



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #10, November 2020



Carpet shipment

With help of a former President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Dr Tarek Omar, custom-made carpet from Turkey for Toowoomba Mosque is now on the ship to arrive in Brisbane in around two months. All costs of the carpet, including shipment and laying, are covered by donations of a doctor couple of Toowoomba.



Internal fittings in progress

The internal fitting works are progressing well as per schedule. All electrical cabling and connecting with main supply line are now completed. Air-conditioning conduits, and cables for security camera and sound system are all fitted. The plumbing connections have been checked and certified by Toowoomba Regional Council.



Main power line

Online fundraising in progress

Alhamdulillah, with the special favour of Allah SWT and supports from brothers and sister like you almost 80% of the work for the rebuilding of Toowoomba Mosque will be completed as part of the Second Stage of the project which is underway now.

For the remaining Final Stage work of the project we are raising fund online via all digital and social media platforms. Your generous contribution and duwa will help us to complete the final stage soon Inshaa Allah.

To donate, please visit our website at www.toowoombamosque.com.au



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7th Annual Food Festival and Mosque Open Day

The 7th Annual Toowoomba International Food Festival and Mosque Open Day will be held from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, 14 October 2020 at the Mosque premises on 217 West St, Harristown. The admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Sharing your story: If you have a story to be included in the Muslim Community Newsletter please contact Prof Shahjahan Khan at Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au



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National Mosque Open Day

Toowoomba Mosque is a part of National Mosque Open Day to be held on Saturday, 31 October 2020. This is a nation-wide program organised by Lebanese Muslim Association, Sydney. [Please see flyer in the last page]

In Kind Donations Acknowledged

Alhamdulillah a Sydney-based company has committed to donation all the lights to be fitted in the Mosque. They have already transported the light to Brisbane.

Another Melbourne-based business has decided to donate the Sound System and all speakers for the Mosque.

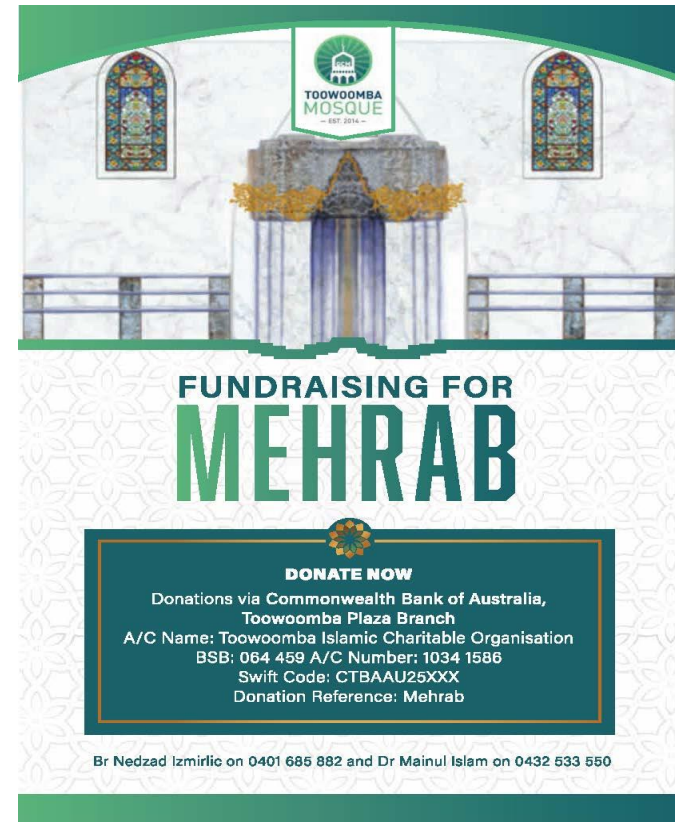
Couple of doctors in Gold Coast has agreed to contribute to purchase best quality security cameras for the Mosque.

One doctor couple from Toowoomba has donated for the carpet of the Mosque.

We are **still looking for donors for a 40KL Rainwater/Stormwater tank** to minimise the use of town water as part of our plan to be an eco-friendly Mosque.

