



# Convergence Newsletter

Nr 57 — September 2020

Welcome to this edition of the newsletter, with **critical information about Convergence this summer**. Please read it carefully. We're also looking for feedback on running the kitchen, please let us know your thoughts.

There are some working bees and great workshops coming up too.

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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](mailto:mynotice@convergence.org.nz)

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

The newsletter is produced approximately 4 times a year. Contributions for the next newsletter can be sent to [mynotice@convergence.org.nz](mailto:mynotice@convergence.org.nz), deadline is approximately one week before publication. We expect the next newsletter to be in November, and will announce dates on the emailed notices (see above) 3 weeks ahead.

## Convergence this year

In this time of global uncertainty, the connections, love and hope we've found through Convergence have helped keep us going, and we want to emphasise to everyone reading this how much the Convergence community means to us. As well, we believe the spirit of Convergence shows an important way forward, especially as the world looks towards redesigning itself.

But covid-19 has greatly increased the logistics and risk involved in running the main gathering this summer. Many of the volunteers and WWOOFers come from overseas and won't be able to be here, plus there's the risk of having to cancel outright because of an outbreak and the difficulty of cancelling services, suppliers' contracts and refunding tickets.

Ideally, we would plan to have the event and wait and see what happens in December, but unfortunately that isn't feasible. Convergence organisation needs to kick into gear in a major way from now onwards, with significant money, time and effort needed over the next few weeks. In September/October we need to commit to the site hire, food, and marquees—tens of thousands of dollars in total. It's also when we ask all of you to commit to the event by buying early bird tickets.

This means a decision had to be made about whether to go ahead with this summer's main Convergence gathering. The trustees and a number of the people who organise the event have done a lot of soul-searching recently, and met at the weekend to discuss this decision.

With a lot of sadness, we have decided that the main Convergence gathering this year (2020/2021) will not go ahead. We'll look forward to it happening again in 2021/2022, with renewed energy from all of us after a year off.

Instead of the main gathering, we hope that a number of Convergees will organise smaller, more flexible gatherings for that time, depending on the covid-19 level. This could be an exciting opportunity for experimentation and adaptability. See "Local Gatherings" below for more thoughts.

While many of us love and have attachment to the land at Journey's End, and the site holds many fond memories, it is not Journey's End but the reason and spirit of Convergence that makes the event special. As long as people are holding a gathering in the spirit of Convergence, and with the intent to honour the meaning of Convergence, then much of what makes Convergence precious to us will blossom no matter where it is set down.

The hope and expectation is that in 15 months time, we will again be able to gather at Journey's End and the various strands which have taken root across the land will weave together to form something which is a quantum leap ahead of anything experienced so far at Convergence.

## Local Gatherings

With the main event not running this year, it would be great to see a range of alternatives. Decentralise and build a local community this year?

Maybe local residential gatherings over New Year (with a limit of 100 people), picnics in local parks, workshops offered at people's homes, great New Year's parties, and anything else you can think of to keep and spread the Convergence spirit. Maybe some people could put their hands up for organising such events in different places and other Convergees could rally around them to help. Do you have a

suitable space for a small gathering? Consider organising something that keeps the spirit and energy of Convergence going.

Unfortunately, the Convergence NZ Trust is unable to assume any responsibility or liability for any 2020/2021 event, and it feels unfair to have any one of the hopefully many smaller events called Convergence. Therefore please avoid calling any local event Convergence. Perhaps we could use “North Island Convergee Gathering” or “Nelson Convergee Gathering”, etc? But feel free to call your event whatever you prefer, except Convergence. Sorry.

The businesses that supply Convergence might be able and keen to supply local gatherings instead. For example, marquees, tables, composting toilets, and that magnificent outdoor shower. If you want contact details, let us know.

The Convergence ticketing system is only set up for the main event and it would be far too difficult to make it available to a multitude of other events. An alternative could be Humanitix ([link](#)), they're a charity, have the lowest fees and invest all profits in local communities.

