



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 7 February 2011 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Publicity Officer)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	Uniting Church, FTG
(Chairperson)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
plus	
Belinda Jordan	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
Nicole Hunter	Knox Council, Coordinator of Community Access & Equity

APOLOGIES:

Uniting Church, FTG
 Temple Society Australia
 Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
 Egyptian Coptic Church
 Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region
 (ISOMER)
 ISOMER
 ISOMER
 ISOMER

GUESTS

Cr Sue McMillan
 Knox City Council, Dobson Ward and Mayor
 (Until 8:30pm)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter opened the meeting at 7:40pm. He read the UN resolution on World Interfaith Harmony Week, noting that we are meeting in the Week as it is the first week of February. (This is repeated below for the information of Network Members not present.)

On 20 October 2010 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously established the World Interfaith Harmony Week with the following resolution:

The General Assembly:

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;
2. Proclaims the first week of February of every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;
3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's Churches, Mosques, Synagogues, Temples and other places

of Worship during that week based on Love of God and Love of the Neighbor, or based on Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

We believe this idea has the potential to do a lot of good in the world by:

- (1) 'Co-ordinating and uniting the efforts of all the interfaith groups doing positive work with one focused theme at one specific time annually, thereby increasing their collective momentum and eliminating redundancy.
- (2) Harnessing and utilizing the collective might of the world's second-largest infrastructure (that of places of worship — the largest being that of education) specifically for peace and harmony in the world: inserting, as it were, the right 'software' into the world's religious 'hardware'.
- (3) Permanently and regularly encouraging the silent majority of preachers to declare themselves for peace and harmony and providing a ready-made vehicle for them to do so. Moreover, if preachers and teachers commit themselves on the record once a year to peace and harmony, this means that when the next inter-religious crisis or provocation occurs, they cannot then relapse into parochial fear and mistrust, and will be more likely to resist the winds of popular demagoguery.'

Peter will also record our meeting activities at the website: www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

1. INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- 1.1 Peter welcomed Cr Sue McMillan, who is the Network's contact Councillor for 2011. Peter noted that the Network welcomes Council involvement.
- 1.2 Network Members presented noted with enthusiasm that Riad, a Member, has been awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) and congratulated him.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 2.1 Members present noted that the 2010 AGM minutes had been approved last year as part of our normal bi-monthly approval cycle – this was prior to the Network's incorporation.
- 2.2 Mark presented the Financial Statement for 2010.
In summary: Opening Balance of \$XXX; income of \$XXX and expenditure of \$XXX, giving a closing balance of \$XXX.
RESOLUTION: Mark moved the acceptance of the Financial Statement; seconded by Gwenda. Approved unanimously.
- 2.3 Mark and Peter outlined the reasons why the Network does not need an auditor to review the financial statements.
RESOLUTION: Pat moved that the Network not appoint an auditor; seconded by Gwenda. Approved unanimously.
- 2.4 Election of 2011 Office-bearers
Nominations were received as follows:
 - Vice President: John
 - Administrative Officer (Secretary): Peter
 - Treasurer: Mark
 - President: None
 - Publicity Officer: None

The three nominated people were elected unanimously and unopposed.

Regarding the other roles, discussion was carried over to the next meeting.

- Peter noted that he is willing to chair meetings, but cannot fulfil the other duties expected of a President as he works in North Melbourne and cannot be in the Knox area during business hours.

- Network Members affirmed the need to have either a President or Publicity Officer who lives and works near Knox so they are accessible during the day.

2.5 Other AGM business

Members discussed the need to broaden membership further to include other faith communities. Members should share contact details of relevant communities by email or contact them directly.

ACTION: Peter to prepare report for Consumer Affairs as per requirement.

3. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

3.1 Minutes of meeting of 6 December 2010:

Gwend noted that under the second event report that she was talking about the Bayswater Hindu community rather than the Bayswater Buddhist community as recorded. Minutes moved for acceptance: Mark; Seconded: Gwenda. Approved.

