



# THE TOOWOOMBA MUSLIM NEWSLETTER

## Mosque's open day held on Sept 2nd

On a beautiful September day, the Toowoomba community came together to celebrate diversity and unity at the [10th International Food Festival](#). Hosted by the Toowoomba Mosque, this event transcended borders and boundaries, bringing people from all walks of life to savour the world's flavours and foster interfaith dialogue. The presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Government Officials, the Vice Chancellor, the Mayor, Councilors, Bishops, and other religious and community leaders, graced the festival. Their participation added to the significance of this joyous occasion.

Stalls adorned with colourful flags served mouthwatering delicacies from Africa to Asia, providing a culinary passport for attendees to explore diverse flavours. As the aroma of exotic dishes wafted through the air, attendees embarked on a gastronomic journey that transcended borders. Families found delight in the dedicated



Rumman Ali prepares food at the Sudan stall at the International Food Festival and Mosque Open Day at Garden City Mosque, Saturday, September 2, 2023.

Picture: Kevin Farmer. Source: *The Chronicle*

children's area, where young ones engaged in playful activities, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

SCAN to WATCH the inaugural programme



The festival wasn't just about food; it was a celebration of Toowoomba's rich tapestry of cultures and a testament to the city's inclusivity. More than a culinary adventure, the International Food Festival underscored the Toowoomba Mosque's vital role as a welcoming space for cultural exchange and understanding. It served as a platform for fostering interfaith dialogue and nurturing the spirit of unity within the community. 🌱

## Free Skills Development Course successfully concluded

Toowoomba Mosque recently organized and successfully concluded a transformative initiative. The mosque, in partnership with Queensland Training Employment Services (TES) and Multicultural Mailer, offered a unique opportunity to the community by providing a nationally accredited Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways program, and the results have been truly beneficial for the participants.

The program, which has already been completed, spanned 18 weeks and equipped participants with invaluable skills and knowledge. It focused on enhancing language, numeracy, and digital literacy skills. Participants also learned essential job-seeking skills, including resume writing, job-hunting strategies, and effective interview techniques. The program emphasized the advantages of networking and volunteering, boosting self-confidence, and making a lasting impression.

This initiative by the Toowoomba Mosque has undeniably proven to be a tremendous asset to the community, with participants reaping significant benefits that will undoubtedly set them on the path to a brighter future. 🌱

*"O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you. Allah is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware."*

(Surah Al-Hujurat: 13)

## Message to the Community

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah, and Eid Mubarak!

As Ramadan concludes, we extend heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers and participants for their dedication throughout this blessed month. We are especially thankful for the completion of our new Masjid building, providing a serene space for prayer and reflection in Toowoomba.

It is incumbent upon us, as Muslims, to uphold the values of Islam through our conduct and care for the wider community. Let us remain vigilant against radicalization and extremism, striving for peace and harmony in our multicultural society. During this Eid, let us remember our oppressed brothers and sisters worldwide especially the people in Gaza and West Bank, and stand in solidarity with them.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our community members and leaders, whose efforts have brought us to this point. Let us continue to teach Islam to our children and provide support to all Australians.

As we celebrate Eid Al-Fitr, may Allah protect our Masjid and reward all who contribute to its upkeep. May this be a memorable Eid for you, your family, and the entire Ummah.

Best wishes,

On behalf of the Executive Committee & Sub-Committees  
**Assoc Prof Mainul Islam (President) |**  
**Emeritus Prof Shahjahan Khan (Founding President)**  
 Islamic Society of Toowoomba |  
 Toowoomba Garden City Mosque .♣

## Initiative with Impact: Recycle and Respect Resources

As the holy month of Ramadan graces Toowoomba, the Garden City Masjid shines as a symbol of unity and compassion, not just for our society but also for the environment. In a remarkable effort spearheaded by Sister Nunung and her dedicated team of youngsters, an inspiring initiative took shape: "Recycle Bottles for Masjid".

