



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #7, August 2020



Islamic Society President meets Federal MP

President of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan met Hon Dr John McVeigh, Federal Member for Groom, on Tuesday, 21 July in his new office on Ruthven St, Toowoomba. Professor Khan briefed Dr McVeigh about the beginning of the Second Stage of rebuilding of burnt Toowoomba Mosque and the difficulties related to the fundraising for the project due to covid-19 pandemic.



Filed Photo: Professor Shahjahan Khan with Hon Dr John McVeigh

Professor Khan thanked Federal Government for introducing various stimulus packages to help Australians during the pandemic. He also appreciated the Australian Government's support for Rohingya Muslims against brutal ethnic cleansing by Myanmar. He asked the Federal MP to view the Palestine-Israel problem in the two-state framework and recognise Palestine Statehood as it has recognised Israel. He also emphasised that the Australian Government should not blindly support Trump's plan to occupy more Palestinian land by Israel. It is sad to see that Australia is following the US inspired Israeli occupation of Palestine while Europe is opposing the illegal occupation.

He invited Dr McVeigh to the upcoming 7th Toowoomba International Food Festival and Mosque Open Day on Saturday, 14 November 2020. Dr McVeigh supported the proposal of Professor Khan to organise and be a part of a national conference on achievements and challenges of multiculturalism in Australia at USQ, Toowoomba early next year.

Toowoomba Mosque Rebuilding Work hits Second Stage

After completing the new building last year, the Second Stage work of internal fittings of the Garden City Mosque started on 20 July. The work will include electrical cabling and fittings, plastering, plumbing, toilet/ablution fittings and air conditioning.

NI Builder from Gold Coast was awarded the contract last month.

Dr Omar Alajarmeh, a civil engineer and a University of Southern Queensland researcher has been appointed by the Executive Committee of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba as the Project Manager. He will be assisted by a team of engineers including Eng Shabbirul Mujib, Dr Nateque Mahmood, Dr Wahid Ferdous and Eng Hasanur Rahman.

The contract is for \$334,850 and the job is expected to be completed in 18 weeks. At the moment the shortfall for the Second Stage work is \$95,000. Any donations are welcome.



Photo: Prof Shahjahan Khan, Dr Omar Alajarmeh and Contractor Nezdaz Izmirlic in the ablution area

A Newspaper article on progress of Mosque project

An recent article titled '**Rising from ashes: Toowoomba mosque moving to second stage**' by Professor Shahjahan Khan on the progress of the Toowoomba Mosque rebuilding project published in the **Australasian Muslim Times** is accessed [here](#)

Fundraising Updates

Alhamdulillah, in response to the recent Fundraising Appeal we received over \$95,000 AUD. Jazak Allah Khair to everyone who contributed the project. May Allah reward everyone who have helped and contributed to the rebuilding of Toowoomba Mosque. The current short fall for the ongoing Second Stage of rebuilding work is about \$80,000 AUD. We will continue to raise more funds to complete the outstanding work for the Masjid building and car parking areas.

If you have not seen before, please see the short YouTube video on the latest fundraising update at <https://youtu.be/fwBFbdeP0sQ>

Please deposit your donations to the bank account below.



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Donation via Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Toowoomba Plaza Branch
A/C Name: Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Organisation
BSB: 064 459, A/C Number: 1034 1586
Swift Code: CTBAAU25XXX

For more information regarding fundraising, please contact
Dr Mainul Islam
Mob: 0432 533 550
Email: Mainul.Islam@usq.edu.au

Eid Greetings from Islamic Society of Toowoomba

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullah.

On behalf of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba and my family, Eid Mubarak to everyone of you and your family.

This year Eid is very different. We all are going through a very uncertain and restricted time. The pandemic has not only affected our work and family life but also changed the way we practice our religion and social culture. So the celebration of Eid this year is not really what we have been familiar with in previous years. There is no festivity, there is no large Eid gathering, there is no social visits, or even sharing of feasts and sweets. Even Hajj is being limited to a very small number of local Muslims. Yet, we are trying as much festivity as possible within the current health restrictions to avoid spreading the covid-19 virus and keeping our community safe.

Alhamdulillah, we are still able to offer prayers and sacrifice to mark the Eidul Adha, a celebration in remembrance of the great sacrifice of the Father of Our Nation, Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Ismail, peace and blessings be upon both of them. Muslims all over the world will join the celebration, limited very a manner, while maintaining health restrictions.

The core teaching of Eidul Adha is sacrifice, and that of Hajj is the unity of the Ummah. May this Eid revive our spirit of sacrifice and enable us to share our provision with the less fortunate ones at home and abroad. May this Eid reinforce the teaching of charity and caring for others, especially those are struggling to meet their basic needs of life. May this Eid help rethink the essence of the unity of the

Ummah leaving behind all harmful differences, divisive acts and ill feelings, and give up all evil that are hurting people who may have differences with us.

