



Caux takes on global issues

As racial tensions peaked in the US with shootings of African-Americans and white police officers, a multi-racial delegation from Tulsa, Oklahoma, spoke at an IofC conference in Switzerland of their city's experience in facing a shameful racial history and taking steps towards healing.

During her term as Tulsa's longest serving mayor, Susan Savage had publicly apologised for 'the most significant tragedy in Tulsa's history... the atrocities of the 1921 race riots' which left up to 300 people dead, an estimated 10,000 Black Americans homeless. Hushed up in history books, the massacre was a racist reaction to the growing wealth of Black Americans benefitting from the oil boom at that time.

Invited to go to Caux by John Franklin – son of a famous civil rights leader/historian – Savage described their joint efforts to find 'how a community faces truth about itself, forgives, becomes resilient and works to change'.

Referring to the current crisis between law enforcement agencies and African-Americans, Savage said, 'The only way to address these issues is in a direct, very honest fashion... as human beings. The United States is ripe for that sort of conversation. It is long overdue.'

Andrew and Margaret Lancaster from Canberra were in Caux during July when these experiences were related. What struck Andrew about the Tulsa experience was the way it fed into another process happening during the Just Governance conference: an Armenian/Turkish dialogue. On the last day of the dialogue the whole Tulsa group was there. It was 'classic Caux', Andrew comments. 'Here were people from a city in USA, doing their best to help others address a much bigger issue.' As Susan Savage put it, trying to 'learn how to confront violence, to share stories and find the capacity to forgive...'

Australian participation

The Lancasters have lost count of how many conferences they have supported at Caux. Over many years, Margaret has been one of those heading up a volunteer team which allocates rooms to delegates. Helen Mills from Adelaide returned to manage the diet kitchen, and on her second day worked a 10-hour shift as the house-count peaked at 520. They came for 'Addressing Europe's unfinished business' in parallel with an 'International Peace-builders Forum'. Caux was again booked to capacity at the end of July for 'Children as actors for transforming society', taking an innovative cross-generational approach to supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Concurrently, a Caux Trainee Programme enabled nearly 40 young people from 24 countries in both learning from and supporting the conferences. 'Hard work, but really interesting,' comments IofC Australia's executive officer Athalia Zwartz, who is coordinating the training team.



In early August a team of Australian women is flying in, having spent months planning and preparing *Living Peace*, the conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of *Creators of Peace*. (See next *Newsbriefs*.)

Ten Years of TIGE

At the opening of the 10th Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE) conference its co-founder, Mohan Bhagwandas from Melbourne, shared about its beginnings. It grew out of a vision for a new type of conference – 'a new format for the "information age" and "social networking era" as a vehicle for the younger generation who are keen to change the world based on ethical leadership,' said Mohan, who is now Vice-President of IofC International. The aim was to bring people from the developed and developing world together to start conversations about ethical leadership in the global economy.

Now organised and designed by an international team of young professionals, the opening session featured TIGE chapters sharing their TIGE-inspired initiatives in their respective countries: the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland, Mexico and Kenya. Participants heard evidence of how encounters and conversations begun in Caux continue long after the conference closes.

Having conducted a year-long Impact Study of the ten years of TIGE, the organisers created four 'inquiries' (work streams) that took participants on a deep, collective process over four days, looking into various aspects of ethical leadership in a 'new economy'. These groups fed their discussions into the TIGE Hub each day, the 'catalysing' part of the conference. A talented graphic artist harvested these insights which integrated the knowledge of the sessions woven together into more practical outcomes at the closing session.

TIGE has always aspired to be 'outcome focused', says

Talia Smith, coordinator of TIGE UK programmes and one of the younger team. It is a forum for 'sharing best practices, making connections with people from all sectors and from around the world, to be inspired to change the way you work, making it meaningful for you, society and the planet'.

