



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 1, February 2021



Meeting new Member for Groom, Mr Garth Hamilton

On the invitation of the newly elected Federal MP, Hon Mr Garth Hamilton, Member for Groom (Toowoomba) Professor Shahjahan Khan met him in his office in the city on 7 January 2021. In the beginning of the meeting Prof. Khan congratulated the newly elected MP and wished him a successful and rewarding career in politics.



Prof. Khan meeting with the Member for Groom, Mr Garth Hamilton

Professor Khan thanked the Federal Government for successfully tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and supporting Australians via JobKeeper and JobSeeker programs. He highlighted the success of leaders and residents of Toowoomba to stay united and live in peace and harmony with respect and dignity.

Professor Khan told the MP about the Muslim professionals and community in Toowoomba and the role of Toowoomba Mosque in the community. He also thanked previous Federal MP, State MPs, Current Mayor, Church leaders, University of Southern Queensland and local media for their commitment to make Toowoomba a model city where everyone is welcome.

Mr Garth Hamilton agreed to contact Federal Minister Jason Wood to find out more about the reasons for not awarding Safer Community Grant to Toowoomba Mosque although it should have been on the top of the list of mosques with security risk after experiencing two arson attacks.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awareness Program

As a part of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention grant, funded by the Queensland Government, the Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust arranged a workshop and essay competition on Domestic Violence (DV). The DV workshop was held on 12 December 2020. The theme of the workshop was **Together Against Family Violence**.



DV Workshop and interactive session at Toowoomba Mosque

Two key DV topics were

presented at the workshop: 1) How did Prophet Muhammad SWS tackled the challenges of DV in his time (by Imam Abdul Kader); 2) Tackling DV- An Islamic Perspective (by Professor Shahjahan Khan). Around 30 participants across culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities attended the workshop. The workshop was interactive and was kept open to questions and answer sessions over the various aspects of DV in the Islamic faith and traditional standpoints.

To create DV awareness among the youth of the CALD community, the Islamic Society Toowoomba also arranged an essay competition on DV. The essay topic was **Tackling Family Violence: Teaching from the Quran and Life of Muhammad (SWS)**. An essay between 1500-2000 words was invited from high school level students. The essay submitted by Mr Ayan Rahaman secured a A\$150 Champion Award while essay submitted by Miss Nosiavba Abousnina was awarded a A\$100 Runner-Up Prize. Both essay winners were handed over the prize money and certificates in the concluding session of the DV workshop on 12 December 2020.



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The DV essay competition champion winner (on the left: Mr Ayan Rahman) and the runner-up winner (on the right: Miss Nosiavba Abousnina) receiving their prize money and certificates.

Annual General Meeting of Islamic Society of Toowoomba

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Islamic Society of Toowoomba was held on 17 January at the Toowoomba Mosque. The meeting started with recitation of Surah Fateha and was presided over by Professor Shahjahan Khan.

In his Presidential report, Professor Khan thanked the members of the community to continue supporting the Mosque and activities of Islamic Society. He noted a number of key activities of the Society during the previous year including internal fittings of the reconstructed Mosque, fundraising for the Mosque rebuilding project, 7th Toowoomba Int'l Food Festival and Mosque Open Day, National Mosque Open Day, continuation of after hour Madrasa, helping women and youth, engagement with wider community, responding to the Show Cause Notice of TRC about 82 Stephen St property, raising funds for bushfire victims, Covid-19 victims etc.

Treasurer Br Hamed Ali presented the audited financial report of the Society and Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust, and answered questions from the audience.

Suggestions were received from the floor to establish a fund to support funeral costs, health and safety compliance, and find out ways to increase worshippers in the Masjid.

Two Candidates from Toowoomba won ICQ Election

In the AGM of Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) on 13 December Associate Professor Dr Mainul Islam and Professor Shahjahan Khan were elected at the Executive Committee Member of the Council for two years. This is the first time in the history of ICQ, two of the executive members are from Toowoomba. Professor Khan served as the Vice President of ICQ twice during 2006-8 and 2016-17.

Live Fundraising Session from Sydney

Toowoomba Mosque in collaboration with Sydney-based Merciful Group organised a live fundraising event on 20 December 2020.

The three hour long session was casted from the Clued TV studio in Sydney. Speakers included Sheikh Abu Bakr Alzoud, Sheikh Rami Alsharawneh, Sheikh Yousuf Hassan, Sheikh Imam Akram Buksh, Mr Walid Ali of Islamic Relief Australia, and Sheikh Rabih Chamma.