Proposal for Mehrab for Mosque

The builder of Toowoomba Mosque has been working to construct a Mehrab as part of rebuilding work. Although it was not in the original plan of the Mosque, our builder, Br Nedzad Izmirlie worked with Dr Ades Fejzic, a famous designer from Bosnia, to get the drawings for the proposed Mehrab. He has committed to do it by his own, without charging the Mosque Committee, but will welcome participation of anyone to share the cost. He is specially looking for donation of marbles either discounted or free of cost. The construction of the Mehrab will change the interior of the Mosque and will ensure the look of a typical Mosque.



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Fatiha Khawai for Father of Professor Shahbaz Mushtaq

Invitation from the family:
Assalamu alaikum warahmatullah.

Please join us for the 'Fatiha Khawai' for my late father, Mr Mohammad Mushtaq, who passed away on Monday, 26 October 2020 in Pakistan. He died of dropping of oxygen level after a minor injury from a road accident in Quetta. Mr Mohammad Mushtaq regularly prayed in our Mosque when he was visiting Toowoomba, and was extremely proud of our community and Mosque.

Inna lillahi wainna elaihi rajiun. May Allah accept his good deeds, forgive all sins and grant him Jannatul Ferdous.

InshaAllah, the 'Fatiha Khawai' will be held in Toowoomba Masjid on Saturday (31st Oct) between Asar to Maghereb.

Please make duwa for our father.
Prof Shahbaz Mushtaq



Prof Shahbaz Mushtaq with his father Mr Mohammad Mushtaq

Mosque open day to feature rare Qur'an

A special highlight of the forthcoming 7th Annual Toowoomba Food Festival and Mosque Open Day to be held on Saturday 14 November 2020 from 11am to 4pm will be the exhibition of an extremely rare hand written copy of the century-old (AH 1329-1330 / 1911 CE.) Hasan Riza Hatti Mushaf-i Serif Qur'an which arrived in Toowoomba from Turkey.

This magnificent, beautiful and awe-inspiring Holy Qur'an was imported into the country by Toowoomba theologian, bible collector, and curator of the Helon Theology Reference Library (HTRL) George Helon Esq. (a Freeman of the City of London and a Kentucky Colonel) who is an avid supporter of Toowoomba's Islamic community.

Qur'an (sometimes spelt Quran, or Koran) is an Arabic word which means 'the recitation' - the sacred scriptures of Islam; the words of Allah (God) brought by the Archangel Jibril (Gabriel) to the prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Sultan Mehmed V Resad (2 November 1844 – 3 July 1918), who reigned as the 35th and penultimate Ottoman Sultan from 1909–1918, commissioned the calligrapher Seyyid Haci Hafiz Hasan Riza Efendi (1849-1920) – who at the time served as prayer leader at the Imperial Band - to copy the text of the Holy Qur'an so that the manuscript would be read at his mausoleum in Istanbul's historical neighbourhood of Eyup Sultan.

Bahaddin (Baha) Efendi and Hilmi Efendi were the illuminators.

President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his forward to the Hasan Riza Qur'an wrote: "From the times of the first humans up to the present day, we have recognized and respected every value that arose under the sun as merely another manifestation of the truth. The cultural riches that have been distilled down through Islamic and Turkish history represent a great source of wealth for us. Based upon learning, wisdom, and scholarship our civilizational values have prioritized love, tolerance, justice, fraternity, and solidarity throughout history."

"Our greatest responsibility toward future generations is to ensure the effective transmission of this unique heritage that are fundamental constituents of our vision of humanity and of the world. The continued progress of present and future generations is contingent upon a better comprehension and a deeper commitment to the great legacy of culture and civilization that has been bequeathed to us from our past."



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“This heritage presents us with a broad range of works produced by the greatest scholars and thinkers of history. The protection and preservation of works that feature the greatest and most significant texts produced by our civilization in a great variety of fields and disciplines, their dissemination through translations and facsimile editions, and their effective reconstruction are an important element of our vision for a Great Turkey.”

