



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

December 2020 NO. 308

Grateful.

That's how we feel. Grateful for the year that was. Grateful for our friends. Grateful for technology that connects us even when we're apart.

With its pains, loneliness and loss, the COVID year was also a 're-set button' for many of us. It was a chance to think: how do I want my life to be? How do we want our world to be?

In this issue, we highlight the 'Effective Leadership' webinar series that we ran over the past few months to help explore those questions. Our speakers, from different fields of community action, shared their thoughts and some of the personal struggles that have led to who they are and how they have shaped their work today.

We also heard from a leading figure in the campaign around the Uluru Statement from the Heart. There are lots of practical things we can do to support this important campaign.

And as always, we honour the work of those who trod the path before us in peace building and trust building, in our regular 'Personal Stories'.

Our warmest wishes to you for a happy new year in 2021.

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



After the COVID Lockdown, Armagh Reopens to Community

New carpets, fresh paint, and a blossoming garden await you at Armagh on your next visit. While doors remained closed to the public during the COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne, some much-needed restoration work took place indoors and outdoors. We now look forward to welcoming back community groups and hosting activities in the new year.

[Read more.](#)

Effective Leadership: Compassion, Hope and Humour

Can the COVID-19 become a transformational experience for those in positions of leadership? lofC Australia, in collaboration with Work Force Diversity, explored this in a seven-part public webinar series.

In this first of two stories, be inspired by our speakers in the first three sessions as they talk of how compassion, hope and humour can be a part of the way forward.

[Read more.](#)



Effective Leadership: Community, Inner Peace, Diversity and Tools for Change

As the seminar series continued, speakers shared from their work and their lives, highlighting the need for community, inner peace and diversity at times of crisis.

In the final session, two speakers shared tools that can be used for change.

[Read more.](#)

Supporting the Uluru Statement

Nation-wide dialogues and night-long debates resulted in a joint First Nations' endorsement of these words calling for Voice, Treaty, and Truth. The Uluru Statement from the Heart went out in 2017, but the work cannot stop there. The campaign to increase awareness and understanding continues.

Author and activist Thomas Mayor addressed the lofC Australia community recently on why 'Voice' takes first priority.

[Read more.](#)



PERSONAL STORIES

Jane Mills: A Life of Service in Peacebuilding

Jane Mills left school with three university scholarship offers, but a gap year touring Australia with the Moral Re-Armament musical, 'Wake Up Matilda' convinced her to use her life to build bridges between people—so she entered 'the university of life.'



Over the years, Jane, together with husband David, were involved in lofC work in Switzerland, the UK and Australia, building bridges between groups and communities wherever they went. Today she continues to be an active member of Creators of Peace and recently spoke to a Zoom audience on her life and work.

[Read more.](#)

Remembering Gordon Wise

Tributes flowed in for a founding member of Moral Re-Armament (as lofC was known then) in Australia. Gordon Wise, who served on its Council of Management in its crucial early years, passed away recently at the age of 97. A friend to many, Gordon is remembered for his lifelong commitment to the ideals and work of the movement.

[Read more.](#)



EVENTS

Creating Space

Monday 1 February 2021: The first Creating Space event for the new year!

Creating Space is a monthly gathering at lofCA for focused conversations on a selected theme. It will take place online via Zoom.

Time: 7 to 9 pm

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

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

Creators of Peace

Auburn Network:

Saturday 6 February 2021

A monthly meeting to connect and share.

Time: 1.45 to 3:30 pm. RSVP to creatorsofpeacensw.au@iofc.org for further details.

Hills Network:

Sunday 21 February 2021

An opportunity for CoP women in The Hills to stay engaged with the principles of CoP, and explore current social justice and other peace building issues.

Time: 2 to 4 pm. RSVP to [Zohra Aly](#) for further details.

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 continuing online, and are a great way to connect with our work!

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

DONATE



The COVID-19 crisis has meant that we are holding fewer face-to-face events, so there are fewer opportunities to pop a note into a donation box. Armagh is slowly opening up again to the community, but it will be a while before we reach 'full strength' again. While many events are now taking place online, funds are still needed to support our community engagement work. Your contribution allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain our 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. Thank you—we value your support so much!

Donate Now



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Contributions, news and comments are welcome, and can be sent to delia.paul@iofc.org.