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This issue of CCN is kindly sponsored by  
**Global Convenience Pty Ltd**

*Assalaamu-alaikum*

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### **Editorial**

We have had several e-mails over this week suggesting that we should, as a community group, play our part in assisting the victims of the Tsunami disaster.

One suggestion has been that Crescents of Brisbane set up a bank account and start a drive to collect funds on behalf of the community which could then be channelled to the appropriate relief organisations. There are problems associated with this kind of initiative. Firstly, there are already various mechanisms that have been set up via the established organisations and banks through which people can contribute directly. Secondly, we are not a registered welfare organization and therefore there are no tax breaks for any contributions. Thirdly, there are logistical and administrative problems associated with collecting and administering these funds.

However, we could better serve as a catalyst to raise funds and other forms of donations (maybe on behalf of recognised organisations) through indirect means, for example, holding functions, events, auctions, etc.

In the process we should also consider at least one co-ordinated effort that brings together the various stakeholders, organisations, institutions, cultural groups and religious and ideological affiliations under a single Brisbane Muslim Community banner. With every adversity comes opportunity. A united front and a noble cause might be the very ingredients we need for future co-operation and collaboration.

And a substantial effort on our part will also serve to demonstrate to the wider society our ability, as a caring, compassionate community, to rise equally to the challenge.

Many of you may have suggestions as to ways that we, as an organisation, or individuals and small groups could get together to raise some funds as members of our Muslim community. If you have such ideas that you would like to share please [e-mail](mailto:) us or send your suggestions confidentially by clicking [here](http://www.crescentsofbrisbane.org/fund_raising_suggestions.htm) or going to [www.crescentsofbrisbane.org/fund\\_raising\\_suggestions.htm](http://www.crescentsofbrisbane.org/fund_raising_suggestions.htm).

To quote Tim Costello (of World Vision), "it's not just *their* problem – it's everyone's".

## Tsunami Appeals

There are various appeals for funds by organisations:

**UNICEF:** [www.supportunicef.org](http://www.supportunicef.org)

**Care Australia:** [www.careaustralia.org.au](http://www.careaustralia.org.au) or call 1800 020 046

**Red Cross and Red Crescent:** <http://www.ifrc.org>

**World Vision Australia:** [www.worldvision.org.au](http://www.worldvision.org.au) or call 133240

**Oxfam:** [www.oxfam.org.au](http://www.oxfam.org.au) or call 1800 034 034

**Muslim Aid Australia:** <http://www.muslim-aid.org.au/>

**Sri Lanka Jama'ath-e-Islami:** Sri Lankan Muslims in North America inform us that an organization named Sri Lanka Jama'ath-e-Islami has buried 5,000 Muslims so far and have set up relief stations for the homeless and other victims at mosques and schools and are supplying hot meals and clothing to the victims (irrespective of race or religion).

Account Name: Sri Lanka Jama'ath-e-Islami Social Service Department

Account Number: 114 000 5197

Bankers: Hatton National Bank, Central Colombo Branch, 149-151, Main Street, Colombo - 11, Sri Lanka

SWIFT CODE: HBLILK LX



## Maldives Appeal

Many of you may be aware that **Sakina**, the daughter of **Ebrahimhai Patel**, has been down in Brisbane for the past two months from her adopted Maldives where she lives in the capital, Male, with daughter Naseera and husband Ibrahim Naeem. She was scheduled to return home next week but the Tsunami aftermath has made it unsafe for her to return just yet. She is receiving daily reports of the devastation caused to her adopted home and the desperate plight of the local population which is entirely Muslim. Maldives is made up of a number of islands (some of which have disappeared entirely in the disaster). Sakina is arranging to collect donations (zakaat, satqa, lilaah) on behalf of the Maldives Ministry of Finance and Treasury. You can send cash or cheque (made out to Ministry of Finance and Treasury – Disaster Relief Fund) to:

Sakina Naeem  
9 Bauhinia Close  
Eight Mile Plains 4113

Sakina can be contacted on (07) 3219-7086

## OP Results

The Year 12 results were released recently. We hear through the CCN grapevine that several of our students did exceptionally well. While modesty will not allow themselves to be mentioned by name CCN can report that more than a few 'ones' were notched up and yet more came in within the top five, while some families have scored 'full houses' with every one of the siblings in the household scoring 'ones'.



