Best new community initiative/project of the year
WINNER: Islamic Museum of Australia

From what started with late night chats and a cup of coffee with some friends, the Islamic Museum of Australia concept was born.

Today The Islamic Museum of Australia is a not-for-profit foundation founded in May 2010 with DGR status by the Australian Taxation Office.

It aims to establish an exciting, unique Cultural Centre to showcase the rich artistic heritage and historical contributions of Muslims in Australia and abroad.

IMA is an $8 million dollar project and it has successfully raised enough funding to launch stage 1 in 2013. This includes building works and a 2500sqm block of land in Thornbury, bordering Brunswick East, Melbourne.

Its Board, Advisory members and staff have been working very hard to make IMA into a leading global institution and one that can showcase and document the Australian Muslim History.

The Australian Muslim history is so important that the IMA funded a documentary and a visual photography book called Boundless Plains. It features 4 young Australian Muslims discovering the Muslim history in Australia, dating back to the 15th Century. A photographic coffee table book was also developed as a result of this journey. This will be launched in early 2012.

Business of the Year
Crescent Times Newspaper

Crescent Times, established in October 2008, is the first nationwide newspaper to serve the Australian Muslim community. Beginning with distribution in Western Australia, the newspaper grew to distribution in most Australian states and the Northern Territory. With a move away from a print edition to an online platform, to facilitate distribution and dissemination of information, Crescent Times daily news website now attracts between 800 and 1000 visitors every day and has the potential to reach 1 million visitors

annually by end of 2012.

Crescent Times aims to inform the community by publishing news of interest to our Muslim brothers and sisters, including reports of events locally, nationally and internationally. In addition we strive to provide details of services available to the community as well as providing an outlet for Muslim owned and operated businesses to advertise their services.

Crescent Times management hopes that the newspaper and its online network, will bring the Australian community closer together, strengthen relationships within the Muslim community and provide a bridge to facilitate integration with the wider Australian community.

The Crescent Times team includes writers from Australia and around the world and is headed by the Editor in Chief Tarek Chamkhi, a journalist of many years experience in the Arab world.

Media Outlet of the Year
Muslimvillage

Est in 2001 as IslamicSydney.com

Over 1.2million visitors + 3.2miilion page views in 2011

Over 14,250 Facebook fans + 14,800 email subscribers

Widely recognised, respected & trusted media source

MV Media team established in 2011

Exclusive stories on "Sharia whipping" victim, Cori Bernardi, New Mufti, Today Tonight expose

Support community orgs by free promotion of events

Previous winner AMAA 2006, 2007, 2009

Sportsperson of the Year

Walid Yassine Whilst studying in Beirut in 2010, Walid was selected to play in both Rugby League and Rugby Union for Lebanon. Walid was a recipient of a number of tour awards including, Czech Republic 9's 'Man of the Tournament,' player of the tournament in the Morocoo MENA championship, Lebanese domestic player of the year in 2010 and was selected to be The Australian Ambassador to Lebanon – Lex Bartlem , Dubai 7's Lebanese player of the tournament 2010 amongst other awards.

Walid's major sporting achievement in 2011 included being awarded the 'Lebanon International Player of the Year' by the International Rugby League Federation held at their annual awards night in London.

Walid is proud to be a dual Australian and Lebanese representative in International Rugby League and Rugby Union.

Community/ Humanitarian Organisation Award

ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Professional of the Year Award
DR BULENT DELLAL

Bio: Dr Bullent Dellal Hass was appointed Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation in 1989. Between 2002-2004 he was also appointed as part as Special Adviser for the Australian police and the Commissioners of Police.

Dr Dellal has had extensive experience throughout Australia and internationally on multicultural affairs and has spearheaded a number of initiatives for the benefit and development of the general community.

He has also prepare and managed numerous research, reports and programs on community relations, social cohesion, cultural and religious diversity on behalf of Government and private sector requests.

He has organize several national Muslim Youth Summits and a national conference of Imams on behalf of the government.

Dr Dellal is also a co-founder of the establishment of the European Multicultural Foundation – which is an opportunity for Australia's multicultural community to be promoted on a international scale.

Abyssinian Award
Rabbi Zalman Kastel has won the award.

