

# AUSTRALIAN FAIR FOR FREEDOM OF BELIEF AND RELIGION

## PROGRAM

July 26–27, 2014

MONA, Hobart, Tasmania

[www.affbr.org](http://www.affbr.org)

**AFFBR**  
AUSTRALIAN FAIR FOR FREEDOM  
OF BELIEF AND RELIGION



# CONTRIBUTORS

## 1. ADIDAM

Adidam is “the practise of consistently (and, ultimately, permanently) moving out of the disposition, and presumption, and the very activity of separate and separative self, into the Love-Bliss-Full Condition of Oneness with That Which is One, Whole, Absolute, All-Inclusive, and Beyond”. – Adi Da Samiraj

## 2. ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Anglican Church is one of the historic churches in our culture. This church was born at the time of the Reformation when freedom of religion was an important issue. The Reformers stressed that a persons religious beliefs were to be a matter of their own conviction and conscience. They said this because the salvation that Jesus gives is only received by a personal faith in what God has done for us. This belief changed the world and today freedom of religion is as much an important issue as it was then.

## 3. ATHEIST FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

The AFA is the leading atheist organisation in Australia. We have members in all states, a strong web and social media presence, we publish “Australian Atheist” magazine every three months and vigorously engage in public debate on issues relevant to atheists and non-religious people.

## 4. AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

ARRCC is a multi faith network taking action on the most pressing issue of our time. In the face of ecological damage and social injustice, we affirm our love for this planet and its inhabitants and our deep reverence for life. The organisation creates resources such as kits, fact-sheets, videos, and conducts workshops to support active participation at an individual and organisational level to limit the effects of climate change.

## 5. BAHÁ'Í CENTRE OF LEARNING FOR TASMANIA

The Baha'i Centre of Learning operates under the Principles of the Baha'i Faith, an independent world religion founded in 1844. Among the basic tenets of the Baha'i Teachings is belief in the unity and interconnectedness of all things. Baha'is also believe in: the recognition of the unity and relativity of religious truth, true religion is in harmony with reason and the pursuit of scientific knowledge, equality of men and women and striving for universal peace.

## 6. THE BASEMENT SPACE

The Basement Space is a collective of artists who have been part of the Christian Church and are now exploring life, faith, story and meaning as part of, and beyond, traditional Christianity. The group is sponsored by the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and has curated a number of interactive art installations as part of festivals in Australia and overseas.

## 7. BRAHMA KUMARIS AUSTRALIA

BKA is an organisation that teaches a simple form of meditation, stress management, and self-empowerment. In Australia BKs work with many areas in the community including multi faith dialogue, environment and youth programs, healthcare, women's and men's groups, education, indigenous and seniors' groups. Internationally, the organisation has consultative status with ECOSOC and UNICEF.

## 8. MANDY CRUIKSHANK - JOINING THE DOTS TO CREATIVITY, SPIRITUALITY AND THE MIND

I provide a creative ministry. Within those services I provide harp meditations, plus supporting those in palliative care, or experiencing cancer with the harp. I teach mental and emotional wealth through the medium of colour. I provide counselling support on a holistic level, I support the opening of creativity through a chosen art form.

## 9. ECKANKAR

Harold Klemp, the spiritual leader of Eckankar, describes the basic beliefs of Eckankar as follows: The teachings of ECK define the nature of the Soul. Each person is Soul, a particle of God sent into the lower worlds (including earth) to gain spiritual experience. Purified by the spiritual exercises, he comes into contact with the Holy Spirit. His goal is spiritual freedom in this lifetime, after which he becomes a Co-worker with God, both here and in the next world. Karma and reincarnation are primary beliefs.

## 10. ECOEVOLUTIONARIES

At Ecoevolutionaries we companion people to awaken their Soul purpose in life. We ask the question, change yourself or change the world? We believe its both, if we are to create a socially just, environmentally sustainable and spiritually fulfilling world. Our experiential programs are designed to nourish the imagination and compassion needed to cultivate deep spiritual change in Self and Society. The Sacred Feminine, (Earth as Mother), central to diverse spiritual traditions for thousands of years, is a core aspect of our practice, reconnecting human and earth communities. Our work is relevant to anyone who questions the way we are living.