As always, the TIGE Forum included experts in the areas of business and economy, such as Jaime González Aguadé, President of Mexico's National Banking and Securities Commission, and Enno Schmidt, a German director of Enterprise Economy and Art. Highlighting the critical importance of the trust factor, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, vice chairman of the UN Global Compact, and Laurence Cockcroft, co-founder of global anti-corruption coalition, Transparency International, talked about the corrosive effect of corruption on societies and on people's trust in businesses. Truly global in their outlook and careers, both have taken a strong stance against corruption in their

fields and been instrumental in establishing regulatory, anti-corruption frameworks. Moody-Stuart has been the chairman of both Anglo-American Plc and before that, Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

There will be no TIGE conference in 2017. Instead, a series of workshops and TIGE training programmes will be held in different countries over the next twelve months. TIGE will also collaborate more closely with Caux Initiatives of Business (CIB) in India (see www.cibglobal.org).

As they return to Melbourne, Mohan and his wife Daya (who continues to be part of the International TIGE core team), wish to thank IofC Australia for its support in enabling them to participate in this global IofC initiative, which is now set to take off into a new phase.

For more, see:

On Facebook: 'Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE) Forum'. On the web: www.trustandintegrity.org

Launching an environmental mentoring program

Gwendoline and Azain Raban, with their two-year old son Zaiden, attended the 2016 Caux Dialogue on Land and Security (CDLS) 29 June–3 July, where they presented on biochar in a workshop on scaling up land restoration. Gwendoline is currently working with Earth Systems, an Australian environmental firm operating internationally, and Azain has worked with World Vision Australia. They report:

As we are newly involved with IofC Australia, it was a privilege to be invited by the CDLS organisers to attend the event and to present some of the work that we have been involved in professionally in Australia, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. We heard a lot about Caux, but went not quite knowing what to expect. Our experience far exceeded our expectations. We made many friends, especially through our son Zaiden, who was a hit with everyone, specifically the younger members of the house. As a free spirit and an independent soul, he fully enjoyed his time in Caux!

Meanwhile we, the adults had many stimulating conversations, often overlooking the spectacular views of Lake, making connections with people from all over the world. As first timers in Caux, we were really struck by the thought-provoking engaging community atmosphere of the conference. The CDLS provided five days of insightful and impactful conversations regarding issues of land degradation and migration.

Of particular interest to us as environmental professionals was the work on community-based land restoration, farmer managed natural regeneration and food security initiatives in countries such as Ethiopia, Somaliland and Tunisia, as well as workshops exploring the role of technology in land restoration such as biochar production and using drones to conduct reforestation. The keynote speech by Dr Martin Lees (former secretary-general of the Club of Rome) really brought home a sense of urgency on issues like climate change, lack of sufficient resources and population pressures.

Also inspiring this year was the launch the new [CDLS Fellowship Program](#) which connects people who have innovative projects or project ideas addressing land and security issues, with mentors from the IofC community.



A range of exciting and entrepreneurial projects were presented from Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Azain and I had the great privilege of becoming mentors for participants in the program.

Returning to Australia, we reflected on what we have learnt and how to apply the values and approaches of IofC to our own lives. Being inspired with the Fellowship Program with its empowerment of environmental leaders, we decided to take on building a similar program in Australia and link up to the international one. Our intention is to start a group to launch the program at the end of September at Armagh. Through various conversations, this idea grew into the possibility of convening a forum in Melbourne in 2017, just before the next CDLS. This could connect people with projects and ideas, with the business community, philanthropists and the not-for-profit sector to co-create opportunities for addressing environmental issues. We have approached IofC Australia and are now looking for anyone in the IofC and wider community, who is interested in getting involved with us on this project.

We believe that establishing such a local/regional forum of environmental leaders and committed individuals will be an opportunity to bring together many people concerned for the environment, land and food security in Australia and even in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Who's listening...?

Mike Brown reflects on the crisis in our culture and its effect on children

In the country town of Quorn, 35 years ago, I prayed with an Aboriginal stockman after learning of the murder in 1852 of my great-great-uncle, a 17 year old shepherd, and my ancestors' part in the revenge massacre of tribal people that followed.

