



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 7, Aug 2021



Successful Food Festival and Open Day of Toowoomba Mosque

Alhamdulillah, Muslims in Toowoomba had another successful community event on Saturday, 31 July 2021 in spite of the pandemic and lockdown in many parts of Australia and Queensland. This was the 8th Annual Toowoomba Annual International Food Festival and Garden City Mosque Open Day. The event is now an important part of annual calendar of Toowoomba and it has been financially supported by grants from Queensland Government.



From left: Federal MP Hon Garth Hamilton; Professor Shahjahan Khan, Inspector Kim Hill, Queensland Police Services; Cr Melissa Taylor and Mayor Paul Antonio, Toowoomba Regional Council; Professor Barbara de la Harpe, University of Southern Queensland; Community Police Officer Catherine English; and Principal Mark Creedon, Darling Heights State School.

The diversity and taste of food were great. The environment was very welcoming and engaging. People asked questions informally and in the formal session, as well as during viewing of the inside of the reconstructed Masjid building. In general, the participants were very happy and left with an impressive positive note.

The speakers were very positive and highlighted the contribution of Muslims and the Mosque in the social fabric of Toowoomba. The guest speakers appreciated the message of unity and upheld the actions of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba to bring people together to create a peaceful and harmonious community breaking barriers of nationality and ethnicity.

The formal presentation session started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Br Abdu Mohamed. The speakers included Cr Paul Antonio, Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council; Hon Garth Hamilton MP, Federal Member for Groom (Toowoomba); Professor Barbara de la Harpe from University of Southern Queensland; Inspector Km Hill representing the Queensland Police Commissioner; Mr Mark Creedon, Principal of Darling Height State School; and Professor Shahjahan Khan, President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba. A recorded message of Minister for Multicultural Affairs Queensland Hon Leanne Liard MP was played. Hon David Janetzki MP, State Member for Toowoomba South could not join the event as he had to be in quarantine. Associate Professor Dr Mainul Islam delivered the Vote of Thanks acknowledging all the guests, sponsors, volunteers and participants.

With reference to the contemporary practice to protect people from the covid-19 pandemic, Professor Khan noted Dr Craig Considine's article in the Newsweek that suggested that Muslims and non-Muslims are following Islamic Shariah by practicing Lockdown and Quarantine. As Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "If you heard the plague of land, do not enter it, and if it occurred on the land while you were on it, do not get out of it." (Lockdown); and the Messenger ordered, "keep those with contagious diseases away from healthy people." (Quarantine).

We received fairly good media coverage. The event was covered in the Daily Chronicle last weekend and it was posted and shared in many social media which helped us to reach out to much wider population, especially those who could not make to the event.



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All these were possible, firstly because of the help of Allah, and secondly, the sincere contributions of members of the community, our brothers and sisters, who prepared yummy food and sold it, helped set up the stalls and dismantle them, erected the fences, carried the gazebos, clean the chairs and tables, and collected and damped the rubbish. Jazakum Allah Khair.

In spite of the covid-19 pandemic lots of people turned up throughout the day keeping everyone busy and engaged. People kept coming and leaving continuously. We missed a good number of expected participants from Brisbane and Gold Coast areas due to sudden lockdown in greater Brisbane and surrounding regions.

I believe your sincere hard work and the willingness to present Islam and Muslims to the people in this city and region are the key to the success of the event. And all of you did this only to please Allah SWT. I am sure this will make a positive and longstanding impact within the wider community.

Our special thanks to the communities who had food stalls including our sisters and brothers of Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosna, Egypt, India, Malaysia/Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan/Eretria, and Middle Eastern countries.

May Allah accept our efforts and contribution to the house of Allah and to the community, and reward everyone with the best in both worlds.

