



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

APRIL 2018 NO. 292

Initiatives of Change Australia (IofC Australia) is entering a new stage of growth and change. As we invest in strengthening our programs in Australia, we're building on our long-standing relationships to deepen and further develop our engagement with Indigenous and migrant communities. We are also wanting to make the most of the precious legacy that is Armagh - a centre for peace building that is reaching out to the region and the world. In this regard, we are advertising two staff positions, one new, and one developing. Check out the details below, and help us find the right people for these important roles!

You'll also see, in this issue, news about the South Sudan women's conference that took place during the week of International Women's Day, as well as thoughts and reflections from participants in various IofC activities - the Asia-Pacific Youth Conference, the Caux Scholars Program, and our day-to-day mentoring practice. As ever, it is all about the people - our shared experiences of living the just, humane and compassionate life.

Remember to mark your diaries for the upcoming National Meeting in Melbourne, which takes place over the Queen's Birthday long weekend! All are welcome, whether you're new to IofC or have been a long while on this journey with us.

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



South Sudan Women Create Community-Led Solutions

South Sudanese women in Melbourne organized their own conference to discuss common concerns such as getting work, staying healthy, and maintaining strong family relationships. The one-day event marked International Women's Day and brought together over 100 participants, who agreed to continue their conversations in coming months. [Read more.](#)

Finding Inspiration at the Asia-Pacific Youth Conference

Six young Australians went to the Asia-Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) in Panchgani, India, from 27 December 2017 to 3 January 2018. The APYC serves as a platform for regional dialogue and an incubator in which joint projects for peace building can develop, based on relationships of trust and mutual understanding. Here are some post-conference reflections from participants. [Read more.](#)



Market Day at Armagh

Big thanks to all who contributed to Market Day on 17 March in Melbourne! The Armagh Markets were created to invite people to discover the legacy, beauty and community that Armagh represents. Here's an account of the highlights, as we begin preparing for the next one. [Read more.](#)

PEOPLE

A Mentoring Journey: Barbara Lawler and Francine Berabose

'An opportunity to be alongside someone on their journey of discovering themselves' is how Barbara Lawler defines what mentoring means to her. For the past three years she has been on this journey with Francine Berabose. **Parveen Muhammad** spoke with them to understand how it all started and where it has led them both. [Read more.](#)



Caux Scholar: Fiona Goggins

The Caux Scholars Program (CSP) is a three-week IofC residential program, offering a multi-disciplinary approach to conflict transformation, transitional justice, and principled leadership. **Fiona Goggins** from



Sydney was one of 20 young people selected for the 2017-2018 CSP at Asia Plateau. She reflects on her experience. [Read more.](#)

EVENTS



Creators of Peace

Creators of Peace (CoP) is a women's initiative launched in 1991 which aims to bring peace by starting with oneself and being peace-builders wherever we are, in our hearts, our homes, our workplaces and our community. CoP has grown to a global network of women working on different continents through Creators of Peace Circles, workshops, personal encounters, community-building activities and international conferences.

CoP in Sydney

Saturday 5 May: CoP meeting of the Auburn network in NSW, 1.30 - 4 pm at the Youth Room, Auburn Centre for Community, 44A Macquarie Road, Auburn. Topic: Peace in practice. For more information, contact [Manu Granados](#) or call 0408 689 358.

Sunday 20 May: CoP meeting of the Hills network in NSW, 1.30 - 4 pm at The Small Meeting Room, Rowland Village, 301 Galston Road, Galston. Topic: Australian values. We all know about 'fair go' - but how do we have our 'fair go' while allowing others to also have theirs? For more information, contact [Manu Granados](#) or call 0408 689 358.

Saturday 16 June: Peace Focus Gathering, 3.15 - 5.30 pm. Film screening and discussion in Birchgrove, NSW. Contact [Maria Moy](#) or call 0413 585 364.

Saturday 8 September: Peace Focus Gathering 3.15 - 5.30 pm. Topic: 'Honouring Women Through Their Narrative'. The event will be in Gladesville, NSW. Contact [Maria Moy](#) or call 0413 585 364.

The Peace Focus Gatherings bring together people who want to be educated and engaged in bringing more peace to the world. Bring your open heart and big smile! Also bring a plate to share if you would like to stay for dinner and continue the peace conversation.

Creators of Peace Community of Practice: A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. CoP in Sydney are aiming to create a Creators of Peace Community of Practice (CoPCoP). This will be a regular space for those who have participated in a CoP Circle to reflect and explore together how to grow the vision and purposes of CoP. There will be space to either look into the CoP Gathering Points or other related topics more deeply if desired. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact [Manu Granados](#) or [Shoshana Faire](#), or call Shoshana on 0411 179 547.

CoP in Melbourne

22 June 2018: CoP Peace Circle at Armagh. The 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. You would need to attend all sessions as they are designed to be consecutive. To express interest in attending the June 2018 CoP Peace Circle, and for more information, please leave your details [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: 5 October: CoP Peace Circle at Armagh over two weekends in October 2018. 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.

CoP team in Victoria: Following interest expressed at the Peace Focus Gathering at Armagh on 14 April, there is currently a core team forming around CoP in Victoria. If you have been involved in CoP before, and would like to be involved in supporting its growth, please get in touch with [Elise Sampson](#).

Dine Below The Line

Thursday 10 May: Come and experience a meal below the poverty line and support Oaktree, a movement of young people working to end extreme poverty. The meal is from 7 - 9.30 pm at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142. Entry by donation. RSVP events.au@iofc.org or call (03) 9822-1218.

IofC National Meeting

Friday-Sunday 8-10 June (Queen's Birthday weekend in Victoria). 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. The weekend starts at 7 pm on the Friday evening, and runs till 5 pm on Sunday. If you plan to come, please email info.au@iofc.org and let us know your dietary requirements. If you need accommodation, please also email info.au@iofc.org, and copy [Liz Weeks](#).

Life Matters course

Friday 21 September: A 'Life Still Matters' course 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. Enquiries to [Assefa Bekele](#). If you would like to help with facilitation, technical set-up, or sharing your own Life Matters experience, please contact [Joyce or Malcolm Fraser](#).

See all events

GET INVOLVED

Positions available

Community Engagement Manager: lofC Australia is seeking an experienced and dedicated individual to lead our work in empowering leaders for peace building, trust building and transformation. This role will initially focus on Indigenous and South Sudanese communities in Australia, and will work with other communities in the future. The role is four days a week. See the advertisement and position description [here](#).

Events Coordinator: Bring your expertise and enthusiasm to assist in increasing the capacity of lofC Australia to use the Armagh Centre as a venue for events, local community and private hirers. This is a casual position with a minimum of two days' work a week, plus some hours on evenings and weekends as needed. See the advertisement and position description [here](#).

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 Co-ordinator](#) with an introduction about yourself, your motivation, and your area of interest. We'd love to hear from you!



DONATE



Your donation allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain its trust-building 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. You can contribute through PayPal [here](#) or contact the [Treasurer](#) to send a cheque or make a bank transfer.

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Newsbriefs is published by Initiatives of Change (ABN 22 004 350 789)

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.