



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 3, April 2021



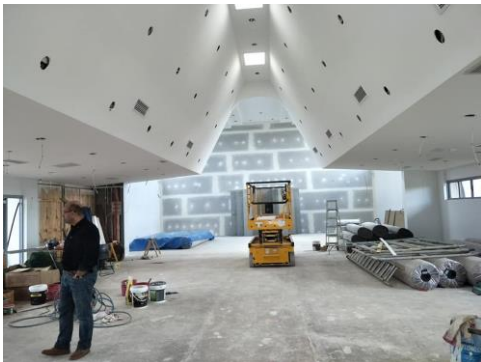
Welcome Ramadan 1442

Alhamdulillah, Ramadan for this year is approaching very fast. Every Muslim is looking forward to welcoming the blessed month. Subject to the announcement of the Grand Mufti of Australia the Ramadan is likely to start on 13 April 2021. We ask Allah SWT to bless us with an accepted Ramadan and enable us to fast with Iman (faith) and Ehtesab and get all our sins forgiven.

It will be wise to plan for Ramadan activities, ibadat, tilawat, charity, zakat, tarawi, futur/ifter etc so that we could get the best out of this Ramadan. If the CovidSafe environment exists, we will offer Tarawi prayers in our Mosque maintaining all health restrictions Inshaa Allah. We have already made arrangements for Tarawi prayers.

Community Ifter-Dinner – Saturday 24 April

Every Muslim family and individual in Toowoomba region are invited to an **Ifter-Dinner on Saturday, 24 April** at 4pm at the Darling Height State School Hall on Wuth St. There will be detailed update/report on the reconstructions progress of the Mosque rebuilding project and discussions on how the Final Stage work can be funded to complete it in the earliest possible way. Suggestions, feedback and support from everyone will be highly welcome. Please book the day ahead of time so that we all could have a blessed and successful Ifter-Dinner together.



Inside the reconstructed Mosque building and Mehrab area

Ramadan Fundraising Appeal

As the Second Stage work for the reconstruction of Toowoomba Mosque closes to an end, the Islamic Society of Toowoomba launches the Ramadan Fundraising Appeal for the Final Stage work of the project.

It is estimated that about \$290,000 AUD will be required to completed 56 carparks, two driveways, one retaining wall, two acoustic walls, one ramp, stormwater management, landscaping, fencing etc.

HELP COMPLETE THE BURNT
**TOOWOOMBA
MOSQUE**

\$290,000
AUD REQUIRED

- 100 donors \$2900 each
- 200 donors \$1450 each
- 500 donors \$580 each
- 1000 donors \$290 each

Donation to cover the cost for any chosen item is welcome.

Help us Complete the Final Stage!

We request all financially able generous donors who could afford to contribute \$1000 in the month of Ramadan to transfer \$100 in each of the last 10 nights of Ramadan to secure the benefit of Lailatul Qadr. The bank account details are BSB 064-459, A/C 1034 1586.



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Reconstruction progress – painting and tiling

After completion of internal painting last month, tiling work has started last week. The waterproofing in the wet areas has been completed.



Tiling work in progress

Toowoomba Mosque on the 2nd Anniversary of Christchurch Mosque Massacre

On 17 March the Daily Chronicle reported on the Service to mark anniversary of shootings in two Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand on 15 March 2019.

Toowoomba's Garden City Mosque marks anniversary of 2019 Christchurch shootings which killed more than 50 people. Monday marked two years since more than 50 people lost their lives at two Christchurch mosques. Now the Toowoomba community has marked the occasion for a special service.

New Zealand born Toowoomba resident Dr David Tutty of the Social Justice Commission speaks as the Islamic Society of Toowoomba host an open service in commemoration of the Christchurch mosque shootings.

The head of Toowoomba's Islamic community has praised the level of involvement from many different faiths and cultures at a special service to commemorate two years since the Christchurch mosque shootings occurred.

Islamic Society of Toowoomba founding president and University of Southern Queensland Professor Shahjahan Khan spoke at the vigil on Monday night, which remembered the 51 people murdered and 40 injured while attending prayer services at two mosques on March 15, 2019.

