

THE CRESCENT

The Official Publication of the Islamic Society of Holland Park Inc.

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Message from the Committee

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the most beloved places to Allah are the Masjid. Even when he is occupied with the matters of the world, such as family, work etc, the heart of a Muslim should always be attached to the Masjid (Hadith)

Assalam-o-Alaikum wa Rahmat ullahi wa Barakatuhu

The Management Committee of the Islamic Society of Holland Park (ISHP) would like to take this opportunity to wish all of its members, patrons and the wider Muslim community a very happy Eid ul Fitr. We hope this past month has brought peace, blessings and mercy from Allah and hopefully will leave a positive change in our lives as we exit this blessed month.

It is indeed an honour to be part of the Management Committee that is responsible for servicing the needs of the local Muslims. The past year has been quite taxing with both good and bad news coming from around the world. We are very fortunate and blessed to be living in Australia while many of our brothers and sisters around the world (especially in Palestine) are suffering from calamities, injustice and facing real hardships. It is indeed a month of giving charity, helping the needy and collecting lots of reward. Hence, we would like all of you to help those in need and take some time to remember them in your dua's during this special month.

Last year has been a very successful year for the Holland Park Mosque as you will read through this newsletter. MashAllah the congregation at HP Mosque is growing and depicts a well united family. I, on behalf of the ISHP, would like to acknowledge the contributions and efforts made by all those involved including the generous donors, the dependable Mu'azin, the families who provide meals on Friday, Uncle Ali for maintaining the bookshop, Br. Javed, Br. Asif and Uncle Nizam for cooking every week for the Monday Tafseer Program, all the volunteers who help in cleaning and serving meals, the 5 Hufaz for leading the Tarawee, the Imam for spiritually guiding us, the Madressa teachers (boys & girls) for educating the children, paying members who appoint the committee and to all those who attend the mosque and keep it alive – May Allah reward you from His unseen and unlimited treasures.

Wa-Alaikum-Salaam,

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What we've been up to ...

The Management Committee of ISHP would like to inform all of its patrons what it has been up to in the past year. It has indeed been a very fruitful year in terms of exploring many new avenues for running & maintaining the mosque and also improving the existing services. Certainly, by the blessings of the Almighty Allah and support from the community, we have advanced in a lot of new areas which were previously untouched. Following are few areas in question:

Madressa:

Alhamdulillah, by the Grace of the Almighty Allah we have reset the Madressa System in ISHP. This was our #1 priority for the year and with the dedication and efforts of the new Madressa teachers the results have certainly been profound. We now have a fully functional Madressa system for boys and girls with 2 full time appointed teachers and 2 part time teachers.

Qari Faizan Abrahani joined us back in September 2013 as the new Madressa teacher for boys and with his dedication and passion for teaching he has raised the bar to a new level. We currently have 60 students enrolled in the boy's madressa. Class for boy's runs 5 days a week with extra Hifz classes on the weekends for those students who are interested in memorising the Holy Quran. An adult male class also runs in parallel. The curriculum includes learning to read the Holy Quran with Tajweed, hadeeth, masnoon duas, salaah, teaching of articles of faith (aqai'd), jurisprudence (fiqh), character and etiquettes (akhlaaq & adaab), and history.

A new teacher for the girl's has also been appointed and will commence teaching after Ramadan, inshAllah.

The administrative side of the madressa system has also seen a lot of improvement with everything being accounted for and recorded electronically. A Uniform syllabus is now implemented in the classes. A direct debit system is set in place for all the boys offering easy quarterly payments for the tuition fees. A similar system is setup for the girl's madressa and will finish its implementation very soon. Recently in April 2014 examinations were held with wonderful results. Report cards were presented in the Parents Teacher Meeting prior to Ramadan.

We thank the community for placing their trust in us and hope they will continue to support our dedicated full time & part time teachers.

New Website:

www.hollandparkmosque.org

Alhamdulillah, we now have a new face online with access to a lot of resources and Islamic lectures by Imam Uzair. It also features online donations and important updates. MashAllah - the new website is receiving xxx of new visitors every month. We encourage all to visit the website and subscribe to the newsletter at the bottom of the page. Special thanks to Br. Ali for donating his time and resources to make a professional website for us.

Live Streaming:

All lectures, programs, and tarawee are now streamed live on the "Islam Connect Live" app which is available on App Store and Google Play Store.

Download your copy now!



