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| **Australia/Victoria** | **Legally known as:****The World Conference of Religions for Peace Australia, Inc. ABN 49 320 161 142****PO Box 1383 Carlton, Victoria. 3053** **Email:** **wcrpaust@iinet.net.au** |

Reflections on *#I’ll Dine with You*

Monday 29th March Melbourne City Square

To Whom It May Concern,

I walked into Melbourne City Square to see a beautifully laid out table and chairs for 200 + people. The table, music, tabla and guitar, set the scene.

The table was simple, elegant and sustainable, with carafes of water with fruit and mint, palm leaf plates, wooden cutlery and flowers for each guest.

* God blessed us with the weather. It was a perfect night about 24 degrees and no rain.

Pedestrians watched the event from a distance or came in for a closer look as the Dinner was in the centre of Melbourne. Guests and volunteers spoke to these passers-by to explain how *#I’ll Dine with You* came about.

I spoke to two Saudi students studying in Melbourne. They watched for a long time, seeing something they had never seen before with people of many faiths sitting and eating together. One could tell by the guests’ dress that they were Sikh, Muslim or Jewish sitting next to each other engrossed in conversation for the full two hours.

* One academic, a Buddhist who works in terrorism, commented when she arrived at 7pm that she had tears in her eyes at the scene before her.

Several things touched me: the generosity and care of the Sikh men who prepared and donated some of the food and waited on many us, the calmness of Nur who was in charge of the fabulous food, and the seamless work of all the volunteers. Guests and volunteers appeared uplifted by this creative and peaceful event.

* I heard that another group is thinking of running this event next year with an even longer table and closing a main CBD road to do it! Let’s hope this occurs!

Susan Ennis (Dr)

Voluntary Secretary Religions for Peace Australia/Victoria