## **11. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DOUGLAS EZZY - UTAS, SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Douglas Ezzy is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Tasmania. He is one of Australia's leading authorities on the sociology of religion. His research is driven by a fascination with how people make meaningful and dignified lives. His books include *Sex, Death and Witchcraft* (2014), *Qualitative Analysis* (2002), and *Teenage Witches* (2007, with Helen Berger). Douglas will be lecturing on 'Sex, Death, and Religion.'

## **12. FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, HOBART**

Christian Science is a Bible-based healing religion, founded in the 19th century by Mary Baker Eddy to explain the Science, or provable spiritual laws, which Christ Jesus demonstrated in his amazing healing work, and taught his followers to do. Christian Science makes these laws of divine Love, God, accessible to everyone, so all may learn how to practice them in their own lives, solving any kind of problem through prayer alone. Christian Science provides logical answers to the deepest questions about life and being. The church is democratically run, where there is no hierarchy, and all members are equal.

## **13. TASMANIA REGIONAL MEETING OF RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**

Do you work gladly with other religious groups in the pursuit of common goals? While remaining faithful to Quaker insights, try to enter imaginatively into the life and witness of other communities of faith, creating together the bonds of friendship. Our meetings are a spiritual community where individuals who are seeking to deepen their experiences of the spirit can find a source of strength, enlightenment and love. Meetings are committed to faith in action.

## **14. GODDESS ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA (GAIA Inc.)**

The Goddess Association in Australia (GAIA Inc.) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together Australia's people of goddess. We believe that the return of Goddess is crucial for the healing of ourselves, our societies and our planet. We welcome all people who share this vision. Our focus is the annual Australian Goddess Conference, a place of community gathering and replenishment. We recognize the custodianship of the land by Indigenous people over thousands of years and honor their ancestors and spiritual connection to the Earth.

## **15. GRACE CHURCH HOBART**

Grace Church is a contemporary church. We offer upbeat contemporary services in a relaxed and friendly environment. We speak your language because we're made up of trades people, professionals, students, teachers, the young and the old – people just like you who want to know God in the context of their day-to-day lives.

## **16. GURU NANAK SOCIETY OF TASMANIA**

The Guru Nanak Society of Tasmania aims to encourage the understanding of the Sikh religion & culture and to promote harmony between Sikhs and people of other beliefs in Australia. The society acts as a representative body of Sikhs in Australia in liaison and co-operation with similar bodies in Australia. The society regulates, operates & manages Gurudwara Sahib, their place of worship, in Hobart. Anyone is welcome to worship in a Gurudwara regardless of caste, colour or creed. Infact, all Sikhs and non-sikhs are welcome to the Gurudwara.

## **17. HOLY TANTRA ESOTERIC BUDDHISM INC.**

Holy Tantra Esoteric Buddhism was established in 1966. After Patriarch Master and Spiritual leader Master Wang Xin De arrived in Australia in 1989, the organization started to share the Holy Tantra Buddhist beliefs extensively around the world, and has now established headquarters in other countries such as Canada, USA, New Zealand, Hong Kong and China. The organization strives to spread the spirit of Great Holy Sakyamuni Buddha's virtuous kindness, compassion and wisdom, and to establish global ethic, strive for world peace, attain harmony of whole mankind, thereby achieve peaceful mutual progress, and have sincere hope for multi-coexistence.

## **18. KABBALAH CENTRE**

As a non-profit organisation established in 1922, The Kabbalah Centre teaches Kabbalah as a universal wisdom that predates the Bible or religion and can be studied by anyone regardless of their faith or path. Presenting the wisdom from a lineage of kabbalists The Kabbalah Centre provides a course of study that describes the origin of Creation including the physical and spiritual laws of the universe, human existence and the journey of the soul. Kabbalah was always intended to be used, not just learned. Its purpose is to bring clarity, understanding, freedom to our lives and ultimately to even erase death itself.

## **19. LOADS OF LAUGHTER - HOBART**

Loads of Laughter – Hobart runs laughter workshops and motivational talks throughout Tasmania. These workshops incorporate laughter yoga for a complete wellbeing workout. Such workshops are used for team bonding, stress relief, diversion or simply to increase joy.

