



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

AUGUST 2018 NO. 294

July was a big month for the Initiatives of Change Australia (IofCA) network, as many of us converged in Caux, Switzerland, for annual conferences on peace building and restoration. This year's conferences covered land and livelihoods, migration, and the role of children and youth in transforming society, among other themes - all with the common thread that, if we are to have peace in the world, it must start in the human heart.

Closer to home, the IofCA community has rallied round to ensure that Armagh, gifted to Initiatives of Change (then Moral Re-Armament) in 1956, continues to fulfil its purpose. Besides hosting a musical evening fundraiser, the Australia-Pacific Centre has lately been the venue for some important meetings among the South Sudan community, including a warm and riotous women's empowerment conference in August.

As spring emerges, Armagh opens its doors to the public with a Sustainability Fair. This will be a market day with food, stalls and activities showcasing choices for sustainable living. Our wonderful participants from the Sustainable Impact Mentoring (SIM) program will be presenting the work they have done on community-based sustainability initiatives.

As ever, our aim is to equip everyone with the tools, approaches and attitudes that we need to make positive change. Check out the opportunities around Australia to join Creators of Peace Circles, take part in a Life Matters workshop, or come to a film screening!

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



Empowerment Day: South Sudanese Women's Conference

Women at the South Sudanese International Women's Day conference at RMIT in March wanted more. So IofC Australia supported community worker Tamar John to organise a day at Armagh in August, with more than 50 women attending workshops on mental health, inner peace and healing. [Read more.](#)

Friends of Armagh Swing Into Action

Did you know there has been a fundraising group supporting the maintenance of Armagh since the 1960s? Their quiet, back-room work has contributed towards maintaining facilities at this gracious Toorak home, even in years when funds have been scarce. [Read more.](#)



Stories of Change from Caux

One visitor found space to discover her vocation. Another experienced the healing of a painful memory. These were just two of the many stories emerging from the 2018 Caux Forum, which continues to draw more than 1,500 people to this Swiss hillside town every European summer. [Read more.](#)

FILMS: SCREENINGS AND REVIEWS

Friday Film Series in Melbourne: *The Hungry Tide*

With the ongoing drought in New South Wales, and renewable energy targets a hot potato for political leaders in Canberra, now is a good time to revisit the impacts of climate change on our neighbours. At an average of two metres above sea level, the Central Pacific nation of Kiribati has become one of climate change's most visible victims. We follow Maria Tiimon as she pleads her country's case to a painfully ambivalent international community. Read Mark Russell's [review of *The Hungry Tide*](#), which asks: if Kiribati is the climate change canary in the coal-mine, why are we still digging?



The screening will be on **Friday 28 September, 7 pm** at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142. Come at 6.30 pm for pizza! Discussion, tea and coffee to follow. Suggested donation: \$15. RSVP Communications.AU@iofc.org, or text 0432-562-454.



Screening and discussion in Brisbane: *Beyond Forgiving*

Beyond Forgiving depicts the journey of two South Africans to bring healing and reconciliation to their countries, post-apartheid. Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele form an unlikely pair: one has suffered directly from the actions of the other, but both have been victims - and have risen beyond their pain.

Ginn Fourie will be at this event for Q&A, and a diverse panel of Australians will speak about the relevance of this message for us today. See the full event information [here](#) and watch the trailer [here](#).

The screening will be on **Saturday 6 October, 7 pm** at the Multi-Faith Centre (N35) for Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue (ICD), Griffith University Nathan campus, 170 Kessels Road, Nathan, QLD 4111. Entry by gold coin donation.

And we just saw...*Another Country*

At the last Melbourne film evening on 31 August, we went on a tour to Ramingining in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, in the company of Australia Aboriginal actor David Gulpilil. As lofCA seeks to work more closely with Indigenous Australia, we heard from those who have lived and worked closely with remote communities, and reflected on what we may be able to do together. [Read more](#) in Mark Russell's film review.



EVENTS



Sustainability Fair

Saturday 8 September: First annual Sustainability Fair at Armagh, 11 am to 3 pm. This event coincides with planting day for the biochar community garden, and the Public Showcase of our 2018 Sustainable Impact Mentoring (SIM) Program - a 7-month program through which small teams develop unique local projects to solve community needs. More about activities at the Sustainability Fair [here](#).

