

MOSQUE RENOVATIONS UPDATE

~ Asalamu Alaikum ~

The mosque renovations commenced in November 2003. There have been many improvements and we recommend all members view the renovations.

Stage 1 renovations are now complete which includes the following:

- New Social room
- New kitchen
- New storeroom
- New Janazah area
- New male, female and disabled toilets
- External exposed aggregate pathways



Insh'Allah, all members benefit from these improvements. Our aim is to make our mosque as comfortable as possible and to ensure it is used by all members throughout the year.

Stage 2 renovations are in the process of being completed which includes:

- Combining the mosque and back hall to make the mosque larger
- New carpet to be installed in mosque
- Air-conditioning & heating

I invite all members for coffee and cake at our social nights, which are held every Tuesday (after 7pm).

Please turn to page 2 and 3 to view some photos of the renovations of Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Br. Ali Ymer

WELCOME TO THE AAIS NEWSLETTER

Asalamu Alaikum

Welcome to the current issue of the AAIS Newsletter. We hope to ensure this newsletter becomes more regular and that our members enjoy the information provided. Insh'Allah, we aim to make the newsletter quarterly.

As mentioned above, we have been very busy with the renovations of our mosque. Insh'Allah, the AAIS committee hope that all our members are pleased with the results. This issue has many different articles which we hope you enjoy reading. We have included AAIS Community News to broadcast any news about

our community and have also included a "Kids Corner", so hopefully your children can also benefit from our newsletter. Enjoy reading, and if you have any comments, or wish to contribute to our next issue, please contact us (details on back page).

Br. Vahid Goga

Inside this issue:

Mosque Renovations Photographs	2
AAIS Mission Statement and Aims and Objectives	4
AAIS Memberships	5
Lajme Të Fundit Nga Shoqëria Islamike Shqiptare Australiane	6
AAIS Picnic	8
AAIS Community News	9
Australian's Relations with Albania	10
History of Islam in Albania	11
Parenting: Building a Child's Esteem	12
AAIS Committee Sub-groups	14
Kids Corner	16

NEWSFLASH!!

NEW AAIS WEBSITE!

The AAIS now have our own website! Have a look:

www.aais.org.au

You will find:

- AAIS news & updates
- Islamic articles/links
- Prayer times
- Much more, have a look and see!!!

MOSQUE RENOVATIONS PHOTOGRAPHS (STAGE ONE)

1



2



3



4



5



6



1. Br. Sabri Balla hard at work on the site of the new Social room whilst Br. Ali Ymer does what he does best — supervising.
2. Site of the new Social room.
3. New Social room.
4. New Kitchen.
5. External view of Social room extension.
6. New Xhenaza area, male and female rest rooms.



MOSQUE RENOVATIONS PHOTOGRAPHS (STAGE TWO)

1



2



3



4



5



6



1. Members hard at work breaking up concrete and excavating trench behind the minaret.
2. Walls marked for arch openings.
3. New concrete slab in multipurpose area.
4. Timber framing works.
5. Linking of main mosque with multipurpose room.
6. Plastering works.



AAIS MISSION STATEMENT

Preserving the culture and identity of the Australian Albanian Muslim community and promoting mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among other communities and groups in Australia.

NJËSIJA E MISIONIT

Sigurim i kulturës dhe identitetit të komunitetit Shqiptar Musliman, me mirëkuptim, harmoni dhe ndihma reciproke, të mbarë komuniteteve në Australi.

AAIS AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. To bring together Australian adherents of Islam, who are residents of Australia in general, but more particularly those residents in Melbourne, who are of Albanian origin, or descent, for the better propagation, observance and performance of the religious tenets, teaching rites and ceremonies of Islam.
2. Maintain and apply Islamic teachings, as contained in the Holy Quran and the Sun'nah (as practiced by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
3. Provide facilities for worship and for religious practices and ceremonies of Islam.
4. Co-operating with other societies, or communities having similar objectives to those of the AAIS.
5. Promote the education and vocational training of children and members of the AAIS.
6. Engaging in fundraising activities and assist the financially disadvantaged and needy both locally and abroad.
7. Promote and maintain unity and friendship among Australian Muslims and other communities.
8. Propagate Islamic material in both Albanian and English.
9. Encourage the healthy development of the Australian Albanian Muslim Youth.
10. Organise Islamic functions and social events for the Australian Albanian Muslim community.