The essence of this initiative revolved around the principle of doing good deeds both for the environment and for the sake of Allah. With the theme resonating "[Together We Can](#)", the children enthusiastically embraced the task of promoting the proper placement of 10c refund recycle bottles within the mosque compound.

Their efforts bore fruit as the bottles were diligently collected and sent for refunds, resulting in the mosque earning approximately A\$750 so far. Beyond the monetary gain, this exercise served as a valuable lesson for our children, instilling in them a sense of responsibility and respect for both the environment and their community.



SCAN TO WATCH THE VIDEO

Let's continue to nurture such initiatives that not only enrich our community spirit during Ramadan but also contribute to a cleaner, greener future for generations to come. Together, we can make a difference! ♣

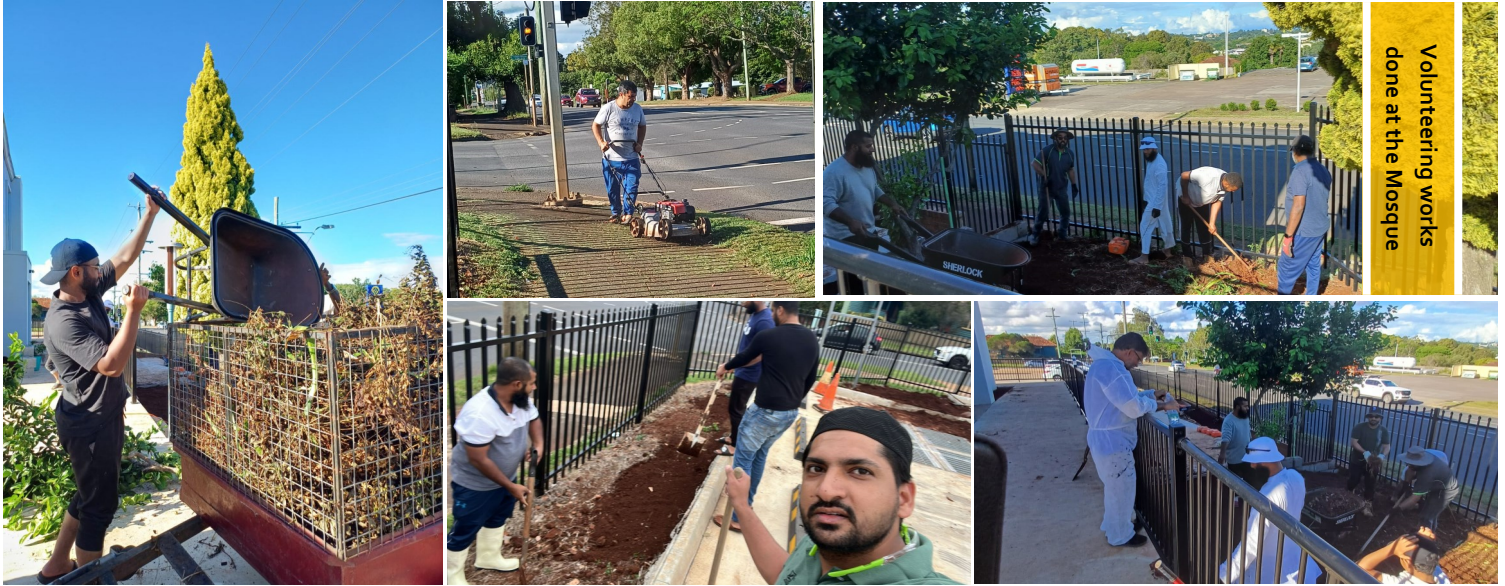


## Activity Album





# Activity Album



Volunteering works done at the Mosque



Job and Career Information Session run by Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and Golden West



Occupancy certification



Iftar preparation by our sisters



Miscellaneous



## Drive for Islamic School at Toowoomba- Mosque Seeks Community Input

The Toowoomba Mosque has embarked on a mission to gather information from parents and children within the community, aiming to establish an Islamic school in Toowoomba. The mosque is actively seeking advice, suggestions, and ideas from the community members to ensure the success of this endeavour.

