



This third scarves event was held on the 30th July at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre. As with the previous event in Korumbarra, it was held under the Gippsland Ethnic Communities Council (GECC) banner. UMSLV ladies (and children) took the bus from Morwell as arranged by GECC. Sister Khatija started off with a short Quran recitation. Despite a rocky start of trying to get the projector to work without success, Sister Sarah managed to tell her scarf story beautifully.

Sister Arfa did a great job being the MC and handling the floor during the interesting discussion on topics that ranged from Ramadan practices to feminism and more. Johanna spoke about the involvement of the interfaith steering committee of GECC. Everyone was served with a lovely spread of food and refreshments. Videos of muslim-related social experiments and muslim women around the world were put on laptops while people moved around to eat and mingle. The ladies also had fun trying on hijabs with help from Sisters Nahla and Arfa.

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*“In a world where ignorance seems to predominate more than ever each day, your efforts yesterday were as a lighthouse shining brightly to illuminate the pathway to peace and understanding”*

-Murray Loble, interfaith Steering Committee, GECC-

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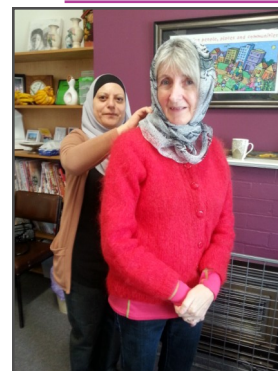
*“Congratulations on extending your hand of friendship to another part of Gippsland”*

-Lisa Price-

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*“Oh, so Islam is okay :)”*

-Attendee-



## Iftar and donation to Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

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During Ramadan the Muslim community of Gippsland come together every Friday to break their fast in congregation at the University. These community Iftars are organised by the MUIS, and supported by the wider muslim community. These iftars held are not just a wonderful way of bringing the community together in the spirit of Ramadan but it has also been integral in the settlement of new families or migrants. The community is thankful to Federation University, the chaplaincy, MUGSU and MUIS for allowing



us the use of the university facility for this purpose and for their continued support throughout the year. For more on the community iftar in Latrobe Valley go to <http://www.latrobevalleyexpress.com.au/story/3198105/community-joins-in-to-break-the-fast/>

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*“Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July GMS Staff were invited to break fast at Federation University with the Muslim Community. It was a welcoming and inclusive environment with plenty of interesting conversation. We enjoyed a three course meal that was lovingly prepared by the women who worked tirelessly to make sure everyone was looked after. I thoroughly enjoyed the company I was in and marvelled at the beautiful Shalwa Kamis worn by the women. On the stage was a mountain of donations dedicated to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) which was an incredible contribution considering the size of the community.*

*After the meal was over I browsed through a stall full of jewellery and clothing and was very interested to learn about the different head dresses. I realised that every culture possess its own kind of beautiful uniqueness”.*

-Irin Lehos-

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## Eid dinner 2015

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The holy month of Ramadan ended with the sighting of the new moon on the evening of Thursday 15th July. The end of Ramadan is a time for joyful celebration and the University student union lounge is yet again filled with chatter and laughter as families celebrate Eid-ul-fitr. Thank you to MUIS for organising the morning prayer and evening dinner and to members of the muslim community for generously supplying delicious food.

Thank you also to the (anonymous) donor who paid for lolly bags that were given to every child present at the Eid dinner and to sister Zeinab Badreddine for making them.



## Eid Celebration 2015

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On Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2015, the United Muslim Sisters of the Latrobe Valley (UMSLV) hosted and organised the EidulFitrFestival for the Gippsland Muslim community. Because of the potential for inclement weather, the venue chosen was Parky's Wonderland in Traralgon. Parky's was an excellent choice and the facilities were of a very high standard. There was something for everyone and all ages included.

The Gippsland Muslim community booked out the entire Parky's Wonderland facility, and with this they had access to the indoor hall. It was in this hall that the speeches were made and lunch and sweets was served. The meal was catered for by Tehmina Tanveer with children's pies being kindly supplied by Reef Bakery. Many other families brought sweets which meant there was much food to share and eat, as is the way with Eid festivals!

Adjoining the main hall was an indoor play area, which was designed for those under 12, and it kept these younger children busy. There is also some evidence of older children and mothers and fathers being seen on the play equipment!