## **20. THE LOTUS CENTRE**

To help you relax and revitalise, a wide range of healing modalities are offered at the Lotus Centre, in the heart of the Hobart CBD. Our fully trained practitioners and teachers offer treatments and classes daily. Enjoy a remedial massage, a yoga session or a meditational class to relax and rebalance.

## **21. LOVE HOBART**

Love Hobart is a not for profit organisation with an evangelistic focus of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. This has been achieved by street evangelism and until recently, an outreach café in the Hobart CBD. Love Hobart also uses the visual art medium to communicate its message.

## **22. DR. GRAEME MILES - UTAS, CLASSICS**

Graeme completed his undergraduate study and PhD at the University of Western Australia. Following his doctorate he was an Asialink writer in residence based at the University of Madras, then a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Ghent, Belgium (2007), before returning to teach at UWA in early 2008. He moved to the University of Tasmania in second semester 2008. Dr. Miles' research interests include Greek and Latin literature and language; the ancient novel and its 'fringe'; the works of Flavius Philostratus; history of interpretation and its representation in texts. Dr. Miles will be lecturing on 'Greek Myth and Ritual: Archaic Initiations to Countercultural Piety'.

## **23. PATHWAYS OF LIGHT**

Based on the principles of A Course in Miracles, Pathways of Light helps people to open up to the awareness and truth of Who they are and their Oneness with God and the Universe. Providing Accredited Study courses that lead to Certification as an Ordained Ministerial Counsellor through the Pathways of Light Spiritual College, we also offer facilitated training, free A Course in Miracles Study Groups, Free Daily Lesson Emails, and access to Accredited Accessing Inner Wisdom Counsellors.

## **24. RELIGIONS FOR PEACE AUSTRALIA**

Religions for Peace Australia is Australia's largest community-based organisation working for inter-religious harmony and social cohesion. Religions for Peace International is the world's largest coalition of representatives from the world's great religions, dedicated to promoting peace and confronting the world's most dire issues; stopping war, ending poverty and protecting the earth.

## **25. CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY**

Scientology is a religion that offers a path to full self-realization and spiritual awareness and ability. The word Scientology means "the study of knowledge" or literally "knowing how to know". Scientology follows the older Eastern traditions of religious philosophy dating back 10,000 years to the Vedic Hymns: that one is in a state of brotherhood with the universe and that spiritual enlightenment comes through increasing knowledge of one's self. Through this process one comes to fully understand themselves, others and the universe and ultimately your relationship to the Creator.

## **26. SHARE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA**

Share International Australia is a group of volunteers who work with similar groups worldwide. We are not affiliated with any religious group - we respect the truth at the heart of, and common to all spiritual traditions. Our purpose is to make known information about the emergence of the Spiritual Hierarchy and their concerns. These include the realization by humanity of our divine nature; a world at peace; restoration of the environment; sharing of the world's resources, and adequate food, housing, healthcare and education for all people.

## **27. THE HOBART SPIRITUALIST CHURCH/ THE PSYCHIC RESEARCH CENTRE**

The Hobart Spiritualist Church was established in 1954. Mrs Irene Harrison who was one of the founding members of the organisation developed much of the church's philosophy. The church is currently run by a team of 5 leaders. Meetings are held every Sunday night and include speakers on various topics relevant to the philosophy. The service is different to other Christian services as there is a strong emphasis on seeking guidance and healing from the "Spirit" which is channelled through mediums, psychics or mystics. We hold the belief that everyone is capable of developing this potential.

## **28. SUKYO MAHIKARI**

Sukyo Mahikari is an international spiritual organization that, through the art of purification, is dedicated to developing a civilization of eternal peace and prosperity for all living things. People from all walks of life and religions practice this art, which is open to all. Our core practices are the art of spiritual purification (cleansing of the spirit, mind and body), improving our attitudes, and applying natural laws (universal principles) in our daily lives. We strive to become increasingly God-centered by treating the natural world precious, learning from it, and developing a lifestyle that achieves harmony between God, humans and nature.

