



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

FEBRUARY 2018 NO. 291

Newsbriefs looks a little different this month! A global branding exercise that began some time ago is now complete, and Initiatives of Change Australia is adopting a new-look logo in harmony with the IofC network across the world. To know more about how the refreshed brand reflects our identity, click [here](#) for a video introduction.

The new look comes at a time of organisational growth, as there are many more opportunities to get involved in our core work of peace building and personal development. Check out the upcoming Creators of Peace events, a new 'Caring for Carers' workshop in Melbourne, and the next Life Matters course in Sydney!

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



Asia Plateau: Celebrating 50 Years

The IofC global network came together at Asia Plateau, the IofC centre in India's Maharashtra state, over the Australian summer. **Delia Paul** reports from the 50th anniversary event in Panchgani, India. [Read more.](#)



Australia's National Apology

February 13, 2018, marked the 10-year anniversary of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to the 'Stolen Generations' of Australia's First Peoples. IofC worker **John Bond** served as Secretary of the National Sorry Day Committee from 1998 to 2006. He reflects on what has and has not changed since the National Apology. [Read more.](#)



Life Matters: A Starter Pack for Making A Difference

The last Life Matters course in Australia took place at Armagh in Melbourne on the long weekend of January 2018. **Mark Russell** describes the three-day retreat as part counselling session, part empowerment, and part team-building - and he spots some parallels between Life Matters, writing, and martial arts. [Read more.](#)

REVIEWS

The Man Who Built Peace: The Frank Buchman Story

This documentary on Frank Buchman, founder of Moral Re-Armament, the precursor to Initiatives of Change, is now available on DVD. The film, by Palestinian film maker Imad Karam, features interviews with historians, scholars, former diplomats and colleagues who recollect Buchman's ideas and the impact of his character.

Shahirah Elaiza Wan Hassan reviews the film, which shows how Buchman helped to rebuild relations between France and Germany and to 'bring Japan back into the family of nations'.

'The Man Who Built Peace' can be ordered on DVD from IofC Australia. [Read more.](#)



EVENTS



South Sudan International Women's Day Conference

Sunday 11 March: This one-day conference is for South Sudanese women of any ethnicity and background to come together to discuss community-led solutions to shared concerns.

The idea for the conference came from a diverse group of South Sudanese women who expressed the need for an inter-ethnic gathering that would provide space for women to discuss issues that affect them. In a collaborative grant-making process facilitated and

funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Victoria, women said they were keen to talk about ways to support social integration, employment pathways, mental health, positive parenting and healthy relationships.

The RMIT School of Global, Urban and Social Studies has generously agreed to provide the venue for the conference. IofC Australia is auspicing the project and is providing event management training as well as volunteers to support the event and provide child supervision. A South Sudan community celebration will take place the next day, 12 March, at the Collingwood Town Hall.

For information on this project, contact Program Coordinator [Kathryn Gor](#).

Armagh Market Day

Saturday 17 March 2018: The market is on from 10 am to 3 pm in the grounds of Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Victoria 3142. Food trucks, craft stalls and other attractions will be on site. For more information, contact IofC Australia Events Coordinator [Katrina Grantham](#).

Creators of Peace

Creators of Peace (CoP) aims to spread peace, starting with oneself and being peace-builders wherever we are - in our hearts, our homes, our workplace and our community. Since its beginning in 1991, CoP has grown to a global network of women working on different continents through CoP Peace Circles, workshops, personal encounters, community building activities and international conferences.

CoP in Melbourne

Saturday 14 April 2018: Peace Focus Gathering from 10 am to 12.30 pm. CoP Peace Circles usually take place over a whole weekend. This two-and-a-half-hour event offers a 'taster' of what it's like to take part in a Peace Circle.

June 2018: This CoP Peace Circle is organized over two weekends. Sessions over the first weekend will take place

from 7-9 pm on Friday 22 June, and from 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday 23 June. Sessions over the second weekend will take place from 7-9 pm on Friday 7 July and from 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday 8 July. The evening sessions include refreshments, and the full-day sessions include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

October 2018: This CoP Peace Circle is organized over two weekends. The opening session takes place from 7-9 pm on Friday 5 October, and includes refreshments afterwards. The following session takes place from 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday 6 October, and the final session from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday 13 October. The full-day sessions include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea each day.

All Melbourne CoP events take place at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak 3142. To express interest, and for more information, please leave your details [here](#) or contact [Kirsty Argento](#) by email or phone: (03) 9822 1218.

CoP in Sydney

Saturday 3 March: Creators of Peace meeting of the Auburn network in NSW, 1.30 for 2-4pm at the Youth Room, Auburn Centre for Community, 44A Macquarie Rd, Auburn. Topic: Self-care: Selfish or essential?

Sunday 18 March: Creators of Peace meeting of the Hills network in NSW, 1.30 for 2-4pm. Venue to be confirmed. Topic: What does peace look like to me?

Wednesday 28 March: 'Doing it Bigger and Better Together', 6.30-8.30 pm at the WOW Shack, Rumbalara Retreat, Lisarow, NSW. Hear two women's stories of passion for community and their initiative collaborating on the NSW Central Coast International Women's Day Expo. Yvonne Lamont founded WOW (Wave of Wisdom) and Lyn Davies is with Rotary Terrigal. Both Yvonne and Lynne are members of Creators of Peace. For more information, see the [Facebook page](#).

Saturday 7 April: Creators of Peace meeting of the Auburn network in NSW, 1.30 for 2-4pm at the Youth Room, Auburn Centre for Community, 44A Macquarie Rd, Auburn. Topic: So, what's Ramadan all about?

Saturday 21 April: Creators of Peace meeting of the Hills network in NSW, 2-4pm at the Sugar Salt Cafe, 344 Galston Rd, Galston. Just drop in to enjoy the friendship and coffee.

Sydney CoP events take place at various venues. For more information, contact [Manu Granados](#) or call 0408 689 358.

'Caring for the Carers' Workshop

Friday 20 April and Friday 27 April: This workshop offers techniques and skills designed to support you and the people that you care for. Learn how to use creative expression to develop new neural pathways for health and wellbeing. Workshop facilitators Judy Greenberg and Anne Holland are highly experienced psychotherapists and counsellors. The workshop is open to everyone who finds this relevant in their work or volunteer roles.

Time: 10 am - 4 pm

Venue: 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Victoria 3142

Lunch is included. The workshop takes place in two sessions, and to fully benefit you would need to attend both. The second session is on Friday 27 April, 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, contact judyemma1@gmail.com. RSVP

kirsty.argento@iofc.org or call (03) 9822-1218.

IofC National Gathering

SAVE THE DATE: Friday-Sunday 8-10 June (Queen's Birthday weekend in Victoria). IofC Everyone in the IofC Australia network is welcome to join in this weekend of inspiration and reflection at Armagh in Melbourne. The weekend will include the Annual General Meeting, which is open to all signed-up members of IofC Australia.

Life Matters Workshop

SAVE THE DATE: Friday 28 September to Monday 1 October: Life Matters course in Sydney. Contact rob.wood@iofc.org.

See all events

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.



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 Volunteer Co-ordinator kirsty.argento@iofc.org with an introduction about yourself, your motivation, and your area of interest. We'd love to hear from you!



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.



Donate Now

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