This collaborative effort underscores the mosque's commitment to providing educational opportunities that align with Islamic values and the community's needs. Community members' thoughts and insights are invaluable to help shape the vision and direction of the proposed Islamic school. Kindly contact Imam Mohammad Aminul Islam or A/Professor Dr. Mainul Islam, President of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba, to contribute to this vital undertaking. Together, we can create a brighter educational future for our children. 🌱

## Book Reading Competition with 32 Participants

On Saturday, 9 September 2023, the much-anticipated Book Reading Competition took centre stage, drawing 32 enthusiastic participants. This literary event showcased the community's love for reading Islamic literature, with 18 males and 14 females coming together to share their passion for Quranic and Sunnah texts.

The competition provided a platform for participants to showcase their understanding and interpretation of sacred Islamic texts. It underscored the significance of the Quran and the Sunnah in the lives of the community members, fostering a

deeper connection to the teachings and principles of Islam.

This event not only honoured the spiritual and educational value of these texts but also served as a testament to the participants' commitment to the study and dissemination of Islamic knowledge. Congratulations to all the participants for their dedication to the Quran and Sunnah, which continue to guide and inspire countless lives. 🌱



## Toowoomba Mosque Extends a Helping Hand in Times of Distress

In a year marked by a series of natural and man-made disasters, the Toowoomba Mosque has been a beacon of hope and support for those in need. With hearts full of compassion, the mosque has undertaken a noble mission to collect donations and assist distressed individuals facing overwhelming challenges.

On 8 September 2023, a devastating earthquake struck Morocco, claiming the lives of at least 2000 people, leaving thousands injured, and causing extensive destruction to homes. Meanwhile, in the eastern city of Derna, Libya, a catastrophic flood on 10 Sep-

tember 2023 resulted in the loss of at least 10,000 lives, with 10,000 people reported missing. The situation in Derna remains dire, with survivors in desperate need of help.

Additionally, the world has witnessed the heart-wrenching tragedy of the Israeli air raids on al-Ahli Arab Hospital and all over Gaza, leading to the loss of thousands of innocent lives. This brutal man-made disaster has drawn international condemnation, and the victims continue to suffer.

In response to these crises, Toowoomba Mosque launched a fundraising initiative to support and relieve the victims and survivors. The mosque thanks everyone for joining in this charitable effort to alleviate the suffering of those affected by these tragic events. 🌱

## Unity in Diversity:

### Toowoomba Mosque Leads Interfaith Gathering for Environmental Stewardship

Toowoomba's Garden City Mosque became a beacon of interfaith gatherings. Recently, it hosted a gathering on Wednesday evening, the 6th of March 2024, focused on "Stewardship of Creation - as a person of faith, what can I do for creation?"



Speakers Dr Aminul Islam Azhari, the Imam of the Mosque, Rev Dr Clive Ayre, a Retired Uniting Church minister and an author, and Ariel Heber, the President and Community Liaison, Queensland Jewish Community Services, emphasized environmental and social responsibility from their respective religious perspectives. The event was chaired by John and the coordinator of Multi-Faith Multiculture Centre Pure Land Learning College, Mr Mohammed

Haniff Abdulrazak and many other faith leaders attended the event.



Imam Dr Amin highlighted Islamic teachings on caring for humanity, community, and people in need besides greening the earth. Dr Clive emphasized Christian stewardship values, while Rabai Ariel spoke of the Jewish concept of "Tikkun Olam," repairing the world for the current inhabitants and the next generations.

Attendees reflected on their shared duty to care for the environment and support those in need. Free copies of the Quran with English translation were distributed, promoting understanding and education.

The gathering showcased Toowoomba's cultural diversity and the power of collaboration in addressing global challenges. It served as a reminder of the common values that unite people of different faiths in their commitment to a sustainable and compassionate world. 🌱

## Toowoomba Garden City Masjid Community Iftar Gatherings Ramadan 2024

As the holy month of Ramadan dawns upon Toowoomba, the Garden City Masjid becomes a beacon of community spirit and fellowship, hosting vibrant iftar gatherings each evening throughout Ramadan 2024. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers works tirelessly to prepare iftar and suhoor meals, ensuring that every member of the community can break their fast in a welcoming and nourishing environment.

