

# COMING TOGETHER

MELTON INTERFAITH NETWORK

*Envisioning a cohesive,  
embracing and  
harmonious community*



# CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| MELTON INTERFAITH NETWORK                       | 3  |
| WHAT THE NETWORK IS AND IS NOT...               | 3  |
| A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT                    | 4  |
| PLACES OF WORSHIP IN CITY OF MELTON             | 5  |
| MELTON INTERFAITH NETWORK                       | 6  |
| BAHÁ'Í  | 6  |
| CATHOLIC  | 7  |
| THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS | 8  |
| HINDU   | 9  |
| ISLAM   | 9  |
| CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY MELBOURNE                 | 10 |
| SIKH  | 10 |
| UNITING CHURCH                                  | 11 |
| ZOROASTRIANISM                                  | 11 |
| EVENTS CELEBRATED BY MIN                        | 12 |
| REFUGEE WEEK                                    | 12 |
| HARMONY DAY                                     | 12 |
| PLACES OF WORSHIP TOURS                         | 13 |
| RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS                          | 14 |
| INTERFAITH CONFERENCES                          | 14 |
| MIN MEETINGS                                    | 15 |
| JOINING MIN                                     | 16 |

We acknowledge First Nations peoples living and working in Melton. We recognise the people of the Kulin Nations as the original custodians of the land now known as the City of Melton and we pay respect to their Elders past, present and future. With permission from their representative, we acknowledge that spiritual beliefs and cultural practices are deeply connected to 'country' or birth place, that there is no 'one' belief system for all First Nations peoples. Melton is home to people from many First Nations cultures from across the country who may follow the traditional beliefs of their ancestors. A core belief is that we need to be custodians of this land and treat our environment with respect and care.

# MELTON INTERFAITH NETWORK INC.

The purpose of Melton Interfaith Network (MIN) is to develop harmony, cohesiveness and inclusivity within the City of Melton; to generate awareness of all faiths, beliefs and traditions in the community in order to promote understanding and harmony; and to promote intercultural and interfaith understanding amongst the various cultural and faith groups within the Melton community.

In 2013 under the auspices of the Faith Communities Council of Victoria, and facilitated by the Melton City Council, religious groups in Melton were invited to meet with the goal of establishing an Interfaith Network. Thus, in August 2013, the Melton Interfaith Network was established. The ten founding members were from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The Catholic

Church, Uniting Church as well as from Muslim, Zoroastrian, Bahai and Sikh faith communities.

Since then, with the continuing support of the Melton City Council, many others have joined MIN developing a friendly and cohesive group. The Melton Interfaith Network welcomes interested individuals and new members from all faith communities.

## WHAT THE NETWORK IS AND IS NOT ...

|  |  |
|--|--|
| ✓ Is an opportunity for dialogue and understanding                       | ✗ Is <b>not</b> an opportunity for religious argument                            |
| ✓ It is a way of giving mutual respect and understanding                 | ✗ Is <b>not</b> an opportunity for conversion and proselytisation                |
| ✓ Is a positive recognition of different faiths and spiritual traditions | ✗ Is <b>not</b> a forum for exclusive religious claims                           |
| ✓ Is a celebration of individuality and identity of each tradition       | ✗ Is <b>not</b> a compromise of any individual faith tradition                   |
| ✓ Is held together by human values and good-will                         | ✗ Is <b>not</b> a jealous guarding of acquired or presumed rights and privileges |
| ✓ Is a partnership of many faith communities and the civic authority     | ✗ Is <b>not</b> the creation of any particular faith community                   |



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Namaste (I bow to you)

It is a significant fact that City of Melton, is home to diverse communities practising different faiths and spirituality. It is this immense richness of cultures, languages and religions, which makes it a very special locale.

It is exciting to see so many religions coexisting, it lends a special meaning and responsibility to the community. This also brings to light the need to address and continually work towards social and religious cohesion, where living in harmony and respect for all becomes significantly important.

Melton Interfaith Network (MIN), has been instrumental in providing the Interfaith dialogue, these dialogues provide a foundation for stronger community and society. Understanding other religions and spirituality, helps create a colourful social fabric which is woven with appreciation, respect and compassion. Our network is enthusiastically delivering the dreams that we have envisioned of a community that stays together, celebrates together and comes together to provide support whenever needed.