Numan Kurtulmus, Turkish Minister for Culture and Tourism added: “Under the aegis of our Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Turkish Institution for Manuscripts (Türkiye Yazma Eserler Kurumu) “publishes translations, transcriptions, and facsimiles of the legacy inherited from our ancient civilization, focuses on building a detailed inventory and cataloguing available manuscripts, and works on restoring damaged exemplars by using the most up-to-date techniques, thus ensuring the physical preservation of this precious heritage.”

The Minister for Culture and Tourism Numan Kurtulmus presented the number one copy of the Hasan Riz Qur'an to the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In 2014 the Turkish Institution for Manuscripts, affiliated with the Turkish Ministry for Culture and Tourism and the Topkapi Palace Museum (where the original Hasan Riza Qur'an is held), initiated a project to produce a very limited number of facsimile copies of the Hasan Riza Qur'an. Finally published in 2018, the Hasan Riza Qur'an is limited to only 1000 copies ever the world over which makes it extremely rare and undeniably valuable in more ways than one.

George Helon said that “after jumping through some political, legal and financial hoops I am very fortunate to have been able to acquire a copy of this magnificently rare century-old mushaf-i serif (handwritten copy of the Qu'ran). Toowoomba is indeed very fortunate and honoured to have such a rare artefact here.”

Impressively bound according to the Ottoman style of fully sewn leather binding with flap, cased, embossed and gilded in gold leaf, the Hasan Riza Qur'an has a weight of 10kg, is 756 pages in length, written in Naskh and rika scripts, and completed using soot ink, gold and pigments on polished paper.

The present manuscript measures 49 X 29.5cms with an inscribed area of 17.8 X 34.8cms, is certified and serial numbered 255/1000.

“The Hasan Riza Qur'an has been acquired in accordance with the Mission Statement of the Helon Theology Reference Library (HTRL), i.e. the promotion of biblical and theological appreciation and exegetical research and scholarship,” Mr Helon added.

Further, Mr Helon said “as destiny would have it, 255 is the ‘Throne Verse’ of the 2nd surah (chapter) of the Qur'an, Al-Baqarah (‘The Cow’ or ‘The Heifer’). The verse speaks about how nothing and nobody is regarded to be comparable to Allah. One of the most significant verses in the Quran, Al-Baqarah 2:255 is widely memorised, frequently recited and displayed in the Islamic world.”

Don't miss your chance to get up front and personal with Islam's most sacred text. Viewing is free and all are welcome. See you there!



Century-old (AH 1329-1330 / 1911 CE.) Hasan Riza Hatti Mushaf-i Serif Qur'an



Farewell of Eng Rezaul Karim and Family

On Sunday, 11 October 2020 Toowoomba Mosque organised a small farewell ceremony for Eng Rezaul Karim and his family who have now relocated in Canberra. A crest of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba was presented to the Family for their outstanding contribution and support for the Mosque and Community over the years. Eng R Karim is father of Eng Shium and Dentist Sajid, both of whom also made significant contribution to the community.



Eng Rezaul Karim and Prof Shahjahan Khan

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In Defence of our Prophet Muhammad SAWS

We Muslims love our Prophet Muhammad SAWS more than our love for ourselves. Our love for him is our identity and is an essential part of our faith. If our Prophet is vilified by some arrogant-ignorant, it will not but exponentially increase our love for him SAWS. It will not but make us more devoted to his lifestyle, sunnah. It will not but make us more caring and compassionate to the vulnerable ones in our community. It will not but make us study his character Al-Quraan more than ever. It will not but guide us to his SAWS character of converting pains and hurts into forgiveness and compassion. It will not but make us become more active ambassadors of Islamic mission Da'wah in our everyday life. It will not but increase our submission in prostration before Allah SWT. And obviously it will not but increase our insistence to totally ignore the arrogant-ignorant. If the Prophet Mohammed were living among us encountering vilification, he would have commanded us to do the same. And such is the command of Allah SWT in surah 15 verses 97-99: "We are well aware that you are disheartened by what (blasphemous things) they say. but celebrate your Sustainer's limitless glory and praise Him, and be of those who prostrate themselves [before Him] in adoration. And worship your Sustainer till death comes unto you."

