



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Vol 3, Issue 1, Mar 2022



Toowoomba Muslims welcome Imam Mohammad Aminul Islam

Imam Mohammad Aminul Islam joined Garden City Mosque as its second Imam early March 2022. He arrived Toowoomba from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and his family (wife and two children) joined him from Bangladesh.

Imam Amin was offered the position in Toowoomba Mosque after Imam Abdul Kader left for Melbourne in April last year to work in a Federal Government Funded Project.

The new Imam is a Hafez-e-Qur'an. He received his Bachelor Degree from Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, and about to submit his PhD thesis at the International Islamic University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Prior to coming to Toowoomba, Imam Amin was working with Dr Zakir Naik and was the Imam of his Musallah in Putra Jaya, Malaysia.

Muslims thank Hon Garth Hamilton MP for helping for the priority processing of the Labour Agreement and Minister of Immigration for processing the Visa Application of the Imam on time.

Muslims in Toowoomba welcomed their new Imam in a Meet & Greet Session at the Mosque on Saturday, 5 March 2022 over a Bring-a-Dish lunch. President of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan was joined by community elders Sheikh Osman Edreas, Dr Javaid Iqbal, Mr George Helon, and Interim Imam Dr Omar AISakit to welcome the Imam. Many families shared divers delicious food on the occasion.

Muslims in Toowoomba worked hard for about 10 months to recruit the new Imam, sign Labour Agreement and submit Visa Application, arrange Visa, and help settle his family in Toowoomba. The community thanked Br Abdullah Albab Khan processing Labour Agreement and Visa Application free of charges, Br Mohamed Ali Kalifullah for organising accommodation and household items for family of Imam, and Dr Omar AISakit for serving as Interim Imam.



Imam Mohammad Aminul Islam



Sheikh Osman Edreas



Dr Javaid Iqbal



Professor Shahjahan Khan



Dr Omar AISakit



Mr George Helon

Final Stage Reconstruction Work to Start on 22 March

After working hard to find builder/contractor to complete the outstanding work of the Mosque reconstruction project for the last six months we were lucky to finally sign a contract with Dr Humayun Kabir of Q1 Building Services and Maintenance Pvt Ltd recently. This is for the Final Stage work of the project which includes 46 car parks, two drive-ways, several retaining walls, one disable access ramp, and concreting around the building and yard. The estimate cost is \$302,326.61.

As per the agreement the work will start on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 Inshaa Allah.

The other outstanding works for the project are putting acoustic walls, landscaping and carpet laying. We also plan to set up an **Electric Car Charging Station** in our car parking area. This will not only open the Mosque to the wider community as part of our commitment to reduce carbon emission and serve the

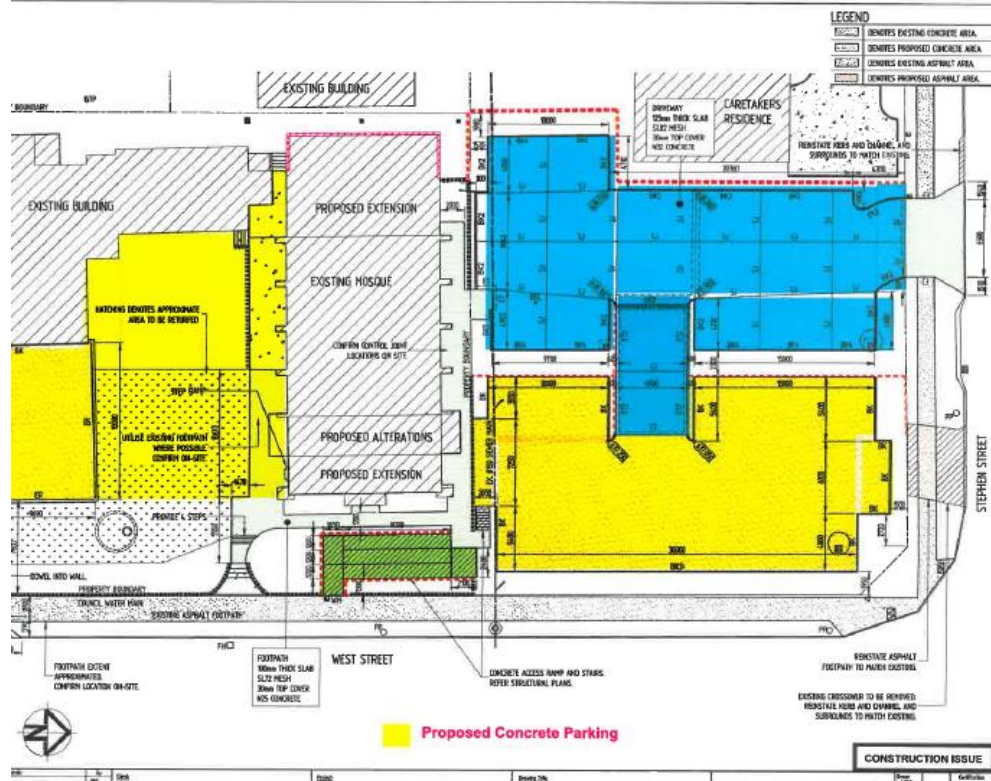


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people of this city but also has the potential to bring much needed income to support the maintenance of the Mosque.