QËLLIMI DHE OBJEKTIVA

Vijojn me rallë këto qëllime të Shoqëris Islamike Shqiptare Australiane (AAIS)

1. Të ofroj të dedikuarit në Islam të cilët gjinden banorë të Viktorisë, veçanërisht atyre në Melburn me prejardhje Shqiptare, për përhapjen dhe edukimin e obligimeve fetaro – islame.
2. Të aprovohet arsimi Islamik në baza të Kur'anit të lartë dhe Sun'nah – praktikuar nga Pejgamberi Muhamet (Paqja dhe Mëshira e Allahut qoftë mbi të).
3. Të mundësohen facilite të besimit fetar, si dhe urdhërave Islamike.
4. Të bashkëpunohet me shoqëri tjera, si dhe me komunitete të cilat kanë të njëjtat interesa sikur dhe Shoqëria (AAIS).
5. Të aplikohet edukimi i drejtpërdrejt i arsimit të fëmijëve, si dhe antarve të shoqëris.
6. Akumulim i fondacioneve të ndryshme, për të asistuar ato të pa-afte dhe nevojtarë të zonave të afërta dhe ato të largëta.
7. Ringjallje e bashkësis vëllazërore në mesin e Muslimanve, si dhe komuniteteve tjera mbrenda dhe jashtë Australis.
8. Të rritet numri i materialeve të edukatës fetare në shqip dhe anglisht.
9. Të kultivohet zhvillim i shëndosht mes të rijëve shqiptar Musliman.
10. Të organizohen programe të ndryshme fetaro – islame, për mbarë popullatën shqiptare Muslimane.

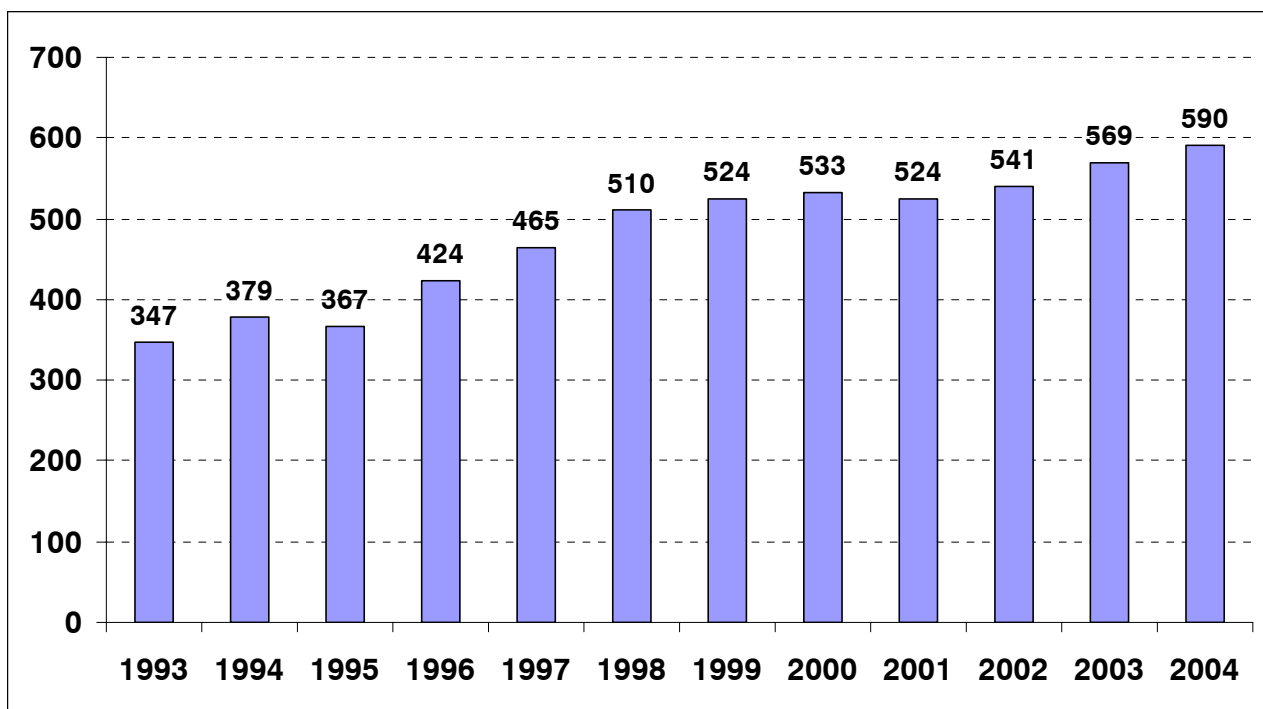
AAIS MEMBERSHIPS

Alhamdulillah, over the last eight years our intensified recruiting program has on average seen 36 new members join the AAIS.