Zalman Kastel was raised and ordained as a Chasidic. Work and friendship with Christians and Muslims transformed him from mainly seeing people in terms of us and them to appreciating people of many belief groups.

He is Director of Together for Humanity Foundation, an interfaith organisation that fosters a sense of belonging together, cooperation and respect. Since 2002, he has led an initiative that has challenge the misconceptions of over 60,000 students, most often the misunderstanding were about Muslims.

Role Model of the Year Award
WINNER: RANDA ABDEL-FATTAH

BIO - Randa Abdel-Fattah is a multi- award-winning author of nine novels, with a 4-book children's series due for release by Scholastic in 2012. She is published in over 17 countries and has succeeded in breaking into mainstream popular fiction with Muslim characters. She has a large following in the US and UK and regularly receives emails from students asking her to write their essays on her books.

Randa is a regular speaker at schools, writer's festivals, universities and conferences in Australia and overseas and tries to raise awareness of human rights issues, equal opportunity, racism and prejudice in her talks.

Randa is also a human rights activist and lawyer and enjoys a public profile, appearing on various television and radio programs. She also writes opinion pieces for various newspapers and has been doing so since her first piece in

1998 in The Age. In September 2010, Randa was invited by the US State Department as the Australian representative in a delegation of 14 international guests to participate in a multi-regional international visitor's leadership program across four US states.

Randa now lives in Sydney with her husband and two children but remains a diehard Melbournian.

Creative Artist of the Year Award
WINNER: PETER GOULD
Australian designer Peter Gould explores contemporary graphic design, digital art, photography and the rich visual & spiritual traditions of Islam.

Peter embraced Islam in 2002 while studying Design at the University of Technology, Sydney. After graduating with honours he founded a design studio commissioned by clients such as Sony, Colgate, Vodafone & McAfee. He began travelling to the Muslim world, being inspired by cities like Fes, Damascus & Mecca, resulting in a unique cultural fusion of styles and reactive to a world of misunderstanding.

Peter's acclaimed work has reached many international audiences through art exhibitions, presentations, publications and graphic design projects. He runs a commercial design studio serving clients internationally including Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), Sami Yusuf and Zaytuna College. Peter has also developed a contemporary Islamic clothing range, children's books and regularly invited to present his work at events across the globe. He currently resides in Sydney, Australia with his wife and two daughters

Researcher /Academic of the Year
WINNER: DR BULENT DELLAL

WINNER: AUBURN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER PROJECT

The 2011 Ramadan Iftar Dinner was the fourth one organised as part of Auburn Community Development Network (ACDN) annual programs. With almost 600 people sharing in the evening and countless people joining from their balconies, Dinner was served in the garden courtyard of Auburn Central - a neighbourhood to thousands of people from all over the world. An Arabian style tent, henna hand painting and traditional Ethiopian Coffee and Moroccan Tea Tents. The breaking of fast ended with the beautiful sounds of the Al Bashir Nasheed Group.

The event could not have been more grassroots. What made this so special was that it was organised as part of the *Crossing the Line: making a world of difference by learning about difference* Project by 27 young people aged from 12-25, from 14 different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, who are part of the Youth Support Network (YSN) of Western Sydney with the guidance of Auburn Community Development Network (ACDN).

The aim of the Iftar Dinner was to bring non-Muslim communities in and around Auburn and Sydney, to share a special evening with their Muslim neighbours in breaking their fast during the holy month of Ramadan but what transpired was so much more. It gave an opportunity for young people who were Muslim and Non-Muslim to learn about Ramadan and the meaning of Ramadan.

On the night of the 24th August 2011, a place where murders, vandalism, serious and petty crime took place was transformed into a communal space with a beautiful, spiritual, harmonious energy that made all the tireless efforts of planning and organising, and the courageous and endless conversations about similarities and differences, all worth it.

Volunteer of the Year Award
WINNER: MOUSTAFA FAHOUR

Moustafa Fahour is currently the founder and director of the first Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA).

Moustafa has served as a board of director for a not for profit foundation for over 4 years helping raise awareness in food allergies, prior to IMA. He has a great passion and belief in giving back to the community. Moustafa firmly believes that it is necessary for the greater good of mankind and for the future generations to come that we all should serve our communities in anyway we can.

