

NEWSLTR

2019
SEPTEMBER

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and future activities
at Gungahlin Masjid**
SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE



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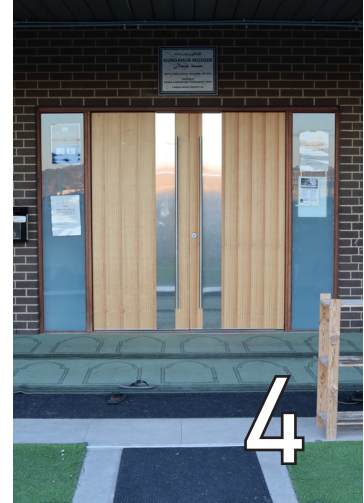
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Assalaamu Alaikum Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to our second newsletter for the month of September 2019. Since our last update we, as your elected Executive Committee (EC), have been busy with the following:

- Minister Suzanne Orr MLA kindly agreed to visit me at my place on 29 August 2019. A range of issues were discussed in an informal setting – permanent leasing of land for overflow parking and traffic issues; CMC's outreach program such as "Masjid Open Day"; Safety and Security issues in and around the Gungahlin Masjid; Youth Programs; Mental Health and Women issues.
- Meeting with ACT Government Community Services Directorate on 30 August 2019. One of the outcomes, amongst others, from this meeting was a written confirmation from Minister Chris Steel MLA on his approval of the footpath construction. The area south of The Valley Avenue, particularly between Kate Crace Street and Hinder Street has been included in the 2019-20 Community Path Upgrade program and is expected to be completed by June 2020.
- Meeting with Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP – I met our federal MP on 24 September 2019 at his electorate office in Gungahlin. The main topic of our discussion was to find out the status of CMC's application for Security Infrastructure funding.
- National Masjid Open Day (NMOD) – Alhamdulillah – in alignment with the Australian NMOD scheduled for Saturday 26 October 2019 – the EC has decided to open our Masjid's door to all non-Muslims with open heart. See the article inside this edition for further details.
- At a very last minute opportunity, I agreed for CMC to be a signatory to a joint submission on the Religious Discrimination Bill 2019. The submission was made today (02/10/2019) by the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) on behalf of the Australian Muslim Community to the Attorney General's office with all signatories.

The submission is focused on the issue of achieving legislative protection against the dangers which arise from vilification and incitement to hatred and/or violence based on a person's religion or religious belief. This matter is one of deep concern and urgent priority for the Australian Muslim community, particularly given the absence of adequate, consistent and appropriate laws at the federal level and also across the States and Territories to deal with such conduct.

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 thriving Muslim community at the Gungahlin masjid.

Abdul Bari

President, Canberra Muslim Community Inc.

Meetings with ACT Government Departments

The CMC Executive Committee held meetings with representatives from various ACT Government departments over the last month.

On 29 August, members of the CMC Executive met with Ms Suzanne Orr, the ACT's new minister for Employment, Disability and Government Procurement. Topics discussed with the Minister included:

1. Permanent Leasing of the Land currently on temporary lease to CMC for parking
2. Federal Government funding for "Community Security"
3. Community Services and Disability Grants for CMC
4. Construction of a footpath on the Masjid side of The Valley Avenue

On 30 August members of the Executive and brother Ali Azfar (GMIS) met with Ms Jacinta Evans, Executive Director, Inclusion and Engagement at the Community Services Directorate, ACT Government. Amongst other things, topics discussed included future grant opportunities, CMC participation in Multicultural activities in the ACT, continuing the strong working relationship between CMC and the Community Services Directorate, and the ACT Government's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of the broader ACT Muslim community in light of events like the Christchurch attacks.

