

# NEWSLTR

**2019**  
**AUGUST**

## **FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM IMAM**

Sheikh Hamza has been formally appointed as interim Imam at Gungahlin Masjid. p.4

## **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Update on the progress of the construction of the classrooms and wudhuu areas. p.6

## **EID CELEBRATIONS**

Muslims in Canberra celebrated Eid ul-Adhaa recently, praying at various locations across the ACT, including at EPIC. p.8



**Update to CMC  
members on recent  
and future activities  
at Gungahlin Masjid**

August 2019 Update

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Eid ul-Adhaa was celebrated across the Muslim world on Sunday, 11 August with Muslims from the larger North Canberra community praying at Exhibition Park.

## 08 New Public Officer

Brice Hamack is the new Public Officer.

## 09 Meeting with Alistair Coe, MLA

Members of CMC and the executive committee met with opposition leader Alistair Coe and his team to discuss a range of matters of importance to the ACT Muslim community.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Assalaamu Alaikum Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Firstly, I would like to extend my most sincere apologies for the delays in providing you all with a significant update on the new CMC Executive Committee's activities throughout the last month. The Executive team has been busy finalising the handover from the outgoing executive committee as well as the various sub-committees. With some minor exceptions, the handover activities are largely finalised and we now turn our attention to ongoing and future projects and activities.

In the last month some of the key decisions and activities include:

- Handover meeting with outgoing executive committee
- Implementation of formal interim imam arrangements between the CMC and Sheikh Hamza.
- Appointment of a public officer
- Renewal of the Masjid's insurance policy, albeit a more comprehensive but less costly cover
- Meetings with the outgoing IT and construction sub-committees and appointment of new sub-committees
- Handover from brother Brice Hamack to brother Zain Scott of administration of the Zoho system which amongst other things includes the member database. Only Br Zain has access to member data at this point in time.
- Meeting with the leader of the ACT opposition, Mr Alistair Coe to discuss a range of matters, including securing land for parking facilities next to the masjid complex.

One of my immediate concerns is the security of our members' data and as such a considerable amount of our time to date has been dedicated to reviewing the existing arrangements to ensure data is secure and that we only hold data that we require. We will update you all of any significant developments in this space.

I and the whole executive team are honoured to be serving you and look forward to working with you all to continue to build a prosperous community at the Gungahlin masjid.

*Abdul Bari*

President, Canberra Muslim Community Inc.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Assalaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It gives me immense pleasure to write this message in my capacity as CMC's Secretary. I am privileged to be part of CMC's current Executive Committee team and to take part in its quest for greater successes in the future.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all the members of the CMC for putting their faith in me and giving me an opportunity to serve the CMC as its Secretary. CMC is in essence a platform for a united Muslim community and its existence and the successes achieved so far is a reflection of this united Muslim community.

This is the first issue of CMC's new E-newsletter which we expect to issue monthly. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the community with updates and notices regarding CMC and Gungahlin Masjid activities, events, and projects. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Br Zain, CMC's Assistant Secretary, for his valuable time and skills in preparing this newsletter. I am also thankful to all EC members for their valuable contributions to the content of this newsletter.

Since the EC took office, EC's initial and main focus has been on the hand-over matters from the outgoing EC, appointment of a public officer, the formation of sub-committees and the resolution of a number of IT issues. We have also been focused on ensuring that the ongoing construction works is progressing on-schedule.

If members have any queries or want to provide feedback or suggestion to help further refine our new newsletter, please contact us by email: [ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au](mailto:ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au).

I look forward to continuing to work closely with all of you.

Wassalaamu alaikum

Kind regards,

Dr S M Shahidul Islam

Secretary, Canberra Muslim Community Inc.

# SHEIKH HAMZA FORMALLY APPOINTED AS INTERIM IMAM



Sheikh Hamza has been acting in the role since 2017.