Moustafa is married to Maysaa. They have 2 children (Ali and Hannah) and are also expecting their third child shortly.

Youth of the Year Award
WINNER: AMNA KARRA-HASSAN

Amna Karra-Hassan is born and raised in Western Suburbs of Sydney, Australia. She is currently studying her Masters in Islamic Studies with Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the Islamic Sciences Research Academy (ISRA).

Amna is currently employed as a Team Member in the Australian Federal Police Community Liaison Team. Her role with the AFP involves engaging and networking with various communities to educate minority groups about law enforcement in Australia. Some of the successful programs that Amna has coordinated includes, the Community Partnership Program and the Annual AFP Eid Dinner.

Amna is the co-founder of the Auburn Tigers Women's Aussie Rules football team which was awarded the Mayoral Encouragement Award at the 2011 Sports Award. Amna was able to create an avenue for women, predominantly from the Muslim community and/or culturally and linguistically diverse communities to participate in sport. This initiative has received much media

attention and has become a means of interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

At the age of 23, Amna has proven to be a passionate advocate for grass-roots activism in both the youth and community sector. With a strong passion for social reform, Amna is a positive role model and proud ambassador for young people, her community and religion. She works with many members of the community to broaden her understanding, be it theological, social, and political.

Man of the Year Award

MOUSTAFA FAHOUR

Moustafa Fahour is currently the founder and director of the first Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA). A Not for profit foundation that was established in 2010. He recently left his role as a Division Director, Head of Family Office, Australia & New Zealand at Macquarie Bank to focus full time on the establishment of the Islamic Museum of Australia.

Moustafa has been in the banking and finance industry or over 11 years and has had senior executive roles for large corporate financial institutions in Australia. Prior to Macquarie Bank, Moustafa established National Australia Banks first Family Office and he was the General Manager at NAB . Prior to this he was the Co-Head Key Clients at Macquarie, a Senior Private Client adviser and Associate Director at UBS Wealth Management and Citigroup.

Moustafa was recently ranked number 30 in Melbourne's Top 100 influential people in 2011 in The Age Magazine.

Moustafa also served as a board of director for a not for profit foundation for over 4 years helping raise awareness in food allergies, prior to IMA. He has a great passion and belief in giving back to the community. Moustafa firmly believes that it is necessary for the greater good of mankind and for the future generations to come that we all should serve our communities in anyway we can.

Moustafa is married to Maysaa. They have 2 children (Ali and Hannah) and are also expecting their third child shortly.

Woman of the Year Award

DR JOANNE McKeown

Joanne's work as a palliative care consultant in Central Australia is truly admirable. Joanne worked in Central Australia from 2005 until earlier this year, which required her to look after people with terminal illnesses. Most of the patients were Indigenous people and it was a real privilege to work with first nations people who still hold strong attachments to culture and language. Interestingly, many cultural practices are similar to those of Islam.

This work often took Joanne to the local town camps as well as out of Alice Springs into the desert areas, including staying overnight on longer visits to provide medical care and education for staff in remote areas.

Joanne currently works full time in palliative care in Perth, mainly caring for elderly nursing home patients who are approaching the end of their lives. This work has its own challenges and blessings and every day reminds her that our community elders ought to be treasured rather then deposited in care facilities away from family and friends.

Joanne also co-founded Crescent Times newspaper with her husband Tarek Chamkhi. This was the first nationwide newspaper for the Muslim community.

Joanne has five children and currently sponsors 5 children in Ethiopia.

Lifetime Achiever Award-

WINNER – DR Qazi Ashfaq Ahmad

Dr Ashfaq Ahmad is a man with vision and mission. He obtained his Islamic education in Sanwi Darsgah, India. He received his Masters Degree in Engineering from Wisconstin University in the United States. And a PHD from the Sydney University. Dr Ahmad has taught engineering in India, Australia and Paua New Guinea for over 35 years.

Ever since his arrival in Australia in 1971, along with his academic pursuits, he has been engaged in setting up student and community organizations including being the founding President of AFIC – and member of the Board of Directors of the Australian School of Islamic Information. He is currently the director of the Islamic Foundation for Education and Welfare and the founder of the Annual Multicultural Eid Festival in Sydney – which has been in operation since the late 1970s.