

2011 Mid-year Newsletter

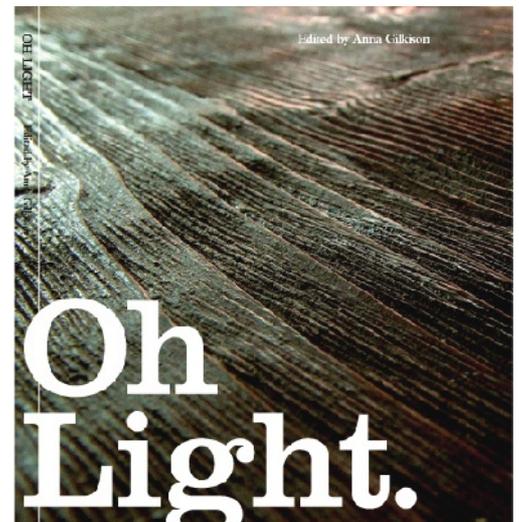


Matariki stars signaling the Maori New Year which begins in June

Greetings all! How time flies! We're already nearly halfway through the year and so much has happened since our last missive: Queensland Floods, Christchurch EQ + Japanese EQ + Tsunami to name a few. But as most of us expected we, the lucky ones, are still here and relatively intact. Despite the dire predictions, the world has not come to an end and if you look at Matthew ... you will be reminded that we are not supposed to be making these predictions anyway. We just need to be ready to meet our Maker.

So what's the news from DSF?

- 1) "Oh Light" books are still selling at the special price of \$20.00 which is such a bargain.
- 2) Disability Sunday is on June 19th so please encourage your church to mark the day in some innovative way. Please let us know how your ministers responded and what you did.
- 3) It's our DSF Council interim meeting on Saturday June 18th We'll be setting the date for the AGM (September probably) in Johnsonville again as it's a good central spot. This year we hope to have an inspiring speaker to attract members and friends along. (The food didn't work last time although it was delicious!!).
- 4) We may also discuss the possibility of another Conference as it is nearly 10 years since the Whirlwind.



- 5) Lastly ,remember we are giving you the opportunity to tell your story online. I'm going to be brave ,as it is scary disclosing ones innermost beliefs and telling about one's disabilities. . I've been deliberating about this for months - the internet is such a public platform. Perhaps this is why so few have been brave enough to do it. But hey ! You might inspire someone else .Who knows. Let's give it a whirl !

Please see attached the summary of these concepts and 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 effects the other .These could be used in church services on Disability Sunday next year (3rd Sunday in June). 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!

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. **Has anyone heard it yet ?**

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.

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

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.

Wishing you all a good and safe Queen's Birthday W/E .

The shortest day will soon be upon us then we can look forward to Spring!

Your chatty chairperson

Gillian Bell



I know winter is near when the Camellia bush outside my door gets busy with a profusion of flowers! - Pete Cowley