

CONFERENCE NOTES



SEA OF FAITH NETWORK (NZ)

Conference 2012

The Revaluing of All Values – What Values Do We Need to Survive?

Friday October 5th to Sunday October 7th 2012

St Cuthbert's College, 122 Market Road, Epsom, Auckland



The Programme

FRIDAY 5 October

12.30 pm – 1:30 pm	Committees meet
1:00 pm – 2.00 pm	Registration. (Tea and coffee available)
2:00 pm – 2.30 pm	Conference Opening
2:30 pm – 3.30 pm	Nietzsche's Contribution - Prof. Lloyd Geering (1)
3:30 pm – 4.00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Core Group (1)
5:00 pm – 6.00 pm	HAPPY HOUR
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	DINNER
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Sea of Faith AGM.

SATURDAY 6 October

7:00 am	Chapel open
7.30 am - 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Justice, stewardship and compassion: re-balancing core values - Dr. Valerie Grant (2)
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Core Group (2)
10:30 am – 11:00 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 am – 12:00noon	Theology and values in a Secular Society? – Dr. Andrew Bradstock (3)
12:00noon– 1:00 pm	Core Group (3)
1:00 pm -	PACKED LUNCH
1:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Visits/Workshops
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Happy Hour
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	DINNER
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Entertainment - Steven Taputoro, Magician

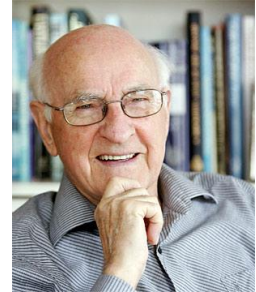
SUNDAY 7 October

7:00 am	Chapel open
7.30 am – 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8:30 am – 9:30 am	A No-Growth Future for Humankind? – Dr. John Peet (4)
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Core Group (4) (<i>Questions to Panel leader by 11am</i>)
11:00am – 11:30 am	MORNING TEA
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Panel Discussion
1:00 pm – 1.30 pm	Conference Wind Up and Introduction to Conference 2013
1:30 pm	LUNCH (<i>packed</i>) and Steering Committee meets

The Papers and Panels

Lloyd Geering: “Nietzsche's Contribution”

This presentation will explore relevance of Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche's (1844-1900) thought in today's world. Nietzsche may be de-scribed as the prophet par excellence of the new age. Martin Buber referred to him as 'the first path-finder of the new culture', 'the awakener and creator of new life-values and a new world-feeling'.



Nietzsche believed that the traditional Christian concern with the supposed spiritual realities of the other-world, far from leading to human fulfilment, had the effect of falsifying all the real human problems of politics, of social organization and of education and of causing men to despise the basic concerns of life itself.

The modern growth of this-worldly concerns meant, for Nietzsche, that mankind was entering on an entirely new era, one pregnant with both hope and disaster on the grand scale. In the transition to modernity, a transition in values he called 'the revaluation of all values' is taking place..... 'There are no moral phenomena at all, only a moral interpretation of phenomena'. Instead of becoming the slave of values, falsely believed to be absolute, each person has to become the master of the moral component of his/her own human condition.

Professor Sir Lloyd Geering is the author of at least 10 books, including his autobiography, *Wrestling with God*, (2006) He was awarded an Honorary DD by the University of Otago in 1976 and a CBE in 1988; in 2001 he was named a Principal Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit and in 2007 he was admitted to the Order of New Zealand.

Valerie Grant: “Justice, stewardship and compassion: re-balancing core values”

In this talk I will attempt an analysis of some contemporary problems concerning values and religion. I will start by sketching in relevant points from our evolutionary history, particularly the changing forms of altruism over time. I will outline the evolutionary advantages of having some form of religion, both then and now. In the process I will make some rather unfashionable observations about the biological basis of individual differences and the extent to which contemporary human behaviour still bears witness to the success of our forbears' evolutionarily adaptive strategies for survival and reproduction. I will query the extent to which compassion “should” trump justice, and reflect on what is meant by stewardship in local and global settings. Finally I will question the idea that religion should be dispensed with altogether, and instead ask what would be the characteristics of a helpful contemporary religion.