On 25 September, the CMC EC had a fruitful meeting with Mr Bruce Fitzgerald (Executive Group Manager, Urban Renewal) and Mr Chris Sparke (Section manager) ACT Government. The CMC EC provided Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Sparke with an overview of CMC's history and current activities before moving the discussion to the key topic for the meeting, namely the need to create further parking space at the Masjid. In 2011, the ACT Government granted CMC temporary lease of an adjacent block of land until 31 October 2026 to use for overflow parking. The temporary lease included a condition that CMC would be eligible to apply for a permanent lease if the CMC could demonstrate continued community need in the future. The CMC EC believes this need already exists and thus met with Mr Fitzgerald to make a case for obtaining the permanent lease sooner rather than later, noting that a permanent lease would enable CMC to secure funding to develop the site for permanent parking as well as for other community use.

Mr Fitzgerald clarified the process around applying for a permanent lease further noting that another option would be to extend the existing lease. The CMC EC is currently considering its options and next steps and will keep CMC members apprised of any developments through future newsletters.



NATIONAL MOSQUE OPEN DAY: 26 OCTOBER 2019



This will be the third open day for Gungahlin Masjid

Gungahlin Mosque is very excited to announce its 3rd Mosque-Open Day on 26th of October 2019. This activity forms part of the popular nationwide annual event which has been run since 2014.

The aim of this event is to welcome individuals of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures and faiths to learn more about Islam in a warm and welcoming environment while forging stronger connections between different communities living in Australia.

Despite the fact that mosques are open all year round, many non-Muslim Australians are unaware of this fact and may not have

had the opportunity to meet local Muslims and find answers to their questions about Islam. This incredible initiative endeavours to break down common misconceptions and stereotypes about Islam and Muslims and counter all types of prejudice.

We have a range of activities planned for the day including:

- 10am - 11am Meet and Greet and Guided Mosque Tours.
- In order to explain the fundamentals of the Islamic faith there are two short talks scheduled for 11am - 11:15am by Brother Muhammad Imtiaz followed



a talk from 12pm- 12:15pm by Dr. Kamran Shafee.

Throughout the day our respected guests will be given ample opportunities to engage in one-on-one discussions and ask questions about the faith of Islam. As a part of our warm and welcoming Islamic tradition there will be BBQ and other delicious foods served from 12:30pm - InShaa Allah - with Dhuhur prayer starting at 1:30pm. One important announcement regarding the event is that in order to engage in fruitful discussions with our non-Muslim guests and answer their questions, we are organising a Dawah-training workshop both for brothers and sisters. Those who are interested to attend please contact any member of the Executive Committee or Sheikh Hamza, the Imam of Gungahlin Mosque.

OCTOBER 2019

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

SISTERS LECTURE

Sisters are invited to attend a talk on Healing the Soul (Nafs) with Sister Basmah Abdul Qader.

Sister Basmah is an Islamic educator who obtained a bachelor degree in Islamic law (Fiqh wa Usol Al Fiqh) from Kuwait University, Master degree in Islamic law (Fiqh wa Usol Al Fiqh) from Madina International University and a post graduate degree in counselling and psychotherapy from Australian College of Applied Psychology.

Currently, she is self-employed as a mental health counsellor and psychotherapist. Basmah is the founder of Silah institute.

In this live stream talk, Sh Basma will touch on :

- understanding the concept of nafs through the verses of the Quran and the Prophet's (pbuh) hadiths.
- shaytan's effect on your mind
- maintenance of boundaries
- effect of trauma on mental well being
- some healing tools ; salat, Quran recitation and supplication

Please join us at the time/ date as follows:

DATE: 12 October, Saturday
TIME: After Asr, 5pm to 6pm
LOCATION: Gungahlin Masjid Sisters section.

SECURITY & SAFETY MEASURES AT THE MASJID

The recent fire at the Canberra Islamic Centre in Monash highlights the importances of safety and security at the Masjid.

The security of our masjid and safety of those who use it - brothers, sisters and children alike - is of the utmost importance. May Allah protect and safeguard us all (aameen).

Amid persistent concerns arising from such threats as islamophobia, it is important that we take precautionary measures to protect our masjid and those who use it from any potential threats to safety and security.

