



Everyone Matters

Toowoomba A Model City of Peace & Harmony

During a March 2012 interfaith forum in Toowoomba, the religious representatives and residents attending all agreed to help transform Toowoomba into a multicultural model city of peace and harmony.

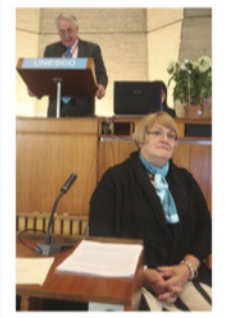
In conjunction with the celebration of Vesak Day on 24 May 2013, the Pure Land Learning College Association had been invited to share with UNESCO ambassadors and other delegates the 'Vision of Helping Toowoomba Become a Model City of Peace and Harmony' at UNESCO Headquarters.

In the spirit of inclusiveness, the Pure Land Learning College Association invited our city Mayor Paul Antonio; Mayoress Judy Antonio; Reverend Dr. Jonathan Inkipin, Rector of the Anglican Parish of St Luke; Highlife magazine Editor-at-large Ally Martell; Goodwill Committee member Scott McGrath; Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce President Andrew Wielandt; Sophie Tetzlaff and Amy Creighton from the media; Future Leaders President Mark Cecil; visual artist Kim Walmsley; Muslim PhD student Syed Ghazaly; and Humanist Dr. Frank Hepple to represent the city of Toowoomba. Venerable Master Chin Kung led the delegates from Pure Land who included Venerable Wu Shin, Venerable Wu Ping, Venerable Wu Chin, and Muhammed Haniff.

For over three hours, the presenters talked about Toowoomba touching on Indigenous heritage, religious inclusiveness, education, business opportunities and council activities – basically how we live in relative peace and harmony despite a myriad of cultural and religious differences.

Muhammed Haniff from the association's Multi-Faith Multicultural Centre said the presentation was well received. Feedback from international delegates who attended the forum believed that Toowoomba has the potential to bring this vision of peace and harmony to reality. Though it was a very hectic schedule, it was certainly a very rich learning journey for all. This journey is about laying a foundation for the betterment of Toowoomba and the generations of Australians to come.

*Presentation of
Aboriginal
painting to
Venerable Master
Chin Kung by
Mayor Paul
Antonio and
Aboriginal artist,
Kim Walmsley.*



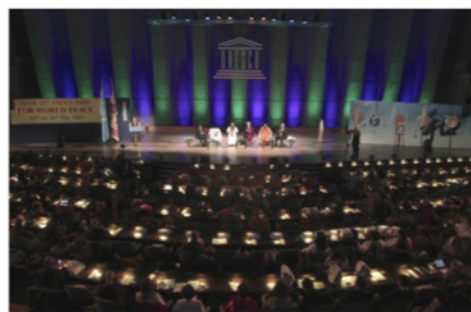
*Mayor Paul Antonio
delivering a keynote address
on 'A Journey to Building a
Model City of Peace and
Harmony – Toowoomba'.
Judy Antonio also presented
on 'Religious and Secular
Education – A Foundation
to Peace and Harmony'.*



*Mark Cecil presenting on 'A
Youth Call – The next Lap'.*



*Mayor Paul Antonio
extending an invitation to
the UNESCO Ambassadors
to come and visit our
beautiful city Toowoomba.*



*The opening of the conference
at UNESCO Headquarters.*

Upcoming Forums

**Youth
Forum**

17 September 2013

**Peace Education
Forum**

20 September 2013

More details will be released soon!