

2013 World Interfaith Harmony Week Competition

The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne hosted a Morning Tea on Friday February 1st in Queens Hall, Parliament House Melbourne for 75 religious, spiritual and community leaders to celebrate the 2013 World Interfaith Harmony Week and to launch the 'Harmony' DVD.

Our partners this year were the Faith Communities Council of Victoria, the Islamic Council of Victoria, Religions for Peace Australia, the Shepparton Interfaith Network and the Australian Multicultural Foundation. Invited speakers were Mr Andrew Elsbury MLC, representing the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, Bishop John Bayton AM, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, and Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim, Abbess of The Seon (Zen) Centre.

The Talks given by Bishop John Bayton and the Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim are transcribed on The Interfaith Centre website: www.interfaithcentre.org.au

The DVD 'Harmony' was curated by Reverend Helen Summers, Director of The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne and Ms Nur Shkemi, Arts Officer for the Islamic Council of Victoria. The images of people, places and sacred artworks illustrate the Confucian concept of 'beautiful and dynamic interaction between different elements within a whole' as explained by HRH Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad to the General Assembly, at the United Nations in October 2010.

Mark Pedersen of Chailight Productions created the DVD, weaving the images together to convey the common values that bind us together as a community, as well as respecting the differences.

The DVD was randomly displayed throughout the World Interfaith Harmony Week on the Big Screen at Federation Square and on the Atrium Screen along with 15 scheduled screenings, spreading the messages of the World Interfaith Harmony Week to the wider community. Federation Square is Melbourne's Meeting Place and one of the State of Victoria's most popular tourist destinations. Many thousands of people

viewed the DVD ‘Harmony’ over eight days, February 1-8, 2013.

The DVD ‘Harmony’ together with information about the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week has been taken up by several websites and can still be seen both in Australia and around the world.

Publicity information to date:

The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne

www.interfaithcentre.org.au 1,100 page views.

Religions for Peace Australia

www.religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/news/437-celebrating-the-2013-world-interfaith-harmony-week.html 713 page views

Regional Interfaith Network

www.regionalinterfaith.org.au/component/content/article/97-highlights/961-world-interfaith-harmony-week-2013.html 648 page views. The Regional Interfaith Network connects with over 20 countries to cooperate for peace and harmony in the Asia-Pacific region.

Yoga in Daily Life

www.yogaindailylife.org no. of page views unknown, but the website connects with over 20 countries which are listed on the front page of the Yoga in Daily Life website.

Faith Communities Council of Victoria

www.faithvictoria.org.au/news-a-articles/latest-news/120-harmony-week

no. of page views unknown,

Shepparton Interfaith Network

www.sheppartoninterfaith.org.au/news/168-2013-world-interfaith-harmonyweek

no. of page views unknown

Testimonials attached:

Mr Andrew Elsbury, MLC, Parliament of Victoria

Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim, Abbess, The Seon Centre

References attached:

Mr Nail Aykan, The Islamic Council of Victoria

Prof. Des Cahill, OAM, Religions for Peace, Australia

Dr Helen Light, AM, former Director, The Jewish Museum of Victoria

Photographs: www.interfaith.org.au

Some photos are on the websites above. Additional photos attached:

3969 End title *World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7 2013* as seen on the Big Screen

3941 *Love of Neighbour* as seen on the Big Screen

3944 *Respect* as seen on the Big Screen

3922 **VIP's in Queen's Hall, Parliament House**, Melbourne, Left to right: Reverend Helen Summers, Director, The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne; Andrew Elsbury, MLC, Parliament of Victoria; Nur Shkembi, Arts Officer, Islamic Council of Victoria; Bishop John Bayton, Anglican Diocese of Victoria; Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim, Abbess, The Seon Centre.

3909 Morning Tea event in Queen's Hall, Parliament House, Melbourne

Additional information sheet about Federation Square and the Big Screen attached.

Federation Square www.fedsquare.com