



Sue Beauclerc

After more than 30 years of involvement in EFM, Sue's retirement from the EFM Board was acknowledged at the 2015 AGM.

*Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm Sue.
You will be missed!*

30 years well spent!

Retiring from the EFM Board has initiated a time of reflection on how significant EFM has been in both my faith journey and my ministry.

After declining a couple invitations to participate in EFM, I joined a group in the Wairarapa in 1986. The timing was just right and the whole EFM experience became pivotal for me. I really appreciated the depth of the reading material and its approach of "Some scholars think this, while others suggest that", which alongside the sharing in a small group, the freedom to question and sometimes disagree, and the Theological Reflection process led me over the course of four years to develop my own theology.

Ten years later (now an ordained Anglican priest) I became a mentor and then a trainer. I appreciated the opportunity to work through the programme again and again and really enjoyed seeing participants deepen their own faith and identify their own ministries. I realised that Theological Reflection had become second nature to me in how I approached ministry, preaching and dealing with life in general. Attending a Training of Trainers in Sewanee was a real privilege.

In 2006 I was asked to join the EFM Board and those ten years added another dimension to my EFM experience. It has been a period of change and now growth. We had become aware that it was time for new material and the implementation of that. Some new and very able Board members, and an Executive Officer, means that as I end my long involvement, I find it satisfying to see EFM NZ in such good heart. I trust it will continue to be pivotal in the faith journeys of many to come.

Sue Beauclerc
May 2015

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EFM news from around NZ

What's happening with EFM in your area?

Please let us know so that we can include your news in the next newsletter.

Email admin@efm.org.nz



The theme of last year's Annual Report was "major transition". While this theme will be with us for some time, due to the progressive implementation of the new EFM curriculum over four years, EFM in New Zealand has clearly entered a new era.

Early in 2014, the Board created a new role for the administration, support and promotion of EFM in New Zealand, and in May 2014 appointed Valda McBeth. Valda has enthusiastically embraced the responsibilities of the role of Executive Officer. Her attention to detail and her ability to quickly become familiar with the varied components of the role mean that EFM is well placed to continue to strengthen and grow. I know that Board members, and members of the wider EFM community, join me in acknowledging Valda's commitment to EFM and excellent efforts over the past year, and in thanking her for the energy and time she has put into the role.

Valda's appointment resulted in the relocation of the administrative centre of EFM to New Plymouth, as well as the appointment of a new financial reviewer based there. We acknowledge the work of Kevin Newson in Wellington over many years in reviewing the EFM accounts.

"Strategic Plan

In early 2014 the EFM Trust Board approved a new strategic plan, identifying six strategic themes:

- EFM increases its profile as a quality, accessible programme of Christian education across denominations.
- More people become involved in EFM.
- EFM equips and inspires participants to be active and confident disciples of Jesus Christ.
- EFM fits and reflects local context.
- EFM is governed effectively.
- EFM is financially sustainable.

We have made progress in each of these areas.

- The new curriculum has been a major boost to raising the profile of EFM: the texts are fresh, contemporary, and marketable; while the new user-friendly reading guides retain the unique character of EFM. During the year the website was updated and is proving increasingly popular, and several successful promotional events were held, including the re-launch of EFM in June coinciding with the annual Training of Trainers event. New promotional banners are proving very popular, and recent growing support for EFM at episcopal level, particularly in the Anglican dioceses of Wellington and Waikato, is helping to raise the profile of EFM. A comprehensive survey of EFM mentors and participants in 2014 indicated a generally high level of satisfaction with the new curriculum. There is more work to be done to raise the profile of EFM consistently across all denominations, and to deliver EFM in new ways - for example by the establishment of online EFM groups, when our trainer and mentor base is sufficiently robust to sustain this move into a new area.
- More people are becoming involved in EFM. One particularly encouraging trend is the establishment of new groups in areas that have been without EFM groups for some time – for example Auckland and Hawkes Bay. As at April 2014 there were 17 groups, 112 participants, 24 mentors, 5 trainers and 1 co-trainer (who has since been fully accredited as a trainer). At present, in April 2015, there are 18 groups, 124 participants, 24 active mentors, and 5 trainers. During 2014, 22 participants from 4 groups graduated from EFM. This net growth in groups and participant numbers is encouraging, and we hope will increase further as more new groups are established over the course of this year by recently accredited mentors.