Creators of Peace

Creators of Peace is a multicultural women's network and a program of lofC, spread over 43 countries. Come together with women of different beliefs and cultural backgrounds to discover ways in which women can be creators of peace. Share your story and hear stories of others to build understanding and trust. Start initiating peace first in your heart, family, relationships, your life and explore the needs of your community and where you wish to make a difference.

Saturday 8 September: Peace Focus Gathering in Gladesville, NSW. Elizabeth Devine, a CoP Facilitator, will lead

our exploration into the “Narrative of Women” - how our capacity for deep compassion, resilience, strength and courage show up in our life stories, to bring about a more peaceful world. Starts 3.15 for 3.30 - 5.30 pm at 63 Monash Rd, Gladesville. RSVP [Maria Moy](#) or call 0413 585 364.

Sunday 16 September: Hills Network meeting, 1.30 for 2.00pm to 4.00pm Topic: Passover – the festival of freedom. What is Passover, how is celebrated and how is it connected with peace? Learn how Jewish people celebrate Passover, in a welcoming and open environment. Venue: The Small Meeting Room, Rowland Village, 301 Galston Road, Galston, NSW. More information from creatorsofpeace.nsw@gmail.com.

Saturday 22 September: A picnic with Creators of Peace at the Egret Pavilion, Sydney Olympic Park, 11 am to 2 pm. We will sit together, eat, share stories, cry a little, laugh a lot and encourage one another in our actions for peace. RSVP creatorsofpeace.nsw@gmail.com. Venue details [here](#). For more information, call Manu, 0433-085-387.

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October: Save the date for this Peace Circle in Glebe, NSW. The Circle will include one evening. Please let us know if you are interested or if you would like to invite a friend to experience the transformative nature of a Peace Circle. Contact [Shoshana Faire](#).

Friday 14 September - Sunday 16 September: Peace Circle at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142. The Circle takes place in three sessions and participants will need to attend all three:

- Friday 14 September from 7 - 9 pm
- Saturday 15 September from 9 am - 5 pm
- Sunday 16 September from 9 am - 5 pm

Friday dinner, and Saturday and Sunday lunches and snacks are provided. The program is free and we ask for a contribution of \$25 towards the food. RSVP [here](#). For more information, contact [Kirsty](#) or call 0415 403 016.

Friday 5 October to Saturday, October 13: Peace Circle at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142. The Circle is organized over two weekends, and you would need to attend all sessions:

- Friday 5 October 7-9 pm
- Saturday 6 October 9 am - 5 pm
- Saturday 13 October 9 am - 5 pm

The full-day sessions include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea each day. We ask for a contribution of \$30. For more information contact [Kirsty](#) or call 0415 403 016.

Saturday 6 October - Sunday 7 October: Creators of Peace facilitator training in Melbourne at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142.. This training opportunity is offered to anyone interested in facilitating Creators of Peace Circles in Melbourne. Time: 9.30 am on Saturday to 4.30 pm on Sunday. You need to have previously taken part in at least one Peace Circle with Creators of Peace. For more information, contact [Elise Sampson](#).

Life Matters

Friday 21 September: A 'Life Still Matters' workshop for those over 35 will be held in Port Elliot, South Australia, from 7.30 pm on Friday 21 September to 4.30 pm on Monday 24 September. The venue, overlooking historic Encounter Bay, promises space for our own encounters – with the sea, silence and sharing – encounters that can reveal new hope and direction. Enquiries to [John Mills](#).

Friday 28 September to Monday 1 October: Life Matters course at the Scout Camp at Cataract Dam in Appin, NSW. The course gives young adults aged 18-35 years a chance to look at their lives and develop new skills for living, through a varied and interactive programme. For enquiries and offers of help, please contact [Joyce or Malcolm Fraser](#).

Asia-Pacific Youth Conference

The Asia-Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) is an annual conference for young people in the region aged 18-35. The 2018 conference, organized by lofC/MRA Malaysia, will explore the theme of 'Inspiring Future Leadership: Upholding Truth and Accountability' through plenary presentation and discussion sessions, reflection times, small group sharing, 'open space technology', and workshops.

Venue: Highlands International Boarding School, Km 10, Jalan Genting Highlands, 69000 Bentong, Pahang, Malaysia.

Cost: US\$ 250 (around A\$ 345)

See details about the conference [here](#) and on the lofC Malaysia site [here](#), and contact [International Program Support at lofC Australia](#) by Friday, 6 October.

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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