



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 February 2008 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)	Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
(Vice-chairperson)	Egyptian Coptic Church
(Treasurer)	Temple Society, Bayswater
(Secretary)	St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
	St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
	Sikh Faith
	Hindu Faith
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
	Boronia Church of Christ

Guests:

James Cheshire	AFP – Roles include work in Counter Terrorism
Clorinda Iannucci	AFP – Member of Islamic Liaison Team

APOLOGIES:

Cr David Cooper	Knox Council, Scott Ward
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
	Temple Society, Bayswater
	St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church
	ISOMER and Islamic Council of Victoria
	Sikh Faith
Sahndra Nelson	St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church

OPENING and APOLOGIES:

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm by Gwenda who welcomed everyone.

3. Thanks to Outgoing Committee Members

Gwenda thanked outgoing committee members, particularly Harpal (who was present at the meeting), Riad (travelling overseas) and Brett (who has moved overseas). She also thanked the continuing members of the committee – Rolf and Peter.

4. Agenda

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

5. Presentations (Notes by Secretary – any errors are in his transcription)

Who are the Australian Federal Police?

- The AFP is Australia's international law enforcement agency
- It was created in 1979 after the Hilton Hotel bombing at the CHOGM conference in Sydney – seen as an act of terrorism on Australian soil

[ASIO (by contrast) collects information related to potential threats against Australian interests. Any offence detected must be reported to police for investigation activities.]

AFP Core Values:

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Trust

AFP's Role:

- Enforce Commonwealth Law (i.e., laws passed in Federal Parliament), in areas outlined in the Constitution
- As Australia's Commonwealth was formed from the states, this means some of the powers get granted by the States to the Commonwealth – this includes some areas related to counter-terrorism

Approach:

- The AFP focuses on working in cooperation with other law enforcement groups and agencies, within Australia and overseas

Areas of primary focus for protecting Australia include:

- Drugs, fraud, e-crime, environmental crime, people smuggling, people trafficking, child sex tourism, terrorism, aviation security
- Regarding terrorism, the AFP's role is to prevent terrorist attacks in Australia or against Australian targets overseas. Specific roles include:

- Enforcing the Counter Terrorism Legislation, which covers acts such as committing a terrorist act, preparing for a terrorist act, directing a terrorist organisation, providing or receiving terrorist training, recruiting a person to a terrorist organisation, getting funds to or from a terrorist organisation, providing support to a terrorist organisation, possessing a 'thing' used or to be used in a terrorist act, collecting or making a document, being a member of a terrorist organisation

NOTE: There are 19 listed (proscribed) terrorist organisations; there is also a list which is published by the United Nations and which banks or commercial entities need to be aware of and track / report transactions involving

- Investigating Rights under the Counter Terrorism Legislation
 - § Additional interview periods – the usual period is 4 hours plus a possible extension of 4 hours (after judicial review); for terrorism offences the period is 4 hours plus extension of 20 hours (after judicial review) excluding any time taken for meal breaks, sleep, etc.. The reason for extension includes the need to be able to contact agencies overseas.
 - § Preventative Detention – Assistant Commissioner of Police or above may apply to an issuing authority to have a person detained and placed in preventative detention prior to them committing a terrorist act – initial order for 24 hours, then orders for periods of 48 hours – where there is proof of imminent threat of a terrorist act, but insufficient evidence for arrest.
 - § Control Orders – Superintendent of Police or above may apply to an issuing authority to have a person subject to a Control Order if they have received terrorist training or are a threat to national security. Orders can be made for periods of up to 12 months. There is only one person in Australia under this order – David Hicks. (Note that Jack Thomas is under an enforceable undertaking, not a Control Order.)

International Network

- The AFP has been performing international liaison since 1979, and has officers present in 27 countries. This includes a significant presence in Asia.
- International Deployment Group / Peacekeeping – it will have about 1200 members by Dec 2008. Much of this is capacity building in partnership with local police forces.

Islamic Liaison Team

- Formed as a result of an initiative by a member of the AFP who is also Muslim.
- Aims including providing a link between the AFP and Muslim community, educating members of the AFP about the Muslim community and talking to members of the Muslim community about, amongst other things, job opportunities for them in the police.
- This also reflects a change in the nature of the AFP's activities, from protecting against crimes against 'the Commonwealth' as a state, to protecting against crimes against member of the Australian community.
- The **opportunity for the Knox Inter-faith Network** is to provide a path for encouraging groups in the Knox Council area to seek information or presentations from the AFP, so they can become informed about their real roles and activities.

6. Minutes from 3 December 2007 Meeting

1. Actions arising

1. *Brochure* – Rowland will work with members of the Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist communities to get the information finalised, then distribute a final draft amongst members within a few weeks for their review and comments. More detailed information from faith communities can be summarised and provided on the Knox Inter-faith Network website, along with a list to other relevant web-sites.
2. *Carols by Candlelight* – Noted an intent to be involved in 2008.
3. *Council Call-up Item* – Deferred: Cr Cooper not present
5. *Performance inspired by holy or sacred writings* – Deferred.

2. Event Reports and Matters of General Interest

- i. *None reported*

3. *Treasurer's Report*

The balance is \$XXX.XX as at the end of January. There is also an amount of \$2,600 on deposit at the Presbyterian Church for the brochure. Interest will have accrued in the account on that amount.

There are currently 11 financial communities in the Network.

ACTION: Rolf will prepare a list of communities which are financial but not currently represented on a regular basis at the Network.

7. The Victorian Interfaith Networks Conference

Gwenda reported on initiatives in progress by Marta Balan related to the symposium, conference and concert. The conference is on 22 June, 1:30-3:30pm, Melbourne Town Hall. Marta is seeking support for applications submitted for grants.

AGREEMENT: The Knox Inter-faith Network was unable to consider the request for support because of time constraints, but will advertise the events to its members.

8. Future Items of Interest from Members of the Network

Riad noted the 2008 JCMA Conference will be held on 26-29 May 2008. Gwenda further noted the 2008 JCMA Women's Conference, which will be held on 18-20 February 2008.

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

9. Plans for 2008

- Ideas for 2008
 - Meeting dates proposed for first three meetings of the year:
 - § 7 April – Presentation from Tecoma Buddhist Community
 - § 2 June – Presentation from The Basin Hindu Community
 - Visits need to continue in 2008:
Buddhist Community in Tecoma, Hindu Community in The Basin, Sacred Space at Knox Private Hospital. Gwenda to make enquiries.
- The World Parliament of Religions will be held in 2009 – the Network needs to consider how it might interact with this major event.

10. Any Other Matter of Common Interest

- None raised

The meeting ended at 10:15 p.m.