



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

OCTOBER 2019 NO. 301

Good things take time.

Almost half a year after the Christchurch massacre took place, we partnered with our counterparts in IofC New Zealand to support a healing and peacebuilding tour of the country by two Nigerian peacemakers. Nigel Heywood from IofCA, who traveled with the Christian-Muslim duo, reflects on the work that is needed to create strength from diversity. "I wished more people of other faiths could experience the connection and friendship I felt from these two communities in recovery," he writes.

Back home in Australia, we're doing our best to build those connections. See our report-backs on a community dialogue in Brisbane, and the crop of homegrown projects from this year's cycle of Sprout! Community, our program that brings people and local communities together.

This month's issue of Newsbriefs also has reports from our Australian Gaux Scholars - recipients of peace fellowships, who went to Switzerland over the Northern Hemisphere summer. Two very different individuals report on how the experience has influenced their lives and work.

As always, there's more, so don't just read and enjoy - also contact us and get involved!

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



Community Trust Building Dialogue in Brisbane

A former Rwandan refugee, an Indigenous Australian broadcaster, and a Cham Muslim from Vietnam took part in a dialogue at Griffith University to look at ways different communities that make up Australia can come together to build a stronger community.

[Read more.](#)

Sprout! Community Projects Bring Nature to City-Dwellers

The end of the 2019 cycle of the the Sprout! Community programme saw the birth of three projects to help us better connect with nature in our communities.

[Read more.](#)



Life Still Matters: The Learning Goes On

Life Matters alumni continue to meet, grow and network through follow-up events, long after they take part in the initial four-day residential workshop. See this video of a recent leadership workshop conducted by James McIvor and learn how you can get involved with Life Matters. [Read more.](#)

After Christchurch: The Imam and the Pastor Visit NZ

They were once bitter enemies who now work together to inspire communities to rise above hate. Pastor Dr James Wuye and Imam Dr Muhammad Ashafa, two peace builders from Nigeria, toured New Zealand to share their story and words of inspiration with a wide range of audiences. [Read more](#)



COMMENTARY



The Power of Unusual Friendships

Nigel Heywood accompanied the Imam and the Pastor as they toured New Zealand and he reflects on their story, their words of wisdom and what we as a society can do to combat extreme isolation and violence.

[Read more.](#)

PERSONAL STORIES

Amiel Nubaha and Heather Cetrangolo were participants at the 2019 Caux Scholars Programme. They share their thoughts about the impact the program has had on their lives and their future community work.

Amiel Nubaha

Amiel Nubaha was born amidst the Rwandan genocide and arrived in Australia as a refugee, but today, with determination and hard work, he is a community leader and role model to many in Brisbane. Caux gave him new perspectives on peace building and non violence and a new pathway for his community work.

[Read more](#)



Heather Cetrangolo

Heather Cetrangolo is a Chaplain at the University of Melbourne and collaborates with lofCA to develop peacebuilding programs for international students. Caux challenged her to rethink her identity and the roles she plays as priest, teacher and peace builder.

[Read more](#)



EVENTS

Creating Space

Creating Space is a monthly gathering at lofCA for themed deep reflective conversations for learning, journeying and sharing together. The time will also include presentations by guest speakers, space for reflection and sharing. The dates for the next gatherings are as follows:

- **Monday 11 November:** *Theme - Vulnerability*
- **Monday 2 December**

Venue: Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak

Time: 7pm to 9pm

For any further information please contact us on 9822 1218 or at info.au@iofc.org

Australians Sharing a New Story - Towards Community Trustbuilding

Saturday 14 December 2019 : A story sharing event to bring the community together to strengthen, learn and celebrate. Venue: Griffith University, Nathan Campus, QLD. Time: 3pm. Please see [here](#) for more details.

Asia Plateau 2020 Conference

Friday 7 February - Tuesday 11 February 2020: An international lofC conference at Asia Plateau, India, focussing on urgent challenges our societies face and the personal qualities needed to make a difference. For more information about the conference please see [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.

Donate Now

You can now follow us on social media.



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Contributions, news and comments are welcome, and can be sent to delia.paul@iofc.org.