



## MINUTES

## MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 6 August 2007 at Knox Civic Centre

**PRESENT:**

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)  
(Treasurer)  
(Secretary)

Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)  
Temple Society, Bayswater  
St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church  
Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church  
Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully  
Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna  
St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church  
ISOMER  
ISOMER  
ISOMER  
St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church  
St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave  
Knox Council, Scott Ward (attended part of meeting)  
Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer

Cr David Cooper  
Lisette Pine

**APOLOGIES:**

(Publicity Officer)  
(Vice-Chairperson)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – by phone  
Sikh Faith – by email  
Egyptian Coptic Church – by email

**OPENING and APOLOGIES:**

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by Riad who welcomed everyone.  
Gwenda led the prayer, which read as follows:

*God of all creation, we stand in awe before You, impelled by visions of human harmony. We are children of many traditions – inheritors of shared wisdom and tragic misunderstanding, of proud hopes and humble successes.*

*Now it is time for us to meet – in memory and truth, in courage and trust, in love and promise.*

*In that which we share, let us see the common prayer of humanity; where we differ, let us wonder at human freedom; in our unity and our differences, let us know the uniqueness that is God.*

*May our courage match our convictions and our integrity match our hope.*

*May our faith in You bring us closer to each other.*

*May our meeting with past and present bring blessing for the future. Amen.*

Gwenda reported that Brett had contacted her reporting he was delayed and may not make the meeting. Gwenda further reported the Brett will be moving to the USA with his family shortly to take up a position. Network Members thanked Brett for his considerable contributions and wish him and his family well. We will need a new Publicity Officer now!

**AGENDA:**

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

- 4. Presentations:** The teachings of different faith communities on whether they respect other religions, i.e., the tolerance of other faiths/religions and the right for people to have freedom of worship.

Riad presented on the topic of Tolerance in Islam. Questions related to the importance of recognising the 'People of the Book', the challenge of separating religion, state and culture/tradition, and the importance of dialogue. Peter presented on the topic of Catholic Teaching on Other Faiths (available on the web-site), and finished with a prayer.

Gwenda foreshadowed a motion at the next meeting requesting that this prayer be used at each meeting; Riad supported this and the general mood of the meeting was also supportive. (Refer to the presentation material, Section 5).

**5. Minutes from 4 June 2007 Meeting**

Peter noted two changes:

Inserting the correct affiliation for Sr Moya. (St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave)

Adding an apology received from Deirdre, who has had to step down from the Network for the foreseeable future due to other family and religious commitments.

Tina moved and Moya seconded adoption of the minutes. Adopted unanimously.

## 1. Actions arising

1. Brochure – Rowland reported on a draft that will be circulated before the next meeting. **ACTION:** This will be worked on by Rowland and Riad.

2. Youth Choir – No discussion as Brett absent.

3. Contact Lists – Lisette reported that the current list of religious communities in the Knox Council area is available on the Knox City Council website – at: <http://www.datascape.com.au/infocomse/knoxcc/search.cfm> then follow the link to the *Religious Groups* section, on the lower left corner of the page.

Peter also reminded people that he is willing to compile a list of phone numbers for people within the Network, to be distributed only to members of the Network – please send him your contact details at

[secretary.kin@knoxinterfaith.org.au](mailto:secretary.kin@knoxinterfaith.org.au) if you want to be included on this list.

## 2. Event Reports

- i. *Wantirna Health Sacred Space Meeting(s)*  
Moya reported on the two meetings to date and the meeting to be run.
- ii. *JCMA Residential Conference, 2-5 July*  
Riad reported on this event by a written report distributed with the agenda.
- iii. *National Tree Day, Tree Planting Ceremony at Lakewood Reserve, 29 July*  
Riad and Gwenda attended at this site, one of three on the day.
- iv. *JCMA Women's Group*  
Gwenda reported on this group, which is now meeting every six weeks. Their last meeting involved a walk to representative places of worship. The next meeting is on 3 September at The Grove.
- v. *Conflict resolution between Abrahamic faiths at Trinity College.*
- vi. *Celebration of Rumi – Monash University, Caulfield, 29 July*
- vii. *Flying the Aboriginal Flag Permanently outside Knox Council*  
Cr Cooper reported on the activity and responses to it.

### 3. *Treasurer's Report*

The remaining balance is \$XXX.XX as at end of July. Rolf noted that **subscriptions are now due for any outstanding groups.**

Rolf also reported that the cheque for the KIN brochure has been transferred out of the KIN account and into the Knox Presbyterian Church account for proper handling of GST.

## 6. Future Items of Interest from Members of the Network

Events as noted in the agenda and on the Network web-site at [www.knoxinterfaith.org.au](http://www.knoxinterfaith.org.au)

This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing in 1967 of the key referendum on rights for indigenous people in Australia. Lisette noted there are about 400 people who identify themselves in the census as indigenous in the Knox Council area. There are two events coming up of interest/relevance:

**Stepping Up: Walking Together (40 Years as "Citizens"? Where to next?)  
Couch Conversation & Dinner (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 5-10pm) and  
Forum (Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 8:30am – 4:00 pm)**

Hawthorn Town Hall, 358 Burwood Rd (Corner Glenferrie Road), Hawthorn

General enquiries to [admin@mmigp.com.au](mailto:admin@mmigp.com.au) or phone: (03) 9725 2166.

### **Sixth Annual International Abraham Conference 26 August 2007**

<http://einews.blogspot.com/2007/07/fifth-annual-international-abraham.html>

University of Melbourne 10am-2.00pm

Carrillo Gantner Theatre, Sydney Myer Asia Centre, Swanston St (corner Monash Rd)

Admission Free. Register at [www.intercultural.org.au](http://www.intercultural.org.au) or call Emre (03) 9326 2177.

Rowland suggested the Network should have a speaker to convey the views of atheists – general discussion agreed this would be of interest and value if we could find a suitable speaker.

Gwenda and Riad noted JCMA initiatives on a school program.

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.

## 7. Output from Planning Committee Meeting

A brief discussion was held covering:

- The Knox Inter-faith Network is willing to be involved in the Council Carols by Candlelight Ceremony – **ACTION:** Lisette to put Gwenda in contact with the organisers.
- Inter-faith Youth Choir – Could we leverage an existing school choir?

Other discussion was deferred to October meeting.

## 8. Plans for the Rest of 2007 and 2008

- Specific events for 2007
  - **ACTION:** Riad will approach the Australian Federal Police again to seek a presentation in October, or more likely February 2008. Lisette offered to help. Other options include hearing Harpal's presentation on Sikh views on other faiths (deferred from this meeting), or running the election of office-bearers. This meeting will also involve planning for next year.
  - December – Maher to present on the faith of the Egyptian Coptic Church. This is to be confirmed.

## 9. Any Other Matter of Common Interest

- Cr Cooper reported on a call-up item approved at a recent Council meeting. This has approved a report to be prepared for the October 2007 Ordinary Meeting on the viability, options and implications of Council establishing and sponsoring a body to advise it on multi-cultural affairs. Members presented applauded the move and look forward to seeing the outcomes of the work.

Meeting dates and rooms for 2007 were re-confirmed as:

**Wednesday, 17 October – Room 3**

(Note this variation: it is to avoid Ramadan for our Muslim Network Members)

Monday, 3 December – Room 1

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.