Funding Ifter-Dinner on Saturday, 9 April 2022

In addition to the current available \$240,000 in our bank account, the completion of the project will require an estimated additional \$95,000. We will have to run online and social media campaign leading to Ramadan, and organise a **fundraising Ifter-Dinner in Toowoomba on Saturday, 9 April 2022** to cover the shortfall. All Muslims in Toowoomba are encouraged to participate in the event with their family to help achieve our target.

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful

Toowoomba Mosque Final Stage Fundraising



The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, then Allah will build for him a similar house in Paradise." (Bukhari and Muslim)



Only \$95k Target

- 19 donors \$5000 each
- 95 donors \$1000 each
- 190 donors \$500 each
- 950 donors \$100 each

Please join rebuilding the burnt house of Allah

Bank Account Details

A/name: Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Organisation
 BSB: 064459
 Account Number: 10341586
 Swift Code: CTBAAU2S

- #### Final Stage Work
- 46 Car parking
 - Retaining Walls
 - Acoustic Fence
 - Ramp
 - Driveways
 - Landscaping

Contact Persons
 Prof. Shahjahan Khan +61421 081 048
 A/Prof. Mainul Islam +61432 533 550

217 West St, Harristown QLD 4350
 Website: www.toowoombamosque.com.au
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque



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Toowoomba Mosque received \$95,002 Safer Community Grant

After being unsuccessful for the last two rounds, the Islamic Society of Toowoomba has received Safer Community Grant of \$95,002 plus GST in Round 6 this year. The money will be spent on security camera and other equipment and fence for the protection of the Mosque property.

We are very thankful to Hon Garth Hamilton MP, Federal Member for Groom (Toowoomba); Hon David Janetzki MP, State Member for Toowoomba South; Cr Paul Antonio, Mayor of Toowoomba Regional City; and Queensland Police Services, Toowoomba for making strong recommendation for the grant.

The community highly appreciate everyone involved in the preparation and submission of the Grant Application, especially Br Peter Sapsford of Islamic Relief Australia, and Br Mohamed Ali Kalifullah of Islamic Society of Toowoomba.

The work setting camera and other security equipment will start soon Inshaa Allah.

Annual General Meeting of Islamic Society of Toowoomba

The Annual General Meeting of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba was held on Sunday, 6 March 2022 at the Toowoomba Mosque at 4pm. The annual report of the President and audited financial reports of the Society and Trust were placed and discussed in the meeting. Questions were answered by Professor Shahjahan Khan, and the Treasurer Br Hamed Ali.

In response to a question about the slow progress in the reconstruction project, lack of contractors and tradies were mentioned. Also interested people were asked to watch the video of Q&A about the project that was circulated to the community last year.

Proposals to find ways to increase Musallis in daily prayers and introduce regular Tafseer e Qur'an session to be run by the New Imam were discussed.

The AGM elected following people on the Executive Committee for the next two years:

President:	Professor Shahjahan Khan, PhD
Vice President:	Dr Omar Alajarmeh, PhD
Secretary:	Mohamed Ali Kalifullah
Assistant Secretary:	Dr Wahid Ferdous, PhD
Treasurer:	Hamed Ali
Assistant Treasurer:	Associate Professor Mainul Islam, PhD
Committee Members:	Muhidin Hadzich, Mohamed Abdulkareem, Eng Waqar Butt, Eng Adnan Bashir, Imran Faz

Annual Report of the President:

In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful

Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc

Mailing Address: PO Box 336, Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Qld. 4350, Australia

Telephone: +61 7 45660289

Annual Report 2020-2021

In the name of Allah, the Most beneficent, the Most Merciful. Assalamu alaikum warahmatullah. Alhamdulillah, all praise is to Allah, the Lord of the Universes, and peace and blessings be to prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Thank you very much for attending this Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc. May Allah bless and reward you for your contributions and participation in the activities of this Society to the best of your ability. I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Muslim community of Toowoomba. If anything good was achieved that is due to the kind favour of Allah and His divine assistance. All the mistakes and failures are the results of our weaknesses and incompetence. May Allah forgive us, all, for the inability and weaknesses.



