



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 6 June 2011 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Secretary)

St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
 Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
 Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region
 (ISOMER)
 Uniting Church, FTG

plus

Amy Gough
 Cr Sue McMillan

Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
 Knox City Council, Dobson Ward and Mayor

GUESTS

David Cohan

Blood 4 Harmony Program

APOLOGIES:

(Treasurer)

Temple Society Australia
 Temple Society Australia
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 Uniting Church, FTG

(Vice-President)

Egyptian Coptic Church
 Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter opened the meeting at 7:40pm with a prayer.

1. INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- 1.1 The agenda was agreed as distributed.

2. PRESENTATION: BLOOD FOR HARMONY PROGRAM

- 2.1 David explained that he is trying to join two areas of personal interest: donating blood and inter-faith activities.
- 2.2 He believes advantages of the proposed program include creating a forum for discussion and dialogue before and after donating, and the opportunity to create positive publicity.
- 2.3 David noted that the Red Cross has a community liaison officer who deals with the types of donations he is describing.
- 2.4 Fixed centres take last bookings at 8pm, with lights out at 9pm.

- 2.5 Cr McMillan noted that she gets personal notification of when mobile donation centres will be in the Knox area as they run a mobile donation centre at the Knox Council and can distribute that to members too. She will investigate who the local council contact is and forward to Peter.
- 2.6 The Network could explore whether to piggy-back on the regular Knox Council day as a starting point by, say, promoting the last hour of the session. This would be co-branded across the Knox Inter-faith Network, Blood 4 Harmony and (subject to approval) Knox City Council.
- 2.7 The minimum age of giving is 18, or 16 with parental consent.
- 2.8 Amy will also take the idea forward to extend the concept further to other Eastern Region Inter-faith Networks, at the next meeting of the EMRIN group, later in June.

3. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 3.1 Minutes of meeting of 4 April 2011: Mark (by email) noted a minor change to item 3.6, correcting the date 31 March 2001 to 31 March 2011. Minutes moved for acceptance with this change: Gwenda; Seconded: Peter. Approved.
- 3.2 AGM follow-up – remaining Office-bearer positions: Riad offered to take up the position of Publicity Officer. This was confirmed with thanks at the meeting.
- 3.3 Internal Audit - Consumer Affairs Report Submission
Peter reported on the informal audit on 2010 financial transactions. He had checked all receipts, deposits to the bank account, withdrawals from the bank account and bank statements. He confirmed that all entries balanced and were consistent with the financial records of the Network as reported by the Treasurer at meetings in 2010.
RESOLUTION: That the Network note the report on the internal audit contained no qualifications and that it accept the internal audit;
Moved: Peter; Seconded: Riad. Approved.
- 3.4 Funding Request to VMC
Mark reported (by email) that the VMC grant application is (hopefully) heading towards a favourable decision. The forum topic has extended from “The role of faith in the Palestine-Israel peace process” to now include “The Golden Rule – a faith focus as a means of building bridges locally” and “How policing in the Knox area addresses religions / cultures from a conflict resolution perspective”.
- 3.5 Treasurer’s Report: Mark reported by email that the balance in the account as at 31 May 2011 was \$XXX (reflecting expenses of \$142 for the Knox Festival and receipt of \$20 membership since the last meeting).
- 3.6 Knox Councillors Ward Contingency Fund: Peter and Mark (by email) reported that the application for \$710 had been fully met, to cover the cost of getting a banner and individual name badges for active members. Peter presented the various banner designs done by Mark’s organisation. Network members present preferred design 1 (based on the word list) – with a suggestion that the words below the Knox Inter-faith Logo be centred, and reordered to build longest to shortest, bottom to top, and with a small gap between the lines. (See the end of the minutes for a sample – this gives the impression that the ‘word’ pyramid forms a keyhole with the logo.)

4. EVENT REPORTS

- *Boorondara Inter-faith Network (5 June 2011)*. Pat reported on the event to celebrate World Environment Day, at which presentations were given on the relationship of faith to the environment and ecology. Members present agreed that an event such as this could be considered for the Knox Inter-faith Network.
- *City of Knox Sorry Day (26 May 2011)*. Pat, Riad and Amy reported on a very well attended event. This included good school level involvement.

- *Inter-faith Chant Ceremony at BMW Edge (organised by the Buddhist Society) (9 April 2011).* Gwenda reported on this.
- *AIS Women's Inter-faith Dinner at Dandenong (29 May).* Gwenda reported on this successful event involving also prayers and various cultural dance groups.
- *EMRIN Meeting (13 April).* Amy reported on this. The meeting reviewed the prior gathering of all the Networks. One outcome was a shared to desire to have a regular (probably annual) event. Amy noted that the request had been made for Knox to host this event in 2012 – possibly not during the multi-cultural week. Members present agreed that we should offer to host the event, probably late April or early May. Amy suggested that the Council would be able to apply for funds. This might coincide with activities for the Knox Inter-faith Network's 10th Anniversary (which will be in 2012).

5. FUTURE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- 150th Anniversary of the Founding of The Temple Society – Sunday, 19th June, 10am, Bayswater Chapel. Peter will attend. Gwenda and Sue are unavailable as they are travelling. **ACTION:** Peter to carry formal congratulations to The Temple Society on behalf of the Network.
- Riad will be attending the JCMA Conference in July.
- Gwenda noted that Whitehorse Interfaith Network in partnership with the Buddhist community will be putting running an event Observing Tea: The Wonders of Tea from Various Asian Cultures. This is on Saturday 25th June from 2-4pm at the Willis Room of the Whitehorse Civic Centre, 379-397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Admission is by donation of a \$10. Please book by admin@chancentre.org or calling 8822 3187.
- Riad noted that on Sunday 26th June at 11:30am-1:15pm there is a City Circle event talking about the new Islamic Museum, at the Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne, corner of Swanston St and Monash Road.
- Gwenda gave advance notice of an Inter-faith Meditation Day to be held on 7th August at the University of Melbourne. (Further details to follow.)

6. CONCRETE PLANS FOR 2011

- 6.1 The possibility of a visit to the Coptic Church was carried over due to the absence of Maher.
- 6.2 Peter to continue to try to contact people identified in the April minutes for speakers at the July meeting.

7. MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

- 7.1 *Research project on inter-faith networks at La Trobe University.* Peter reported that a researcher (Simon Bobko, from the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University) had enquired about documents produced by the Network – he had responded by pointing the researcher to the relevant areas of the Knox Inter-faith Network web-site.
- 7.2 Tina noted that she heard reported at a recent event that Victoria has more faiths than any other state in Australia.

8. NEXT MEETINGS

**Monday, 25 July 2011 – To be held at the Janssen Spirituality Centre,
located at 22 Woodvale Rd, Boronia, 3155.**

Monday, 3 October 2011

Monday, 28 November 2011 (Joint meeting with KMAC)

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Suggestion for words to be displayed on banner:

Knox Inter-faith Network



respect
dialogue
community
neighbours
understanding
working together

www.knoxinterfaith.org.au