

BONDI MEMORIAL



On 22 January, members of the Toowoomba community gathered in a spirit of unity and compassion, standing together in solidarity with all those affected by violence and loss. It was a time of shared mourning—for the victims, for their families and friends, and for all who continue to carry the deep and enduring pain of grief.

As a multi-faith gathering, we also came together in prayer and reflection for the many people impacted by ongoing conflicts around the world, with special concern for children, who so often bear the greatest burden of suffering. In the presence of diverse faiths and cultures, we were reminded of our shared humanity and our collective responsibility to care for one another.

We were honoured to be joined by Cr Geoff McDonald, the Mayor of Toowoomba, whose words of comfort and encouragement reinforced the importance of unity, compassion, and mutual respect. The Mayor reminded us that by standing together—across faiths, cultures, and backgrounds—we strengthen our community and contribute to making Toowoomba, and Australia as a whole, a safer and more inclusive place for all.

The Multi-faith Multicultural Centre of Toowoomba extends its sincere thanks to everyone who attended, supported and helped organise this meaningful gathering. Your presence and contributions affirmed the power of community in times of sorrow and the hope that comes from standing together

TOOWOOMBA INTERFAITH WORKING GROUP BEGINS A NEW YEAR OF DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION

The Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) reconvened for its first meeting of the year on 4 February, marking its 101st gathering of representatives from 22 different faith traditions and cultural backgrounds. The TIWG was established in 2016 with the mission of nourishing understanding and cooperation among diverse religions and beliefs, promoting awareness of different faith traditions, and modelling respect, compassion and goodwill across our community—all with the aim of contributing to peace and harmony in the Toowoomba region.





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

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



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At this meeting, members engaged in thoughtful discussion and planning around several important initiatives for 2026. A major focus was the upcoming International Peace conference scheduled for 29 August—a key event on the TIWG’s calendar that aligns with Toowoomba’s ongoing journey as an International City of Peace, a designation our city proudly received in 2025 in recognition of its community-led commitment to inclusion and intercultural understanding.

The group also explored the theme of cultural differences, sharing insights into how deepening mutual understanding strengthens relationships across faiths and cultures in our diverse community. TIWG members reflected on the value of listening, learning and respectful dialogue as foundations for peacebuilding and social cohesion.

In addition, progress was reviewed on the group’s interfaith podcast project, which aims to amplify diverse voices, share stories of lived experience, and promote meaningful conversations about faith, culture and unity. This project is a wonderful example of how interfaith collaboration can foster connection, education and empathy beyond traditional meetings.

As the TIWG continues its important work this year, we give thanks to all members and supporters who contribute their time, energy and wisdom to building a more understanding and peaceful Toowoomba.



MORETON BAY GOODWILL COMMITTEE—FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR

The Moreton Bay Goodwill Committee has commenced the year with its first meeting, reaffirming its shared commitment to fostering friendship, dialogue and cooperation among faith communities in the region. It was encouraging to see members reconnect, share updates and plan meaningful initiatives for the months ahead.

One significant upcoming event is a symposium hosted by The Abbey St Michael Caboolture on Saturday, 11 April 2026, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at their premises. The theme of the symposium is: “Rediscovering the Abrahamic Faith Family: Do Good, Seek Peace, and Resist Evil.”

This gathering promises to offer a valuable opportunity for learning, dialogue and deeper understanding among the Abrahamic faith traditions, strengthening bonds of goodwill and shared purpose within our wider community.



WORLD RELIGION DAY CELEBRATED IN TOOWOOMBA

On the third Sunday of January, the Bahá'í community in Toowoomba joyfully marked World Religion Day, celebrating the fundamental oneness of all religions and the shared spiritual foundations of humanity. The gathering provided an opportunity for reflection, fellowship and meaningful conversations about unity, peace and harmony among diverse faith traditions.

World Religion Day serves as a reminder that, despite differences in practice and expression, the world's religions share common values of love, justice and compassion —principles that continue to strengthen our Toowoomba community.



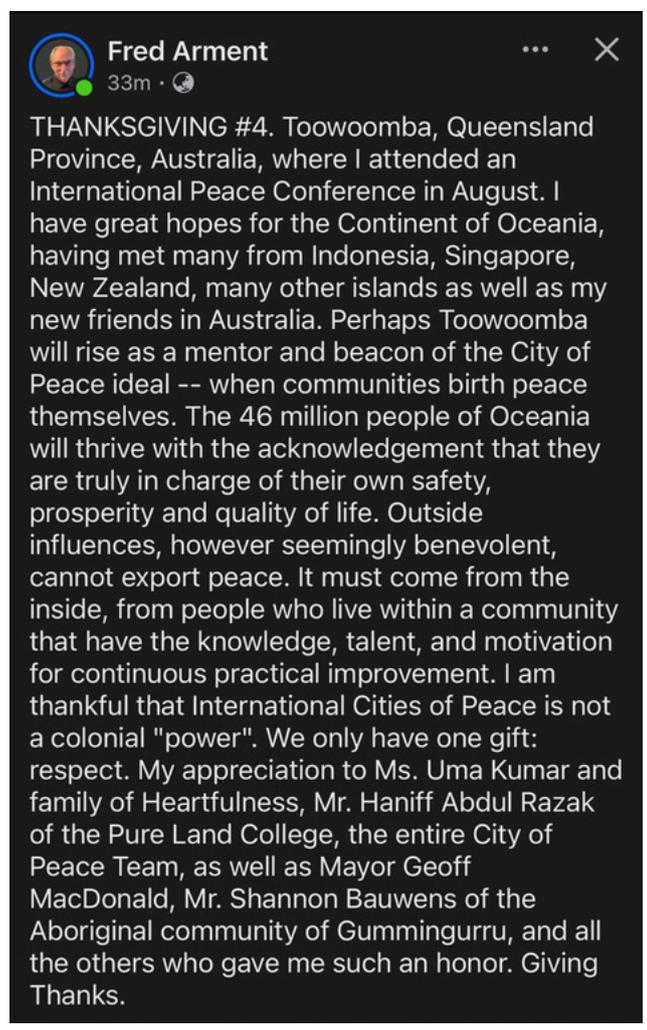
MR FREDERICK ARMENT ON TOOWOOMBA

We were deeply encouraged by Frederick Arment's recent reflections following his visit to Toowoomba for the International Peace Conference.

In his heartfelt message, Mr Arment, Board Chairman of the International Cities of Peace, expressed his hope that Toowoomba will continue to rise as a mentor and beacon of the City of Peace ideal—demonstrating that genuine and lasting peace is born within communities themselves. His words affirm a powerful truth that peace cannot simply be imported or imposed. It must grow from within and be nurtured by respect, understanding and the collective goodwill of local people.

We are grateful for his acknowledgment of the many individuals and community leaders who contribute to this shared vision, and for his encouragement to continue strengthening peace across Oceania and beyond.

May we continue working together so that Toowoomba shines as a living example of unity, respect and community-led peacebuilding.



International Peace Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

The Multi-faith Multicultural Centre of Toowoomba is pleased to announce our upcoming International Peace Conference, to be held on 29 August. This important event will bring together voices from across faiths, cultures and communities to reflect, share and work collectively towards peace, understanding and social harmony. Further details will be shared in the coming months. In the meantime, we warmly invite your input.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for speakers for our 29 August International Peace Conference, please drop us a note at mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com. Thank you.