



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #8, September 2020



Greetings on 1442 Hijri New Year

Assalamu alaikum.

Greetings of Hijri New Year 1442 on the first day of the first Islamic Month, Muharram which coincided with 20 August 2020.

The Hijri (Islamic) year is related to the migration of Prophet Muhammad (SWS) from oppression (in Makkah) to freedom (in Medina) - moving to light leaving behind darkness. Islamic month is not named after any person, rather it marks migration (hijrat), an event that changed the history of the world. In the spirit of Muhammad SWS' migration from darkness, the Muslims all over the world now migrate from (give up) sins and evil to embrace goodness and piety.

Fasting on the 10th of Muharram is highly recommended and adopted by Muhammad (SWS) from the practice of Moses (AS), may Allah be pleased with both of them, but differentiated from the practice of Jews by fasting a day before and after the Ashura.

May Allah keep everyone safe (including covid-19), healthy and happy, and bless with peace and prosperity in this year and beyond.

Professor Shahjahan Khan
President, Islamic Society of Toowoomba

Happy and Blessed New Year: 1442 Hijri

Congratulation! We are now in the first month, Muharram, of the Islamic *Hijri* New Year 1442. May Allah (SWT) make this year full of blessings, peace, kindness, healing and happiness in the life of individuals and in the life of the *Ummah*. May He grant us unity and keep us together in His causes. *Aameen*.

We need to take this occasion to call ourselves to an account of the year just left, 1441 H. We sincerely and humbly thank Allah (SWT) for our achievements and good works. We also must learn from our mistakes and shortfalls and commit to a more devoted-to-Allah-lifestyle in this year and in the years to come. We also forget and forgive each other's mistakes and

shortcomings. May Allah forgive us and grant us a prosperous life in Here and in the Hereafter. *Aameen*.

Imam Abdul Kader
Toowoomba Mosque

Toowoomba Mosque: Second Stage work progress

The contractor is progressing with the Stage Two of the rebuilding work as per schedule. The plumbing work is mostly done. Currently, they are working on the ducted air conditioning. The electrical fitting work is next on the line.



Photo: Second Stage work in progress

Council Approves Application to extend Work Permit for Toowoomba Mosque

The current approval of Operational Work Permit of Toowoomba Mosque will expire at the end of August 2020. An application was lodged to extend the currency period for an operational works plan related to the Toowoomba Mosque to the Toowoomba Regional Council early August 2020.



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The applicant argued the COVID-19 pandemic had delayed progress on the works by three to four months, while fundraising efforts had also struggled, and requested for three year extension in view of the uncertainty about fundraising during the pandemic. The Council approved an extension by two years.



Photo: Prof Khan with Br Nedzad (builders)

The owner of the factory was made aware of the burning of Toowoomba Mosque and he is considering a good discount on the price of the carpet.



Photo: Selected design for Toowoomba mosque carpet

Carpet selection for Mosque

Dr Tarek Omar, a former President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, and currently based in Abu Dhabi is working with an overseas manufacturer of best quality Mosque carpet to get high quality carpet for the Garden City Mosque. A highly respected local doctor has offered to donate all the cost of carpet, including installation, as part of his family charity. From many different designs and colours the donor has selected the design of the carpet very similar to that in the famous **Blue Mosque** (Sultan Ahmed Mosque) in Istanbul with a slight modification. This Mosque is a tourist attraction and was built in around 1611.

Donation of chandelier and wall lights

A family in Toowoomba has indicated to make a custom-made chandelier to donate to the Mosque. They will be working with an overseas factory to fabricate the chandelier and bring it to Australia when ready.

A local business has donated 4 wall lights to the new Mosque building.



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Photo: Donation to the mosque

New Grass and Benches

Br Mohamed Abdalkareem and his team are now working for growing grass on the front yard of the Mosque. The yard is already looking much greener now. After the burning of the main Mosque building in 2015, the lawn care was not a priority until now. But as per the approved plan of Toowoomba Regional Council the new Mosque premises will require professional landscaping.

Br Rashid Mohamed has donated a number of beautiful benches for the community to sit and enjoy free time in the Mosque yard. A big thank you to Br Mohamed and Br Rashid.



Photo: New grass

Youth Leadership Training

On 14 August a meeting of the Youth Leadership Training group was held at the Garden City Mosque. This program is a part of a nationwide initiative of Australian Multicultural Foundation.

