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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.

This is our new-look format as we transition from a world of mainly paper-based publications to one in which many of us now read the news on our laptops, tablets and smartphones. This change is made with enormous gratitude to those who have contributed stories, images and ideas over the years, and those who have patiently carried out the backroom work of mailing and logistics.

Special thanks go especially to Mike Brown who, in 1994, undertook to edit and redesign the then-typewritten publication – and who has edited more than half of all *Newsbriefs* since then. He writes, “It has been a privilege to do so because, behind these short stories and commentaries, lies a living pulse of conviction and initiative of many in this network – people working to bring transformation and healing in their own lives and those around them.”

While *Newsbriefs* looks different today, we still seek to inspire and encourage all who respond to the call of conscience to work for a better world. Read on, and let's work together to 'be the change'!

NEWS



Massacre, Torture Survivor Finds Healing with Creators of Peace

A clinical psychologist and campaigner, Aberash (not his real name) fled his home in Burundi when his anti-corruption work brought death threats. At a Creators of Peace Circle in Sydney, he found a chance for healing. **Delia Paul** finds out more. [Read more.](#)



With A Little Help From My Mentors: Sustainability

As human impacts shape our planet for better or worse, Gwendoline and Azain Raban have started an Initiatives of Change programme pairing mentors with individuals who are developing projects for a better ecological future. **Ruby Nelson-Will** reports back after an inspiring chat. [Read more.](#)



Training Expands Creators of Peace Circles in Nepal

In March 2017, Creators of Peace facilitator Shoshana Faire was invited from Australia to Nepal to train more facilitators, following requests for Peace Circles around the country. Her hosts **Neichu Mayer** and **Meena Sharma** tell the story. [Read more.](#)



Jean-Paul Samputu Tour Brings Message of Love and Forgiveness

Rwandan genocide survivor and musician Jean-Paul Samputu had crowds dancing in the aisles at his concerts. Then, just as he left Australia, a young student from a school he had visited died tragically in a bomb blast. The singer-songwriter marked the occasion with a song in her memory. **Delia Paul** has the background. [Read more.](#)

EVENTS



Winter Film Series: Documentaries about peace building and personal change

Saturday 24 June: 'Demain' (Tomorrow). Concerned about the impending collapse of the ecosystems that support life in our world, a group of French parents explore the globe in search of solutions for their children and future generations.

Saturday 22 July: The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe screens in Melbourne. Four charismatic women from four African countries turn their stories of survival into a joyous theatre production.

Monday 24 July: The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe screens in Brisbane.

Saturday 19 August: 'Freedom Stories' shorts. This series of short films explores the achievements and stories of former 'boat people' who arrived seeking asylum from the Middle East around 2001.

Melbourne screenings start 7 pm at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Torak, VIC. Come at 6.30 pm for pizza! \$10 donation.

Southeast Asia Life Matters course

12-19 August 2017: The 4th Southeast Asia Life Matters course, 'Finding a path and purpose in life.' takes place in Bogor, Indonesia.

Armagh Open Day Market

Saturday 1 July: Armagh Open Day Market. There'll be live music, food stalls, craft stalls and tours of Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Torak, VIC, from 10-30 am - 3.30 pm.

PEOPLE



Trish McDonald-Harrison: 'Joyfully in the Midst'

With her wonderful smile and boundless enthusiasm, Trish McDonald-Harrison had the gift of making each person feel extraordinary. The truth, her friends say, is it was Trish who was extraordinary. **Jane Mills'** eulogy for Trish recalls her great gifts and her commitment.

[Read more.](#)

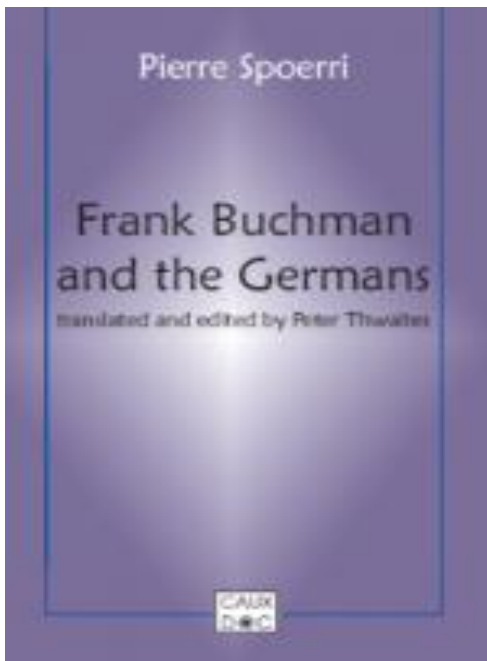


Margaret Hepworth: World peace through education

After 25 years of teaching at a number of schools in Melbourne, Margaret Hepworth began to question her contributions to society. While the school system was teaching sharing and kindness, across the world: war, violence and greed were still thriving. **Patrick Minkowski** interviews Margaret about her spiritual and educational journey.

[Read more.](#)

REVIEWS



Frank Buchman and the Germans

Frank Buchman, initiator of Moral Re-Armament, was an American with distant Swiss-German roots. Buchman had a deep love for Germany. The period covered here, roughly 1920-1950, begins with a defeated Germany suffering economic collapse and widespread hardship following World War I. It covers the 12 years of Nazi power, which promised rebirth but brought tyranny, genocide and national destruction. It ends as a democratic Federal Republic and a reconciled Western Europe are about to take shape.

Peter Thwaites translated the book from the original German to English. [Read more.](#)

GET INVOLVED

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 to get to know more about IofC. Volunteers also have access to the IofCA mentoring program, with experienced people who have worked for many years in peace and trust-building initiatives all around the world. (See more about our mentoring approach here: <http://au.iofc.org/mentoring>.)



There are many areas you can volunteer in, depending on your skills sets and where we have a need. These include roles in administration, finance, hospitality, event management and communications. If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Co-ordinator kirsty.argento@iofc.org with an introduction about yourself, your motivation, and your area of interest.

Your donation allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain its trust 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.



Donate Now

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