

# NEWSBRIEFS

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June 2022 Issue 313

## *Our Journey of Change Continues*

Our nation is undergoing significant change, most visible by the recent election leading to a change in government and a new Prime Minister. It is interesting to reflect that what we are seeing is a call to action; a nation seeking change; a movement in the people. All of which is captured in the heart and spirit of the movement of IofC.

When our new Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong, both spoke on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, again, we were witnessing a sense of change as they articulated a building momentum in Australia for Constitutional recognition of First Nations peoples. At IofCA, our own momentum is building through our Truth Telling and Deep Listening sessions led by Uncle Shane and Sarah Naarden, and our broader Trustbuilding work, which has brought about personal transformation from many of the participants.

My own personal journey took a dive into deep listening (and a lot of talking in a seven-hour car trip with four women!) in travelling with an IofCA team, led by Graeme and James Cordiner, to the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial in June. We experienced personally and collectively the healing power of forgiveness and human energy when people come together with such positive and pure intent. When a white butterfly alighted on our shared booklet, peering up at us, during the healing ceremony, Wendy Oughton and I felt moved by a sign brought to us by something so small and fragile, yet capable of the dance of flight. It felt inexplicably relevant to all that was occurring around us.

Barbara Lawler tells us, 'Australia has a great gift to heal the world. We are called to be peace-makers.'

Our new (born from 'old') Diversity and Inclusion - Discover the Other program, led by Mike Lowe, is bringing us deeply into the realms of inclusion and social diversity; Engaging Constructively in Challenging Conversations, led by Shoshana Faire, co-facilitated with Mike Lowe, is a tool to understand each other's perspectives; we journeyed with Getrude Matshe on her powerful personal story of change; CoPA

facilitators led healing story-sharing with MECA; whilst the Awakening our Nation event took us on a journey of commitment, courage and tenacity from our three speakers, Tania Rossi, John Bond and Graeme Cordiner.

It seems, at IofCA, we are 'Awakening the conscience of Australia.'

Let's continue this journey of change together as a united team, helping others hear about what we have to offer. In other words, share this Newsbrief widely.

Cheery blessings,

**Marg Hepworth**  
Executive Officer

## Our Work

### Turruk

*Turruk: Trustbuilding through deep listening and truth telling cultural intelligence workshops took place over six weeks in April - June 2022 with nearly 50 participants per session.*

'Confronting, inspiring, humbling and challenging, I came with an open heart and mind not knowing what to expect and the Turruk journey has ignited so many ideas beyond expectations' - *Turruk participant*

[Learn more](#) and watch this space for details of the next series of workshops.



### Uncle Shane Charles' Didgeridoo Healing



Monthly sessions of didgeridoo healing with Uncle Shane and Dylan Charles left guests mesmerised, deeply relaxed, connected and revering the healing power of letting go.

**Next session: Tuesday 9 August 7 - 8.30 pm**

Be prepared to step into the art of deep listening with Uncle Shane Charles' storytelling and take the sensory journey of the Didgeridoo Sound Healing.

### Creators of Peace - Inspiring Possibilities

An evening of community, connection and conversation took place at Armagh on Wednesday 8 June. The first session of the Creators of



Peace 'Inspiring Possibilities' series brought together a diverse group of participants to hear Getrude Matshe, a vibrant Zimbabwean speaker, author, and artist talk about her journey of empowering positive change through her personal decisions.

The session was powerful, inspiring and deeply moving' - *Participant*



## Awakening Our Nation



*Awakening Our Nation* held on Wednesday 29 June brought forth transformative stories of First Nations healing and forgiveness by three evocative and empathetic speakers: Tania Rossi, John Bond and Graeme Cordiner.

Each speaker expressed insights around their incremental steps from personal change to societal change. Moments of serendipity and grace were punctuated with moments of unconscious guilt. Moments of surprise were expressed with the possibility of healing societal incoherences across the world. - *Sarah Naarden*

A recording of the evening proceedings is available [here](#)

## Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Pilgrimage

Around four hundred people gathered for the commemoration of the massacre this year at Myall Creek. James Wilson Smith was the guest speaker, graphically re-imagining for us the events of that day on June 10, 1838. Once again descendants of those who carried out the massacre came forward when Aunty Sue Blacklock asked if there were any, and then embraced them. This year there was also a call for an apology for the massacres of the Frontier Wars. Schools came from as far as Queensland and Canberra.

On the Saturday there was a packed-out concert in Bingara featuring Uncle Roger Knox and family, and a school band. On the Friday night James spoke at the Oorala centre in UNE Armidale.