From the first day of Ramadan, the masjid transforms into a hub of activity, with volunteers bustling about the kitchen area, preparing delicious and wholesome meals to be shared amongst attendees, creating an atmosphere of anticipation and warmth as members of the community gather to partake in the iftar feast.

Each evening, individuals from diverse backgrounds come together at the masjid, united in their observance of Ramadan and their shared sense of community. From families with young children to elders and newcomers, all are welcomed with open arms, fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie.

The iftar gatherings not only provide nourishment for the body but also feed the soul, as attendees engage in prayer, reflection, and acts of charity throughout the holy month. As the sun sets and the call to prayer echoes through the masjid, the community comes together to break their fast, sharing stories, laughter, and blessings with one another.



another during this sacred time.

Behind the scenes, the volunteers continue their tireless efforts, ensuring that each iftar and suhoor meal is prepared with love and care. Their dedication and selflessness serve as a shining example of the spirit of Ramadan, inspiring others to give generously and support one

As Ramadan progresses, the iftar gatherings at the Toowoomba Garden City Masjid continue to draw community members together, strengthening bonds and fostering a sense of unity and compassion that extends far beyond the walls of the masjid. In this shared sentiment of faith and community, the true spirit of Ramadan shines brightly, illuminating the hearts of all who participate. 🌱



# Unity and Generosity Shine at Garden City Masjid's Fundraising Iftar Dinner 2024

On the evening of March 16, 2024, 6th Ramadan 1445 AH, the Garden City Masjid in Toowoomba hosted a fundraising iftar dinner, illuminating the spirit of unity and dedication within the community. Held at St. Mary College Toowoomba, the event served as a powerful testament to the collective commitment of community members towards their beloved mosque.

The atmosphere was filled with warmth and camaraderie as individuals from diverse backgrounds came together to break their fast and support a common cause. Everyone gathered with a shared purpose – from families to friends, to contribute to improving their mosque and community.

The event, organised with meticulous care and heartfelt dedication, was made possible by the hard work and generosity of the volunteers and organisers. Their tireless efforts ensured a seamless

and enjoyable experience for all attendees, reflecting the true essence of community spirit.

As plates were filled and conversations flowed, the sense of unity and solidarity became palpable. It was a moment to cherish as people of all ages and walks of life joined hands to support a shared vision.

One event highlight was the Shahadah of Bro George Helon, who has been a close friend of the community for a long time. We all wish him a blessed path ahead.

Many community members representing various nationalities and backgrounds shared their thoughts on stage to show support for the cause.

The organisers express their gratitude to the community for their overwhelming generosity and unwavering support. Their financial and emotional contributions are invaluable in sustaining the Garden City Masjid as a beacon of faith and community in Toowoomba.

As the evening drew to a close, hearts were full, and spirits were lifted by the collective goodwill and camaraderie that filled the air. The fundraising iftar dinner served not only as a means to gather funds but also as a powerful reminder of the strength that lies in unity and the boundless generosity of the human spirit. ❁



## Introducing Our Kid and Youth Sections!

Are you a thoughtful youth eager to express your thoughts on Islam and Muslim experiences?

We are excited to announce the launch of our Kid and Youth sections in the Toowoomba Mosque Newsletter! We are inviting young writers below 12 years and above 12 years to submit write-ups ranging from 100 to 300 words on any teachings, learnings, or experiences related to



Islam and Muslim life. Your contributions will be featured in our newsletter for the community to share.

Submit your write-ups to [syedsaad777@gmail.com](mailto:syedsaad777@gmail.com) OR [s.dipu@uq.edu.au](mailto:s.dipu@uq.edu.au) with the subject line "TM Newsletter". Don't forget to attach your photograph and mention your age category (Kid or Youth) in your email.

Let's make our newsletter a vibrant space with youth participation for sharing and learning together. We can't wait to read your stories!

