



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 6, July 2021



Celebration of the 8th Annual Food Festival and Mosque Open Day

The Islamic Society of Toowoomba is organising its signature annual event at the Toowoomba Mosque. The 8th Annual Toowoomba International Food Festival and Garden City Mosque Open Day will be held on Saturday, 31 July 2021 at the Mosque Premises on 217 West St., Harristown (Toowoomba) from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

This is a public event open to everyone and there is no entry fee. Everyone is welcome with family and friend to enjoy international food with friendship, fun and faith.

This year, participants will have an opportunity to see the progress in the reconstruction of burnt Toowoomba Mosque.

As you may know that this is a very significant event in the annual calendar of Toowoomba and the region attracting

hundreds of people from all walks of life and diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

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.

This year the confirmed guests and speakers are found in the attached flyer below.

The formal presentation session will be held from 11am-12:30pm in the payer hall. Everyone is welcome in the whole program.

The Coordinator of the event is Associate Professor Mainul Islam. For any queries booking stall or any planned activities, please contact him on 04 3253 3550, or Br Mohamed Ali on 0431120658, or Dr Omar Alajarmeh on 04 9739 4088, or Br Mohamed Abdulkareem on 04 1373 5525.



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Eidul Adha Prayers

Eidul Adha will most likely to be celebrated in Toowoomba on 20 July 2021 subject to the announcement of Grand Mufti of Australia and under all health restrictions due to Covid-19. Details on the prayer venue will be announce closer to the date.

Udyah or Qurbani

It is a great ibadat to sacrifice animal during Eidul Adha. If you wish to participate in the **local Qurbani** and meat to be delivered to Toowoomba Mosque, please contact Br Mohamed Abdulkareem on 0413735525. He is coordinating the Qurbani arrangement for the community.

If you wish to do an **oversea Qurbani**, please place your order online via Islamic Relief Australia website <https://islamicrelief.org.au/> They have different options with different price for you to select.

Stormwater Management work to start soon

The stormwater management and external plumbing work of Toowoomba Mosque will start very soon. This will include setting/installing a 22.5 kilo litre underground rainwater tank to be connected to the toilets and gardening of the Mosque property. The work will also involve removal of old concrete at the southern side of the reconstructed building.



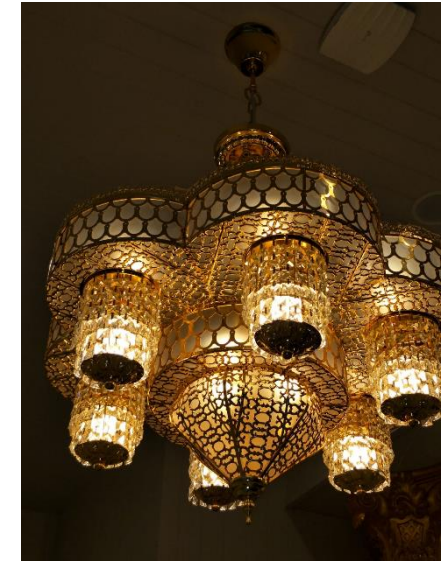
This will be a very significant work of the Final Stage of the Rebuilding Project. The remaining work of the project will be concreting around the building, laying the carpet, and sealing carparking areas including dive ways and retaining wall.

Mosque's Front Wall Painting

Dr Muhidin Hadzich and Br Nur Abdul Rahman have completed painting of the inside high wall at the West end of the building. This finishes the painting of the whole building. A huge thankyou to both brothers for their continuing hard work for the House of Allah.

Adnun and Albab Khan donate chandelier

Two Khan brothers from Toowoomba, Adnun and Albab has donated a Chandelier to the Garden City Mosque. The overseas crafted imported piece was designed and directed by them. This Chandelier is likely to better fit in the women prayer area at the mezzanine level of the reconstructed Mosque building. A big thankyou and Jazak Allah Khair to the two young entrepreneurs.



Islamic Society President visited all six Mosques in Queensland north of Brisbane

As part of his long-term link and support for the remote and regional communities, President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan visited all six Mosques to the north of greater Brisbane. The trip started on Friday 11, June from Toowoomba to Brisbane, and ended on Thursday, 24 June.

It was highly pleasing to meet so many Muslims living in the regional Queensland and working hard to uphold the universal teachings and peaceful message of Islam. During the visits to the Mosques he delivered short speeches about the plight of Muslims in Australia and share his experience of living as Muslims in Toowoomba for nearly three decades.



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He learned a lot about the communities, their history, achievements, strength, aspirations and challenges. Many of the Mosques that he visited raised funds to help rebuild the burnt Toowoomba Mosque.

Destination #1 Gladstone Mosque



The first Mosque visited in the trip was the Gladstone Mosque on Saturday, 12 June. It is a temporary Musallah in a rental property. The community is in the process of building a permanent Mosque after getting approval from the local Council and winning a court case. This is a very well organised community under the leadership of Eng Moslem Uddin. We met him, Dr Khondoker Ashraf Islam, and Syed Midhatullah Qadri who was an Engineering student at USQ long time ago.

Destination #2 Mackay Mosque

The second Mosque we visited is the Mackay Mosque on Sunday, 13 June. This Mosque was established in 1983 with the help of AFIC. The key founder of this Mosque was Br Omar Selimich (May Allah be pleased with him), a Bosnian origin Muslim who used to lived in Toowoomba and later moved to South Australia. I made a short speech after Dhuhr prayers and joined the Monthly Community Lunch with so many members of the Community.