Professor Shahjahan Khan addresses the gathering as the Islamic Society of Toowoomba host an open service in commemoration of the Christchurch mosque shootings, Monday, March 15, 2021. Prof Khan said the service was important to remind both Toowoomba and Australia what kind of society it wanted to encourage.

"The people who were murdered were innocent people who were there to worship — they came to worship God, and it was tragic what happened," he said.

"This doesn't happen just by chance – there has been preparation before something like this. The community leaders, the national leaders and intellectuals should work together to educate people properly.

"Regardless of the people's religion, we should try and create a society where this kind of behaviour is not encouraged."





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Diversity Meeting in Federal Parliament in Canberra

On the invitation of the President of Australian Federation of Islamic Council (AFIC), President of Islamic Society Professor Shahjahan Khan joined the diversity meeting in the Federal Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday, 24 March 2021.



Professor Khan with Federal MPs Hon Graham Perrett and Tony Bourke, and Dr Rashid Raashed in Canberra Parliament House

Professor Khan with Mr Mahir Surahan of Turkish Mission



Professor Khan with Eng Chowdhury Sadruddin of NT and Mr Abdul Hannan Haroon of Tasmania

Departure of Imam Abdul Kader

After serving Muslims in Toowoomba as the Imam of Garden City Mosque for over 7 years, Imam Abdul Kader is leaving Toowoomba soon. He has accepted a government funded project in Melbourne. Imam Abdul Kader played a key role in the setting up of the Garden City Mosque as its first Imam. He united the community and supported various social and spiritual needs of the people of diverse background. He successfully connected Muslims to other faith communities and worked closely with many faith leaders. He contributed to fundraising for the Mosque, both in and outside Australia. The community will organise an evening event on Friday, 2 April at the Mosque to thank Imam Abdul Kader. Sadly, the community will miss Imam Abdul Kader, and his care and support for the community, especially the children, youth and women.

Recruitment of new Imam

The Society has offered the position of Imam to a successful candidate after formal interview and approval of the Executive Committee. The new Imam has a Bachelor Degree from AlAzhar University, Egypt; a Masters Degree from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and a Hafeez e Qur'an. He is about to finish his PhD study from IIUM. He is fluent in both English and Arabic languages and have experience in working with one of the world's most famous Islamic scholars. The new Imam will join Toowoomba Mosque upon receiving his entry visa as a religious worker. Until his arrival, we will continue to provide as much support for the community as possible.

Arrangements for daily five-time salat

Until the community receives a new full time Imam, the Society has distributed the main tasks of the Imam to number of key members of our community. Br Omar Alsakit has agreed to lead the daily salat and teach Arabic language to the children.

Arrangement for Madrasa

Br Abdu Mohamed will teach the children in Madrasa under the guidance of Dr Omar Alajarmeh and assistance from Br Omar Alsakit. Sr Aminah will help with the registration of Madrasa children and collection of contributions from the parents. **Madrasa will be closed during the month of Ramadan.** If pandemic situation does not allow face-to-face Madrasa, we plan to run online lessons after Ramadan.



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Ramadan Calendar/Timetable 1442 (2021)



Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc

Garden City Mosque

Ramadan Timetable 2021 (1442 Hijrah)

Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia



Fajr means both Fajr Adhan and Imsak (starting fast) and Maghrib means both Maghrib Adhan and Fajr/Iftar (breaking fast) time.

