

HAJ

The Arabic word Hajj means pilgrimage or a religious journey to the Kabah in Makkah in the month of Dhul-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar. Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. All Muslims who have the means to make the journey and whose health allows them to undertake it, are compulsorily required to perform it at least once in their lifetime.

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.

For example, when Hajera and baby Ismail (A.S.) were left in Makkah, there was no water. Lady Hajera ran from Mt. Safa to Mt. Marwah in search of water. When she returned to the baby, a spring of water was gushing from underneath his feet. Hajis also run from Safa to Marwah and to this day people drink the Zam Zam water of that spring!

Every year about 3 million Muslims from around the world perform Hajj. Irrespective of profession, wealth or race all Hajis wear the white ihram. They stand united in front of the Ka'ba, The House of Allah Almighty, the house that unites all hearts with the pure intention of getting closer to Allah, their creator. With one voice they recite Labbaykallahumma Labbayk (I am at your service. Oh Allah, I am at your service).

There is only one hand-hold that never breaks; one place where we can lay our dependencies; one relationship that should define our self-worth; and one source from which to seek our ultimate happiness, fulfilment and security. That place is with who we should have as our primary attachment, God, Allah. (Yasmin Mogahed, Reclaim your heart).



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 Haj are called haji.

The hajis sacrifice an animal during their haj. However, those who do not perform Haj, also sacrifice animals on this day, if they can afford it.

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.

PROPHET IBRAHIM (A.S.) AND HIS SON ISMAIL (A.S.)

The Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) was asked by Allah in a dream to sacrifice his son, Ismail (A.S.), perhaps as a test of his primary attachment. When Ismail (A.S.) heard about Allah's command from his father he agreed to be sacrificed for the cause of Allah without hesitation. In the morning Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) walked with Ismail (A.S.) towards Mina to make the sacrifice. On the way Satan tempted him to disobey Allah but being strong of faith in Allah, Ibrahim (A.S.) hurled stones to drive Satan away. Reaching Mina, Ibrahim (A.S.) laid his son down on the ground. Allah was very pleased with the selfless devotion of Ibrahim (A.S.). No sooner did Ibrahim (A.S.) attempt to do the sacrifice than Allah in His abundant mercy, miraculously placed a ram in place of Ismail (A.S.) and saved the innocent and beloved child of Ibrahim (A.S.).

Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated towards the end of Haj and serves as a reminder to submit to Allah's will at all times.

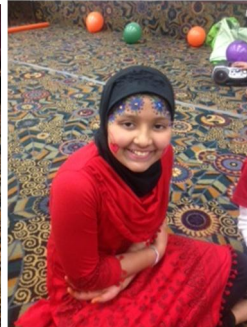
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UMSLV held an Eid Festival for all women and children on 17 August to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

The children participated in games and activities such as the three-legged race, pin the tail on donkey, sack race and pass the parcel.

They enjoyed getting their faces painted. Some children chose pretty designs to go with the Eid theme. Spiderman is still popular among the boys, even on Eid! Thank you Tammy Richards from Fitzard Photos for your beautiful face painting!

The children got in touch with their creative side with rock art. Thank you to Liz Roberts for going down to the creek on the morning of the festival to collect the rocks. I couldn't believe she had them washed and ready and her table was set up before the first family arrived! Thank you for giving up your Saturday afternoon to do the craft activity. The children thoroughly enjoyed it!



UPCOMING EVENT: UMSLV is holding an Eid Picnic!

Venue: Civic Park, Drouin

Date: 17th November 2013, Sunday

Time: 12.30pm

It will be a one dish party and an opportunity to share your Qurbani meat with the rest of the community

RSVP by 9th November 2013, Saturday

Yumna at yumna.umslv@yahoo.com or 0468814813

Please RSVP so that we can organise the distribution of the food items.

EID-UL-ADHA

MUIS held a one dish program for Eid-ul-Adha that was enjoyed by all. All the children who attended the function were given lolly bags as Eid gifts.

Thank you Sister Zeinab for the beautifully presented, fun-filled lolly bags. Thank you also to our sponsor who paid for the lolly bags.

You both made the children very happy 😊

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were drawn out of a hat and some lucky ladies won pamper and meal gift vouchers!