Our aim is to increase our membership to over 650 members. Membership growth is vital both for our mosque and our community, as it allows for increased Islamic and social activities.

Insh'Allah, your continued support will help us reach this goal. This will enable us to achieve much more for the Albanian Australian Islamic Community.

All current members are urged to renew their membership for the upcoming 2005-2006 year. Insh'Allah, we can have even more members in this next year and the AAIS can grow even more.



DID U KNOW?

*“The most recent Australian Census in 2001 revealed a remarkable rate of growth in Australia's Muslim population. The Census listed **281 576** Australian Muslims, an increase of some 40% in five years, while the Australian population as a whole only grew by 5.7% in the same period.”*

http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/islam_in_australia.html

AFORIZMA

- ~ Shretira më e madhe nuk gjendet në Afikë, por në shtëpin pa libra. ~
- ~ Të gjithë e duan parajsën, por askush nuk don të vdesë. ~
- ~ Kur merr në shej qorri, të gjithë rrezikohen. ~



Lajme Të Fundit Nga Shoqëria Islamike Shqiptare Australiane

Sesionet e hulumtimeve për kërkime të reja, ndriçojnë jetën dhe veprimtarinë e Shoqëris (AAIS).

Kohëve të fundit Shoqëria (AAIS) ishte tepër e angazhuar rreth disa dispozitave sistematike ku arritën sukses tepër të mirë, sidomos duhet përmendur puna rreth **“Renovimit të Xhamisë”** tonë. Insha'Allah nuk do të mungojë puna edhe në të ardhmen për suksesin tonë të mëtejshëm.

Këto janë disa prej dispozitave të punës së Shoqëris (AAIS):

- Antarve financiarë të Shoqëris (AAIS) mbrenda viti të verifikohen detalet personale të fletë pagesës, të korrespondojnë me pagesën (antarsin) ndaj Shoqëris (AAIS).
- Rënditja e fletpagesave të antarve (rreth **590** antar të vitit **2004-2005**).
- Të angazhohet kontaktimi dhe përcjdhja e antarve të cilët nuk dorëzojnë pagesat në mënyr të rregullt Shoqëris (AAIS), si dhe instolimi i këtyre informatave në kompjuter.
- Letër mirëseardhje (kushtuar antarve të rijë).
- Konstruksioni i çështjeve informative ndaj Shoqëris (AAIS) mbrenda trojeve të ndryshme, dhe përvetsimi i këtyre informatave ndaj Shoqëris (AAIS).
- Rivizitimi i rregullave (njoftimi) të antarve të Shoqëris (AAIS).
- Fletpalosja e hapjes së Xhamisë.
- Certifikat punë njoftimi.
- Certifikat faliminderimi.
- Flet-detale për antarët e Shoqëris (AAIS).

Funksionet e lartpërmendur si zakonisht, u kompletuan me sukses.

Vazhdojmë me disa pjesmarrje tjera të Shoqëris (AAIS) që vijojn:

Maj-2004

- Postimi i letrave dhe pregaditja e materialit (temës).
- Fletpagesa e vitit 2003 (rreth 84 antar-pagesa me vones).
- Përkujtim i ripërtrirjes së antarsis. Në bazë të evidencës së fundit (kompjuter) gjinden 509 antar financiar të vitit 2003, 30 antar më pak se vitit të kaluar.

Qershor-2004

- Hapja e përfundimit të fazës së pare të Xhamisë.
- Letër për akumulimin e të hollave të fazës së dytë.

Korrik-2004

- Viti i ri financiar 2003-2004.
- Ripërtrirja e antarsis të vitit të ri ndaj Shoqëris (AAIS) 2003-2004.
- Kartela e antarsis së Shoqëris për ato të cilët paguan për vitin e ri 2003-2004.

Janë në pregaditje këto funksione:

- Certifikat për kontributin e antarëve ndaj renovimit të Xhamisë.
- Rroga e Imamit – Xhamisë (AAIS) vll. P.Zyka.

Lajme Të Fundit Nga Shoqëria Islamike Shqiptare Australiane vazhdim....

