



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 5, June 2021



1442/2021 Eid celebration in Toowoomba on 13 May

Following the announcement of Grand Mufti of Australia, Muslims in Toowoomba celebrated Eid ul Fitr 1442/2021 on Thursday, 13 May 2021. Since the Eid was on a weekday, we did not get any rental hall for Eid prayers. At the end, we had to offer Eid prayers in our current prayer hall in the Mosque premises. To avoid large gathering in the small hall, we divided the community in two groups – one praying at 6:45am and the other at 7:30am.

Unlike last year, we were lucky to have physical Eid prayers. Alhamdulillah, the prayer hall was overfull in each session. Women and children join the community to participate the Eid prayers. Br Omar AlSakit led the first session and Br Abdu Mohamed led the second session of the prayers. People from as far away as Kingaroy and Warwick came to Toowoomba for Eid prayers.



Toowoomba Mosque rebuilding progressing to Final Stage

With the completion of the Second Stage contracted job, the reconstruction of Toowoomba Mosque project is about to enter its Final Stage. The Second Stage job was all internal fittings including plumbing, electrical, Gyproc, aircon, painting etc. We still need to complete Mehrab area and some final painting before laying the carpet.

The Final Stage work will include 56 carparking places, two driveways, one retaining wall, on ramp, two acoustic wall, stormwater management, landscaping and concreting around the building. We are looking for contractors, builders or tradies to get quotations for all these works. Any help will be highly appreciated.

Eng Waqar Butt and Eng Adnan Bashir are discussing future work of the Mosque with members of the community after Jumma prayers.



Brothers discussing reconstruction progress inside the new Mosque building after Jumma prayers

Ramadan Appeal Updates

In the month of Ramadan Toowoomba Mosque launched a Fundraising Appeal of AUD \$290,000. Alhamdulillah, with your contributions and duwa we have passed over \$190,000 (pledge plus



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cash/transfers). We are under \$95,000 of our Ramadan Fundraising Target for rebuilding Toowoomba Mosque.

The contribution and pledges of over \$140,000 by the Muslims of Toowoomba on Saturday, 21 April 2021 in the fundraising Iftar-Dinner was inspirational. Since then many Muslims have continued to donate for the reconstruction of the Mosque.

One former USQ student from Indonesia contributed \$25,000 to the project. He made the generous donation for his parents and ask for duwa from everyone.

Recently, Islamic Council of Queensland has donated \$1000.00 and Muslim Community Cooperative Australia (MCCA) has contributed \$2000.00. May Allah reward everyone who have supported the rebuilding of the House of Allah.

Payments can be made via

Bank transfer: Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Organisation, BSB: 064459, Account Number: 10341586, Swift Code: CTBAU2S

For PayPal and Credit Card Payments please donate online via Toowoomba Mosque website.

Eid Reunion on Saturday 21 May

Eid Réunion was held at Toowoomba Masjid. Lots delicious food from diverse culture. The event was enjoyed by children, youth and old, and Non-Muslim and Muslim women and men. Children were busy with jumping castle. Thanks to the families who cooked and provided food as well as help organise the event. *Jazakumullahu khair* for all volunteers and contributors.



Section of the participants with children enjoying jumping castle

Upcoming 8th Annual Toowoomba Int'l Food Festival and Mosque Open Day

On behalf of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba we are pleased to invite you and your family/friends to the 8th Annual Toowoomba International Food Festival and Garden City Mosque Open Day on **Saturday, 31 July 2021** on the Mosque Premises at 217 West St., Harristown (Toowoomba) from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

Everyone knows that this is a very significant event in the annual calendar of Toowoomba and the region.



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In the past years many dignitaries including Govt Ministers/Officials, Vice Chancellors, Federal/State MPs, Mayor/Councillors, Bishops and other religious and community leaders participated in the event. The event is partly supported by a grant from the Queensland Government.

This public event is open to everyone to listen to the speakers and share varieties of food from Australia, Middle East, South East Asia, Europe, Africa etc.

This year people will also have an opportunity to see the progress in the rebuilding of the burned Toowoomba Mosque.

Looking forward to welcoming you and your family on the day.



Some guests and speakers in the 7th Annual Toowoomba Int'l Food Festival and Mosque Open Day 2020.

Khutbah on Environment

The Friday Jumma Sermon in Toowoomba Mosque on 4 June will be on the Environmental issues and its Islamic perspectives. This is to remind Muslims that as representatives of Allah on the earth, protecting the environment is an obligation of every Muslim. Many Mosques in Australia will participate in the initiative of Lebanese Muslim Association.

Visa Application for the new Imam

Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust has launched a Labour-Agreement application with the Department of Immigration to get visa for the new Imam of Garden City Mosque. With the help of Professor Shahjahan Khan and Associate Professor Mainul Islam, Mr Albab Khan has prepared all documentations and submitted online application for the Labour-Agreement in early April 2021.

