

In the heart of Arundel, a densely occupied suburb throbbing with a vastly multicultural populace stands the Islamic Centre of the Gold Coast.

More than just a regular Masjid, the Centre houses a children's Madrasah, conducts programs such as Hifz, Taa'lem and Tafseerul Qur'an as well as organizes Ramadan Programs and the infamous Annual International Food Festival.

Moreover, the Centre always has an open door policy, while the programs at the mosque can alternately be heard over receivers at home through Wi-Fi internet.

But the Centre, as gloriously functional as it is today, began its humble journey years ago when the Muslims on the Coast were just a fledgling community. We pay tribute to the pioneering Muslim families and brothers and sisters who had the vision to establish Islam in Gold Coast. The Centre today is the fruit of the seeds they planted many years ago. The current president of the Management Committee, Hussin Goss has been instrumental and a driving force since inception in reaching this point in our short history.

The first Muslim family settled down in the area in the early 1930s. As the numbers steadily grew, the Islamic Society of the Gold Coast was formed in 1983.

The community observed their first Jum'ah Prayer in February 1983 and celebrated their first Eid at 21 Whiting Street.

15<sup>th</sup> December 1992 went down in history as the day the foundation of the current Islamic Centre was laid and the rest of the work was duly shared by a host of volunteers.

Construction was completed in June 1996. The entire project approached AU\$1M and was funded privately, a Malaysian interest being the single biggest financial contributor.

Today, the Centre is the hub of an ever-increasing Muslim population on the Coast and also attracts both Muslims and Non Muslims from near and far, with its daily engaging curriculum and its inclusive visitation and fundraising programs.

As part of its active daily program, the Centre conducts children's Madrasah five days a week for eager young minds between the ages of 5 and 16. Students are taught a range of subjects including Qur'an, Tajweed, basic Arabic terminologies, Aqaa'id, History, Morals and Ethics, Fiqh, etc.

In addition to this, Madrasah students also have the privilege of taking part in Qur'an competitions and sporting tournaments with other Madrasahs.

For those wishing to memorize the Quran, Hifz classes are conducted six days a week and Ta'leem sessions are conducted daily for approximately 10 minutes after Isha.

To spiritually pave the way for a brighter weekend, the weekly Friday Night Program is held after Isha, which comprises of a lecture, followed by a Committee- provided dinner for the community.

Furthermore, as part of its ongoing social-bonding technique, the Centre also has regular programs such as Youth Programs, Revert Programs, Women's programs, Community Programs, etc.

As part of educational awareness, many private and non private schools visit the Mosque and are given a better understanding of Islam and the Muslims.

Also, July and August are known for the Centre to have a tourist hub, especially as Middle Eastern tourists, vacationing for the pleasant winter of our country, flock in and partake in the Masjid's activities.

The Annual "International Food Festival" is one of the highlights of the Centre and is done for an entire day. With its inception in 2009, this annual event was organized mainly to raise funds for the running cost and maintenance of the Masjid. More than 4000 people attend every year.

The festival includes an auction, fun-filled children's activities, a variety of delicious food from 15 different international cuisines, and a Da'wah stall to assist non Muslims in gaining a better understanding of Islam.

This lively event aims to increase love and respect for one another in our cosmopolitan world and is an exposure of the diverse Muslim community in Australia.

There are also facilities such as the Janaza Room Facility, where the deceased are washed and enshrouded. A storage facility for the deceased, in the Janaza area, was set aside to store up to two deceased bodies. This was done according to Australian standards. The Gold Coast City Council has also acquiesced in generously allocating 330 plots for a new cemetery for the GC community.

Other facilities include Islamic and Civil marriage ceremonies performed at the Centre, one guest room and two commercial kitchens nicknamed the "Cold Room", where meals are cooked regularly and serve a great purpose especially during the bustling time of Ramadan.



Imam: Imraan Husain  
Management Committee  
Members - current:  
Hussin Goss - President  
Ruhul Amin - Vice President  
Aziz Yusuf - Secretary  
Mushood Chothia - Assistant  
Treasurer  
Habib Jamal - Treasurer  
Umar Flynn - Assistant  
Secretary  
Shykron Ismail Kadir -  
Committee Member  
Mozammel Chowdhury -  
Committee Member  
Farook Ahmed - Committee  
Member

Ramadan at the Centre is a whole chapter in itself. But to sum it up, the Ramadan Program includes 20 Rakaat Taraaweeh Salaat in which the entire Qur'an is completed over the course of the blessed month. There is also a Quran completion during the last 10 nights of Ramadan in the *Qiyaamul Layl* period.

An Iftaar program runs every evening during Ramadan and here also various ethnic communities rub shoulders with one another to serve their special types of food as part of the feeding program. This is something unique to the Gold Coast Mosque.

So, the Islamic Centre has come a long way from its modest beginnings and its first Jum'ah prayer. Today 800-900 people stand side by side, praising their Lord every Friday afternoon.

Many local and overseas Jamaat groups visit from time to time and the Imam and the Committee also interact with Qld Ulama who are invited for lectures at the Masjid.

The Mosque Shop opens nearly every day, where the income is used for the running of the Masjid and Madrasah.

There are many volunteers flurrying around in good cheer to help with the daily running of the activities at the Centre. A visitor would find it clean and organized no matter when he or she steps in.

The Centre has also stretched its arms wide by having instrumental prayer facilities at Bond University, Griffith University, Dream World, Movie World, Sea World and also an Islamic school in Carrara.

To learn more about the dynamic Islamic Centre on the Gold Coast, visit our website: [www.goldcoastislam.com.au](http://www.goldcoastislam.com.au) and subscribe to the weekly newsletter [imrhus1@bigpond.com](mailto:imrhus1@bigpond.com) to stay informed of our activities.