- Organizimi i programit të hapjes të Xhamisë vll. D.Balla, vll. S.Gjinaj, vll. V.Goga, vll. S.Muja dhe vll. H.Kraja.
- Botimi i revistës të Shoqëris vll. A.Ymer dhe S.Gjinaj.
- Tubim Përkujtimorë për Dëshmorët e Lirisë (përfundim i inçizimit të kasetës dhe dvd-së-Produksioni Studio Ulqini, pregaditi vll. S. Gjinaj.
- Të organizohet telefon me porosi (mesazhe) për Xhami vll. S.Balla.
- Pregaditja e mbledhjes së përgjithshme vjetore.

Allahu (Xh. Sh.) ua shpërbleft me të mira shtëpit dhe familjet tua për kontributin dhe punën tuaj të dedikuar. Falënderit.

Pregaditi: VII. S. Gjinaj

Alkooli

Alkooli u ofron njerëzve shpëtim,
nga problemet dhe shqetësimet sa për fillim,
por I shton problemet dhe nuk shuan etjen,
më tepër dhemb se sa e ul etjen,
më tepër dhemb se sa e ul dhëmbjen.
Alkooli është më I rrezikshëm se droga në tokë,
përdoret pa droje në shum vende n'botë,
është shkaktare e vdekjesh me qindra e mijëra,
dhe I degjenerimeve në familje.
Alkooli është njohur si një hajdut,
pasurin prej familjes e humbë,
nga familjet e abuzuara e merr lumturinë,
prej grave të reja e merr hijeshinë,

Alkooli gjendet n'mesin e të shkatruarve,
arsyen e largon prej të edukuarve,
veprimtarinë e anon prej njerzve puntorë,
çdo veprim e bën me dhun e me zorë...
Alkooli I mundë edhe të fuqishmit,
I kthen ato në bisha të tërbuara,
me fëtyra të ndezura me mallkime e duke sharë,
duke ofenduar armiq imagjinarë,
Gjëja më e shumtuar në krijim është një pijanec,
një qenje e padëshiruar gjysëm e vrarë,
e i bënë njerëzit ta ndjejn vehten keq,
që i takon të njëjtës qenje të gjallë.

Ulqin, Gusht 1995
Hajrudin S. Muja

NE ALL-LLAHUT I KEM BESUAR

Ne All-llahut i kem besuar,
Pejgamberit i kem premtuar,
Çdo detyrë e obligim,
Me ndërgjegje do ta kryjmë.

Falim namazin me respekt,
Zeqatë japim për çdo vjetë,
Ramazanin agjërojmë,
Dhe Bajramin e festojmë,

Për Bajram presim kurban,
Pasuri ata që kanë,
Punë e shenjtë e më e madhe,
Kish me qenë haxhi në Qabë.

Lumturi nuk ka pa fe,
T'gjitha t'mirat aty I ke,
Po nuk dihte për t'logjkuar,
Nga e vërteta ke devijuar.

Qazim Qazimi
(‘Dituria Islame’)

AAIS BAYRAM PICNIC

The annual AAIS Picnic was held on Australia Day, 26th January 2005 at Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh with great success! It was a hot day, however we still had a great atten. Through donations and the selling of kebabs and drinks, the AAIS managed to raise \$835.

We also managed to raise \$250 through fundraising, which included face-painting, snow cones and showbags. This money was forwarded to Human Appeal International for the Tsunami Appeal.

We also had our yearly AAIS Mini Olympics with races for the kids (and some fit adults!). As usual, this was a big hit and enjoyable for everyone involved.

Insh'Allah we can have a bigger turnout at our next picnic which will be held after Kurban Bayram next year.

Sr. Selima Nasser



Selling of food and drinks in the pavilion



Fundraising — kids showbags for sale



Face painting (Iman & Hakim Balla)



Face painting (Hamide Elmazi)



Fundraising — selling snowcones

ALBANIAN FESTIVAL - 2004

At the Albanian Festival, which was held December 2004 at Footscray Park, the AAIS organised a stall with Islamic information and materials, such as books, prayer mats, videos etc. Alhamdulillah, there were many people that visited the stall and \$1,374.80 was raised on the day. Insh'Allah, the AAIS hopes to organise another stall at this year's picnic and make it even bigger and better.



AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA

Australia was the first developed, English-speaking country to establish a diplomatic relationship with the communist regime which governed Albania post-World War II.