## **29. TASHI CHOLING DHARMA FOUNDATION/ HOBART BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE**

Hobart Buddhist Meditation Centre and Dorje Ling Retreat Centre (Lorinna, Tasmania), bring Buddhist Teachings to Tasmania with retreats, meditation and discussion in the Tibetan Gelugpa tradition. Our spiritual director is Zasep Tulku Rinpoche, who was born in Tibet and currently resides in Canada. We also facilitate visits by several teachers in other traditions. The group is run by an incorporated body, whose members have access to a wide range of events and may borrow books from our extensive Buddhist library. Our regular Tuesday night sessions are held from 7.30pm in Hobart city. Non-members are most welcome.

## **30. TASMANIAN PAGAN ALLIANCE**

The Tasmanian Pagan Alliance Inc. is a not for profit association dedicated to Pagan networking. We host events and support other Pagans and Pagan related events in Tasmania. We have regular social meetings, workshops, wheel of the year celebrations and more. The community is wonderfully diverse, including Witches, Wiccans, Heathens, Druids, Goddess spirituality, Shamans, and others. Our purpose is to provide a platform for Pagans in Tasmania to meet like-minded people, share information and knowledge, and be aware of what's happening around the State, and in the national and international Pagan community.

# LECTURES

## SATURDAY 26TH

TIME	LECTURE
10.30–11am	<i>Bahai Centre Information Session</i>
11.30–12.15pm	<i>Ron Cruikshank - Pathways of Love</i>
1.00–1.30pm	<i>An Introduction to Kabbalah</i>
3.00–3.40pm	<i>Associate Professor Douglas Ezzy, UTAS – ‘Sex, Death &amp; Religion’</i>
4.00–4.40pm	<i>Church of Scientology – ‘What is Scientology? – Beliefs and Practises’</i>

## SUNDAY 27TH

TIME	LECTURE
10.30–11am	<i>First Church of Christ, Scientist – On Prayer and Healing</i>
11.30–12pm	<i>Love Hobart – ‘Freedom of Religion in Australia’</i>
12.30–1.15pm	<i>Dr Graeme Miles, UTAS – ‘Greek Myth and Ritual’</i>
2.30–3pm	<i>Share International – ‘UFO’s &amp; Angels – A New Age of Dawns’</i>
3.30–4.10pm	<i>Atheist Foundation – ‘Religion: Fact or Fiction’</i>
4.20–5pm	<i>Holy Tantra Esoteric Buddhism Inc – ‘Human and human, universe and human are all a non-connected unity’ Address by Master Wang</i>

# WORKSHOPS

## SATURDAY 26TH

TIME	WORKSHOP	C'MONA LOCATION
10.30–11am	<i>Brahma Kumaris Workshop – ‘Worry Free’</i>	Workshop room 1
11.30–12pm	Laughing Yoga with <i>Jacob Miller</i>	Workshop room 2
11.30–12.10pm	Ecoevolutionaries ‘Experiential Wildmindfulness Meditation’	Outdoor workshop
12.30–1.10pm	<i>Hobart Spiritualist Church – ‘Connections with a Mysterious Force’</i>	Workshop room 2
2.30–3pm	<i>Tashi Choling</i> Shamatha Meditation with Charles Chadwick	Workshop room 1
2.30–3.10pm	<i>Hobart Religious Society of Friends – Meeting for Worship</i>	Workshop room 2
4–4.40pm	Harp Meditation with <i>Mandy Cruikshank</i>	C'MONA Library

## SUNDAY 27TH

TIME	WORKSHOP	C'MONA LOCATION
10.30–11.10am	<i>Lotus Centre – Open Heart Meditation</i>	Workshop room 1
11.30–12.10pm	<i>Tasmanian Pagan Alliance ‘Casting a Circle Workshop’</i>	Outdoor workshop
12–12.40pm	<i>The Goddess Association in Australia</i> present ‘The Ancient Mother of Life’ workshop	Workshop room 2
1–1.40pm	<i>Eckankar</i> Workshop – ‘Past Lives, Dreams & Soul Travel’	Workshop room 1
2–2.30pm	<i>Adi Dam Meditation – ‘We are Consciousness Itself’</i>	Workshop room 2
3.30–4pm	<i>Sukyo Mahikari</i> Light Purification	Workshop room 1
4.15–5pm	Harp Meditation with <i>Mandy Cruikshank</i>	C'MONA Library