



Saturday 29th November 2008

Bosphorous Lounge

7 Station Road Auburn

Proudly Hosted By



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2008 AMAA WINNERS

Best New Community Initiative/ Project of the Year

Green Scarf Day NSW

Green Scarf Day is a student-run charity organisation set up in an effort to raise funds for disadvantaged women and children around the world. The project aim is to avoid band-aid solutions to poverty by supporting community development type projects that offer long term solutions. Established by a handful of University of Sydney students in 2007, it has now grown to encompass students in universities across Sydney and Melbourne and is set to expand into WA and SA in 2009.

The Green Scarf Day Foundation is working closely with such organisations as Muslim Aid Australia, Human Appeal Intl., Mahboba's Promise and Baghbaan Intl. to help women and children all over the world. The Foundation is run entirely by a group of committed students determined to build a brighter future and inspire their peers to make a difference.

Mainstream Organisation of the Year- Excellence in interfaith dialogue-relations

Columbian Institute for Muslim/ Christian Relations NSW

One of the mission statements for the Columbian Mission Institute is to promote dialogue between Christians and those of other religions. To achieve this objective, the Columbian Mission Institute holds regular ongoing interreligious dialogues between Christians and Muslims in partnership with Muslim organizations. The aim of these dialogues is to promote mutual understanding between the two religions through learning and respecting of each other's differences whilst acknowledging religious similarities. In line with the church's teachings of interfaith dialogues, the organization and its dedicated staff organise conferences and seminars to enable Christians and Muslims to meet and learn from each other, hold regular workshops as well coordinate programs whereby Christian women can meet with Muslim women on a social level. The Women of Faith Dinner held in May 2008 in coordination with Affinity Intercultural Foundation is one example of such events and included women of all religions (such as Judaism and Buddhist) interacting whilst breaking down barriers and stereotypes.

Business of the Year

One4Kids- Zaky's Learning Club NSW

Subhi Alshaik, founder of One4Kids and creator of the character Zaky is a creative artist with many talents including song & script writing, film making, producing and directing. He is a former musician where he spent eight years in the music industry writing and recording over 50 songs, two of which were aired on 2DayFM. Subhi travelled to London where he had a conversation with Yusuf Islam in 1999 after which he began reading the Biography of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He returned to Sydney, Australia to find a recording contract awaiting his signature, but decided to turn his back on the music business.

Subhi produced the first educational documentary film in the world about the prayer, titled 'Pray As You Have Seen Me Pray', as well a short documentary titled 'Islam for the World' and over 100 educational lectures. Soon after realising that his efforts to unite and work with all Muslims was almost impossible, Subhi decided the only way to unite and correct the Ummah would be to plant the seeds in children at an early age. Thus in 2004 'One 4 Kids' and the character 'Zaky' were born. Since then Subhi has produced four children's educational animated films – 'Storytime Adam & Noah', 'Storytime Abraham', 'We Remember Allah' and the recently released 'Time To Pray With Zaky'. He returned to writing and producing songs, only this time for children! His latest production 'Zaky's Adventures' is being produced for both Muslim and non-Muslim children

Media Outlet of the Year

Salam Café VIC

Salam Café is the first Muslim based panel/sketch show to be produced & broadcast on any mainstream television network in the world. Its unique blend of Australian self deprecating humour combined with famous guests and stereo type breaking commentary and discussion includes topics as diverse as an Islamic school application in Camden to Polygamy. Filmed in front of live television audiences in Melbourne and Sydney, the program now has a weekly timeslot aired on SBS television. Panel members of Salam Café are young and vibrant and include the famous Muslim comedian Nazeem Hussain, Susan Carland, Waleed Aly and the host Ahmed Imam.

Community/ Humanitarian Organisation Award

Affinity Intercultural Foundation NSW

Affinity Intercultural Foundation was established by a group of young Australian Muslims in early 2001 in order to meet the needs of the Muslim community by increasing interaction within general society as well as increase public awareness of the Muslim community, its religion and cultures. In line with its mission, Affinity Intercultural Foundation continues in creating and sustaining enduring relationships with people through inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue and understanding. In a short space of time since its inception in 2001, Affinity Intercultural Foundation has embarked on a number of significant projects to foster dialogue between Muslims and various Christian groups (Catholic, Anglican and Protestant) through two main areas of dialogue and education. Affinity Intercultural Foundation provides a range of information and educational services to individuals, corporate and non-profit organisations, academic institutions and governmental authorities via a dedicated group of skilled men and women who deliver seminars and courses on Islam, Islamic history, culture and any other related areas of interest such as the Australian Muslim community.

