

**For Visioning your future –  
Strategic Planning Workshop responses**  
Workshop conducted on 2 April, 2007

Attendees outcomes (ie. 'what do you want to leave this session with'?)

Riad	clear idea, way ahead/projects
Peter	as above is the second step, vision – engaging with community, connecting differently
Warren	key points of KIN
Pat	projects, concrete steps towards project
Nadia	framework for application
Aly	?
Alia	?
Brett	concrete plans for future/short, medium term; ideas to help community
Gwenda	infrastructure

**Responses under questionnaire headings – from feedback prior to and during workshop** (in italics)

What do you consider to be the purpose of Knox Inter-Faith Network (KIN)

- Bring neighbours together to reinforce their faith belief
- Promote religious harmony by a common platform of information about each faith, religious community news and happenings, dialogue, tours, presentations of/for/about various religious bodies, etc.
- Per constitution – discuss matters of common concern, provide opportunities for dialogue and understanding, publicise relevant meetings, produce/distribute literature on religious organisations/practices, arrange visits in Knox
- Dialogue with Knox residents of other faiths, learn to understand/appreciate/respect their faiths/beliefs, celebrate what we share, accept differences whilst being committed to own faith. Aim at peace and harmony in Knox and world.
- *Neighbours – community*
- *Harmony x2*
- *Dialogue*
- *Promote*
- *Appreciate*
- *Peace*
- *Understanding therefore tolerance of difference*
- *Celebrate - differences*

Do you know what underpinning values KIN is committed to and which guide it? Please list::

- Respect for other humans
- Understanding others' beliefs
- Reinforcing each others faith in humanity
- Co-operate with others to resolve outstanding issues
- Guide goodwill of people
- Fairness without bias
- Open to other ways of doing
- One community, many faiths
- Importance of good understanding
- Importance of respect for others whilst holding own beliefs
- Tolerance
- Compassion
- Ability to listen
- Trust
- A firm belief in own faith
- Friendliness
- Openmindedness
- Support
- Truthfulness
- Sharing
- *Respect*
- *Listening without bias*
- *Fairness*
- *Good will*
- *Understanding*
- *Dignity*
- *(tolerance)*
- *Friendliness*
- *Supportive*
- *Open minded*
- *Integrity*
- *Commitment to own faith*

Where do you see the future for your organisation, in say 5 years?

- Adopting community issues and practically help to solve them eg. global warming, environment, local government, education, health
- Same as now – more emphasis on dialogue and 'open house' on what are core values of all faiths, resource for religious organisations in Knox ie. who, what, where, when, contacts on internet and publications
- A modest group providing contacts and furthering informed understanding of different faiths
- Further involvement of existing and extension to all interested and at present NOT interested
- Visits to others not represented in Knox
- *To be recognised and appreciated by the community of Knox as :*
  - *Reference*
  - *Consulting community re harmonious/religious community*
  - *A model/benchmark of interfaith co-operation*
  - *Promoter of interfaith co-operation*

In the future, when it is running brilliantly, what will it look like, what will it be known for? Consider - its projects/services/products, the way it operates, staff, management, etc.

- Overheads to minimum
- Council resources may be employed
- Volunteer members
- Known for services to community
- Platform to discuss/co-ordinate mutual concerns within religious community of Knox
- Not a business but a support group. Not a Super-Church or spokesman for different faiths, except in limited, agreed areas. Not a facilitator or common religious services
- Same as now (see purpose and values)

What would its main achievements be?

- Bringing neighbours together to resolve some of life's challenges
- Keep going, stay focused on long term
- Furthered removal of misunderstandings that contribute to prejudice, discrimination, breakdown of social cohesion
- ?

What would people be saying about it? (reputation)

- Useful
- Depends on how well KIN does its job
- Not much, we're not that kind of organisation
- 'I would like to work with this group'
- *Facilitating inclusion (in/out)*

Are there changes that are required to get there? Please specify.

- Attract more local people to group/more youth, industry and professional connections
- ?
- Potential problems arising from potential for marginal groups using KIN as platform
- More energy, time, money and calibre of members the same as we already have
- Lack of true cross-section of faith community eg. relatively few of the 50+ churches in Knox are involved

What specific activities would you like to see KIN undertake over the next 2-3 years

- More 'hands on' community projects
- Groups of ministers from each faith meeting every so often – if these were open to public KIN would be a good way to announce meetings, etc.
- Literature program, currently being planned and which has received funding
- More meetings on topics of local/national interest
- Involvement with other agencies working in multi-faith/cultural services including special needs
- *Special meetings – Open House*
- *Creating events where others are invited*
- *'network' model – exponential model ie. leaders training other leaders who run groups, etc*

- *Planned approach to other religious and other groups and schools, etc to invite to KIN – how can we be involved?*
- *Look in different locations at other models of promoting interfaith eg. Harmony Days*
- *Identify targets eg. Schools (RE teachers), projects for funding/grants, events, what curricula is available*

#### Actions from workshop

- Community directory ASAP - Lisette to forward to Riad
- School information Yr 10/VCE RE curricula – for next meeting (June 07)
- Invitation to join working party to explore further initiatives – Brett will circulate email and report back next meeting