Thank you to Beauty & Boutique, Nandos and Souvlaki Hut for the gift vouchers that they donated to UMSLV for the Eid festival!

BEAUTY & BOUTIQUE

Mehindi (henna)

Hair trimming, Threading, Body massage

Standard facial, Full body waxing

Manicure and Pedicure

New Indian saris, party wear dresses, girl dresses, jewelry's, scarfs, Aabaya, Skirts, pashminas/shawls, tops/kurti, alteration and stitching.

Contact Tehmina @ 03 51740444 & 04 57800044 (please call after 5pm)

Dua on sighting the new moon

Allah is the most great. Oh Allah, bring us the new moon with security and faith, with peace and in Islam, and in harmony with what our Lord loves and what pleases Him. Our Lord and your Lord is Allah.

With the start of our new Islamic year, UMSLV wishes you all beautiful, treasured memories and all the blessings a heart can know!

This is a time where we should reflect on the year that has passed and make a renewed commitment to do all things that will please Allah.

With Gippsland being largely a migrant community, there are many lessons that can be learnt from our beloved Prophet Muhammed (P.B.U.H.) in the days at the start of the Islamic era in Medina.

MUHARRAM

The Islamic year lasts for about 354 days and consists of 12 months. Muharram is the first month and is one of the four sacred months.

Many Muslims fast during daylight hours on the 9th and 10th, or 10th and 11th days of the month to mark the Day of Ashura (which literally means tenth in Arabic). It is well-known because of historical significance and the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hussein ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

Hussein (R.A.) and his family and followers (consisting of 72 people, including women, children and aged people) were killed by the army of Yazid at the Battle of Karbala on Yazid's orders. Surviving members of Hussein's (R.A.) family and that of his followers were taken captive and imprisoned in Damascus.

HIJRAH

Large numbers of muslims emigrated from Makkah to Yathrib (Medina) to escape persecution from the Makkans, who were afraid of the spread of Islam. Only Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), Abu Bakr and a few muslims were left in Makkah.

The Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and Abu Bakr secretly left Makkah after dawn and after the 7 day long journey or Hijra, they arrived in Medina. When he entered the town he found that all the people had turned out to welcome him. The women stood on the house-tops and sang songs of joy.

From the day the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) arrived in Yathrib, it came to be called Madinatun-Nabi or "The city of the Prophet". He entered Yathrib on 17 September 622. This year was later designated as the first year of the Islamic era, for this event was considered the most important in the history of Islam.

The first important thing for the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) was to settle the Makkan refugees in their new surroundings. Most of them had been well to do in Makkah, but they had left everything there. He did this through the concept of brotherhood in Islam. He suggested that one Ansari (Madinan) and one refugee Makkan should become linked together as two brothers. They immediately accepted the suggestion. The bond between the two became even stronger than a blood relationship. The Ansari gave his Makkan brother half of everything he possessed-house, land, money and other belongings.

The next most important task for the Prophet was to build a mosque. The mosque was built on land that he bought from orphans.



"Mary meets Mohammed"

For our social event in September, UMSLV promoted the screening of the documentary film called *"Mary meets Mohammed"*.

In this film, the opening of the first detention centre in Tasmania is seen through the eyes of members of a knitting group.

Through an unlikely friendship that develops between Mary and Muhammed, Mary finds many of her prior beliefs challenged as their relationship deepens.

For those of us who attended, it was an enjoyable and eye-opening evening!

On 15 October, this film was awarded as A Walkly Award finalist.



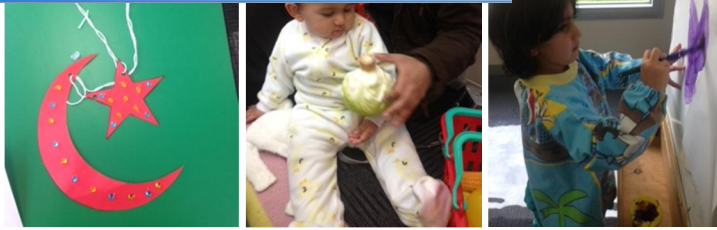
Act of generosity and *Mary Meets Mohammad* by Arfa S Khan