In early June we met again, at that same spot, realising how that chance encounter had thrust us into some painful and some hopeful journeys since.

Ken McKenzie was one of the last Adnyamathanha to have gone through the first stage of initiation before missionaries banned the ceremonies. He is the only artist who can paint his beloved Flinders Ranges and sing in language what he is painting.

With his wife, Margaret, and my brother and sister-in-law, we set off from Quorn for five days in the northern Flinders to see the sites which hold special memories for Ken. That land is a living Creation story to Ken, told with traditional stories and sung in Adnyamathanha, mixed with his and Margaret's experiences growing up as non-citizens, battling poverty, exploitation and survival. At Myrtle Springs station, we found the rusted wreck of a T-model Ford which Margaret's father used for fencing contracts – as a 13 year-old Margaret worked drilling holes in mulga fence posts.

In Myrtle Creek Ken wanted to show us a child's footprints etched in the rock wall of a cave. *Papa-tjitji*, he told us, was an orphan child of their ancestors and no-one in his group would look after him. Waking in a big storm one night, he found all the clan had moved on, abandoning him. He climbed into the cave for shelter... these were

his footprints. Emerging next morning he was angry at the way his relatives had spurned him. He sang, blew and rubbed his limbs till he became a giant, then tracked his people, using a boomerang to kill many of them. The survivors fought back. One man, *Vadnapa*, was left-handed and his boomerang struck down *Papa-tjitji* who, as he was dying, resumed the form of the young boy. *Vadnapa* ran to his side, realising it was his own brother.

He carried away the body, grieving...

'What was the meaning of the story?' I asked Ken as we walked back.

Getting into the car, Ken quietly reflected: 'If you abandon a child, even one, the tragedy will return to damage the whole community.'

The night before in our cabin, we had heard the agony caused by the 'ice' epidemic in Port Augusta which, combined with unemployment and hopelessness, has torn families apart. We listened for hours. What could be done? No easy answers. Among their tribe of grand-children, they named those they still held some hope for, praying for each of them. It seemed like a step out of darkness, a resolution not to give into bitterness. On returning to Pt Augusta, they took action to rescue one family from a painful situation.

Guantanamo torture in Australia

That was just a glimpse of much wider tragedy. Having seen the *Four Corners* program reporting horrific abuse of juvenile prisoners, a shocked Prime Minister announced a Royal Commission into the Northern Territory youth detention system. 'Guantanamo torture' in Australian prisons! Not just a 'few bad apples' but a rotten culture in the NT correctional services... and in other States, the chorus mounts.

But is the cultural sickness even wider than that? Witness the stream of evidence, over months, from that other Royal Commission – into endemic child abuse in Australia. Paedophile rings in churches, sports clubs, 'family protection' agencies... 'Better to have a millstone hung around your neck and be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these little ones to stumble,' said Jesus.

'I can't see reason, I can only feel anger, and anger sometimes is better than reason,' wrote Aboriginal journalist Stan Grant in *The Guardian* after watching the *Four Corners* program. He sat through the Q&A which followed, hearing a range of commentaries. 'There wasn't even an Indigenous person on the panel... I just wanted to yell at the screen, "Get out of our lives".'

Papa-tjitji's anger rekindled. But this is not the whole story, says Grant. 'We are better than that.'

Are we? We have intervened with budgets, policies, sent in the Army, analysis, Royal Commissions, indignation, even apologies... but have we really heard what people like Grant are trying to tell us?

Have we ever *really* listened to what dispossession feels like? Or heard what the pain of these children – in Don Dale, Nauru and Pt Augusta – is saying about our culture? Can we silence our preconceived 'answers' and self-protecting judgements enough to hear our own consciences and humanity?

