

INTERSECTION

AUGUST 2009

By Alana Pryor

CONVERSATION AND THE NEW FAITH

One of the platforms of the New Faith is the vital world of conversations across disciplines, religions, and nationalities. To encourage these conversations, St Michael's invites people with a wide-range of backgrounds and experiences to speak at the church.

On Sunday 26 July Dr Macnab had a conversation with his guest Lister Hannah, who spoke of his travel, career and how they have shaped his spiritual growth. Some 50 people attended and were

clearly deeply impressed.

Lister Hannah first met Dr Macnab back in the middle of the 1960s. He recalled their early conversations and



how the 1960s were the years when a New Faith was just evolving and he himself was experiencing new things. This was a time of self-discovery.

Growing up under the shadow of

Kilimanjaro, in Africa where his father worked as a doctor on a mission station,

Hannah was already exposed to a world quite extraordinary. He became a teacher in three schools in Victoria before moving to Canada where he was soon the principal of a large school. He moved on to be the Headmaster of International Schools in Munich, New York and Tanzania before coming back to Australia to be the Principal of Geelong Grammar School. After this he went to Thailand to establish the unique International Education Centre in Chiang Mai.

The spread of his experience across nations, languages, religions and cultures is quite astonishing; and his reflections on his life and his own faith searchings were totally absorbing. It was one of those rare conversations.

SCIENCE AND THE NEW FAITH

The New Faith looks at increasing dialogue between disciplines that are traditionally segregated. It also encourages people to observe the world around them with an open mind and to see past those boundaries that have been put in place. St Michael's offers opportunities to discover new ways of thinking.

After service on Sunday 16 August, St Michael's presents a "The New Faith and Science", a conversation between Dr Francis Macnab and Prof Graham Jenkins, Deputy Director of Monash Immunology and Stem

Cell Laboratories at Monash University. This dialogue will delve into matters of mind, body and spirit and explore the boundaries of science and religion, where they blur and sometimes work together.

Dr Macnab will bring his experience as a minister, a psychotherapist and great appreciator of the arts to look at the questions that continue to plague the two disciplines.

Should science have a moral compass? If so, who should be responsible in developing one? How can the different ways of thinking lead us to wisdom?



And what should we do when science and religion disagree.

Prof Graham Jenkins will bring his knowledge and experience in

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medicine to discuss the revolutionary (and controversial) topic of Stem-cell research – an area where religion and science more often disagree. Prof Jenkins has a major research interest in the maintenance of foetal well being, and the prevention of premature labour. His work also focuses on possible clinical treatment for Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) of the newborn, adult Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and spinal cord disc repair and regeneration.

While investigating the safety, regulatory and ethical issues of stem cell research Prof Jenkins will enlighten us about what is hype and

what is fact.

This conversation will be relevant to our continued searchings for a new faith as well as be highly informative. Join us to discover more to the New Faith.

SCIENCE AND THE NEW FAITH

With Dr Francis Macnab
& Prof Graham Jenkins



When: Sunday 16 August 2009
at 12 pm

Where: St Michael's Uniting Church

m i n g a r y



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WOMENSPACE - OPEN SESSION

This year, the St Michael's Womenspace Program is exploring effective ways of furthering interfaith dialogue and strengthening cross-cultural relationships in this *International Year of Reconciliation* and the *Parliament of the World's Religions* in Melbourne.

We are delighted that Fairlie Nassau, Chair of the JCMA (Jewish, Christian, Muslim Association of Australia) Schools Project will be our special guest speaker at St Michael's on Sunday 30 August 2009.

Fairlie Nassau will share with us the marvellous innovative work being



undertaken to promote interfaith understanding among both primary and secondary level students at schools in Melbourne and across regional Victoria. The project aims to increase understanding of similarities and to encourage respect for difference and diversity amongst staff, students and parents. Students are educated

to be more accepting of others and feel more empathy toward people who are different from themselves.

The presentation will include an opportunity for discussion of the powerful impact of the various JCMA Schools Project activities and

incorporate a short film featuring secondary school students.

In the spirit of the occasion, we will commence with a special morning tea of Israeli *Rogelach* and Turkish *Baklava*.

The Womenspace program warmly invites ALL members of the St Michael's community and beyond to attend this special presentation.

By Julie Hall

WOMENSPACE

When: Sunday 30 August 2009
11.45 am (after service)

Where: Waratah Room, Level 1
St Michael's Centre,
120 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE 3000

Enquiries: Julie Hall—Facilitator
Womenspace

ST MICHAEL'S NEW FAITH DISCUSSION GROUPS

are scheduled for the following dates after morning service

9 August (Themes) 16 August (Gifts: Session 2) 13 September October 4 (Gifts Session 3) 22 November

HIROSHIMA PEACE DAY

The Peace Bell tolled at 9.30 am, calling the St Michael's community to the special Hiroshima Day Peace service on Sunday 2 August. This service, celebrated each year, encourages us to continue our search for peace, within ourselves and the world, as Hiroshima, the city of peace, has done for the past 60 years.