There is only a small Albanian community in Australia. It is believed that the first Albanians arrived in Australia in 1885. However, the main period of Albanian immigration occurred in the 1920's when over 1000 persons, mainly men, arrived. By 1933 the community had decreased but the male/female ratio was still seriously unbalanced—766 males to four females. In the late 1930's a number of Albanians brought their families to Australia, especially to the Shepparton area of Victoria which as a result has the largest Albanian community in Australia. These new settlers were predominantly from Korce, in southern Albania. During the early post World War II period of huge European migration to Australia, another 400 Albanians arrived as settlers.

The 2001 Census recorded Albania-born persons in Australia, with the largest community residing in Victoria (851), followed by SA (195), NSW (167) and QLD (156). However, 7,527 people are recorded as speaking Albanian at home, mostly in Victoria (5,682). There are two reasons for this. Firstly, many of Australia's Albanian speakers are Kosovars; ethnic Albanians from the province of Kosovo in Serbia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Therefore they are not recorded in the Census as Albania-born. In addition, many of Australia's Albanian speakers are already second and third generation Australians, born here.

Trade between Albania and Australia is small. In 2001, Australia exported A\$1.1m worth of goods, comprised predominantly of butter (47 percent) and meat products (44 percent). In the same year, Australian imports from Albania totaled A\$35,000, mainly comprised of essential oils, perfumes and flavours (66 percent).

While official contacts between the two governments is limited, Australia provided A\$20,000 towards the purchase of educational materials for schools in the Tirana region in 2000/2001. The Australian community has also been actively involved in providing assistance to Albania. Of outstanding note is the Children First Foundation, which was established by Moira Kelly in 1999 to support her work in the care for children with life threatening afflictions from around the world. The Children First Foundation brings children, many who have been the victims of war to Australia from Albania (and Bosnia) for life changing surgery. These children are nurtured by the team of volunteers at the foundations Children First Rotary Farm both before surgery and during rehabilitation. The Farm, which accommodates up to 12 children, is set on 45 hectares near Kilmore in Victoria.

In 2001, Moira Kelly and the Children First Foundation helped over 40 children from very disadvantaged regions find medical help. Local hospitals and doctors have donated their services. Another humanitarian organisation, the Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM), also donated A\$20,000 in 1999-2000 towards the cost of a transport vehicle in Albania.

Photo: Moira Kelly with Albanian children requiring desperate medical help - victims of war atrocities, land mines, injuries sustained from fire, animal attacks or birth defects.



ISLAM IN ALBANIA - HISTORY

Albania: Freedom Unconsidered

The Albanians embraced Islam nearly as a whole, which is remarkable when seen in the light of Albanian history. Their ancient origin was from the Illyrian people who inhabited the Adriatic littoral of the Balkan peninsula. The rugged terrain of this region served as a natural barrier against outside invaders and greatly slowed the spread of foreign ideas, such as Christianity and linguistic borrowing. Before the outlawing of religion in 1967, Albania's population was 75% Muslim, 15% Orthodox Christian and 10% Roman Catholic. Eighty-five percent of Albanian Muslims followed Hanafi school of thought. The majority of urban dwellers were Muslim and most of central and northeast Albania was populated by Muslims.

As the Eastern Roman Empire began to crumble away in the Balkans, Albania was invaded by the expanding Serbian State and by the Kingdom of Naples. The Serbs managed to gain minor footholds throughout the country while Naples was able to capture and control all of the coastal towns. After the death of the Serbian king Dushan in the mid 14th century, the Albanian chief Gjergj Balsha managed to set up an independent principality centred around the northern city of Shkoder. In 1385, Gjergj Balsha perished in a battle with the Ottomans. Following their victory over a combined force of Hungarians, Serbs, Bosnians and Wallachians on the banks of the Maritza River, Ottoman troops expanded their hold over large portions of the south-central Balkans.

By 1479, the entire country, except for Durrës, Dulcigno and Antivari, was under Ottoman suzerainty. The lenient terms of capitulation required by Islamic law gave Albanians the right to retain their religious beliefs. It was not until the early seventeenth century that Islam began to gain hold in Albania. This is proof in itself that the so-called theories that Islam was forced upon Albanians and other Balkan peoples hold no ground in historical fact. Islam gave them a way to God without the entanglements of intermediaries and without the complex theological doctrines that typified medieval Christianity. Islam also gave Albanians a voice in the administration of not only their own lands but of the whole Ottoman State. Prominent Vizirs and Pashas hailed from Albania, and were appointed to their posts long before the majority of Albanians professed Islam.

