

September-October 2025, Issue 133

TOOWOOMBA INTERFAITH WORKING GROUP IN THE 2025 TOOWOOMBA CARNIVAL PARADE



A big thank you to everyone from the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) who joined the 2025 Toowoomba Carnival Parade—braving the weather with big smiles!

The parade was a wonderful opportunity for the TIWG to connect with the local community and raise awareness of our work promoting peace, understanding and harmony. We are also grateful to all the behind-the-scenes supporters who made our participation possible—and yes, the buggy was simply cute!

WELLBEING SYMPOSIUM 2025

On 10 October, jointly organised by the Pure Land Learning College Association (PLLCA) and Momentum Mental Health, the 2025 Wellbeing Symposium was a wonderful day of connection, resilience and shared stories. The event brought together people from all walks of life to explore what wellbeing truly means and how we can stay positive through life's ups and downs.

Keynote speaker Zach Nightingale—a trauma survivor and motivational speaker—shared a powerful and heartfelt story of resilience and hope. Other inspiring speakers included Jo Capp, Alison Kennedy, Rachael Carter, Lee Faulkner, Lizzie Adams, Allie Goldman and many others, each offering unique insights and encouragement.

Participants also enjoyed interactive workshops, community stalls, meditation sessions and plenty of tea and good conversation along the way. It was an uplifting and memorable day filled with learning, connection and inspiration.



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP AND IMPACT

On 14 October, the PLLCA joined the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation (THF) to celebrate twenty-four years of partnership and the ongoing success of the PLLCA-THF Research Grant Program.

Over the years, this collaboration has supported vital health research across a wide range of disciplines—improving patient care, fostering innovation and strengthening the medical research community both locally and beyond.

The celebration also recognised the 2025 Research Grant recipients, including both emerging and experienced researchers whose dedication and creativity continue to advance healthcare outcomes. Guests heard inspiring reflections from past grant recipients, who shared their research journeys and the positive impact of their work.

We are deeply grateful for our long and meaningful partnership with the THF and for our shared commitment to the wellbeing of the community. Together, we continue to nurture compassion, collaboration and knowledge for the benefit of all.



SPOTLIGHT: FATEMEH HASSANI – SECRETARY, TOOWOOMBA INTERFAITH WORKING GROUP



FatemeH Hassani is in her final year of Biomedical Science studies and has been an active member of the PLLCA since 2022. She currently serves as Secretary of the TIWG, working closely with the Chair to prepare agendas, take minutes and coordinate with members on interfaith initiatives.



FatemeH is a dedicated and thoughtful individual with a pleasant and approachable personality. Her willingness to learn has helped her develop strong cultural awareness, strengthen her interpersonal skills and deepen her commitment to community engagement. These experiences have had a meaningful impact on her academic journey, personal growth and professional network.

Her work with TIWG has also taken her overseas, representing the community at international conferences and workshops in Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan. A collaborative team player, FatemeH is a valued asset to both TIWG and the wider community.

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INTRODUCING THE TOOWOOMBA YOUTH PEACE GROUP

The Toowoomba Youth Peace Group (TYP.G) brings together young people from Toowoomba's richly diverse cultural and faith communities. United by a shared passion for understanding and harmony, the TYP.G provides a welcoming space for youth to build bridges across cultures, learn from one another and work together for peace.

Through its activities and community engagements, members have the opportunity to share experiences, express their beliefs and connect with other like-minded young people. It is an inspiring platform that nurtures leadership, empathy and collaboration among the next generation of peacebuilders.



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, friendship 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'

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

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

Tuesday, 4 November 2025
5:45 pm, followed by a light dinner
St Anthony's Community Centre,
3 Memory Street, Harristown QLD