

# SEA OF FAITH NETWORK (NZ) INC



## Conference 2011 - "Pulling us back from the brink" - Economics? Science? Religion?

**Friday 14 October to Sunday 16 October 2011**

**Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch**

## The Programme

### **FRIDAY 14 October**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Committees meet over lunch
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Registration.</b> Tea and Coffee available
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Conference Opening</b>
3:30 pm – 4.30 pm	<b>Humanity on the Brink: A Question of Values</b> Jeanette Fitzsimons introduced by Don Feist In introducing the theme, Jeanette will explore the values which underlie responses to situations facing us today Response: Lloyd Geering
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	<b>Core Group</b>
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Happy (half) Hour
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	DINNER
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	A.G.M.
8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Film: Home

**Note:** copies of this programme can be downloaded from [sof.org.nz](http://sof.org.nz)

## **SATURDAY 15 October**

7:00 am	Meditation space open
7:30 am – 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8:30 am – 9:30 am	<b>Is Economics still a branch of Moral Philosophy?</b> Geoff Bertram introduced by Maureen Roxburgh. Geoff will offer reflections on the history of economic thought and the extent to which its application today is "Pulling Us Back from the Brink" Response by Lloyd Geering
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>Core Group</b>
10:30 am – 11:00 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Energy and Civilisation: What is the Connection?</b> Bob Lloyd introduced by Steve Collard Bob will introduce the relationship between development and the use of energy, and discuss the role of science and technology in the management of energy resources. Response by Lloyd Geering
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Core Group</b>
1:00 pm	PACKED LUNCH
1:30 pm – 6:00 pm	VISITS (See Below)
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Happy Hour
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	DINNER
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	ENTERTAINMENT

## **SUNDAY 16 October**

7:00 am	Meditation space open
7:30 am – 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8:30 am – 9:30 am	<b>Crisis, Conflict, Creativity and Compassion.</b> Val Webb introduced by Stephen Warnes Val will introduce the questions - What then can we say about religion in the Twenty-First Century? and What role can people of faith play in "pulling back from the brink,"? Response by Lloyd Geering
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>Core Group</b> (Questions to Panel leader by 10:30)
10:30 am – 11:00 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b>
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Conference Wind Up and Introduction to Conference 2012
1:00 pm	Packed LUNCH
1:30 pm	Steering Committee Meets

## **The Papers And Panels**

### **Humanity on the Brink: A Question of Values - Jeanette Fitzsimons**

In introducing the theme, Jeanette will explore the values which underlie responses to situations facing us today.

### **Is Economics still a branch of Moral Philosophy? - Geoff Bertram**

Geoff will offer reflections on the history of economic thought and the extent to which its application today is "Pulling us back from the brink"

### **Energy and Civilisation: What is the Connection ? - Bob Lloyd**

Bob will introduce the relationship between development and the use of energy, and discuss the role of science and technology in the management of energy resources.

### **Religion: Crises, Conflict, Creativity and Compassion - Dr. Val Webb**

Religion has been called both the root of all evil and the ground of all hope and goodness. Believers have been labelled both delusional and enlightened. God has been declared the Universal One but also a fantasy. What then can we say about religion in the Twenty-First Century - as a player in both personal and global crises, as the fuel for explosive conflicts around the world, as a creative force for change, both of itself, others and the planet, and as the heart of compassion for a hurting world? What role can people of faith play in "Pulling back from the brink," the theme of this conference?

### **The Enduring Value of Parable - Tom Hall**

Tom Hall plans to offer an analysis of each of two authentic Jesus parables that are often misunderstood, hoping to stimulate discussion and give them new relevance. He will follow this with a parable of his own for discussion, and a recitation and brief discussion of a humorous but highly serious poem by his favourite American poet, Robert Frost. Needless to say, he considers the poem a modern parable of considerable import. The anticipated time for this session is two hours, though for those who are interested, the discussion and exploration can continue as participants wish.

### **Pulling Us Back from the Brink - Panel Chaired by Noel Cheer**

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.

