



Garden City Mosque Toowoomba Open Day Welcomes Thousands

29 June 2024

The Garden City Mosque in Toowoomba recently hosted a highly successful Open Day, drawing an estimated 2,000 attendees from diverse backgrounds, representing over 20 countries including Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Sudan.

A special highlight of the day was the rare viewing of the century-old (AH 1329-1330/1911 CE) Hasan Riza Hatti Mushaf-i-Serif Qur'an. This handwritten copy, on permanent exhibition at the mosque, is only opened on special occasions, adding a unique and historical element to the event.



Food stalls from Bangladesh and Bosnia

The event featured an impressive lineup of dignitaries and special guests. Notable speakers included Cr Geoff McDonald, Mayor of Toowoomba; Cr Kerry Shine; Hon Trevor Watts MP; Hon Senator Paul Scarr, Shadow Assistant Minister for Multicultural Engagement; Hon Jennifer Howard MP, Assistant Minister for Treasury, Trade and Investment; the Most Reverend Ken Howell DD SSL, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba; Right Reverend Cameron Venables, Anglican Bishop of the Western Region; Ms Tanja Miljevic from Multicultural Australia; and Senior Constable Catherine English from the Queensland Police Service.

The Open Day not only showcased the cultural diversity and unity within the community but also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about Islamic traditions and the vibrant multicultural fabric of Toowoomba. The overwhelming attendance and positive response underscored the event's success in fostering understanding and goodwill among different communities.



Watch Senator The Hon Paul Scarr's Speech at the Federal Senate in Canberra. 🍀

Eid-ul-Fitr Celebrations

10 April 2024

Hundreds of Muslims gathered at the Toowoomba Mosque to joyfully celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The event brought together members from across the community who participated in prayers, listened to an inspiring sermon, shared a meal, and exchanged sweets, fostering a sense of unity and togetherness.



Photo: Christine Schindler

This year's sermon emphasised humanitarian values, encouraging attendees to be kind to their neighbours, friends, family, and youth. The message highlighted the importance of compassion and community spirit, resonating deeply with all who attended.

Eid-ul-Fitr, observed by 2 billion Muslims worldwide, is a significant festival that concludes a month of fasting, reflection, and spiritual growth. The celebrations at the Toowoomba Mosque exemplified the global spirit of the festival, showcasing the rich cultural diversity and the shared commitment to peace and goodwill within the community. 🌱

Eid-ul-Adha Celebrations

16 June 2024

Muslims from across the community came together at the Toowoomba Mosque to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha, one of the holiest events in the Islamic calendar. The day began with heartfelt prayers and an inspiring sermon, followed by the traditional sacrifice of animals, symbolising the spirit of sacrifice and devotion.

This year's sermon focused on the teachings of sacrifice in our personal lives to create a better world. It emphasised the importance of selflessness, community support, and striving for the greater good, resonating deeply with all in attendance.

After the rituals, the community shared a meal, reinforcing bonds of friendship and solidarity. The celebrations at the Toowoomba Mosque highlighted the values of compassion, generosity, and unity, demonstrating the profound impact of Eid-ul-Adha on fostering a harmonious and caring society. 🌱



Kids' Corner



The Town Leader

Aariz Imam

There were two people called Mustafa and Ayyub. They were running for the leader of the town. Ayyub was kind, forgiving, friendly and generous, and always followed Allah's path. Mustafa was the opposite, and he would try to fit in with the wrong crowd whom he believed were popular. He swore he was cruel, unfriendly, and mean. Ayyub wasn't very popular; therefore, only a few people voted for him, while Mustafa won and became town leader.

People liked Mustafa at first, but as time went on, the people could not communicate with him, as he didn't listen to others, and other town leaders were disappointed at him because of his behaviour and wanted him to step down. Still, he didn't, as he felt he would lose power.

On the other hand, Ayyub continued to pray and believe in Allah that one day, he will become a leader despite his hardships and embarrassment. Eventually, the people started to recognise his kindness and leadership skills. leader, and he gained power and popularity, while Mustafa was voted off. Ayyub used these powers very wisely and became very famous.



Moral of the story

If you follow the path of Allah and keep on believing and being patient, you will be successful. This also proves you don't need to be popular in the wrong way to be a leader. The best leaders are wise, kind, generous, and righteous. ♣

Food Festival and My Activity

Owais (10 years Old)

A night before the food festival, the wind almost blew away all the stalls, and they had to be tied down. There I was on the festival day, all very excited; I was at the youth stall telling people about the Muslim scientists and what they did for the world. These people helped change the world. One example is Ibn Sina (the father of medicine). If Ibn Sina hadn't been born, the world wouldn't have modern medicine. Another example is the Musa brothers. The Musa brothers invented Rubix cubes and puzzles, which I love.

People asked questions about the Muslim scientists, and the children answered all the questions and told people who they were reading about. There was a Madagascar-themed jumping castle for the children.