Toowoomba Multicultural Youth Graduation

Islamic Society of Toowoomba with the support of Australian Multicultural Foundation ran Youth Leadership program in Toowoomba. Ten multifait-multicultural local youth leaders of both gender joined the program. In spite of the difficult time of pandemic Covid19, they have done a great work. On 18 August 2020, they have presented a project paper entitled "Employment of Culturally Diverse Youth in the Toowoomba Region" during National Youth Leadership Program Graduation Webinar Event. The graduation program was co-hosted by

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Australian Multicultural Foundation and Museum of Australian Democracy. During their presentation, Farhan Mujib and Mithila Khan pointed out the challenges encountered by culturally diverse youth in finding their job opportunity. The study focuses on QLD government policies and legislations on multiculturalism, and then examine the multicultural health of youth employed by three organizations; Toowoomba Regional Council, Darling Down Police and University of Southern Queensland. The final touch-up of the white paper will be completed by the end of September and will be available on the website of Australian Multicultural Foundation.



Photo: Youth Leadership program in Toowoomba

Children Arabic Lessons: At Masjid and Online

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Children are learning Arabic language and fundamental Islamic knowledge through both options: Online and face-to-face sessions. A good number of Children are attending at Masjid during learning sessions. However, the many families still prefer online option of learning. Families can combine between options. So if they cannot bring their children at 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. During August 2020,

2 students were promoted to Qur'aan reading level. We hope to get another 3 students get Qur'aan in September inshaaAllah. 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. Suggestions and feedbacks are always welcome.

Eidul Adha

This year Eidul Adha was celebrated in Toowoomba on Friday 31 August as per the announcement of the Grand Mufti of Australia. This was a very non-traditional Eid because of the covid-19 pandemic.

The Qurbani (sacrifice of animal) for the community was coordinated by Br Mohamed Abdalkareem and organised by AlMedina Meat, Inala Plaza, Brisbane. The meat was processed and delivered to Toowoomba Mosque on Saturday. This was a very well organised community service from the Islamic Society of Toowoomba and everyone was very happy with the management and timely delivery of meat.

Imam Abdul Kader organised to collect share of meat for the community at the Mosque and distributed to the relevant members of the community to enjoy the celebration.

Updates on Mosque Open Day

The 7th Annual Toowoomba International Food Festival and Mosque Open Day will be held on Saturday, 14 November 2020. This event is partially funded by Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

Garden City Mosque is a part of the National Mosque Day celebration of Lebanese Muslim Association. This year the event is on 31 October. All health restrictions due to pandemic will be strictly followed in both events.

Lebanon Appeal

After the devastating explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, Islamic Society of Toowoomba launched a fundraising appeal. Funds were collected locally and via bank transfers. All collected money have already been sent to Lebanon via Islamic Relief Australia.

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Financial and emotional support for the people of Lebanon from everyone of you are highly appreciated. May Allah accept the dead ones as martyrs, and protect and heal everyone alive and help them to return to normal life soon. Let us seek refuge from His wrath and anger, and beg for His mercy and compassion for His creation.

Muharram and 'Ashuraa: Lessons to learn

Muharram is the first month in the Islamic Arabic calendar named Hijri calendar. The month has been defined by the Prophet Mohammad (SAWS) as the "month of Allah". This signifies its importance along with its position in the group of 4 sacred months in Islam. Hence, the Prophet (SAWS) recommended us to fast the most after the obligatory fasting month of Ramadan. During Muharram, deeds of piety and righteousness carry greater rewards. Equally, the sins are to be heavier in the scale during this sacred month. This requires ongoing sincere and cautious approach in words and actions during this month and beyond.

A very special and great day in Muharram is the 10th day, which is known as the Day of 'Ashura. Historically, it's a special and unique day like no other that connects many of Allah's (SWT) Prophets (AS) in their struggle against tyranny and oppression. According to the *Musnad* of Imam Ahmad, it was 'Ashura when Prophet Nuh (AS) and his followers were rescued. The Ark of the believers safely got onto the mount of 'Jodi' and was saved from the flood. According to *Sahih* of Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim, in the day of 'Ashura, Prophet Musa (AS) and his followers were saved from the tyrant Pharaoh and his people. Pharaoh along with his soldiers were dipped into the water till death. The list goes on. The most significant later event is the achievement of the honour of Martyrdom by *Sayyidina Imam Hussain (RA)* following his utmost struggle against the injustice and tyranny of Yazid and his alliance.

Every year, 'Ashura comes back to remind us that the struggle between *Haqq* Truth and *Batil* Falshood, between *Madhlum* oppressed and *Dhalim* Tyrant is of ongoing nature which never ends. All believers must stand firm on truth. They must offer their maximum to stop the oppressor and to put the oppression at end. This is because Allah (SWT) is the Truth and He stands with the oppressed.

Another important lesson of 'Ashura is that through Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) we Muslims are closer to Musa (AS) and to all other Prophets than their closeness to their followers. This is obvious in the saying of Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) to the Jew of Madinah: "I am closer to

Musa than you are". Hence, our Prophet (SAWS) made fasting on 'Ashura compulsory on Muslims following the tradition of Prophet Musa (AS). Later on, our Prophet wanted to fast another day along with the 10th of Muharram. This is a demonstration that all Prophets are brothers; their messages are common and same albeit their mothers are different.

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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque/>
WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083