# The Speakers and Panel Chairman

## **Jeanette Fitzsimons**

Jeanette Fitzsimons, a well known New Zealand politician and environmentalist, was the co-leader of the Green Party of Aotearoa from 1995 to 2009, and a Member of Parliament from 1996 to 2010.

She was the Green Party spokesperson on Climate Change, Energy, Finance & Revenue, Genetic Engineering, Research, Science & Technology, Sustainable Economics, Transport and Treaty Issues (Associate).

In 2007 the NZ Herald chose Jeanette as New Zealand's politician of the year and in 2008 respondents to a ONE News poll voted her the most trustworthy political party leader in New Zealand. Then in 2010, she was awarded a companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Jeanette and her husband now manage an organic farm in the Kauaeranga Valley west of Thames at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula.



## **Dr Geoff Bertram**

Geoff Bertram holds degrees in geography, Latin American Studies, and economics, from Victoria University and Oxford University. He was until June 2009 a Senior Lecturer in Economics at Victoria University of Wellington. Since his retirement he has been Senior Associate at the Institute of Policy Studies and Adjunct Researcher at the Climate Change Research Institute. His research interests include regulation of public utility industries such as electricity, gas and telecommunications; economic and political development of small island societies with a particular focus on the Pacific; the design of policies to address climate change; and the long-run evolution of the New Zealand economy.

He served on the Council of the International Association for Energy Economics from 2005 to 2007 and convened the Association's annual conference in Wellington in 2007. He has been a member of the editorial boards of a number of international journals including World Development 1992-97, Environment and Development Economics 1996-2006, and Asia Pacific Viewpoint since 1976. He speaks regularly at international conferences on energy, climate change and small-island issues.

Geoff is a parishioner of St Anne's Church in Northland, Wellington and lives in Karori with his wife, Libby.



## **Dr Bob Lloyd**

Dr Bob Lloyd is from Australia, he came to New Zealand in 2002 after having worked for the Australian Co-operative Research Centre for Renewable Energy (ACRE), based at Murdoch University in Perth. He has also worked on renewable energy systems in China and the Pacific Islands and taught at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. His current research interests at Otago University, where he is the Director of Energy Studies and Associate Professor in the Physics Department, lie in energy conservation in residential housing and energy management including world energy resources and peak oil. His PhD from Flinders University in South Australia was completed in the field of experimental atomic physics.



### **Dr. Val Webb**

Val is an Australian theologian who has taught religious studies at universities in the United States and Australia. She has written nine books, including *In Defence of Doubt: an Invitation to Adventure* (Chalice Press, USA), *Florence Nightingale: the making of a radical theologian* (Chalice), *Like Catching Water in a Net: human attempts to describe the Divine* (Continuum New York & London, winner of general religion category of USA Best Books 2007 Awards), and *Stepping out with the Sacred: human attempts to engage the Divine* (Continuum 2010). Her website is [www.val.webb.com.au](http://www.val.webb.com.au).



### **Tom Hall**

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.



### **Sir Lloyd Geering**

Sir Lloyd Geering, a Life Member of The Sea of Faith Network (NZ) is New Zealand's best-known and most controversial commentator on theological issues.

Lloyd held Chairs of Old Testament Studies at theological colleges in Brisbane and Dunedin before being appointed as the foundation Professor of Religious Studies at Victoria University and is best remembered by many New Zealanders for the high-profile 1967 trial in which he faced charges of heresy for his controversial statements.



Since his retirement in 1984 he has continued to write, and lecture widely throughout New Zealand, and has presented 10 Keynote addresses at Sea of Faith Conferences. He is theologian-in-residence for The St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society in Wellington and in this latter capacity he has presented more than 20 lectures series, which have been published as small books, and/or on audio media. He 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.

### **Noel Cheer**

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/Stratos 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 will ensure that this panel, as others, will be both informative and highly entertaining.



# Visits and Activities

## **Saturday Afternoon Events**

Some visits may have limited numbers. On the registration form, please make a first and a second choice and add the cost of the first choice to the registration cost. All costs include transport to and from the venue.

Below some more detail about each event to help you choose.

