



## The Formation of Spiritualism New Zealand

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The Spiritualist Church of New Zealand (SCNZ) was established after the passing of the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand Act of Parliament in 1924. For many years the SCNZ organisation operated successfully as the national body for spiritualist churches and the spiritualist movement in New Zealand, providing support and direction to its member churches.

Over time the number of member churches decreased, and in 2016 representatives of the remaining member churches of the SCNZ, and other interested parties, met to discuss the revitalisation and future development of the national body. At that time there had been increased interest from individuals wishing to join a national spiritualist organisation, and also from spiritual organisations other than churches. It was becoming clear that there were people who wanted to learn more about Spiritualism without belonging to a church, and that the way people related to Spiritualism was changing. Unfortunately, the SCNZ's original constitution meant it could only admit churches.

To re-create the organisation into a body that could meet the current needs of people in New Zealand, it was necessary to re-write the constitution. This took some time, as the committee tasked with doing this wanted to create an organisation that would support a spiritual community inclusive of all people and organisations who followed the Seven Principles of Spiritualism in their lives.

In 2017 The Spiritualist Church of New Zealand was re-branded as Spiritualism New Zealand (SNZ) and a Board of people from around the country was appointed to promote and run it. The national SNZ Board began with the following activities:

- a refreshed website
- a new Facebook page
- a programme of weekend workshops delivered around the country
- a monthly free newsletter promoting the organisation, its activities, and various aspects of spiritualism
- an annual residential retreat to bring people together to learn more about themselves and Spiritualist philosophy
- regular on-line webinars on a variety of topics, delivered via Zoom
- in 2020, due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, on-line activities extended to webinars and online church services, regular coffee mornings and online free weekly meditations.



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All activities undertaken by SNZ have one aim: to bring together spiritually-minded people and organisations, and to provide the opportunity to be part of a New Zealand-wide Spiritualist community. SNZ continues to grow and develop. Its vision is to create a nation-wide spiritual community to support the growth and development of Spiritualism, and to promote spiritual values as a way of life. SNZ will continue to look for diverse and creative ways to build a strong spiritual community throughout the country. We welcome your input and ideas.