



# Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

## Issue #11, December 2020



### Promote and Join Online Live fundraising on 20 December

Islamic Society of Toowoomba has completed almost 80% of the reconstruction work of the burnt Toowoomba Mosque in Stage I (lock-up) and Stage II (internal fittings). For the remaining work in the Final/Stage III we are raising funds online via social media.

An **Online Live Fundraising Session** will be held on Sunday, 20 December 2020 from 6-9pm Queensland time and 7-10pm NSW time. The event will be hosted by a studio in Sydney and live stream will be connected via many online platforms across Australia.

Prominent Sheikhs and Imams from Australia will lead the Live Fundraising Drive Inshaa Allah.

Everyone is requested to promote the event through their contact and social network, share the meeting link and encourage others to make donations. **We will need about \$390,000 AUD to complete the project.**

**HELP**  
REBUILD THE BURNT  
**MOSQUE**

TOOWOOMBA MOSQUE  
EST. 2014

LIVE

Live Fundraising Event

**Speakers**

- Shiekh Abu Baker Zoud
- Imam Abdul Kader
- Imam Akram Buksh
- Sheikh Rami Al-Sharawneh
- Professor Shahjahan Khan (Toowoomba Mosque committee)
- Rabih Chamma (Merciful Group)

**20TH**  
December 2020

6.00 PM : 7.00 PM  
Queensland Sydney



### Rebuilding work in progress

All electrical and security cabling, plumbing and setting up of ducted aircon system in now complete. The donated lights, sound system and security camera are getting ready to be installed after the fitting gyproc very soon. As per the builder all internal fittings, except for tiling and painting should be completed before Christmas.

Work for the Mehrab and bolcet in the front area ceiling are in progress. The carpet is on our way to Toowoomba from Turkey and should arrive to Toowoomba before Christmas.

### 7th Annual Food festival & Mosque Open Day

Food, fun, friendship and faith brought large crowds in Toowoomba food festival and Mosque open day

**Professor Shahjahan Khan, PhD**  
President, Islamic Society of Toowoomba  
Chairman, Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust (Mosque)



Bishop Robert McGuckin, USQ VC Prof Geraldine Mackenzie, Mayor Paul Antonio and Prof Shahjahan Khan

**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](mailto:Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au)



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Large crowd of all ages attended the 7<sup>th</sup> annual International Food Festival and Toowoomba Mosque open day on Saturday, 14 November 2020. The popular annual event not only entertained participants, but also educated them about Islam and Muslim community in Toowoomba.



This kind of community gathering removes the barriers, revitalise the common connection and clears misunderstanding. We believe that solutions to misunderstandings between community groups came down to just a few simple elements: food, friendship, fun and faith.

A lot of people do not know much about Islam. Many of them have a misunderstanding or questions, and we want to give them an opportunity to come here and meet us and talk to us and ask the questions so we can know and understand each other better.



There are misgivings, misconceptions, and misunderstandings everywhere so the more we can work to remove all the fear of the unknown and move closer to each other, respect each other better it is for our community and country.

One special feature of the day was a 100 year old, handwritten copy of the Qu'ran from Hasan Riza of Turkey, and provided by Mr George Helon. Guests were also given an inside tour of the mosque under reconstruction including design of the Mehrab and carpet.

This is our seventh festival here as we do it every year after the mosque was established, and we'll continue to do that which is important.

Food stalls and activities for the children kept families busy, and presentations from community leaders and academics enlightened and educated attendees throughout the day.

Everyone was pleased with the way people responded to the open day, and hoped it had helped educate the people of Toowoomba about Islam and their practices.

The speakers included Toowoomba Mayor, Cr Paul Antonio; Catholic Bishop Robert McGuckin; USQ Vice Chancellor, Professor Geraldine McKenzie; Multicultural Affairs Queensland's Executive Director, Wayne Briscoe; CEO of Islamic Women Association Australia, Galila Abdelsalam OMA; Islamic Council of Queensland President, Habib Jamal; Fadlullah Wilmot of OHDS; Professor Shahjahan Khan and Imam Abdul Kader of Toowoomba Mosque.



Speakers and dignitaries in the formal session

Toowoomba is a lucky city to be united and to live in peace and harmony. The mosque is contributing towards that unity. We are always open, participating and engaging with the community.

This year the food festival attracted crowds from across the town and neighbouring region including those from Brisbane and Gold Cost.