The Executive Committee is in the process of consulting with the AFP, security professionals and other professionals to increase the security measures at Gungahlin masjid.

One measure that has already been implemented is the hiring of security guards to be on duty during Friday prayers. This complements existing security measures such as fencing around the masjid, sensor lights around the masjid, night vision security cameras; and fire and smoke back to alarms.

We trust only on Allah and always ask Him for help first also we are applying for government grants to improve our security equipment. There is no fool-

proof plan to deal with all possible security threats we face, however by gradually improving our security processes and equipment In-sha-Allah we will be better placed to protect our mosque and its musallies.

Muslim Community Security and Safety information session by the Australian Federal Police (AFP)

As part of our safety and security awareness measures, we have collaborated with the AFP. This resulted in a very beneficial presentation by Constable Patrick Castle of AFP on Friday 20 September 2019 after Esha. The session was attended by a significant number of Musallees in the Gungahlin Masjid and were well

received. The presentation covered two main topics:

- (1.) Emergency Evacuation, Fire Prevention, and First Aid
- (2.) Self Defence against common attacks.

The Executive Committee arranged this session for our community members to increase their knowledge on how to prevent such situations from happening in the first instance and how to appropriately response and manage should such unforeseen circumstances eventuate.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The recent camp organised by members of the youth team proved to be an inspirational and entertaining event for all.

On an early morning in September, seven youth accompanied by the Imam of Gungahlin mosque set off on a three-day camp in Tumbarambra. The group enjoyed hikes, cricket, soccer, wres-

tling, and more.

By engaging in such activities along with learning how to make fires, cooking and setting up tents, a diverse spectrum of skills ranging from teamwork to independence were further developed.

Another highlight of the camp was the interactive discussions facilitated by the Imam. These talks, debates and question sessions allowed the youth to discuss issues most concerning to them in an inclusive and friendly environment.

As travelling provides us with a great opportunity to learn about one another, this camp undoubtedly helped the youth to learn more about each other and strengthened the brotherhood between them. We must therefore remember that taking part in such events is pivotal in creating unity, not just amongst our youth but also to the wider community in general.





CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Wudhuu (washroom) areas - male and female - are expected to be completed by in early 2020, Inshaa Allah

Since our last update, the progress has been good with:

1. Rendering work completed (as visible from the outside);
2. Roof and facade flashing work progressed;
3. The carpenter has commenced work on the entry and front facade;
4. The bathroom tiles has been selected and order placed.

The roofing issues referred to in the last newsletter have now been resolved - alhamdulillah - however the delays on this front have understandably slowed overall progress of the project.

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 wudhuu 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.

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



NO DUMPING UNWANTED ITEMS AT THE MASJID

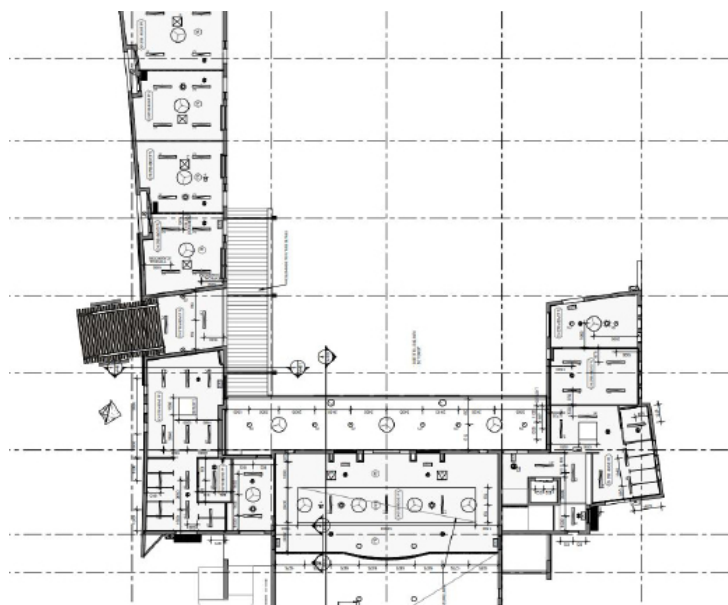
Please do not leave unwanted goods at the masjid. This includes clothing, furniture, and books.

