



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday February 1 2010 at Knox Civic Centre

1. Rolf was nominated as the chairman of the meeting. The meeting saw no need for the nomination of a returning officer. Riad was nominated to take the minutes of the meeting.

2. John Anitema led an opening prayer.

3. **PRESENT:**

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

Boronia Church of Christ
 St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
 St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
 Temple Society Australia
 Temple Society Australia
 Egyptian Coptic Church
 Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
 Uniting Church, FTG
 ISOMER

Guest:

Belinda Jordan

Knox Council Officer

APOLOGIES:

(Chairperson/Secretary)

St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
 Uniting Church, FTG
 ISOMER

The chair welcomed Deborah who is going to replace Sr. Moya on the network. Sr. Moya has been moved to another location. Thank you Moya for your sincere and diligent effort in promoting the network's objectives. We all wish you all the best for the future. Please keep in touch if you can.

4. Gwenda added to 7.3 "Nomination of KIN representative on the Knox Council Multicultural Advisory Committee".

5. Two amendments were introduced to the minutes of October 5 2009: (1) Item 2.7.2 third line should read. . : present **with** about another and (2) Item 2.8.1 7th line should read February **2010**.

Gwenda moved the Minutes to be accepted, seconded by Maher. Motion passed.

5.2 Rolf reported that as at 31/12/2009, KIN's account was \$XXX. More deposits were made since. These will be shown in the next report.

5.3 Mark has indicated that KIN is now fully incorporated with an incorporation number. He moved two actions: (1) to apply for an ABN, and (2) To Apply for an income tax exemption charity status.

Ron seconded. Motion passed.

5.4 Gwenda reported on her attendance of the PWR functions: Indigenous problems such as glue sniffing and children abuse in the N.T. were discussed. Rabbi Fred Morgan and a Hindu Swami presented an interesting segment together. They both were raised a Jewish youth in N.Y. Gwenda was impressed by the number and quality of volunteers at the PWR.

Gwenda also reported an interfaith function organised by the Police at the Etihad Stadium.

Debra attended PWR and was impressed by the active atmosphere at the conference. She learned a good deal about Judaism and Islam but still needs more to know about Hinduism.

Rolf spoke of the Temple Society's participation. Dr. Irene Bouzo and Ron participated in a presentation. It was pleasing to Rolf that audience showed an unexpected interest in the Society and its history.

6. Gwenda indicated that the Jensen Centre is holding an open on April 18 between 1 and 5 pm. Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Buddhist faiths will be represented. Art, cross-culture events will be included. The address of the centre is 24 Woodvale Rd. Boronia.

Belinda Jordan made members aware of Knox Festival events. It going to be held on 27/28 of February at the Ferntree Gully Community Centre. Cooking, country events are included. Volunteers are called for to participate in the living library event both as subjects and organisers.

Gwenda reported a symposium on dying and death. It will be held at the ACU on April 7th - 9th.

The cost is \$25 for one day and \$60 for the three days.

6.1 For members' information.

6.2 Mark moved and Riad seconded a motion that KIN would contribute the sum of \$500 towards financing the joint venture with JCMA in case that our submission to VMC is successful. Motion passed.

7. Results of election

	Candidate	Moved	Seconded	
President	John Anitema	Rolf	Rod	Motion passed
Vice-President	Rod Brown	Riad	Sr. Moya	Motion passed
Administrative Officer	Peter Evans	Mark	Sr. Moya	Motion passed
Treasurer	Mark Herrmann	Rolf	Riad	Motion passed
Publicity Officer	Gwenda Rait	Mark	Maher	Motion passed
KIN representative on the Knox Multicultural Advisory C'tee	Deborah Kottek	Moya	Rolf	Motion passed

8.1 Mark advised that the current round of VMC grant applications will close in March. Rod and Maher indicated that we may have enough to contend with at this stage. Gwenda and Deborah indicated their interest in getting involved in a future Harmony Day (March). An activity revolving around the theme of "Antiviolence", "Respect" or "Tolerance" may be suitable.

Gwenda suggested that each of the members may think this matter over and perhaps bring some ideas to the next network meeting.

8.2 Rolf suggested that we ought to think of ways to beef up the membership of the network.

8.3 Maher invited members of the network to visit the Coptic headquarters at Donvale. Maher gave background information to the history of that place and referred to a three-day symposium that was held there last year. Three video cassettes of the symposium were made available to the network members. Gwynda collected these to view.

9. Maher referred to events in Egypt where the Coptic minority are subjected to persecution by government plotting. 3 people opened fire on a church congregation killing 6 Copts and a Muslim guard. Such persecution has been in force for the last 30 years.

Maher asked for a collective action from the network. Two actions were suggested: (1) To write and send a protest letter to the Consul general of Egypt in Melbourne and (2) A condemnation letter is to be written and sent to the Prime Minister of Australia asking him to indicate our concern to the Egyptian authorities.

9.1 Dates for the next two meetings: April 12 and June 7.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m.