

Believing Women for a Culture of Peace News & Events Updates – 31 July 2013

NEWS UPDATES

For Reflection

A man who recently engaged in a non-violent protest against “war games” in central Queensland made the following statement about his action: "For the benefit of all beings, large and small, near and far, seen and unseen, born and yet to be born, I choose to be a peacemaker in this time of perpetual war."

Event with All Hallows students

All those who attended the event on Sunday 21st July, when three Grade 11 students from All Hallows School presented their research on challenges to Muslim’s living in Australia, found it one of our best dialogue events ever. After each student presented her paper, two BWCP Muslim members, Azima Omar and Fenti Forsyth, responded from their personal experience. An animated open dialogue session followed. In a couple of week’s time, a student volunteer will be starting work to keep our website updated, and photos of the event will be posted there.

Multi-Faith Centre

The Multi-Faith Centre at Griffith University Nathan Campus has a new Reading & Reflection (R&R) Room. “Filled with comfortable chairs in quiet nooks and overlooking the serene Toohey Forest, this is a great spot to get away from your many distractions for a few minutes each day and lose yourself in the many resources on offer.” At the moment, it is featuring a student photographic exhibition: 'Bangladesh: Stories of a young nation'. These beautiful, moving photos are part of a collaborative project between Griffith University students and their counterparts in Bangladesh.

Australian South Sea Islanders

14th August this year marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first South Sea Islanders in Queensland, many of whom were brought against their will and used as virtual slave labour. Their descendants, and visitors from their Pacific Island countries of origin, have organised a range of events to commemorate the occasion. If you would like more information about the events go to www.assis.org.au or the Multicultural Affairs website <http://www.datsima.qld.gov.au/multicultural/community/australian-south-sea-islanders/activities-and-events>

Date changes

The last newsletter had the incorrect date for the Indonesian Eid celebration. The correct date is Sunday 18th (not 25th) August. The venue is still to be determined. Another change also needs to be made to our annual BWCP retreat. After the last newsletter, we were alerted to the fact that Sunday 1 September is Father’s Day. Our retreat this year will now be just a Saturday – instead of a weekend – event. See details below.

EVENTS UPDATE

Sunday 25 August

BWCP Committee member Carole Powell will share and reflect on her experience as a member of a **Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine-Israel**. All members, friends and other interested women welcome. Carole’s presentation will be followed by a dialogue and afternoon tea.

Venue & time: Justice Place, 5 Abingdon St, Woolloongabba, 2 – 4pm.

Saturday 31 August

The leaders of this year’s **BWCP annual retreat** will be two members of a group who practice **Dances of Universal Peace**, involving movement and reflection based on prayers of different faith traditions. Members or contacts with girls or small children are welcome to

bring them. The cost will be a flat rate of \$10 per person. We will have a shared picnic lunch, and tea and coffee will be provided. A separate notice will be sent out to invite registration for the retreat and provide additional information.

Venue & time: Mercy Centre, 371 Simpsons Rd, Bardon, 10am – 4pm.

Saturday 21 September

As part of this year's International Day of Peace commemorations, the winner's of **BWCP's "Portraits of Peace" photographic competition** will be announced. The plan is to display the entries in two venues: at the Multi-Faith Centre and at St John's Cathedral, in conjunction with the IDP event there (see details below).

Venues & times: To be confirmed.

Sunday 20 October

BWCP Annual General Meeting, with a special guest speaker.

Venue & time: Justice Place, 5 Abingdon St, Woolloongabba, 1.30 – 4.00pm.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Friday 16 August

A seminar on "**Women, Peace and Security in 2013: Australia's Role at Home and Abroad**". The key presenters will be federal Senator Claire Moore, Sonya Caton, Human Rights Lawyer; Faiza El-Higzi, Director of Romero Centre, and Dr Melissa Curley, UQ School of Political Science & International Studies. Free event. Limited space, RSVP essential: email n.vary@griffith.edu.au or phone 3735 5322. Contact Wendy if you would like an electronic copy of the poster for the event.

Venue & time: Griffith University Qld College of Art, Lecture Theatre room S05.2.04, South Bank, 6 – 7.30pm.

Saturday 18 August

The 9th annual Brisbane **Eidfest**, celebrating Muslim cultures, is at a new location, Rocklea Showgrounds, with more space for stalls, activities and parking. This year Eidfest will introduce the first ever Muslim Writers Festival, with a number of high profile authors already confirmed to attend. There will be panel discussions across the day as well as workshops for aspiring writers and bloggers. For anyone interested in a stall at Eidfest, to help at Eidfest or for any further information you can email info@eidfest.com.au or check the website and Facebook page. For further information contact Yasmin Khan on 0419 025 510. Entry fee \$5. Contact Wendy if you would like an electronic copy of the poster for the event.

Venue & time: Rocklea Showgrounds, Goburra St, Rocklea, from 10am till late.

Sunday 18 August

The **Indonesian community of Brisbane celebrates Eid**. All BWCP members, contacts and friends welcome. This celebration includes wonderful food and cultural displays.

Venue & time: Yet to be announced.

Wednesday 28 August

In the lead up to the federal election, the Ethnic Communities Council of Qld (ECCQ) has organised a debate on "**Multiculturalism+Political Leadership=The Lucky Country**", to enable the public to understand where the political parties stand on issues such as access and equity, cultural diversity, social inclusion and immigration. Panel members include: Teresa Gambaro, MP from the LNP; Senator Claire Moore from the Labor Party; Rachael Jacobs from The Greens and Connie Cicchini from the Katter's Australian Party. Questions for the panel can be sent in advance to administration@eccq.com.au. Drinks and canapés will be served. Cost per person \$20. Registrations close 20 August. To register go to <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=9888>

Venue & time: Riverside Receptions, 50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm, 5.30 – 7.30pm.

Saturday 21 September

Commemorating the United Nations **International Day of Peace**, this year's Brisbane Peace Lecture will be delivered by the Hon Michael Kirby AC, CMG. Former High Court Judge 1996-2009, and leading UN Human Rights Council three-member team investigating human rights abuse in North Korea. The Peace Lecture will enable Brisbane citizens to join with people all over the world to support the struggle for justice and promote peace. The program will include the Combined Union Choir and the WILPF Performers for Peace. All welcome & supper provided. **Limited numbers, RSVP essential.** Phone 3254 1096 or email: unaaqld@optusnet.com.au.

Venue & time: St John's Cathedral, 373 Ann St, Brisbane, from 4.00pm.

Wednesday 30 & Thursday 31 October

International Religion Journalism Symposium, co-sponsored by the Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre and the International Association of Religion Journalists. Join journalists, faith leaders, and opinion makers from around the world for two days of discussion about the role of religion in the media. It will include such issues as religious freedom, human rights, and inter-religious relations, as well as the reporting and analysis of religion as it relates to the political and social realities of specific regions, religions and issues. For more information on the speakers and program or to register phone Ricky 3735 7052 or go to <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/international-symposium-on-religion-journalism>.

Venue: Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

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