We hear, see, but do we listen – with *dadirri*, that deep inner listening of another Northern Territory culture, of the Ngangikurungkurr people? Or with the gut-level *miwi* of the Ngarrindjeri, warning of danger?

Who's listening?



Ken McKenzie and a young Adnyamathanha

'One of those rare, effortlessly loveable people'

Jane Mills' abiding memory of Trish McDonald-Harrison was sitting with her and two colleagues sticking pins into a map of Sydney on places which had requested a Creators of Peace Circle.

It was 2004, when the Circles were just beginning in Sydney, and delivering them was a challenge. 'Trish was joyfully in the midst of this unstoppable tide,' said Jane. 'New circles blossomed, with introductory sessions, facilitators training and annual celebrations.'

'She said to me, "Through Creators of Peace I discovered I could change my hard-done-by attitude to feeling good about myself and in my relationships".'

Jane was speaking at a memorial service for Trish who died after a battle with cancer on 11 June. The memorial was graciously conducted by Kenneth, her husband, whom she had met during her 30 years working with Mission Australia and other organisations.

Jane told of a 'watershed moment' at an international CoP conference in Uganda in 2005, which Trish attended with Jackie Huggins, the then co-chair of Reconciliation Australia. Jackie spoke of the spiritual journey of reconciliation after Australia's painful history. Trish, of Irish, Scottish and English descent, with ancestors on the First Fleet, was confronted with what her people had done both in Africa and Australia, and rose in tears to apologise. Spontaneously a Nigerian



Trish McDonald-Harrison. Credit: Shoshana Faire

woman embraced her and African women in the audience responded immediately: 'You are forgiven... We forgive you... Go free.'

'From that time Trish (while continuing her day job at Randwick Council) gave every spare moment to the work of Creators of Peace and Reconciliation in Australia,' said Jane.

For some years she served as international secretary for Creators of Peace. After her death, messages expressing pain and loss streamed

in from over 25 countries – Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, India, Canada, South Africa, to name a few.

She was 'one of those rare, effortlessly loveable people,' said Jean Brown, an international coordinator of Creators of Peace. 'When I first met her in 1995 her eyes lit up at the sound of Creators of Peace. She used to say that she would look for that same light in the eyes of others and if she saw it she had another Creator of Peace in the making. Before they knew it they were signed up for her next Peace Circle.'

Tanya Fox was one whose eyes lit up. She describes a gathering on 2 July sponsored by the Auburn City Council, in gratitude for Trish's vision four years ago of holding monthly Creators of Peace meetings in this highly multicultural region of Sydney. The room in the Auburn Centre for Community was 'lined in a sea of lilac, purple and pink flowers. Words of grief, love and respect overflowed at the celebration for her life,' wrote Tanya. 'Women from many different cultures in Auburn who had experienced a Creators of Peace Circle with Trish expressed their love and appreciation for her encouragement and friendship, helping them get in touch with their inner voice.'

'Can you turn hate into a positive outcome?'

The Gandhi Experiment and Afghan Australia Initiative (AAI) have again teamed together to gather students in Victoria to do some critical thinking..

At this *Global Participation - it starts with us!* student conference, on 25 July in Dandenong, students from Hallam Senior College, Carwatha College, Dandenong High and RMIT were challenged with provoking questions on a range of global and personal issues. Margaret Hepworth, founder of *The Gandhi Experiment*, facilitated the day with Jamie Vu of IofC-A and the AAI team.

Dandenong's Mayor Cr Heang Tak and Victorian state

MP Nina Springle shared their personal journeys and thoughts about a more harmonious community. Both want to help take this work forward in schools in their respective communities.

At the end of the day, students were voicing their thoughts about building a positive future. Emotional stories came from Afghan asylum seekers, now students at these schools.

'Great session. I learnt a lot of different ways of thinking about the world and our role in it,' wrote one student. 'It made me question...what are my values?' said another.

See also the Initiatives of Change Australia website: www.au.iofc.org Facebook page: Initiatives of Change Australia

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