

ALICE SPRINGS

The Alice Springs educational program took place at the Alice Springs Town Library on September 6-7.



Exhibition Launch at Alice Springs Town Library

On Thursday, Major Kaye Viney from The Salvation Army, Peta Pellach, Director of Adult Education from the Shalom Institute in Sydney and Imam Adama Konda from the Darwin Mosque addressed two school groups: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Year 11/12 and Alice Springs High School, Year 7 and one student from Centralian Senior Secondary College. Representatives from the Baha'i, Muslim and Christian communities all pitched in and helped us set up the exhibition in the library.



Imam Abdul Hamid, Alice Springs Mosque giving Muslim welcome

On Friday, Peta Pellach, Adama Konda, Imam Abdul Hamid from the Alice Springs Mosque and Father Aesali Raass from Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish, addressed three school groups: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Year 9, Anzac Hill High School, Year 9 and St. Philip's College, Year 9. Overall, 150 students attended the program. The students were interested, respectful and asked many questions. In addition, a new arrival from Nigeria and a tourist from Taiwan, who visiting the library, became so interested in the program that they attended the school program.

On Sunday, September 9, Fran Kilgariff, the Alice Springs Mayor, officially launched the exhibition at the library. Over 70 people attended the launch and then went to the afternoon forum, "Building Community Peace and Harmony" at the Andy McNeil Room, Alice Springs Town Council. Michele Castagna officially welcomed the participants and Phil McAuliffe, Deputy Territory Director, based in Darwin, spoke about the importance of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Living in Harmony programs.

Katherine Goode gave a brief overview of Project Abraham and Imam Abdul Hamid chanted a short prayer from the Quran as a welcoming blessing. The guest speakers, Peta Pellach, Father Aesali and Imam Adama Konda then addressed the afternoon's topic. Peta spoke about the upcoming Jewish New Year as a time for reflection, renewal and reconciliation. Father Aesali spoke about the theme of peace as reflected in Scriptures and Imam Adama Konda said that the Quran emphasised the importance of respecting all people from all religions. There was a question and answer period, followed by prayers for peace from the Baha'i community and Buddhist teacher Satya Swami Saraswati. The program concluded with a general agreement by all the attendees that there would be future interfaith forums. The Sunday forum was advertised in Centralian Advocate and the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia newsletter.



(L-R) Katherine Goode, Project Abraham Co-ordinator; Glenda McCarthy, Interfaith Network; Imam Adama Konda; Father Aesali Raass; Peta Jones Pellach



(L-R) Father Raass; Peta Jones Pellach; Michelle Castagna, Chair, Multicultural Services of Central Australia; Imam Adama Konda