During the session direct donations and pledges of about \$42,000 were received. Alhamdulillah. Prior to the event Voice of Islam Radio in Sydney interviewed President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan, to speak about the history and current rebuilding status of Toowoomba Mosque.



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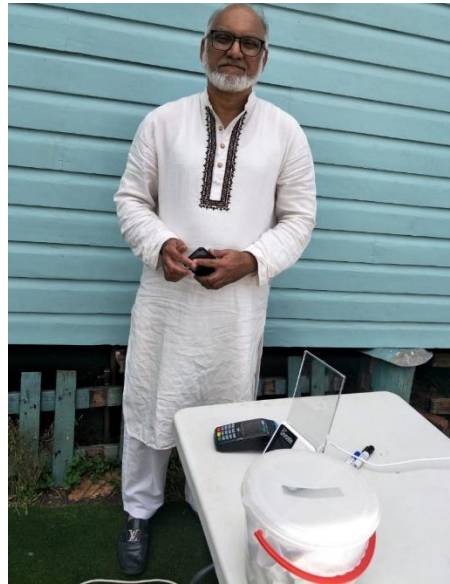
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Jumma collection for Mackay Mosque

Some brothers from Mackay Mosque travelled to Toowoomba for collecting donations for their Mosque on Friday, 29 January 2021. Professor Shahjahan Khan welcomed the visitors and appeal to the Muslims in Toowoomba to donate generously to the north Queensland Mosque. Imam Abul Kader delivered a Khutbah on the importance and benefit of charity as part of Jumma prayers.

Professor Khan mentioned that it is very important that we make financial contributions to other Mosque while we are seeking donations for the rebuilding of our Mosque. Every Mosque is important and we need to support one another to serve the cause of Allah SWT.



Donations were collected by Mr Mustafa Akbar Shahin, Vice President of Islamic Society of Mackay via Eftpos,, Touch N Go and Cash. Muslims of Toowoomba donated more than \$5500 for Mackay Mosque. Alhamdulillah and Jazak Allah Khair for your generous contribution.

Waiver of Infrastructure fees

As part of approval of Development Application for rebuilding of Toowoomba Mosque, Toowoomba Regional Council issued a notice to pay \$28,751 as Infrastructure Fee. Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust applied to TRC to waive the Fees because the Mosque is non-profit and charity organisation fully dependent on the donations of private citizens. In its meeting on 8 December 2020 the Planning and Development Committee of TRC recommended waiver of the Fees, and this was confirmed in the Council meeting on 15 December 2020.

Director/Secretary of Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust Associate Professor Mainul Islam and Chairman Professor Shahjahan Khan attended the Council meeting on 8 December.

On behalf of the Toowoomba Mosque, Professor Shahjahan Khan than thanked Council Officials and Councillors for their support of the Muslim community of Toowoomba. This positive gesture of TRC will help improve the community bondage and further enhance contribution of Muslims in the city, and its economy.

Arrival of Carpet for Mosque

Special custom made carpet for Toowoomba Mosque arrived in Toowoomba on Thursday, 28 January 2021. It took more than 3 months for the carpet to reach Toowoomba from Turkey.

The 21 rolls of carpet and underlay were unloaded and stored in the Mosque by a large number of young volunteers. It was moment of happiness for everyone participated in the work.



Tragic death of Dr Rezaul Chowdhury

Senior Lecturer of Civil Engineering at the University of Southern Queensland, Dr Rezaul Kabir Chowdhury died in an acute cardiac arrest in Ipswich while attending a social gathering on 5 December 2020. The 42 year old academic was buried in Mt Gravatt Cemetery in Brisbane on 8 December. Inna Lillahi Wainna Elaihi Rajiun.

He is survived by his wife and two sons. The Bangladeshi community in Toowoomba and some close friend of Dr Chowdhury in Brisbane supported his family during the very difficult time.



A special prayer session was organised in Toowoomba Mosque for the departed soul. The University of Southern Queensland also organised a memorial service for Dr Chowdhury.



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Wedding of Abdu Mohamed

On Saturday, 16 January the community celebrated the recent marriage of Abdu Mohamed. Abdu is a very popular young man of Toowoomba. His father Br Siraj Mohamed and his family maintain a very strong relation with Toowoomba Mosque and community. We wish Abdu and his family a very happy and successful future.



Some guests in the wedding reception of Abdu at the Bowling Club Hall

Fundraising for Toowoomba Mosque in Armidale

On 18 December 2020 a team of Muslim volunteers visited Armidale Mosque in the University of New England for a Jumma collection. Br Hassan and Br Ahmad joined Imam Abdul Kader and Professor Shahjahan Khan for the trip. About \$3000 was raised from the Jumma collection.



