



Initiatives of Change  
Australia

# newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

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FEBRUARY 2020 NO. 303

## Looking back and looking ahead

With the release of this newsbrief, we are two months into a new decade, and many are finding themselves looking back in order to move forward. Though the dawn of a new year typically provokes this sort of reflection it's certainly been a more prominent theme in the stories and conversations we've captured as of late.

From quiet self-reflection to remembrance of national events gone by, looking back has historically been a part of our way of acknowledging that the past has an impact on the present and the future. The change that lofC promotes, our focus on internal healing for external healing, is closely linked with our past experiences. We hope that you find hope, inspiration, and a new appreciation for the present through these glimpses into the past.

Join us in looking forward, towards the healing of Australia post bush fires, and towards a new decade full of promise.

*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



### A Meditation for Healing: Marking 26 January 2020

Whilst bushfires devastated the Australian landscape this summer, Susan Moylan-Coombs invited members of the lofC network to spend Australia Day 2020 in contemplation of all that has been and to unite in our grief. Members responded in a variety of ways and their hopes, thoughts and actions are for an Australia Day devoted to healing and reconciliation.

[Read more.](#)

## Stories for Trust Building in a Diverse World

An evening of personal story sharing and the space to both speak and be heard was held at Griffith University in Queensland co-hosted by IofCA. The diversity of the group that gathered was an opportunity for participants to experience what unites them rather than divides.

[Read more](#)



## Women in need of support for Peace Circle training

A woman flees her village that is under attack and accidentally leaves behind her new born baby; women from both sides of conflict have similar stories of rape. Yet, women in conflict zones have amazing stories of survival to share. We need to help them have a platform to share their stories.

[Read more.](#)

## PERSONAL STORIES

Three very different life stories but together are a reflection of IofC principles and practices of reconciliation, inner-listening, story-telling and forgiveness.

### Ron Lawler

A personal reconciliation with his brother propelled Ron to dedicate his life to building bridges with the First Nations people. He shares his story at an Australia Day gathering at Wagga Wagga.

[Read more](#)





## Life Matters Alumni: Sudarshan Suresh

'I shared my story, I unburdened myself which bought immense relief and healing and allowed me to move forward.' A chance participation at a Life Matters Workshop in Melbourne was just what Sudarshan needed as he was starting a new journey in Australia. The workshop gave him comfort, new friendships and propelled him on a new career path.

[Read more.](#)

## Nith Chittasy

'IofC has taught me to forgive quickly and get on with life as soon as possible - and to keep the heart clear of any resentment.' Nith Chittasy lives life with this philosophy as his guide and it has given him contentment and purpose.

[Read more](#)



## EVENTS

### Creating Space

Creating Space is a monthly gathering at IofCA 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 2 March 2020 - Theme:** Navigating Changes in Relationships
- **Monday 6 April 2020 - Theme:** Sense of Self

Venue: Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak

Time: 7pm to 9pm - Arrive at 6:45pm for a cuppa.

For more information please contact us on 9822 1218 or at [info.au@iofc.org](mailto:info.au@iofc.org)

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## Life Matters Workshop

**Friday 6 March - Monday 9 March 2020:** A three day workshop to equip and motivate you to face the future. Whatever your age or stage Life Matters is for you! Venue: Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak. Please see [here](#) for further details.

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## Community Trustbuilding - Brisbane

**Friday 27 March 2020:** An exciting opportunity to explore Community Trustbuilding. Be a part of the conversation to heal, partner and act. Venue: Meeting Room 1, Library, Garden City Mt Gravatt. For further details and to register please see [here](#).

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## Caux Forum 2020: Shaping our Future Together

**Thursday 25 June to Thursday 16 July 2020:** Applications are now open for the 2020 forum to be held in Caux, Switzerland. The Caux Forum offers a unique space to recharge, find inspiration, equip ourselves with new tools and practices and ally with a world community of changemakers to shape our future together.

For further details of the events being held this year and to apply please see [here](#).

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## Caux Scholars Program

**Sunday 28 June 2020 - Monday 27 July 2020:** The deadline for applications is 6 March 2020. Send in your applications soon! Venue: Caux Palace in Switzerland. If you are passionate about making an impact in the world, this could be the right opportunity for you. 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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