

## The Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group

[www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz](http://www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz)

The Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group emerged following the unfortunate events of September 11, 2001, as a collaborative effort of the leaders of the three Abrahamic Faiths, the police and the Dunedin City Council. The group recognizes the common heritage shared by the three Abrahamic Faiths, and through mutual respect and friendship seeks to express the concerns of Dunedin's Abrahamic Interfaith community and to engage in activities and community events that are conducive to living in peace and harmony and that work towards spiritual and community good.

2007 proved to be an eventful year for DAIG. While DAIG was involved in many community events and was present at numerous community activities, the main DAIG activities for 2007 were the following:

- **2007 Peace lecture**

The peace lecture series has been a focal part of DAIG's program since its inception, and whereby the speakers invited to present a topic have intentionally followed a pattern of having each Abrahamic faith group represented every three years (i.e. a Jewish speaker one year, a Christian speaker the following year and so forth). This trend was upheld last year, and so with the previous two years lecture's presented by a Christian and then a Jewish speaker, a Muslim speaker was invited to speak in 2007. Professor Abdullah Saeed, a Muslim Academic from Melbourne University accepted DAIG's invitation to speak, and presented a lecture entitled "Towards a More Inclusive View of the Religious 'Other'". The turnout was excellent (350 people from differing backgrounds), the response to the lecture very positive, and all agreed that the event had been a great success.

- **International Conference of Christians and Jews**

DAIG were able to have a Jewish member attend this event held in Sydney, who reported back to the group regarding the activities and outcome of the ICCJ.

- **2007 National Interfaith Conference**

DAIG was represented at the last year's National Interfaith Conference in Hamilton by one of its members who reported our activities to the other participants of the NIC, and who then reported back to DAIG the events and outcome of the NIC.

Other activities included;

- Involvement in the Dunedin Heritage Week
- International orientation (for new students attending Otago University)
- Religion and the Environment Forum
- Workplace Support Chaplains panel and forum
- Visits to local schools
- Family issues seminar held in Dunedin
- The hosting of Amirah Ali Lidasan in Dunedin, a Muslim peace and justice activist and interfaith worker in the Philippines.

2008 is looking to be a promising year, with a Christian speaker being invited to present at our annual Peace Lecture series, and with DAIG looking to continue and build on its community involvement and activities of the previous year.

The addition of new members, and establishing a partnership with the newly formed Young Abrahamic Leadership Council of Australasia (Dunedin branch) is a new and exciting recent development.

For further information about DAIG, our activities and to contact us, please visit our website at:

<http://www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz/>

Peace, Shalom, Salam