There was also a lot of outdoor activity at Parky's. Outside it was a typical windy winter's day in Gippsland but the rain held off, and it allowed children and adults to enjoy the many activities on offer. These included the jumping pillow, laser tag, and the ropes course. Well done to Azaan Zafar for completing the entire ropes course! These facilities were used from 1 pm until 4 pm.



Before the lunch, there was a presentation made by Maheran Chawdhury. He thanked all the donors and sponsors for making the event possible, and presented certificates of appreciation. Hashem and Azaan then read beautiful recitations of the Quran. There was a competition run on Facebook for all those who liked and shared the event's post. The prize was drawn and presented by Sue Nash of Morwell Academy of Gymnastics. The winner was Nuray Ardolli.





*“It was lovely to go to a function where there was no drinking, smoking or foul language and everyone getting on so well. Food was delicious. Lucy and I loved getting the henna tattoos. I thoroughly enjoyed taking photos of the day and capturing some beautiful shots of the children. Thank you for inviting me”*

-Marjolene Cras-



UMSLV vice president Ieda Azhari then showed a video which highlighted the groups' achievements throughout the year. There was much organising for this Eid function, and the UMSLV ladies and committee should be acknowledged again for what they do for the community. At the end of the Eid festival all the children and adults left exhausted. The children however were smiling as they also received an Eid show bag!

- Dr Abdel Karim Halabi, GAMCI Secretary



## CALD Meeting at GMS community room

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On August 12, a CALD community meeting was held at Gippsland Multicultural Services. This is the second meeting after the one conducted in May. Similarly, the LaTrobe city mayor and some of the councilors and police representatives were in attendance. GMS also invited Mr. Nail Aykan, Chief Executive



Officer of the Islamic Council of Victoria to attend. It was shared in the meeting that Moe, Morwell and Traralgon Police Stations now have multicultural services officers to address specific multicultural issues. Any member of the Muslim community with safety concerns is requested to these the multicultural officers.

## A celebration of diversity in response to racist protests

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On 13 August The Age newspaper published an article entitled: *Authorities brace for ugly scenes as Australian 'patriots' plan mosque protests*. Across the country on October 10, ugly scenes are expected at mosques with activists planning co-ordinated protests against Muslim migration and Islam. These protests will coincide with anti-Islam protests in Canada, parts of Europe, and the United States. Mr Shermion Burgess, told followers in a video that "the whole world is going to rally against Islam", and called on Australians to follow suit. He also said that Australia should ban the building of mosques. Read more:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/authorities-brace-for-ugly-scenes-as-australian-patriots-plan-mosque-protests-20150813-giy69k.html#ixzz3k4NjLhwR>

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/police-to-monitor-antiislam-protests-at-mosques-20150814-giz6cd.html>

The Victoria Police are aware of the protest and will plan the police's response. The view that every Victorian had the right to feel safe and that anyone who witnesses, or is subject to, racism, discrimination or victimisation on the basis of religion, culture or ethnicity, to inform Victoria Police was reiterated at the CALD community meeting organised by Gippsland Multicultural Services in May and again on 12 August.

Gippsland Multicultural Services is delighted to present the "Gippsland – Where We All Belong" festival on 10/10/2015. This event happens to coincide with racist protests in other places in Australia and abroad. Their event is a fun, family-friendly one, and will include a children's petting farm, orange gas balloons (cultural diversity colour), some top entertainment and much more. They want to provide the opportunity for us to all stand up for an inclusive community in the face of growing intolerance. Their event will be attended by many of our elected members of parliament and councillors, and they would love to see you there too! If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Lisa Sinha by e-mailing [lisa@gmsinfo.com.au](mailto:lisa@gmsinfo.com.au).

## Community speaks up as planned anti-Islamisation protest spark controversy across Melbourne

The upcoming anti-Islam protests have caused controversy across Victoria as authorities prepare for ugly scenes. The protesters are expected at mosques around the country in October, with far-right wing activists heading the riots against Islam and the migration of Muslims into the country.

The protests are coinciding with anti-Islam demonstrations stemming from ex-Marine Jon Ritzheimer in parts of Europe, Canada and the U.S. Mr Ritzheimer has also informed Americans to bring guns to the protest.

