

## The Wilderpeople at Festival One

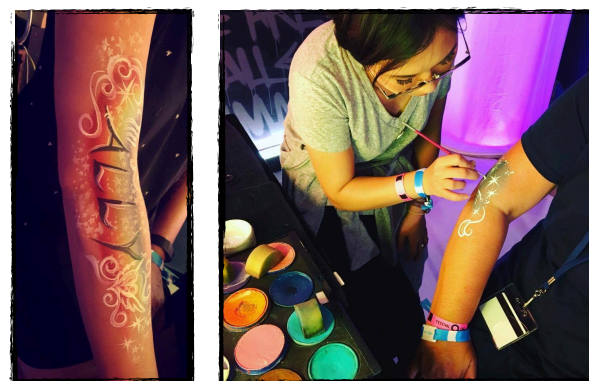
Over Auckland Anniversary Weekend, SCM was part of the Wilderpeople Collective at Festival One, a Christian Music festival in Hamilton. The Wilderpeople are all about the hard questions in the wilderness, and the aim was to create a safer space for people to engage with faith, sexuality and identity.

The stall was decked out in activities, questions and conversation starters. The Living Library gave festival goers the chance to 'borrow' a person to hear their story. Documentaries played on a screen for people to put on some headphones for a listen. There was badge making, body art and continuums.

The first day was busy - people coming to talk, learn, talk and challenge. Such great feedback, so many people were so happy to see a stall about inclusivity - and people said they felt safe to ask the questions they have struggled with.

After the first half day, the Wilderpeople were asked to strip the stall of all LGBT+ references, in order to be more 'family friendly.' They tried to make it work - but it was no longer a space where people could safely explore these ideas. The Wilderpeople chose to leave when they were told they couldn't restore the stall to its original state - and people noticed that the LGBT+ voice was silenced.

The Wilderpeople plan to keep having these conversations.



### The Movement: The Mental Health Edition

Over summer, some students put together a 'zine' (a self-published, creative mini magazine) to introduce our focus for the next few years - student wellbeing. It has puzzles, activities and information about what SCM is about. These are being shared with students across the country during Orientation weeks soon!

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**Please consider supporting the movement financially - we appreciate it!**

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## Student Christian Movement Aotearoa

Summer 2017

### "Through Dialogue, We Change..."

SCM Canterbury's Jessie Robinson reflects on her trip to SELF in Cambodia late last year.

From the 24th of October until the 5th of November, I had the privilege to be in Siem Reap, Cambodia for WSCF's School for Ecumenical Leadership Formation (SELF) programme. Identity, Diversity and Dialogue were the key themes of the programme. Representatives from all around the Asia - Pacific region were brought together to participate in SELF. We were based at a reflection centre so as such, each day we were encouraged to reflect on parts of the programme that spoke to us. The following is what really stood out to me.



SELF Delegates 2016

The Bishop of Sri Lanka was amongst the speakers and he spoke very well on the subjects of contemporary issues and challenges, and also on the subject of the LGBT+ Community. We have multiple identities. Bishop encouraged us to dialogue. Discuss, to dig deep and not accept things at a superficial level. The group was spoken to, to have courage to be non-conformist. To practice sensitive leadership by listening and keeping an ear to the ground. The solution to challenges should come from the people within which will lead to unity and truth being established.

Through dialogue we change. Our faith becomes deeper. A tool that we were shown to practice reflection is that of zoography. It is centred in our personal life. It is the story of one's life in relation to society. In zoography we are encouraged to have an open imagination and to ultimately serve God. If we are able to dialogue with others about commonalities in our own lives, this is a way to solve challenges in society. The World can be made peaceful if we bring a vision of common peace.

Talking to other representatives from around Asia - Pacific was a fantastic way to share experiences from our own contexts. The programme provided a new context to practice dialogue in and enabled myself and the other participants to gain more insight into the contemporary issues and challenges that were brought forth to discuss. These things are called The Signs of the Times. We can look at the nature, the process and the outcome. From there we dialogue. We can talk openly. We can talk openly. We can educate. We can advocate. We are encouraged to show peace and love. A challenge I put forth to you is to be a spirit filled community and to identify someone who is different and dialogue with them.



Mindol Metta Karuna Centre, Siem Reap

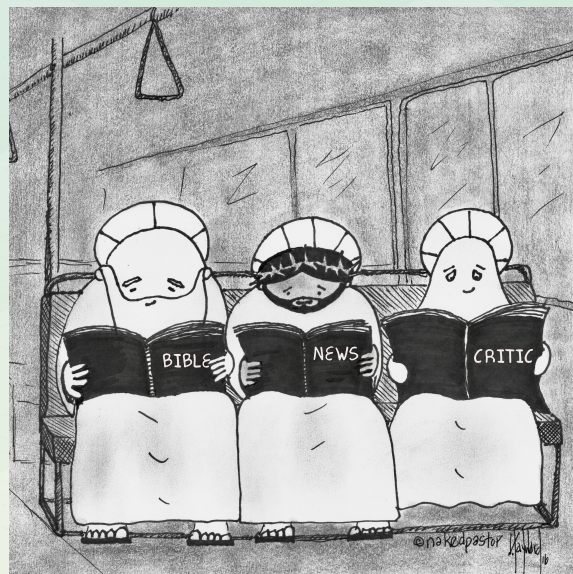


# 2017 IS HERE: What's on the cards for SCM Aotearoa this year?

Uni kicks off for the year soon!  
Orientation weeks across the country run from 13th Feb - 3rd March. Mid Semester breaks are around Easter.