It was great to catch up with Dr Muntaser Musameh (current President), Dr Muhammad Ashraf (past President), Imam Mujib Ullah, Mustafa Akbar (Vice President) to mention a few. This community is very well organised and very actively engaged within and between communities.



Destination #3 Mareeba Mosque

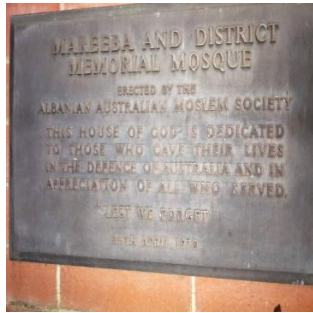
On Wednesday, 16 June we visited the second oldest Mosque in Queensland. This Mosque was built in 1970 by the Muslims of Albanian origin who started settlement in the region in 1920's. I was very honoured to meet Br Binyamin Murat and Br Eskander Murat, decedents of early settlers and enjoy their company briefly. They were allowed to migrate to Australia even under the 'White Only' migration policy because they were Caucasians.

Interestingly, Br Eskander (right in the photo below) is an engineering graduate from USQ. A very successful farmer, who brought his wife to Toowoomba after their marriage to show her where he used to live in the Garden City.



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Dr Akil Islam and his family invited us for a family dinner in his farm home. A big thankyou to the family, especially Sr Diana Murat and her lovely mother.

Destination #4 Cairns Mosque

The fourth Mosque we visited in our tour was the Cairns Mosque. It is also known as Abu Bakr As-Siddiq Mosque. Br Abdul Aziz Mohamed (May Allah be pleased with him) was one of the key founders and Imam of this Mosque. This Mosque was built in 2009. Br Rafiqul Chowdhury is a Trusty of the Mosque and manages its affairs along side other active members of the community. I also met Br Aboo Auckbur and Br Rafeek Mohamed. It was exciting to meet Eng Mahmudul Hoque who was in Toowoomba and worked in the Toowoomba Second Range Project before moving to Cairns. The Imam of this Mosque was also serving as Imam in Mareeba Mosque. He has moved to another city and the community is now in the process of hiring another Imam.

Destination #5 Townsville Mosque

On Saturday, 19 June we visited the fifth Mosque on our tour, the Townsville Mosque. It was established in 1987, four years after Mackay Masjid was built. Interestingly the carpet in this Masjid looks exactly the same as that of old Toowoomba Masjid. This Masjid was funded by Saudi Arabian Government. The community is very well organised, dynamic and active. Both Isha'a and Fajr prayers were very well attended. I was specially impressed by the number of young Muslims who joined Fajr prayers.



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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It was great to catch up with my old friends, Professor Dr Osman Malabu (past President), Dr Shahead Chowdhury (President), Dr Oyelola Adegboye (whom I met in University of Qatar twice), and Dr Mitra.



On our way to Toowoomba, we prayed evening (Maghrib and Isha) prayers in Ipswich Mosque on Thursday, 24 June.

It was an honour to join the dinner hosted by the family of Dr Shahead Chowdhury. Very big thank you to the family, especial wife, of Dr Shahead for their warmest hospitality. Along with delicious food we enjoyed the company of our senior colleague Dr Rabi Beg and friend Dr Rafi Uddin Ahmed, both of whom work at James Cook University.

Destination #6 Rockhampton Mosque

On Tuesday, 22 June we joined a dinner in the Rockhampton Mosque. This Mosque was established about 20 years ago. We met Br Abdur Razaq (President), Associate Professor Delwar Akbar (past President), Dr Zaman and Dr Sweet along with other members of the community. This is a well-established community and very actively engaged with wider community.

It was exciting to know that Br Abdur Razaq lived in Toowoomba briefly on his arrival to Australia. This is a very well established community and very actively engaged with wider community. Associate Professor Delwar Akbar is a great host and once again his family invited us for dinner at his home. Very big thank you to his family for the warm hospitality.



We were very impressed by the spirit and engagement of the Muslims in the remote and regional Queensland. They are proud to be Muslims and making great effort to live as Muslims. The Mosques are key to the unity and future of Muslims. All the Mosques run Madrasa to teach Islam to the children and adult. The Muslims in these communities are highly committed to their faith and genuine effort to maintain the Mosques and strengthen their communities, and engage with people in the wider community to live in peace and harmony.

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We thank everyone who organised the meetings in various Mosques and helped make our trip a success. We pray for everyone served/serving and supported/supporting these Houses of Allah and community only to please Him and achieve successes in the Hereafter.

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Ongoing JP Service at Toowoomba Mosque

Justice of the Peace (JP) service to certify documents started at the Toowoomba Mosque on the Second Friday of last month. But Mr George Helon JP had a very busy session on Friday, 18 June 2021 helping 6 different members of the community until 2pm.

The service will continue for the community at the Mosque Premises from 12pm-1:30pm of every Friday to provide FREE assistance with document certifications to Muslims and non-Muslims.



Please bring your original documents to be certified and sufficient number of scanned/photo copies you need. The community is very thankful to George for his help and valuable support.

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.

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