

**International Peace Conference 2022 - Be the change we want to see in the world**



On 25th of November, the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) organised a conference on the theme of How do we “Be the change we want to see in the world”. The day was commenced with smoking ceremony by Shannon Bauwens. This smoking ceremony was a great start to the day to bring people together for a spiritual and physical journey for healing and cleansing.



*Smoking Ceremony by Shannon Bauwens- Tribal Custodian*



*From left: Dr John McVeigh, Venerable Wu Chin, Amanda Dalton, Elizabeth Schneidewin.*

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all speakers and presenters for the work they do to support our community: Tribal Custodian Shannon Bauwens, UNAA QLD President Claire Moore, Venerable Wu Chin from PLLCA, Dr John McVeigh from UniSQ, Amanda Dalton from Protea Place, Elizabeth Schneidewin from Inclusion Access and Dave Hampshire and Greg Whitley from RACQ Life Flight.



Above: Pure Land Learning College - Partnership Award



Above: Bunya Scouts Group- Planet Award

**UNAA Sustainable Development Goals  
Local Hero Awards**

This year, the United Nations Association Australia QLD has offered Toowoomba the honour to nominate five community groups who have contributed greatly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals Award for 2022.

A huge congratulations to HumeRidge Church for receiving the Prosperity Award, Heartfulness Institute for receiving the Peace Award, Pure Land Learning College for receiving the Partnership Award, BASE Services for receiving the People Award and the Bunya Park Scouts Group for receiving the Planet Award. We look forward to seeing more great things happen from these organisations in the future.



Above: BASE Services- People Award



Above: HumeRidge Church - Prosperity Award



Above: Heartfulness Institute - Peace Award

## Reflection on International Peace Conference by international delegate from Singapore

I am thankful for the opening address at the International Peace Conference 2022 by Ms Claire Moore. She quotes "Being able to disagree with each other, yet able to stay friends. There is a chance to learn from others." Her message set a clear objective in embracing an open mind at the conference, making changes and building peace. The Late Venerable Master Chin Kung's keynote address, delivered by Venerable Wu Chin, quotes "So to achieve a harmonious world, where do we begin? Start from resolving conflicts within ourselves. Let go of self-interest and be sincere and altruistic".

The future seems uncertain, but the help rendered makes people more prepared for the unknown. It is important to be empowered to consider the uncertainty an asset rather than a liability. It takes a lot of kindness, compassion and understanding in this journey in building peace and harmony.

Jennifer Goh – Director, Blossom World Society



## "Would You Dare?" – Youth Conference 2022

On 26th of November, TYP.G organized a conference on the theme of "Would You Dare?". This conference was open to youth aged 12 to 25 and delved into topics of youth fears and passions. We would like to thank our speakers Mr. Farid Hamid, Emma McTaggart, Divya Krishnan and Dr. Uma Kumar for their amazing presentation. Their presenting styles, knowledge and wise words were very insightful and encouraging for allowing young people to dream big and become their best self. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Rheanca Lincoln, Lena Nabizada and Sruthi Gandu for being wonderful emcees.

## Reflection on Youth Conference by Mr. Farid Hamid

It was such a moving and humbling experience - everyone was courageous and vulnerable - openly sharing their challenges and for many, how they have overcome them or are still dealing with the hurt and pain of labels and stereotypes put on them by society but also how we label ourselves. With limiting and damaging beliefs. It was so inspiring to listen to the wisdom of youth - as we shared the mental health effects of labels and how it can even lead to physical and other medical health related effects.

Farid Hamid - Ithaca Training and Consultancy



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