



July-August 2025, Issue 132

# TOOWOOMBA DELEGATION'S PEACE AND HARMONY EXCHANGE IN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA













On 29 June, the Toowoomba delegation travelled to Singapore and Malaysia to promote peace, harmony and community through cultural and learning experience.

A highlight was the Kuching International Roundtable Forum on 4 July at the University of Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), where global peace leaders shared ideas for building compassionate cities. The City of Kuching has expressed great interest to adopt the Toowoomba model in promoting social cohesion and religious harmony and making it a city of peace and harmony.

We were honoured to be given an hour audience with their Deputy Premier Sarawak The Honourable Datuk Amar Dr. Sim Kui Hian. It was a very enriching and inspiring meeting. He encouraged the working team in Kuching to work hard towards this agenda though it would be a very challenging one.

Our team showcased Toowoomba's initiatives in social cohesion and multicultural harmony and joined panel discussions led by Dr Uma Kumar and Professor Phyllis Chew to shape Kuching's peace roadmap. The visit strengthened our shared commitment to unity across cultures and global partnerships for peace.

### VISIT TO ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH OPEN DAY

On 2 August, Venerable Wuzhuang, Venerable Wu Chin and our youth from the Pure Land Learning College Association were delighted to attend the Open Day at St James' Anglican Church, Toowoomba. They explored the 155-year-old church's stunning stained glass, intricate timberwork, magnificent pipe organ, choir and Dinka drums. It was also a pleasure to meet Mayor Geoff McDonald and capture a memorable group photo.











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# MAYORAL RECEPTION CELEBRATES TOOWOOMBA AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY OF PEACE

On 29 August, we were honoured to attend the Mayoral Reception hosted by Mayor Geoff McDonald at The Annex, Toowoomba Regional Council. The evening featured inspiring messages from Dr Uma Kumar, Mayor Geoff McDonald and Mr Frederick Arment, Chair of the International Cities of Peace Board.

Guests enjoyed cultural performances, including Indian dance, guitar and Chinese Tai Chi, celebrating Toowoomba's journey as an International City of Peace and the city's unity and diversity.

















# INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES EXPLORE PEACE AND HARMONY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

On 28 and 29 August, our international delegates had the pleasure of meeting Professor Jason Bainbridge, Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Southern Queensland, and Professor Karen Nelson, Vice Chancellor of UniSQ.

The discussions focused on a potential collaboration between Singapore universities and UniSQ on a research project showcasing Toowoomba as a model of peace and harmony.

Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting initiative!













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## **TOOWOOMBA PEACE CONFERENCE 2025** CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE



On 30 August, we were delighted to gather with the community for this year's Peace Conference, celebrating Toowoomba's recognition as an International City of Peace. The day was filled with inspiration, learning and heartfelt connection.







#### Highlights included:

- Inspiring talks from Venerable Wu Shin, Mayor Geoff McDonald and Mr J Frederick Arment, Board Chair of International Cities of Peace
- Panel discussions and dialogue circles featuring speakers from diverse faiths, cultures and organisations, offering practical pathways for peace and harmony

The day concluded with reflections, group presentations and a heartfelt closing by Evelyn Ray.

A special thank you to all stalls, volunteers and supporters whose energy and dedication made the conference truly memorable. Together, we celebrated Toowoomba as a shining model of peace, unity and cultural harmony.

























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### TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT LAKE ANNAND PARK

On 30 August 2025, the community gathered at Lake Annand Park to celebrate Toowoomba's designation as an International City of Peace. Mayor Geoff McDonald, Dr Uma Kumar (Chair, Peace Committee), Venerable Wu Quan from the Pure Land Learning College Association, Shannon Bauwens – Tribal Custodian, and Mr. Frederick Arment – Chair, International Cities of Peace Board, joined residents to plant a tree and unveil a commemorative plaque.







## 2025 TYP.G YOUTH SYMPOSIUM - EQUILIBRIUM

Get ready for an exciting day of learning, discussion and connection at the TYP.G Youth Symposium on 15 November at the St Micah Centre, South Toowoomba!

This year's theme, Equilibrium, will explore the balance between digital life, friendships and wellbeing through engaging sessions such as:

- Interactive Snakes and Ladders
- Digital Detox Challenge: Truths, Lies and Balance
- Friendships in a Digital Age? Friendzone SG

The symposium is free to attend! Register via the QR code or visit www.typg.org.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn and explore how we can find balance in today's fast-paced world.

# ABRAHAMIC FAITHS GATHERING - 'RELIGIOUS FREEDOM'

Friendzone SG

Powember

November

November

15

Join us for an insightful evening as representatives from different faiths share their perspectives on 'Religious Freedom':

### **Guest Speakers:**

- Mohammad Aminul Islam Imam, Garden City Mosque
- Ariel Heber President, Queensland Jewish Community Services
- Fr Nandana Saparamadu Parish Priest, St Matthew's Catholic Church Enquiries: Eric 0427 639 843 | John 4666 3225

📅 Tuesday, 4 November 2025

St Anthony's Community Centre, 3 Memory Street, Harristown QLD

Hosted by Garden City Mosque | Organised by Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together