

Nonviolence in Australia

From personal journey to social change: Creating the vision, and planning the actions.

Now more than ever it's important to build peace within ourselves and our communities.

The Donald Groom Peace Committee (DGPC) invites you to a gather with us and other committed peace seekers to explore the issues and methods that lead to greater peace within ourselves and the building of nonviolent processes within our communities. The committee is organising a

NATIONAL NONVIOLENCE GATHERING
29 April - 2 May 2005 at Currimundi, Queensland

The DGPC is a committee of the Australian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and works actively to promote nonviolence and nonviolent social change.

For three dynamic days we will meet to share, discuss and consider

- * our vision for a nonviolent peaceful Australia
- * explore networking and solidarity options
- * and the actions required to bring this vision about.

If you are expecting a typical talkfest you won't find it here.

While the first day will consist of plenary discussions and guest speakers to explore key issues.

- * Nonviolence and Direct Action
- * Indigenous Issues
- * Military Expenditure - Symptom and Cause of Violence
- * Violence in Domestic Settings
- * Spiritual Bases of Nonviolence

The second and third days will use the process of Open Space Technology to identify the key issues for participants and to plan the actions required to bring about the change we seek. Open Space Technology is nonviolent (www.openspacetechnology.com and www.openspaeworld.com) and it focuses the energy and passion of the group. It maximises diverse and creative outcomes, and means that any plans developed will not gather dust on the shelf.

Brendan McKeague, an experienced open space practitioner, will facilitate this process to ensure its most optimum use.

The gathering will:

1. Allow you to raise any issue that you care about relating to the future of nonviolence in Australia and throughout the world and ensure the issues raised will receive as full a discussion as you all choose to give them.
2. Allow you to choose which discussions and actions you wish to participate in.
3. Facilitate the identification of the immediate next steps for all of the key issues identified during the gathering that you want to pursue.
4. Give you the opportunity to network with others committed to nonviolence

All that is required from you is to bring your passion for change and take responsibility for helping to bring it about. You will also receive a written record of the discussions, recommendations and action plans within two weeks of the gathering

Who will be there?

Those passionately committed to building peace and nonviolence in our country and the world.

Please turnover for gathering details