



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 6 October 2008 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)
(Vice-chairperson)
(Secretary)

Lisette Pine
Belinda Gillam

Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
Egyptian Coptic Church
St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
Knox Council, Community Development Officer - Diversity
Temple Society, Bayswater
Boronia Church of Christ
Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)

Guests:

Vanessa Peters
Lucy Richards

Tibetan Buddhist Rime Institute, Belgrave
Tibetan Buddhist Rime Institute, Belgrave
Victorian Multicultural Commission
Victorian Multicultural Commission

APOLOGIES:

Cr David Cooper
(Treasurer)

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
ISOMER
Knox Council, Scott Ward
St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church
Temple Society, Bayswater

OPENING and APOLOGIES:

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by Gwenda who welcomed everyone. Members and guests introduced themselves.

4. Opening Prayer and Presentation on Tibetan Buddhism

Rinpoche opened with a prayer of chant.

In his presentation, he emphasised the interdependency of people and the need for people to develop and maintain close and rich relationships. He emphasised the importance of all religions and of mutually respecting the religions of all other people. His view is that people should not judge the teachings of other religions. He is also keen to assist with furthering the goals of the Knox Inter-faith Network.

The Tibetan Buddhist Rime Institute offers meditation courses. These are held at 1584 Burwood Highway, Belgrave. The course on Meditation Basics is on Tue night (7:30-9pm) and Wed (1-2:30pm). There is a small fee involved (\$45 for six classes, or \$12 per class). There is also a special Sunday morning meditation event at 10-11am on Sunday, 30 November 2008, at Burrinja, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey.

Maher proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of Network members. He also suggested that a visit to the Tibetan Temple would be of value.

5. Victorian Multicultural Commission

Lucy and Vanessa outlined the activities of the VMC and current rounds of grants available. These are in a variety of categories.

- Multi-faith initiatives – up to \$10k. Could be for a variety of activities spanning education, cultural events, engaging young people. The average grant in this category last year was about \$5k.
- Inter-faith initiatives – up to \$20k. Could be for building capacity and profile. These are likely to be opened in late October with a closing date in late December. (Ideas discussed included adapting our existing brochure for use with younger people, or making an application for putting together a schools program, which would include a project officer. Lisette has a list of items for which the Monash Interfaith Project received funding.)

Network members thanked Lucy and Vanessa for their attendance and early notice about the grants program.

6. Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee

Belinda reported on the Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee. Knox Council is seeking the nomination of one member from the Knox Inter-faith Network before 17 November 2008, for a 2-year term. Nominees need to be passionate about equitable access to services for people from all cultural backgrounds and familiar with issues facing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities. However, as there are Council elections this year, the interviews for being appointed to the Committee are likely to be in late January 2009, with meetings to start from February 2009. Meetings are likely to be on a Monday night every second month (a different Monday night from the Knox Inter-faith Network). There will also be 1-2 forums per year, along with a project per year – the latter initiated by either the Advisory Committee or Council.

Options considered for selecting the Knox Inter-faith Network were:

- Nomination on the evening
- Nomination by email
- Preferred nomination on the evening unless someone else puts their name forward by email by 10 November 2008, in which case the preferred nomination and alternate nominations will communicate amongst themselves to agree a primary and secondary nomination.

MOTION:

That Gwenda be the preferred nominee of the Knox Inter-faith Network, subject to:

- a) No other person puts their name forward by email by 10 November 2008.
- b) Another person takes on the position of Chairperson position for 2009.

MOVED: Riad; SECONDED: Maher. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Other Business

1. Actions arising

1. *Approach to involving local schools* – Gwenda reported on her activities in approaching local schools – there has been little interest, other than one school, which still had issues with running a program involving religion. However Network members present debated options for progressing this and believe it should be discussed further. This topic will be the focus of the December 2008 meeting, along with the AGM. Lisette will provide a whiteboard to help discussions.
2. *Parliament of World Religions* – Communities interested in attending or participating in this should contact the organisers.

2. Correspondence

1. *City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network Annual Gathering* – The Knox Inter-faith Network has received two tickets to attend the 14th Annual

Gathering of this Network at 7:30-9:30pm on Wednesday 22 October. Mark and Riad took one ticket each.

2. *Casey Interfaith Network* – This Network has invited Knox Inter-faith Network to their next General Meeting, 2pm, 16 October. This will be held at the Casey Council Chambers at Magid Drive, Narre Warren. No members present at the meeting were able to attend – if people are interested in attending, please reply to Pam Mammouney at pammam@tadaust.org.au
3. *LGMA Annual Conference – Healthy Heart Cookbook* – This group is seeking to put together this book as part of their next meeting. Refer to the email sent out with the minutes and respond directly.

3. *Treasurer's Report*

Discussion deferred due to absence of Treasurer.

8. Next Meeting

1 December 2008 – AGM + Consideration of Schools Program

The meeting ended at 9:55 p.m.