Dr. Valerie Grant studied psychology at the University of Auckland, later specialising in evolutionary psychology. She taught at the Auckland School of Medicine for 34 years, first in Behavioural Science, later in Medical Ethics and the Humanities. She has published over 50 scientific papers and is still

actively engaged in research on her maternal dominance hypothesis. In 1998 Routledge (London and New York) published her book “Maternal Personality, Evolution and the Sex Ratio: Do Mothers Control the Sex of the Infant?” Born into a Methodist parsonage in Dunedin, and later living at Trinity Methodist College Auckland where her father was the principal, she has a life-long interest in religion and the search for meaning.

Andrew Bradstock: “Theology and values in a Secular Society?”

Dr. Andrew Bradstock holds the Howard Paterson Chair in Theology and Public Issues and is Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues at the University of Otago. This Centre is part of a global network of public theology centres, and seeks to raise the profile of public theology in New Zealand and contribute from a theological perspective to public discourse and policy thinking. Andrew studied Theology and Politics at the University of Bristol before completing his PhD in Political Theory at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He has extensive teaching experience and has worked with UK politicians to develop links between Parliament and the churches and other faith communities. From 2000-5 he was Secretary for Church and Society with the United Reformed Church, and prior to coming to Otago co-directed the Centre for Faith and Society at the Von Hugel Institute at St Edmund's College, Cambridge. Since taking up his role at Otago in January 2009, Andrew has worked to promote, and contribute to, discussion in ‘the public square’



In his paper Andrew will consider the challenge of speaking about values and convictions in a self-consciously secular society, and explore how theology can contribute to fresh and 'deeper' thinking on issues of current concern, both within New Zealand and wider field. He will suggest that theology can stimulate a re-framing and re-conceptualizing of issues, leading to positive action towards the creation of a more sustainable and just society.

John Peet: “A No-Growth Future for Humankind?”

Dr. John Peet was born in the UK and has been living in Christchurch for the last 50 years. John has a BSc in Chemical Technology, a PhD in Chemical Engineering and has worked in the petroleum industry. John is the author of *Energy and the Ecological Economics of Sustainability* and papers on systems, sustainability and the ethical requirements of stakeholder involvement. Since retiring from the University of Canterbury, John has been working closely with a number of local, national and international non-government organisations on issues of sustainable development. He is currently an appointed member of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act's Community Forum, and is Chair of Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand.



Without economic growth, our current money system will fall apart. This is because the money we use is created nowadays as interest-bearing debt, with the consequence that repaying that debt requires economic growth, since otherwise debt would rise faster than the ability to service it. There is a hidden problem here, which is that economic growth – meaning growth in the production of goods and services – is inescapably connected to consumption of physical resources and production of waste. It is also clear that humanity's technical ability to

extract more resources from the planet is becoming increasingly difficult and costly, in economic, social and environmental terms.

These issues – and there are many others - raise serious questions about how to incorporate “value” when making policy decisions for the future. This paper examines issues such as this, in suggesting ways in which a new economics could be constructed, to more accurately incorporate deeper meanings of value in policy decisions for a peaceful, just and sustainable future.

Noel Cheer: Panel Chair

Well known to all Sea of Faith members as the Newsletter Editor and to Conference participants as the Panel Chairperson, Noel has chaired the now traditional and celebrated Conference Closing Panels since 1997. Early in his career Noel took an interest in public speaking which paved the way for his involvement in the spoken media. Since his retirement in 1999 Noel has hosted or chaired current affairs and political discussions and currently hosts "In Conversation" on Triangle Television. Noel has a wide general knowledge and an ongoing interest in the changes that take place in the expression of religion, and with his debating and television interviewing experience has ensured that this panel, as others will be both informative and highly entertaining. The Panel discussion, which traditionally brings the Conference to a stimulating conclusion, is an opportunity to hear the formal speakers taking part in a mediated debate reviewing questions and the key issues of the Conference. It seeks to stimulate the debate and add to, or extend Speakers' presentations.



Workshops and Visits

Cristiane Silva, Music Therapist at Raukatauri Music Therapy Centre, “Music and Change”.

