



Fostering a healthy Brisbane lifestyle through sport, entertainment, education and culture



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This issue of CCN is kindly sponsored by  
Nando's Underwood

*Assalaamu-alaikum*

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### Editorial

While on a boat cruise in Hobart, Tasmania last week we happened to be sitting next to a group of eight young Australians (around the 16 to 21 age group) having a very boisterous but good natured party. We watched them as they exchanged 'secret Santa' gifts, and when someone in the group started to hand out medals to the others my curiosity got the better of me and I simply had to find out what the cause for the celebrations was. We learned that they were a voluntary group made of youngsters from the different parts of Tasmania who regularly got together to lend support to the farmers in the rural areas. Watching them ooze with such confidence and commitment (and at such a tender age at that) it struck me that as a community it should be incumbent on us to also find ways and means to extend our skills and talents, particularly those that exist amongst our own youth, to beyond the perimeters of our *masjids*, and to the broader community in which we live and work (like for instance the Jewish community in South Africa who volunteered every year to man essential services on Christmas day). Surely, then only can we begin to shake off the shackles that could so easily turn us into an inward-looking, introverted and insular community perceived to be wallowing in self-indulgence and self-pity.

But it's your opinions that really matter and CCN would like to get your views on (a) **whether we should get involved in inter-community activities**, and (b) **in what areas should and could we offer a lending hand**. Please click [here](#) (or go to [www.nazimahansa.com/crescents/CresPoll02.htm](http://www.nazimahansa.com/crescents/CresPoll02.htm)) for a quick online straw poll on the subject.

As always, all responses are anonymous so don't miss the opportunity to have your say on the matter. CCN provides you with the opportunity to voice your opinion on a variety of issues affecting the community in a non-threatening, interactive and democratic forum through anonymous online polls. All quantitative results will be aggregated and reported without identifying any individuals or organisations. Go on! Have your say! So many others have!

### CresPoll No. 1 Results

There was unanimous agreement on the need for a Community Centre (with one 'Don't know'). Many comments and suggestions were put forward. The following is a selected sample of responses to the question 'What specific uses would you like to see a Community Centre put to' :

- For help to all human beings in any religion; Islam is for all. It can be a good start
- A place where all Muslims, of all backgrounds, feel free and welcome to enter, seeing it as a place to escape or recharge. While this would greatly benefit the community, fears are that the centre might not be correctly speaking, used as a community centre, instead, only welcoming certain individuals which would lead to it rather being a private function centre
- Youth activities; Library; Madressah classes for the 17 and above
- Talks, big night events, social vents, etc; It should be open to all Muslims irrespective of beliefs. Let us leave the judging to ALLAH (SWT)
- Badminton for men and ladies (separate days)

- Weddings; talks and lectures; recreational facilities; community social activities; Eid lunches. Important that it be open to all
- Community functions Eid functions religious talks, weddings, parties, women’s groups, men’s groups, youth groups, play groups, craft classes, Madressah classes, Quran classes, fashion parades, keep fit classes, community functions, trivia nights, shall I go on... or do u get the drift...
- This should be the next priority for the Muslim community in Brisbane, now that we have our Mosques and schools established we need a place that as a community we can call our own, and it will be used for a host of reasons. It annoys me every time I go past some lovely huge church hall that the Christian communities can get over the bickering and petty differences and work as one to show the community what they can achieve. Unfortunately, our Muslim communities are still trying to criticize each other and work against each other to move forward as one. This is an absolute necessity with the number of people we have; I will guarantee that it will be booked out every week of the year... I will even volunteer to do the booking myself!!!
- Sport and recreation [keeping youth out of trouble]; it may be difficult to get 100% support due to the geographical problems [too far for some]
- There are a variety of uses that it could be used for - most of them already suggested by you. Community events, sports and recreation, meeting hall etc. etc.

If you have not done so yet, you can still add your views on the subject. The (perpetual) poll is still open. Click [here](#) (or go to [www.nazimahansa.com/crescents/CresPoll01.htm](http://www.nazimahansa.com/crescents/CresPoll01.htm)) to get your more than tuppence worth in.



### Full House Signs at SAMAQ

Property developer, **Maha Sinnathamby**, was the guest speaker at the recently held SAMAQ function where he spoke to a sell-out crowd of over sixty attendees. A successful entrepreneur himself, Maha spoke on what it takes as a migrant to become financially successful “in the land of milk and honey”. The main ingredient for achievement, according to Maha, was a burning desire to overcome all obstacles, not to take no for an answer and to demonstrate courage and determination to do what is right. Like a sculptor who creates a thing of beauty from a block of stone, you need to see the potential in a country where “the cake is so big it could not be finished by even your great, great grandchildren”. He ended his well-received advice on a note that would have done any shoe company proud – *“Just go out there and DO IT!”*



The function attracted several women who also appeared keen to involve themselves in the business network being established by SAMAQ. Many non-members from other communities (over half in fact) also turned up for the occasion.



The changed format of the function and the menu seemed to hit the right chords with the long-suffering attendees this time who found Azima’s traditional finger fare a welcome change from Michael’s exotic cuisine.