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- It is clear that EFM transforms lives. Word of mouth and personal contact continue to be the most effective ways of promoting EFM. At EFM graduations in 2014 and early 2015 graduates consistently spoke of the life-changing and transformative power of EFM. A challenge ahead is to ensure that these testimonies are shared and used both to encourage the interest of others and also as supporting evidence for funding applications.
- The New Zealand component of the EFM curriculum has been and continues to be an integral part of the EFM programme in New Zealand. There is a need to ensure that the material we provide is up-to-date. Two key initiatives are underway: the preparation of new reading guides to accompany the reading material; and the identification of additional recommended reading to supplement the core text Christianity in Aotearoa. It is hoped that this material will be ready for use by EFM groups by the end of 2015.
- The EFM Board has worked hard in the past year. There have been major decisions to be made and I thank Board members for their energy, time and wisdom as we have grappled with important issues. We welcomed two new members to the Board in May: Sharron Cole and John Whitehead. Both bring extensive governance experience to the Board, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside them. This year we say farewell to Sue Beauclerc, who has served on the board since 2006, as well as many years as EFM mentor and trainer. We thank Sue for her faithful commitment and contribution to EFM over a long period of time.
- EFM continues to be dependent on funding from the St John's College Trust Board, Te Kotahitanga. Along with our course fees, the annual grant from St John's is our major source of income, and we thank the Trust for its support. The annual application process is rigorous, but I believe that as EFM continues to grow in providing a quality, contemporary and accessible option for theological education in New Zealand, EFM should be well placed to continue to fulfil the funding criteria. The securing of additional income streams, however, would be a wise move to assist EFM's longer term viability.

Overseas Links

In mid-2014 we hosted a visit from Elsa Bakkum, Assistant Director of Training for EFM, Sewanee. Elsa's visit was a blessing to all. She thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to make links with many members of the EFM community here in New Zealand, and was very generous with her time on what was primarily a holiday for her and her husband! The many people who met her valued the chance to meet someone from the "home" of EFM, and to gain a sense of the wider context of which EFM New Zealand is a part.

In June 2014 our EFM trainers welcomed Barbara Booth, EFM trainer from Australia, to their annual Training of Trainers event, held in Wellington. Alec Clark, trainer from Dunedin, later attended the equivalent event in Australia. These were both extremely valuable opportunities to strengthen our links with the Australian EFM community, and we hope that such exchanges may continue to occur at regular intervals.

Thanks

The past year has been an important and challenging one for EFM in Aotearoa New Zealand, as we have made major decisions to lay a platform for the continued growth of EFM. There continue to be challenges ahead. I thank my Board colleagues, Valda, and all members of the EFM community – trainers, mentors, participants and graduates alike. You are all gifts to EFM and the best ambassadors we have!

May God bless our EFM journey in the year to come.

Judith Wigglesworth

21 April 2015

Changes to the EFM Trust Deed

The resolution was passed at the April 2015 EFM AFM to "change the EFM Trust Deed in order to remove the Executive Officer as a Trustee; but provide for the Executive Officer to have the right to attend and speak at Trust Board Meetings, and also be a member of the

EFM Administration Office Closed

24 June - 10 August 2015

The EFM Administration Office will be closed from 24 June - 10 August 2015 as the Executive Officer will be on leave.

PLEASE NOTE:

Emails will be checked periodically, and essential emails responded to as appropriate.

Please do not phone or text the Executive Officer during this time, as Valda will not be able to receive, nor return, phone calls.

TRAINERS & MENTORS:

Please contact Valda prior to the 16th June, if you believe you will need copies of the Volume B Reading & Reflection Guides, or Christianity in Aotearoa prior to 14 August 2015.

Thanks! Your patience is much appreciated.

Education for Ministry

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From EFM Trust Board Member.....

Verity Doak



I was a very early EFM'er in New Zealand. I started in a group in about 1980 and in one way or another, I have been involved in EFM ever since.

I studied and attended group meetings while I had 3 little children, and was blown away by the wonderful experience - intellectual, friendship, learning and growing. The members of that group had very diverse academic backgrounds - from members who had passed a couple of subjects in School Certificates to a member who had a PhD in physics, while others had varying qualifications in between. But we learned so much from each and every member of the group. The group consisted of Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Anglican and Salvation Army members. What a lot we learned about other denominations, and about tolerance and love and respect for the person not their 'label'.

I still warm to the Sallie's idea that ALL of life is sacramental whilst I also love the sacrament of Communion shared in my own denomination!

I mentored a group in the late 1990's which consisted of members from many denominations and included an ex-gang Member who had become a Baptist. What sharing we had, what devotions!

I have been saddened as time has gone on to find more and more Anglican only groups as the ecumenical dimension of EFM is so enriching, liberating and important.

Please - Mentors, members and all involved in this amazing programme, remember how much greater we are, when we all come together under our ONE God.

Verity Doak

Current EFM Board Member