

Exploring Values, Spirituality, and Meaning

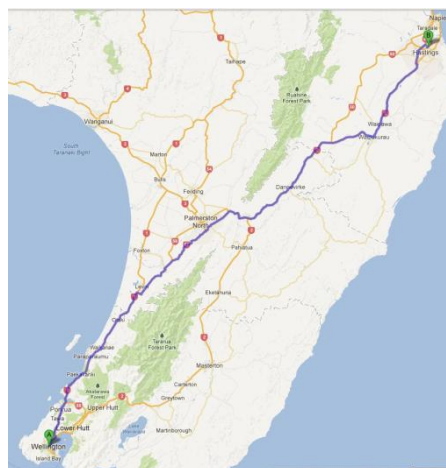
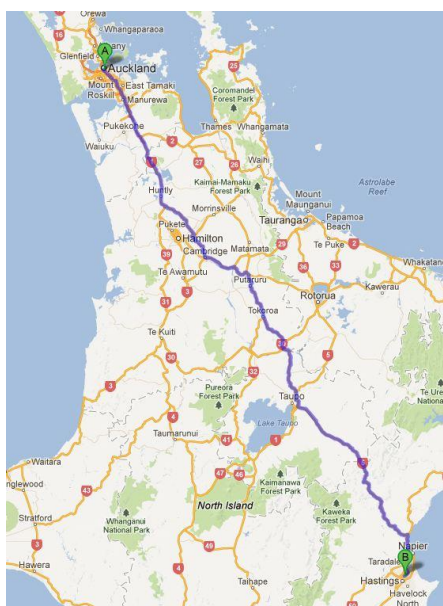
Sea of Faith

Annual Conference 2013

When: October 4–6, 2013 (approx. noon-to-noon)
Where: Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings
Theme: “Tell Me the New, New Story”.

Please note:

Michael Benedikt has had to cancel and we have replaced him with Rachel Kohn who is a well-respected presenter of religious programmes on Australia’s ABC. We plan to have a definitive programme by about mid-July and an online Registration Form by the end of July. Paper Registration Forms will accompany the Newsletter which will be in the mail by early August.



<p>Auckland to Hastings 425km 5.0hrs</p>	<p>Wellington to Hastings 300km 3.8hrs</p>
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Conference 2013 Timetable

Note: this is a Draft

FRIDAY 4 October

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Committees meet over lunch
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm Registration. Tea and Coffee
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Conference Opening
3:30 pm – 4.30 pm **Rev. Prof. Sir Lloyd Geering**
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm Core Group
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.

SATURDAY 5 October

7:00 am Meditation space open
7:30 am – 8.30 am BREAKFAST
8:30 am – 9:30 am Keynote Speaker, **Nigel Leaves**
9:30 am – 10:30 am **Core Group**
10:30 am – 11:00 am MORNING TEA
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Keynote Speaker **Rachel Kohn.**
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Core Group**
1:00 pm - 1:30pm PACKED LUNCH
1:30 pm – 6:00 pm VISITS (Details not yet finalised) or WORKSHOPS
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Workshop – **Shirley Murray**
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Afternoon Tea
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Workshop – **Tom Hall**
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Happy Hour
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm DINNER
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm ENTERTAINMENT – *The Rag Tag Scoobie Doobie Good Time Band*

SUNDAY 6 October

7:00 am Meditation space open
7:30 am – 8.30 am BREAKFAST
8:30 am – 9:30 am Keynote Speaker **Winton Higgins**
9:30 am – 10:30 am **Core Group**
10:30 am – 11:00 am MORNING TEA
11:00 am – 12:30 pm **PANEL DISCUSSION**
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm Conference Wind Up and Introduction to Conference 2014
1:00 pm Packed LUNCH
1:30 pm New Steering Committee Meets

Keynote Speakers' Stories

Each Keynote Speaker offers a unique approach.

Sir Lloyd Geering:

Why Honest to God blew the roof off the church, and let in fresh air.