### ***Source to Sea***

We travel by road to various points along the course of a river (probably the Avon), under the guidance of hydrologist Hugh Thorpe. The trip will take several hours and will consider how Christchurch City Council presently manages its rivers for sustainability. Aspects considered will be landscape, recreation, ecology, culture, heritage and drainage. Cost \$40

### ***Antarctic Centre***

Christchurch's International Antarctic Centre claims to be the world's best Antarctic attraction and probably is. The visit will include the recently opened 4D Extreme theatre. For more details, see <http://www.iceberg.co.nz> Cost \$55 (discounted all day group pass plus transport)

### ***Visit to Mosque***

There are at least 40,000 Muslims in New Zealand. Of these some 5000 live in Canterbury and they have two main mosques as well as prayer rooms for students at Canterbury and Lincoln universities, and at Hagley Community College. The mosque we will visit is the Christchurch Islamic Community Centre, located on Lincoln Road, which has been in existence for about five years. Its leader is a Malaysian and its members and adherents come from a large number of countries and include Westerners. They are an interesting and diverse group and definitely open to dialogue. We expect that Dr. Bill Shepard, retired religious studies lecturer and Islam expert, will accompany us. This visit will afford us a chance to learn more about Islam and discuss matters of common interest. Cost \$20 for transport plus a koha at the venue please.

### ***Earthquake Tour***

We will drive through areas of the centre city within the four avenues that have been affected by the recent earthquakes. This will be a chance to see at first hand the devastation and the beginnings of the recovery. We will also meet with Rev Sheena Dickson of St. George's in Linwood, which is close to some of the worst affected areas in the East of Christchurch. Cost \$40

### ***The Enduring Value of Parable***

See papers and presentations for Details

Cost \$5 for afternoon tea

### **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. (Tea and coffee in lounges)

# Motel Accommodation

List of local Motels within 10 and 15 minutes walking distance of Rangi Ruru Girls' School  
59 Hewitts Rd, Off Merivale Lane, Merivale, Christchurch.

<b>Address</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone No</b>	<b>Two person Cost from:</b>	<b>Special features mentioned in guide</b>	<b>Individual Notes</b>
31 Papanui Rd	De Lago Motel/Apartments	0800 335246	\$130	Internet, panini grill	Nearer town centre and Within 15 Mins. walking
43 Papanui Rd	Colonial Inn Motel	0800 111232	\$110	Internet	Nearer town centre and Within 15 Mins. walking
49 Papanui Rd	Adelphi Motel	0800 335560	\$85	Internet, Continental breakfast	Nearer town centre and Within 15 Mins. walking
54 Papanui Rd	Strathern Motor lodge	0800 766624	\$80	2 Wheelchair access Units Free Internet	Nearer town centre and Within 15 Mins. walking
79 Papanui Rd	Randolph Motel Apartments	0800 537366	\$140 (4 persons)	Spa, King beds	Within 10 Mins. walking
87 Papanui Rd	Milano Motor Lodge	0800 878766	\$125	Quiet, King and Queen beds	Within 10 Mins. walking
97 Papanui Rd	Merivale Court Motel	0800 3358252	\$90	Near Cancer society Daffodil House	Within 10 Mins. walking
122 Papanui Rd	Merivale Manor	0800 355775	\$118	Free internet, Off street surveillance Parking.	Within 10 Mins. walking
127 Papanui Rd	Diplomat Motel	0800 109669	\$105	Free internet, cycles, Spa	Within 10 Mins. walking

