

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013-2014

MULTIFAITH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA .

Annual General Meeting. 19.10.2014

Thanks to committee and MFA members and friends.

The MFA has been steady for a number of years largely to the diverse and dedicated committee.

A big thank you to our vice- president Ann Aisatullin, treasure Salim Kalaniya, and co- secretaries Gunhild Jonnson, Denise Martin and Annemieke Braund. In total the working committee has eleven members which also includes Andrew Buchanan, Darryl Braund, Seema Jain, Pauline Noorts and Janet McKinnie. Special mentions go to some of the MFA's good friends which include Kris Hanna, Rob MacPherson, Geoff Boyce and Hanim Mohammed. A big thank you to the Bahai' Centre for allowing the MFA to hold it's monthly meetings in this beautiful Centre.

Highlights of the year.

Multifaith Climate Change.

Darryl, Annemieke and Ingo Weber have been instrumental in facilitating a very informative Climate Change course over many months. A big thanks to them for preparing fascinating lessons which have moved people to think about and act on important issues on a personal, community and global level.

End of year picnic 2013.

The MFA had an end of year celebration at Botanic Park in December 2013. There was great food and stimulating conversation.

Australia Day Multifaith Celebration

The Order of Australia South Australian Branch organised an Australia Day Multifaith Celebration at Elder Hall. The Governor of South Australia (his Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce) spoke at the event. Ann Aisatullin helped on the planning committee and two of her family members participated in the event. I represented the Association with a Commissioning statement at the close of the event.

Visit to Saint Mary and Anba Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church of Adelaide.

Members and friends of the MFA had a guided tour of the beautiful Coptic Church Museum. The Museum showed a timeline of Humanity and was narrated by members of the Church.

Visit to Sikh Society of South Australia Gurdwara.

A large group of Multifaithers attended a tour and luncheon at the Sikh Gurdwara. There was a lovely tour, question and answer session, luncheon and perhaps the highlight which was joining in the prayer session. It was certainly a spiritually uplifting experience.

Religions for Peace Australia.

Ann has been representing the MFA with Religions for Peace Australia over the last few years and has now passed the responsibility over to me. I had the wonderful adventure of travelling to Canberra for the RFP AGM and found it delightful to meet other state representatives and the Chair Professor Des Cahill. I now engage with them on bi monthly conference calls.

2014 Multifaith Symposium 'Healing and Harmony'.

The MFA coordinated the 5th Annual Multifaith Symposium. The event consisted of 16 presenters and two choirs. This year we explored the theme of 'Healing and Harmony', where we challenged ourselves to do the event a little differently. After the presentations there was a lovely Vegetarian meal. Thanks to the University of South Australia for allowing us to use the Hawke Building for the Symposium.

Looking ahead.

The MFA would like to continue to grow, building on the dedicated work of past members. It may be a timely goal to continue to work towards Harmony in South Australia's religious and spiritual community. The MFA provides opportunities for learning, sharing and celebrating. True harmony can be achieved in the community when each individual takes on the challenge of firstly finding peace and harmony within the self.

Once again a big thank you to the committee members, MFA members and the SA Multifaith Community, best wishes for the next 12 months.

PRESIDENT

Damian Outtrim