Ramadan#	Date/Day	Fajr/Sehar	Dhuhr	Asr	Iftar/Maghrib	Isba
1	April 14, Wed	04:52 AM	11:54 AM	03:10 PM	05:39 PM	06:51 PM
2	15, Thu	04:53 AM	11:54 AM	03:10 PM	05:38 PM	06:50 PM
3	16, Fri	04:53 AM	11:53 AM	03:09 PM	05:37 PM	06:49 PM
4	17, Sat	04:54 AM	11:53 AM	03:08 PM	05:37 PM	06:48 PM
5	18, Sun	04:54 AM	11:53 AM	03:07 PM	05:36 PM	06:47 PM
6	19, Mon	04:55 AM	11:53 AM	03:07 PM	05:35 PM	06:46 PM
7	20, Tue	04:55 AM	11:52 AM	03:06 PM	05:34 PM	06:45 PM
8	21, Wed	04:55 AM	11:52 AM	03:05 PM	05:33 PM	06:44 PM
9	22, Thu	04:56 AM	11:52 AM	03:05 PM	05:32 PM	06:43 PM
10	23, Fri	04:56 AM	11:52 AM	03:04 PM	05:31 PM	06:43 PM
11	24, Sat	04:57 AM	11:52 AM	03:03 PM	05:30 PM	06:42 PM
12	25, Sun	04:57 AM	11:51 AM	03:03 PM	05:29 PM	06:41 PM
13	26, Mon	04:58 AM	11:51 AM	03:02 PM	05:28 PM	06:40 PM
14	27, Tue	04:58 AM	11:51 AM	03:01 PM	05:27 PM	06:39 PM
15	28, Wed	04:59 AM	11:51 AM	03:01 PM	05:26 PM	06:39 PM
16	29, Thu	04:59 AM	11:51 AM	03:00 PM	05:25 PM	06:38 PM
17	30, Fri	05:00 AM	11:51 AM	02:59 PM	05:25 PM	06:37 PM
18	May 01, Sat	05:00 AM	11:51 AM	02:59 PM	05:24 PM	06:37 PM
19	02, Sun	05:00 AM	11:50 AM	02:58 PM	05:23 PM	06:36 PM
20	03, Mon	05:01 AM	11:50 AM	02:58 PM	05:22 PM	06:35 PM
21	04, Tue	05:01 AM	11:50 AM	02:57 PM	05:22 PM	06:35 PM
22	05, Wed	05:02 AM	11:50 AM	02:56 PM	05:21 PM	06:34 PM
23	06, Thu	05:02 AM	11:50 AM	02:56 PM	05:20 PM	06:33 PM
24	07, Fri	05:03 AM	11:50 AM	02:55 PM	05:19 PM	06:33 PM
25	08, Sat	05:03 AM	11:50 AM	02:55 PM	05:19 PM	06:32 PM
26	09, Sun	05:04 AM	11:50 AM	02:54 PM	05:18 PM	06:32 PM
27	10, Mon	05:04 AM	11:50 AM	02:54 PM	05:17 PM	06:31 PM
28	11, Tue	05:04 AM	11:50 AM	02:53 PM	05:17 PM	06:31 PM
29	12, Wed	05:05 AM	11:50 AM	02:53 PM	05:16 PM	06:30 PM
30	13, Thu	05:05 AM	11:50 AM	02:52 PM	05:16 PM	06:30 PM

Beginning of Ramadan depends on the official declaration of the Grand Mufti of Australia

*This table has already added extra minutes to the Maghrib time to adjust for the high elevation of Toowoomba.

Garden City Mosque

217 West St (cnr Stephan St), Harristown, Qld 4350

Donations for Masjid: Croydon Bank, BSB No 064459, A/C No 1034 1586

Demise of mother of Eng Waqar Butt

Beloved mother of Br Waqar Butt died in Pakistan on Thursday, 25 March. Inna lillahi wainna elaihi rajiu. Please make duwa for the deceased and her family.

Article from Australasian Muslim Times (AMUST)

Reflections on the sufferings of Uyghur Muslims

Posted by [Shahjahan Khan](#) | 30 Mar, 2021 | [Ummah](#) | [0](#) |



China has been on the hot spot in recent years for its systematic oppression of Muslims in some parts of China. While Governments in Muslim countries are silent about the serious allegations of ongoing ethnic cleansing and genocide, some western Governments and Rights Organisations are continuously accusing China of its undeterred oppressive acts.

Sharing your story: If you have a story to be included in the Muslim Community Newsletter please contact Prof Shahjahan Khan at Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au



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In a recent landmark report prepared by more than 50 international experts, and released by the Washington-based Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy, claims that the Chinese Government has violated all five acts that constitute genocide:

killing members of a group; inflicting serious bodily and mental harm; trying to prevent births; transferring children to another group; creating living conditions designed to bring about the group's destruction.

In 2018, UN human rights committee had credible reports that the Chinese were holding up to a million people in "counter-extremism centres" in Xinjiang.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute found evidence in 2020 of more than 380 of these "re-education camps" in Xinjiang, an increase of 40% on previous estimates.

