

**'COMMON'.
'Healing Love, Healing Land'
Report from 21st September 2007 'Maya' Aboriginal Healing
Centre, Melbourne, Australia**



The day opened with a calming and welcoming traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony. The procession of 40 people circled a fire and 'received the smoke' whilst the enchanting sounds of the didgeridoo, played by Uncle Reg Blow transcended the everyday setting.



The tree planting ceremony marked the birth of a new connection with the Maya Aboriginal Healing Centre, as ErrylN Nundle (Aboriginal center coordinator) blessed the tree saying, "our spirit and our strength will be instilled in the tree when it grows and your strengths and your spirits will grow in it too" (21st September).



Tree Planting Ceremony :
Jessie Kaur Singh (COMMON President) & ErrylN
Nundle (Maya Healing Center coordinator)

A sense of community evolved as we continued with prayers from each of the faiths. The atmosphere was warm and people shared thoughts and feelings over tea and biscuits.



A panel of speakers from different faiths shared their personal wisdom and how this helped them move towards a culture of peace and a healthy relationship with others, and the land.

Swami Pramananda, (Hindu speaker) expressed life's perfection

Eva Wakim (Jewish panel member, next to Swami) expressed how her cultural background made her "feel closer to people and not separate" and blew into the 'shofar' explaining the significance of the shape. The Muslim speaker mentioned how balance and knowing that everyone is part of God is at the heart of the Koran, that there is a purpose to this life. Each speaker spoke with great eloquence and with wisdom beyond 'mind' knowledge.



The Christian speaker Chris-James had everyone in shock and hysterics as he juggled with a knife and apples, symbolising his journey through evangelism and self righteousnessto an understanding of unity of the human race and presenting 'love' to all who he meets..

Chris-James Christian Panel Speaker- juggling the path!

Questions followed and a deep discussion with the audience and panel looked at how we can begin to connect through all the difficulties of the modern era - concluding that we must trust in the guidance of the divine, listen and look out for the signs.



A delicious lunch was prepared by the Sikhs and there was a genuine sharing as people expressed their concerns and emotions, sharing stories, relaxing and taking in the divine atmosphere!

The afternoon was spent in workshop small groups discussing how we can create deep connections with one another, and those who are in need around us. Richard Fletcher from 'Peace2000' put forward the notion of forming groups with people who live in your neighbourhood. In this way creating mini-communities. Emails were exchanged and new ideas for connecting the local Aboriginal people are currently in

The day ended with Dya Singh performing some spiritually uplifting music on the harmonium and tabla.

For more information about this event and multi-faith week (2007) please see:
www.commonmelbourne.com