

Chairperson's Report

It gives me pleasure to present this Dunedin Sea of Faith annual report.

Over the past year our sessions have been as follows:

March	Book Review: Religion for Atheists	Gretchen Kivell
April	Why do all cultures develop a religion?	Prof Greg Dawes
May	Vera Brittain: a remarkable nurse	Marion Kitchingman
June	Puaka-Matariki	All members attending
July	Michael Benedikt, SoF conference speaker	Marjorie & Bruce Spittle
August	Gretta Vosper, SoF conference speaker	Marjorie & Bruce Spittle
September	Who are the Quakers?	Simonne Samuelson
October	Islamic Education	Dr Najibullah Lafraie
November	What does 'Community' mean to me?	All members attending
February	Impacts of technology, and UBI	Gretchen Kivell

We have had two major changes to our meetings this year. Our experiment with a 3 – 5 pm meeting time was not popular, and made it difficult for working members to attend meetings. So in June we changed the timing back to 6 – 7.30 pm, with tea/coffee from 5.30 pm. In November we included savouries with the tea/coffee. This proved popular so we have continued with to provide savouries.

In September we were advised that the Presbyterian Highgate Church was having to close for earthquake repairs, for at least some months. We have enjoyed many years of hospitality in their premises, and were very sorry for the congregation and the church staff who have been so helpful to us. We looked at a number of alternative places to meet in the north Dunedin area, and were very fortunate to be able to change our meetings to the hall at St John's Church, also in Highgate. Not far from our former meeting place, and convenient for parking and for access (no steps), we have been made to feel very welcome.

The Sea of Faith library, previously organised and annotated very ably by Ian Fleming, now resides in six boxes in my garage, and makes an appearance on occasion. It remains a valuable asset for our group.

I wish to thank all members of our committee for their willing support throughout the year: Frances Smithson, Ruth Morgan, Marion Christie and Alan Jackson. Particular thanks go to those on the committee with significant portfolios: Ruth Morgan, Treasurer, and Alan Jackson for the monthly newsletter and other interesting e-mails. Our grateful thanks to Bruce Spittle for setting up the hall and electronics essential for our meetings, and to our members who have presented at one or more of our meetings.

It is my honour to present this 2017 Annual Report of the Dunedin Sea of Faith.

Gretchen Kivell
March 2017