- Graeme Coordinator ([www.myallcreek.org](http://www.myallcreek.org))

## Nelson Mandela Youth Summit



An inspirational day at Victorian Parliament, at the Nelson Mandela Youth Summit 2022 on Monday 18 August 2022, attended by IofCA staff, and Executive Officer Marg Hepworth, who has been one of the key organisers for the past five years.

Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, shared his poignant thoughts on leadership with 80 young Australians. Ambassador Myroshnychenko spoke of leadership and resilience derived from a source of optimism. He encouraged the young participants to learn skills of communication and how to work together in unity. He spoke of enormous courage and his belief in people, and that humanity will prevail.

A wonderful opportunity to hear the voices of youth with their hopes for the future.

*Image: Marg Hepworth IofCA (R) with Ambassador Vasyl Myroshnychenko (C) and Rashidi Sumaili, Nelson Mandela Foundation*

## Close to the Bone – a story of truth-telling and reconciliation

**Mike Brown** writes:

In September 1852, in the Flinders Ranges, the mutilated body of 16-year-old shepherd James Brown was found. He was my great-great-uncle, one of three Brown brothers who drove 3000 sheep from Willunga and settled 85 square miles of virgin country up around Quorn.



*Image: Still from documentary featuring Mike Brown (L) with Ken McKenzie*

*Close to the Bone*, a 30-minute documentary has been made in association with the SA Museum, and is being broadcast on the ABC TV program, *Compass*, over three Sundays, as shown below. It tells how a reprisal party of 17 men pursued a flock of stolen sheep and killed a disputed number of Aboriginal people. For some years I have been tracing this story, meeting descendants of those involved in the conflict, trying to get to the truth of what happened... and what these tragic incidents are saying to us today. It has been a painful and rewarding journey.

In a spirit of truth-telling and reconciliation, we invite you to watch one of these programs – and would welcome your insights and responses.

- **Sunday 24 July, 7:30pm on ABC Plus – Channel 22**
- **Sunday 31 July, 6:30pm on the main ABC Channel 2 (which is also Channel 21)**
- **Sunday 7 August, 11:00am on ABC Channel 2 (Which is also Channel 21)**



# Upcoming Events



We are pleased to Invite you to our  
Monthly Zoom Speaker Series



An Afternoon in Conversation with  
**Ron Lawler**

Past Treasurer and Board member, IoC International and IoC Australia  
Management Committee Member, Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural & Development Centre Inc.  
Chairperson, IoC International Steering Group, Award winning International Trustbuilding  
Program

Ron will share his extraordinary journey establishing a 'Regional' First Nations  
Voice, and the opportunity created for a better future for Koori/First Nations boys  
in the Binala Billie region of NSW: The TIRKANDI INABURRA Cultural &  
Development Centre Inc., a tried, tested and proven alternative pathway  
to the 'in'justice system.

When: SATURDAY, 6 AUGUST 2022  
Time: 3.25pm for a 3.30pm sharp start

[Register here for Zoom link](#)



**Creators of Peace - Online Speaker Series**  
**Saturday 6 August 3.30 PM**  
[Register here](#)



## CREATING SPACE

A community gathering  
each month to deepen  
our own spiritual  
practice and renew our  
sense of purpose in the  
world.

**Next Session: Monday 1 August 7.30 - 8.30 pm**  
[Register here](#) for Zoom link



**Soul Care: A Weekly Gathering**

**Venue: Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak**  
**Free event. Register here**  
**Next session: Thursday 25 August 7 - 8 PM**  
[Book a spot](#)

**Initiatives of Change Australia**

*Life*  
**MATTERS**

ARE YOU READY  
To be the change you  
want to see around you?

WOULD YOU LIKE  
To be part of a network  
for global change?

*A 3 Day Workshop*

Chittick Lodge Conference Centre,  
21 Bridges Road, Gerringong  
NSW 2534

DATE & TIME: Friday 2 September 4 pm to Sunday 4 September 4 pm  
COST: \$300 covers program, accommodation and meals,  
\$280 Early Bird price (until 10 July)

Apply here:  
<https://au.iocf.org/application-life-matters-workshop>

CONTACT US  
[rob.wood@iocf.org](mailto:rob.wood@iocf.org)

**Life Matters: NSW Workshop**

**Friday 2 September 4 pm - Sunday 4  
September 4 pm**

[Read more and apply here](#)

Information sessions: 30 July & 1 August

Please [register here](#)

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