



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

OCTOBER 2018 NO. 295

The past two months have affirmed for us how Initiatives of Change Australia's community-based peace building is bearing fruit and gaining support. In October, we received word that the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Victoria has granted IofC Australia and the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre a joint amount of \$120,000 to deliver Creators of Peace Circles in Melbourne's southeastern suburbs. Watch this space for more news about the emerging program!

Also emerging is a national discussion around the Uluru Statement from the Heart - some of it through IofCA's support for honest dialogue between Indigenous and other Australians. At a recent Brisbane event, one community organiser with IofC asked: 'Have we listened to the Uluru Statement?' Another presents her thoughts about why Australia needs *Makarrata* - our own truth and reconciliation process. Other highlights recently have been the news from Kempsey, NSW, where a Creators of Peace facilitator formed a Peace Circle through the University of the Third Age, and the new sustainability projects launched on 8 September by our Sustainability Impact Mentoring participants.

Amidst all the action, our real work, as we see it, is inner change. Mick Vertigan's personal story, in this issue, gives one example of how a meaningful encounter through IofC resonates through the years. Read on - and also call or drop us a line if you see yourself as part of this growing movement for peace.

Newsbriefs is the bi-monthly newsletter of Initiatives of Change 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



Brisbane screening of 'Beyond Forgiving' film

The truth will set us free - but only if we first hear it. This film screening and discussion compared South Africa's apartheid experience with Australia's treatment of its own First Nations, and raised some tough questions. [Read more.](#)

CoP Offers Peace Circle Through University of the Third Age

Beth Fuller, a Creators of Peace facilitator, was looking for a way to bring Peace Circles to the wider community. Through the University of the Third Age, she found a way to bring together a group of people in Kempsey, NSW, to have 'rich conversations that wouldn't otherwise be had.' [Read more.](#)



Sustainable Impact Mentoring Participants Complete 2018 Cycle

Participants presented their completed projects at a showcase event on 8 September, some already with full business plans and websites. The road to completion wasn't easy, though. It was fraught with 'solution seduction'. [Read more.](#)

PERSONAL STORIES

Mick Vertigan: Revisiting Papua New Guinea

Mick Vertigan toured the region with the *Song of Asia* musical in the 1970s. In September 2018, he reconnected with a Papua New Guinean friend from this time, and recalled how their lives had been changed through a simple act of apology. [Read more.](#)



COMMENTARY

Why We Need *Makarrata*

Makarrata is a Yolngu word from northeast Arnhem Land describing a process of conflict resolution, peacemaking and justice. In the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Indigenous Australians propose we embrace this process. Author Margo



Stanislawski-Birnberg states it is still the best chance that Australia has to meaningfully address the legacy of our colonial past. [Read more.](#)



EVENTS



'Threads Through Time' Music Concert

Saturday 10 November, 4.00pm to 6.00pm: Inspired by music depicting human connection through the ages, this concert will showcase music by Bach, Brahms, Bizet, Faure, Poulenc, Satie, Gershwin and Weill. Featuring Jo Selleck on flute, Barbara Hornung on viola, and Ingrid Leibbrandt on piano, with mezzo soprano Jill Sullivan, at the Armagh Ballroom, 226 Kooyong Rd Toorak. Entry by donation of \$15. The event will be followed by a light supper in the dining room. RSVP: events.au@iofc.org

Creators of Peace

Creators of Peace is a multicultural women's network and a program of IofC, spread over 43 countries. Come together with women of different beliefs and cultural backgrounds to share your story and hear stories of others to build understanding and trust. For more information on any of these meetings, contact [Creators of Peace NSW](#).

Saturday 3 November: Auburn network meeting, NSW, 1.30 for 2.00 to 4.00pm Venue: Youth Room at Auburn Centre for Community, 44A Macquarie Rd, Auburn.

Sunday 18 November: Hills Network meeting, NSW, 1.30 for 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Topic: Peace and the Refugee Experience. Venue: The Small Meeting Room, Rowland Village, 301 Galston Road, Galston.

Saturday 1 December: Auburn Network meeting, NSW, 1.30 for 2.00pm to 4.00pm for our end-of-year family party. Venue: Youth Room at Auburn Centre for Community, 44A Macquarie Rd, Auburn.

Life Still Matters

Friday 2 November to Monday 5 November : A 'Life Still Matters' workshop at Armagh in Melbourne. Life Still Matters is an experiential workshop which draws on the personal and professional learnings of a range of people whose lives are committed to making a positive difference in this country and the world. We offer a warm welcome to anyone who has a sense of adventure and would like to learn more about how to be a change-maker in our global community.

The three-day workshop includes panel presentations, workshops, story-sharing, team-building activities, reflective silence, group discussion, video(s) and an entertainment night. The workshop is for people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, who are aged 35 and over.

A contribution of \$250 covers all accommodation, catering and workshop materials.

The workshop will take place at the Australia-Pacific Centre of Initiatives of Change (Armagh), 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak. You can read more about the Life Matters workshops [here](#). For more information, contact [Rob Wood](#) or the IofCA [Office](#).

Closing The Loop film screening

Unless we go to Circular, it's game over for the planet; it's game over for society." These are the opening words, by sustainability expert Prof. Wayne Visser, of the first film to be made about the circular economy - now screening for the first time in Melbourne.

This is an optimistic film about innovative solutions, which explores the ways in which businesses across the world are transforming from a linear (take-make-waste) economic model to a circular (zero waste) economic model.

The evening is organised by Launchpad Network, and proceeds will support lofC Australia's Sustainable Impact Mentoring program. Find out more about the screening [here](#).



[See all events](#)

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer with us

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 lofC. Volunteers also have access to the lofCA mentoring program, with experienced people who have worked for many years in peace and trust-building initiatives all around the world.

There are many areas you can volunteer in, depending on your skills sets and where we have a need. If you are interested, please contact our [Volunteer Coordinator](#) with an introduction about yourself, your motivation, and your area of interest. We'd love to hear from you!

DONATE



As we develop our community engagement work, we're excited to see your donations coming in. We value so much your support. Please know that your contribution allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain its trust-building and peace-building work.

Every donation, large or small, has a **direct impact** on the individuals and communities with whom we work. You can donate through our page [here](#) or contact the [Treasurer](#) to send a cheque or make a bank transfer.

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