



The Association of
Christian Spiritual Directors Inc.

NEWSLETTER

June 2014

EXECUTIVE

Greetings to you all from the Executive, who met in Wellington on May 17th. Unfortunately, Glenda was unable to attend because of health issues. As usual, the meeting covered a lot of ground. In particular, considerable time was spent working on the survey that was sent out with the last newsletter, and discussing professional development. We also talked about next year's Training Event and Biennial General Meeting.

MEMBER SURVEY

As noted above, a survey was sent out with the last newsletter. 59 responses were received. That is, approximately 1/3 of the membership responded. (In survey terms, this is a very positive response.) So, thank you for your thoughtful and considered responses that will be a significant part of the future direction of ACSD. The Executive has employed a post-graduate student at Otago University to collate and analyse all the responses. We will then process the results further at our July Retreat day. We hope to emerge from this day with a number of action points to implement.

Now, one of the questions in the survey asked whether respondents would be happy to give input at our Biennial Training Events. A number of you responded positively, which is very encouraging. However, survey respondents were – of course – assured of anonymity! And so, those of you who indicated that you would be willing to give input at the Biennial Training Event, can you please get in touch with Mary or one of the Executive members so that we can plan such input knowing who you are!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Executive talked for some time about professional development. One of the tasks of a body such as ACSD is to ensure that its members continue to enhance their professional skills. Thus, it is clear that we not only need to define what appropriate professional development is for spiritual directors, but that we also need to discuss this with prospective members and with existing members at covenant renewal time. Regional groups may have ideas about appropriate courses or events that could count as professional development for spiritual directors. The Executive expects that professional development will be an agenda item at the next Biennial General Meeting (BGM).

TRAINING EVENT AND BGM 2015

Our 2015 Training Event and BGM will be held in Wellington over the weekend of 27-30 August 2015. We are currently pondering options and themes and are considering an overseas inspirational speaker. We also anticipate some excellent local input at this event.

ACSD WEBSITE

Executive chairperson Ricky Waters noted that there is some debate about what is appropriate content to be put on the ACSD website. A disclaimer will be appended to some items included on the website, so that members remain aware that inclusion— for example, of advertising of courses or conferences – does not necessarily imply that ACSD endorses such without reservation.

We would like add contacts for Regional Support Groups on the Members' page. Could each region please send the contact name to Mary.

LAPTOP FOR ACSD SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Executive approved the purchase of a laptop to be used specifically for ACSD affairs.

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to new members:

Full Member:

Jan Sampson, Hamilton

Associate Member:

Andrew Connolly, Auckland.

There are several new applications for membership in process.

In addition, the Executive approved Sr Sheila McGrath for Emeritus status.

Please remember in your prayers the family of Libby Hinton who died recently after a brief illness, and those who are not well at the present time.

SGM CELEBRATION DAYS!

Our congratulations to SGM for holding the regional celebration days during May! Thanks to the team for the gift of the story of SGM from its beginning until this time. It was a most enjoyable, enriching and stimulating time as we remembered our story and renewed friendships. We look forward to a future of growth and deepening our ministry together.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the ACSD Executive will be held in Wellington over two days, July 25th and 26th. Friday July 25th will be our usual Executive meeting, while Saturday July 26th will be a retreat day in which we will ponder the results of the survey (see below).

NEXT MAILING

Renewal of Covenant time draws near again. The form will be sent out early in July.

.....
Mary Hepburn rsm

maryhrsm@gmail.com

027 3508915, 03 4776882