Self-Purification through Charity

Self-purification "*tazkiyah an-nafs*" is the key to our excellence and success in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah (SWT) says, "He who purifies (soul or/and wealth) will indeed be successful" (Al-Qur'aan 87:14). Self-purification is also the pathway to paradise. Allah (SWT) says, "but one who fears to stand before his Lord and restrained himself from desires, shall dwell in Paradise." (Al-Qur'aan, 79:40-41). A corrupted and neglected soul,

on the other hand, leads to psychological disorders, wrong doings and may ends to failure in this life before the life after death. Allah says: "He who purifies it (soul) will indeed be successful, and he who corrupts it is sure to fail" (Al-Qur'aan 91:1-10). Hence, the Prophet (SAWS) would always seek refuge from the evils of the soul and would supplicate to Allah for His grant of purified soul: "Oh Allah, inspire my soul with its righteousness and purify it. You are the best to purify it! You are its guardian and its master."

Sayed Qutb, the author of the "Dhilaal fil Qur'aan" says, "This human being has a dual nature, dual tendencies, and dual orientations. He is naturally made from the mud of the earth along with a breath from Allah, so he tends to both good and bad, righteousness and misguidance. He is capable of making out the difference between good and bad and is capable of directing himself to whichever he chooses of them. This ability is latent within him and the Qur'an depicts this in saying, "And inspired it [with discernment of] its wickedness and its righteousness...", and in, "and shown him the two paths?" (Al-Qur'aan 90:10). These latent and innate dispositions are associated with an underlying conscious strength that directs him and is the very cause of entrusting him with the responsibility. Those who use this strength in purifying themselves and developing them (to overcome their latent evils) will win but those who stifle this strength and weaken it will surely lose, "He who purifies it will indeed be successful, and he who corrupts it is sure to fail" (Al-Qur'aan 91:9-10).

Self-purification can only be attained through the moods and methods explained by the Prophets of Allah. One of the fundamental objectives of prophetic missions is to purify souls. Allah tells us, "It is He who has raised among the unlettered people a messenger from among themselves who recites His revelations to them, and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and wisdom, for they had formerly been clearly misguided" (Al-Qur'aan 62:2). One of the Prophetic methods of self-purification is charity *zakah*. Allah says, "Take alms out of their wealth to cleanse them and purify them, and pray for them; your prayer will be a comfort to them..." (Al-Qur'aan 9:103). The author of *Tafsir Al-Saadi*, Sheikh Al-Saady says, "This means that no one can be purified until he pays the zakat that purifies him and nothing else but the zakat can accomplish this part because the purification that comes by the zakat can never be accomplished unless we pay it."



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Linguistically, Both words *zakah* and *tazkiyah* share the same root and meaning. In terms, they are interconnected. Self-purification is achieved by giving away *zakah* and the vice versa i.e. *zakah* is given by those who possess a purified soul. In one hand, *Zakah* not only purifies the soul of the donors from meanness, selfishness, but also purifies the soul of the receivers from envy and hatred towards the high end of the society. On the other hand, it instils generosity, kindness and collectiveness in the soul of the donors and in a same way it brings love and care in the hearts of the bottom end of the society. Thus, social harmony, care and love are achieved.



Dr Javid Iqbal honoured for contribution to Mosque

Update on Madrasah and other language programs

- After school Arabic lessons have started from Monday **11 January 2021** and will continue till the month of Ramdhan. Lessons are available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting from 4:30pm till 8:30pm. There are 3 different sessions based on the level/age of individual students. As planned, we are back Pre-Covid19 structure of face-to-face learning.
- There will be additional Arabic language classes on Friday or/and Saturday starting from mid-February 21. Parents are requested to register their interest.
- Bahasa Indonesia and Bengali will also be taught only on the weekend starting from mid-February 21. Interested parents are requested to register.

