**Interfaith Harmony Week brings police and religious leaders together**

It was a gathering of faiths and uniforms when members of the Queensland Police Service and representatives from various faiths and religions throughout the Cairns community came together today to recognise World Interfaith Harmony Week.

World Interfaith Harmony week was introduced by the general assembly of the United Nations in 2010 and has become a permanent fixture on the calendar in many communities around the world.

The week now provides a platform for all interfaith groups and other groups of goodwill to demonstrate to the world what a powerful movement they are.

Over 20 representatives from various faiths and religions attended a morning tea hosted by Superintendent Geoff Sheldon this morning to recognise and celebrate the strong working relationships that police have with our local faith leaders.

Superintendent Geoff Sheldon acknowledged the importance of the gathering, now in its second year in Cairns. “The morning tea provided a wonderful opportunity to develop new relationships and build on existing relationships in a friendly and relaxed environment. In the role that police perform in the community we rely on strong relationships with our community leaders to assist in managing incidents and people. Our event today also provides a perfect opportunity to gain an appreciation and better understanding of the religions and faiths that exist in our diverse community.”

Cairns Jewish Community Leader Rabbi Ari Rubin was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with local police and religious leaders.

“This important event allows us to come together and forge relationships with police and other religious leaders in our community,” Rabbi Ari Rubin said.

“Police have always supported our faith and we are proud to maintain a positive working relationship with our local police. The opportunity to speak with other community leaders highlights that we are all on the same page working to care for Cairns and members of our community.”