My key message in the formal session was that every human is a representative (khalifah) of Allah on earth, Allah breathed His spirit (rooh) to every human before birth, He has created us as one nation (ummah) and honoured (karam) the children of Adam (pbuh), the different tribes and nations are only for the purpose of identity – thus Islam teaches unity of humankind regardless of gender, ethnicity, faith, profession or position.



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Allah has bestowed dignity and respect for everyone uprooting all forms of discrimination and racism. Indeed, He has made Islam open to everyone of us, not just for Muslims, as the Qur'an is the guidance for mankind.

We're all human beings, we all react similarly to the bad things and good things.

Sponsored by Queensland Government and Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC), event was postponed in March due to the covid-19 pandemic.

### Handwritten Qur'an donation

Lots of visitors in the Mosque Open Day lines up to view the handwritten Qur'an by Hasan Riza of Turkey. This rare copy was acquired recently by Toowoomba resident Mr George Helon. After the exhibition, Mr Helon donated the copy to Toowoomba Mosque. The piece will be placed in an appropriate location in the new building of the reconstructed Mosque for public viewing.



Mr George Helom, Prof Shahjahan Khan and Imam Abdul Kader with the Handwritten Qur'an

### Application to Council to waive Infrastructure Charges

The President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan has submitted an application to the Toowoomba Regional Council requesting to waive the Infrastructure Charges.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
**Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust**  
 217 West St, Harristown, Qld 4350, Australia



18 November 2020

To: Cr Paul Antonio  
 Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council  
 4 Little St, Toowoomba City QLD 4350

Re: Request to waive Infrastructure Charges - Application Number MCUC/2018/5914

Dear Paul,

It was great to welcome you and many other dignitaries in the Garden City Mosque on Saturday, 14 November at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Int'l Food Festival and Mosque Open Day once again.

With reference to your office letter of 24 April 2019 (attached), on behalf of the Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Organisation Pty Ltd, trustee for Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust, I request you to waive the Infrastructure Charge of \$28,751.25 for the following reasons:

- The Mosque had two arson attack, and we are victim of crimes as result our community was forced to undertake the rebuilding of the burnt building.
- We are a non-profit charity organisation run purely on private donations.
- We are struggling to raise enough fund to complete the rebuilding as we are still in short of funding required for the project.
- The Covid-19 has seriously limited our ability to engage in conventional fundraising activities and significantly impacted on raising of funds.
- When completed the Mosque will be using solar power (already in place) and rainwater to make it an eco-friendly building.
- In spite of the need of money for the Mosque, we regularly collect donations and contribute to humanitarian causes such as Homeless people via Roses, Firefighters during bushfire, Covid-19 victims etc to support the community.
- The completed Mosque will be an icon of Toowoomba and will attract many local, out of town, interstate and international visitors contributing to the local economy and cultural fabric of Toowoomba adding to its growing reputation as a model city of peace and harmony.

It has been an honour to work closely with you and your esteemed colleagues during and beyond the Mosque project, and our community is very pleased to be able to contribute to the reputation and well being of our beloved city and its wonderful residents over the years.

I request you to waive the above Infrastructure Charges and help us to complete the project in the earliest possible time. Let me know if you need any further information.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kindest regards,

*Shahjahan Khan*

(Professor Shahjahan Khan, PhD)  
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 President, Islamic Society of Toowoomba  
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### Register and participate in the DV Workshop and Essay Competition

Toowoomba Mosque Essay Competition and Workshop on Domestic & Family Violence	
<b>Essay Competition</b>	<b>Topic: Tackling Family Violence: Teaching from the Qur'an and Life of Muhammad (SWS).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Submission deadline: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, e-copy to <a href="mailto:qaderqsis@yahoo.com">qaderqsis@yahoo.com</a></li><li>- Word limit: 500-2000 words</li><li>- Prize money: Champion \$150, and runner-up: \$100</li></ul>
<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Topic: Working Together Against Family Violence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Date: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (9am-1pm)</li><li>- Venue: Toowoomba mosque</li><li>- Registration (Essential) deadline: Free, by Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2020</li><li>- Interactive session and free lunch</li></ul>

Contact Dr Mohd Mohsin on [Mohd.Mohsin@usq.edu.au](mailto:Mohd.Mohsin@usq.edu.au) for any queries. Online registration for your participation in DV seminar can be done by using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/garden-city-mosque-workshop-series-together-against-family-violence-tickets-130348863961>

### Imam on annual leave

Imam Abdul Kader will be on his annual leave from 01-31 December 2020. During time he is not required to perform any of his duties as Imam including leading five times daily prayers. However, when he is in the Mosque during prayer time, he will lead the prayers including delivering Friday Jumma sermon. The Madrasa will also remain closed during this period, and reopen in the second week of January 2021.