Sportsperson of the Year

Safwan Khalil NSW

Safwan Khalil is a Taekwondo athlete and champion who not only represents Australia in Taekwondo but is also an aspiring role model amongst the Muslim community. Since the age of 16 years, Safwan has fast established himself as one of Australia's top elite Taekwondo fighters by adding a long list of gold medal wins and attending world tournaments from Asia to Germany. In 2007 he was the gold medalist in the German Taekwondo Open, he won the first ever gold medal for Australia at the 2003 Junior Asian Championships and a gold medal in the Malaysian Taekwondo Open. He has continued to add distinguished results to his Taekwondo career through his most recent accomplishment when he succeeded in being one of the final five male Olympic Taekwondo contenders for the Beijing Olympic Games and in 2006 was awarded the Senior Athlete of the Year award. Although Safwan did not reach Olympic stardom, he continues to strive toward his dream of not only representing Australia at the next Olympic Games but also through a career in sports and personal training. Safwan has completed his Diploma in Sports Coaching and a Masters in Personal Training. Currently Safwan is completing a Degree in Sports and Exercise Science at the University of Western Sydney.

Lifetime Achiever Award- 25 years of excellence in community/professional service

Aziza Abdel-Halim. A.M. NSW

Aziza Abdel-Halim was born in Egypt and migrated to Australia in the early 1970s, after having completed her Education in Teaching with her husband and 2 young children. In media circles, she is regarded as one of the most high profiled Muslim woman in Australia. Sr. Aziza is a devoted academic who has assisted in research publications. She has organised some of the first Muslim teacher's conventions and Australian Muslim women conferences and received the order of Australian Medal in 2005. Sr. Aziza has engaged in many public speaking events talking about Islam and Women and was chosen in 2004 to become a member of the Prime Minister's Muslim Community Reference Group where she led the Muslim Women sub-group. Leading the way and representing many ethnic-based initiatives, she has spent a large amount of her time teaching Arabic and English to students and immigrants. Aziza has had a wealth of both professional and community involvement that is unmatched by any other Australian Muslim woman and participated in many Advisory Committees. She is also the author of a recent book titled, "Did You know?" a book that is aimed at clearing misconceptions about Australian Muslim women and Islam. As the recipient of this year's Muslim Community Award at the recent Affinity Friendship & Dialogue Dinner & Awards in September this year, Aziza Abdel-Halim has represented Muslim women in both national and international events and we are proud to honour her long-standing and consistent achievements of excellence for over 30 years in Australia.

Professional of the Year

Fadle El-Harris NSW

Fadle is an award winning filmmaker and producer, originally trained in animation, he later extended his talent to include live action film and documentary making. In the mid 90's he established a film and multimedia studio which became known as Filmotion Productions Pty Ltd. His most recent projects include an enormous 56 episode The Wildlife Man featuring David Ireland one hour series which has been nominated for several awards including the Australian TV-week Logies. Other recent productions include a one hour SBS targeted documentary about Muslim history in Australia, 'Are you with me out there!' and a music clip featuring a long list of high profile footballers and celebrities including Anthony Mundine to help tackle discrimination. Fadle has completed a certificate in animation and a certificate in film and television production at TAFE NSW and continued his education completing a Bachelor of Art Education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Specialising in film production, UNSW). Fadle has served as an inspiration to many young people where he has taught filmmaking and multimedia at countless community workshops, TAFE NSW and Metro Screen College. In 1995 he was awarded "Most Outstanding Young Citizen of the Year" by Bankstown City Council for his achievements and contributions.

Abyssinian Award – Excellence in media & journalism

Professor Peter Manning NSW

Peter Manning began his forty year journalism career as a copy boy with the Daily Telegraph, Sydney. After studying for a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney he gained a cadetship at John Fairfax and Sons Ltd, first with the Sydney Morning Herald and later with the Sunday Sun-Herald as a feature writer. He wrote feature articles for The Bulletin, before joining ABC Television as a reporter on This Day Tonight, and becoming the program's top investigative reporter. In the late 1970s he edited Nation Review. Freelance journalism took him to ABC radio, then television as producer of Four Corners. He produced several notable investigative stories, including 'The Big League' with Chris Masters and 'The Fiji Report' with Jim Downes, both resulting in Royal Commissions. In 1984-8 he was appointed Executive Producer of Four Corners and produced award-winning programs including 'The Moonlight State', on Queensland police corruption. As Controller of ABC TV News and Current Affairs he began a period of renewal of the network starting many successful programs, including Foreign Correspondent, Lateline, Landline and the televising of Australian Parliament. In 1993 Peter was made General Manager of the ABC national radio talks network, Radio National and was founder of the ABC Multimedia Unit.

In 2000 Peter was made an offer to write his memoirs. He then took up consultancies to industry bodies and accepted an offer as Adjunct Professor of Journalism at UTS. Peter interest in research includes topics on ethnicity and media as well as well as investigative journalism. His research lead the way to the writings of his famous books titled Palestine and Israel: 60 years of refugees, war and suffering, and Us and Them: A Journalist's Investigation. One of his most famous and recent newspaper articles written for Sydney papers includes Dog Whistle Politics and journalism: reporting Arabic and Muslim people.