3.2 VMC Grant Application (Forum on Middle East)

Members noted that the submission had been made and recorded generous thanks to Mark for his efforts and to Belinda for her support.

Mark noted that funding applications have just opened for events in the window of July 2011 to January 2012. After discussion, Members decided to pass on applying.

3.3 Knox Festival

This runs 5-6 March 2011; 10am-5pm. The location is Wally Tew Recreation Reserve (Previously known as Ferntree Gully Recreation Reserve) at Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully. KIN will be in the Multicultural Stage Area.

Mark showed the draft interfaith calendar to be distributed to people who attend; this may include a page for children to colour in. Members approved the A4 format; Belinda suggested that fonts and text colour need to be accessible for all users.

Other ideas discussed included allowing children to paint hand shapes, colouring activities for children and helping children make a peace crane origami work.

ACTION: Mark and Peter to attend the information session – Tuesday 15 February, 6-8:30pm at the Knox Council (Meeting Room 4).

Members attending were asked to bring any remaining KIN booklets.

The roster is for Knox Inter-faith Network on Saturday (to represent the Network) and for individual faith communities to be present (if desired) on the Sunday.

The agreed roster so far is:

Saturday, 5 March: KIN

All day – Mark

9:00am-1:00pm – Riad

9:30am-12:30pm – Peter / Zoe (for origami)

10:30am-5:00pm – Gwenda

Time to be confirmed – Pat (preference for some time between 1-5pm)

Sunday, 6 March: Any communities to attend in their own right – advise Mark

URGENT ACTION: Any other Members to advise availability.

ACTION: Peter to resend request for Councillor Ward Contingency funding for the Network's involvement at the event.

- 3.4 Eastern Metropolitan Region Interfaith Network – Inaugural Forum.
Tuesday 15 March 2011, 6-9pm. (Registration 5:45-6:30pm.)
Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.
Attendees: Cr Sue McMillan, Belinda Jordan, Mark, Peter, John, Gwenda, Pat, Riad.
(Belinda to inform the organiser of these attendees.)
Peter to present the 4 minute network presentation.
- 3.5 Blood for Harmony Program – carried over to next meeting.
- 3.6 Treasurer's Report: Mark noted that annual fees are due for all Network Members.

4. EVENT REPORTS

- Mark went to the recent Kingston Council Globe-to-Globe world music festival and reported very favourably on the music and dancing. He noted there is a Kingston Inter-faith Network.
- Mark went to last November's Mornington Peninsula Interfaith Festival.
- Gwenda has been contacted by Dr Dvir Abramovich, The Jan Randa Senior Lecturer in Hebrew & Jewish Studies, and Director, Centre for Jewish History and Culture, at the University of Melbourne. Gwenda met him at the Jewish-Catholic Dinner last year and later at Temple Beth Israel. His academic research looks at the interfaith landscape in Australia, focusing specifically on Jewish-Christian relations. He has sent Gwenda an example of his work: *Overcoming the Cultural Barriers of Conflict: Dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims*; Journal of Intercultural Studies, Vol. 26, No.4, Nov 2005, pp 293-313.

5. FUTURE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Following on from the information about Dvir Abrimovich, Members discussed the possibility of running the April meeting as a discussion on the article.
ACTION: Peter to contact the author to check whether we can distribute the article by email to Members for discussion.
- Knox carols – Mark/Peter to discuss with Malcolm Russell to find current plans for 2011. The view shared by Members present was that individual communities could provide a representative to the event.
- The JCMA schools program may have some involvement in the Knox area.
- Belinda noted that she is taking up a 12 month appointment in Tonga from April and has resigned from Knox Council. She will attend the next Network meeting. Members congratulated her on the appointment.

6. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 4 April, 2011 – Belinda noted that this clashes with KMAC.
Monday, 6 June, 2011
Monday, 25 July 2011
Monday, 3 October 2011
Monday, 28 November 2011 (Joint meeting with KMAC)

Meeting closed at 9:10pm.