



Islamic Information Service of Cooloola

Knowledge the Bridge to Peace

REPORT

March 15th, 2014

Dear Muslim Community and Friends,
Assalamu Alaykum. May this find all well, Insha'Allah.

Herewith a run-down regarding IISOC's work within the region during the past two months:

Previously you will note, apart from working with newcomers, that there have been lectures given for non-Muslim organizations regarding various aspects for those who are, or possibly will be, working with our people. There have also been classroom lectures regarding certain aspects of Islam, e.g. the Hajj. All in all we have received very good feedback and hope this trend continues.

Asylum Seekers

The focus now, however, is mainly upon the refugee situation. There are more and more refugees coming into the area, as may be seen with the majority of our brothers who work at Nolans. However, not all are working there and IISOC is being sought for a number of reasons and for a number of immigrants.

The big effort is in helping bridge the gap with the wider community in areas such as work, housing, education, health, sorting out problems caused by lack of knowledge of our legal system or by redneck neighbours, and other welfare areas. These past weeks there have been, on average, at least 4 hours spent daily (including, at times, weekends), working with, or for, this group of people who really do need our help in trying times and circumstances.

Case studies

There are two families currently on our files who have required housing, registering of children for school as well as liaison between schools and families. The obtaining of medical treatment and ongoing daily wound dressings for one woman is being carried out. You may be surprised to learn that one family is not Muslim, but Catholic. When brought to us for help by the first family, this was noted and they were asked about going through the Church. In fact, the Catholic priest was phoned on their behalf, but later they came back and requested our assistance, which we have been happy to give.

There are several young men who have come to the office for assistance. Two have been referred for dental treatment but due to delays one has required antibiotic therapy and this has meant his being introduced to the public health system. Incidentally, to obtain dental help they have to go through a process of the completion of a paper regarding their Asylum-Seeker status. This is then sent on to the Government for verification and processing. (Even signing children up for school

involves a long drawn-out process whereby all information regarding their immigration status and visa numbers all have to be given as well as other information which is never expected of Australian citizens).

This last week one young man came into the office (James Nash Arcade in Mary Street) which we rent for 2 hours every Monday. He had not brought the necessary paperwork with him, so he was asked to present the following day as his need was urgent. As requested he did, and right on time. We worked on getting his information, etc. Then, as it was getting late, Brother Ali took him to his quarters, after having a meal together. This young man had walked, in the searing heat, for two hours to obtain our help. He has no job and no transport. We are hoping to at least get a bicycle for him, while searching for work. He has a tax file number and his visa allows him to work. He was originally a Painter in his homeland but is willing to do anything that will bring in honest repayment.

As one of our brothers wrote to us not so long ago, it is vital that we are there for the Muslims coming to the region. Otherwise they will be targeted by the Christians. This is very true. In the case of the young man mentioned above, he has been all but taken over and is being tutored in English. He has requested tutoring from our side, so this is to be taken care of commencing this coming week Insha'Allah.

With regard to English tutoring, this also is being done on behalf of IISOC with other asylum-seekers. The objective in this is to have them speaking, reading, and understanding basic English until they are eligible to go to TAFE.

Worship and Social

It is vital that the Muslim community steps up to the mark when it comes to two most important issues: The most important is unified worship. Juma is one time, but Sunday evenings for Isha prayer and Qur'an reading is another whereby the community has the opportunity to meet together to praise Allah and to recognize His mercy. The Centre is booked for one hour weekly for this purpose. In doing so there is blessing and a meeting of the hearts.

The second issue is that of social interaction. As there has been very little community socializing to date, tomorrow and every third Sunday of the month have been put aside for this purpose. It is time that the worship of Allah and caring about the life of the community becomes important to everyone. All else is of no value whatsoever.

May Allah Most Gracious grant us the vision required and the strength to continue in a work which is so very necessary.

With every good wish
Wassalaam

Sr. Shifa Mustapha
Coordinator/Worker

ISLAMIC INFORMATION SERVICE OF COOLOOLA

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam and Humanity,

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh

The days of fasting and feasting (Eid) have passed and once again we have entered our normal routines – however, may it be that our normal routines are now brighter and lighter, blest by the sacred month and the unity we have shared. May Allah upon Whom we put our Trust, grant that we will experience more shared times in the days ahead.

The next big event on the horizon from the spiritual side of things is the Hajj, so Insha'Allah we will keep this in view as we fulfil the present needs and cope with everything which comes our way.

Also of note and some importance for all is the coming “**Culture Friends**” event (see attached invitation) which will be brightened and enlightened by having our sister, Dr. Rashida Malik as guest speaker. **Please note the date for this is Saturday September 15th : Time 2-4pm: Venue The Yoga Centre.** All are invited. Sisters, please bring a plate for afternoon tea to share.

Other attachments include items which we are hoping will be of benefit including a very worthy article by Uri Avnery entitled, “Muhammad’s Sword” which was written in 2006. Within its musings one will find many points of reply to a favourite anti-Muslim theme, “Islam conquered by the sword”.

At the present time quite a number of our members are absent or will be absent as Eid and immediately post-Eid are times when families, whether here or overseas, try to be together. We also note a number of post-Eid weddings. Our congratulations to these young people and their families – may their lives together be very blessed Insha'Allah.

On a sad Note: Sheikh Mustapha Al Majzoub passed away a few days ago. Sheikh was from Sydney and he was very active there in both teaching Muslims and working with non-Muslims. He worked in the setting up of the website www.whatdoyousee.org.au with brothers in Sydney as well as Sr. Shifa from Gympie. Recently he went to Syria to be with his family and friends. His aim was to help the wounded and the injured, and this was what he was doing when he was killed by shelling. One of his brothers is still there. This young man has been a gift to the community in Sydney and he is sadly missed, but his father has told all to celebrate his life and his death as a Shaheed. There have been many tributes, particularly on Voice of Islam 87.6FM – perhaps it will be possible to download or listen online at: [http://tunein.com/radio/ Voice of Islam-876-s100251/](http://tunein.com/radio/Voice%20of%20Islam-876-s100251/).

Future planning: The Gympie community is hoping, Insha'Allah, to have a special celebratory occasion somewhere between the two Eids, in which non-Muslim friends and acquaintances may join us. We were unable to take advantage of the past Eid for a number of reasons, therefore Insha'Allah this occasion will be to serve the same purpose of bringing all communities closer in understanding. We ask for volunteers to form a planning committee which will meet within the next two weeks. Please contact Sr. Shifa if you are willing and able to work towards this. Also, we request that you send/bring information regarding guests whose names you wish to have on the invitation list. Insha'Allah we look forward to hearing from you.

Request: We have received a request for donations from the Bendigo Islamic Association Inc. for donations towards a mosque. Their Muslim population has doubled in recent years and they are finding it no longer possible to make do with the small musallah on campus at the Latrobe University in Bendigo. May Allah s.w.t. grant them every aid. For those who wish to donate the information is as follows: Contributions may be made to the Bendigo Adelaide Bank as follows: Account Name: Bendigo Islamic Association Inc; BSB: 633-000; Account No: 140643933. Please feel free to contact mosque committee members regarding this: Br. Ron Bolitho: 0418 315 734; Bro. A. Preena: 0407 462 770 Brother Shaker Issa: 0427 350 088. Email: bendigoislamicasc@yahoo.com.

Finally: Dear Brothers and Sisters, may your days and your ways be blessed.

