

Te Kaunihera Tūhonohono Ngā Take Hauā Ki Ngā Take Wairua, Take Whakapono Hoki

October 10th 2010 (10.10.10 !)

End of Year Newsletter

Hello there everyone.

Spring has arrived with the sun, daylight saving and longer days, and those equinoctial gales that blow the cobwebs away ~ well it would be useful if they did but there must be something good about them.

We had a successful and very pleasant AGM on Saturday 18th September at the Johnsonville Uniting Church. UNICATS (their in-house - God's house that is, caterers) provided a very tasty lunch of 2 delicious soups, rolls, cheese, ham and delicious desserts with yoghurt and cream + fresh fruit, juice, tea and coffee.

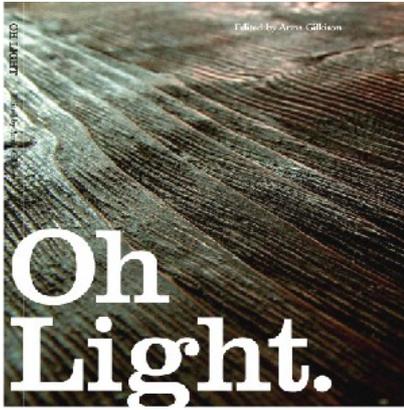


We got through the business in an hour and had another hour to discuss the Aims and Objectives of the organisation with a view as to how we can make them a practical reality. Please look through the attached summary of these concepts. We would encourage people to discuss them amongst other like-minded people and come up with some suggestions, particularly on the topic of how to form small groups who could discuss their Disabilities, Spirituality and Faith and how their lives are impacted by these 3 things.

There was a suggestion that people could write a brief synopsis of their Faith and Disability and how each affects the other. These could be used in church services on Disability Sunday next year (3rd Sunday in June). Also, if you would be willing to share more widely, we could put them on our website as a record of the journey you have taken so far. Please post or email them to us.

Doing something like this can be a powerful witness and also can open the eyes of many to the deeper spiritual issues faced by us all, whether we think of ourselves as disabled/differently-abled/blessed/cursed or whatever!

Trish Harris raised the issue of accessible buildings used for retreats, seminars and workshops etc. The Spiritual Growth Ministries produce a booklet on availability of courses and seminars and she has been liaising with them to have the courses marked as being in disability accessible (or not) areas. Good discussion ensued about how we could help improve the situation and there was general agreement that we would attempt to come up with a kind of check-list that outlined what the different needs of people with different kinds of disabilities might be, and how those needs might best be met in a workshop/retreat setting. We wouldn't be suggesting that such detailed information is published in the retreat booklet, rather that it reminded providers and or educated providers about potential needs. If we worked on it in the first half of next year, would SGM be willing to send it out as an attachment when requesting workshops/retreats for next year? I imagine it would just be a one page simple check-list. So, another project is born!



Now what else was I supposed to be telling you! Oh yes – very exciting news – we are now a Talking Book ...well “Oh Light.” is, and has been recorded by the New Zealand Foundation for the Blind in Auckland at their Parnell Studio. So if you are a member of the Blind Foundation you should be able to request a copy to listen to. I will ask if we can have a copy for our archives. It will be very interesting to hear how it comes over. There is a male and female voice but I cannot tell you any more details at present.

Meanwhile we still have a few copies of the original book at the special price of \$20.00 which, to my mind ,is an absolute steal! (Judging by what this sort of book usually costs in bookshops especially now with 15% GST.)

Please also remember to pay your \$10.00 sub, if you haven't already done so.(Again a very reasonable price.)

We encourage active participation and feedback is always welcomed whether it's a brickbat or a bouquet! Please let us know your ideas, concerns etc. and get involved.

As someone said, and I don't think it was Jesus, this life is not a dress rehearsal (but I suppose that could be a moot point ~) but what I am saying is we don't know how long we've got here on Earth and if we feel strongly about something we shouldn't dilly dally but act now, while we have the chance.

Wishing you all a good Labour W/E and a Happy and Spirit (Holy) filled Advent and Christmas.

Only about 10 weeks to go !

Your chatty chairperson

Gillian



Putting your best foot forward - who knew it could be so hard to choose!