All information taken from 2011 AA Accommodation Guide May 2011

# Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch

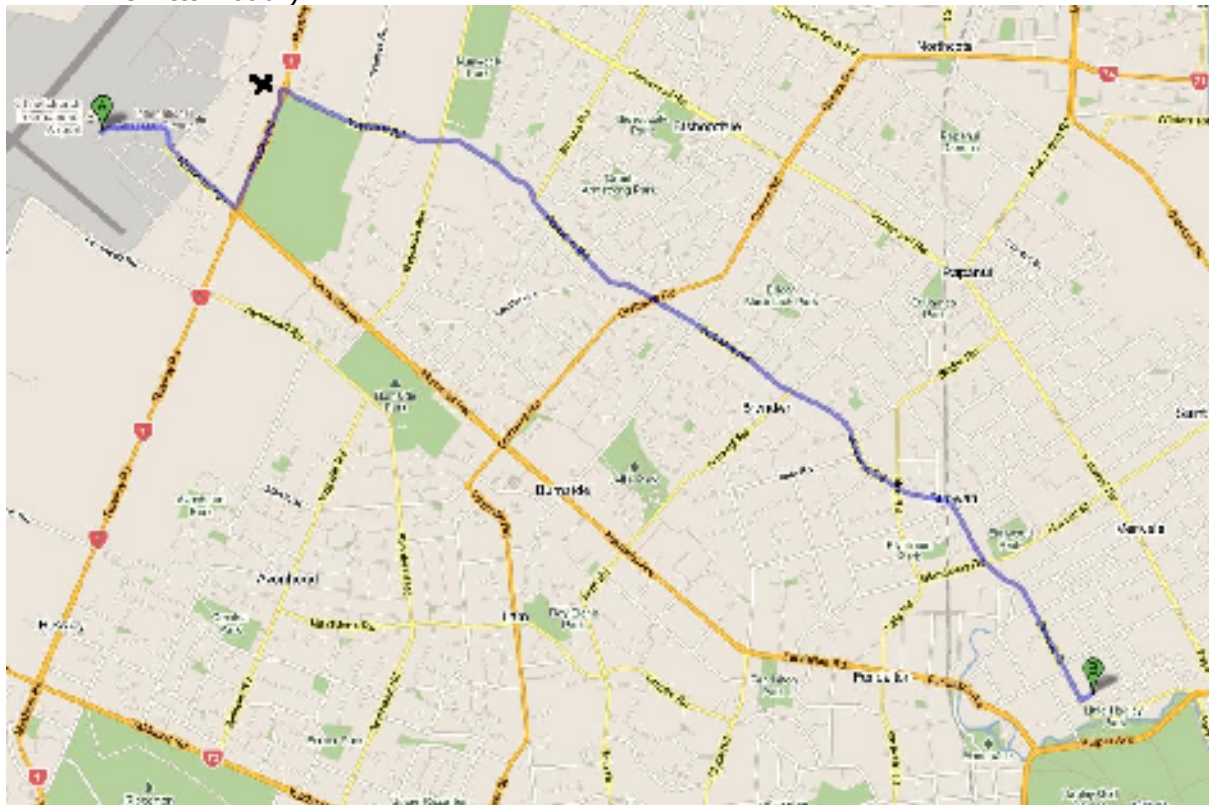
## How to Get There

### **From the airport:**

Rangi Ruru is about 9 km from the airport. As buses only come within about three blocks of Rangi Ruru, you will need to come by taxi or shuttle. If you are driving, use the map below for the route.

### **From the North:**

1. **Get onto Wairakei Road.** Travel along State Highway 1 until the Wairakei road turnoff. (The map shows you the route from the airport.)
2. **Continue down Wairakei Road.** It turns into Strowan Road and then into Rossall Street.
3. **Turn left into Rhodes Street.** At 50 Rhodes Street, turn into the car park. This is the back entrance to Rangi Ruru although there is nothing to indicate that it is a school. The registration area is straight ahead. (The front entrance is 59 Hewitts Road.)



### From the South

#### EITHER:

Turn left at Hornby onto State Highway 1 bypass and then follow the above instructions and map.

OR use the more direct route below:

1. Go straight through Hornby on Main South Road and get onto Blenheim Road.
2. Turn left at Clarence Street and then right at Riccarton Road.
3. At the city end of Riccarton Road turn left at the roundabout and proceed to the lights at the beginning of Fendalton Road.
4. Turn left at the lights and take the first right from Fendalton Road into Holmwood Rd and first right again into Helmores Lane.
5. Turn first left into Rhodes Street. Carefully go straight across Rossall Street to the Rhodes Street back entrance of Rangi Ruru.