Recently a number of unwanted items have been left at the masjid which has only made the masjid grounds messy.

Going forward, the Executive Committee will be reviewing CCTV footage to identify individuals who are leaving unwanted items at the masjid.



Some of the items recently dumped at the masjid

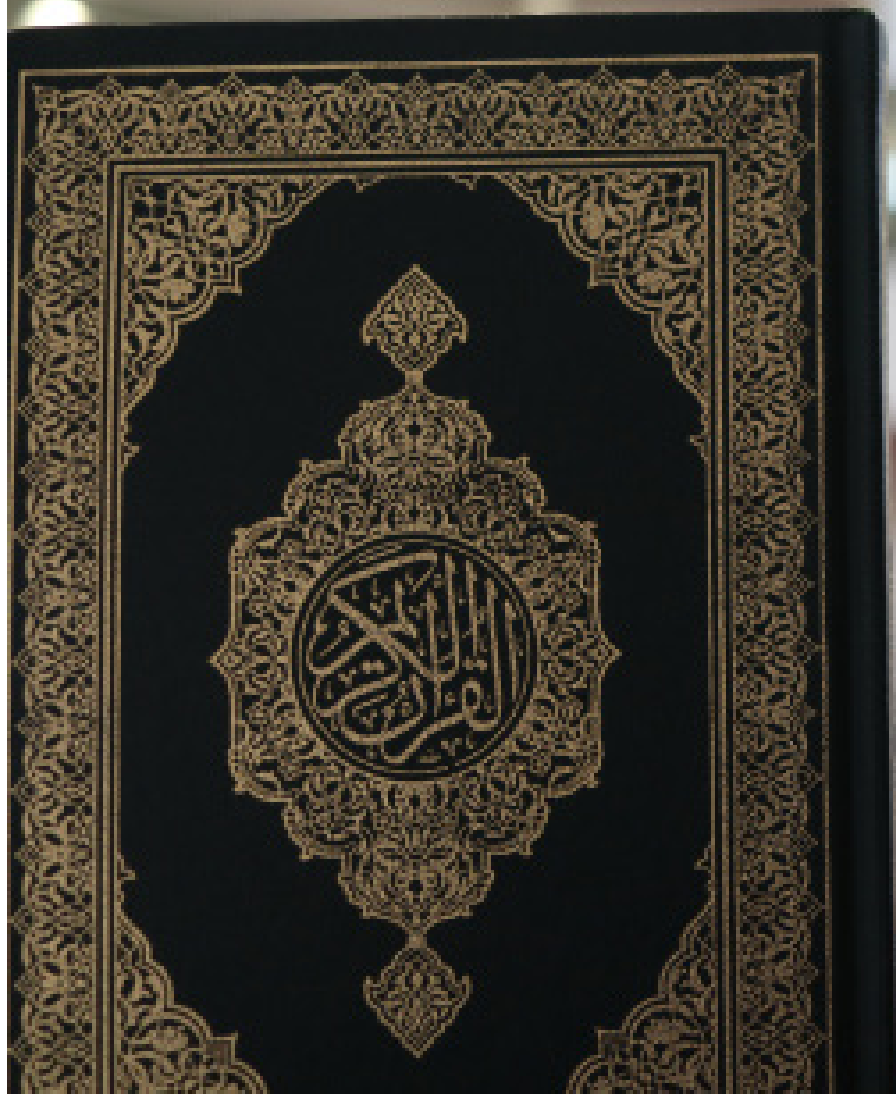


Sisters Sub-Committee: Please Join us!

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.

**Address**

140 The Valley Avenue
Gungahlin ACT 2913

Email

ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au

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

Please email us at:

ec@gungahlinmosque.org.au

www.gungahlinmosque.org.au