The members of our network have worked very hard and continue to strive to meet numerous milestones and it has been feasible due to their dedication, passion and immense support. I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of Melton Interfaith Network including the committee members and Melton City Council for their ongoing contribution and support.



Melton Interfaith Network will continue to endeavour to create an environment which is filled with love, respect and understanding for all irrespective of our cultural and religious differences. We will also continue to engage different faith groups and share common values and work incessantly to eliminate religious prejudices and barriers to create a peaceful and harmonious society.

Om Shanti (invocation of peace)

**Gurpreet (Gary) Verma**  
President MIN

*Building understanding  
one conversation at a time*

# PLACES OF WORSHIP IN CITY OF MELTON

## **BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

### **Paramitha Buddhist Vihara**

181 Paynes Rd, Rockbank

## **CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

### **Amazing Church**

19 Claret Ash Bvd, Melton West

### **Catholic Church**

#### **St Anthony of Padua**

67-77 Exford Rd, Melton South

#### **St Catherine of Siena**

108 Bulmans Rd, Melton West

#### **St Dominic's**

10 Unitt St, Melton

### **Christ Church Anglican**

2-4 Unitt St, Melton

### **Church of Scientology**

251 Mt Alexander Rd, Ascot Vale

### **City West Church**

3/142-144 High St, Melton

### **Evolve Christian Church**

16-18 Palmerston St, Melton

### **Highway of Hope Christian Church**

43 Unitt St, Melton

### **Jehovah Witnesses**

624 Bulmans Rd, Melton West

### **Life in Christ Church**

Banchory Community Centre, Hillside

### **Life Spring Church of Christ**

10 Stevenson Cr, Caroline Springs

### **Melton Baptist Church**

1-5 West Melton Drive, Melton West

### **Melton Presbyterian Church**

Unit 2/24 Smoult Dr, Kurunjang

### **Melton Uniting Church**

15-19 Yuille St, Melton

### **Open Door Baptist Church**

249 Clarkes Road, Brookfield

### **Plymouth Brethren Christian Church**

757 High St, Melton West

### **Salvation Army Melton Corps**

86-88 High St, Melton

## **Seventh-day Adventist**

### **Melton Seventh-day Adventist Church**

Cnr Claret Ash & Panorama Dr, Melton

### **Samoan West Seventh-day Adventist Church**

98-100 Coburns Rd, Melton South

## **St Mark's Lutheran Church**

100 Coburns Rd, Melton South

## **Siasi Tonga Tau'ataina (Free Church of Tonga)**

200-208 Paynes Rd, Rockbank

## **Sureway International Christian Ministries Australia**

10 Collins Rd, Melton

## **The Anglican Church Caroline Springs**

248 C S Blvd, Caroline Springs

## **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

599 High Street, Melton

Melton 1st Ward (English)

Melton 2nd Ward (Samoan)

## **HINDU TEMPLES**

### **Sri Durga Temple**

705-715 Neale Rd, Deanside

### **Sri Murugan Temple**

139 Gray Ct, Deanside

## **ISLAMIC MOSQUE**

### **Al Iman College**

20-40 Rees Rd, Melton South

## **SIKH GURDWARA**

### **Khalsa Shaouni Sikh Temple**

1288-1364 Melton Hwy, Plumpton

There are also members of the Baha'i, Hare Krishna and Zoroastrian faith communities who reside in Melton, are part of the Melton Interfaith Network and worship with fellow believers in other parts of Melbourne or privately in their homes.

# MELTON INTERFAITH NETWORK

## BAHÁ'Í

Bahá'ís in Victoria reside in communities throughout metropolitan Melbourne, in regional cities including Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, and in a number of country localities. Victorian Baha'is come from all ethnic backgrounds and all walks of life, and actively work for the recognition of humanity as one family.

Victorian Bahá'ís strive to contribute to the communities in which they live by offering activities, open to all, that include devotional gatherings drawing on Baha'i and other writings, study classes on spiritual themes, children's spiritual education classes and an empowerment program for junior youth aged 11-14.

