



PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC.

MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY



November 2017, Issue 70



Women's Forum – 14 October 2017

Approximately forty multi-cultural, multi-faith women gathered at St Anthony's Catholic parish hall on 14 October 2017 in a Women's Forum. A rainy Saturday turned into one of the most nourishing days of my life.

Asking participants to sum up five hours of conferencing in one word seemed like an insurmountable task; however, this is what some pairs agreed on: **Wow, Warm, Inspirational, Women, Growth, Resilience, Oneness, Determined, Grateful.**

As women, we are still the backbone and educators of the family. Let's not shy away from this task, no matter who we are in society, but nurture our body, mind and spirit to stay strong and healthy so that we are able to enrich the lives of those we encounter. Strong women of faith are part of our culture.

*Annette Harland
Teacher, St. Ursula's College*



From left: Our speakers Farida Rasif, Sheridan Wright, OAM, Dr Uma Kumar, and Aziza Parwani shared with us their experiences in the topic 'Women, Family, Education'



Workshop: Engaging with Religious and Cultural Diversity – 10 to 12 October 2017

A training program 'Engaging with Religious and Cultural Diversity' was facilitated by Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE from 10 – 12 October at The Multi-Faith Multicultural Centre, PLLCA. From Glasgow, Scotland, with family roots in Pakistan, Ms Chaudhry had conducted two training sessions in Brisbane in 2015. This time the coordinating group for her visit, Believing Women for a Culture of Peace (BWCP), offered first priority to interested people in Toowoomba

and the Gold Coast. The program was originally developed in a number of European countries over four years and has been delivered in a wide variety of contexts. It aims to address the challenge of how to respect the development of individual religious and cultural identities and at the same time to confront prejudice and discrimination. The 19 participants in the Toowoomba session represented a wide variety of faith perspectives, cultural backgrounds and life experience. The interactive nature of the program and the trust developed among the participants enabled these to be shared to the enrichment of all. At the end of the session, all the indications were that many if not all the participants would keep in touch and continue to celebrate their relationships and develop their insights.

*Wendy Flannery
Coordinator, BWCP*



-Workshop in session

Check out more photos on mmc.Toowoomba - For upcoming activities and programs, please visit www.interfaith-harmony.org - call us at +617 4659 8054, or email us mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com

Presentation at the International Peace Conference at UNESCO – 28 September 2017

It was an honour to be a member of the team that visited Paris and Singapore and a privilege to represent TIWG. The highlight in Paris for me was the Masters presentation, catching up with some of the UNESCO Ambassadors that I had met in Toowoomba and the meeting with the Master after the Conference. It was also pleasing to talk with delegates attending the conference. The ones I spoke with were very keen to hear about what we are doing in Toowoomba. I found this very encouraging.

John Agnew
Presbytery Chair,
The Presbytery of the Downs Uniting Church

Two key messages from me, which I have also shared with staff here at Darling Heights, messages gleaned from the visit to the Harmony and Diversity Gallery, have been:

- 1) We should let the things we have in common unit us, and not accentuate differences so that they divide us and
- 2) The notion of common spaces being used to draw the uniqueness's of people together so such difference and uniqueness is seen, experienced, talked about and ultimately accepted as common to the society in which they exist.

Mark Creedon
Principal,
Darling Heights State School

A highlight for me was the heartfelt sharing of each of the UNESCO ambassador's given their reflection of their time spent in Toowoomba. I felt both proud and inspired to be a small contributor of this experience!! It is imperative this affirmation and encouragement of Toowoomba becoming a city of Peace and Harmony is expressed not only to our faith and civil leaders but to every person who calls Toowoomba and region their home.

Nicole Rangira
Catholic Representative,
Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group

The presentation at the conference was full of praise for the work being done here in Toowoomba and it was gratifying to hear how our hard work using the Model proposed by the Venerable Master is being recognised globally.

Andrew Wielandt
Member,
Goodwill Committee of Toowoomba



A Panel Presentation 'Strengthening Religious Education and Social Harmony Towards Greater Understanding and Acceptance' by Members of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) and Goodwill Committee of Toowoomba (GWC), followed by Q&A Discussion



- 1) Breakfast at Amoy Street Food Centre in Singapore
- 2) Dialogue at Khalsa Dharmak Sabha Gurdwara, followed by Langgar lunch in Singapore
- 3) Dialogue with IRO Women of Faith at Singapore Council of Women's Organisations in Singapore



- 1) A visit to the Harmony in Diversity Gallery in Singapore; 2) Dialogue at Ba'lawi Mosque with Imam Habib Hassan in Singapore; 3) Dialogue with Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah in Singapore