



DIFFERENT FAITHS COMING TOGETHER TO WALK IN FRIENDSHIP

Ballarat's annual Friendship Walk encouraged an appreciation for three different faiths and the similarities between them.

People from all backgrounds had the chance to visit three different places of worship, where they could learn about the faith, worship practices and historical significance of the buildings.

These included St Alipius Catholic Church, Ballarat East, the Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, Bakery Hill (the oldest synagogue on mainland Australia) and Ballarat's only Mosque in Canadian.

Ballarat Interfaith Network Chair Margaret Lenan Ellis said travelling between venues by foot offered the chance to make new friends.

"A really important element of it was the friendship, but also shared conversations between people, and cooperation and shared good will between the (religious) leaders," she said. "They (religious leaders) were all so keen to participate and were very cooperative."

"There was also an interest in opening up worship venues to public viewing... because people just wanted to come along to see inside the synagogue or the mosque if they've never been there before."

The walk was on Sunday, November 5, and hosted by the Ballarat Interfaith Network in partnership with the Jewish Christian Muslim Association. People were welcome to turn up on the day.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Siobhan Calafiore and picture by Lachlan Bence.



L-R: Elham Jamali, Margaret Lenan Ellis and St Alipius Catholic Church's Father Peter Sherman outside the Ballarat Synagogue.