**Key principles of the Bahá'í Faith:** equality of women and men, harmony of science and religion, abolition of extremes of poverty and wealth, elimination of all forms of prejudice, equal standard of human rights for all people.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Melton Local contact

✉ [Melton@vic.bahai.org.au](mailto:Melton@vic.bahai.org.au)

#### Interfaith contact

Vahid Ehsani

☎ 0420 409 905

#### The National Baha'i Office

✉ [secretariat@bnc.bahai.org.au](mailto:secretariat@bnc.bahai.org.au)

☎ (02) 9998 9222



National Baha'i Centre, NSW

# CATHOLIC

St. Dominic's Church, Melton was completed in 1877 but it was not until 1972 that Melton was named a Parish in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

St. Dominic's school was opened in 1976. Plans were made for another Catholic Primary School and the 1st stage of St. Anthony of Padua Primary School was opened in Melton South in 1979 and St. Catherine's in West Melton in 1984. Catholic Regional College was opened in 1981.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Melton South was named a Parish in 1983.

Rev. Fr. Fabian Smith, our current Parish Priest was appointed to St. Anthony of Padua Parish as Parish Priest on 30th September, 2009.

Following extensive refurbishment, the Dedication of St. Anthony of Padua Church and Altar took place on the Feast of St. Anthony, 13th June, 2008 in our Silver Jubilee Year. Archbishop Denis Hart DD officiated. The Sisters of St. Joseph came to the Parish in 1998.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

67-77 Exford Rd, Melton South  
VIC 3338, Australia

📞 +61 3 9747 9692

**Father Fabian**

📞 0403 435 471

**Fr Lucas**

📞 0478 768 141



St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Melton South

# THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a worldwide faith of over 16 million members centred on the belief that everyone on earth is a son or daughter of a loving God and that His Son, Jesus Christ, saved the world from sin and death. Jesus Christ invites all of God's children to come, follow, and become more like Him. The Church has over 30,000 congregations in more than 160 countries and territories. Each of these congregations is a local group of Saints (followers of Christ) who serve, teach, inspire, and mentor each other as they strive to overcome personal challenges and hardships, and each is led by non-paid leaders selected from the congregation, who serve on a limited-time, volunteer basis.

In Melton, a few members of The Church moved to the area in the early 1970s.

Initially they travelled to Melbourne to worship with other members. In 2005 a building was constructed in High Street Melton, but soon proved to be too small for the growing congregation.

A major upgrade was completed in 2015 and is now home to two congregations. One of the congregations holds meetings in the Samoan language; the other is in English, reflecting the cultural diversity of congregants from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America as well as the South Pacific.

**For more information visit**

🌐 [churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Communication Director

Yvette Barnes

(to receive current information about meeting schedules)

✉ [whybarnes@live.com.au](mailto:whybarnes@live.com.au)

📞 0428 536 742

### Meetinghouse Address

599 High St, Melton West  
VIC 3337, Australia



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Melton

# HINDU

Hinduism is the oldest continuous religion on earth and is believed to be more than 20,000 years old with a written history of at least 6,000 years. The Vedas are considered the oldest written books by mankind in Sanskrit. Basic Sanskars (principles) of the religion are focused on building civilization and prescribe certain rites and rituals throughout your life. Some basic examples are as simple as having a name (Namakaran Sanskar), marrying (Vivah Sanskar) and last rites (Antim Sanskar). Hinduism has an estimated 1.3 billion followers.

Hinduism is a peaceful religion with an emphasis on family values and attachment to the land you live on. Hindus believe in many forms of the same God and the main deities are the three powers. Brahma, Vishnu & Mahesh (Shiv); the Creator, the Nurturer/Protector and Destroyer respectively. Hindu principles believe that God is formless and unbound as God may be present in many forms including formless.

Hinduism is growing quickly in the City of Melton and there are several temples (Mandir), the largest of which is Sri Durga in Deanside. Temples are a central part of the community and play a role in maintaining and promoting religious and cultural connection. This role has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time temples delivered free food and groceries to the local community throughout City of Melton and beyond.

## For more information visit

 <https://sridurgatemple.com>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Sri Durga Arts/Cultural and Educational Centre (Inc)

705-715 Neale Road, Rockbank  
VIC 3335, Australia

 0423 456 997



Sri Durga Temple, Deanside

# ISLAM

In 2010 the Muslim community in Melton came together to organise prayer sessions to look after each other in the community and set up Melton Muslims Community Inc., a not-for-profit organisation.

