



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 June 2007 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
(Vice-Chairperson)	Sikh Faith
(Treasurer)	Temple Society, Bayswater
(Publicity Officer)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(Secretary)	St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
	Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
	St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church
	Egyptian Coptic Church

APOLOGIES:

Cr David Cooper	Knox Council, Scott Ward (attended part of meeting)
Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
	Truth and Liberation Concern

OPENING and APOLOGIES:

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm by Riad who welcomed everyone and people introduced themselves.

AGENDA:

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

- 4. Presentations:** The teachings 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.

Rowland presented the views from the Presbyterian Church using prepared notes.

Tina presented the views from the Uniting Church, with reference to their web-site on "Why relations with other faiths are important to the Uniting Church."

Reference: <http://nat.uca.org.au/relations/>

5. Minutes from 2 February 2007 Meeting

Gwenda moved and Rolf seconded adoption of the minutes. Adopted unanimously.

1. Actions arising

2. Brett will notify Council we will not be spending the funds allocated for the brochure in 2006/07. **COMPLETED** Rowland reported from the group that has met to design the brochure. The brochure will be A3 paper, folded in half and then tri-fold, to create 12 panels. Each panel would contain information about the faith in the world, Australia and Knox, plus some basic information about core beliefs, festivals, etc. The group supported the general approach.

3. Peter noted that his community has just set up a young adults choir and will pass on this request to the leader of this group. Riad asked all Community Members to raise the possibility of a City of Knox Interfaith Choir within their communities.

4. Brett has contacted Adrienne Agg.

6/7. Peter to action contact list for other communities through Council.

2. Event Reports

i. JCMA Women's Conference, 12-14 February

Gwenda reported on this energetic event. The relationships and spirit created have continued, with some women continuing to meet every 6 weeks. The group is issuing a regular newsletter.

ii. Pancake Night, Uniting Church, FTG, 20 February

Gwenda reported positively on this event.

iii. Knox Council Sorry Day Ceremony, 26 May

Tina and Sahndra represented the Network and it was a moving ceremony.

3. Treasurer's Report

Rolf reported that the cheque had been received from Knox Council for the brochure and had been banked in the KIN account. This needs to be handled through an incorporated body account for GST handling, so Rolf will make a cheque for the amount of \$XXX (\$XXX+GST) to the Knox Presbyterian Church so this can be done.

The remaining balance is \$XXX, plus \$XXX received on the night for annual subscriptions. Rolf noted that subscriptions are now due for any outstanding groups.

6. Future Items of Interest from Members of the Network

Events as noted in the agenda and on the Network web-site at www.knoxinterfaith.org.au

Riad spoke about the JCMA Residential Conference, 2-5 July 2007. Riad also spoke about the combined Muslim/Jewish/Christian program for visiting secondary schools.

Riad and Gwenda will attend the meeting regarding the Sacred Space at Wantirna Health, and Moya and Tina will try to attend. The contact is Vicky Jacques, who can be contacted on Vicky.Jacques@easternhealth.org.au

Gwenda mentioned a new Buddhist group in Tecoma and suggested they be invited.

Riad noted the Special Palestine Film Festival on 16-17 June 2007, at the Village Roadshow Theatrette, State Library of Victoria. Further information at www.67.com.au

Peter noted that he is happy to put any Member event on the web-site to advertise it more broadly, should the Member Community so wish.

7. Output from 4 April 2007 Facilitated Planning Meeting

Brett commented that one issue facing the Network is that most people attend as interested members, but without formal authority or backing from their communities. He believes that individual communities might set up and run events on behalf of the Network. Rolf reminded Members of the value of the visits to places of worship as a basis for building the Network. Riad reminded Members of the working bees run at the ISOMER Nursing Home.

Brett will coordinate a meeting of the working group. People interested in attending are Gwenda, Peter (provided it is before 16 July), Sahndra (provided it is after 22 June).

8. Plans for the Rest of 2007 and 2008

- Specific events for 2007
 - August: Harpal, Brett, Riad and Peter to continue the presentations on the topic presented in June, from the perspectives of their faith community.
 - Riad will approach the Australian Federal Police to seek a presentation in October.
 - December – Maher to present on the faith of the Egyptian Coptic Church.
- Possible events for 2008
 - Transferred to the working group.

9. Any Other Matter of Common Interest

- Gwenda offered the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission event website details: www.einews.blogspot.com
- Brett asked for the creation of a phone contact list. People who wish to be put on this list are asked to send their contact details to Peter at secretary.kin@knoxinterfaith.org.au. He will compile the list and distribute it only to those people who have offered their contact details.
- Riad noted that 2007 is the UNESCO Year of the Rumi – a Sufi mystic – and provided some information for Members on upcoming events. Further information from www.intercultural.org.au and repeated at www.knoxinterfaith.org.au

Meeting dates and rooms for 2007 were re-confirmed as:

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

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.