A new basis for theology was laid by Schleiermacher (1768-1830, father of Protestant liberalism). It was built on by the Modernists, and developed by Bultmann, Tillich and Bonhoeffer. Then, in 1963, Robinson unintentionally became a theological whistle-blower by revealing to people in the pews where the theologians were going. His words hit the church like a bomb so that 'things have never been the same again' (Ruth Robinson). But more has changed theologically in the fifty years since then than in the previous 150 years. In 1966 the word was shocked to hear of the 'death of God'. In 1993 Karen Armstrong published *a history of God*. So where are we now fifty years later? What can we honestly say today about God?

Dr Nigel Leaves:

"Too many new stories! Which one should we tell?"

Postmodernity has let not one but many genies out of the bottle! Following Nietzsche there is not 'One Truth' but many 'truths'.

Likewise there is not one new story but many new stories.

Indeed, even within 'liberal' and 'progressive' Christianity there is a huge divergence as to what story should be told.

In this lecture I will outline the new Christian stories that are being promoted today. Are all these stories permissible?

How do we decide between them; and what effect does this choice have on our understanding of 'God', 'the Church' and 'the future of religion'?

Dr. Nigel Leaves is Canon of St. John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane, Australia, and Adjunct Lecturer in theology at Charles Sturt University. He has a Ph.D. in Theology from Murdoch University in Perth, Australia, an M.A in Religious Education from King's College, London, and an M.A. in Theology from Keble College, Oxford University. A highly regarded conference speaker and educator, Leaves has lectured extensively in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. He is currently at work on a new Polebridge book entitled *Which Jesus? Whose Christ?*

Dr Rachael Kohn:

From Here to Eternity: What Has Changed and What has Stayed the Same in Spiritual Life Today.

Scientific and technological breakthroughs have had a significant effect on spiritual discourse. 'God talk' has not only incorporated new secular concepts but has redefined the purpose of a spiritual life.

Yet metaphysical yearnings are not a thing of the past, and morals and ethics remain an abiding practice and concern in our lives.

What has changed and what has stayed the same in our spiritual life today is both a survey and a critique of some of the popular 'religion and science' research and debates and a recommendation for the future.

Rachael Kohn began the *The Spirit of Things* ABC Radio National which she has produced and presented for 16 years.

Dr. Kohn taught Religious Studies at Sydney University, and in universities in England and Canada, and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of New South Wales in 2005 for her "outstanding contribution to fostering religious understanding" in the Australian community.

Rachael has contributed to many books and journals on the subject of religion and has written *Curious Obsessions in the History of Science and Spirituality* (ABC Books, 2007) and *The New Believers: Reimagining God* (HarperCollins 2003). She is the Vice President of the International Association of Religion Journalists.

Winton Higgins:

What is religion for? A pragmatist inquiry

Christian and Buddhist secular religionists opt out of the language game of revelation – of asserting ultimate ‘objective truth’. This move frees them from reducing religious life to its truth-claims, and opens up an inquiry – in the spirit of post-metaphysical thought and philosophical pragmatism – about how religion has served human needs and interests. It has done so from the most basic level of underpinning social cohesion, to its more advanced functions of ethical, cultural and aesthetic enrichment, so helping us develop into deeper and more articulate individuals as we confront and reflect on our everyday life predicaments. These religious purposes endure, even (or especially) in a secular age that draws its mundane beliefs from non-religious sources.

Winton can be seen in a panel discussion with Sir Lloyd Geering at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hj1SNwHmSA>

Workshops

On Saturday afternoon there will be two workshops scheduled such that you could go to both. Optionally there will be Visits, options for which have yet to be announced.

Tom Hall: Robert Frost, a humanist in verse.

In Robert Frost we have the poetic local colourist *par excellence* of early twentieth-century New England. His prolific work captures the flavour of the landscape and the ethos of the people of the region, especially its rural northeast. And like the poet himself, the poems reflect a broad spectrum of subject and mood: we find dark moods and joyful moments; spiritual probing and sheer playfulness; deep thoughts and flights of fancy; sparkling lyrical gems and rambling narratives. And, of course, like the best of the local colour genre, his works invoke the particulars of human life and thereby evoke the universals.

Our very own Shirley Murray ...

... wrote “after a lifetime of pew-sitting and hymn singing, I am impelled to consider what creates or wrecks meaningful worship where hymns are involved”. For many years, Shirley has collaborated with Colin Gibson bringing a body of hymnology and religious song which acknowledges the past but has freed us for the future.