

## You can join ...

... the **Sea of Faith Network (NZ)** by paying an annual subscription of \$20 *per household* if within NZ or \$30 if overseas. If you accept the "pdf" option below, the annual charge is \$15 anywhere.

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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **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 on paper.
- I would like to additionally receive the "Sofia" magazine from the UK SoF Network. I understand that you will send information to me on how to subscribe.

## Steering Committee

### 2009-2010

#### **Chairperson**

**Natali Allen,**  
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#### **Secretary**

**Alan Jackson** 55 Evans Street, Opoho, Dunedin  
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alanjackson@xtra.co.nz

#### **Treasurer & Membership Secy.**

**Peter Cowley** PO Box 15-324, Miramar  
Wellington 6243

#### **Arrangements Committee Chair**

Norm Ely phone 027-44409-267

#### **Resource Centre Librarian**

**Suzi Thirlwall,** 34 Briarley St, Tauranga;  
phone/Fax (07) 578-2775

#### **Members**

Don Feist, Fred Marshall, Phillip Grimmett, Steve Collard, Bob Geddes, Margaret Gwynn, Beverley Smith, Steven Warnes, Noel Cheer

#### **Life Members**

**Sir Lloyd Geering, Don Cupitt, Noel Cheer**

The website at [www.sof.org.nz](http://www.sof.org.nz)  
gives details of Local Group contacts throughout  
New Zealand and access to a large library of  
interesting papers.



Sea of Faith  
NETWORK N.Z.

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](http://www.sof.org.nz)

## 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.

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

The book and the television series trace 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.

## "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. It publishes a regular Newsletter, assists in setting up local discussion groups, maintains a website and holds an annual Conference.**

## Activity In New Zealand

The Sea of Faith Network began in New Zealand in 1992. It followed the formation of a Sea of Faith Network in Britain in 1989.

Since then we have held an annual Conference at:

1993 Hamilton  
1994 Hamilton  
1995 Wellington  
1996 Dunedin  
1997 Auckland  
1998 Wellington  
1999 Christchurch  
2000 Havelock North  
2001 Auckland  
2002 Timaru  
2003 Inglewood  
2004 Cambridge  
2005 Christchurch  
2006 Marton  
2007 Auckland  
2008 Blenheim  
2009 Hamilton  
2010 Wellington (planned)

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