There were different food stalls at the food festival, there was a Bosniak stall selling kebabs. The Sri Lankan stall was selling dosas, which were out of this world. In my opinion, the food festival was great. ♣





Kids' Corner

Food Festival

Zaki

I was standing in the middle of the Toowoomba Mosque parking lot while I was helping the people get ready for the food festival. One could feel the excitement in the air of the mosque. I first helped set up the Sri Lankan and South Indian stall (expecting to get free dosa!) Don't blame me, but there was an auntie who makes the best dosa in existence! My best friend Danish and I started helping, and I ate four dosas and bought two with my Eid money. I was patrolling for the youth group set up right next to the entrance.



I chose to be patrolling because I was expecting my grade six teacher. After all, he said he would come to the food fest. I went to check out the youth stall to see what we had achieved for the food fest. The people for the youth

group and the people who volunteered would get a card that says, volunteer. My dad was

doing a dawah stall and giving out free Qurans and free books, and Uncle Ibrahim was giving out merchandise, Islamic clothing, Islamic books for kids and a golden coin that says Allah band has a picture of Medina on it. I also bought all the coins and his stock of them.



Almost at the end, I found Geoff McDonald at the Sri Lankan and South Indian stall, and my best friend and I took a picture with him, and he remembered me from my year six retreat day. One guy eating next to us showed us how to do a paradox with our fingers. We were packing, and Azeem uncle told us to carry

the water bottle packs to the old Masjid and Danish was helping the auntie who made the dosa's vase, and he broke it, and she was fake crying. I don't know what happened to Danish after that because I haven't seen him since the food festival! ♣

Youth Corner



Leadership is all about helping others!

Weam Elsakit

Assalamu Alaikum. My name is Weam Elsakit. I am a senior at Darling Heights State School. This school is fantastic. There are many interesting and fun programs in my school. One of these programmes is leadership which includes: School Leader, Sport Leader, Music Leader, Student Council and Prep Mentor. This program is for year 5 students, and the successful applicants are chosen by the teachers and school staff last year. I applied for Prep Mentor, and Alhamdulillah I got selected to be one of the Prep Helpers for 2024.

I was interested in becoming a prep helper for several reasons. Firstly, I love giving a helping hand to people who are in need. In our school the prep students are the ones who need every help possible from all those who are around them, not just their teachers. The school environment is completely new to them and being away from their families for 8 hours every school day can be hard for them. So, they need someone to play the role of 'big sister' who can play with them, comfort them and help them to become familiar with the school. Being a big sister of 3 siblings makes me suitable for this role.

Secondly, I am thankful to Allah for blessing me with a fabulous school, kind teachers and very helpful mentors who took care of me and helped me through my school journey. Our beloved Prophet Muhammed (SAW) said, 'Whoever doesn't thank people, he does not thank Allah.' Therefore, I consider my participation as Prep Mentor an act of thanks. It is a practical way to say thank you and pay forward.

Thirdly, I believe if you do something good, it will return to you or your beloved ones. I have a gorgeous little sister who will go to prep in 2 years. At that time, I will hopefully be in high school. So, I would like her to have kind people around her to support her and make her school days sweet and memorable.

I've now been helping the prep students for over four months, and I became pretty sure that I made the right decision when I applied for this role. When I come to the prep area, the kids always smile to me, wave and run to give me a warm hug. This makes me proud of myself. I believe that helping others, especially children, makes life better including the life of the helper herself. 🍀

Call for write-up

We are inviting young writers below 12 years and above 12 years to submit write-ups ranging from 100 to 300 words on any teachings, learnings, or experiences related to Islam and Muslim life.

Submit your write-ups to syedsaad777@gmail.com OR s.dipu@uq.edu.au with the subject line "ISOT Newsletter". Don't forget to attach your photograph and mention your age category (Kid or Youth) in your email.

We can't wait to read your stories! Happy writing! 🍀

Calling All Creative Youth in Toowoomba!

Are you passionate about **graphic design, cinematography, or video editing**? We want YOU! The Islamic Society of Toowoomba is seeking enthusiastic youth volunteers to showcase their talents. Your efforts will be recognised and appreciated in an appropriate manner.

Feel like interested?

Send your expression of interest to s.dipu@uq.edu.au or call us at [0480 337 223](tel:0480337223).

Join us and make a difference!



Community Development

CLICK HERE OR SCAN TO
SUBSCRIBE OUR NEWSLETTER



Building Bridges: Gift Distribution to Our Neighbors

During the holy month of Ramadan, we took the initiative to distribute gifts to 100 neighbours around the Toowoomba Mosque. This effort aimed to foster genuine friendships and express our gratitude to our supportive neighbours. By sharing these gifts, we sought to strengthen community bonds and highlight the importance of maintaining good relationships. The gesture was well-received, reinforcing the message of unity, respect, and the significance of being good neighbours. 🌱

Toowoomba Muslim Community pays respect to Bondi Junction Massacre Memorial

18 April 2024

Representatives from the Toowoomba Muslim community, including Imam Dr. Mohammad Aminul Islam Azhari, Associate Professor Dr. Mainul Islam (President), and Mr. Mohamed Ali (Assistant Treasurer), attended the Toowoomba community gathering to honor the victims of the Bondi Junction massacre. The event was a poignant moment of solidarity, as members of multiple faiths came together to pray in unison, demonstrating unity and shared compassion in the face of tragedy. 🌱