Due to personal commitments, I was not sure that I would be able to watch *"Mary Meets Mohammad"*, but once everything was organised, I rushed to watch the much awaited *"Mary meets Mohammad"*. All my exhilaration fell flat, as I was told at the ticket booth "it's a house full show and all the tickets were sold a week back". As I stood dismayed and disheartened at the thought of leaving, a lady came up to me asking if I wanted to watch the film. I nodded, so we started walking into a jam-packed hall. We sat and introduced each other, the generous lady Rose is working with refugees as an English Instructor. She refused to take ticket money, by saying "this is a gift from Australia to Pakistan".

So for me the underlying story of *"Mary meets Mohammad"* started then and there, which the Film Maker Heather Kirkpatrick has beautifully portrayed as an act of munificence and generosity. *"Mary meets Mohammad"* is a true adaptation about asylum seekers, filmed at the Tasmanian Pontville asylum –detention centre. Heather has touched the undercurrent of Australian society in a very subtle but convincing manner. The documentary revolves around the rigid, stubborn and racist attitude of a pensioner Australian lady Mary towards Afghani Muslim asylum seeker Mohammad and others who arrived as the first inhabitants at the detention centre. The resistance of the local residents gradually transformed as the ladies from the knitting club met and spent time with asylum seekers and found them to be humane gentleman who were obliging, chivalrous and respectful towards them. The documentary depicts how an avid and rigid mindset can be changed as reality is unfolded.

The documentary has manifold aspects, it not only encompasses the wrath towards asylum seekers but also touches on the lives and suffering of asylum seekers from their perspective. Making this move is not easy for them, to migrate to a new place is an ordeal for asylum seekers and an uphill battle for them, to be parted from their families for a long time and to live in a foreign land with different cultural sensitivities.

The Doc-film did justice with the theme, topic and story. This is a must watch documentary, which has manifested the ignorance and fear of Australasian public realistically. Film Maker Heather Kirkpatrick has researched the issue in depth. As she highlights this issue has been "politicized" not only by the politicians but also by the main stream media. The crux of the documentary is that all human beings share similar sensitivities. The Australian politicians and government should not create panic and fear among people rather it should be generous towards immigrants/asylum seekers by making swift laws to curtail unlawful means for residing in Australia.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Dr. Zafar opened a new medical practice on Monday, 4th November.

You can find him at:

Latrobe Medical Centre 24
Kay Street, Traralgon.

Business hours are 8am to 8pm.

For an appointment, please call
5174 0555.

We wish Dr. Zafar all the best with his new venture! May Allah grant him success. Aameen.

QUIZ QUESTION AND ANSWER

The answer to the question: "What is the name of the angels who record our actions?" Answer: Kiraaman, Kaatibeen.

Congratulations to Nabihah, Hayyan, Tahsin, Nousaiba, Mawaddah, Hasheem and Mariam for answering correctly. The winners drawn out of a hat were Tahsin and Miriam.

This month's quiz question is "How many prophets are mentioned in the Quran?" A.25 B.50 or C.75
Text your answer to Teacher Zeinab on 0411800892.

PLAYGROUP

Churchill North Primary School holds playgroup sessions for parents and pre-school children on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9-11am.

For the first three Wednesdays of the month Sister Khatija works with the parents and children of bilingual families. They discuss and practise language eliciting techniques and introduce the children to Islamic greetings and developmentally appropriate Islamic songs. The children have opportunities to enhance their home language, learn English and engage in action songs!

All parents of young children are welcome to attend. Fees are a gold coin donation that goes to the school.

For the late risers, some parents have changed their children's routine. For example, don't allow them to have the afternoon nap the day before. That way they sleep early and wake up early enough for playgroup the next morning. All the children enjoy snack-time at playgroup after some play.

Come and join the parents and children for a fun filled morning session where all the activities are prepared beforehand by the facilitators at the school!

ISLAMIC MATERIALS

Some parents have requested developmentally appropriate Islamic materials for their children. We have puzzles, games, books, CDs as well as other items such as Azaan alarm clocks and Zam Zam water. If you would like to purchase these items please contact Sister Khatija at k.umslv@yahoo.com.au