



## Wellington Interfaith Council Report 2008

National Interfaith Forum, 10 March 2008 Parliament Buildings  
Aotearoa, New Zealand

*Haere mai, Satsriakaal, Shalom, Bula, Malo Ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Malo e Lelei, Kia Orana,  
Talofa lava, Bienvenido, Bienvenue, Huanying, Ciao, Hola, Bonjour, Hallo, Kanuchiwa,  
Namaskar, Namasti, Nihao, Willkommen, Yookoso, As-salaamu Alaykum*

Greetings Brothers & Sisters All

The Wellington Interfaith Council has been together for a number of years and the Executive (Kaumatua) are Dr Pushpa Wood (Hindu), Paddy Payne (Bahai), David Zwartz (Judaism), Dr Khalid Sandhu (Muslim), and Tiopira Rauna (Christian).

The main activity this year has been organising the 2008 National Interfaith Forum which includes the Women's Forum and the Youth Forum. This is our third forum we have hosted so we have the experience to get peoples time, talent, and resources together and make it happen.

This year we agreed to inaugurate the first National Youth Interfaith Forum in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Maori proverb "Ka pu te ruha – ka hao te rangatahi" Let the fishing net of interfaith in Aotearoa New Zealand be strengthened by the unity of the hearts of the interfaith family being parents and their children"

This year we also inaugurated the first National Interfaith Delegation to Ratana Pa, Wanganui, on 24 January 2008. We are inviting others to join at this annual event next year.

This year also we got the endorsement from Sam Jackson, Kaumatua for Parliament to inaugurate Tiopira Rauna as the first Kaumatua for a National Interfaith Forum to be held in Parliament Buildings.

Over the last few years we have had twenty minute presentations on our individual faiths to each other, followed by 20 minute question time. This has been beneficial because we can respect the presenter's response and receive an answer that gives us a greater understanding of the other faith's belief.

These are also social bonding sessions and our personal friendships have increased and continued into other activities like Rotary International, National Founding

# NZ · INTERFAITH · GROUP

---



Day's, World Week of Prayer, Race Relations Day, Duwali Celebrations, Chinese New Year, Annual Christmas Dinner

We have also held "Interfaith Forums for Political Candidates" that are seeking votes for Parliament and the City Councils. We ask them to tell us what will they do for interfaith if they are elected to office. This year is election year for Parliament and a good time for you all to hold forums in your own locations.

We have criteria for getting involved in interfaith projects. We ask the question, does this project include the participation of all faith groups? We have participated in the Treaty of Waitangi workshops conducted by the Human Rights Commission which was held in the Kilbirnie Muslim Mosque, Kilbirnie, Wellington. This was attended by most of the faith groups.

We have also conducted an interfaith presentation on Islam in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hataitai, Wellington. This was attended by many faith groups. We are now moving our meeting venues around to each others venue. We are now involved in interfaith service projects involving our youth, who will be weeding and cleaning gardens in the community.

Our website [www.interfaith.org.nz](http://www.interfaith.org.nz) outlines the many activities that we are involved.



2006 National Interfaith Forum, Parliament, Wellington

Arohanui

Wellington Interfaith Council, New Zealand Interfaith Group

*This 5<sup>th</sup> National Interfaith Forum is a contribution to the  
NZ Diversity Action Programme of the Human Rights Commission*

