

NEWSLETTER

August 2014

Executive

Greetings to you all from the Executive, who met in Wellington at the Catholic Retreat Centre 'Our Lady's Home of Compassion' in Island Bay over two days – July 25th and 26th – recently. Everyone was able to be present, and we covered a lot of ground over the two days. The first day was spent dealing with the normal business of the executive, while the Saturday was allocated to strategic planning for the next five years and working with the responses to our recent survey. We also discussed next year's Biennial General meeting and Training Event.

Strategic planning and the Member Survey

Anglican priest John Hornblow joined us on Saturday July 26th, and helped us work through the responses to the membership survey. In light of these responses, we spent considerable time working on vision and mission statements for ACSD before we engaged in goal setting. The result is that our vision for ACSD is captured in the title: **The Association of Christian Spiritual Directors: The Place of Connection**. The mission statement that followed from this is: **To promote spiritual direction and spiritual directors, resource spiritual directors, and ensure accountability of spiritual directors**. Goals were then established in three areas: 1) Promote spiritual direction and directors, 2) Resourcing spiritual directors, and 3) Ensuring accountability of spiritual directors. Any of you who have engaged in an exercise such as this will know how much hard work goes into it. We are pleased with the outcome and hope that you will be too. We think it will definitely enhance the work of ACSD undertaken on behalf of you, the members.



The Executive working on strategic planning.

Assessment of New Zealand Training Programmes

We discussed at length how we can evaluate the various programmes being offered in New Zealand as training or forming spiritual directors. Until we have formulated our own ACSD standards, it was decided, amongst other criteria, to evaluate programmes with the standards set by the Australian Ecumenical Council of Spiritual Directors (AECSD). These standards are available on the AECSD website. We hope to have an ongoing conversation about formation training programme criteria with AECSD in October.

Training Event and BGM 2015

Molly King and Pip Nicholls reported on progress in organising next year's Training Event which will be held at Our Lady's Home of Compassion in Island Bay, Wellington (where we were meeting). The dates for this event are August 28 – 30, 2015.

The Wellington Organising Group have gone through feedback from the recent survey, and three suggestions stood out:

1. By spiritual directors for spiritual directors. Keep the Training Event focused on the 'work' that we do and have spiritual directors as presenters.
2. Predominantly local (New Zealand) presenters as we have also have a wealth of knowledge and understanding.
3. Keep costs down as much as possible as many of us are not significant earners.



Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington.

While finding a suitable keynote speaker is proving elusive, yet we are confident of much stimulating local input. At the associated BGM, Ricky Waters, our Chairperson, has informed us that there are some constitutional matters that will have to be addressed. For example, the date of ACSD's financial year may need to be changed from ending in August to the more normal date of June. All the changes that are to be considered will be advised to the members well in advance of the BGM.

Website

Ricky Waters is to prepare guidelines for members who would like to post content - poetry, book reviews, etc - onto ACSD's website. We are working to put educational material on the 'members only' section.

Use of Membership List

Please note that statements, documents, the Association's membership list, and other material published on the website is copyright to the Association. It is the intellectual property of the Association and therefore protected by NZ Law. The membership list, therefore, cannot be used for other purposes (for example, to

advertise events or programmes, even if in the area of spiritual direction). In fact, if you come across material on the Association's website and recognise that it could be used by yourself in another setting, you need to ask permission of the author of such material before you can use it (with appropriate acknowledgement as to the source).

Membership

A warm welcome to new Associate Member Kathy Torkington.

Please hold Helen Straubel in your prayers. Health issues mean that Helen is no longer able to undertake spiritual direction.

Covenant Renewal

You have been sent covenant renewal forms. (If for some reason you have not received a covenant renewal form, get hold of our Secretary Mary Hepburn as soon as possible and request one.) These must be completed and returned to her by September 30th. Please make sure that these are appropriately filled in before returning them to Mary. (For example, don't forget to sign the form.)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ACSD Executive will be held in Wellington on October 18th.