



Initiatives of Change
Australia

newsbriefs

Building trust across the world's divides

October 2020 NO. 307

Learning from COVID-19

As we welcome the easing of movement restrictions in Melbourne, we also take time to ponder what changes we will keep from our time in lockdown.

We are continuing to develop our approach to reconciliation and Treaty with Australia's First Nations. Many in the IofC Australia network have worked actively on these issues, and we are now considering how we shape our work in this area as an organisation, with the help of our First Nations friends.

Personal stories lately have featured the contributions people involved with Initiatives of Change have made in very different arenas—community development in India and South Sudan, the role of women as peacebuilders, and justice for Indigenous Australians.

One thing that seems certain to continue as we move (hopefully) into a post-COVID environment, is greater commitment to enabling online participation in events. If you haven't yet made it to one of our monthly 'Creating Space' meetings, do drop in—they are online and are open to everyone. Creating Space is likely to continue in a hybrid format even after Melbourne fully reopens. Read more about this and other opportunities below!

Newsbriefs is the bi-monthly newsletter of Initiatives of Change in Australia—part of a worldwide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds who share a vision for a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

NEWS

Seasonal shift: A changing of the guard at IofC Australia

At the 2020 AGM, long-serving board member Andrew Lancaster did not seek re-election to the board. On the operations side, Executive Officer Athalia Zwartz resigned from her role after six years of leading programs and administration. Both are still active in the IofC network. We warmly thank them for the contributions made while in their formal roles.

[Read more.](#)





IofC Australia Welcomes Three Young Members to the Board

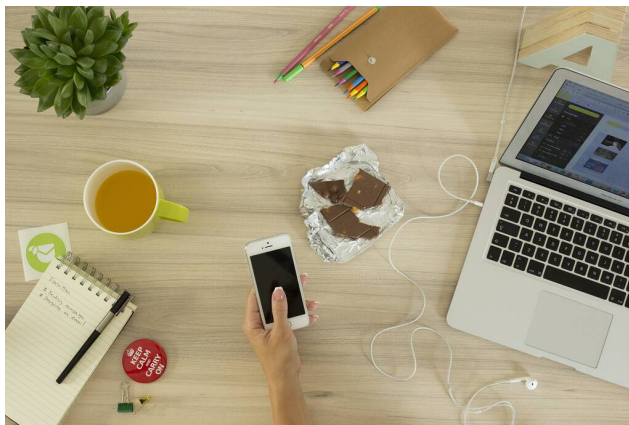
Three young members of IofCA, Sudarshan Suresh, Maurice Clisby and Amiel Nubaha were elected to the IofCA board at the AGM held in July. With expertise in facilitation, finance and youth empowerment, they bring new skills and perspectives to the board.

Read more about them [here](#).

Dandenong Calling: Creators of Peace South East on Zoom

In 2019, IofC Australia began partnering with the Southern Migrant Refugee Centre to conduct Creators of Peace Circles for women from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Melbourne's southeastern suburbs. The partnership is continuing, as with everything else this year, in a different format. The women have gathered online, shared their stories and gained strength from each other.

[Read more.](#)



Creating Space in our Busy Lives

Taking place on the first Monday of every month, Creating Space provides the opportunity for the IofC Australia community to pause, reflect and explore themes that are important to all of us. The event started as a physical gathering at Armagh, and has moved to the online space due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Learn more in this interview with facilitators Sudarshan Suresh and David Clisby [here](#).

PERSONAL STORIES

Rob Lancaster

What began in 2017 as a stimulating summer break in the hills of Panchgani, India, the home of IofC India, continued as a life-long commitment to the principles of IofC and a personal spiritual search for Rob Lancaster. Rob has continued his journey in community development and currently works in South Sudan.



With an openness to self-reflection, self-criticism and desire for change, Rob reflects on his life journey. [Read more.](#)

Jean Brown: Creator of Peace

Relinquishing the prospect of a medical career, Jean Brown heeded an inner prompting to become 'a different sort of doctor - a doctor of the human heart'. Jean is the author and designer of the Creators of Peace methodology and has been a full-time volunteer with lofC for over 50 years.

She spoke recently at a CoP gathering about her journey with lofC, the role of women as peace builders, and what it means to her to be a 'creator of peace.' [Read more.](#)



Mungathirra: Black Lives Matter in Australia

Wangkangurru man Mungathirra spoke at Australia's Black Lives Matter protests this year. A Stolen Generation survivor, he addressed the issues he and his family continue to face in relation to displacement and police treatment of Indigenous people in custody.

In this interview, he makes an urgent call for change: 'Mine is the voice of many crying for justice and land rights above oppression.' [Read more.](#)

EVENTS

Creating Space

Monday 2 November 2020: Creating Space is a monthly gathering at IofCA for focused conversations on a selected theme held online via Zoom.

Time: 7 to 9 pm

Topic: Contribution

Facilitators: Sudarshan Suresh and David Clisby

To register, please RSVP to Kylie at info.au@iofc.org.

You will then receive the link to connect via Zoom and some guidelines for the meeting.

Effective Leadership in Times of Crisis - Online Seminar Series

Workforce Diversity Consultancy in collaboration with Initiatives of Change bring you this series of online leadership seminars for leaders and emerging leaders. Details of the upcoming session are as follows:

Sunday 2 November 2020: Working with Diversity in Times of Crisis. Speakers: Kerrie Woodrow and Athalia Zwartz.

Sunday 8 November 2020: Tools for Creating Change in Times of Crisis. Speakers: Nigel Heywood and Sunny Mawiong

Time: 5 to 6 pm. Further details of the sessions and registration link available [here](#).

Creators of Peace

CoP Community of Practice (CoPCoP):

Sunday 1 November 2020 via Zoom.

A place for CoP participants to continue their journey as a peace creator and continue to reflect, learn, and grow together. Open to all past CoP participants.

Email [Shoshana](#) to receive the Zoom link for the session

Auburn Network:

Sunday 7 November 2020 via Zoom.

The network is offering a series of online interviews of women who will inform and inspire us on our journey as creators of peace. Speaker: Jane Mills

Time: 1.45 to 3:30 pm. RSVP to creatorsofpeacensw.au@iofc.org to obtain the Zoom link.

Hills Network:

Saturday 29 November 2020 via Zoom.

Time: 2 to 4 pm. RSVP to [Zohra Aly](#) to obtain the Zoom link.

See all events

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer with us

Initiatives of Change prides itself on being a big family, nationally and internationally, and there are several ways you can get involved. You are welcome to join our monthly meetings or participate in an upcoming program or event. These are continuing online, and are a great way to connect with our work!

There are a variety ways to volunteer, depending on your skills and where we have a need. If you are interested, please

contact our [Program Manager](#) to learn about current volunteer and internship opportunities at Initiatives of Change Australia. We'd love to hear from you!

DONATE



The COVID-19 crisis has meant that we are holding fewer face-to-face events, and our Australia-Pacific Centre 'Armagh' in Melbourne remains closed for now. This means there are fewer opportunities to pop a note into a donation box, but the need for funds to support our community engagement around Australia—online and in people's homes or community centres, where permitted—continues. Please know that your online contribution allows Initiatives of Change Australia to sustain our trust-building and peace-building work. We value your support so much at this time.

Every donation, large or small, has a **direct impact** on the individuals and communities with whom we work. You can donate through our page [here](#) or contact the [Treasurer](#) to send a cheque or make a bank transfer.

Donate Now



Newsbriefs is published by Initiatives of Change Australia (ABN 22 004 350 789)

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Contributions, news and comments are welcome, and can be sent to delia.paul@iofc.org.