



Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group prepares for 2017 events

Members of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) met in the surrounds of Peacehaven Park at Highfields on 1 February to begin their activities for 2017.

Drawn from a variety of different faiths including Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu, Spiritualist, Buddhist, Unitarian, and Mormon, the members have been meeting regularly since 2015 to nourish understanding and cooperation between religions and faiths in the Toowoomba region, and to be a visible example of acceptance and respect between people.

The first big event of the year is the visit of UNESCO Ambassadors to Toowoomba from 16-18 March. The aim of the visit is to introduce the Ambassadors to Toowoomba, to show them the diversity of Toowoomba's cultural life and to allow them to experience the community commitment to making Toowoomba a Model City of Peace and Harmony.

Pure Land Learning College Association (PLLC) is organizing the visit with the support of the community. Over the past three years, PLLC has organized and held International Peace Forums at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Members of the Goodwill Committee of Toowoomba and the TIWG have attended and spoken at these conferences. The most recent conference was held in September last year and attracted over 200 people from different parts of the world.

Events for the visit of the Ambassadors in March include a Harmony Day Breakfast and a Community Dialogue at the Armitage Centre, Empire Theatre. Members of the TIWG will be participating in this event, and will also be taking part in a private dialogue with the Venerable Master and the UNESCO Ambassadors.

While this visit is the biggest event for 2017 the Interfaith Working Group is also involved in presenting the radio program "Voice of Faith" broadcast on Community Station 102.7FM, which can be heard twice a week on Sunday and Tuesday evenings.

Members of the TIWG are looking forward to working together to promote awareness of the diverse faiths of the Toowoomba region.

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