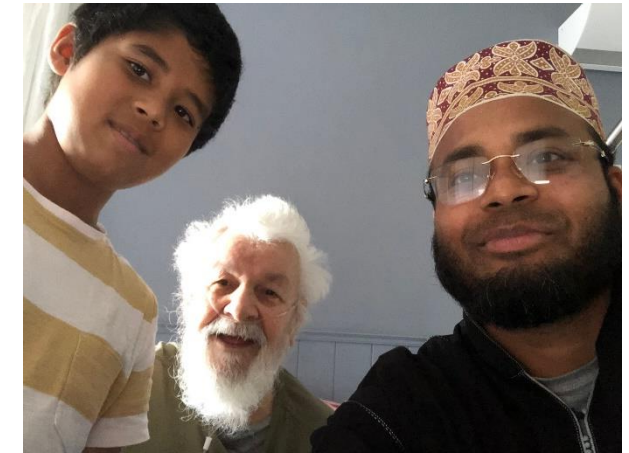
ISoT Youth Hub:

They meet at the Masjid at Asr prayer on every Sunday. The session has resumed after the holiday season and will continue. There will be a lot of activities along with learning Islam and practicing it in the western world. Youth of over 12 years are encouraged to join.



Hospital and Aged care facility visits

We have a number of community members need special care and supports. During December and January, we have visited those members in hospital and in their aged care facility. We have supported them socially, emotionally and spiritually. May Allah accept and bless. Aameen.





04 NEWS

TUESDAY JANUARY 12 2021 THECHRONICLE.COM.AU

Mosque shapes up with city's support



SNEAK PEEK: The ceiling of the reconstructed Toowoomba Mosque has now been covered in gyproc as renovations continue at the facility. **Picture:** Contributed

ALEXIA AUSTIN

RECONSTRUCTION work on the Toowoomba mosque is steaming ahead, with a majority of the internal fittings near completion.

Toowoomba Islamic Society president Professor Shahjahan Khan said it was exciting to see the new facility take shape.

"We are near the end of the internal fittings, which means the electrical, plaster and plumbing are in progress and due to finish soon," Prof Khan said.

"After this, the wet area, carpark, carpet, rainwater tank and landscaping remain to be done."

"We received a \$42,000 pledge at a live online fundraiser last month which will be used for these internal fittings."

Prof Khan said there was an international influence behind parts of the new facility.

"The carpet for the mosque is currently at the Brisbane dock and we are waiting for it to arrive," he said.

"The design is similar to the carpet in the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, so that's a historical link."

"The builder is also working on the Mihrab, which is the front area where the Imam stands for prayers, and that part is quite exciting because it's been designed by a famous Bosnian artist, Dr Adis Fejic."

"The new mosque will also be eco-friendly, according to Prof Khan.

"We already have a solar panel to supply power to the mosque building," he said.

"We also want to install a rainwater tank so we can minimise the use of the town water when washing and gardening."

"We'll now be driving for fundraising so we can finish the final stage of the project."

Prof Khan said they required around \$300,000 more in funding to complete the project.

"The time it takes will depend on fundraising progress," he said.

"The 7th annual Toowoomba International Food Festival and Mosque Open Day, held in November, raised close to \$8000 for the project."

"The important part of the food festival was that everyone enjoyed it," he said.

"A lot of people who had a look inside the mosque were very impressed. They were keen to see it finished."

Until then, Professor Khan said it would be business as usual at the mosque, with visitors abiding by the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

'Trims For Crims' new venture for city boxer

PETER HARDWICK

TALENTED boxer Damien Hooper has a plan for a legitimate life when he is released from jail – sweeping boxing gloves for scissors.

The 28-year-old appeared via video from the watch house to plead guilty before Toowoomba Magistrates Court to entering a Taylor St house on Friday and taking cigarettes, car keys and a power bank which he handed back to the house owner who disturbed him in the house.



He was found with small amounts of cannabis and meth when arrested.

Duty solicitor Ryan McCullough told the court his client realised he had to "clean up his act" if he wanted to further his promising boxing career and he had hoped to start a business venture "Trims For Crims" barber shop with former prisoners cutting hair as a way to do something positive for the community.

On a return to prison warrant on a breach of parole, Hooper was sentenced to nine months in jail with a parole eligibility date of April 9.

Miles keeps fuel record

THE Western Downs town of Miles remained one of the cheapest places to buy fuel in the state last year, according to RACQ's recently released annual Fuel Price Report.

RACQ spokeswoman Vivien O'Connor said Miles averaged 112.3 cents per litre for unleaded petrol in 2020.

"Miles has taken this title out since 2017, so it's no surprise to see the regional town finish on top once again," she said.

"Bundaberg was the second cheapest centre at 111.4cpl."

Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Tony Rehn 04 1269 7555
- 1800 RESPECT www.1800respect.org.au
Support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse. Interpreter 13 14 50
- Business advertisement contact: Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au

Communication with Mosque via Technology

- Imam Abdul Kader: gadergsis@yahoo.com
- General contact email: admin@toowoombamosque.com.au
- Website: www.toowoombamosque.com.au
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque
- WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
- Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083