

Report of Website administrator.

I enjoy the technical challenge of administering the website.

Blogtown.co.nz is a free blogging site, created for Kiwis, and based upon world-standard Wordpress blogging software, a very stable code in all the major search engines. Wordpress is continually updating its security procedures. It is run by one 'Stuart' and a team of helpers. They use a very reliable server.

No Google advertisements appear now as I administer a tramping club website also and pay to have a number of photos which exceed the free MB allowed, but this payment give ad-free cover over both websites.

There is provision in the blog for adding images, videos, music and media, but all I need do in our circumstances is incorporate images where appropriate. An interesting challenge has been to transfer addresses given in powerpoint to a 'post' (technical term for regular entries; as distinct from 'pages', permanent ones along the top, e.g. 'home'). I have achieved this with more or less success as not all images come in 'jpg', which is the standard file to work with.

Of course the Wordpress coding does all the work behind the scenes, but I still find it helpful to also go into the HTML (hypertext markup language) to tidy up text sizes, fonts, paragraphs and general layout to approximate as near as possible to copy received.

I have played around with the two side columns. One lists posts in chronological order with excellent search capabilities respecting keyword, category or date. The other lists links to other websites. I have titled them under: 'Links of Interest' subdivided into: SOF ones which I have discovered around the world, NZ SOF-related links, and then general ones connected with faith exploration.

I leave the posts open to Google's trawling robots. Any responses that I receive, I pass onto the committee. Of course the site gets hits all the time but only occasionally do they result in an enquiry, such as the one received recently.

I would still welcome another "user" besides myself who would have equal editing access to the site and be able to carry it on should I meet with any misadventure.

Ian Fleming

Report of the Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter has continued for 2009 in the same format as for several years. I am currently sending out 29 hard copies and 53 by email. [Of the latter quite a few are interested people either beyond Dunedin or unable to attend on our Thursday evening. I am always happy to add other names - especially to the email list which costs no extra.

It would be a good idea if someone was involved with me in preparing and/or distributing the Newsletter, and I would welcome any offers or suggestions.

Suggestions for how the Newsletter might be improved would also be welcome. One of the obvious improvements is for the Editor to receive contributions - no matter how controversial - from readers.

Donald Feist