

AUGUST 2017 NO. 288

Welcome to the second issue of *Newsbriefs* in its electronic format! See below for the latest news about trust building and peace initiatives in Australia and abroad.

*Newsbriefs* is the bi-monthly newsletter of Initiatives of Change (IofC) in Australia – part of a worldwide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds who share a vision for a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

## NEWS



### Addressing the roots of the South Sudan conflict

South Sudan is the world's newest country, but 72% of its people live in refugee camps. The South Sudan - Australia Peace Initiative (SSAPI) has been partnering with community groups that are working to build a lasting peace. **Kathryn Gor** explains what the diaspora community in Australia is doing. [Read more.](#)



### Caux Dialogue on Land and Security: 'A true North-South dialogue'

At breakfast time, was that Zimbabwe's minister for environment, serving at table with the clean-up crew? Halfway up a Swiss mountainside, **Delia Paul** discovers a global conference with a difference. [Read more.](#)



## Reconciliation: Remembering Myall Creek

The massacres of Indigenous Australians as British settlers took their land were often known as the Frontier Wars. Few of the countless killings were ever prosecuted; Myall Creek was an exception. Each long weekend in June, Australians of Indigenous and settler descent meet to make peace with the past. **Aslan Shand** interviews convenor Graeme Cordiner on what Myall Creek means for Australia. [Read more.](#)



## Seeking the Creator through conscious living

An inclusive place, based on principles of mercy and compassion, providing individuals with space for 'seeking the creator through conscious living.' That, in a nutshell, is 'Benevolence', an organisation that Saara Sabbagh set up in Melbourne in 2008. **Parveen Muhammed** meets the Muslim community leader who decided to 'be the change you want to see in the world'. [Read more.](#)

## EVENTS



## Book launch of 'A Naga Odyssey: Visier's Long Way Home'

**Saturday 23 September:** This powerful story, co-authored by Visier Meyasetsu Sanyü with Richard Broome, tracks Visier's journey from indigenous religion to Christianity, from village school to a professorship, and from small town life to appearances before the UN.

**Visier Sanyü** is an Elder of the Meyasetsu clan of the Angami tribe, Khonoma, Nagaland, and was the inaugural Head of the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Nagaland. He is President of the Overseas Naga Association, an International Elder of Initiatives of Change, and is on the Board of the Melbourne Interfaith Centre. **Richard Broome** is Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, has authored twelve books, including three on Indigenous Australians, including Aboriginal Australians. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and a Fellow and Councillor of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne.

The Rev. Tim Costello, Chief Advocate at World Vision Australia, will launch the book at Initiatives of Change Australia. There will be light refreshments and a special performance by Kavisha Mazella.

**Venue:** 'Armagh', 226, Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC

**Time:** 3 for 3.30 pm

**RSVP:** Monash University Publishing by email [publishing@monash.edu](mailto:publishing@monash.edu) or phone 03-9905-9238

## Creators of Peace

**Tuesday 5 September:** Creators of Peace gathering in the Eastern suburbs of Sydney. Reconnect with other Creators of Peace, and invite others to join our community of like-minded women interested in peace. Focus on how we might personally contribute to peace in these troubled times.

**Topic:** 'How Can We Widen Our Circle of Influence?'

**Venue:** The Library at Princess Gardens Village, 7-11 Princess St, Rose Bay, NSW

**Time:** 6.30-8.30 pm

**Saturday 16 September:** Peace Focus Gathering. Bring your open heart and big smile! Also bring a plate to share for dinner following the meeting, if you would like to stay to continue the peace conversation. For more information and to RSVP, contact Maria at [m.moy@sewhoy.net](mailto:m.moy@sewhoy.net)

**Topic:** 'Peace in the Home'

**Venue:** 53 Blackbutt Road, Frenchs Forest, NSW

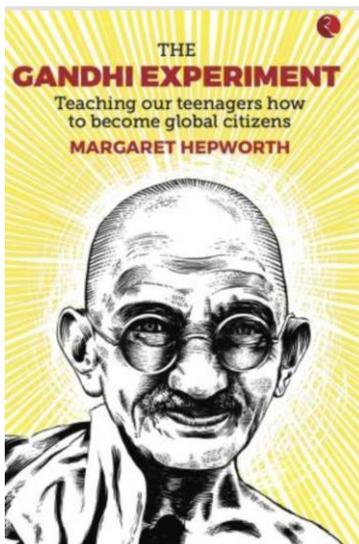
**Time:** 3.15 for 3.30-5.30 pm

## The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe film screening

**Saturday 30 September 2017:** 'The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe' screens at the Centre for Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue, Griffith University, Brisbane. Yarrie Bangura, who co-starred in the film, will join the audience from Sydney for Q&A after the film. Yarrie has been involved in various activities with Initiatives of Change Australia, including Creators of Peace. She is a graduate of the Life Matters course.

See all events

## REVIEWS



### The Gandhi Experiment: Teaching our teenagers how to become global citizens

Could you imagine a peaceful world? Gandhi could. Margaret can. This educational resource explores ways in which teachers and parents can assist teenagers to experiment with peaceful and non-violent choices and actions through a range of mindful activities and lessons.

'The Gandhi Experiment – Teaching Our Teenagers How to Become Global Citizens' is a short, easily digestible book that has been developed to suit flexible learning situations. Some chapters can be completed in one session, while others focus on overarching concepts that can be taught over multiple lessons. Each chapter is full of tools and strategies for peace building that are easily adaptable according to context.

Gandhi, an activist, peace builder and household name to most, was the inspiration that drove Margaret to create 'The Gandhi Experiment', a social enterprise with the courageous goal of creating world peace through education. With over 30 years' experience as an educator, Margaret believes that teenagers will be the most altruistic people if they are given positive opportunities for change. [Read more.](#)

GET INVOLVED

Initiatives of Change prides itself on being a big family, nationally and internationally, and there are many ways to be involved. As a volunteer, you are welcome to join our bi-monthly social catch-ups and workshops. These are a great way to meet new people and also to get to know more about IofC. Volunteers also have access to the IofCA mentoring program, with experienced people who have worked for many years in peace and trust-building initiatives all around the world. (See more about our mentoring approach here: <http://au.iofc.org/mentoring>.)



There are many areas you can volunteer in, depending on your skills sets and where we have a need. These include roles in administration, finance, hospitality, event management and communications. If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Co-ordinator [kirsty.argento@iofc.org](mailto:kirsty.argento@iofc.org) with an introduction about yourself, your motivation, and your area of interest.

Your donation allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain its trust and peace building work. An investment today will deliver benefits for many years to come. Every donation, large or small, has a direct impact on the individuals and communities with whom we work.



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