



PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC.

MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY



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March this year saw the second arrival of a delegation of Ambassadors from UNESCO to witness first hand the practical side of establishing Toowoomba as a City of Peace and Harmony. With a fairly comprehensive program over three days, their Excellences were exposed not only to the organizations and people working towards this goal but also had a chance to see around the city of Toowoomba.



The Pure Land Learning College Association, the Goodwill Committee and the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group all worked with local people and organizations to provide exposure to the work being done here in Toowoomba under the inspiration of the Venerable Master Chin Kung AM.

Harmony Day Assembly at Darling Heights State School (DHSS)



The school, led by Principal Mark Creedon is a practical example of how Toowoomba is working towards being a City of Peace and Harmony. With 650 students and 45 languages spoken in the school, it is a cultural mixing pot for students, families and communities to enjoy the cultural diversity of this large number of people. It is amazing the work being done in the school, and it is a sign of the peace and harmony that they can come to the community with the knowledge and understanding of other

cultures. Their Excellences were very impressed by the school. To quote His Excellency, Ahmed Sayyad "We hope at least in (other) big cities around the world, (if there was) only one school like DHSS, we could change many things".

Ari Heber

Member, Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group

Dialogue with Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group



Members of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group joined with members of the University of Southern Queensland community to participate in a dialogue with the UNESCO Ambassadors on 15 March. Bishop Cameron Venables, Chair of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group, led the dialogue that consisted of questions being put to the Ambassadors as well as the Ambassadors asking questions that drew responses from members of the Interfaith Working Group. The good discussion

that emerged was carried over into a short afternoon tea where all present could informally meet and greet the Ambassadors.

Reverend Richard Tutin

Member, Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group

Check out more photos on  [mmc.Toowoomba](https://www.facebook.com/mmc.Toowoomba) - For upcoming activities and programs, please visit www.interfaith-harmony.org - call us at +617 4659 8054, or email us mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com

Dialogue with Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group



The Toowoomba Dialogue held on 14 March was an exceptional night where we had the UNESCO Ambassadors from around the world joining us, celebrating and promoting peace and harmony in our hometown of Toowoomba. This conference was a great opportunity for me to expand on my knowledge. On the night, I learnt about the importance of a community working together and bringing peace and harmony into our town, most importantly how much of a change this can make. Listening to speeches from the perspectives of business, media, faiths, education, community, youth and leadership, I was amazed of the many ways we can draw a community together and how each of these sections play a significant role in bringing peace and harmony. Overall, the conference was a good chance for me to learn more about how our town promotes peace and meeting the UNESCO Ambassadors who gave their time to be here to see the way in which Toowoomba is establishing a Model City of Peace and Harmony.

Fatima Aria
Grade 12, Centenary Heights State High School
Member, Toowoomba Youth Peace Group

Celebrating Harmony Day



Harmony Day is a day to acknowledge and appreciate diversity within our Toowoomba community. It's an opportunity for people from different countries to share their beautiful cultures with everyone. I have always participated in harmony week in my school Harristown State High School but this year, I got the opportunity to be one of the speakers for Harmony Day at Civic Square. When I arrived at the event I was very surprised at how many people had come, and to see people in their traditional dress was just amazing. Everyone was interacting with each other and there were many different activities throughout the day. This was a very good opportunity to share my story with the community and to remind people why we had to leave our country and why we make Toowoomba our new home. Through my story, I wanted to inspire people young or old, men or women that we are all one and we are in this together. I really appreciate the fact that Toowoomba provides this kind of opportunities and events for people from different countries to acknowledge their beautiful cultures amongst people. I believe through this event we are able to solve many misunderstandings about each other.

Rahila Abdul Hadi
Grade 12, Harristown State High School
Member, Toowoomba Youth Peace Group

Ancestral Remembrance Ceremony



The ceremony is to commemorate global multiethnic ancestors, and its purpose is to revive the virtue of being filial to parents and revering teachers. The function also observed seeking blessings of the elders for the living members of the family, their friends and relatives and above all it helps to keep the connection between the dead and the living for maintaining the bond and respect with the past and strengthening of their culture and tradition. It was heartening to note members of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group performing significant roles in the ceremony. Ariel Heber completed the role of the Principal and Evelyn, Jag and Sarwan joined hands in the Assistant Principals roles. At this function, it was confirmed for me that our ancestors are invited to be ever present in the spiritual world to provide us the moral, ethical and spiritual guidance all the time.

Sarwan Narayan

Member, Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group

Amitufo Chinese Integrated School in Toowoomba



I found this session on Saturday afternoon very interesting. I wish I had recognized and learnt some of these principles as a young mother. The session was inspiring and Venerable Master Chin Kung's vision is inspired. The integrated school opened in September 2018, to students in Toowoomba. It is modelled on the Hong Ming Experimental School in Taiwan, which has early childhood to High School.

Evelyn Ray

Member, Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group

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