Events are organised during Ramadan and Eid Prayers. Friday Prayers are conducted at different community halls around Melton. The attendance at these events varies from

60 to 200 participants. The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Melton regularly attend these events. In 2016, the name of the organisation was changed to Melton Multicultural Community Inc (MMC).

In 2016, Al Iman College was founded and this further increased the population of Muslims in the greater Melton area. MMC continues to serve the needs of the Muslim population. MMC conducts Taraweeh prayers at the Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre and Friday Prayers at the Darlingsford Barn. In Mid 2019, the Melbourne West Community Welfare Inc was formed, led by Melton Muslim Mushollah (Medina) and conduct prayers at 59 Mackenzie Street. The congregation consists of about 70 people. Towards the end of 2019, the Human and Moral Development Centre was established by a few enthusiastic young people, to do more in assisting communities in need in every aspect of their life. This is a response to the increasingly diverse community, who call the City of Melton their home.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Haji Mohamad Rashid Abdul Aziz

 [muhammadrashed09@yahoo.com](mailto:muhammadrashed09@yahoo.com)

 0468 712 755



Muslim prayer meeting

# CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY MELBOURNE

Scientology is a practical religion. People study Scientology to become more competent, to achieve more success and to be happier in life. There is one Church of Scientology in Melbourne. Located in Ascot Vale it serves all Victoria and Tasmania. It was founded in Melbourne in 1955. Scientologists go to church for study, counselling, church services and events. The church also runs study groups for local communities in homes, community halls and libraries. Trained supervisors hold classes on all subjects - study, communication, improving relationships, raising children and more.

The Church is also well known for its humanitarian initiatives - volunteers of all nationalities, religions, or no religious affiliation, join with Scientologists on Church sponsored humanitarian campaigns - United for Human Rights, Drug Free World, The Way to Happiness and the Citizens Commission on Human Rights. The Scientology Volunteer Ministers, a trained disaster response team, currently run a massive online homework club and deliver hundreds of food packs weekly to people in the west of Melbourne.

**For more information visit**

🌐 [www.scientology.org](http://www.scientology.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For local church tours, community events, courses and humanitarian initiatives please email Jan Lester:

✉ [melbourne@scientology.net](mailto:melbourne@scientology.net)



Church of Scientology, Ascot Vale

# SIKH

Gurdwara Sahib in Plumpton, is a Place of Worship for the Sikh Community established in 2014 on the Melton Hwy in the Municipality of Melton. People from all faiths are welcomed in Sikh Gurdwaras. Each Gurdwara has a Darbar Sahib where the current and everlasting Guru of the Sikhs, the scripture Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, is placed on a Takhat (an elevated throne) in a prominent central position. The Raagis (who sing Ragas) recite, sing, and explain the verses from Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji in the presence of the congregation.

Gurdwara Sahib, Plumpton has a langar hall, where people can eat free vegetarian food served by volunteers. The Gurduara also has a classroom, meeting rooms, playground and sports ground. A Gurduara will be identified from a distance by tall flagpoles bearing the Nishan Sahib, the Sikh flag.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Dal Baba Bidhi Chand Ji Khalsa Shaouni**

1288-1364 Melton Hwy, Plumpton  
VIC 3335, Australia

✉ [info@khalsashaouni.com.au](mailto:info@khalsashaouni.com.au)

📞 0433 021 110



Dal Baba Bidhi Chand Ji Khalsa Shaouni, Plumpton

# UNITING CHURCH



Melton Uniting Church, Melton

The Melton Uniting Church has been part of the Melton community for more than 100 years in Melton and Melton South, within a historical Bluestone Chapel a part of the Melton complex. It was formerly the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches. Major celebrations include Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, as well as annual recognition of the church's presence in the community. The church is host to various other Christian communities for their celebrations including a significant Sudanese fellowship.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Melton Uniting Church

15-19 Yuille Street, Melton  
VIC 3337, Australia

✉ [admin@muc.org.au](mailto:admin@muc.org.au)

📞 9746 0488

📞 0407 553 495

# ZOROASTRIANISM

Zoroastrianism is considered by religious scholars to be the world's oldest monotheistic religion. Zoroastrianism was revealed to the world by Prophet Zarathushtra who was born between 1500 and 1200 B.C. Zarathushtra preached that there was one God, whom he called Ahura Mazda. Zoroastrianism has bequeathed such concepts as a cosmic struggle between right and wrong, the importance of ethical choice in human life, monotheism, a celestial hierarchy of spiritual beings (angels, archangels) that mediate between God and humanity, a judgment for each individual after death, the coming of a Messiah at the end of this creation, and an apocalypse culminating in the final triumph of Good at the end of the historical cycle.

