



# Multifaith Association of SA

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DECEMBER 2013

## Unity in Diversity Annual Interfaith Symposium

This year's Symposium held on September 22nd was very successful judging from feedback of the participants, both verbal and written. However it was disappointing that numbers were not as large as anticipated.

Most participants singled out the personal stories, the break out sessions and the panel discussions as very enjoyable and informative and all were satisfied with the overall structure and content of the day.



Government of South Australia  
Department for Communities  
and Social Inclusion





Share a cup of tea or coffee as well as ideas and experiences on multifaith topics

## TED talk meetings

We are still planning to start meetings for people interested in online forums and face to face meetings over tea and coffee to discuss various TED talks around multifaith issues.

**TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design)** is a global set of conferences owned by the private non-profit [Sapling Foundation](http://www.saplingfoundation.org/), under the slogan "ideas worth spreading". TED talks are offered free online at: <http://www.ted.com/>.

You can follow particular themes within the TED talks. We are thinking of beginning our discussion forums by looking at the talks on Compassion, which come from the perspectives of many different faiths – see: [http://www.ted.com/search?cat=ss\\_all&q=Compassion](http://www.ted.com/search?cat=ss_all&q=Compassion).

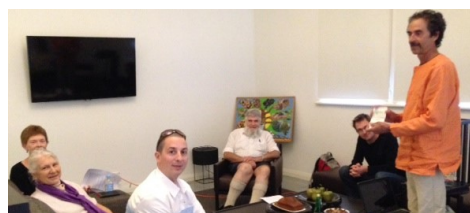
If you would like to be part of this new forum, we'd love to hear from you – for more information and to register your interest, please contact the MFA Secretary, Gunhild Jonsson by email: [multifaithsa@gmail.com](mailto:multifaithsa@gmail.com)

## Climate change course

This is a short Interfaith course on the Scientific and Spiritual dimensions of climate change. It is a compilation of recent scientific research via the United Nations and Spiritual Texts from different world religions.

Three main objectives are: to deepen our understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change; to explore the ethical dimensions and address them within a religious context ; and to discuss and apply practical solutions. It also presents the complimentary nature of scientific truth and religious truth as a solution rather than a conflict.

The next meeting will be on Sunday 22nd December at 3pm at the Baha'i Centre for Learning at 275 Flinders Street in the city (no cost) - further details contact Darryl: 8554 7262 or email [daz9@southernphone.com.au](mailto:daz9@southernphone.com.au)





## Annual Regional Assembly for URI SEAPac in the Philippines

In November I attended a 4 day Regional Assembly held at Phil Oasis in Cevite near Manila. Due to a mix up in tickets I and the other Australian delegate Peter Mousaferiadis from Cultural Infusion arrived on Day 2 of the Assembly. However the networking and information gained was still most valuable. All delegates were involved in a final concert organized by Peter and on the last day we had a tour of the People's Palace in the hills of Tagaytay and the presidential Palace in Manila, ending with dinner in the old walled IntraMurros part of the city. We also had some very interesting and useful training in Project Management and Design.

**Ann Aisatullin**



## Oasis End of Year Celebration

Salim, Shaista, Denise and Ann attended the Oasis celebration at Flinders University on Monday 25th November. All guests were invited to build a 'seed sculpture' which will be displayed at Oasis in the following year. Geoff Boyce, the Coordinating Chaplain spoke of the successful year that saw Oasis flourish as a place of hospitality for university students. Two students also confirmed this as they spoke of the very positive influence Oasis had had provided them with in their time as students.



## Opening of Baha'i Centre of Learning

The Baha'i Centre of Learning in Flinders St was officially opened on Friday 15 November after a lengthy and comprehensive restoration. Many members of the Bahai community and representatives of Councils around Adelaide were present for the gracious speeches and opening ceremony followed by refreshments and tours of the building. The beautiful and historic building has been very carefully and tastefully restored and the overall impression is of light and space and welcome.

## Victorian Interfaith Network Conference 2013

The conference opened with a Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri elder Uncle Bill Nicholson and an indigenous dance performance. This was followed by a keynote address "Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution" delivered by Alistair McRae, immediate past national President of the Uniting Church. Uncle Bill Nicholson then presented a message stick to Rev McRae.

It was a colourful and joyous gathering. On arrival participants were treated to a display of the Turkish art of marbling, gingery Eritrean coffee in tiny cups, Eritrean hand painting and Sikh turbans in the colours of the rainbow expertly wound on to the head if you wished. There was an uplifting and moving Samoan choir in the middle of the afternoon and a Sikh performance to conclude the afternoon. Lunch included delicious vegetarian dishes from the Middle East, Africa (Eritrean pizza!), India and other countries.

The serious part of the conference was 5 workshops on a range of topics; Emergency Ministry, Media and Communications, Youth Spirituality, Successful Interfaith Programmes and How to (not) offend people of faith. Each workshop was presented twice and I elected to go to the Successful Programmes and Media & Communications workshops.

I came away inspired and with a great respect for the creativity and dedication of the interfaith groups in Victoria. We can develop and grow a unique and creative network of our own here in SA too.

**Gunhild Jonsson**

## AGM 17th November at the Bowden Brompton Community Centre

We welcome Damian Outtrim as our new President and welcome our new member Dr Seema Jain. Ann Aisatullin will be Vice President and Gunhild Jonsson will continue as Secretary with the help of Ann, Deise Martin and Annemieke Braund. Salim Kalaniya will continue as Treasurer until a replacement is found. Shaista and Salim gave a very informative and inspiring talk about their Hajj, such a difficult but rewarding pilgrimage. Geoff Boyce also talked to us about Oasis and possible new directions for MFA.

We welcome any feedback, suggestions and ideas for our newsletter. Also we welcome new members or people interested in receiving regular emails of upcoming events and future newsletters.

Please contact us via email, phone or mail:

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The Multifaith Association of SA is a member of two international Multifaith organisations:

**Religions for Peace**

**Religions for Peace** 

**United Religions Initiative**