Can we take a moment to think about the ordinary Palestinians, Khashmiris, Syrians, Rohingyaans, Ughars, and many others who have no one to help to return to normal life? What crimes these people have committed? Why they have to suffer for generations? These people are human being, fully deserve normal life like you and me, and there must be justice for them if we claim to be civilised.

Let us pray to Allah so that He accepts our sacrifice, Hajj, fasting, and other Ibadat during time of Eidul Adha and bless us with forgiveness, peace, respect, prosperity, happiness, and help achieve His closeness by serving the humanity that He has created as His representatives on earth.

Professor Shahjahan Khan
Founding President, Islamic Society of Toowoomba
Chairman, Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust

Eiid Al-Adha: Submission, Sacrifice and Selflessness

Eiid Al-Adha, the second most important festival in Islam, is celebrated on 10 of the Arabic month *Dhul-Hijjah*. The celebration comes after a season (the first 10 days of the month) of devotion and rituals observed by Muslim pilgrims in the holy land of Makkah, and by other Muslims elsewhere. During this time, Muslims get the opportunity to practice all rituals (5 pillars) of Islam together. Another significance of these days is that Islam was completed during this blessed season while the Prophet (SAWS) was performing his farewell pilgrimage in Makkah. This term of spiritual uplifting is concluded by the celebration of *Eiid*. Muslims all around the world follow the tradition (*Qurban*) of Ibrahim (AS) and his example of unconditional and non-negotiable submission to Allah's command. They present before Allah their sacrifices in the forms of permissible livestock. By so doing, they in fact present before Him their hearts. Their sacrifices speak their mind, their devotion to Allah (SWT) and their sincerity to Him. After processing those sacrifices, they then distribute and share the meat with family, friends, relatives, and obviously the least privileged people of the society. This is indeed a practical demonstration of selflessness. Such custom of sharing and caring for others should be practiced beyond the day of *Eiid*. May Allah accept our sacrifices and bless. *Aameen*.



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Qurban Arrangements for 2020

Record number of Muslims from Toowoomba have registered for offering sacrifice locally this year. Br Mohamed Abdulkareem is coordinating the Qurban with the community and Almedina Meat in Inala Plaza, Brisbane.

The Qurban will be completed on Saturday, 01 August and the processed meat will be delivered to Toowoomba on Sunday, 02 August.

Many Muslims from the city also have paid online for Qurban to be offered overseas, including Muslims living in poor countries and refugees in many war devastated countries and camps.

Eid Adha Prayer Management and Registration

Assalamu alaikum. Eid Mubarak to everyone of you and your family.

As you may appreciate, due to covid-19, we will have to observe strict health restrictions for participating in the Eid prayers this year.

We will pray Eid salat on Friday, 31 July at the Masjid in 5 separate Sessions/Jamats:

Three sessions for MALE only: Jamat 1 at 7:15am; **Jamat 2** at 7:45am; **Jamat 3** at 8:15am (maximum 100 per Jamat)

Two sessions for FAMILY (male and female): Jamat 4 at 8:45am and **Jamat 5** at 9:15am (maximum 40 families per Jamat)

Everyone must (a) make wudu at home – no toilet/duwu in Masjid (b) bring own prayer mats – but no food or drink (c) maintain social distance – no handshake or hug (d) arrive on time and park your car properly – if late then wait for the next Jamat- do not push in to the Masjid if it is full (e) leave Masjid immediately after salat for others to get in for next Jamat and (f) must register in one Session/Jamat of Eid Prayer Group by following the steps below.

Please follow the instructions of Police/Security/Volunteers. Don't enter the Prayer Halls if they are full. You may pray on the **concrete area outside the Prayer Hall**, weather permitting.

