



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

DECEMBER 2019 NO. 302

Bushfires.

As we write, fires and record-breaking temperatures have featured in the headlines for many weeks. Australia is deeply challenged right now by the scale and pace of environmental change. It's time for us to become a society capable of planning and making decisions for the long-term, and to grow a political system that will support that.

We're feeling grateful for the commitment and dedication of so many who have made Initiatives of Change an effective movement for peace, reconciliation and change. This issue of *Newsbriefs* features two such individuals.

We're continuing to equip people to change their lives and communities for the better through our Life Matters workshops, Creators of Peace events - and now an exciting new partnership with Trinity College at the University of Melbourne, which will train tertiary students in peacebuilding and ethical leadership. We're also supporting indigenous Australians to connect with overseas networks through their participation in the *Samvaad* festival in India.

Read all about it here - and may 2020 bring you peace, joy, and renewed energy for the work that lies ahead.

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



Creators of Peace: Moving Beyond Peace Circles

CoP circles bring together a group of diverse participants and the energy created continues to vibrate long after with follow-up activities. Peace practice groups, picnics, cafe events, monthly meetings...the list goes on.

[Read more.](#)

Land Rights and Recognition, Stories and Songs: Australians at *Samvaad*

Three Australians - Raymond Finn, Johnny Huckle and Andrew Flynn - participated in the 6th annual *Samvaad* Tribal Festival in Jamshedpur, India. The trio spoke and sang at the festival, which drew 1200 people from 13 countries and 28 states across India. The trip had a personal impact on each one.

[Read more](#)



Recalibrating one's life at a Life Matters workshop

Life Matters workshops offer a platform for participants to find the inspiration and energy they need to take the next step in life. Participants at the November 2019 workshop made new decisions and charted new personal directions.

[Read more.](#)

Celebrating International Volunteer Day

lofC has always been a mainly volunteer-driven movement. On 5 December, International Volunteer Day, lofCA staff showed their appreciation to this integral group of the lofC family, who give so willingly of their time and resources to make it all happen.

[See our video clip here.](#)



Peace and Leadership Program

After a pilot project this year, lofC Australia is partnering in 2020 with Australia's oldest university, Melbourne University, to offer training in peace building and leadership. See details about the program and testimonials from this year's pilot [here](#)

[Contact us](#) if you'd like to partner with us on a similar program.

PERSONAL STORIES

Long-term volunteers and friends of lofC Australia, Tianethone Chantharasy and Mike Brown, share snippets of their life journeys and the lessons they have learnt over the years.



Tianethone Chantharasy

Tianethone Chantharasy served as a diplomat and deputy Foreign Minister of Laos (1974-75), before Communist forces took over the reins of government. His Buddhist heritage and his association with lofC have had a deep impact on his world view and his actions.

[Read more](#)

Mike Brown

In the '60s, a 19-year old Mike Brown hoped to radically change the world. Several decades on, he finds that answers can emerge through the sharing of human pain and forgiveness.

[Read more.](#)



EVENTS

Creating Space

Creating Space is a monthly gathering at lofCA for focused conversations on a selected theme. The time includes presentations by guest speakers, and space for reflection and group discussion. The dates for the next gatherings are as follows:

- **Monday 3 February 2020**
- **Monday 2 March 2020**

Venue: Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak

Time: 7pm to 9pm

For more information please contact us on 9822 1218 or at info.au@lofc.org

Asia Plateau 2020 Conference

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

Facilitation Skills Workshop

Saturday 15 February - Sunday 16 February 2020: lofCA program alumni and network members are invited to this opportunity to improve their facilitation skills and learn to deliver lofC sessions in our workshops in 2020 and beyond.

Venue: Armagh, 226, Kooyong Road, Toorak.

Time: 9am - 5pm on both days.

For more information about the workshop please see [here](#).

CoP Regional Gathering

Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2020: Venue: Panchagani, India. The event will be a team building and facilitator development opportunity for active CoP women. Participants will discuss ways to build the presence of CoP in the region.

For more information please contact [Shoshana Faire](#).

Conversation with Michael Smith

Friday 21 February 2020: Join freelance journalist and author of books on ethics in business, Michael Smith, as he discusses his latest book, *Leading With Integrity*. Michael was head of Business Programs at lofC UK from 2010 - 2017 and was part of the organising team for a series of international conferences on Trust & Integrity in the Global Economy, held at Caux, Switzerland, from 2006 - 2016.

Venue: Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak. Time: 7.30pm. For more information please see [here](#).

Caux Scholars Program

Sunday 28 June 2020 - Monday 27 July 2020: Applications are now open for the 2020 sessions to be held at the Caux Palace in Switzerland. If you are passionate about making an impact in the world, this could be the right opportunity for you! Deadline for applications is 6 March 2020. For more information 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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226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142, Australia, www.au.iofc.org.
Contributions, news and comments are welcome, and can be sent to delia.paul@iofc.org.