



PEACE DAY 2023 TOOWOOMBA

On 30 September, we came together to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. It is 3rd in running, Heartfulness Toowoomba Australia and the Pure Land Learning College Association Inc.'s (PLLCA) Multi-Faith Multicultural Centre Toowoomba. As in previous years, several community groups participated in this important gathering. We were delighted to have Mayor Geoff McDonald join us and share his words of encouragement. He even graciously participated in a competition with our youth, showcasing his strong connection with the community. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the organizing committee for their outstanding efforts. Thank you for reminding us of the importance of peace, the value of sharing cultures and appreciating our differences.



CALL ON MAYOR GEOFF MCDONALD

Earlier this month, Venerable Wu Dao from the Pure Land Learning College Association Inc. paid a courtesy call on Mayor Geoff McDonald. Venerable Wu Dao expressed gratitude to the Mayor and the Council for their unwavering support of Pure Land's initiatives, particularly in collaborating with diverse religious and cultural groups.

Mayor Geoff was delighted to meet Venerable Wu Dao and shared his optimism for the ongoing collaboration between the Council and Pure Land. The Mayor kindly gifted Venerable Wu Dao a special Toowoomba pin, emphasizing its significance as a symbol of unity and collaboration.



Artwork by Pure Land Learning College <<<

Left to right: Mayor Geoff McDonald, Venerable Wu Dao >>>



PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC. AND TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANTS CEREMONY 2023



For the last two decades, we have supported the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, a collaboration that has empowered us to offer remarkable opportunities for learning and research in the healthcare sector. We are delighted to have had Venerable Wu Dao from Pure Land join us for the ceremony this year. He witnessed the presentation of the research grants and delivered a brief address. Venerable Wu Dao also kindly made a personal donation to the Research Grants Fund.



7NEWS Toowoomba
18 October at 09:00 · 🌐

Five Toowoomba medical researchers will share in \$70,000 worth of grants. It's hoped the funding boost will help teams create more high tech solutions for common health problems in rural and remote areas.





PRAYERS FOR PEACE, GOODWILL AND UNITY IN DIVERSITY



The community and faith leaders of Toowoomba, along with the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG), joined together on 19 October in solidarity, praying for humanity and peace. This community-driven initiative was in response to the ongoing developments in Gaza and Israel. We sincerely hope that all our prayers will be answered. Furthermore, we aspire for this positive example set in Toowoomba to inspire many others to embark on this journey towards making the world a safer and better place for all.

We express our deep gratitude to the fantastic teamwork within the TIWG, including The Venerable Mark Carlyon, Pandit Anuj, and the dedicated volunteers from the church, who contributed significantly to the success of this peaceful gathering.



COMING TOGETHER: Assistant priest Melissa Conway ran the Prayer for Peace, Goodwill and Unity in Diversity. INSET: Pure Land Learning College Association co-ordinator Haniff Abdul Razak and Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group Jewish representative Ari Halber.

Isabella Pasch

The Toowoomba community was welcomed to a Prayer for Peace, Goodwill and Unity in Diversity at St James Anglican Church last week. Several religious community members joined in prayers for peace in response to the ongoing conflicts in Israel and Gaza. Pure Land Learning

College Association co-ordinator Haniff Abdul Razak said the peace prayer was needed to help bring together the community in a time of hurt and darkness. "Our faith leaders, community leaders... feel the best thing we can do is to come together, pray together and hope for the betterment of the world. I think this is the right way to do this," Mr Razak said. "There is a beautiful

representation of many leaders from different faiths, from Christians to Hindus, from Jews to Muslims. It's all of them coming together. "Toowoomba is a beautiful city with so much cultural diversity... so this is an opportunity to show we can work together and not help others emulate us." Assistant priest Melissa Conway said it had been a difficult time for the whole

community, and it was essential to come together. "We've seen a lot of upheaval in our world and in particular in Israel and Palestine," Ms Conway said. "Our different traditions call us towards peace and harmony... so we want to express that jointly and be unified in our grief." Toowoomba Inter-Faith Working Group (TIWG) Jewish Representative Ari Halber said the prayer was

not just about the Israel-Hamas conflict. "You've got the Middle East, but you also have Ukraine war and the earthquakes in Afghanistan... millions of people around the world are suffering and being displaced," Mr Halber said. "The prayer today was like a family event to a large extent and we were all able to have a time of great sadness all around the world, just be together."



UPCOMING EVENTS



NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

We are excited to announce that our annual National Peace Conference will be held on Saturday, 18 November at St Patrick's Cathedral Centre. This year's theme is 'All Generations Supporting Peace and Harmony'. Come and join us in broadening deeper understanding of our cultural and religious diversity as we work together toward nurturing our common humanity. We welcome you to attend this exciting Diversity by Default Workshop specially presented by our guest participants from Singapore. Toowoomba is proud to be the first city to host.

Secure your seat here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/national-peace-conference-2023-all-generations-supporting-peace-and-harmony>

Please note that participation is limited to 150 people.



'COLLECTIVE DREAMING' YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2023

The youth conference, held on the same day at the same time and venue as the National Peace Conference, aims to challenge youths to dream and implement plans to achieve their goals and to overcome the physical and emotional aspects of youth wellbeing, while creating art and discussions with like-minded people. We believe that your presence and active participation will contribute significantly to the exchange of ideas and discussions on these important issues.

Register for free here:

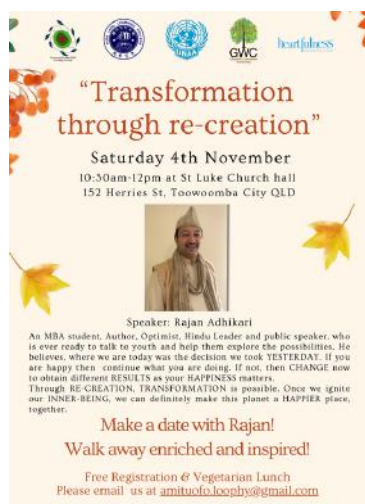
<https://www.typg.org/Events>

For more information, please contact

18.typpg@gmail.com



9.00 - 9.30 am	Registration
9.30 - 9.35 am	Opening of event and Acknowledgement to Country
9.30 - 9.50 am	Ice breaker
9.50 - 10.50 am	Session 1 Diversity by Default Facilitated by Basil and Beverley Kannangara, Being Bridges Singapore
10.50 - 11.00 am	Morning Tea
11.00 - 12.00 pm	Session 2: Collective Dreaming Workshop Facilitated by TYP.G
12.00 - 12.45 pm	Lunch
1.00 - 2.30/3.00 pm	Session 2: Collective Dreaming Workshop (Continued) Facilitated by TYP.G
2.30/3.00 - 3.10 pm	Closing and Feedback



“TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RE-CREATION”

A talk by Rajan Adhikari was held on 10:30am-12pm Saturday 4 November at St Luke's Church Hall, 152 Herries St, Toowoomba City QLD.

Rajan Adhikari, an MBA student, author, optimist, Hindu leader and public speaker is always ready to talk to youth and help them explore their possibilities. He believes that where we are today is due to the decisions we took yesterday. If you are happy, then continue what you are doing. If not, then change now to obtain different results as your happiness matters.