Since its official opening in 2017, the Gungahlin Masjid has not been able to formally appoint a full-time imam to lead the Masjid in its religious affairs. This is largely due to the broader financial position of the Masjid, with the expenditures largely directed to such priorities as the finalisation of basic facilities at the premises, including bathrooms, as well as utilities expenses. Since June 2018, Sheikh Hamza Abujarbou has been fulfilling the role of Imam at the Masjid, al-

beit on a volunteer basis. The Canberra Muslim Community (CMC) Executive Committee, however, has sought to formalise the arrangements with Sheikh Hamza, namely by confirming him as interim Imam until such time that a full-time imam can be appointed by way of a formal recruitment process.

Formalising the role of the interim Imam provides both Sheikh Hamza and the Muslim community with greater clarity around his role and

the expectations associated with such a prominent role.

The key duties of the Imam are to:

1. Lead prayers;
2. Lead Friday khutbah/prayers;
3. Manage regular Dars (Islamic studies) at the Masjid;
4. Lead Taraweeh prayers in Ramadan;
5. Oversee the running of religious learning activities in the masjid;
6. Liaise with the Executive Committee on religious matters as required; and
7. Provide advice to members of the local Muslim community regarding basic religious matters.

## IT & SOCIAL MEDIA SUB-COMMITTEE



The incoming Executive Committee has held numerous meetings with the outgoing EC, the outgoing IT sub-committee and the new IT & Social Media sub-committee in order to finalise the handover of the various email and social media accounts, the webpage, and member database. Of particular note:

- A new IT & Social Media Sub-Committee has been formed to oversee the maintenance of the Gungahlin Masjid website and Facebook pages along with other related activities.
- Although the Committee has had access to the ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au email account for sometime it has only recently (mid-August) gained access to CMC's gmail accounts.

Responsibility for the member database has been handed over to Br. Zain Scott.

CMC does not presently have a WhatsApp account or group and any existing accounts are managed by individuals not associated with the present CMC Executive Committee.

Review of the collection and storage of member data with the view to ensuring we are not only compliant with relevant legislation and data is safe but also ensuring we are only collecting data that is absolutely necessary.

### New Committee

Members of the new IT & Social Media Sub-Committee are as follows:

1. AKM Shariful Islam, Chair
2. Abdul Bari, EC Coordinator
3. Md Asafuddoula, Member
4. Mahbubur Rahman, Member
5. Hashem Abujarbou, Member
6. Imran Hossain, Member
7. Ajaz Ur Rahman, Member
8. Abdurrahman Bakhsh, Member
9. Zain Scott, Zoho System Administrator.

### Future plans and activities

- Review of existing email and social media accounts with view to consolidating the numerous accounts.
- Set up of a WhatsApp broadcast list (which protects people's privacy) to get key messages out through Whatsapp.
- Rollout of applications on the Zoho platform that are not presently being utilised.





# CMC STATEMENT ON KASHMIR

*This month the Indian Government revoked Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution that has to date provided the Muslim-majority Jammu & Kashmir with autonomy.*

In response to the Indian Government's actions, CMC released the following statement:

*"We, at Canberra Muslim Community Inc., express our grave concerns for the Kashmiri people. The current Government of India has been normalising vilification, persecution, and indiscriminate killings of the common Muslims... Through the recent actions and constitutional changes by the Indian Government, the lives, security, culture, and entire future of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir are being deliberately put in peril. The media and communications blackouts, the backdrop of protracted persecution, the effective criminalising of dissent, and the proposed policies to facilitate demographic changes in the region appear eerily like the steps that preceded to making the Uyghur people of China among the most persecuted in the world...The Canberra Muslim Community would like to express its solidarity with the people of Kashmir in these dark days. We ask Allah (SWT), the One and Only, for the protection of the innocent and the persecuted."*



The full statement can be found online at <http://www.gungahlinmosque.org.au/sites/default/files/CMC-Statement-on-Kashmir-13Aug2019.pdf>



**The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:**

وَاتَّقِ دَعْوَةَ الْمُظْلُومِ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهُمَا وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابٌ

“

Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no barrier between it and Allah.

– Şaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4090 –



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

With Brother Ibrahim Bangura as our youth advocate, youth activities under the broad direction of Imam Hamza are gaining momentum.

Youth members recently started a regular "Saturday Soccer" activity and hope to organise other activities and events in the future. Watch this space for further updates in future.







***Wudhuu  
(washroom) areas  
- male and female  
- are expected to  
be completed by  
December 2019,  
Inshaa Allah***

#### OVERVIEW

Works associated with the classrooms and washing areas for the deceased are continuing however progress has been delayed due to reasons beyond our control.

The Executive Committee is working closely with the builder and Construction Sub-Committee to resolve issues causing the delays as quickly as possible.

At this stage, classrooms are scheduled to be fully operational by early 2020, inshaa Allah.



In summary, of the key construction work:

- Framing and Brick laying has been completed.
- 80% of the roofing work is complete.
- Outstanding work includes remainder of the roofing, cladding, outside rendering, and interior works (plumbing, electricals, painting, doors, windows).

Early this month the new executive committee met with the outgoing Construction Sub-com-

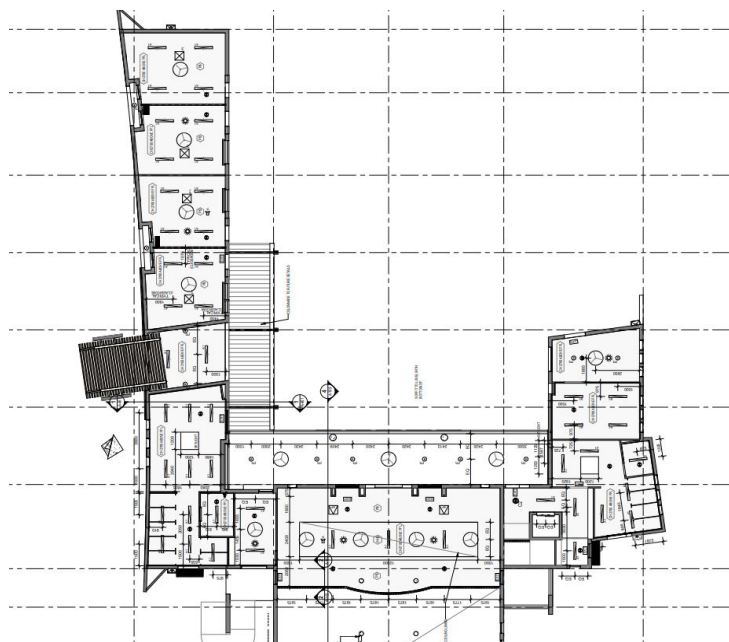
mittee to get an update and overview of the progress of the construction of the classrooms and wudhuu areas.

The Sub-Committee confirmed that approximately \$250,000 of the estimated \$390,000 has been expended to date.

Of particular concern has been the delays in finalising the roofing work. Accordingly, the builder has been asked to investigate the causes of these delays.

As of now, male and female Ablution areas as well as classrooms' have reached lock-up stage and





external walls and the roof are being completed.

Once completed, the team will move on to interior finishes, including bathroom fixtures, tiles, AC, Gyprock, electrical work, and plumbing.

#### Donations: Labour and Equipment

A number of members have indicated their interest in providing services or contributing material towards the construction and fitting out of the classrooms and wudhu areas. This project could very much utilise services in such areas as plumbing, electrical, flooring and the like. If you would like to contribute in some way please reach out to Br Majid Pathan or email us at [ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au](mailto:ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au).

