

Project Officer's Report



'Faith in Harmony' Project (July 2005 to December 2005)

(note: Ron Mitchell continued working on MCNT's Living in Harmony funded 'Faith in Harmony' Project, having been appointed as the Project Officer in March 2005).

MCNT formed an ongoing collaborative working relationship for this Project with the Islamic Society of the Northern Territory. The high profile and historic 'Understanding Islam' information session at MCNT on Thursday August 11 with speaker Dr Hassan Bajhau provided a platform for Darwin's Islamic community to inform the wider community of its perspective and concerns about world events and life in contemporary Australian society.

One of the most successful aspects of this Project was the Territory-wide 'Many Faiths, One People' poster competition. An exhibition at Darwin Entertainment Centre's Exhibition Gallery from Saturday October 22 and Sunday October 30 showcasing 120 of the most outstanding poster artworks submitted for this competition, was sponsored by the NT Department of Employment, Education and Training.

The awards for the poster competition were presented at Government House on Monday October 24 by His Honour the Administrator of the Northern Territory Mr Ted Egan AO. The '2006 Interfaith Harmony Calendar', sponsored by the NT Office of Multicultural Affairs, highlights the significant religious festivals, holy days and feasts for the major faiths represented in the Northern Territory and features the twelve winning posters (as well as two highly commended entries) from the 'Many Faiths, One People' poster competition.

During November and December 2005, various school-based interfaith harmony activities were organised: for Kormilda College an 'Understanding Faith' information session with multi-faith presenters on Tuesday November 1; an all-day excursion to places of worship on Wednesday November 2; and a class discussion/mini-debate to the topic: "Are there more similarities than differences between the major religions" on Thursday November 10; and for Wulagi Primary School: a half-day excursion to places of worship on Tuesday November 29; and a multi-faith music concert on Friday December 2.



'Palmerston City Interfaith Network' Project **(December 2005 to April 2006)**

(note: Ron Mitchell continued working from December 2005 as Project Officer on MCNT's Living in Harmony funded 'Palmerston City Interfaith Network' Project).

The first activity of this Project was the series of six 'Golden Rule' poster workshops over the wet season holidays at the Palmerston City Library. The six winning posters as judged by Palmerston Mayor Mrs Annette Burke were published recently as interfaith 'Golden Rule' postcards distributed locally and at the Palmerston City Library.

Two high profile interfaith events were hosted by MCNT at the Palmerston Campus of Charles Darwin University as part of this Project: the World Religion Day Interfaith Prayer Service on Sunday January 15 and the Harmony Day Lunch on Tuesday March 21.

One of the most successful aspects of this Project was the tour of the Sydney-based 'Goodness and Kindness' program led by Mr Kuranda Seyit. This program sponsored by NT Government's Community Benefit Fund, was presented to 1,500 upper primary and lower secondary students in 6 schools on Thursday March 23 and Friday March 24.

The MCNT was invited as a consultant in the planning and presentation of the 'Spiritual Community' interfaith display and a 10 min DVD at the NT Museum from April to July 2006.

Ron Mitchell