

OFFICIAL OPENING OF  
COURAGE TO CARE EXHIBITION,  
GRAFTON REGIONAL GALLERY - 16 AUGUST 2006.

I extended a special welcome to this museum based exhibition to Mr James Altman, National Chairman of Bnai Brith and NSW Vice chair of 'Courage to Care' and also to all members of that organisation who are in the Clarence valley at this time as volunteers for the duration of the Exhibition.

Courage to Care is an active racial tolerance education program aimed at students from years 5 to 12. The exhibition has thus far been seen by 155000 people including 55000 students. I encourage the wider Clarence community to also visit the exhibition as it contains important lessons for us all.

Bnai Brith **is** a world wide Jewish community service organisation established over 160 years ago with members in 51 countries and with Non Government Organisation status at the United Nations. These people are Holocaust survivors or children of survivors who volunteer their time at each venue. This regional travelling Courage to Care exhibition has been operational in NSW since 1999.

Council is pleased to assist by providing Regional Gallery resources and by mounting and conducting the display until 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

The central message from this exhibition is communal tolerance and living in harmony and that each of us can make a difference.

The need for greater tolerance in our world and our own community is self evident. There are many graphic accounts of the monumental intolerance and extermination of 6 million of our fellow human beings during World War Two. The holocaust is an horrific story, a story of ignorance and intolerance.

Yet today globally there remains Holocaust denial and some nations and national leaders vowing to destroy Israel. Racial hatred across the globe is clearly on the rise with stark evidence though all too frequent acts of barbaric international terrorism. In our own nation too we continue to witness vilification of minorities especially our Muslim and aboriginal communities.

As individuals we each have mutual basic human right to difference. However such rights do not come without obligations. We all also have corresponding mutual obligation to always exercise tolerance and respect for others and for difference. We have personal responsibility for ourselves, our families and our community.

I suggest we all need to engage in social activism, to deal with and play our part to right the wrongs in our society. It is easy enough to mouth platitudes but much more difficult to be doers.

Let us resolve today to be more courageous. More tolerance in the Clarence community is highly desirable and definitely achievable.

The central message from the Exhibition for us should be that “One individual can make a difference”. I commend this exhibition to all residents of the Clarence valley and declare open the “Courage to Care” Exhibition.

Ian Tiley  
Mayor  
Clarence Valley Council  
16<sup>th</sup> August 2006.