

News

Religious leaders host talk-fest

THE inter-faith forum "Project Abraham - Reaching Out to Country" is presenting a conversation between Christians, Muslims and Jews on Sunday at Mount Gambier's City Hall.

"Building a Bridge of Relationships - faith and community" is a forum open to all community members to attend from 2pm, at no charge.

The afternoon will include presentations from members of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish faiths, followed by afternoon tea and the opening of an exhibition of religious artefacts at Studio One.

Three religious leaders, Imam Khalid Yousuf, Rabbi Shamir Caplan and pastor Gary Ware will talk about the many similarities between the faiths represented on the day, and how, with greater understanding and dialogue, all community members can work towards harmony.

Imam Khalid Yousuf - who was born in Ethiopia and attended primary school in Yemen - began his training in the Qur'an at the age of seven.

He was instructed in Islamic studies by the scholar Sheikh Mohammed Abdi-Yunus and has studied at the Bakahrah Mosque, the Al-Azhar Islamic Institution and University and other theological institutions in Egypt.

In 1996, he began serving as the Imam at the Adelaide Mosque and in 1998, he was appointed instructor in Islamic Studies and Arabic at the Islamic College of South Australia.

At Mount Scopus Memorial College, Rabbi Caplan teaches various subjects in the Jewish Studies faculty, including the new Talmud curriculum that he helped develop.

He is also a member of Mt Scopus' infor-

mal education team, working on school-wide projects and with student leadership.

Rabbi Caplan has spent the last two years as chief minister of East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, the oldest synagogue in Melbourne.

Pastor Gary Ware came to Mount Gambier to serve as pastor of the Presbyterian Church four years ago.

Mr Ware trained for ministry in Brisbane, gaining a BA with majors in studies in religion and an advanced diploma of theology.

He had been involved in parish ministries in Brisbane and Melbourne before coming to Mount Gambier and is the current president of the Mount Gambier Minister's Association, the Presbyterian Church of South Australia Moderator, and a representative on the South Australian Heads of Churches.

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