The Chronicle covering the event

Pre-event on 23 July 2021

Toowoomba prepares for the eighth Mosque Open Day and food fest. Read [here](#)

Post event on 01 August 2021

See the faces of the 2021 Mosque Open Day and food festival. Read [here](#)

GALLERY: Food festival at Mosque. Read [here](#)

Covid-19 Reminds Practising Islamic Shariah

In his presentation in the Toowoomba Mosque Open Day and Food Festival, Professor Shahjahan Khan mentioned that Muslims and non-Muslims are practising Islamic Shariah to tackle pandemic based on the facts below.

US scientist Dr Craig Considine, Professor at Rice University, Texas said in an article in the **Newsweek**, "Prophet Muhammad was the **first to suggest quarantine** to tackle epidemics."

He pointed out that the **Messenger SWS ordered to keep those with contagious diseases away from healthy people.** (**Quarantine**)

He also quoted the Hadith, **If you heard the plague of land, do not enter it, and if it occurred on the land while you were on it, do not get out of it.** (**Lockdown**)

Feedback on Food Festival and Mosque Open Day

Dear Mohamed

I just wanted to share something with you. After the Mosque open day, my family gathered for afternoon tea to share the treats we had purchased from the community. My grandparents spoke to the family about the new things they learnt and the lovely people they met while at the open day.

In the picture are my Grandparents, mum, brothers and sister. We all enjoyed all of the treats but I think your wife's baklava was the favourite for everyone!

Please feel free to share our story with the community or your Mosque if they would like feedback about the event. We found it to be very warm and welcoming.

Lieschen Noack



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Food festival



Lieschen Noack with her family



Marie Cameron and Diane Hillyard from UA3

Feedback from Daily Chronicle

“We really enjoyed the tour of the mosque and learning more about the architecture and how it was all designed to work in with the existing landscape,” Ms Hillyard said.
“We are looking forward to coming back next year and seeing the Mosque completed and enjoying another wonderful international food day.”

It was nice to see you all today and we loved all the food we had for lunch and we are looking forward to dinner! You obviously belong to a great community who are very supportive. I did have an idea on the way home.... With all those amazing cultures and foods, maybe a good fundraiser for the Mosque would be cooking classes- each culture would have a class at night or the weekend where people pay, learn how to cook the food and then have a meal at the end. I know Steve and I would certainly be interested as we love different foods and like to cook. Just an idea!

[Sonya Nicol](#)

Underground Rainwater Tank for the Mosque



Removing old concrete for plumbing work



Earth moving for underground rainwater tank

The plumber has started working on stormwater management and setting of 22,500 litre underground rainwater tank for the Mosque. The water preserved in the rainwater tank will help reduce the use of town water as part of the Mosque’s strategy to be environmentally friendly facility. The current work will include removal of old concrete from the front area of the reconstructed Mosque building to facilitate the running of new pipes and plumbing work.

