



PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC. MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY

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WELLBEING SYMPOSIUM: A COMMUNITY UNITED FOR MENTAL HEALTH



On Thursday, 27 March, the Pure Land Learning College Association Inc., in collaboration with Momentum Mental Health and with generous support from the Bupa Foundation, hosted a dynamic and enriching Wellbeing Symposium at St Patrick's Conference Centre in Toowoomba.

This full-day event brought together thirteen inspiring speakers from universities, general practice, community organisations and clinical psychology. Each shared practical insights and evidence-based strategies aimed at enhancing mental, physical and social wellbeing.

Adding to the energy of the day, over twenty-five engaging stalls showcased a wide range of services, initiatives and community groups. Attendees had the opportunity to explore diverse offerings, connect with local organisations and access valuable information and resources.

The symposium highlighted the power of collective action, showcasing how different sectors can work together to build a healthier, more connected community. With compassionate leaders, practitioners and community members in the room, the atmosphere was one of hope, collaboration, and shared purpose.



Toowoomba is fortunate to be home to many organisations committed to positive change. This gathering was a reminder of the strength found in unity—and of our shared goal: to improve mental health and wellbeing across our community.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Wellbeing Symposium. Your presence and participation helped make it a truly successful and inspiring day. Special thanks to Shirley-Anne and the team from Momentum for bringing this symposium to the community.



VISIT FROM MR DEEPAK OF HEARTFULNESS INDIA

We were honoured to welcome Mr Deepak, a senior representative from Heartfulness India, during his visit to Toowoomba on Saturday, 12 April.

Although it was a brief and informal visit, it offered a wonderful opportunity for connection and exchange between Heartfulness and local community members. The day began with a scenic drive from Brisbane via Mt Coot-tha Lookout, followed by a meet-and-greet gathering at Picnic Point, where Mr Deepak was warmly received by representatives from Heartfulness Australia and the Pure Land Learning College Association.



A shared lunch at Pure Land provided space for informal conversations and deeper connections, reflecting the spirit of hospitality and friendship that underpins our community efforts. In the afternoon, guests had the opportunity to visit the Gummingurru Cultural Precinct, gaining insights into the area's rich Indigenous heritage. Though modest in scale, this visit symbolised the ongoing collaboration and goodwill between like-minded organisations striving for peace, mindfulness, and community wellbeing—across cultures and continents.

TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION'S VISIT TO PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE



On 30 April, the Pure Land Learning College Association had the pleasure of welcoming the Acting CEO and staff from the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. Our longstanding partnership with the Foundation dates back to 2002, and together we have worked closely on the Medical Research Program. The Foundation continues to make remarkable strides in advancing health research, and we commend their dedicated team for the significant impact they've had on medical science and the wellbeing of the Toowoomba community and beyond. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Foundation for their visit and look forward to continuing our meaningful partnership.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR PEACE AMBASSADOR IN OUR COMMUNITY: MRS. SARWAN NARAYAN

Mrs. Sarwan Narayan, of Indian heritage, was born and raised in Fiji and has called Australia home since 1992. She moved to Toowoomba in 1995 and currently works as a dedicated personal carer in a local nursing home.

Sarwan joined the Pure Land Learning College Association in November 2011 and has since been actively involved in its community service and interfaith initiatives. Guided by the philosophy of the late Venerable Master Chin Kung, she embraces his legacy of 'developing peace and harmony through mutual understanding between faiths and cultures'. She has quietly yet consistently promoted this vision within the Toowoomba community, helping to build bridges of respect and friendship across religious traditions.



Sarwan is a founding member of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG), established in 2016, which grew out of early gatherings where people from diverse religious traditions—including the Bahá'í Faith, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Sikhism, Quakerism and Judaism—came together to share their beliefs and practices. Alongside her husband, Sarwan has played an active role in this group, helping to further Master Chin Kung's vision of unity through interfaith collaboration.

Her commitment to interfaith understanding has taken her to peace conferences around the world, including in Thailand, Taiwan, Wales, France, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.



Sarwan is also a valued contributor to the Voices of Faith radio program, an initiative of the TIWG. She has delivered around eighty talks from a Hindu perspective, sharing insights on a wide range of topics. Her clarity and sincerity have touched many listeners, who have expressed appreciation for her thoughtful and concise presentations.

Through her work and quiet leadership, Sarwan continues to inspire others in her faith community and beyond to come together, learn from one another and build a more harmonious society.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE 2025 – SHOWCASING THE TOOWOOMBA MODEL

We're excited to announce the International Peace Conference, to be held on Saturday, 30 August 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral Centre, Toowoomba, under the theme **'Being a City of Peace'**.

Hosted by the Pure Land Learning College Association Inc. in partnership with local and international organisations, the event will bring together faith leaders, scholars and peacebuilders to explore pathways to peace in a multicultural society.

The day begins with a tree planting ceremony at Picnic Point, symbolising our shared commitment to peace. The main conference will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, cultural performances and interactive sessions. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

The highlight will be the presentation of the International City of Peace award to our city, Toowoomba by Mr. J. Frederick Arment, Chair of International Cities of Peace from Dayton, Ohio, USA. It is due to the collective efforts and hard work of our community organisations that Toowoomba is recognised as a city of peace. Mayor Geoff McDonald will also deliver an address during the opening session.

On the eve of the conference, Friday, 29 August, the Mayor will host a Civic Welcome at the TRC Annex, including a cultural performance for Mr J. Frederick Arment and our community organisations.

Join us as we celebrate peace and strengthen our commitment to a more harmonious world, starting right here in Toowoomba.