Professor Khan has contacted Federal MP, Hon Garth Hamilton and Ms Lisa Crawford, Director of Home Affairs, seeking their support to speed up the visa application processing for the new Imam.

Here is a brief summary of his letter:

On behalf of the Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust and Islamic Society of Toowoomba, I am writing this letter to seek your assistance to speed up the processing of our application for labour-agreement submitted to the Department of Home Affairs to enable our newly appointed Imam (Religious Worker) to join his duties in Toowoomba as a matter of urgency.

Our full time Imam of the Garden City (Toowoomba) Mosque has moved to another job effective from 31/03/2021 with a very short notice. As a result, the community has been put under severe pressure in trying to maintain the operations of the mosque without a full-time Imam. We need an Imam urgently.

For the interim, we have allocated certain responsibilities to some volunteers of the community to maintain only the basic services at a very limited scale. Without a full time paid Imam it is impossible to run the daily five times prayers, madrasa (Islamic/Arabic learning classes), counselling, weekly sermons, engaging with wider and diverse communities and essential community support services such as helping victims of DV and youth activities.

On behalf of the Muslims in Toowoomba, I request you kindly to approach the Department of Home Affairs to explain the time sensitiveness of this labour-agreement and the urgency of our community so that they may process the agreement application at the shortest possible time.



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Abrahamic Faith Gathering

President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba Professor Shahjahan Khan made a presentation on "Ministering the dead people" from an Islamic practice in the Abrahamic Faith Gathering on Wednesday, 19 May 2021. The quarterly meeting was held at the St Anthony's Church in Harristown. The Jewish and Christian perspectives were presented by two other speakers. It was nice to share teachings of Islamic religion to non-Muslims and know about their practice. Halal dinner was provided by the organisers. Special thanks to Mr John Agnew for organising the group and managing its activities.



Some participants in the Abrahamic Faith Gathering

Toowoomba Mosque Madrasa and Language Class Timetable

The classes on Islam and Basic Arabic are held from 4:00pm until after Magrib (40 minutes each lesson) every week from Monday to Thursday. For details, please contact Br Abdu Mohamed on 0469026540.

The Arabic Language classes are held from 4:00pm on every Friday and Saturday. For details, please contact Br Omar AlSakit on 0434284241.

Bangla Language classes are held on Saturdays at 11:00am. For details, please contact Br Kabir Ahmad on 0424591316.

Fundraising at Toowoomba Mosque for Brisbane Adult Madrasa

Dr Zaman Islam and Br Zahedul Haque visited Toowoomba Mosque on 7 May 2021 for a Friday collection for the Kuraby based Adult Madrasa in Brisbane. This Madrasa is teaching Qur'an and basic Islam to many adult Muslims in Brisbane. They received over \$1700 from the Muslims in Toowoomba. Alhamdulillah.



Children Playgroup with CEDAR Centre

The first session of the children playgroup was held at the Toowoomba Mosque on Friday, 21 May 2021. It is a collaboration between the CEDAR Centre Community Playgroup and Islamic Society of Toowoomba. From the Society Sr Sahira and Sr Nazreen coordinated the event with Ms Nancy Tindin of CEDAR Centre. A good number of children under the age of 5 participated in the fun. Islamic Society of Toowoomba is very thankful to all volunteers who did a great job.





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Fortnightly Playgroup Sessions

The event will be a regular feature on every alternate Fridays from 9:30am-11:00am. So the next sessions are on 4 June, 18 June and so on. Please bring your children if appropriate.

Here is a lovely letter from the Coordinator of CEDAR Centre Community Playgroup

Good afternoon Professor,

I am hoping you are well and a belated Happy Eid Mubarak.

Firstly, let me on behalf of CEDAR Centre, thank you and the Toowoomba Mosque committee for allowing us to organise and run a community playgroup at the mosque every fortnight during the school terms.

Our first playgroup was on Friday, 21st May 2021. It was a success and well attended. There were 6 mothers with their children attending. The children interacted and played well with one another while the mothers were also getting to know one another and shared experiences. It was really a multicultural playgroup because those attending were from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Iraq, while my workmate, Emma Tane, is an Australian, and I am from Brunei Darussalam.

CEDAR Centre is an RTO and a not-for-profit community-based organisation providing training and education to facilitate and support a culture of lifelong learning. We have just moved to our new building at 218, Anzac Avenue, Harristown.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite yourself and the other Toowoomba Mosque management committee to visit our centre to see what we are doing and have to offer to your community, especially in terms of reskilling and life-long learning.

Have a good afternoon, stay safe and looking forward to more involvement between CEDAR Centre and your community.

Justice of the Peace Service at Toowoomba Mosque

A dedicated Justice of the Peace and friend of the community has offered to serve the community by providing regular *certifying documents* service at the Toowoomba Mosque. Mr George Helon JP will be at the Mosque on Fridays from 12:00pm to 1:30pm to help sign any documents people need to be certified by a Justice of the Peace.

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: gaderqsis@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