



**The Association of  
Christian Spiritual Directors Inc.**

**Newsletter –December 2013**

**Season's greetings to you all**

**Training Event 2013**

Thank you to all members who made the 2013 Training Event a renewing and supportive time together. There were comments in the evaluations on the value of space and time for informal contact with fellow Spiritual Directors, an opportunity to do one's own inner work, and the value of input from the speakers. Overall, there was good energy, and some quiet reflective times together. The local organising group did a sterling job! Thank you to all involved.

**Executive**

The executive met in Wellington on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. Pip Nichols was welcomed to her first full meeting. Jeff Whittaker was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. It was a very busy meeting in which we reviewed the biennial training event in Christchurch, investigated some new initiatives, and started the planning for the 2015 event to be held in Wellington. Among other things we are looking at are best practice for supervision, ongoing opportunities for professional development, pastoral care for new associate members, ACSD contact in regional groups, and keeping the web site fresh and engaging.

**Next Meeting**

The ACSD Executive will meet again in Wellington February 15.

**The Association's Policy - No Refunds**

The executive was made very aware following the previous Auckland training event that a clearly stated policy was needed to ensure fairness to all members and to those taking responsibility for the financial aspects of these complex national events.

Our policy is now very clear and in common with other national events held all around New Zealand and overseas. We set the dates for payment as close to the event as possible to make sure those intending to come can alter their plans if their circumstances change. One month prior to the event is the usual cut off date. After the stated dates we are committed to payment for the services provided.

The policy is clearly outlined in the brochure and in ACSD Newsletters to members. The ACSD Executive and the local arrangements group works to an extremely tight budget so that costs to our members can be kept to an absolute minimum. We do not seek to make a profit. We are always glad if we manage to cover all costs.

A national training event is a very expensive exercise. Costs include overseas speaker's fees, accommodation, meals, travel; local speakers' fees; venue hire and catering per person. The pre-event day was open to members and non-members, who could register for just that day. Registration was required by a specified time.

After considerable discussion at the executive meeting it was decided to investigate some sort of insurance policy with the Association Insurance broker, perhaps similar to those for cancelled flights with Air NZ, but this may be expensive and further add to the cost of organising future national events. People who wish to recover costs could then apply to the insurance company for these in the same way as those applying for cancelled flights. This, if it were possible, would be fair and compassionate to each member who may wish to apply for a refund. We will continue to explore options and will keep members informed if any future policy changes are made.

### **Secretary Treasurer**

Mary Hepburn has completed her first six months as our secretary treasurer. We wish to commend her for the willing and enthusiastic way she has picked up the tasks required as these have been handed over by those fulfilling this work. I am sure she will have some helpful hints to pass on as she completes this first round of membership renewals. The list is now updated on the web site. Late renewals will be added in March 2014.

## To contact ACSD

- **Secretary Treasurer** Mary Hepburn for membership applications, renewals, subscriptions and change of address details.  
[maryhrsm@gmail.com](mailto:maryhrsm@gmail.com) or 03 4776882
- **Executive Contact** Carol Grant for web site contacts.  
[nandcg@clear.net.nz](mailto:nandcg@clear.net.nz)

## Membership

A warm welcome to new members:

- **Full members:**

Mary Ebyarimpa, 25A John Court St, Birkenhead, Auckland 0626

Cathy Elkington, 51 Kamo Rd, Regent, Whangarei 0112

Agnes Hermans, 24 Pah Rd, Onerahi, Whangarei 0110

Veronica Parton, 11 Wisteria Grove, Lower Hutt 5010

Pauline Simonsen, 15 Innes Place, Roslyn, Palmerston North 4414

- **Associate members:**

Sue Cunningham, 18 Istana Place, Britannia Heights, Nelson 7010

- **Renewal of Covenant:**

Thank you for the renewals received by the due date. Late renewals keep trickling in! Late renewals will be received by March 31 2014. After that date your membership will lapse, and you will need to apply formally for membership again.

## Deepest sympathy:

We acknowledge with sadness the death of Judy Leonard of Christchurch who was a valued member of the Association and good friend to many. May she rest in peace.

## Found

A blue/green glasses case was left behind at the Training Event in Christchurch. If you think this could be yours, please let Mary know.

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Blessings of peace and hope to each of you and your loved ones this Christmas. And may the holiday time be a time of refreshment at every level of your being!

*Mary Hepburn rsm*  
Secretary/Treasurer  
ACSD

*Carol Grant*  
Executive

*We must be quiet and not fear the night,  
else we will hear nothing.  
For the ultimate message is uttered only in the night's stillness ever since,  
through the gracious arrival of the Word into the night of our life,  
Christmas' silent night,  
holy night came down among us.*

*Karl Rahner*

