

## **DOWNNS AND TOOWOOMBA CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Abrahamic Faiths gatherings (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) are held at St. Anthony's Community Centre quarterly at 5.45pm for a shared meal. Before the meal speakers from each faith give a short presentation with a different theme for each dinner. Recent topics include, "Abraham in Scripture", "Grace", "Why are we here in this world?" and "How we view Jerusalem and the Holy Land". A barbeque of halal sausages and salad and sweets is provided with vegetarian meals provided by the Pure Land Group. These Gatherings are very informative and are helping build a better understanding and friendships between members from the different faiths. To quote a comment from the new Iman at the Garden City Mosque, "The topic we discuss is not important. What is important is that we have fellowship together." The average attendance at these meetings is 30 people.

We send a letter of thanks to Dr Shahjahan Kahn for his support for the Abrahamic Faiths Gatherings and Interfaith discussions over many years. He was President of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba. He has taken up a position in his home country with the University of Bangladesh.

A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Services was held at Lifeworks Uniting Church and Middle Ridge Uniting Church. These were meaningful services with great fellowship afterwards.

Our Ecumenical Seminar has been postponed until the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June next year at the James Byrne Centre, Highfields. The speakers will be Bishop Mark Vainikka, Pastor David Schmidt and Dr David King. The theme is "Reflecting on the Church after Covid-19."

John Agnew