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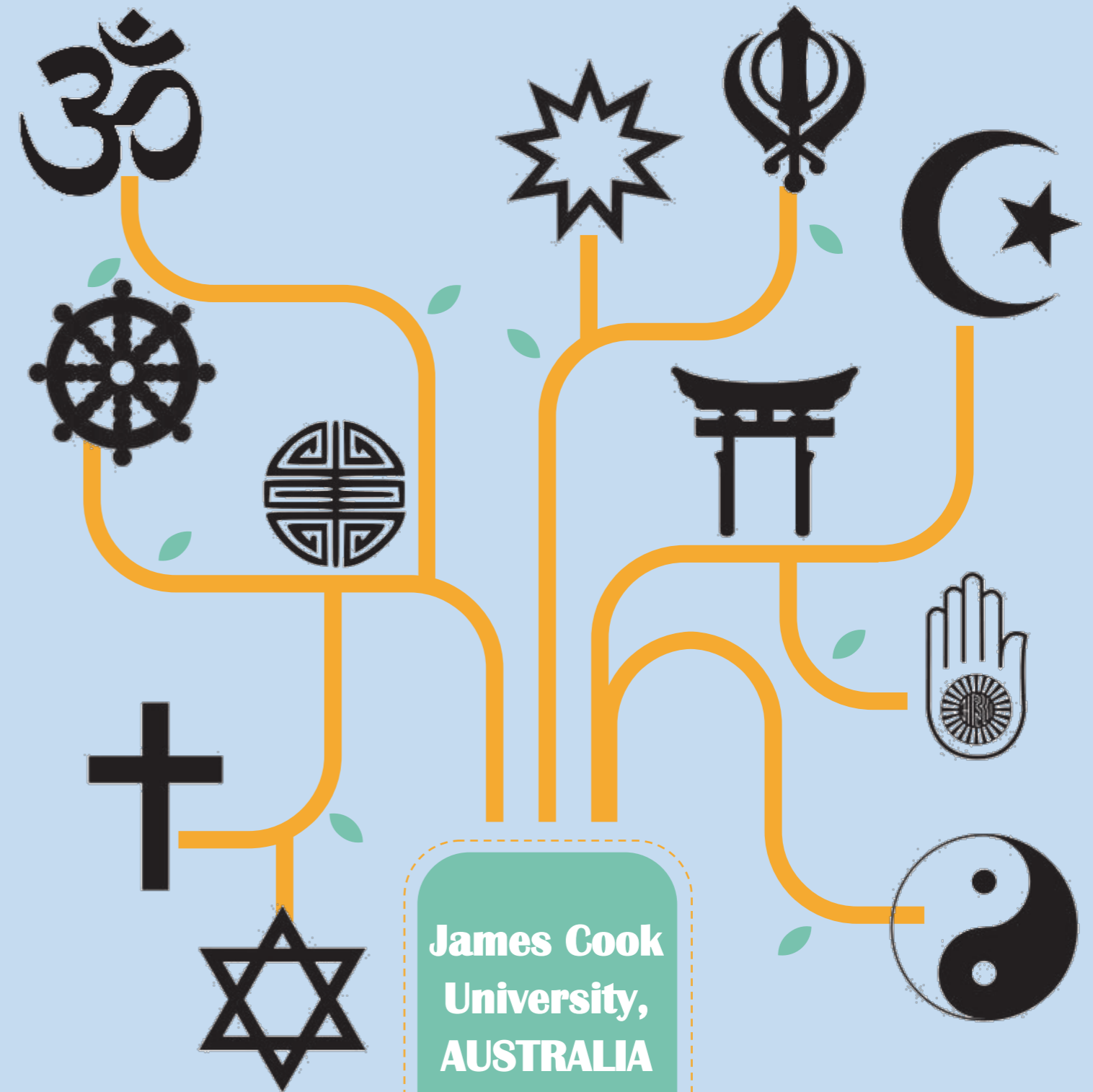
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**James Cook
University,
AUSTRALIA**

**The
Interfaith
Project
2016**



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Visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/theinterfaithproject/

