



## September 2011



Participants brainstorming at the Monash University iAct program

### The iAct university programs - leadership, co-operation & change:

Change on a personal or social level doesn't 'just happen'. Change is brought about by unusual individuals - leaders who aren't afraid of breaking the rules to create something better. InterAction's model of interfaith leadership is based upon this idea that young people can be the agents for change. The iAct training program is how we equip these leaders to step up. September has been an amazingly jam-packed & exciting month for the iAct program. Overall we had 57 people take part in the workshops. This included three awesome weekends of iAct at Melbourne, RMIT & Monash Universities. To equal success, we also hosted an extra iAct workshop on the 11th-12th of September at the Shiva Yoga Multifaith Youth Retreat. The people who chose to participate in all our workshops came from all different backgrounds and beliefs, but shared a common goal of co-operation for the common good. The ideas for action that we dreamed up over these weekends has some real potential of getting off the ground. It's exciting to see, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. Keep your eyes open for what is to come as iAct grows even bigger and better!

- Freeman Trebilcock, Architect of togetherness



### 'You'll never know, till you experience it':

I had no idea what the iAct program would be like; I thought the motto - *common action for the common good* - reflected what I believe in. After an interesting weekend of exploring the core values of Interfaith, we divided into groups to create different projects that could benefit the wider community. What I valued the most from the program is that the facilitators really respect our diverse and creative ideas, and inspired us to transform our ideas into action! - Yan Murong

### The Supper's success:

The Fast Supper, Melbourne's only multi-faith youth food van, has taken another great step forward. With the support of Second Bite we are now able to supply the residents of Park Towers with food hampers of fresh fruit and veggies, bread, yoghurt and frozen meals!

"Second Bite are a great organisation," says Eban Pollard, InterAction's *The Fast Supper* coordinator. "Everyday they collect hundreds of kilos of fresh food from businesses around Melbourne and distribute it to agencies like ours that are working directly with the community."

The food hampers have been popular with the our service users, helping to ease the strain on their weekly grocery bill. The word is spreading and people are now also coming from nearby suburbs.



With **Anti-Poverty Week** coming up on the 17th-21st of October, there has never been a better time to come and lend a hand on a Wednesday night. To get a real picture of what it is like to live on the streets, check out **Site Unseen**, an innovative piece of street theatre "**by and with homeless people for those who do have a home**" that immerses its' audience into the experience of homelessness. Tickets are \$15 concession. For bookings and more information go to [www.siteunseen.com.au/](http://www.siteunseen.com.au/)