Role Model of the Year

Hussam Elmaghraby VIC

Hussam Elmaghraby graduated from University in Melbourne and enjoyed his career as a Teacher before applying to join the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in 1997, and currently one of the highest ranking officers in the AFP. Hussam is known to never shy away from tackling matters relating to the AFP and the Muslim community. He has initiated dialogues between the AFP and the Muslim community in Melbourne by organising various events including an Iftar dinner during Ramadan which was attended by 400 members of the Muslim community, and special guests included the Commissioner of the AFP and Sheikh Fehmi of Melbourne. In April 2008 Hussam and his team organised a community event called the Unity Cup in conjunction with Essendon Football Club in Melbourne, held to reinforce a mutual understanding and respect between the Muslim community and the police. Held at Essendon's Windy Hill training facility, the event was attended by over 3,000 people and featured an Australian Rules football game between the Islamic youth team and a mixed team comprising of AFP members and former Essendon players. In addition, the event comprised of live entertainment, a police expo, various children's activities and a BBQ lunch. Hussam regularly visits Muslim schools in Melbourne as an AFP agent continuing to break down the barrier between the police and the wider community.

Creative Artist of the Year

Subhi Alshaik NSW

Founder of One4Kids and creator of the character Zaky is a creative artist with many talents including song & script writing, film making, producing and directing. He is a former musician where he spent eight years in the music industry writing and recording over 50 songs, two of which were aired on 2DayFM. Subhi travelled to London where he had a conversation with Yusuf Islam in 1999 after which he began reading the Biography of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He returned to Sydney, Australia to find a recording contract awaiting his signature, but decided to turn his back on the music business.

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Researcher/ Academic of the Year

Dr Bircan Erbas VIC

Dr Bircan Erbas is currently a Senior Lecturer in Research Methods at La Trobe University. Prior to this, Erbas was working on an NHMRC Public Health (Australia) fellowship at The University of Melbourne. She is a biostatistician with a Masters Statistics Degree and a PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Melbourne. Dr Erbas's doctoral research was supported by an NHMRC scholarship and required the development and application of new time series methods. As a result of her doctoral work, Erbas was awarded a travel grant to give a presentation at the international workshop on Statistical Modelling 2001, Denmark and subsequently was a co-recipient of the best student presentation. In addition, Erbas was invited to present her PhD findings at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, North Carolina, USA. Dr Erbas is an early career researcher, and for the past couple of years has worked at the interface between modern statistical methods, breast cancer, environmental epidemiology and public health. She has written and co-authored over 30 publications and has recently been awarded the prestigious International Union Against Cancer – ICRETT Fellowship to visit Harvard University, Boston, USA to develop research collaborations in developing statistical models for predicting mortality and incidence.

Event of the Year

Sounds of Light NSW – VIC –QLD

Human Appeal is a non government charity organization operating in Australia since its establishment in 1984. The Sounds of Light concert was the first ever Islamic concert held in Australia in the year 2007 and due to its success another concert was organized in 2008. Held in the spectacular Acer Arena in Sydney's Olympic Park, the uniqueness of Sounds of Light is that it not only brings to Australian Muslim audiences live performances by popular overseas and local artists but it also generates much needed funds through donations for orphans across the globe.

Volunteer of the Year

Mustafa Ally QLD

Mustafa Ally is a lecturer of Information Systems at the University of Southern Queensland. In his own capacity and as an essential figure in a range of community ventures, he has had great influence in the positive profiling of Muslims living in Queensland. Mustafa Ally's commitment to the community has been widely recognized and in 2008 he was the recipient of the Robbie Williams Multicultural Memorial Citizen of the Year award. As the President of the community based group Crescents of Brisbane, Mustafa has been instrumental in fostering a harmonious and multicultural community through the organisation of numerous community events including the annual CresWalk Fun Run, a 'How to Vote' education workshop for new Australians, Breast Cancer Health workshop for women and numerous fund raising initiatives for mainstream organisations including the Australian Red Cross and Leukemia Foundation. Mustafa is the founder and member of The Queensland Muslims Historical Society (QMHS), and an advisor to Griffith University Saudi Funding.

Youth of the Year

Nazeem Hussain VIC

Nazeem has been an active member of the wider Australian Muslim and Non Muslim community for the last seven years. Currently undertaking a Law degree at Deacon University in Melbourne and holding a Director position at the Islamic Council of Victoria (Youth Wing), Nazeem is mostly recognized for his enormous contribution toward breaking down negative Muslim stereotypes through comedy. He is a panelist and co-founder of the infamous Salam Café on SBS and his comedy show 'Fear of A Brown Planet' was awarded Best New Show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Other comedy performances included the Allah Made Me Funny tour and most recently his appearance at the Sounds of Light concert which raises money for needy orphans across the globe.

