



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 2 August 2010 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Chairperson)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Publicity Officer)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
	Egyptian Coptic Church
Belinda Jordan	Knox Council

APOLOGIES:

	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	Temple Society Australia
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Uniting Church, FTG
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
Cr Joe Cossari	Knox City Council, Collier Ward
Cr John Mortimore	Knox City Council, Chandler Ward
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
	ISOMER

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Gwenda (as Acting Chair) opened the meeting at 7:45pm. John provided the opening prayer.

Peter noted he had contacted Rod, but not had a response about an alternative representative from his faith community.

1. GUEST SPEAKER: REV PAUL TONSON ON JCMA SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Gwenda introduced Paul.

Paul then simulated the JCMA presentation made to school audiences by: a) by asking Network Members present to answer a series of questions as if they were Year 10 students; b) giving the presentation he would give as the Christian presenter and describing briefly what would be presented by the Jewish and Muslim presenters; c) role-playing the presentation of facts across the three faiths, highlighting many areas of common belief; d) offering the Network Members (role-playing as students) the chance to ask questions.

Paul outlined the history of JCMA and the schools program it set up. Funding for the first year of the program was provided by the Federal Government. More recently, some funding

has been provided by VMC. He noted the program has been modified for one council area in Melbourne to cover off Christian, Muslim and Sikh interactions. The schools are charged now an amount of \$500-600, to cover off the speaker and administration costs. (JCMA organises the speakers once the booking is confirmed.)

The focus for high school students is Year 10, although it can be adapted for Years 9 and 11. The primary school program is more focused on values than on comparative evaluation of religions, and targets Grades 3 / 4 or 5 / 6.

Gwenda has spoken with VMC and a decision on the KIN funding application is pending, but may not be successful as JCMA has applied also for the funding.

2. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 2.1 Minutes of meeting of 7 June 2010:
No change. Minutes moved for acceptance: Mark; Seconded: Riad. Approved.
- 2.2 Knox Community Development Fund and VMC Grants.
No application was put in for this round of Knox Community Development Funding. Gwenda and Mark met and decided there was no specific activity planned for which we could seek funding at this point.
- 2.3 Treasurer's Report: Mark reported the current balance is \$XXX less \$XXX refund to Peter for web-site costs, leaving a balance of \$XXX.
The financial reconciliation has been completed with Council for the surplus of the Community Development funds related to the preparation of the brochures.
Regarding the bank account, the signatories are to be Riad, Rolf, Rowland and Peter (as per current list) and John and Mark (to be added).
ACTION: Mark to submit the application to the bank to change signatories.
ACTION: Peter to provide a copy of the Incorporation Certificate to Mark for this application.

3. EVENT REPORTS

- Gwenda attended the morning of the Buddhism Today event. She noted that the Buddhist community has started a program for Primary Schools.
- Gwenda reported on the JCMA Residential event which was very successful.
- Gwenda reported on the ISOMER Visit and thanked Riad for organising it.
- Gwenda attended the Presbyterian event "Religion in the Public Square".
- Belinda reported on the Eastern Metro Region meeting and the proposed event. This is now targeting Tuesday, 15 March 2011 in Manningham. A further meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1 September 2010, from 3-5pm at Whitehorse City Council. Riad will try to attend on behalf of KIN.

4. FUTURE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Gwenda, Mark and Riad will be attending the VMC Multi-faith Day on 5 August.
- Gwenda will be attending the VINAC event (22 August) representing the Janssen Spirituality Centre; Mark will try to attend to represent KIN.
- Gwenda noted that the Jewish Community Council for Victoria has published its guidelines for interfaith activities.

5. CONCRETE PLANS FOR 2010 / 2011

- Peter summarised feedback on the suggested Middle East forum. There was a mix of views, with some supporting it and others concerned about whether we could run the event without it being hijacked by a particular agenda. For example,

could we separate the religion from the politics? There was support for the forum if it could be well prepared, well run and with the right speakers. The view of Network Members present was that this would need solid organisation, which might require some funding. Mark noted that the next round of VMC funding opens in October, with decisions in December, meaning the event would need to be scheduled for the second half of 2011. Paul noted that the speakers could be from JCMA, and that a few evenings might be needed rather than a single event. It might also be worth involving other Inter-faith Networks in the Eastern Region.

DECISION: In principle, KIN should seek to organise a forum. We need to identify more clearly the topic(s), target audience and speakers.

ACTION: Riad to contact people he knows to explore the possibilities and report.

ACTION: John to provide the contact details of Dennis Gurrie to Riad.

- **ACTION:** All Network members are requested to suggest appropriate interfaith books for a book discussion activity to the Secretary. He will compile a list of the books for possible discussion, as input to the next meeting.
- Knox Festival 2011 (5-6 March) – Mark reported that Belinda Gillam (Knox Council) had contacted Gwenda and him about KIN being involved at the next festival along with the Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee. Mark reported on the rotunda which would be available. Network Members would need to be available across some of the weekend to speak. The brochures published previously could be distributed. Peter noted that we should have the 2011 program available for promoting to potential Members. Belinda suggested the value of an activity to attract children into the rotunda, which would then attract families in. Funding might be available through the Council Award funds. This could be needed, for example, to create a display banner. Mark had done research and noted indicative costing for a banner of 3-4m*1m, printed on one-side, would be \$300-400.
 - ACTION:** Mark to check whether we needed our own Public Indemnity insurance.
 - ACTION:** Gwenda and Mark to meet to discuss ideas.

6. MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

Gwenda reported that Rolf has been nominated for a Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence 2010 in the category of Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria. She provided a letter of support for this nomination on behalf of KIN on short notice. Members present supported the nomination.

Riad noted that Ramadan starts on 11 August and finishes 9 September.

Network Members confirmed to Belinda that we would request the joint meeting with KMAC in November. **RESOLUTION:** Maher will replace Deborah as the KIN representative. Moved: Gwenda; Seconded: Mark – passed unanimously.

7. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 4 October 2010. Network Members agreed that Mark should follow up with Rabbi Aviva Kippen seeking her to present (arriving 7:45pm, to present for 30 minutes and allow 15 minutes for questions). Riad to prepare the prayer.

Meeting closed at 9:40pm.