

PROJECT ABRAHAM VISITS NEWCASTLE, NSW, JUNE 2007

On Sunday, June 24, Newcastle hosted the Project Abraham forum and exhibition. The forum was entitled, *"Newcastle's Hospitality: Learning from Abraham's Table."*

It was held in the Newcastle City Hall. Lord Mayor John S. Tate gave the formal welcome, Nola Hawkins, an Aboriginal Elder, gave the Aboriginal Acknowledgement, and Justice Sulan gave an overview of Project Abraham and formally opened the exhibition. The guest speakers were Rabbi David Freedman, former rabbi from Kehillat Masada in Sydney and facilitator of the Melton Adult Education program, Ali El Hanandeh, a lecturer in information technology at the University of Sydney and a volunteer imam for multi-cultural communities both locally and in Canada, and Father Rod Bower, Rector of Gosford Anglican Church.



L-R: Bishop Michael Malone, (Roman Catholic Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle) Kerry Bower and Fr Rod Bower (the Christian guest speaker).

For more photos please visit http://www.angdon.com/gallery/?tx_gooffotoboe_k_pi1%5Bsrcdir%5D=Project%20Abraham&tx_gooffotoboe_k_pi1%5Bfunc%5D=combine&cHash=55ccc79cb6

Around 175 people attended the event. The afternoon program also included a Jewish Candle Dance, a reading from the Koran and the song, "God Beyond All Names" sung by Catherine Mahony from the Christian community.

The program received pre-publicity from The Herald, the local ABC radio station, and a community radio station. But there was no follow-up publicity.

On Monday and Tuesday, Kamal Hamidani, the Muslim Educator, the Reverend Julie Turnbull, the Christian Educator and Viv Bolaffi, the Jewish Educator, presented the school program to 84 students. We also presented our educational program to 150 youth workers at the plenary of the Regional Youth Development Officer Network Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. All programs were very well received and we distributed most of our CD-ROMs at the RYDON conference.