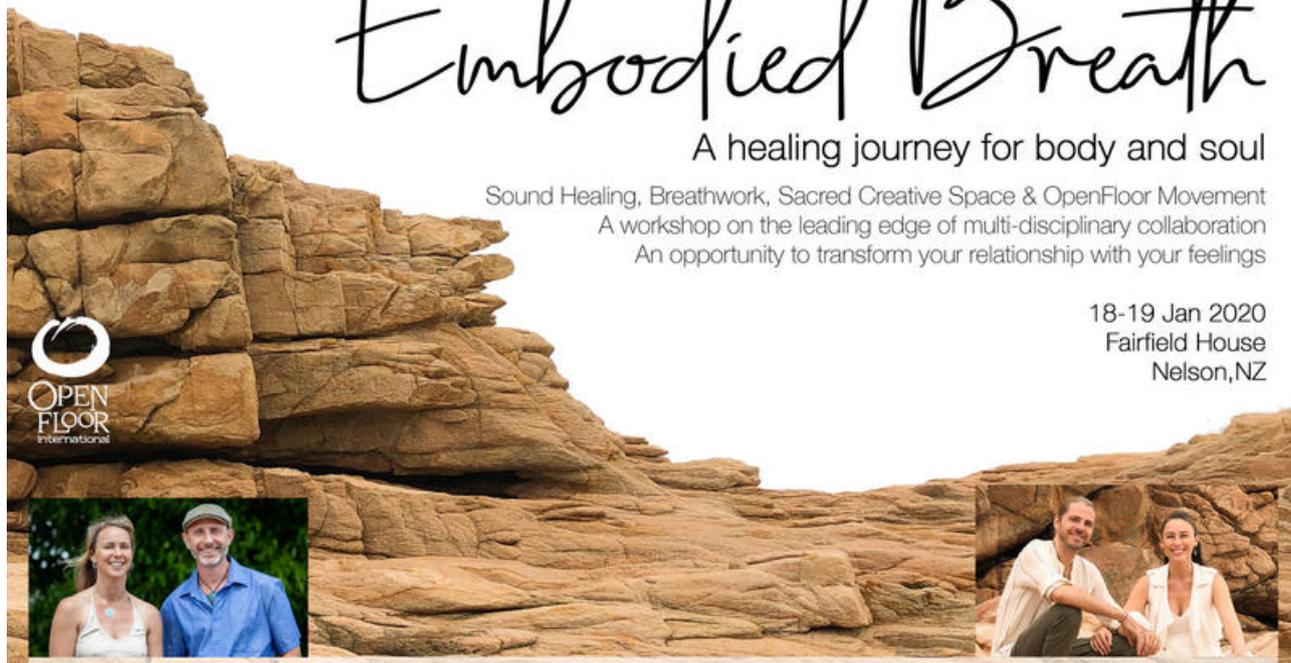
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18-19 Jan 2020

Fairfield House

Nelson, NZ



Embodied Intimacy 2020

*18–22 March 2020,
Tui Events Park, Wainui Bay*

Inspiring emotional, intellectual & spiritual transformation. 5 day-retreat summer retreat combining Open Floor movement practise, Sharing Circles and Restorative Yoga.

Early Bird Price: \$490 until 1 Jan 2020,
Full Price: \$590.

The event was booked out last year, we encourage you to book early.

Let your body move hand in hand with your heart & soul.

A warm welcome to embodied intimacy.

Sybille Feint and her skilled and experienced team invite you to step out of your busy daily life and enjoy the exceptional opportunity to nurture yourself. We invite to build community with us and to feel the great joy of being real and authentic.

The residential retreat will be taught by Sybille Feint and a team of skilled facilitators. 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.

- 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 (optional)

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. The beautiful setting allows stillness combined with wonderful food, beautiful people and lots of spaciousness. We will create a magic that allows intimacy, fun and transformation. Something precious in the time and world we are living in.

sybille@embodiedfreedom.co.nz

<https://www.embodiedfreedom.co.nz/events/embodied-intimacy-2019>



Expand the Box

28-31 May, Riverside Hall, Motueka

For the first time ever, Expand the Box training from Possibility Management NZ is collaborating with Open Floor movement practice.

You probably learned how to survive in conditions that no longer apply, and that might still be limiting you. Do you want to break the shell? Do you want to come alive?

This 4-day residential training opens doors into radical, responsible adulthood. Outer change starts with inner change: reinvent who you are. The coming together of these two powerful modalities will allow you immediate access to new paths of change. Join evolution and create a new culture.



Please be aware this training will be limited in numbers.

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