Improvements in Mosque:

The Committee always strives to provide mussalees with the best facilities possible and will continue to improve even further.

- You may have noticed that we have changed our cleaning contractor and the frequency of cleaning, which has made the mosque spotless. For hygiene purposes we have replaced the old towel system in the wudhoo area with paper napkins and even put a huge skip bin for rubbish on the other side of the road. The wheelie bins now get emptied in the skip bin regularly through the week which leaves the mosque area clean during the week.
- We have also installed a new speaker system for the mosque - both upstairs and downstairs, and after some teething issues the overall audio quality has dramatically improved making the tarawee prayers and lectures a lot more enjoyable. JazakAllah to Br. Yusuf for installing and helping us out on this!
- Management Committee is currently working on creative ways to reduce our energy bills and overheads. The idea of installing a solar system and LED Lights in the mosque are currently being discussed. If anyone would like to donate a 6kW Solar system or knows any place where we can get panels or LED lights at a good price, please contact us.

Youth Camps:

The Holland Park Youth Club (a sub-committee under the ISHP Management Committee) arranged two successful Youth Camps to Bornhoffen and Tallebudgera in Dec-13 and Apr-14 respectively.

These 3 day camps proved to be very successful with over 100 youths attending each time. The Holland Park Youth Club engaged the participants in different sporting and group activities, talks, religious lectures and discussions. The Youth Camp featured:

- Football, cricket, basketball, swimming, darts, pool games, volley ball, field sports, outdoor court games, indoor games, table tennis, giant swing, beach games, rock climbing, and wall climbing etc.
- A number of religious talks lead by Maulana Uzair took place at the Camp which focussed on the importance of Peace and our obligations to the wider society.

Following lots of fatigue from sleepless nights, bruises, and sore throats, all thanks to the two camps - the HP Youth Club is still enthusiastic and will host a third camp in September 2014.

VOLUNTEER!

Do you have a great idea or skill that you can help us with or contribute to the mosque? Please do not hesitate to contact us and get on board, the mosque is open to everyone!

Media & Communications

With an increased pressure from anti Islam forces on the growing Muslim community in Queensland, we believe that as management committee of one of the oldest mosque's in Australia our duty is not only limited to building and maintaining facilities but to represent Muslims and Islam with its true values and benefits to the Australian society. We now have a very effective Public Relations team which has provided fruitful results in a very shorty time. Below are the few things that ISHP has managed over the past year:

- Attendance at many functions where local members of parliament were invited and questioned on their proposed policies in relation to domestic and international issues involving Muslims.
- In Aug 2013, HP youth were invited to the visit the Queensland Parliament and have an informal dinner with the MPs. A total of 40 people attended.
- An email with detailed Qs including Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, negative representation of Muslims by politicians, problems in council approval for Mosques, discrimination of Muslims by various government agencies including the police was sent to local Labour candidate (Terri Butler) & Liberal candidate (Dr. Bill Glasson). Both candidates sent their responses and were provided an opportunity to visit the mosque.
- Assistance of a local Muslim who was labelled as a "terrorist" for visiting Syria in an interview on Channel 7 and ABC. The interview was a resounding success with exoneration of the youth from any further allegations of terrorist activity.
- Before Easter a letter was dropped in every mailbox in the neighbourhood, saying Happy Easter and also outlining the importance of Maryam (A.S) & Esah (A.S) in Islam. The letter led to many positive responses from the surrounding community.
- ISHP took a strong stance against proposed changes to Racial Discrimination Act, which would have made it legal for people to insult, humiliate and offend others on the basis of their race, color, nationality and ethnic origin. Various representations were made to politicians and our spokesperson started a petition and gathered 1,000 signatures from various Mosques and the Sikh Temple. This petition was tabled in the parliament by local member Terri Butler MP.
- For the first time in its history of 150 years, Queensland Police Service is hosting an Iftaar dinner for the Muslims of Queensland. The spokesperson of ISHP was appointed on the organising team for this Iftaar by the police commissioner representatives.

