

You Can Join

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You will receive six informative and stimulating Newsletters each year.

So, if you wish to become a member, please complete the form below and post it with your subscription to:

The Membership Secretary, SoF
P.O. Box 15-324 Miramar
Wellington 6243

Name(s): _____

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Please Circle if Applicable:

- I am/we are also interested in joining a Local Group (SoF will forward your name)
- I prefer to receive the Newsletter as a pdf file at the above email address instead of by mail.

Sea of Faith Network (NZ) Steering Committee 2010-2011

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The website at www.sof.org.nz
gives details of Local Group contacts throughout
New Zealand and access to a large library
of interesting papers.



The Sea of Faith Network

is an association of people
who have a common interest
in exploring religious thought
and expression from a
non-dogmatic and
human-oriented
standpoint

www.sof.org.nz

In New Zealand

The Sea of Faith Network began in New Zealand in 1992 following the formation of the Network in Britain in 1989. A Network operates in Australia also.

The New Zealand Network is autonomous and publishes its own regular Newsletter, assists in setting up local discussion groups, maintains a website and holds annual Conferences.

The 2011 Conference will be held in Christchurch. For full details, see the website at www.sof.org.nz

Local Groups of the Sea of Faith Network meet in various venues throughout New Zealand to continue the discussions.

The Contact for the nearest Local Group is:

“Positioning” Statements

THE SEA OF FAITH NETWORK (NZ)

AFFIRMS the continuing importance of religious thought and practice as a vehicle for awe and wonder and for the celebration of key social and spiritual values;

DRAWS freely upon our spiritual heritage without being bound by it;

PROMOTES the quest for meaning and fulfillment as a human activity;

PROVIDES encouragement, stimulation and support in fellowship with others engaged in the quest.

The Sea of Faith Network itself has no creed. It draws its members from people of all faiths and also from those with no attachment to religious institutions.

Why “Sea of Faith”?

The name comes from a phrase in Matthew Arnold's poem “Dover Beach”:

*The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's
shore,
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furl'd.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.*

In 1984 the phrase was used as the title of a BBC television documentary series and book by the English theologian Don Cupitt.

These traced pivotal changes in western science, philosophy and religion over the past 350 years, which together call for a radical re-thinking of our faith traditions.

It was as a consequence of this series that the Sea of Faith Network emerged.