We have talked nicely to the web ninjas, and everyone organising a local event can have a page on the Convergence website. You just have to supply the content (i.e. email us the text, see bottom of page 1). We'd love to put them into the November newsletter too.

## **Feedback needed on running the kitchen**

And as we look towards the New Year 2022 gathering, we'd love to hear what makes Convergence important to you. In particular, we're wondering about reinventing the food and the kitchen. This takes an enormous amount of energy from the cooks, WWOOFers and kitchen helpers, who offer this wonderful service for no pay and not much return. As Convergence has increased in size and the range of dishes provided has increased too, this has put an unsustainable strain on the labour and physical capacity of the kitchen. It become increasingly obvious that this needs to change, and burning cooks out isn't in the spirit of Convergence.

So, we need to hear from the community what you value about food at Convergence—what kind of food and how it's created—and ideas for how the kitchen can run in a way that's easy for the cooks while still nourishing the Convergence community. Please reply to this newsletter email and help with co-creating a wonderful event next time.

## **Newsletter contributions**

We're delighted to get notices of upcoming events, write-ups of past events, especially musings on Convergence, and anything else a majority of Convergees may be interested in. How has Convergence influenced you during this year? Just email us—please refer to the bottom of the first page of every newsletter.

## Mini Gathering 2–4 October

We are currently planning the October Mini Gathering.

We, as in Convergence, have to get these things done:

- Build a bay/shed for storing firewood for Convergence, that is lockable.
- Move everything of Convergence's that's stacked next to and on top of the container, before the site owners are forced to throw it out. This is urgent because of an upcoming building inspection. Items include the material for the stage in the main marquee.

If we are lucky and fast, we can move it into the new shed and lock it up. You do want to keep the stage???

- Put in an irrigation system to water the trees we planted in June.

We'll need as many people as possible for these, so if you can come and help and enjoy a spring weekend in the country, please do!

We may have further details closer to the Mini Gathering, which we will send on the notices email list. If you haven't yet joined, opt in here: <http://convergence.org.nz/notices>

Sadly, this will be the last regular Mini Gathering. It's become obvious to both Convergence and the site owners that the value of Mini Gatherings has reduced, so we have agreed to discontinue them.

Thanks heaps to everyone who's come and worked and laughed and shared over the years. It's made a huge difference to the site and to Convergence.

Make the most of this opportunity to spend a relaxing weekend at Journey's End while lending a hand. Bring your own breakfasts, and food to share for lunches and dinners. We finish Sunday afternoon.

## Working Bee 4–6 December

To be confirmed — we still have the Journey's End site booked for 4–6 December. If there is anything else to do or finish this is the date we'll have to do it. More information will be in the November newsletter.

## **Expand the Box training**

*17–21 February 2021, Christchurch*

After an epic training here in Golden Bay so much interest has come forward that Ana and Sybille decided to create an Expand the Box training in Christchurch.

Please contact either Sybille or Ana for more information or check out the website. Details still need to be falling into place.

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## **Embodied Intimacy Retreat 2021**

*24–28 March 2021, Tui Events Park, Wainui Bay*

Embodied Intimacy is a 5-day summer movement retreat nestled in the bush next to the Abel Tasman National Park.

Super Early Bird Price: Until 15 December 2021 — \$597

Early Bird Price: Until 1 February 2021 — \$680

Full Price: \$750

A warm welcome to embodied intimacy. This delicious journey is a combination of Open Floor movement practise, Possibility Management, Sharing Circles and Restorative Yoga.

Also a treat for the physical body with spas and sauna and walks on the beach to allow all the transformational explorations to land.

Inspiring intellectual, emotional & spiritual transformation.

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

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.

2021 is the 4th year of embodied intimacy. The last 3 have been rich, deep and powerful journeys and the event keeps evolving every year. We hope you join us.

Sybille Feint

(see above)