In Melbourne, this call for support was backed by the **United Patriots Front**, who identify themselves as fringe groups of the **Reclaim Australia** movement and others. But the planned protests are creating a strong opposition from Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Monash University student and young Muslim \*Amy says the protests are 'only causing more unnecessary fear.'

**Rasulullah S.A.W said:**

**" The Greatest JIHAD is to battle your own soul, to fight the evil within yourself."**

"People just need to be educated and know first of all the basics," "I'm not saying they need to know everything about our religion, but the basics and this will help reduce the fear of the unknown," she said. Born and raised in Australia, \*Amy says there needs to be more understanding from both sides and there is no need for protests against Islam in Australia. "If we had done something wrong as a whole, then a protest would be understandable but there are so many of us here who live here peacefully and have our faith while also being part of the wider Australian community," she said. "I feel like we all just need to get to know each other and respect each other's differences as well as realise we have common ground."



Groups such as the **No Room for Racism** movement have defended Muslims, **stating** earlier in the year during April riots in Fed Square 'immigrants are welcome, racists are not.' \*Ali, Islamic imam and religious scholar, says Muslims are 'just as much to blame' for the frequent uprisings over the past year, including the protest against the completion of the Bendigo Mosque in August this year. "This has two sides of the coin; a lack of understanding from the community and a lack of practice and implementation of correct Islam from some sects of the Muslim community," he said. The imam from Melbourne, who converted to Islam over 20 years ago is a qualified ustaz (teacher) in Islamic studies. "I would like to see positive change and positive reform, from all sides of the fence, especially from the Muslim



community so people can see us for who we really are and not what they heard or as mainstream media has portrayed us to be. He also says that the Muslim community 'do not need to apologise', however need to work together to eradicate all forms of extremism in the community. "This is individual people who do not represent Islam and what our religion teaches but we do need to admit we have sects that we need to educate, then things may move forward and then the wider Australian community may be more accepting. "If that's possible or not, I don't know....but we can all hope."

The anti-Islamisation protests will be held on October 10 across Victoria.

\*Amy's and \*Ali's names have been changed to ensure anonymity.

-Sarah Price



## Market Day

MUGSU organised Market Day as part of diversity and inclusion week at Federation University. The event was held on Wednesday 2nd September in the MUGSU lounge area. Representatives from various groups in the community were invited to provide a range of information to the students. These included groups from the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY), Latrobe Community Health Services, Centrelink and UMSLV. We were happy to be invited and to share our activities and information with the public.



People from various backgrounds approached our stall with questions and some have even signed up to be UMSLV members! Some ladies were interested in wearing hijabs. They wore the hijab around the market to experience what it is like as a hijabi and their feedback was positive.





## Eid-ul-Adha

Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated in the same way as Eid-ul-Fitr, although the special feature of Eid-ul-Adha is the Hajj and animal sacrifice. The performers of Hajj are called haji. The rituals carried out during Hajj has been prescribed by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) based on the events of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) and his family.

Eid-ul-Adha is based on the concept of sacrifice.

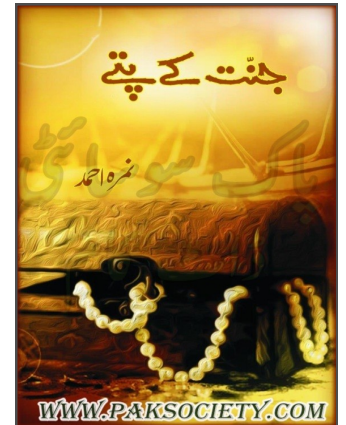
It is made for Allah alone, in memory of the great sacrifice made by the Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.). The meat is divided into three portions. One is kept for the family; the second is given to friends and relatives; and the remaining third portion to the poor and needy. Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated towards the end of Haj and serves as a reminder to submit to Allah's will at all times.