Woman of the Year

Galila Abdelsalam QLD

Galila Abdelsalam founded the Islamic Women's Association of Qld (IWAQ) in 1991, an organisation which started with the employment of two workers and which has since expanded with up to 100 employees. The IWAQ aim is to provide a safe support network for Muslim women through referral, information and education opportunities. Galila migrated to Australia from Egypt with her husband and child in the year 1983, however it was their move from Sydney to Brisbane which paved the way for Galila's transformation to a woman of leadership amongst the Muslim community. The Islamic Women's Assoc of QLD started with her first appointment as the vice-president of the local neighborhood centre. Since then Galila Abdelsalam has been involved in various committees including the Greater Brisbane Ministerial Community Regional Forum and a member of the Logan Multicultural Specialist Advisory Group (LMSAG). As a strong advocate for the rights of Muslim women, Galila and the organisation secured federal government funding in 1991 to assist in the resettlement of Muslim refugees and in 1997 funding was granted to run an Aged Care Program. More recently the organisation received an 'Excellence in Care' award by Aged Care Qld.

Man of the Year

Dr Mohamad Abdulla QLD

Dr Mohamad Abdulla is widely recognized amongst Muslims and mainstream Australians for both his academic excellence in Islamic research as well as his tireless work toward securing stronger Muslim and Non Muslim relations via on going interfaith dialogues. Dr Abdalla is the director of the Islamic Research Unit Centre at Griffith University which is the first academic institute to offer Australian Muslims an undergraduate Islamic degree within both the religious and Australian context. As the young Imam of Kuraby mosque in Brisbane, Dr Mohamad Abdulla has been hailed as the new generation of Muslim leaders via his work to promote an 'inclusive society' and foster an increased awareness amongst Non-Muslims about the Islamic faith. He has addressed various audiences at high profile conferences and meetings including the recent 2020 summit in Canberra, a yearly international conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii and at a local level via mosque open days, further increasing the positive profile of Muslims within Australia.

Finalists 2008

Congratulations to all the finalists of the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards (AMAA) for 2008. We received over 80 nominations this year.

Woman of the Year:

Galila Abdelsalam QLD
Mrs Firhana Imam VIC

Man of the Year:

Dr Mohamad Abdalla QLD

Youth of the Year:

Nazeem Hussein VIC
Samah Hadid NSW
Bilal El Hayek NSW

Role Model of the Year:

Hussam Elmaghraby VIC
Bilal El-Hayek NSW
Mustafa Ally VIC

Sportsperson of the Year:

Safwan Khalil NSW
Bilal El-Hayek NSW

Professional of the Year:

Fadle El Harris NSW
Doctor Tariq Khan NSW

Event of the Year:

Sounds of Light NSW-VIC-QLD
Green Scarf Day NSW – VIC
MSA Australia UniGoal - NSW

Media Outlet of the Year:

Salam Café
One4Kids
Muslimvillage.net

Business of the Year:

Ali Gator Book Club VIC
One4Kids NSW
Filmotion Productions NSW

Volunteer of the Year:

Mustafa Ally QLD
Siddiq Buckley NSW

Community / Humanitarian Organisation of the Year:

Affinity Intercultural Foundation NSW
Al-Nisa Youth Group Inc - Muslim Youth Services QLD

Best New Community Project / Initiative of the Year:

Green Scarf Day NSW
One4Kids - Zaky's Learning Club NSW
Crescents of Brisbane – Breast Cancer Awareness QLD

Creative Artist of the Year:

Fadle El-Harris NSW
Peter Gould NSW
Subhi Alshaik NSW

Researcher / Academic of the Year:

Jamila Hussein NSW
Dr Bircan Erbas VIC

Recipient of the Australian Muslim Lifetime Achiever Award 2008:

Aziza Abdel-Halim AM - for more than 25 years of Excellence in Community / Professional service

Mainstream Organisation Award 2008:

Columban Institute for Christian-Muslim Relations (for Excellence in Interfaith Dialogue-Relations)

Abyssinian Award 2008:

Professor Peter Manning (Excellence in Media and Journalism)

Special Thanks to the Judges for 2008:

Talal Yassine (NSW), Rabiah De Cean (SA), Mohammed Ayub Khan (QLD), Bushra Ardati (NSW), Jaaved Khatree (QLD), Tansel Ali (VIC), Ghaith Krayem (VIC), Nasya Bahfen (VIC), Shaima Khan (QLD)

Other Mission of Hope Projects



Muslim Youth Leadership Challenge



- Cultural Competency Training -
- Men's & Women's Health Programs -
 - Health Retreats -
 - Annual Conferences -
- Annual Professionals & Students Dinner -