#### New Construction Sub-Committee

The new Construction Sub-committee for 2019-21 is as follows:

1. Majid Pathan, Chair
2. Faisal Ahmed, EC Coordinator
3. Sohail Rai, Member
4. Roysul Khan, Member
5. Jamshed Alam, Member
6. Mamun Ar Rashid, Member



## DON'T FORGET...

### Donate now!

We still need your generous donations to contribute to ongoing and future projects and activities. Donations can be made within the masjid or direct to the CMC bank account:

Name of Bank: ANZ Bank

A/C Name: Canberra Muslim Community

BSB: 012950

Account No.: 109547085

Please include your name in the 'Reference' field

### Don't forget to put your rubbish away.

Please ensure that any garbage is not left inside the masjid or on the grounds around the masjid. Small garbage bins are available throughout the masjid complex and a large skip bin is available for larger items.



### Disabled Parking

Please ensure that you only park in the allocated disabled parking spots **if** you hold an Australian disability parking permit. The permit should be displayed on your vehicle's dashboard or affixed to the windscreen so that it is visible to others.



For further information about disability parking permits visit [www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1677](http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1677).

A number of complaints have been received regarding the misuse of the disabled parking spaces



### Volunteers needed!

Parking management (e.g. during busy times, events) If you are interested contact EC.

### Sisters Sub-Committee: Please Join us!

We are seeking expressions of interest from sisters of all backgrounds and ages to join the Sisters Sub-Committee.

The Sisters Sub-Committee primarily functions to provide activities and services for sisters and organised by sisters.

The success of such activities is entirely dependent on the efforts of our valued volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please contact sister Adrita on 0433535820.



## NEW PUBLIC OFFICER: BRICE HAMACK



Under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 1991* associations like CMC in the ACT are required to appoint a public officer.

While the executive committee is broadly responsible for ensuring that an association operates in compliance with the above-mentioned law and regulation, the public officer is responsible for:

1. Where needed, acting as a point of contact between the association and the wider community;
2. Representing the association in dealings with Access Canberra.

In late July the CMC Executive Committee convened to discuss a number of capable candidates who had been proposed by members of the Gungahlin Masjid community and ultimately agreed to nominate Brice Hamack for this role, a proposal that Brice has thankfully accepted.

Many of you may know of Brice in his position as Chair of the 2019 CMC Election Panel. Brice is a presently a lawyer at Legal Aid ACT and has been active in the Muslim community in both Canberra and his native USA for many years. See: <https://au.linkedin.com/in/brice-hamack>.

# EID UL-ADHAA 2019 CELEBRATIONS AT EXHIBITION PARK



On Sunday, 11 August, Muslims across the globe celebrated Eid Ul-Adhaa. For the Muslims in North Canberra, the Islamic Society of Belconnen (ISB) organised for Eid prayers to be held in the Fitzroy Pavillion at Exhibition Park. The Khutbah was delivered by Imam Ismail Jabi from Spence Musalla.

CMC volunteers prepared lolly bags that were handed out at the venue. More photos from the day can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/GungahlinMosque>.







Sweets packed by CMC volunteers and handed out to kids at prayer.



## UPCOMING MASJID & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

In coming weeks some of the things the Executive Committee will be doing or working through include:

- Meeting with Gungahlin Masjid Islamic School (GMIS) Board to discuss ongoing cooperation with CMC Executive;
- Meeting with Jacinta Evans, Community Services Directorate (introduction of new committee; grants including possible grants for GMIS; opportunities for cooperation);
- Meeting with Ms Suzanne Orr, MLA, ACT Member

for Yerrabi, to discuss strengthening the cooperation between the ACT Government and CMC Inc.;

- Review of existing use of social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, webpage); and
- Progress of ongoing projects and identification of minor future projects (e.g. purchase of bookshelves).

### Masjid Programs & activities

- Friday Trivia night
- Arabic classes
- Qur'an classes for youth.
- Saturday soccer

See masjid noticeboards for more details.