Children Arabic Lessons: At Masjid and Online

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Children are learning Arabic language and fundamental Islamic knowledge through both options: Online and face-to-face sessions. A good number of Children are attending at Masjid during learning sessions. However, many families still prefer online option of learning. Families can combine between options as well if they wish. They have still the option to learn online if they cannot bring their children at masjid. We have been using Zoom ID: 379 889 2083. The online session now starts on those days from 5:30pm. The face-to-face session starts after maghrib prayer which is at 6:20 now. The sessions continue till Eshaa prayer, which is 7:45pm now. The overall progress and outcome of having two different options of learning is very promising and satisfactory. During October 2020, 2 students (1 girl and 1 boy) were promoted to Qur'aan reading level. We hope to get another 2 students get Qur'aan in November inshaaAllah. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children during the online lesson. This boosts learning capacity of the pupils and helps overcome communication limitations due to network issue. Please feel free to contact Imam if they need more information in this regard. Suggestions and feedbacks are always welcome.

Online Workshop on Domestic Family Violence

A number of Muslim community members including Imaam of Toowoomba Masjid joined Domestic Violence workshop organised by Queensland Churches Together QCT. It's a 3 days workshop. Imaam presented a paper in the workshop on how Prophet Muhammad abolished DV and how we can benefit

from his guidance in today's world. Imaam also was a member of Q&A panel on the final day of the workshop. It was a very successful program of learning and knowledge sharing and consequently generating more awareness about the severity of DV in our society. Participants joined from all states across Australia. Islamic Society of Toowoomba expressed its interest to work together with other organisations including QCT to stop DV in our families and societies.

Loss of beloved ones

During October 2020, two brothers of ours lost their father overseas. Another sister lost her uncle abroad. We sincerely pray for the deceased ones. May Allah forgive their shortfalls and grant them Jannah Al-Ferdaus Al-A'ala. Aameen. We also pray for the families who have lost their most beloved ones. May Allah reward them in their loss and grief and gather them together in Jannah. Aameen. Every death is a call and a reminder that we are here in this world for a very short time like a traveller as our Prophet described in his hadith. We are heading to our destination, which starts with graveyard. Are we getting ready for this long journey? Have we secured enough resources and provisions for the everlasting life?

Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Tony Rehn 04 1269 7555
- 1800 RESPECT www.1800respect.org.au
Support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse. Interpreter 13 14 50
- Business advertisement contact: Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au

Communication with Mosque via Technology

Imam Abdul Kader: gaderqsis@yahoo.com
General contact email: admin@toowoombamosque.com.au
Website: www.toowoombamosque.com.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque
WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083

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Mosque Open day and Food Festival

7th GARDEN CITY MOSQUE
OPEN DAY

TOOWOOMBA INTERNATIONAL
Food Festival
FOOD FUN FRIENDSHIP FAITH

TOOWOOMBA MOSQUE
EST. 2014

Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc.
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**SATURDAY
14th November**

11am-4pm
217 West St,
Harristown Q 4350

OBSERVE COVID SAFE RESTRICTIONS

FREE ENTRY!

YUMMY FOOD
GUEST SPEAKERS
LADIES ACTIVITIES
KIDS GAMES & FUN

Supported by
Queensland
Government

TOOWOOMBA INTERNATIONAL
Food Festival | **SATURDAY 14th November**
11am-4pm | OBSERVE COVID SAFE RESTRICTIONS

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

CR PAUL ANTONIO
Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council

PROF. CERALDINE MACKENZIE
Vice Chancellor of University of Southern Queensland

BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN
Catholic Bishop of Toowoomba

WAYNE BRISCOE Executive Director
Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs

GALILA ABDELSALAM CEO
Islamic Women Association of Australia

HABIB JAMAL
President of Islamic Council of Queensland

IMAM ABDUL KADER
Imam of Garden City Mosque, Toowoomba

PROFESSOR SHAHJAHAN KHAN
President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba

TOOWOOMBA MOSQUE
EST. 2014

For more information Contact
Br Mohamed Ali 0431 120 654 and
Dr Mainul Islam 0432 533 550

217 West St, Harristown QLD 4350

7th GARDEN CITY MOSQUE
OPEN DAY

TOOWOOMBA INTERNATIONAL
Food Festival

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