



The Association of
Christian Spiritual Directors Inc.

NEWSLETTER

May 2015

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Greetings to you all from the Executive, which met in Wellington on May 16th. All the Exec members were present except Glenda Prosser who was travelling overseas. As usual, the meeting had a lot to discuss, with good progress made.

TRAINING EVENT AND BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Wellington Working Group organising this year's Training Event again reported to the meeting (through Exec members Pip Nicholls and Molly King) on progress with various aspects of organisation and an update on registrations to date. Encouragingly, as you will have also gathered from Mary Hepburn's recent email, registrations are around 80, with the possibility that only a few more will be able to be squeezed in. It appears as well that on-line registration has proved popular and easy to negotiate. Further, everyone has been able to get the accommodation they requested. As often happens with our Biennial Training Events, though, there have been requests from a number of non-members to attend. Current policy restricts attendance to members and associate members. However, as noted below under 'Membership,' the Exec is considering looking at some new membership categories which will enable non members to attend open days prior to the main Training Event at a discounted rate. The Executive will work on other ways the students and friends may be included in the future.

Training Event Opportunity: At previous training events individual members have paid a one off koha of \$50 to add something like a flyer, or poem, or a blurb about a book they have authored to the Welcome Pack. If you would like to do that at this Training Event then please contact Clare O'Connor at:

clare@cenacle.org.nz and she will discuss with you the process of receiving the material and payment

FINANCE

Once again, we spent a considerable period of time discussing the finances of the Association. It's clear that our current income is inadequate to run the Association, even with the curbing of costs that the Exec is attempting. It should be appreciated that Association subs have not been increased for over a decade, while costs have not stood still. In view of all this, we will be recommending to the Biennial General Meeting that annual subs be increased to \$65 per year.

Another aspect of the Association's financial management that we would like to change is the financial year. Currently the financial year runs from 1 September through to 31 August of the following year. This creates a complication in that income and expenditure from our Biennial Training Events typically falls into two financial years, which makes for some messy accounting. We think it would be better to change the financial year so that it runs from 1 April through to the following 31 March. We'll discuss it at the BGM. In conjunction with this, we think it would also simplify things administratively to move our membership year from the current arrangement of 1 September to the following 31 August, to 1 December through to the following 30 November. This would take a lot of administrative work out of the time when attention needs to be focussed on organising the Biennial Training Event.

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to our new members:

Associate Members:

Chris Hartley, Wellington

Sharryn McAuliffe, Rangiora

Lew Marsh, Fielding

Full Member:

Marion Fairbrass, Christchurch

While preparing this Newsletter, we've just heard of the death of one of our members, Cilla Heymer from Lower Hutt. Cilla has been an active member of the Association and the Wellington Spiritual Directors' group for many years after graduating in in the 1980's. An active person, she was never far from a tennis court, contributing to a Newsletter, the NZ Counsellors Association work or a choir. Cilla died on the 25th May after a short stay in hospital and her funeral, facilitated by Graham Miller and Judy Hardie was held on the 4th June with many Spiritual Directors present. May she be in peace.

As noted above, the Executive is considering adding two new membership categories, those of 'student' (for those currently in training as spiritual directors), and 'friend' (for those members who want to maintain links with ACSD while not in a position to continue offering spiritual direction, whose work requires them to go overseas for a time, those required to complete further training prior to becoming an associate member, directors with no current directees, and prayer guides.) These additions will require a change to the 'Membership' category of the Constitution, so we will need to discuss this at the upcoming BGM. Approval could be given for the idea in general at the BGM, even as more specific criteria for each category could be developed in consultation with the members subsequently, before being presented at the 2017 Biennial Training Event.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the ACSD Executive will be held in Wellington at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, on August 27th 2015 (the eve of the Biennial Training Event).

Mary Hepburn rsm

maryhrsm@gmail.com

027 3508915