### Caring for Others: Giving them a Preference

Caring for others through giving them a preference in time of scarcity of resources is a virtue practiced by the Prophet Muhammad SAWS and his companions. They practiced this value inclusively. Their care for others and giving them a preference included believers and non-believers. It also even included their worst enemies. Al-Qur'aan in the Surah al-Hashr (59:9) highlights the practice of care and giving preference among the believing companions of the Prophet SAWS. It denotes how Al-Ansaar the local

community of Madinah helped out Al-Muhajeerun the immigrants who migrated from Makkah during the time of the Prophet SAWS. It says: "Those who established a community centre and embraced the faith before the arrival of the immigrants love those who have come to their town. They are not jealous of what is given to the immigrants. They give preference to them over themselves - even concerning the things that they themselves urgently need. Whoever controls his greed will have everlasting happiness."

The Prophet Muhammad SAWS and his companions demonstrated their care for the worst enemies. Enemies advanced war and wanted to kill Islam at its inception but surprisingly they lost the battle and became war-captives. They were served full meals to consume when the Prophet and his companions remained hungry. Seeking the pleasure of Allah, the companions followed the Prophet SAWS and willingly gave away their own provisions while they were hungry and were having strong desire for food. They presented it before their enemies (war prisoners). Allah has praised such practices of the companions under the guidance of the Prophet SAWS. He SWT wanted us to care for others and give them preference particularly when there is a scarcity and shortage of resources. He also wants us practice such a virtue sincerely and autonomously. Al-Qur'aan in verse 08 and 09 of chapter 76 (Surah al-Insaaan) refers to the compassion, care and preference given to war captives by the Prophet SAWS and his companions. It records "They feed the poor, orphans, and captives for the love of God, saying: 'We only feed you for the sake of God and we do not want any reward or thanks from you'."

### Update on Children Arabic Lessons

a. During November 2020, there was an increase in the number of students in both online and face-to-face sessions. 2 online students were promoted to Qur'aan level during this month.

b. Madrasah is closed starting from Monday 30 November 2020 to 07 January 2021. We will inshaaAllah resume madrasah with **registration and orientation** program at the Prayer Hall at 11:00am on Saturday **09 January 2021** and the classes will start from Monday **11 January 2021 @ 5:30pm**.





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c. We plan for returning to Pre-Covid19 schedule of running the affairs of Madrasah. However, all options, including continuation of online session, are to be discussed with parents prior to commencement of 1<sup>st</sup> term of 2021. We encourage every parents to be part of this discussion by attending the **registration and orientation** program.

### ISoT Youth Hub

They meet at the Masjid at Asr prayer on every Sunday. The first session took place on 29 November 2020 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.

### Prayer for the victims of Church attack

In Islam, the places of worship are sacred, protected and respected always. There is no difference between an attack on the Mosque in NZ and on a Church in France. Both attacks go against the teaching of Islam as well as against the teaching of most faiths and religions. Muslims in Toowoomba along with members from St. Anthony's Parish joined together and stood in prayers for the victims of recent attack on a Church in France on 30 October.



### Conference: Caring for the Earth: Caring for Each Other

A number of local Muslims including Imam Abdul Kader and Prof. Shahjahan Khan, President of ISOT joined peace conference entitled "Caring for the Earth: Caring for Each Other" organised by Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group and sponsored by Pureland Learning College. Imam chaired one of the Q&A sessions. There were number of renowned keynote speakers from Australia and overseas. It was a great opportunity to enlighten our knowledge of Mother Nature and to take necessary steps forward to make the Earth a better place to live for our future generation.

### 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](http://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](mailto:Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au)

### Communication with Mosque via Technology

Imam Abdul Kader: [gaderqsis@yahoo.com](mailto:gaderqsis@yahoo.com)  
General contact email: [admin@toowoombamosque.com.au](mailto:admin@toowoombamosque.com.au)  
Website: [www.toowoombamosque.com.au](http://www.toowoombamosque.com.au)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque](https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque)  
WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba  
Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083