



# PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC. MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS TOOWOOMBA A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY

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## INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE 2024 FROM INNER PEACE TO WORLD PEACE – SOCIAL FLOURISHING THROUGH CONNECTEDNESS



On 16 November 2024, the International Peace Conference brought together a diverse community at St. Patrick's Cathedral, united in their commitment to fostering peace.

The day began with a Welcome to Country by Shannon Bauwens, Tribal Custodian.



We are grateful to our esteemed speakers and panellists for their invaluable insights:

- Venerable Wu Shin, Pure Land Learning College Association Inc.
- Master Daaji, Heartfulness Institute
- Professor C.Y. Hoon, University of Brunei Darussalam
- Rev. Charissa Suli, Uniting Church in Australia
- Mr Carl Maurer, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Rajan Adhikari, Sanatan Dharma Australia Inc.





**INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE 2024**  
**FROM INNER PEACE TO WORLD PEACE –**  
**SOCIAL FLOURISHING THROUGH CONNECTEDNESS**



A special thanks to Dr Uma and Rev. Yvonne McRostie for guiding a serene meditation session that inspired mindfulness and harmony, and to the U3A Dance Group for their vibrant cultural performances. Finally, thank you to all participants for their participation.



**FAITH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS' FORUM**



The Faith and Community Leaders' Forum on November 15 brought together leaders and community members to explore the theme, "Knowing Peace in Ourselves and Building Peace in Our Communities." The event featured enriching insights from Rev. Charissa Suli, Professor Dr. Hoon Chang Yau, and Mr Carl Maurer, who shared their perspectives on fostering peace through personal reflection and community action.

Our heartfelt thanks go to St James' Anglican Church for hosting this important gathering and to everyone who contributed to its success.





## MIDDLE GROUND YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2024



This year, TYP.G, the youth division of MFMCC PLLCA, held their annual youth conference on 28 November. It was a day filled with smiles, and deep connections were formed as strangers turned into friends. The theme of the day was Middle Ground, where young people gathered to explore not just their differences but, more importantly, the similarities that bring us together on common ground. Through these sessions, young people were able to embrace who they are while creating art and engaging in discussions with their peers.



Through these discussions and dialogues, TYP.G hopes to create valuable experiences that contribute to personal growth and enable us to give back to our communities. These are moments we can look back on in one year, a few years, or even fifty years.

Check out the vlog from the conference here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXN3roydyrM>.





## CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH WITH THE TOOWOOMBA BAHÁ'I COMMUNITY



On Sunday, 3 November, we joined the Baha'i Community of Toowoomba to celebrate the Birth of Baha'u'llah at their welcoming Centre on Baker Street. This joyful occasion brought together friends and families to honour Baha'u'llah's teachings of peace and unity.

We thank Susan and the Baha'i community for their warm hospitality and for organizing such an inspiring event.



### INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF TOOWOOMBA INTERFAITH WORKING GROUP

My name is Susan O'Hara, a member of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG), as a representative of the Bahá'í Faith. I am a mother of four, grandmother of ten and great grandmother of eight. I yearn for a safe, harmonious, just and united world, not just for my children and their children, but for every person on the planet. When my community asked me to represent them as part of TIWG I discovered a community of faith leaders whose vision aligns, not only with my own aspirations, but with Bahá'í teachings.

I have no special standing in my faith, as Bahá'ís have no clergy. Each believer is responsible for their own spiritual development through daily prayer and study of the sacred writings, meditation, a period of annual fasting and service to the greater community.

The principal Bahá'í tenets are the essential unity of all religions and the unity of humanity. Bahá'ís believe that all the founders of the world's great religions have been Manifestations of God and agents of a progressive divine plan for the education of the human race. Despite their apparent differences, the world's great religions, according to Bahá'ís, teach a fundamental truth. Bahá'ís believe in the oneness of humanity and devote themselves to the abolition of racial, class, and religious prejudices in accordance with the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, Prophet Founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be part of TIWG, which works to establish such principles in our beautiful city of Toowoomba, where we are experiencing the development of a harmonious, multicultural society.



## FAREWELL AFTERNOON TEA FOR REV. YVONNE MCROSTIE

On Sunday, 1 December, members of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group gathered for a farewell afternoon tea hosted by the Uniting Church in honour of Rev. Yvonne McRostie.

As the Presbytery Minister at the Uniting Church and a dedicated member of our interfaith community, Rev. Yvonne has been a strong advocate for peace and collaboration. The gathering at St Stephen's Uniting Church provided a warm opportunity to celebrate her invaluable contributions and wish her well as she transitions to her new ministry role in Brisbane.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Yvonne for her commitment to interfaith understanding and wish her all the best in this next chapter of her journey.



## TIWG & PLLCA APPRECIATION GATHERING 2024

On 4 December, the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) held its final meeting of the year, concluding 2024's activities followed with a Christmas lunch with our supporters and friends. A sincere thank you to all who attended this special event.



As the year comes to a close, the Venerables, staff and volunteers of the Pure Land Learning College Association Inc. extend their deepest gratitude to the friends, partners, community leaders and organizations who have supported and collaborated with us. Your dedication has played a vital role in advancing our shared mission of promoting peace and harmony in our community.

Let us continue working together to create a brighter future and make Toowoomba a shining example of peace and unity.