Community BBQ Event Engages Kids with the Mosque

26 May 2024

The recent community BBQ event was a tremendous success, particularly in engaging kids with the mosque. Dedicated brothers took charge of cooking and serving, ensuring everyone enjoyed delicious BBQ meals. The event saw a large turnout, fostering a sense of unity and togetherness among the young attendees and strengthening their connection to the mosque. 🌱



Eid-ul-Adha Community Gathering Strengthens Bonds

23 June 2024

The Eid-ul-Adha community gathering at the mosque brought together members for a day of sharing and unity. Attendees participated in distributing Qurban meat, engaging in collective cooking, and serving a shared meal. This event fostered a sense of community and reinforced the importance of mutual support and togetherness during the festive occasion. 🌱



Toowoomba Muslims Raise \$37,000 for St Marys Masjid in Sydney

10 May 2024

In a remarkable display of unity and generosity, the Toowoomba Muslim community raised approximately \$37,000 in pledges and donations for Sydney's St Marys Masjid during a fundraising dinner. This substantial contribution highlights the community's commitment to supporting fellow Muslims. Pledge forms and flyers are available at the Masjid for those who missed the opportunity to contribute. 🌱



Garden City Mosque Welcomes Delegation from Singapore's Islamic Religious Council

On Sunday, 28 July 2024, the Islamic Society of Toowoomba warmly welcomed a delegation from the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura, MUIS) to the Garden City Mosque. The visit facilitated an exchange of ideas and strengthened ties between the two communities. MUIS, responsible for the administration and welfare of Singapore's Muslim community, engaged in discussions focused on shared values and collaborative opportunities. This visit marks a significant step in fostering international relationships and mutual understanding between the Muslim communities of Singapore and Toowoomba. 🌱

Youth Futsal Tournament Kicks Off at Darling Heights SS Hall

26 May 2024

The youth of the Toowoomba Muslim community participated their Futsal tournament at Darling Heights SS Hall. The event promises to foster sportsmanship and camaraderie among participants. 🌱



Hajj Workshop at Toowoomba Garden City Mosque

19 May 2024

Toowoomba Garden City Mosque hosted a successful Hajj workshop immediately after Asr prayers. The session, attended by brothers, sisters, and families preparing for Hajj or interested in learning about the pilgrimage, provided practical training and valuable insights. Participants benefited from shared experiences and ideas from recent Hajj pilgrims, enriching the learning experience.

The workshop exemplified the mosque's commitment to supporting the community in their spiritual journey. May Allah SWT grant everyone the opportunity to perform Hajj at least once in their lifetime. Hajj Mabroor to all Hujjaj. 🌱

Abrahamic Interfaith Gathering

On Wednesday, 7 August 2024, the Toowoomba Garden City Mosque hosted the latest Abrahamic interfaith gathering, welcoming around 50 attendees. The event featured presentations from leaders of Toowoomba's major faith communities, focusing on the theme "Life After Death."

Imam Dr. Mohammad Aminul Islam opened the gathering, sharing Islamic perspectives on the topic. Ariel Heber, President and Community Liaison of Queensland Jewish Community Services Inc., represented the Jewish community, while Father Michael Cooney, Hospital Chaplain, spoke on behalf of the Catholic community. The event emphasized mutual respect and understanding, with each speaker offering insights into their faith's views on the afterlife. Imam Aminul highlighted the importance of such gatherings, stating, "We don't come here to debate each other; debating only divides us." Following the presentations, a question-and-answer session allowed for further exploration of the topic, and the evening concluded with a light dinner, fostering a sense of community and shared values among the participants. 🌱



Call for Information on Muslim Businesses in Toowoomba

We are excited to announce our plan to publish a comprehensive directory of Muslim businesses in Toowoomba. This initiative aims to empower and benefit our community by fostering connections and promoting local enterprises.

To achieve this, we are conducting a brief survey to gather the necessary information. We kindly request your participation in this survey to help the community connect with your business.

[Click here to Participate in the Survey.](#)



Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated. Together, we can build a stronger and more connected community. 🌱

Regular Program

✓ Madrasa

- Islam and Basic Arabic classes for kids and youth
- When: Monday to Thursday, after Maghrib prayers until Esha prayers (60-minute session).
- Contact: Imam Dr. Mohammad Aminul Islam or Br. Syed Saad Hamid

✓ Monthly Sisters-Only Islamic Discussion: Qalbun Saleem (Pure Heart)

- Led by Sr. Rafiza, focusing on spiritual growth and community.
- For updates, check the Mosque WhatsApp Group or contact Sr. Rafiza.

✓ Weekly Quran Learning Session for Brothers

- When: Every Sunday after Maghrib.
- Coordinator: Br. Montasir Rahman.
- A chance to deepen your understanding of the Quran in a supportive environment. 🌱

Acknowledgement of Country:

ISOT and Toowoomba Mosque acknowledge the Traditional Owners and recognises their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.