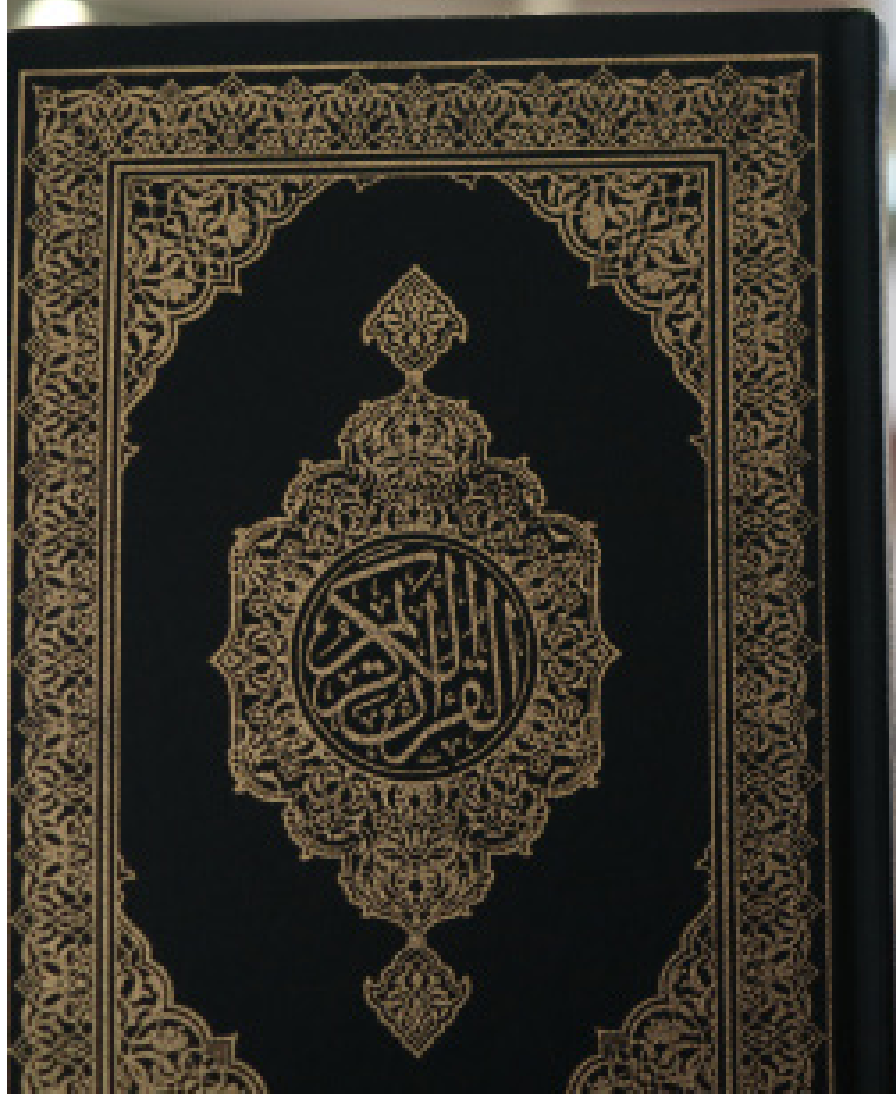
## MEETING WITH ALISTAIR COE MLA

In late July Alistair Coe (Leader of the Opposition in the ACT) and Giulia Jones (Shadow Minister for Women, Corrections, and Police & Emergency Services) met with a number of members of the CMC. The visit, held at the house of a CMC member, served as an opportunity to raise and further discuss matters of importance to the broader Muslim community in the ACT.

Amongst the topics that were discussed in great detail was the need to ensure that the Gungahlin Masjid would be able to build

more car parking in the long-term around the Masjid in order to meet the needs of the growing Muslim community. Mr Coe and Ms Jones gave their assurances that this is something they were unreservedly supportive of.

Other topics that were discussed included Muslim safety particularly in the aftermath of the Christchurch events, understanding oft-misunderstood aspects of Islam, and opportunities to promote a better understanding of Islam and Muslims amongst non-Mus



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**If you would like to include any  
items in the next newsletter**

Please email us at:

[ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au](mailto:ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au)

[www.gungahlinmosque.org.au](http://www.gungahlinmosque.org.au)