

The AFN self-organising network group (“SONG”)

The Australasian Facilitators Network is a self-organising network group of about 800 facilitators, almost all in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand. Its self-organising nature means it seeks to remain informal in its structure and operation.

In practice, the results are that the AFN has no Constitution, or joining fee, or office bearers. It functions effectively because members voluntarily contribute their time and effort to keep it functioning. As an example, every year so far since 1998 a group of facilitators in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand has offered to design and facilitate an annual gathering, and has done so.

(Joan Firkins curates a history of the AFN. You'll find it on the AFN website at <[www.afn.net.au/ Brief History of AFN_May_2021.pdf](http://www.afn.net.au/Brief_History_of_AFN_May_2021.pdf)>)

There is an email list (AFN-L) and a website <www.afn.net.au>. In addition, local enthusiasts in a number of Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand centres organise local activities. These also help the AFN's functioning.

You very probably know that this is not how most member organisations are organised. On first encountering or joining the AFN you may therefore be surprised. Some newcomers suggest formalising some aspects of the AFN. Offering suggestions is consistent with our open structure, and our wish to keep on improving how we function. At the same time, most AFN members have come to value the present simple and open structure.