L-R: Consul-General of Japan, Mr Susumu Hasegawa, Dr Francis Macnab & Reiko Hasegawa.

The day was very special and we were honoured to welcome the Consul-General of Japan, Mr Susumu Hasegawa to service. We were also joined by Ms Kumiko Toyama,

Program Coordinator at the Consulate-General of Japan.

During the service, guest musicians, Miwako Abe on violin and Noriko Tandano on Syamisen, performed several traditional Japanese pieces.

Following the service, people were invited to

view an exquisite kimono exhibition staged by Leanne O'Sullivan.

This was a lovely morning, at the heart of which was peace, friendship and beauty.



Some of the beautiful kimonos on display

MUSICAL TREATS

It is always a pleasure to hear and encourage the talent of young musicians.

On Wednesday 2 September, a select group of students from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) will perform a free lunchtime concert showcasing their abilities.

The concert is an opportunity for these dedicated students to perfect their art and gain valuable performance experience and, for us to hear lovely music and support them

on their journey.

If you fancy a musical moment in your busy day, pause at St Michael's for this wonderful concert - you never know what beauty you may discover.

VCA RECITAL

When: Wednesday 2 September

Time 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: St Michael's Uniting Church, 120 Collins Street, MELBOURNE 3000

TRIO ANIMA MUNDI



MOODS OF ROMANTICISM

Robert SCHUMANN
Antonin DVORAK
Theodore DUBOIS

When: 9 August 2009 at 2 pm

Where: St Michael's Uniting Church

Tickets: Subscription for Series

\$75/\$40 Family \$190

Single Concert

\$30/\$15 Family \$70

Please contact Trio Anima Mundi
(03) 5368 2325
info@trioanimamundi.com
www.trioanimamundi.com

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Waratah Room

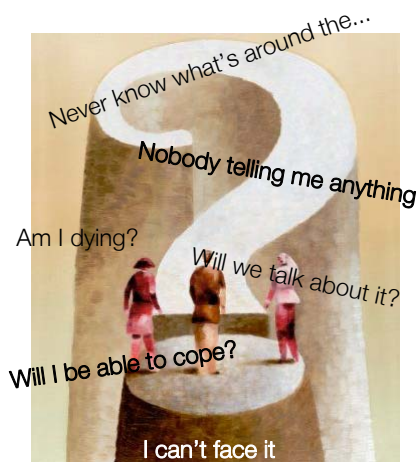
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FRIDAY 28 AUGUST

YOUR FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN



THE UNKNOWN IS THE
CENTRAL FACT OF LIFE.

Time: 11 am to 1 pm
Where: St Michael's Hall
120 Collins St,
Melbourne.
Cost: \$15 inc. Lunch

For more information
please call Margaret Karafilowska
at Cairnmillar on 9813 3400

ST MICHAEL'S

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W: www.stmichaels.org.au

VISIT FROM THE KOSKIS

It was with great pleasure that St Michael's welcomed Steven Koski and his family back to Melbourne at



the beginning of July.

During their stay in Melbourne the family had managed to fit in sight-seeing and the footy as well as be at St Michael's to catch up with friends and for Steven to give the Sunday address.

The Koskis enjoyed their visit, appreciating their warm welcome and the chance to meet with friends. They mentioned that it was a particularly

THE WITNESS BOX

As the curiosity about the New Faith continues, St Michael's offered another forum for people to gather more information.

Dr Macnab stepped back into the "Witness Box – Where Faith Meets Reason" on Sunday 12 July.

Melissa Iddles proficiently chaired the event putting many of your thought-provoking questions to Dr Macnab. The answers which were challenging and inspiring, providing us with more insight into the New Faith.

This event was a success. The more people learn about the New Faith, the more the conversation continues to flow.

CALM YOUR MIND

Life can get very full. Between commitments with family and friends, work deadlines and obligations, it's a wonder you can find time for yourself. But it is vital that you do. It is also important you enjoy that free time. Sometimes stress and trauma prevents you from doing so.

Meditation is a great way to free your mind of your stresses and there is an opportunity to learn at St Michael's. Barry Fox returns to teach meditation from Monday 7 September 2009. This course, six one-hour sessions and comprehensive notes for \$70, is the best value meditation course in Melbourne, to which many members of St Michael's and CBD corporate offices will attest.

If you need a reason to attend, Barry can give us ten: Meditation can deepen your spiritual journey; calm the mind; dissolve melodramas and preoccupations; develop concentration; find contentment; overcome stress; heal hurts; open the heart; sharpen awareness; and extend acceptance and loving kindness.

This is certainly an opportunity for anyone who wants more out of life.

LEARN TO MEDITATE

Six one-hour sessions
7 September – 19 October

Time 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: St Michael's Centre

Cost: \$70 includes comprehensive notes

Bookings St Michael's Centre 9654 5120

Queries: Barry Fox