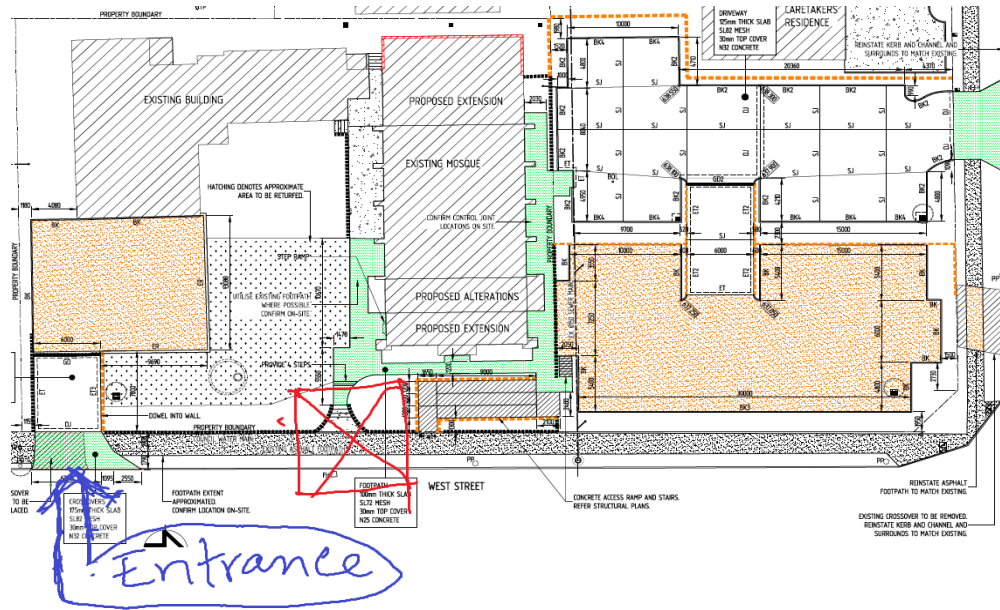


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During the work, no car/vehicle will be allowed in the Mosque yard and the front steps entrance (West St) will remain closed. Everyone is requested to enter the Mosque property via the driveway on the southern corner of West St side.



Red marked (closed) entrance and blue marked new entrance to the Mosque yard.

Eidul Adha celebrated in Toowoomba

Muslims in Toowoomba offered Eidul Adha prayers in two sessions (6:45am and 7:30am) on Tuesday, 20 July 2021 in the Garden City Mosque maintaining all health restrictions.



Complete Census Form by Tuesday, 10 August 2021

Islamic Society of Toowoomba request all Muslims in Australia area requested to complete the question, what is your religion as shown below.

This is how to complete your religious question on the online Census Form.
By completing this question, you will join the believers of Islam in this country, and help increase the size of Ummah.
Census data are used for development planning eg roads, schools, hospitals, community funding, Govt policies, election campaign, public spending etc.

Religious Question in Census Form

What is *name*'s religion?

Answering this question is **OPTIONAL**.
 Examples of 'Other': Lutheran, Salvation Army, Judaism,

[More information](#)

- No religion
- Catholic
- Anglican (Church of England)
- Uniting Church
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Presbyterian



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ICQ Recognises Toowoomba Mosque Solicitor, Mr Brian Conrick

Big thankyou to the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) for recognising the Honorary Solicitor of Toowoomba Mosque, Mr Brian Conrick. Mr Conrick received an ICQ Award from ICQ President Br Habib Jamal for his outstanding and free legal support to the Muslims in Toowoomba.



From left: Solicitor Brian Conrick and ICQ President, Mr Habib Jamal

Justice of the Peace Training

On the request of the Justice of the Peace Association, Toowoomba branch, the Executive Committee of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba nominate Dr Mohd Mohsin and Mr Mohamed Ali Kalifullah to be trained as Justice of the Peace from the community. This was possible for the ongoing communication of Ms Lyn Cairn JP. Mr Gary Fagg, trainer and assessor of JP in Toowoomba will train the two would be JPs.

Renovation of entrance of the prayer hall

Br Muhidin Hadzich has completed another renovation of the current prayer hall entrance. This is his latest contribution to the Mosque and community. The entrance is looking more impressive, clean and tidy. Worshippers no more stepping inside the Mosque with shoes on. A bid thankyou to Br Muhidin and all users of Mosque, especially the children for keeping it clean. This will certainly keep the payer hall clean and hygienic.



The new look entrance of the current prayer hall



Mr Peter Siokos of Secure Solutions is working with Secretary of Islamic Society of Toowoomba to prepare a security plan for the reconstructed Mosque building.

Recognition of services of Eng Shabbirul Mujib

Eng Shabbirul Mujib make an outstanding professional contribution to the Toowoomba Mosque and served the community as an Assistant Secretary of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba. He helped prepare the contract for the Second Stage work of the Toowoomba Mosque Project and led the Project Coordination Team.

Recently, he has accepted a senior position at the Cairns City Council and decided to leave Toowoomba. The community will miss him but wishes him a healthy and prosperous future.



Eng Shabbirul Mujib receiving a Crest from Prof. Shahjahan Khan



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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

Sharing your story: Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au (If you have a story to be included in the Muslim Community Newsletter please contact Prof Shahjahan Khan)

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