



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 2, March 2021



Progress in Reconstruct of Mosque - Painting & Tiling

Gradually the Second Stage of reconstruction of Toowoomba Mosque is closing to end. At the moment the internal fittings and finishing works are in progress. A Brisbane-based Painter has been awarded a contract for painting. The painting work is expected to be completed in the first week of March.

The tiling and waterproofing work will start soon. Other works such as toilet fittings, ablution seats, stair steps, skirting etc will follow. The finally the internal fittings will be completed with the Mehrab and carpeting.

Rebuilding of Mosque: Final Stage Fundraising update

For the Final Stage of the project which includes 42 sealed and 14 overflow carparks, retaining wall, two driveways, land scaping, rainwater tank etc. It is estimated the we will need another \$290,000 to complete the Final Stage of the project. So we need,

58 donors contributing \$5000 each or
145 donors contributing \$2000 each or
290 donors contributing \$1000 each or
5800 donors contributing \$500 each or
2900 donors contribution \$100 each.



\$290,000
AUD REQUIRED

To complete outstanding work

- 100 donors \$2900 each
- 200 donors \$1450 each
- 500 donors \$580 each
- 1000 donors \$290 each

Donation to cover the cost for any chosen item is welcome.

HELP COMPLETE THE BURNT
TOOWOOMBA
MOSQUE

Burnt Mosque April 2015 Rebuilding Start, Oct. 2018 Lock-up stage, December 2019

HELP US COMPLETE THE FINAL STAGE! 85% COMPLETED!

- OUTSTANDING WORK**
- Toilet fittings
 - Retaining wall and earthwork
 - Acoustic walls
 - Camera and Security system
 - Landscaping, Rainwater tank
 - 42 sealed and 14 overflow carparks and two driveways

- Two arson attacks in early 2015 caused serious damages to the Mosque building. Rebuilding and extension plans to fit 500 worshippers approved by Toowoomba Regional Council in 2017.
- Garden City Mosque, Toowoomba was set up by purchasing an old Church in January 2014. It is the only Mosque west of Brisbane for over 2000 Muslims.
- Thankfully received support from Muslims in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, New Castle, Wollongong and Darwin.
- Lock-up stage (building with doors, windows and roof) completed December 2019.

Enquiries to Dr Mainul Islam
Mob: 0432 533 550
Email: Mainul.Islam@usq.edu.au



Donations 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 is CTBAAU25



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Welcome Ramadan 1442 (2021)

This year Ramadan is likely to start on 13 or 14 April. It is time for Muslims to prepare for the upcoming month of fasting. Both physical and mental strength are required for fasting. Last year, we could not meet and break fast in the Mosque due to pandemic. Let us hope and pray for a normal Ramadan this year.

The Islamic Society is hoping to have at least one Ifter/Dinner for the community this year.

QR Code for Mosque Entry

Toowoomba Mosque has now introduced QR Code entry to the Mosque using smart phone. Worshippers now could either sign in using the paper-based registration manually or use the QR Code to make it touchless and faster. Thanks to Br Mohamed Ali for creating and managing the Code. Worshippers and visitors still require hand sanitising and maintaining social distance (except for up to 6 minutes of Fardh prayers).



Approval of 'shoulder to shoulder' Fardh prayers

Alhamdulillah, Muslims in Queensland now can offer daily Fardh prayers 'shoulder to shoulder' in the Masjid for maximum of 6 minutes under the following conditions:

- Register name, phone number, email address, date and time period of attendance at Mosque.
- Continue to social distance immediately after the compulsory (Fardh) prayers.
- All other requirements as per the Covid-19 Safety Plan for Places of Worship will be adhered to.

This is great news after nearly one year of pandemic related restrictions.

We will continue to pray Jumma in two groups – first Khutbah starting at 12:15pm and the second at 12:45pm.

Toowoomba Muslim Funeral Fund

The Islamic Society of Toowoomba has launched a new initiative to help cover the funeral cost of the family of deceased at the time of grief and mourning. The target of Toowoomba Muslim Funeral Fund is \$20,000 (Twenty thousand). We already have received some donations, and hope that every financially able member of the community will participate in the program.

Everyone is encouraged to deposit/transfer contribution to the C'wealth Bank of Australia account of

Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust
BSB # 064-459
A/C # 1034 1586
[Ref: Funeral Fund]

Meeting with Federal Government Officials

On 10 February 2021, President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba and Chairman of the Board of Toowoomba Mosque, Professor Shahjahan Khan met with two Officials from the Department of Home Affairs of Australian Federal Government. Following are some of the points highlighted in the meeting:

Thanks to the Federal Govt. for supporting Rohingyas in Myanmar and speaking for Uyghurs in China. Australia believes in two-state solutions in Middle East, but it has only recognised Israel, so Australia must recognise Palestine.

