



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter Issue #6, July 2020



New date for 7th Annual Toowoomba Int'l Food Festival and Garden City Mosque Open Day

The 7th Annual Toowoomba Int'l Food Festival and Garden City Mosque Open Day has been re-scheduled on Saturday, 14 November 2020. The popular annual event planned for 22 March was postponed due to covid pandemic. This event is financially supported by the Queensland Government via a grant from Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

In addition to delicious international food from different parts of the world the event is marked by fun activities for the children and decoration of women and presentation by invited speakers and members of the Mosque community.

In the past the festival attracted large number of participants including dignitaries from local community, Brisbane and inter-state.



Annual Toowoomba Food Festival and Garden City Mosque Open Day [Photo taken from The Chronicle]

Stage 2 works start in new Mosque Building

A contract has been agreed with a builder to complete the internal fittings including electrical cabling and fittings, plumbing and toilet fittings, plastering, air-conditioning etc of the building. The work will start very soon as the restrictions on building work have been relaxed by the Government.

The new building (with floor, roof, walls, doors and windows) of Garden City Mosque was completed in late 2019. The new structure has a mezzanine level for women prayer area with significant extension of the old burnt building to fit over 500 worshippers at a time.

The cost of this Second Stage is \$336,000 and the conditions include 50% down payment on signing the contract and progress of the work will depend on the success in raising funds without incurring any additional cost for delay due to lack of sufficient fund.

Our Solicitor Mr Brain Conrick helped finalise the contract between the Society and the builder.



Professor Shahjahan Khan (right) with Mr Brain Conrick (left) after signing the new contract with builder



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #6, July 2020



Prayers for Sr AamahI

Sr AamahI Bruce is probably the longest living Muslim in Toowoomba. She was the head of English in Toowoomba TAFE College and served the Muslims in the city for long time. She was always volunteering to our Mosque Open Days and Food Festivals welcoming everyone with a smiling face and providing information on Islam and Muslims.

Last year she became sick and went for emergency operation. After going through lengthy and painful therapy she is now getting much better. Recently we saw her walking at the Picnic Point with her husband Br Allan Bruce.

We are very lucky to have people like Sr AamahI in our community. She introduced me (and Br Ejaz Ahmad) with Senior Catholic Priest, Fr Brian Sparksman in early nineties. That was the beginning of multifaith engage in the history of Toowoomba. She is a regular financial contributor to Garden City Mosque.

Please pray for our beloved elder sister so that Allah SWT fully cures her and help return to normal life.



Sr AamahI Bruce



New footpath

New Footpath to rear entry of prayer hall

Br Mohamed Abdulkareem and his team have been working on a new footpath pavement to enter in to the toilets and ablution areas at the rear side of the prayer hall. The new pavements will help avoid people walking through open soil and reduce the dust and mud to be taken inside the toilets and women prayer area.

They are also planning to put in some new grasses in the open yard beside the prayer hall. Thanks to Br Mohamed for the great work and Br Khaled for helping funding the project.

After the painting on the exterior walls of the prayer hall, replacing rotten gutter in between the two buildings, and at the front entrance of the prayer hall, and removing the paint and cleaning of carpet, and replacing old carpet of women prayer area, this has been another good work by community volunteers. The Mosque and community have saved thousands of dollars with the help of the volunteers led by Br Muhidin Hadzich, Br Mohamed Abdulkareem and Br Mohamed Ali.

Ongoing Community Cleaning of Mosque Property

Br Mohamed Abdulkareem has organised monthly schedule for different communities within the Society to help clean (including lawn mowing) the Mosque property. Every community will have a chance to either clean by themselves (with their community volunteers) or pay the cost of professional cleaning done by contractors. Last month it was the turn of Jordanian community. Thanks to Dr Omar AlAJarmeh for organising the cleaning. If your community wants to be part of the good work please contact Br Mohamed or write your name in the roster at the Mosque Notice Board.

Resumption of Jamaa'ah and Jumu'ah

We thank Allah (SWT) for keeping us safe. We also thank Him for allowing us back to His house. Alhamdulillah, COVID19 restrictions have gradually been eased in QLD. With the local government announcement of opening the places of worships, we have resumed five daily prayers in congregation (Jamaa'ah) at our Masjid. We have also resumed Friday congregation (Jumu'ah) starting with 10 people and then 20 people limitation. Currently, we are having two congregations for Jumu'ah at our Masjid. The first service starts at 12:00 noon and finishes at 12:30pm. And then, the second service starts and finishes at 1pm. This temporary arrangement is to widen the opportunity of attending Jumu'ah to maximum



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #6, July 2020



members of the community and to ensure that the health advices are observed strictly. We are monitoring the situation and in touch with the local authority. We hope that soon we will be able to have full-fledged Jumu'ah at our Masjid, inshaaAllah.

To comply with the health and physical distancing requirements, worshippers arriving to the Masjid after to 12:15pm will require to wait outside until the first Jumma prayers are over if the prayer hall is full.



Prayer arrangement to meet COVID19 restrictions

Children Virtual Arabic Lessons:

Children Arabic language and Islamic Studies classes have been continuing through virtual learning option. We have been using Zoom ID: 379 889 2083. The sessions run on every weekend (both Sat and Sunday) from 10am till 1pm. The overall progress and outcome of this way of learning is satisfactory. We have one child promoted to advanced level during this pandemic. There are few students progressed to intermediate level after finishing level of beginners. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children during the lesson. This boosts learning capacity of the pupils and helps overcome communication limitations due to network issue. We hope to get back to Masjid and to have face-to-face learning sessions in few weeks time inshaaAllah. Please feel free to contact Imam if they need more information in this regard.

Fundraising Updates

Alhamdulillah, in response to the Ramadan Fundraising Appeal we received over \$70,000 AUD. Jazak Allah Khair to everyone who contributed the project. May Allah reward everyone who have helped and contributed to the rebuilding of Toowoomba Mosque. We will continue to raise more funds to complete the outstanding work for the Masjid building and car parking areas.

If you have not seen before, please see the short YouTube video on the latest fundraising update at <https://youtu.be/sz3cvS3CTz4>

Please deposit your donations to the bank account below.

 <p>Enquiries to Dr Mainul Islam Mob: 0432 533 550 Email: Mainul.Islam@usq.edu.au</p>	<p>DONATE NOW Donations via Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Toowoomba Plaza Branch A/C Name: Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Organisation BSB: 064 459 A/C Number: 1034 1586 Swift Code: CTBAU25XXX</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Alex Singleton 04 2250 3691
- 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
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque/
WhatsApp:	Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
Madrasah:	via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083
Friday Khuthbah:	via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083