

## You Can Join

**If you wish to become a member, please complete this form and post it, with your subscription, to:**

**The Membership Secretary, SoF  
1/30A Dunns St, Silverstream, Upper Hutt 5019**

**You will receive six informative and stimulating Newsletters each year. Note the options below.**

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**Choose one preference for receiving the Newsletter**

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- Both on paper and as emailed pdf (same price as paper only)**

**Please tick if applicable:**

- I am/we are also interested in joining a Local Group (SoF will forward your name)**

## Sea of Faith Steering Committee 2017-2018

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# Sea of Faith

**NEW ZEALAND**

Exploring

Values  
Spirituality  
Meaning

## In New Zealand

Sea of Faith 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 2018 Conference will be held in Silverstream, Wellington.

For details, see the website at [sof.org.nz](http://sof.org.nz)

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

Our formal name is  
The Sea of Faith Network (NZ) Inc.

*The Contact for the nearest Local Group is*

14/05/18

## Positioning Statements

### SEA OF FAITH

IS AN ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE who have a common interest in exploring religious thought and expression from a non-dogmatic and human-oriented standpoint

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 fulfilment as a human activity;

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

Sea of Faith itself has no creed.

It draws its members from people of all faiths and also from those with no attachment to religious institutions.

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



## 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 rethinking of our faith traditions.

It was as a consequence of this TV series and book that Sea of Faith emerged, initially as a Network in the UK and later additionally in New Zealand and Australia.