

# REPORTS TO THE AGM OF SEA OF FAITH NZ

6 NOVEMBER 2017

NOEL CHEER

In addition to my role as a general (and ex-officio) member of the Steering Committee, I manage three other functions:

- The Newsletter
- The Website
- The Conference Committee

## Newsletter:

The first issue was sent out in November 1992 under the editorship of Lloyd Geering. Issue number 132 was sent out in October 2017.

This 6-times per year 12-page publication is authored by me (some copy is plagiarised but, where possible, acknowledged). I submit it to a printing function at the Wellington City Council.

I have three diligent and helpful aides in this task:

- Shirley Dixon (who has a good eye for grammar and punctuation) who brings it up to a publishable standard.
- Yvonne Curtis stuffs envelopes and submits the mailed copy to the mercies of NZ Post.
- Peter Cowley arranges the mailing labels for Yvonne and furthermore he sends email copies to subscribers who elect to receive it in that way.

Authoring the Newsletter costs us nothing because such work is done voluntarily. The major costs arise in the printing and mailing. We encourage subscribers to receive their copy via the Internet which cost SoF significantly less

The Steering Committee (through the analytical spy-glass of Treasurer, Norm Ely), has suggested re-structuring membership charges to more accurately cover such costs.

There is a trickle of appreciative comments about the quality of the Newsletter which suggests that we should not undertake money-saving practices that would diminish its quality.

The supervisory gods of the generally non-theist SoF should give some thought to a replacement for me should senility or mortality, prevent my ability to continue. Also, my willingness waxes and wanes.

## **The Website: <http://www.sof.org.nz>:**

It has two functions:

- A repository of worthwhile “old” reading material
- A source of information about the aims and functions of SoF NZ, aimed at the general, religiously-inquisitive, doctrinally-disobedient, reformation-oriented – in the “semper reformanda” style.

## **The Conference Committee**

After a referendum of members earlier this year, it was resolved to hold the annual Sea of Faith Conference in Wellington – currently at The Retreat, a Conference facility in Silverstream. That move made it possible to replace the former practice of asking SoF members resident in the vicinity of the Conference to form an ad hoc, pro tem, Arrangements Committee to “run” the Conference. The Steering Committee accepted the offer of myself and Norm Ely and Peter Cowley to constitute a replacement “Conference Committee” which does the same work but differently in that it is directly accountable to the Steering Committee and which can also take advantage of the accumulated experience gained by the CC and its relationship with the owners of The Retreat.

I must acknowledge the diligence and professionalism of my two colleagues, Norm and Peter.

## **The Future**

I enjoy making the Newsletter – without getting too sentimental, we could call it a “labour of love”.

I would not be reluctant to hand over the running of the Website and could assist by providing technical information about its setup and running.

The content and style of SoF activities is such that I am proud to be associated with SoF and pleased to be of help.

But age is making inroads into my energy such that future involvement in the Conference Committee is becoming increasingly unrealistic.

**Noel Cheer**