This three hour workshop will be conducted at the Raukatauri Music Therapy Centre in Grey Lynn. It is planned to introduce participants to music therapy as practised at Raukatauri. The general principles of music therapy will be described and illustrated with case study examples. There will also be the opportunity for some experiential, hands-on exploration of the instruments. No musical experience is required. Cost \$20 Maximum Numbers 15



Cristiane came originally from Brazil, lived in Wales for eight years before moving to New Zealand in 2011. Her initial training as a music therapist was in Brazil in 1995 and she then began work with children and young adults with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, and as a music facilitator for pre-school children. Cristiane moved to Wales in 2003 and completed a Postgraduate Diploma and a MA degree in Music Therapy at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in Cardiff. In the UK she worked as a music therapist for Bristol MusicSpace and Musicatwork providing music therapy for children and young adults with a variety of special needs. She also worked privately at mainstream schools in South Wales, providing music therapy sessions for children with SEBD (Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties) in primary and secondary schools. Cristiane's main instrument is flute and she also studied classical piano.

Ralph Pannett: “The Writing on the Wall: being an Artist Prophet”

More than any previous generation, we are surrounded by signs and images. Billboards, electronic signs, print media, television, computers, tablets and smart phones all bombard us with visual information. All contrived images embody some presumptions about “values”. How we look at images is conditioned by society’s constructs of knowledge, its strategies for control and the cultivation of desire. How are we to survive with integrity in the visual jungle?



Many artists critique society’s values, a few by juxtaposing text with an image. In some sense they are acting in the role of the Biblical prophets. The workshop will look at examples of artists who apply powerful words in their work. Then we will look at some supplied images that reflect our own environment and society’s values. We won’t take up a paintbrush, but rather words, to compose short prophetic texts to add to the images in order to critique the situations from our own value perspective. It’ll be like a parlour game with bite. Perhaps we might publish our collective artfulness.

Ralph is an artist working in sculpture and also with images. He has conducted many art workshops at SoF conferences, seeing art as a powerful non-verbal medium for exploring meaning and expressing faith.

Tom Hall: “Henry David Thoreau, a Yankee Chanticleer”

Henry Thoreau was intent on waking his neighbors from what he saw as their social and moral somnolence. "I have never yet met a man who was quite awake," he wrote. "How could I have looked him in the face?" He fulminated against the increasingly common habit (in the middle 1800's) of working long hours to accumulate what we today call "stuff." He thought people would do well to reverse the biblical formula by working one day and resting six-and conducted a two-year experiment to see whether it might not be done. He thought we needed not new clothes, but new wearers of clothes. He believed that we could establish new laws by living simply: "I know of no more encouraging fact that the unquestionable ability of a man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavour."



His classic *Walden*, methinks, (one of his favourite words) is a good place to go looking for ideas on how to reshape a value system for a world that is once again facing economic, moral, and existential crises. This workshop will briefly look at his life and examine a number of key passages and themes in his magnum opus before turning to a discussion of the relevance and practicability of his ideas for life in the present world.

Tom is a former English teacher and lay pastor from the small, rural town of Foster, Rhode Island. Active since 1996 in the Westar Institute, home of the Jesus Seminar, he was recently made a life member. He has edited more than fifty books for Westar’s affiliated Polebridge Press -- including eight for his most admired author, Lloyd Geering -- and is proud to be a member of the New Zealand Sea of Faith Network.

Guang Shan Buddhist Temple

The Fo Guang Shan temple is a large temple and community centre of the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist movement in the East Tamaki/Flatbush suburb of Auckland, New Zealand. It is the largest Buddhist

temple in the country. The temple and complex were built over seven years at a cost NZ\$ 20 million. It was designed in the architectural style of the Tang Dynasty. The temple also includes a large Buddha statue and a two-tonne bell. Opened in late 2007, the mission of the new temple is to promote Humanistic Buddhism. But it is also intended to benefit (and is open to) non-Buddhists, "through education and teaching people how to lead good lives." Even before its official opening, the temple had provided community courses such as Chinese calligraphy, Chinese language, yoga and martial arts, as well as providing a venue for crime prevention talks and meetings

Free Time

Select this if you would like to fill the afternoon in your own way, have a siesta, visit friends or family. No afternoon tea will be provided for those who select this option. Below are some suggestions for which addresses and how to get to these places will be posted at the Conference:

Maritime Museum

An added extra is the Auckland Maritime Museum which is situated on the water front and has a great range of nautical exhibits. An added feature is the Ted Ashby one of several vessels that cruise the harbour on most weekends. See Auckland from the sea. A great way to spend an afternoon.