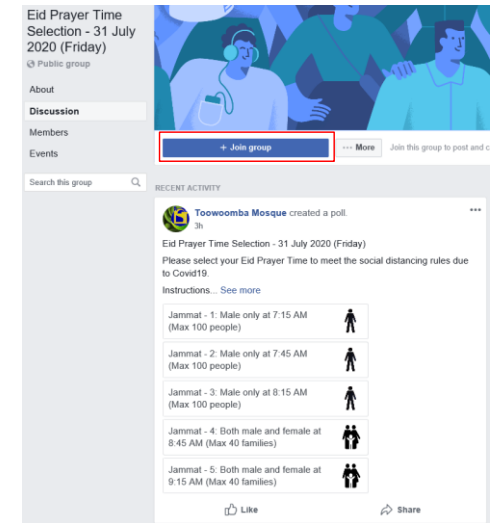


Figure 1

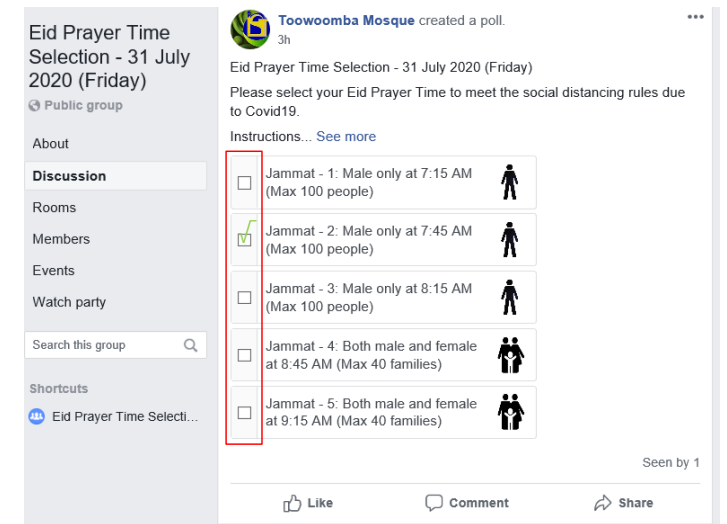


Figure 2



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Steps to select the desired Eid prayer Jamat/Session

Step 1: Click the link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/636954143592794/>

Step 2: Click the “+Join group” blue button (as shown in Figure 1). If needed, admin will approve your request (most cases approval is automatic).

Step 3: Please refresh the window so that square boxes is visible (as indicated in Figure 2). Select your Eid prayer/jamat time by clicking appropriate square box.

May Allah accept our sacrifice and other ibadat in this blessed period of Hajj.

Working Bees to Clean Mosque

As part of regular cleaning of Mosque premises volunteers worked on the hedging, gardening and general cleaning of the property on Saturday 4 July. Organised by Br Mohamed Abdulkareem a large number of your Muslims participated in the event. In spite of a very chilly windy Toowoomba winter morning a lots of work was completed. Later, a bbq lunch was provided to the volunteers by the Mosque community.



Photo: Cleaning of Mosque premises

Application to Toowoomba Regional Council for extension of Work Permit

The Toowoomba Mosque is in the process of submitting an application for the extension of the current Operational Work Permit for the Toowoomba Mosque project. Associate Professor Mainul Islam, Secretary of Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust is finalising the application to be submitted to the Council soon.

Due to delay in raising sufficient funds for the completion of the project it is essential to get an extension of the Permit. The unprecedented bushfire last year and worldwide covid-19 pandemic have seriously

affected the fundraising for the project. There is still a lot of uncertainty about the ongoing fundraising due to the fear and threat of prolonged pandemic adversely affecting the economy and subsequently the income of potential donors.

Dr Tarek Omar Visits Toowoomba

On 10 July 2020, Dr Tarek Omar and his family visited Toowoomba Masjid, and joined Khan family for a dinner. He completed his PhD degree in Engineering from USQ and now working in Abu Dhabi. Dr Tarek served as the President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba and a Trustee of Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust. He met with Imam Abdul Kader and other members of the community and was pleased to see the progress in rebuilding of burnt Garden City Mosque.



Photo: Professor Shahjahan Khan with Dr Tarek Omar

Children Arabic Lessons: At Masjid and Online

Children Arabic language and Islamic Studies classes have been shifted to weekdays with extended hours and both options: Online and face-to-face sessions. Children are welcome to join us al Masjid during learning sessions. However, if they can not attend masjid, they have still the option to learn online. We have been using Zoom ID: 379 889 2083. The sessions now run on weekdays (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 5:30pm till 7:30pm. The overall progress and outcome of having two different options of learning is very promising and satisfactory. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children during the online lesson. This boosts learning capacity of the pupils and helps overcome communication limitations due to network issue. Please feel free to contact Imam if they need more information in this regard.



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Resumption of Sister Only Islamic session

Alhamdulillah, Weekly Islamic session for only sisters has resumed on 10 July 2020. It takes place at Madjid on Every Friday just after Jumuah prayer at 1:00pm. Currently, few sisters including reverts are attending regularly and the number is on rise. Other sisters are encouraged to join. May Allah accept and bless the efforts of our sisters. Aameen.

Muslim Prayer Room in the New Toowoomba Hospital

On 10 July 2020, Imam visited Toowoomba Base Hospital and had a meeting with the Hospital Chaplain in regard to the "Muslim prayer facility" in the proposed new Toowoomba hospital building. Imam highlighted the need of ablution facility, more private prayer area for woman etc during the meeting.

Brother Hassan at Blue Care

Brother Hassan has recently relocated from Kingaroy to Blue Care on Stenner St. Middle Ridge. He resides at Magnolia House (D) within Blue care facility. The reason, he moved to Toowoomba is to be near Muslim community. I encourage Muslims to pay him a visit. Please take a small bowl of salad with you if possible when you visit him. Brother Hassan loves salad.



Photo: Imam Abdul Kader with Br Hassan

Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Alex Singleton 04 2250 3691
- 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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque/>
WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083