**Happy writing!** ❁

## Success at the State-Wide Annual Qur'an and Azan Competition!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news from the State-Wide Annual Qur'an and Azan Competition organized by IPDC Queensland in Brisbane. Among the primarily selected children from various mosques, two outstanding individuals represented our community.

Alhamdulillah! Khalid Saifullah, son of Imam Aminul Islam, secured the first position in the Azan competition within his group. His dedication and talent shone brightly, earning him this well-deserved accolade. We also congratulate Ahmad Ahsan Ahmad Atiq, our other champion, who received the participation medal. His commitment to the competition is commendable, and we are proud of his achievement.

We extend our heartfelt du'as and best wishes to Khalid, Ahmad, and all our children. May Allah SWT bless them with success and make them shining ambassadors for the Muslim Ummah.

Let's celebrate their achievements and continue to support and encourage our young talents as they represent our community with pride and excellence. ❁

# Toowoomba Mosque: A Hub of Community Events in 2023

Toowoomba Mosque continues to be a vibrant centre of community engagement, hosting a series of events that enrich the lives of its members and the wider community.

On September 17, the mosque organized the 2nd ISOT Youth Football Match, where youth came together for an exciting friendly match at Neil E. Robinson Park (West Wanderers Field). ISOT Youth, a group dedicated to guiding the new generation towards

the right path and providing valuable Islamic information, orchestrated this event.

Toowoomba Mosque Youth Camp 2023, held on October 1 at Lake Cressbrook, provided a day of learning and bonding for families with children. Attendees enjoyed a day camp surrounded by the beauty of nature.

On October 2, the mosque hosted a Prize/Award Giving Ceremony for the Book Reading Competition, recognizing and celebrating participants' dedication to the world of Islamic literature.

On 10 November 2023, Toowoomba Mosque hosted a Job and Career Information Session in collaboration with the Queensland Government. This event aims to empower individuals with valuable job and career insights, further demonstrating the mosque's commitment to serving the community in diverse ways. 🌱

## Other news

### Islamic Society of Toowoomba President Attends 59th AFIC Annual General Meeting

The President of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Associate Professor Mainul Islam, played a prominent role in representing the community at the 59th Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) Annual General Meeting held in Sydney on November 4th and 5th, 2023.



During the two-day event, Prof. Mainul Islam joined leaders and delegates from Islamic councils across Australia to discuss important matters and initiatives concerning the Australian Muslim community. The AFIC Annual General Meeting serves as a crucial platform for collaboration, networking, and exchanging ideas, ultimately promoting unity and progress within the Muslim community in Australia.

A/Prof. Mainul Islam's presence at the meeting underscored the Islamic Society of Toowoomba's commitment to actively engaging with and contributing to the broader Australian Muslim community, reflecting the organization's dedication to fostering understanding, cooperation, and positive growth for all. 🌱

### Voices Against Gaza Attacks by IDF

Islamic Society of Toowoomba (ISOT) stood in solidarity with the community and the President of the society, Associate Professor Mainul Islam spoke passionately at a vigil held at East Creek Park near Toowoomba's CBD on November 25, 2023. The event was organized to voice strong opposition to the recent attacks on Gaza by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

The vigil served as a platform for the community to unite and support the people of Gaza during this challenging time. The Islamic Society of Toowoomba continues to advocate for peace, humanitarianism, and the well-being of all, locally and globally, in the spirit of unity and understand-



Toowoomba Vigil for Peace in Palestine at East Creek Park, Saturday, November 25, 2023.  
Picture: Kevin Farmer, Source: The Chronicle





## Regular programmes

### Weekly English Language Classes

The Islamic Society of Toowoomba (ISOT) has taken steps to foster stronger bonds among the sisters in the community through an enriching social gathering. ISOT regularly arranges a FREE weekly English Language Class exclusively for sisters. Here are the course details:

**Date & Time:** Saturdays (11:00 AM to 12:30 PM)

**Venue:** Toowoomba Garden City Mosque (Old Building)

**English Level:** Beginners and Intermediate (sisters with advanced English skills are warmly welcomed to support the program)