Former US Secretary of States, Mike Pompeo said: "I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state."

Chinese Government is not denying the concentration camps, rather claiming them to be 're-education' centres to prevent terrorism and separatist ideas.

In 2017, President Xi Jinping issued an order that all religions in China should be Chinese in orientation. However, people who escaped the so called re-education camps have reported physical, mental and sexual torture – women have spoken of mass rape and sexual abuse.

At least 1 million Muslim minority Uyghurs are held in Chinese government-run detention centres. There are about 12 million Uyghurs, mostly Muslim, living in north-western China in the region of Xinjiang, officially known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

Latest media reports show that the Chinese authorities are selling organs of Uyghur Muslims, and separating the children from their parents.

Often when the man of a house is taken to custody by the security forces they deploy a security guard in the house to monitor what happens inside the home. In many cases these guards rape the women of the house in the absence of men.

Historical background

In the early 20th Century, the Uyghurs briefly declared independence, but the region was brought under the complete control of mainland China's new Communist government in 1949.

In recent decades, there's been a mass migration of Han Chinese (China's ethnic majority) to Xinjiang, and the Uyghurs feel their culture and livelihoods are under threat.

As a result anti-Han and separatist sentiment rose in Xinjiang from the 1990s. It was reported that in 2009 over 200 people died in clashes in Xinjiang, which the Chinese blamed on Uyghurs who want their own state. But in recent years a massive security crackdown has crushed dissent.

Xinjiang is situated in the north-west of China and is the country's biggest region. The region is rich in oil and natural gas and producing about a fifth of the world's cotton. It is close to Central Asia and Europe and an important trade link for China.

Islam reached China nearly 1,400 years ago. Majority of Muslims in China are Hui Muslims. However, the greatest concentration of Muslims is in Xinjiang, with a significant Uyghur population.

Muslims also live in the regions of Ningxia, Gansu and Qinghai of China. It is estimated that between 60–80 million Muslims in China. Of China's 55 officially recognised minority peoples, ten groups are predominantly Muslims.

Islam first came to China in 616–18 AD when Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas, Wahab ibn Abu Kabcha and other companions of Prophet Muhammad (s), arrived as traders.

The first major Muslim settlements in China consisted of Arab and Persian merchants, especially in the port cities of Guangzhou, Quanzhou and Hangzhou on China's southeastern seaboard.

In the year 760 in Yangzhou, troops killed Arab and Persian merchants targeted for their wealth in the Yangzhou massacre. Around 879, rebels killed about 120,000–200,000 mostly Arab and Persian Muslims during the Guangzhou massacre.

Current situation

According to media reports, Xinjiang is now covered by a pervasive network of surveillance, including police, checkpoints, and cameras that scan everything from number plates to individual faces.



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According to Human Rights Watch, police are also using a mobile app to monitor peoples' behaviour, such as how much electricity they are using and how often they use their front door.

The US has accused China of committing genocide against the Uyghurs. According to international convention, genocide is the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group".

China has said that the reports on detention of Uyghurs are completely untrue. It says the crackdown is necessary to prevent terrorism and root out Islamist extremism and the camps are an effective tool for re-educating inmates in its fight against terrorism.

China has dismissed claims it is trying to reduce the Uyghur population through mass sterilisations as "baseless", and says allegations of forced labour are "completely fabricated".

There are half a million children in the detention camps. These boarding schools are to create a new generation of Uyghurs who will be more loyal to their party and nation. In fact, they will be totally deprived of their Islamic and Uyghur heritage.

Western role

The situation of Uyghur Muslims in China is seriously worrying. The Western voices in support of them is welcome. But the question remains, is the verbal support of the west to seriously engage with Chinese Government to protect the heritage and human and religious rights of Uyghurs or to embarrass China for political reasons?

Given continuing inaction of the Western powers to stop the illegal occupation of Palestine for generations, continuous aggressive land grabbing by Zionist Israel and continuing apartheid regime to exterminate the Arab population in their own homeland exposes their lack of serious engagement and willingness.

This, and support/allowing for many other anti-Muslim acts including Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia, non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, Rohingya genocide in Myanmar, and brutal occupation of Kashmir by India have raised legitimate questions of their sincerity.

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