



The Association of
Christian Spiritual Directors Inc.

NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2016

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Greetings to you all from the Executive, who met in Dunedin on Friday October 14th and Saturday October 15th. We were joined at Mary's place (10 Scotland Street) after our Friday afternoon session by Fr. Mark Chamberlain, Catholic priest and spiritual director, the keynote speaker for next year's Training Event. And on the Saturday morning, when we met at Burns Lodge in Mosgiel (the venue for next year's Training Event, and formerly the Holy Cross Seminary), we were joined by the local planning group: Nola Myles, Mike Wright, Jane Green, Amy Armstrong, and Ken Baker. (Executive member John Franklin, also part of the planning group, was of course present throughout.)

2017 TRAINING EVENT

Work is progressing on the 2017 Training Event. The dates for it will be Friday September 1st (starting with coffee and registration at 9am) through to Sunday September 3rd 2017 (with a 3:30pm departure time). As previously advised, our theme for the Training Event will be **HOLISTIC SPIRITUALITY – Exploring, Belonging, Being**. As well, the planning group are organising an open day for Thursday August 31st 10am until 4pm, based around the life and work of James K Baxter, a Dunedin native. The planning group is finalising workshop presentations. Thanks to those of you who have offered to facilitate a workshop at the Training Event. The Executive is excited about how the Training Event is coming together, and acknowledge the hard work the local planning group is doing.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES...

Some time was spent discussing new membership categories. We feel that we've finally worked this through to a helpful form. See the attachment for the various additions to the categories of membership.

One of the things discussed under membership was transfer from other spiritual direction groups. We felt that if the training programmes feeding into these other associations – for example there are professional groups in Australia and Singapore – are deemed to fit with our own rigorous standards, then members of these other groups could transfer directly to full membership of ACSD following an interview and provided the specification for hours of direction already undertaken are met.

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to our new members:

Full Members:

Regina Daly, Stokes Valley
John Marquet, Palmerston North
Lew Marsh, Feilding
John Pettit, Kopua

Associate Members:

John Axcell, Wellington
Jenny Caston, Auckland
Mary Catherwood, Christchurch
Marven Harkness, Auckland

REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS

Mindful of the need for us as an organisation to be hospitable, the Executive would like to encourage those of you who organise local spiritual direction training events or refresher days to invite any spiritual directors in formation to these gatherings. This can help ease the bump between a formation programme and membership of ACSD.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Recognising the importance of professional development to keeping competent as spiritual directors, we spent quite some time looking at the issue. Glenda has prepared a helpful summary describing what professional development is, why it is essential, and how to go about undertaking some in a planned way. (See the attachment 'Professional Development Guidelines', which will also be put onto the Association's web-site.)

In line with this, we are creating a professional development scholarship fund. (You will have seen an entry on your covenant renewal form enabling you to donate to this.) Anyway, we hope to build up a fund that will enable members to undertake professional development that otherwise would have been out of financial reach. Please consider donating to this. (See the attached document which will also be put onto the Association's web-site.)

RENEWAL OF COVENANT

This is a reminder for those of you who haven't renewed your covenant yet, you have only until the end of November to get your renewals back to Mary at 10 Scotland Street, Dunedin. After that, late renewals will need to be sent to Mary at 17A McBride Street, South Dunedin, Dunedin 9012.

SECRETARY/ TREASURER VACANCY

As advised in the last newsletter, the Association's current Secretary/Treasurer Mary Hepburn, is resigning. The role is responsible for providing administrative assistance and secretarial support to the Executive, and to assist in facilitating the work of the Association. With an allocation of 300 hours a year, the role can be based wherever there is good internet access and in reasonable proximity to an airport as most meetings (3 per year) are held in Wellington. The tasks predominantly relate to liaison with the Executive, managing the annual renewal of covenant process, keeping the membership lists up to date, secretarial and administrative work such as preparing agendas and taking minutes, filing and recording communications, overseeing Association finances, and other tasks requested by the Executive! Now, we have begun advertising. (Jo Anastasiadis has kindly agreed to fill in for Mary until the Training Event next year if that is required, for which we are incredibly grateful.)

And while we are reflecting on Mary's duties, here again is the password for the members' page on the Association's web-site (www.acsd.org.nz).

The password is
1acsdanz9
so keep this handy!

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the ACSD Executive will be held at St Aidan's Miramar, on Saturday March 4th 2017

Mary Hepburn rsm

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