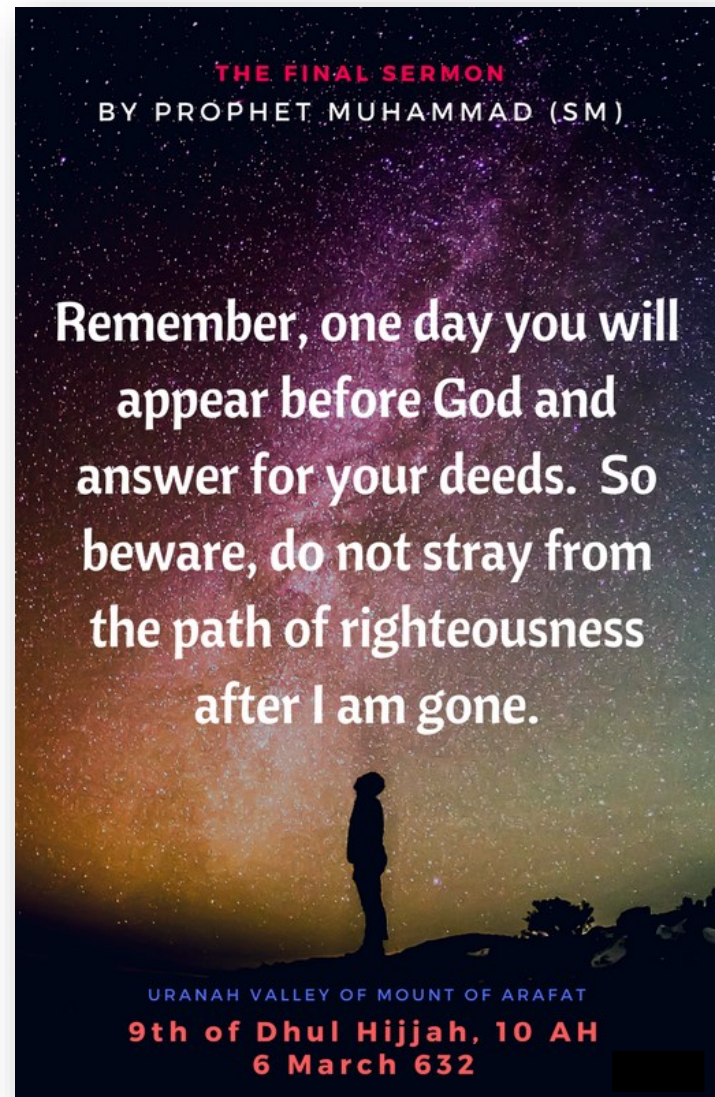
**Program Director:** Sister Sofia Rohana

This initiative aims to empower the sisters within the community with improved English language skills. The program serves as a platform for learning and encourages a sense of togetherness and sisterhood.

ISOT welcomes all sisters to join this valuable program, whether you are looking to enhance your English skills or contribute to the program's success. Let us strengthen our bonds and empower one another through this beautiful initiative.

### Madrasa Timetable

The classes on Islam and Basic Arabic are held between after Maghrib prayers and Esha prayers (40 minutes each lesson) every week from Monday to Thursday. For details, please contact Imam Dr Mohammad Aminul Islam. 🌱



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### Community Services

- Halal Meat Sales- Br Abdul Kareem/Br Mohsin Shaik 0477 883 253
- Toowoomba Police- Officer Catherine English 07 4631 6921
- 1800 RESPECT [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au) (Support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse)
- Interpreter 13 14 50

### Toowoomba Mosque

- General contact email: [admin@toowoombamosque.com.au](mailto:admin@toowoombamosque.com.au)
- Business advertisement contact: [Mainul.Islam@unisq.edu.au](mailto:Mainul.Islam@unisq.edu.au)
- Sharing your stories to Muslim Community Newsletter: [syedsaad777@gmail.com](mailto:syedsaad777@gmail.com) and [s.dipu@uq.edu.au](mailto:s.dipu@uq.edu.au)
- Website: [www.toowoombamosque.com.au](http://www.toowoombamosque.com.au)
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