## SCM Otago

This semester will be exploring four key themes linked to the Student Wellbeing campaign: suicide, meditation and mindfulness, sexual assault and hunger.  
Meeting Tuesdays at 7pm at OUSA Clubs Building, starting 7th March.  
Also getting involved with the 40 hour famine, running some mindfulness sessions on campus and some campus activism!

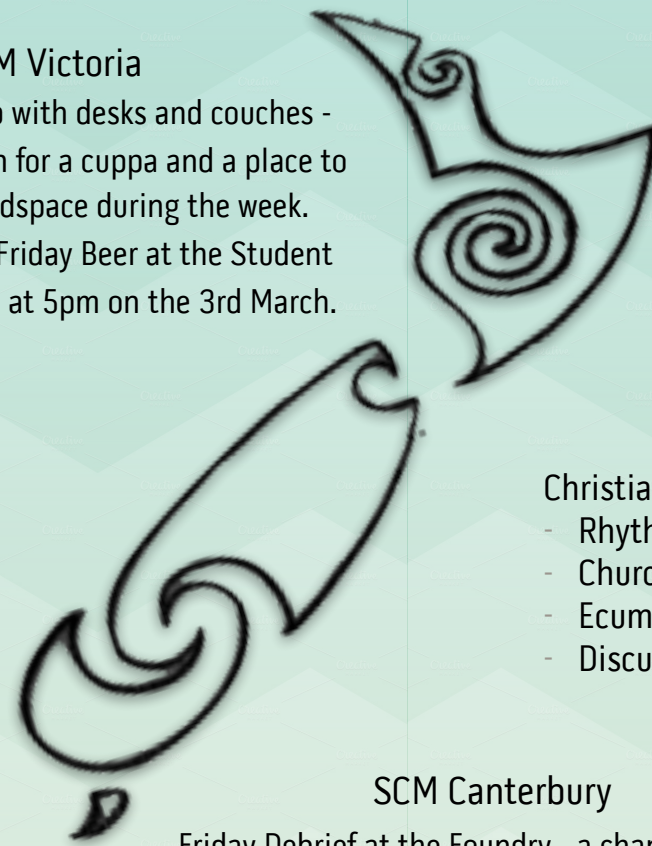


David Hayward - the Naked Pastor, a cartoonist who is 'a graffiti artist on the walls of religion' - was commissioned by SCM Otago to create a cartoon for SCM. The Critic is the Otago University student magazine, and we also have versions for Canterbury and Victoria.  
Great thinking SCM Otago!

The 2017 National Conference and AGM will be in Wellington during September/October.

## SCM Victoria

The cabin is set up with desks and couches - students can drop in for a cuppa and a place to study/get some headspace during the week.  
Plus - the usual Friday Beer at the Student Union - starting at 5pm on the 3rd March.



## SCM Canterbury

Friday Debrief at the Foundry - a chance to catch up and whinge about the week - starting 5pm on the 24th Feb.

Sunday arvo cafe sessions - discussions, world domination planning and coffee - starting 2pm on the 12th March at Beat Street Cafe.

Also planning some study sessions and getting involved in campus life and activities!

We are also hoping to have some events at Auckland Uni and Waikato Uni throughout the year - watch this space!  
If you know any current students or starting students - we would love to get in touch with them and see if we can rustle up something for them this year!

## HOW DO WE EXPLAIN WHO WE ARE?

### Student:

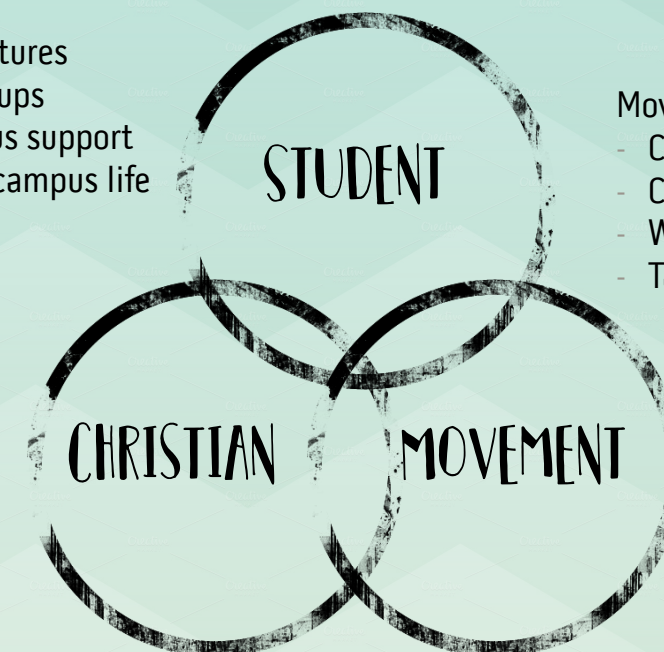
- Public lectures
- Study groups
- On campus support
- Enjoying campus life

### Christian:

- Rhythms of prayer
- Church visiting
- Ecumenical worship
- Discussions + learning

### Movement:

- Campus activism
- Community work
- Wellbeing campaign
- Taking action!



## National Focus Training 2017 - NiFTy Retreats!

To kick off our Student Wellbeing campaign, we are having a series of retreats around the country where students will gather together for workshops and planning towards making real change in the structures that can improve student wellbeing. Will happen in Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington - and if there is enough interest can run in Hamilton/Auckland also. Get in touch if you have any ideas/resources/people that could help! Email: [wellbeing@scm.org.nz](mailto:wellbeing@scm.org.nz)