Museum

The Auckland War Memorial Museum features collections of natural, social, military history and culture related to New Zealand and the South Pacific . Newly refurbished and well worth a visit. The museum requests a donation (\$10) from non Aucklanders. There is a good café and book shop

Art Gallery

Auckland's Art Gallery is the largest art gallery in New Zealand with over 15,000 works in its collection. Newly refurbished with a new wing it is well worth a visit. There are various special exhibits over the year so you can just go in and take advantage of what is happening.

No charge for the Art Gallery but there may be charges for special exhibits, check at the desk for information. The Gallery has a good café and also a book shop and sales area where there is a range of scientific instruments/toys.

Note: The Museum and Art Gallery are an easy walk from the city. Depending on how many wish to visit either of these two places we can organise taxis or buses to transport people. Alternatively you could catch a bus (Gold card free). We will help you on the day. It will be possible to visit both in the afternoon if you wish.

None

Select this option if you do not want to take part, but have a siesta or visit friend or relatives. No cost but no afternoon tea provided.

Display of Sea of Faith Archives (1992-2012)

Our Archive Collection ensures that what we thought and said and did is not lost, but is retained for the benefit of those who search in the future. This display prepared by Alison Eng our Archivist is a collection of documents which reflect the first twenty years of the Sea of Faith in New Zealand. It will

be available throughout the Conference and merits planning time to review the material in it. (No cost – no tea provided on Saturday)

Accommodation at St Cuthberts

Melrose House contains single and double rooms that have doors and therefore private, and Elgin House has only cubicles. All cubicles which have only a single bed each, are open on one side to the corridor, and have partial privacy obtained by opening the wardrobe door to screen the open side. These cubicles are arranged on two floors. Each floor has two separate wings that have their own bathrooms attached, so it is planned to have a men's wing and a women's wing on each floor.

Note if attendees prefer single or double rooms these will be allocated in the order that we receive bookings. Once the single/double accommodation has been used we will have to use the cubicles. Should conference attendees prefer not to use the cubicles then they may want to consider offsite accommodation.

To make clear the accommodation pricing the single and double rooms are priced at \$70 per person per night. The cubicles are priced at \$40 per person per night.

Accommodation at Motels

Name	Address	Phone	Notes
Ranfurly Evergreen Motel	285 Manukau Road, Epsom	09-638 9059	ranfurlymotel.co.nz
Cornwall Park Motor Inn	317 Manukau Road, Epsom	09-638 6409	cornwallpark-motorinn.co.nz
Parklane Motor Lodge	222 Green Ln W, Epsom	09-630 2602	parklane-hotel.co.nz
Epsom Motel	232 Green Lane West, Epsom	09-630 5641	epsommotel.co.nz
Abella Court Motel	224 Green Ln W, Epsom	09-630 7864	abellacourtmetel.com
Best Western Great South Road Motor Lodge	112 Great South Road, Epsom	09-520 5509	aucklandmotels.net.nz
Knights Inn	234 Green Lane West, Epsom	09-630 8899	knightsinn.co.nz
Ascot Epsom Motel	92 Great South Road, Epsom	09-520 4833	ascotepsom.co.nz
Rayland Epsom Motel	98 Great South Road, Epsom	09-520 0330	raylandepsom.co.nz
Tudor Court Motor Lodge - Newmarket	108 Great South Road, Epsom	09-523 1069	tudor.co.nz

All the above have online presence and we would urge conference attendees to go online and also look at the ratings given by previous customers of the Motel. There are many more motels in the area. Do search online.

How to Get to St Cuthbert's College: 122 Market Road Epsom

From the Airport:

Easiest option is to take a shuttle and give them the address above.

From South or North by car:

Take Motorway and use exit 432 to Market Road. St Cuthbert's is at the Western end of Market Road.

Remember for any details re registration or accommodation you can email sof.auckland@gmail.com or call 09-478-2490 or mobile 021-728-703