

DARWIN

On Sunday, August 19, a forum entitled, “Project Abraham: Children of Abraham Join Together For Peace,” was held at the Casuarina Shopping Square Community Room in Darwin. Dorothy Fox, a Larrakia Elder and Darwin City Alderperson, gave the traditional Welcome to Country and Katherine Goode gave a brief overview of Project Abraham and then opened the forum.



Exhibition Launch at Casuarina Library

The forum began with a traditional blowing of a shofar, a ram’s horn by Rabbi Fred Morgan from Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne. Then Rabbi Morgan, Imam Adama Konda from the Darwin Mosque, and Reverend Steve Orme from the Darwin Memorial Uniting Church spoke about the importance of interfaith dialogue and how to establish better understanding among congregants of the three Abrahamic faiths. During the panel discussion, several members of the audience spoke about the need to develop better models for peace and reconciliation between the three faiths but also about the need to heal the divisiveness within the various Christian denominations locally. The program ended with a short Islamic song performed by Muslim youth and the imam. The attendance was very small, only around 30 people, but they were very appreciative and quite responsive to the program.



Imam Adama Konda, Reverend Steve Orme, Rabbi Fred Morgan

The exhibition was opened at the Casuarina Library by the His Worshipful, The Lord Mayor of Darwin, Mr. Garry Lambert. Over fifty people attended the launch and enjoyed the afternoon tea afterwards. On Monday and Tuesday, 150 students from Kormilda College, Years 8 and 11, St. Johns College, Year 12 and Millner Primary School, Year 6/7 visited the exhibition and took part in the school program. Imam Konda, Reverend Orme and Rabbi Morgan spoke to the students about their respective faiths. Imam Konda recited verses from the Quran and Rabbi Morgan gave a demonstration on how to blow the shofar for the students, which generated a lot of interest. The students were very attentive and particularly interested in the exhibition.



His Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Darwin Mr Gary Lambert

The Darwin steering committee placed two small ads in the local newspapers on the Sunday forum and Ron Mitchell, from the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory was interviewed about Project Abraham by SBS Radio in Sydney. The interview aired nationally on Friday evening, 24th August on SBS Radio at 11:00 pm.



Islamic Youth Choir