In Australia, there are approximately 5,000 Zoroastrians with around 1,500 residing in Melbourne. In Caroline Springs and surrounding suburbs there are quite a few Zoroastrian families. Zoroastrians pray in front of a consecrated fire as fire represents the physical manifestation of the attributes of Ahura Mazda.

Regular religious meetings are held for the community at a private property in Caroline Springs.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Kaivan Antia

📞 0424 103 250

🌐 [www.zav.org.au](http://www.zav.org.au)

# EVENTS CELEBRATED BY MIN

## REFUGEE WEEK

Each year the Melton Interfaith Network and the Melton City Council partner to deliver an annual Refugee Week event. This is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting people of refugee background and celebrate the immense courage, resilience and valuable contributions they make to the Australian society. The event helps create a better understanding between different communities, showcasing their diverse and wonderful talents, sharing stories of courage amidst immense hardship, and stories of overcoming difficulties. It also provides an opportunity for the broader community to get involved, and support one another.



## HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is an opportunity for everyone to embrace cultural diversity, meet new and interesting people and share in a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. MIN participates in harmony day activities to show solidarity with those who want to promote social cohesion and community harmony. It recognises the fact that people from various communities can achieve a lot if they work collaboratively to achieve common good.



# PLACES OF WORSHIP TOURS

MIN organises a number of Places of Worship Tours. Community members have so far visited places such as mosques, temples, synagogues, churches and other places of religious significance. The tours provide an opportunity for people from various faiths to hear more

about religions other than their own. Tours also provide participants with an opportunity to meet and converse with different people in a relaxed atmosphere and are an excellent interactive learning experience.



Sri Durga Temple, Deanside



Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Craigieburn



Sunshine Mosque, Sunshine



ISKCON Hare Krishna Temple, Albert Park



Islamic Museum, Thornbury



Buddhist Temple, Braybrook

# RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS



Celebrating together



Birth of Bahá'u'lláh



Taylor's Hill Harmony Day

# INTERFAITH CONFERENCES

The Victorian Interfaith Networks Conference (VINC) is an annual grass-roots conference which aims to help build the capacity and sustainability of existing interfaith networks, bring people up-to-date with current interfaith matters and provide networking opportunities. The conferences are events that include a keynote speaker, several workshops, display stands representing different faiths, entertainment and a meal.



Participants at Interfaith Conference



Attendants from various multicultural and multifaith backgrounds



Faith Stands: Karuna Spirituality Centre (left) and Baha'i Community (right)

# MIN MEETINGS

MIN has monthly meetings that are held alternatively at the Melton and Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hubs.

The meetings are a regular forum for exchange between the faith groups of Melton. At the meetings information regarding religious events from specific faiths are shared, and organisational work is done to plan for events run by MIN, which are highlighted in this booklet. The meetings provide a friendly atmosphere and place to come together and share information and strengthen community ties.

You can expect someone to open with prayer and give Acknowledgement of Country. Committee members are all volunteers from various local religions. There will be an employee from Melton City Council at each meeting.



MIN meetings even on Zoom

# JOINING MIN

MIN is an inclusive organisation that welcomes people from all faiths, cultures and religions. Some people attend meetings as a place to learn about different faiths, other people seek to make connections with people of various faith communities.

It is a place to get involved by developing greater understanding and building a cohesive community. Meetings are free to attend.

If you would like to attend a meeting or get involved with MIN:

🌐 [www.meltoninterfaith.com](http://www.meltoninterfaith.com)

✉ [meltoninterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:meltoninterfaith@gmail.com)

📞 0409 804 403

📘 [www.facebook.com/meltoninterfaithnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/meltoninterfaithnetwork)

*Conversation, not conversion*

Information in this booklet was provided to MIN by religious leaders in the City of Melton and also obtained from the Internet (details about local groups). MIN does not take responsibility for the information provided.