### **Hajjis and Hajjianis**

With Hajj only weeks away we thought it timely to run this section to help anyone making the journey with any advice and suggestions you might have for them. Almost everybody has a favourite story or two (I have a diary full of my own) about their own personal experiences, be it an amusing, spiritually uplifting, or a horror story about their accommodation, the transport, the food and the people and the politics that they remember above all else. Share them with others by e-mailing us (we'll even promise to keep your name out of it – if you want us to - at CCN we go to such extraordinary lengths to protect people's privacy that, for instance, none of us even knows the identity of the person who writes this stuff!)

During my trip in 2003 I started a diary chronicling each day's events as they unfolded. In the next few issues I will share a few expurgated pieces of my musings that I collectively entitled '**The Hajji On The Hop**' – a title that will make more sense as the story pans out over the next few issues.

#### ***Hajji's Log: Day 1-The Hajji Has Landed***

We arrive in Jeddah on schedule. It was a pleasant flight and I enjoyed the plane (plain?) food of noodles and chicken. A bus brings us to the Hajj terminal where every man and his dog makes for an officious grab at your passport. Each one nonchalantly flips through the pages while engaged in earnest conversation with a colleague. Then there is a fair amount of herding and constant requests to make *sabur* while we sit and wait and wait. At the passport check I am held up for some thirty minutes because the computer would not let the officer enter Pretoria as the capital of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) \*. Several other officers try to help and encircle the computer. The discussions become increasingly animated and the gesticulations more pronounced. Trying to help, I offer Johannesburg, and then Cape Town as alternatives, and then Pietermaritzburg in desperation (after all I did migrate at the time of the country's new transitional arrangements so things could well have changed since then), wondering all the time whether this was some sort of entrance test to prove my country of origin. Each bag was opened and there was the obligatory scrimmaging through its contents. Then the bags were unceremoniously hurled over an iron barrier and driven away. For a fleeting moment I wonder about the fate of my bottle of mango aachaar. I attempt to juggle the processing of my Hajj tax cheque while trying to keep a desperate eye on the fast disappearing baggage truck. With my passport eventually stamped I walk in the direction I was pointed in only to find clusters of people sitting with their bags on the floor alongside flags of their countries, reminiscent (in a bizarre sort of way) of the opening ceremony at the Sydney Olympics. But where were my bags? How would they have known where to offload them? I had come in with a South African passport and an Australian port of embarkation. Eventually, I find my South African flag of convenience – but no bags. My cool, calm demeanor now turns to one of pure, unadulterated panic as all the horror stories I had heard previously about Saudi efficiency (or lack thereof) came flooding as one. I walk frantically from country to country hoping against hope that those hideously garish orange ribbons my dear wife had tied around the handles of each of our designer bags in anticipation of this very eventuality would finally rescue the day. It was not helpful in the least to find out in this moment of crisis that the dear old lady shared a similar fashion and colour sense in ribbons with 4.4 million others. I knew we would all have to soon dress and look alike – but did it really have to extend down to this level, I kept wondering? Could I not have been permitted a trifling piece of unstitched ribbon on a bag to distinguish me from the rest of my brethren? Ishaah azaan goes. Torn between religious duty and the pursuit of three bags of worldly possessions I make the only obvious choice.....

In the next issue.... ***The Flight to Medina***

\*I was using my South African passport because the tour group, with whom I had made my travel and accommodation arrangements, was from South Africa and so was my visa. Had I used my Australian passport to enter I would have been tagged with an Australian arm band, my passport sent to the Australian Muassasah and then politely frog marched to the Australian camp - all this despite wads of paper proof that I was part of the South African contingent.

**Handy Hajj Hints No. 1:** Avoid the Dum - the expiation or penalty required of a pilgrim for a wilful violation of the state of Ihram.

**Our Man-on-the Mussallah reports that.....**

- Congratulations are in order to **Imaam Peer** who has become a marriage celebrant – a one stop Nikkaah and Registration shop.
- Many of **Imaam Uzhair Akbar's** talks are now available on CDs.
- **Imaam Peer** addressed soldiers about Islam at the **Enoggera Army Barracks** during the course of the week. Watch this space for any radical change in the Government's stance on Iraq.

**Dawood Mall**

Dawood Mall (former resident of and frequent visitor to Brisbane) is recovering from a stroke in hospital. On behalf of everyone associated with Crescents of Brisbane and CCN, we would like to wish Dawood a speedy recovery. May Allah (SWT) give him *shifa, inshaAllah*.

**The Quotable Quotes Corner**

Last week's quote was from Alexander Pope.

**Remember you're never ever too OLD to become a**

**CresFit4Life-er**



See you and the family at Kangaroo Point on Sundays at 7.30 am!

**A Word From This Week's Sponsor**



**During this week (12/12/04 to 18/12/04) mention CCN when you are there and get a 10% discount**

**Contact CCN**

If you have any news that you think might be of benefit to the Crescents Community then please e-mail the team at [crescents@nazimahansa.com](mailto:crescents@nazimahansa.com).

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