The rise of far-right extremism is a real threat to Australia (and world) so Australian Govt must make sure this explosive matter is controlled.

Multiculturalism is a common narrative of all Australians. Federal Govt should set up an Institution for research and activities on Multiculturalism and work closely with our neighbouring countries.

Make Australia a Republic so we elect our own Head of the State, and make the Republic Day as our national day to stop controversial Australia and Invasion Day debate.



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Abrahamic Faiths Gathering

The quarterly meeting of the people of Abrahamic Faith in Toowoomba was held in the evening of 24 February at the St Anthony's Community Hall, Harristown. This is a regular quarterly meeting of Jews, Christians and Muslims in Toowoomba. Due to covid-19 the meeting was postponed for several months. The topic was "How do we Worship" in three different Abrahamic Faiths. Imam Abdul Kader of Garden City Mosque speak on the Islamic perspective of Worshiping Allah. There were a number of questions and answers at the end of presentations. The gathering started with BBQ halal sausages and vegetarian meals with financial contribution of the participants.

Abrahamic Faiths Gathering



Islamic rituals to shape sound mind, body and society

Islam acknowledges the importance of rituals in moulding sound human and hence in advancing ideal society. It is no surprise that 4 out of 5 fundamental pillars of Islam are rituals. The primary focus of those rituals is to feed souls and to reconnect them to their Creator Allah (SWT). Human souls, being special gifts of Allah SWT, find comfort, peace and happiness in following the guidelines of their Master (SWT). The Noble Qur'aan chapter 13 verse 28 denotes that "Indeed, in the remembrance of Allah, hearts do find their rest". Therefore, both actions of hearts namely sincerity *ikhlas* and intention *niyyah* have been made the second most integral part of all rituals in Islam.

However, the impacts and implications of those prescribed rituals on our socioeconomic and moral life are obvious. In many instances, the acceptance of rituals depends on their effects being demonstrated outside of the rituals in a real world through human interactions and dealings. A number of rituals, such as prayer and *tawaaf* during Hajj, require physical cleanliness and strict hygiene procedures to be observed as a preparation to engage in those rituals. Cleaning body, clothes and places of worship from filthy substance is essential part of rituals. Ablution, shower, washing and *tayammum* (cleaning through use of soil and its derivatives) are of the prescribed methods of cleanliness in Islam.

Islamic ritual of *zakah* almsgiving focuses more on *tazkiyah* cleanliness of inner-self. Allah (SWT) says: "Take alms out of their wealth to cleanse them and purify them, and pray for them; your prayer will be a comfort to them..." (Al-Qur'aan 9:103). Linguistically, Both words *zakah* and *tazkiyah* share the same root and meaning. In terms, they are interconnected. Self-purification is achieved by giving away *zakah* and the vice versa i.e. *zakah* is given by those who possess a purified soul. In one hand, *Zakah* not only purifies the soul of the donors from meanness, selfishness, but also purifies the soul of the receivers from envy and hatred towards the high end of the society. On the other hand, it instils generosity, kindness and collectiveness in the soul of the donors and in a same way it brings love and care in the hearts of the bottom end of the society. Thus, social harmony, care and love are achieved.

A full calendar month training of resisting temptations through fasting in Ramadhan must be empowered to achieve self-esteem. According to Prophet Muhammad (SAWS), true fasting is abstaining from bad words and actions. The Prophets (SAWS) says: "Whoever does not abstain from bad words and deeds, Allah does not need him to abstain from food and drink."

Thus, the rituals in Islam not only serve the spirituality and moral to grow but also organise human deeds and dealings. They continuously remind human being of the binding covenant between them and their Creator (SWT). Such interconnectedness between Islamic rituals, spirituality, moral values and all socioeconomic interactions has been referred to in Al-Qur'aan chapter 29 verse 45: "Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And Allah knows the (deeds) that you do."

Update on Madrasah and other language programs

a. After school Arabic lessons have been going on and will continue till the month of Ramadhan. Lessons are available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting from 4:30pm till 8:15pm. There are 3 different sessions based on the level/age of individual students.

b. Additional Arabic language classes have started on Friday 19 February 2021. 35 children have been registered for 2 different groups: beginner and intermediate. Classes are available on every Friday and Saturday between Maghrib and Eshaa prayers.



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c. Bahasa Indonesia and Bengali will also be taught only on the weekend starting from mid-March 21. Interested parents are requested to register.

ISoT Youth Hub:

They meet at the Masjid at Asr prayer on every Sunday. The session has resumed after the holiday season 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.

Expression of Interest for Youth Leadership

As part of the engagement with the youth in our community Islamic Society of Toowoomba is in the process of creating a Youth Leadership Team. In order to set up a broad base and diverse youth group we are asking expression of interest from our youth to be part of the Team. Anyone at the age of 12 and above could join the leadership team. Interested brothers and sisters are requested to contact Imam Abdul Kader for further guidance and involvement.

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