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I thank all Muslims for strictly following health restrictions during the pandemic. May Allah reward everyone of you for your perseverance. Alhamdulillah, in spite of Covid-19 restrictions, we had five time daily prayers, regular Arabic and Islamic lessons.

Alhamdulillah, in this year we were able to complete all internal fittings including painting, tiling, stairs/railing etc., of the reconstruction of our Masjid with the help of everyone of you, especially Br Muhidin and Nur. We also completed stormwater management, including putting 22,500 ltr underground rainwater tank. I thank Mr Brain Cornick and Br Waqar Butt for their professional help and dedicated service. But we would still need further contracts to complete, rainwater tank, car park etc.

The EC has been working hard for the last six months, and hoping to get a contract for the carparking, retaining walls and driveways to finish the project soon Inshaa Allah.

We are continuing to work with Islamic Relief Australia, Islamic Council of Queensland, and Australian Federation of Islamic Councils. Alhamdulillah we have received MAQ Grant of \$8,800 and Safer Community Grant of \$95,002 plus GST recently.

Weekly Newsletter of the Society is being published since February 2020. Special thanks to Dr Wahid Ferdous his for help.

Organized 8th International Food Festival & Masjid Open Day in April with a MAQ Grant on 31 July 2021. Special thanks to A/Prof Dr Mainul Islam for coordinating the event. We also regularly participated in the Abrahamic Faiths quarterly meetings.

We received a small grant \$2000 and organized a successful Job Forum in the Masjid. We also organized two Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic in our Masjid. Big thank you to Br Mohamed Ali for managing these events.

Sadly, Imam Abdul Kader left us to take his new job in Melbourne in April 2021. We must thank Dr Omar AISakit and Br Abdu Mohamed for serving as the Interim Imam and teacher with great care and satisfaction. Alhamdulillah, we were able to recruit a new Imam soon after, get a Labour Agreement with the Federal Govt and then applied and secure visa for Imam Muhammad Aminul Islam and his family. We are grateful to Abdullah Albab Khan for handing all documentations and submission free of cost saving thousands of dollars for our community. New Imam is scheduled to arrive to Toowoomba on Thursday 3 March 2022 Inshaa Allah. He is a Hafez-e-Qur'an, graduate of AlAzhar University, and PhD Candidate at IIUM, Malaysia.

We now have tenants in our next-door property bringing some much needed income. I thank Br Muhidin Hadzich for fixing the building, looking after maintenance and managing it. I thank Br Mohamed Abdulkareem for taking care of cleaning of the Masjid and Br Mohamed Ali for overseeing membership, security matters and maintaining documentations. Very special thanks to all volunteers who worked so hard in various events, and garden/yard cleaning and tidy up sessions.

The Society is now register under ACNC, and as always, working very closely with the Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust to maintain and manage the Mosque.

The Masjid FB was active and well managed. The website has been re-established. Prayer times are updated regularly. Thanks to Dr Wahid Ferdous for setting up and maintaining our internet and social media presence.

Alhamdulillah, our accounts have been properly audited and financial statements are finalized. We must thank Br Hamed Ali for his professional expertise and dedication for the community. JAK for Hamed Ali and A/Prof Dr Mainul Islam for managing the accounts.

The main challenge ahead is getting the contractor finish the remaining work and raising sufficient funds to complete the Mosque project. We will need additional \$335,00 for the outstanding work. Alhamdulillah, we have over \$240,000 in our accounts. So we will need to raise the estimated shortfall of \$95,000 from our community. We need to keep working on the unity of Muslims and making the Masjid a centre of activities and spiritual uplifting. This includes regular women and youth activities. May Allah accept our ibadah, forgive our mistakes, remove our weaknesses and grant us success in this world and more so in the hereafter.

**(Professor Shahjahan Khan)
President 2020-2021**



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Islamic Society President invited by Her Excellency Governor

Professor Shahjahan Khan has been invited by Her Excellency the Governor the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD to participate in the Harmony Day celebration at the Government House in Brisbane on Monday, 21 March 2022.



Presentation on “Grace” in the Abrahamic Faiths Gathering

President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba Professor Shahjahan Khan made a presentation on "Grace" or Mercy in Islam in the Abrahamic Faiths gathering on Wednesday, 16 February at the St Anthony's Hall. Part of my presentation is attached. Rev Adam spoke on the Christian perspective of Grace. The Jews presenter was unable to attend.



Grace or Mercy (Rahma) in Islam

The primary attribute of Allah in the Holy Quran is Mercy (Rahma). Synonyms of mercy include: compassion, forgiveness, kindness, leniency, gentleness, and goodwill.