MUIS will organise a congregational Eid morning prayer at 8am and meal as is customary. Further information will be provided by MUIS closer to the date. For those who would like to receive notifications for Eid from MUIS please e-mail [muis.gippsland@gmail.com](mailto:muis.gippsland@gmail.com)

## Book review: Jannat ka Paatai (Leaves of Heaven) by Nimrah Ahmed



This novel is an urdu novel and on contacting the author I found that she is working on a translation. The novel is about young Islamic law student Haya Suleiman who gets to go to Turkey for an exchange program. The story follows Haya as she begins studying in Turkey and her transition into a Hijabi. One of the things I enjoyed about the book was that there are stories from the time of the Prophet ﷺ in which Haya finds comfort when facing opposition from her family for being a hijabi. The author as uses references from the Quran to discuss the values of hijabi. I really suggest reading this book. I found this to book not only informative but I enjoyed reading all of Haya's adventures through Turkey. -Yumna Ahmed



## Quiz question

How many Surahs (chapters) are there in the Quran?

- 1) 116      2) 114      3) 110

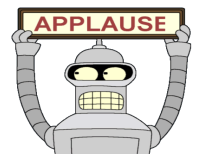
Please sms your answer to Teacher Zeinab on 0411800892

The quiz question in the previous newsletter:

What was the name of the angel who came to prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the Cave of Hira? The answer is Angel Jibrael.

Congratulations to:

Maisarah, Maharen, Mohammed, Yassin, Nousaiba, Hashem, and Mawadda for getting the answer correct.





# Community News



## ANZANAF online clothing store



Find authentic traditional Bangladeshi clothes at ANZANAF. We provide 100% pure deshi cotton, muslin, jamdani, taat, benaroshi, andy silk, tussar silk, pure silk, rajshahi silk and more!

Visit our facebook page or contact Nafisa at 0434124690.

Congratulations to Ahmad Al-Ramadan and family for welcoming a baby boy named Yunus. May he will always be under the love and protection of the Almighty. Ameen

## — UMSLV'S AGM —

The United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley will be holding their second Annual General Meeting.

A new committee for the next year will be elected. UMSLV encourages representation on the committee from the different communities we have living in the region.

An email will be sent out soon with the nomination form and agenda to all UMSLV members.

Venue: Gippsland Multicultural Services community room,  
100 Buckley Street, Morwell

Date: 26 October 2015

Time: 4.30pm

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



Our deepest condolences to Sister Nahla for the passing of her sister, and to Sister Tehmina for the loss of her father.

May they be rewarded with paradise and may Allah grant strength and patience to the families.

Ameen..



# Upcoming events

## School Holiday Activities



**Kids Craft Class**  
 Monday 28th September  
 12-4.30pm  
 GMS Community Room,  
 100 Buckley Street, Morwell



**Kids Cooking Class**  
 Wed 30th September  
 11am-4.30pm  
 GMS Community Room,  
 100 Buckley Street, Morwell

Come visit our UMSLV stall at GECC's multicultural festival on **27 September** at Immigration Park, Morwell

**Street Party Festival**  
 Free event by GMS  
 Saturday 10th Oct 2015  
 1pm-4pm  
 Immigration Park, Morwell  
 Kids activities, food vendors and multicultural entertainment will be provided.  
 For more information please contact  
[lisa@gmsinfo.com.au](mailto:lisa@gmsinfo.com.au)

Join us in celebrating women and diversity! An informal event to get to know Muslim women, scarf styles and more. You are invited to bring a scarf and learn how to drape it. Limited places so book early!

**WOMEN ONLY EVENT**

**Scarves Story**

**THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2015 11AM - 1 PM, LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**  
**SALE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**  
**21 LESLIE ST. SALE 3850**

RSVP by Thursday 8th October  
 Heather Minto: [office@snh.net.au](mailto:office@snh.net.au) or 51445747  
 Johanna: [basykes@optusnet.com.au](mailto:basykes@optusnet.com.au)  
 Ida: [ieda\\_azhari@yahoo.com](mailto:ieda_azhari@yahoo.com)



This event has been supported with funding from the Victorian Multicultural Commission



**FUN WITH LEGO HOLIDAY PROGRAM FOR 5-12 YEAR OLDS**

**Mon 28th Sept to Fri 2nd Oct**  
**10am-Noon daily**

Activities, Games, Building, Morning Tea

Co-operating Churches  
 Crn William Ave & McDonald Way

**FREE EVENT**  
 Call Cathie on 51223094 to book places

◇The Madhatters Magic Party  
 ◇Musical fun with the mudcakes  
 And many more at Latrobe City Libraries  
 Visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library) for more information

Like us on Facebook



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