



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 December 2006 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
(Treasurer)	Temple Society, Bayswater
(Vice-Chairperson)	Sikh Faith
(Publicity Officer)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(Secretary)	St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
	Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
	St Stephen's Bayswater, Anglican
	(Also Secretary, Knox Anglican Cluster)

Guests:

Nil

APOLOGIES:

Cr David Cooper	Knox Council, Scott Ward (attended part of meeting)
Cr Monique Davey	Knox Council, Chandler Ward
Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church
	St John the Baptist Ferntree Gully, Catholic Church

OPENING and APOLOGIES:

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm by Riad who welcomed everyone.

AGENDA:

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

3. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1. Peter still trying to make contact with Judy at Channel 31 Visions.
2. Events Reports
 - i. *Victorian Parliament Ramadan Iftar Dinner.*
Riad reported on his statements at this about the role of Imams. He supported the activities of both state parties on multiculturalism, and made some criticisms about the federal government activities.
 - ii. *ICACC.*
Riad reported on his attendance at this meeting, which focused on facilities for aboriginal members of the community.
 - iii. *UN Interfaith Ceremony.*
Riad reported on his attendance and speech at this ceremony.

Draft for discussion

- iv. *Victorian Catholic and Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission's Conference.*
Gwenda reported on this annual event. Presentations covered the Anglican Communion, including its history.
 - v. *ISOMER Eid Celebration.*
Peter reported on a wonderful meal, and enjoyable conversations in the company of people of great charm, humour and enjoyment. Gwenda and Brett noted the value of simply spending time together.
 - vi. *Migrant Information Centre AGM.*
Gwenda attended and found the meeting very informative. Several migrants spoke about their experiences and the support they have found from MIC. The meeting included singing by children from a local school. She tabled the Annual Report which is on record with the Secretary.
 - vii. *Meeting with the Archbishop of Melbourne.*
Riad met with the Archbishop as well as David Schutz and Mons. Peter Kenny at an AIS event and exchanged views.
 - viii. *Knox Visions 2020 Output Paper.*
Gwenda reported on the output document provided, which mentions the Knox Inter-faith Network under *Community and stakeholder contributions towards the realization of Vision 2020* as promoting religious tolerance and harmony in Knox, by understanding and accepting different faiths and celebrating what we share. She tabled extracts from the paper which are on record with the Secretary.
 - ix. *Knox Carols by Candlelight.*
Brett reported on his presentation at an event at which about 10,000 attended and commended this as an activity which the Network should focus on for participation in 2007.
DECISION: It was agreed that we should discuss Knox Inter-faith Network involvement in the 2007 Carols by Candlelight event with Knox City Council early in 2007.
 - x. *Parliament of World's Religion*
Melbourne has been accepted as the host city for this event in 2009. Harpal will be able to keep the Network informed as planning progresses.
3. *Knox Community Development Fund Grant.*
Peter reported that the Network has been granted \$2,600 from this fund to prepare, have printed and folded brochures to help advertise the Network and its activities. Brett signed the paperwork, witnessed by Peter. At least two of Brett, Harpal and Gwenda will attend the presentation ceremony on 11 December at Knox Civic Centre at 6-8pm – **ACTION:** Peter will advise Council. **COMPLETED**
A subcommittee was formally established to take this forward, with membership agreed to be Brett, Rowland (subject to confirmation), Riad (subject to availability), Peter and Deirdre. **ACTION:** Brett will convene the first meeting.
4. *Treasurer's Report*
This year we have had XX paid up members, and ISOMER has paid for 4 years in advance, being revenue of \$XXX. Outgoings were limited to refund of \$XXX for the web-site costs to Peter. Current balance is \$XXX as of end of November 2006.

5. Future Items of Interest from Members of the Network

Four events as noted in the agenda and on the Knox Inter-faith Network web-site at www.knoxinterfaith.org.au

Deirdre noted a major Anglican event for the Knox Anglican Cluster (including the Anglican parishes of St Paul's Boronia, St Thomas' Upper FTG, the Highway Parish, St Stephen's Bayswater and RAF in Rowville) at the Arboretum in Ferntree Gully on Sunday 18 February at 10am. It will be a celebration of diversity of worship styles in the Anglican Communion.

Draft for discussion

Harpal reported he has received a letter from the Governor of Victoria, Government House and he will be receiving an award for his contributions to multicultural activities. The presentation will be on Thursday 7 December. Rolf reported a member of the Temple Society will also be receiving an award. Network members congratulated both people.

6. Any Matter of Common Interest.

The letters sent to editors in response to the comments by Pope Benedict XVI and responses were not published.

Discussion on contacting other faith communities:

- We need to contact members of other communities and agreed to do this with great effort after the February 2007 planning meeting. We will prepare a communication to be distributed by email using the Knox Council Directory.
- **ACTION:** Peter to send Cr. David Cooper the current contact list for validation.
- Gwenda offered to speak to people by phone after the communication was sent.

Cr. Cooper noted that he would be the Knox Council liaison point to the Knox Inter-faith Network in 2007. He is keen to get agreement from other Councillors to a plan to work with the Network on running a multi-cultural event/day.

7. Next visits and meetings

1. Meeting dates and rooms for 2007 agreed as:
 - Monday, 5 February – Room 1
 - Monday, 2 April – Room 2
 - Monday, 4 June – Room 1
 - Monday, 6 August – Room 1
 - Wednesday, 17 October – Room 3**
 - (Note this variation: it is to avoid Ramadan for our Muslim Network Members)
 - Monday, 3 December – Room 1
2. Topics for the first three meetings agreed to be:
 - February* – Brochure, March '07 event, and ideas and plans for a March '08 event.
 - April* – Possible topic: Teaching of different faith communities on whether they respect other religions, i.e., the tolerance of other faiths/religions and the right for people to have freedom of worship.
 - June* – Possible event with ASIO on Federal Counter-terrorism activities to follow up event in June 2006 with Victoria Police. **ACTION:** Peter to approach ASIO.
3. The previous Mayor is keen on supporting a Knox Inter-faith Network Day of Prayer in combination with the March 2007 Knox Festival. This will need to be revalidated with the new Mayor. Members present agreed that we should target having the brochure ready in time for this event so it can be distributed as part of either the Day of Prayer, or another similar event such as having a choir to sing. If we can't organise an event as part of the festival, we can consider seeking a stall if space is still available. **ACTION:** Brett to follow up with Council on options for the Knox Festival.

8. Annual meeting

Chairperson: Riad offered to continue in this role. Supported unanimously.

Vice Chairperson: Harpal offered to continue in this role. Supported unanimously. The Members present agreed Harpal would alternate chairing meetings during the year with Riad.

Secretary: Peter offered to continue in this role. Supported unanimously.

Treasurer: Rolf offered to continue in this role. Supported unanimously.

Publicity Officer: Brett offered to continue in this role. Supported unanimously.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Draft for discussion