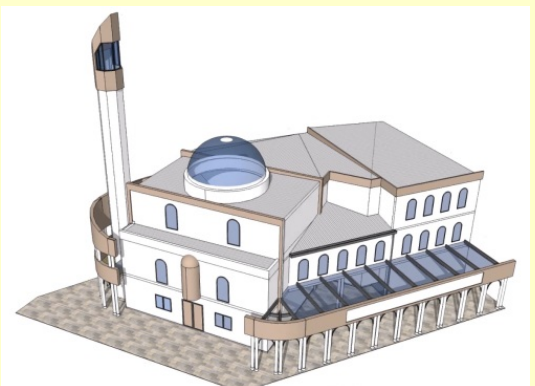
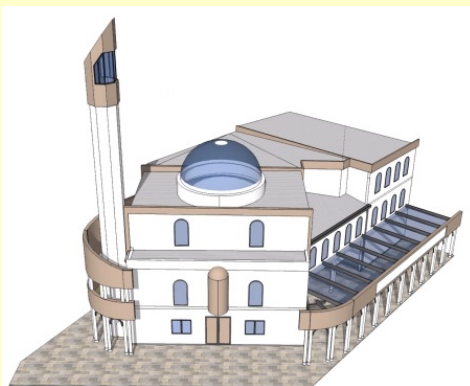
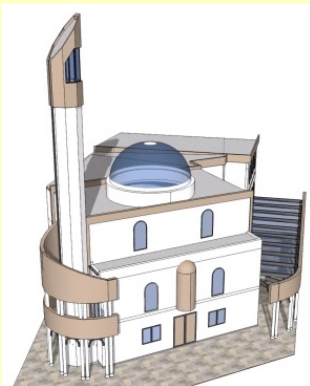
Islamic Centre Renovations

ISHP is currently planning to renovate the Islamic Centre – InshAllah construction work will start next month. This will provide improved facilities for the Hall; will include a gym with showers, a multipurpose hall & a full scale commercial kitchen for events.



Mosque Extension – Future Plans

We are working very hard and trying to gain approvals for extending the mosque. Few concept plans have been drafted up and shown below to enlighten our patrons. These are still in concept stage and require further work. Images are for illustration purposes.



Weekly Programs at HP Mosque

A number of Islamic educational programs are hosted at the Holland Park Masjid by Imam Uzair Akbar for all to attend. Alhamdulillah, these weekly programs have large number of attendees and have made Holland Park Mosque one of the most popular mosques in terms of programs.



The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it. (Sahih Bukhari Hadith)

Schedule of programs conducted by Imam Uzair Akbar is as follows:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>AUDIENCE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
MONDAY	Tafseer Program	Men	after Esha Salat
TUESDAY	Basics of Islam	Men	after Esha Salat
THURSDAY	Tafseer Program	Ladies	after Maghrib
FRIDAY	Jumma	Both	Jumma

All lectures of Maulana are streamed live on the "Islam Connect Live" app available on App Store and Google play (Android). Search Islam Connect Live in the store to download your copy now. Tafseer & Friday Programs are also available to listen/download on our website www.hollandparkmosque.org.

Imam's Involvement

Imam Uzair Akbar has been really busy this year conducting a number of programs and visiting many places to spread and propagate the Message of Allah. In addition to his daily responsibilities of leading prayers, providing consultancy services, responding to Q&As, performing marriages, giving Friday sermons, delivering weekly programs and lectures, conducting exams for Boys Madressa, and guiding the Ummah - following are some of the highlights from this year:

- Nov 2013 - Visits to Mackay: Imam visited Mackay for delivering lectures in Nov 2013 and for an Open Day Function in May 2014.
- Nov 2013 - Visit to Canberra: Imam visited the Canberra Madressa to attend the annual madressa fundraising function.
- Feb 2014 - delivered a lecture on Islam at University of Queensland.
- Mar 2014 - Imam visited Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani (DB) in Dar-ul-uloom Karachi, Pakistan for consultation and deliberation on current issues pertaining to Muslims in western societies.
- April 2014 - Visit to Qatar: Imam visited the FANAR centre in Doha Qatar to deliver two lectures and a Friday Sermon. Visit our website www.hollandparkmosque.org to watch all 3 lectures in HD.
- April 2014 - Imam along with a committee member visited Jericho, a small rural village situated in Central West QLD, to perform the funeral services of the only Muslim lady in a town of over 300. Hear the full story on our website under the Friday Khutbas titled "The Janaza of the Scarf Lady". An article on this is also cited on CCN (July issue).
- Jun 2014 - Visit to Bankstown: Imam Uzair was called as a guest speaker for a Fundraising Dinner in Bankstown Sydney.
- Delivered Islamic introduction lectures to 35 visiting schools at the Holland Park Mosque.



Never miss a Prayer, as there are millions in their grave wishing to come back to life...

Only to prostrate to Allah one more time. (Imam Uzair)