Quranic verses on Allah's mercy

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

...My mercy encompasses everything... (7:156)

Say: "My servants, you who have transgressed against yourselves, do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Truly Allah forgives all wrong actions. He is the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Merciful." (39:53)

O my sons (said Prophet Jacob)! Go you and enquire about Yusuf (Joseph) and his brother, and never give up hope of Allah's Mercy. Certainly no one despairs of Allah's Mercy, except the people who disbelieve. (12:87)

...And seek God's forgiveness! Truly God is much forgiving and Merciful. (2:199)

Whoso does evil or oppresses his own self and thereafter seeks God's forgiveness shall find God most Forgiving, Merciful. (4:110)

But those who do evil deeds, then repent and believe, they will find your Lord Forgiving and Merciful. (7:153)

Anyone of you who does a misdeed through ignorance then repents thereafter and makes amends, then verily He is Forgiving, Merciful. (6:54)

...Truly God is Gentle and Compassionate to mankind. (2:143)

We have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a mercy to all the worlds. (21:107)

The Divine Name Ar-Rahman: The Universally Merciful

Most scholars agree that the divine name Ar-Rahman refers to Allah's universal mercy for all creation. No other attribute comes close to the number of times Allah ascribes Mercy to Himself in Holy Quran. Furthermore, there is no other name like Ar-Rahman in the Holy Quran, except for Allah. Both of these names are considered to be primary names of Allah. This is shown by the following verse:

Say, "Call upon Allah or call upon the Most Merciful. Whichever [name] you call – to Him belong the best names." (17:110)

All other divine names go back to the primary names of Allah: Allah and Ar-Rahman.

No other divine name has the structure of "alif-noon" at the end. In Arabic, this alif-noon ending means "the One Who has the strongest and the eternal Rahma; it means that Allah is always characterized by Rahma and everything He does is out of Rahma"

Hadiths about Allah's Mercy

"When Allah completed the creation, He wrote in His book with Him upon the Throne: Verily, My mercy prevails over My wrath." (Bukhari and Muslim)

Allah created mercy in one hundred parts and sent down to earth only one part. Because of this one part, there is mutual love among creation, so much so that an animal will lift up its hoof from its young one, fearing that it might harm it. Allah has reserved the remaining ninety-nine parts of this mercy to favor His believing servants on the Day of Judgment. (Bukhari and Muslim)



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The Prophet Muhammad reported that the devil said to God: "I shall continue to lead Thy servants astray as long as their spirits are in their bodies." And God replied: "(Then) I shall continue to pardon them as long as they ask My forgiveness." (Tirmidhi)

Umar ibn al-Khattab reported: Some prisoners of war were brought to the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and a breast-feeding woman was among them. Whenever she found a child among the prisoners, she would take it to her chest and nurse it. The Prophet said to us, "Do you think this woman would throw her child in the fire?" We said, "No, not if she was able to stop it." The Prophet said, "Allah is more merciful to his servants than a mother is to her child." (Bukhari and Muslim)

(God says) O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as it. (Tirmidhi, Ahmad)

(God says) O My servants, you sin by night and by day, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness of Me and I shall forgive you. (Muslim, Tirmidhi)

Resumption of Document Certification (JP) Service at the Mosque

Toowoomba Garden City Mosque weekly Justice of the Peace (JP) Services provided by Mr George Helon of Toowoomba will be recommencing from Friday 18 March 2022 between the hours of 12 noon to (approximately) 2pm. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE and is available to anyone in the community who requires a Justice of the Peace. Among other duties, a Justice of the Peace can Certify Copies of Documents, Witness and Sign Statutory Documents.



Please be patient when the JP Service is busy as there are due processes to be followed. PLEASE NOTE these Guidelines: (1) A Justice of the Peace CAN NOT PROVIDE any LEGAL ADVICE. (2) Those requiring the services of the Justice of the Peace (JP) must be in possession of an approved Photographic Identity Document such as a Driver's Licence, Passport, or Proof of Age Card; at least one of which must include a residential address. (3) Clients must supply their OWN FORMS and copies of Documents for Certification as there are NO PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES. (4) ALL FORMS MUST BE

COMPLETED BEFORE ATTENDANCE. (5) A JP CAN NOT ASSIST IN THE COMPLETION OF ANY DOCUMENT.

Muslim on the list of 40 Influential women in Toowoomba

Recently the daily Toowoomba Chronicle included the following Muslim.

ELLISA PARKER

PROUD Muslim woman and former Queensland state forest manager Ellisa Parker has fought for affordable housing and social justice through the Housing Is A Human Right campaign and the Darling Downs Affordable Housing Association.



Ms Parker is inspired by Muslims for Progressive Values founder Ani Zonneveld and Muslim journalist Mona Eltahawy.

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.



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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