A CCN  to **everyone** who completed their Year 12 this year.

## Brisbane Muslim School Open Day

The new school campus in **Durack** will be open to the public on **Sunday 16 January** from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. Meet and talk to the teachers and staff members. Take a tour around the school facilities and classrooms. Find out what the school has on offer and take part in their BBQ.

The campus is on 274 Blunder Road, Durack and the contact number for more information is 3391-7861.

## Hajj 2005

**Handy Hajj Hints No. 4:** While there take good care of the soles of your feet. You will be doing a lot of walking. Wear thick socks whenever you can. The heels are the first part to crack up and then each step after that can make every Tawaaf a true test of faith.



### From the Hajj Diaries (Continuation)

Despite the cramped quarters in our 11-seater, most of us fall off to sleep to the fading strains of Labbaik. We are shaken from our slumber at the border by yet another passport check.

Two young 'officials' board our mini-bus to personally escort us into the city and 7kms later we arrive into the cauldron that is Mecca. It is past midnight but you won't have known it for the hustle and bustle that is all around you. Our guide confidently tells our driver to drop us off at Al

Boustan only to discover that there are a street full of Al Boustans each one prefixed with such qualifications as Golden, Rewabi, Jewaharlal, Bhukari, and the like.

Maghrib in Mecca and Imaam Sudees (the Placido Domingo of Imaams) delivers another command performance true to form. His brilliant rendition of Sura Al-Kafirun and Sura Ikhlas leave me breathless, but at the same time, feeling just a little short-changed for their brevity. I craved for more. If only we could have requested an encore! I looked forward to Isha for the curtain call.

I see old weather-beaten men and women enter the Haram for their very first time bringing along with them their life savings in the currency of faith and te sawaabs that they have earned through years of devotion and following the straight path. In humility and humbleness they come to erect their fifth pillar and seal their faith. This single-mindedness and nobility of purpose brooks no concerns over such matters as the quality of food and accommodation. All their lives they have faced and prostrated from afar before this cornerstone of their faith that suddenly appears as real, within their grasps, only metres away. Many break down and cry like new born babies.....



### Egg-flied lice and a lot more!

Are you planning a trip to China and worried about what you're going to be able to eat there then read what CCN's Galloping Gourmet, **Mustafa Kemal Omar**, had this to say about this after his recent trip:

*Whether you're visiting Nanjing, Shanghai, Guanzhou or Hangzhou when it comes to food there's no need to go gung-ho. Right in Downtown Shanghai, around the corner from the Holiday-Inn, both the Plaza wing as well as the Great Wall wing, you can find this Chinese-Muslim Eat-in restaurant.*

*Cuisine par excellence! And the price is too. The lamb (which I took to be so, in good faith) shish kebab was extremely tender and tasty. The service was good and the waiters exceptionally nice and polite. This restaurant is a popular meeting place for Muslims of all nationalities. Here you can even listen to Pakistanis conversing fluently in Chinese!*

### Brisbane Arrival Lounge

Crescents of Brisbane welcomes into the community **Anver** and **Bilqis Omar** who have recently arrived from the UK where they spent the last 30 years. Formerly from South Africa, Anver is a qualified orthodontist and practices here as dentist. They have moved into the Kuraby area with their three children, **Adilah** (13), **Waseem** (8) and **Yusuf** (16). We wish them a very happy stay in their new home and that they don't pine for those lovely English winters too much.

## CresFit4Life

Remember you're never ever too FIT to become a

CresFit4Life-er



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

## Competition Winner

The answer to our competition question on the SMS text message symbol @>->- is

.....wait for it.....  
a *rose* (with four leafs)!

Several correct entries were received and one e-mail was drawn from our inbox (using a custom-designed random e-mail selector). The winner (who wishes to remain anonymous) will be e-mailed her \$29.95 Nandos of Underwood voucher.

## A Word From This Week's Sponsor

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If there is someone you know who would like to subscribe to CCN please encourage them to send an e-mail to your [team@crecentsofbrisbane.org](mailto:team@crecentsofbrisbane.org) with the words "Subscribe Me" in the subject line.

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