ASK US ABOUT

THE INTERFAITH PROJECT

2016

AND HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

THE JCU INTERFAITH PROJECT: LET'S TALK LUNCH

The goals of the Interfaith Dialogue 'Let's Talk Lunch' initiative are to:

- Create a safe space for students to ask questions, share stories and explore issues of faith in Australian society.
- Identify a network of students who are interested in exploring and developing a deeper understanding of their own faith perspective and as well as other faiths.
- Provide opportunities for relationship building between students of different colleges.
- Create relationships between students and staff to deal with any matters of discrimination that might arise on campus.
- Provide relationship building opportunities and activities that enhance the JCU student experience and improve student wellbeing.



LET'S TALK LUNCH

The 'Let's Talk Lunch' initiative is designed to facilitate interfaith dialogue in a University setting. The Let's Talk Lunch project aims to increase religious literacy on campus through appreciation of student diversity and recognition of pluralism in the wider community.

FACILITATION PLAN

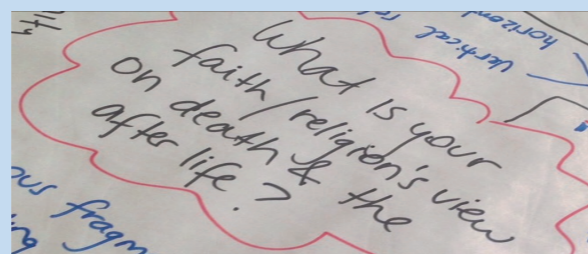
Set up two tables in World Café style¹:

- Tape paper to the tables.
- Ensure plenty of markers/pens available.
- Put chairs in a circle around the table.



QUESTIONS

- Questions may be pre-prepared: have them written on the tables when the participants arrive.
- To develop questions specifically for the participants give each participant a post it note. Ask them to write down a question or theme they would like to discuss. Group the post it notes together and write an overarching question that covers the majority of participants' questions.



BEGINNING THE SESSION

- Describe the purpose of the lunch.
- Highlight that this is a safe space to discuss questions; engage in open discussion; share thoughts and opinions; listen respectfully to others.
- Explain the format: questions will be written in large font in the middle of each paper. Feel free to have an open discussion and make comments on the paper. After 30-45 minutes the groups will swap tables and you can engage with the different question, picking up on what's been written on the paper and continuing the conversation.
- Participants may take personal notes or make reflections on post it notes.

¹ Brown and Isaacs (2005). *The World Café: Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations That Matter*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, USA

The JCU Interfaith Project's Mission Statement is:

Let us build unity at James Cook University by working together to establish relationships between people of different faiths through positive action and dialogue.

The JCU Interfaith Project is an initiative aimed at enhancing student experience at JCU by facilitating:

- Greater peer-to-peer support
- Increased religious literacy on campus
- Appreciation of student diversity
- Activities that enhance both the campus and people's experience at university
- Greater capacity to contribute to pluralism in their wider communities

FACILITATOR ROLES

Greeter/Observer:

- If a student arrives after the conversation has started explain the structure of the session, point out the questions on the tables.
- Allow them to observe for a moment what is going on, read what's been written on the paper already and then invite them to join a group.
- The aim is that the participant will feel orientated with what is going on and can slip into the conversation without the group needing to 'catch them up'. This is important so the conversation can continue to progress.
- Observe the body language of the group. Support any participant who may become emotional or want to talk one-on-one with someone.

Group leader:

- Assign one group leader per table.
- Stay sitting with the table when groups change. This will allow you to highlight ideas and observations that were brought up in the previous conversation.
- If the new group doesn't understand something that is written on the paper, share the story that led to that contribution.

Group debrief:

- At the end of the session bring all participants together.
- Ask participants to reflect on the conversation and share insights with the group.
- Formally end the Let's Talk Lunch.
- Allow time for participants to talk one-on-one with the facilitators if they would like.

ADVERTISING

Let's Talk Lunch activities are advertised on the Interfaith Project Facebook page: www.facebook.com/theinterfaithproject/

