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Keeping Positive in Troubled Times

With the release of this newsbrief, we are well into the heart of troubled times, and each day has presented us with new information regarding the invisible enemy we call COVID-19. Though we have at times felt afraid and powerless, more frequently we've seen stories of great strength and perseverance shine through the darkness.

Many have taken this ongoing pandemic as a time to deeply reflect and think carefully about what opportunities are present and what will carry us into the future. The changes that are occurring inside of us, this personal transformation, means that there is the promise inside us all – the promise of a new path forward. We hope that you find inspiration and opportunity through the stories we share with you and by the continued connection we share with each other. Together we will get through the storm.

Join us for one of our virtual meetings and connect with us – we'd be happy to have you!

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

Michael Smith – Transforming the Business World

A culture that is conscious of all stakeholders, that ensures the highest levels of integrity are maintained, is empathetic and listens; that is what Michael Smith hopes to help create with his new book 'Leading with Integrity'. It is both a 'story book' and a challenge to transform the business sector.

[Read more.](#)





Towards a Humane World Conference

Democracy, Sustainability, Inclusivity and Trust were the main themes at the international lofC conference 'Towards a Humane World' held in Panchagani, India in February 2020. The eminent panel of speakers challenged delegates to rethink their knowledge on these topics while Community groups provided the space for difficult conversations to happen.

[Read more](#)

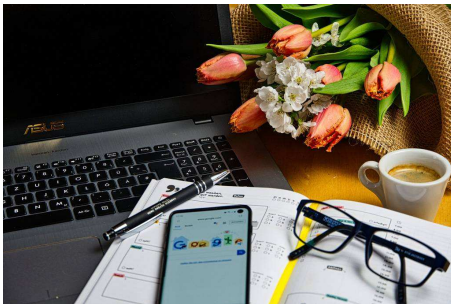
Conversations in the Time of COVID-19...

How are you coping? What thoughts and reflections are occurring to you during this time? What positive changes do you see happening? The lofCA community shares their thoughts as COVID-19 takes hold the world over and our normal routines are changed.

[Read more.](#)



COMMENTARY



Commentary: Trust me, I'm Working

'Working from home' has become one of the most mentioned words during the COVID-19 crisis. As we grapple with all that it entails, Tracie Mooneyham shares her thoughts on the concept of remote work and the assumptions that surround it, before the virus caused everyone to consider it.

[Read more](#)

PERSONAL STORIES

Creators of Peace and Life Matters are two of lofCA's flagship programs. Alumni from the two programs share with us the positive impact the program has had on their lives.

From War Zones to Women United: The Story of a Peace Builder

Meena Sharma, a human rights campaigner, has seen the atrocities of war first-hand. She wanted to help the women caught in the cross fires of conflicts, but didn't know where to start. A Peace Circle in Nepal paved the way for her new role as a Peace Builder and now she helps women share their story and build confidence in themselves.

[Read more](#)



Life Matters Alumni: Aya Ono

Aya never thought her past stories mattered to anyone or was of any importance, even to herself. The story sharing at a Life Matters Workshop she attended in Melbourne in November 2019 challenged her to face her past - this has brought her new strength and fulfillment. The friends she made at the workshop continue to be a part of her support network to this day.

[Read more.](#)

EVENTS

Virtual Quiet Time

lofC International hosts daily Quiet Time sessions via Zoom. This is a time of silent reflection and inspired sharing, led by various members across our network. This personal and group experience is part of our unique approach and we consider it a tool for creating lasting change. For more information about session times and to register please see [here](#)

Creators of Peace Circle - Sydney

Saturday 9 May and Friday 17 May 2020: Peace Circles offer practical peace building strategies and a safe place for participants to be truly open. Due to current social distancing restrictions this PC will be held via Zoom.

Book now with [Shoshana](#) or call 0411 179 547 for more information.

Creating Space

Monday 11 May 2020: Creating Space is a monthly gathering at lofCA for focused conversations on a selected theme.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the event will now be held online via Zoom.

Theme: Trust Time: 7pm to 9pm

To register please RSVP to Kylie at info.au@iofc.org

You will then receive the link to connect via Zoom and some guidelines for the meeting.

Caux Forum 2020 is going ONLINE

Thursday 25 June to Thursday 16 July 2020: The Caux Forum offers a unique space to recharge, find inspiration, equip ourselves with new tools and ally with a world community of changemakers to shape our future together.

However, due to COVID-19, the Caux Forum 2020 will not physically take place at Caux Palace this year, but will move to an online format. For further 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 several ways you can get involved. You are welcome to join our monthly meetings or participate in an upcoming program or event. These are a great way to meet new people and get to know more about lofC.

There are a variety ways to volunteer, depending on your skills and where we have a need. If you are interested, please contact our [Program Manager](#) to learn about current volunteer and internship opportunities at Initiatives of Change Australia. We'd love to hear from you!

DONATE



As we develop our community engagement work, we're excited to see your donations coming in. Please know that your contribution allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain its trust-building and peace-building work. We value your support - thank you!

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.