Albania proclaimed its independence on Nov. 28, 1912. Albania's territorial integrity was insured by the Great Powers, albeit not without a price. In return for foreign protection, a foreign Christian prince, William of Wied, was placed as monarch of Albania. In June 1924, the American-educated Orthodox Bishop Fan Noli was placed in power. Later, in 1928, Ahmet proclaimed himself king of Albania, who was known as King Zog. He set about to de-Islamize Albania on the model of Kemal Ataturk of Turkey.

Following the second world war, the Albanian Communist Party (ACP) began the total destruction of Islam. In 1945, all waqf properties were nationalized and hundreds of ulema were executed. No contact was allowed with Muslims in predominantly Muslim lands. Public religious instruction was made illegal. The final blow came on Feb. 6, 1967, when Albania was proclaimed the world's first atheistic state. All of the country's 530 mosques were locked up. Those that were allowed to remain open were turned into museums, gymnasiums and even artist's studios. Pig farms sprang up throughout the country and all were encouraged to eat pork products.

Although Christians make up only some 25% of Albania's population, they hold more than half of the membership of the Albanian politburo. The first Juma' prayer in over twenty years was held Nov. 23, 1990 in Tirana.

By H. Abiva

The Message International, 1991





PARENTING: BUILDING A CHILD'S ESTEEM

Children who are morally and spiritually conscience develop a sense of their own self-worth. Helping our children develop healthy self-esteem is one of the most important things that parents can do for them; it is the foundation of their faith and commitment to Allah. Children need to be assured that they are a special gift from Allah and they are to dedicate their talents and resources to Thy service--this gives them value, purpose and direction for life. Through every phase of a child's development, they need provisions for moral and spiritual enrichment that encourages them to truly reverence Allah and to thus value the beauty in themselves.

"We have indeed created man in the best of moulds." (Quran 95:4) There is no fault in Allah's creation; to man, Allah gave the purest and best nature. Our duty is to preserve, and nurture the distinctive character that Allah has created.

Healthy feelings about oneself or high self-esteem is best started in the home, and this needs to be cultivated in our children from birth. Thankfulness for who Allah has made us to be is based primarily on how our parents or guardians view us. Children mirror others' perception of them; they measure themselves by the standards set by those shaping their lives. A child needs our unconditional love. While we may show disapproval of wrong actions, the child still needs to feel cherished. We are guided: "...truly no one despairs of Allah's soothing Mercy, except those who have no faith." (Quran 12:87) Our unconditional compassion for our children will promote and encourage their faith in Allah and instill the thinking that "I am lovable, I am confident."

Persons with healthy self-esteem are more capable of making decisions; they exhibit thankfulness for their accomplishments, are willing to take responsibility, and are better able to cope with stressful situations. They meet and feel enthusiastic about challenges. Often a student with a high IQ and low self-esteem will do poorly in school, while a child with average ability and high self-esteem will excel. The thinking that is cultivated in a person in the early years affects his entire life. (Continued next page)

"O ye people! Worship your guardian Lord, Who created you and those before you that ye may become righteous."

Quran 2:21



PARENTING: BUILDING A CHILD'S ESTEEM (CONT....)

The National PTA along with the March of Dimes has developed a program called "Parenting: The Underdeveloped Skill" to help parents learn to better communicate with their children and to nurture their youngster's self-esteem. Some steps they outline include:

"1. Showing kids how to communicate their feelings, openly and honestly, is a good place for parents to start. Children need to know that even anger and fear are to be appropriately expressed rather than bottled up. Because children learn by example, parents must let their feelings be known.

2. Listening--truly listening to children is a second key to developing good self-esteem. Having parents listen not only enhances children's good feeling about themselves, it also teaches them...(to be caring).

3. Teaching how to get along with others through negotiation and compromise is important.

4. Establishing fair, consistent discipline is one of the other building blocks of good self-esteem.

5. Giving children responsibilities--tasks that are meaningful and 'do-able' and that they can be accountable for also builds self-esteem.

6. Permitting children to make decisions (even an occasional wrong one) helps them learn good judgment.

7. Keeping a sense of humour is important. It can work wonders and helps children keep perspective on what is important.

8. Treating children lovingly, with both respect and courtesy, helps children learn that they are beautiful and worthwhile people. Parents, treat them the way you yourself want to be treated."

When we build a warm and friendly relationship with our children, we establish the best opportunity for imparting strong moral and spiritual values to them--the key to high self-esteem.

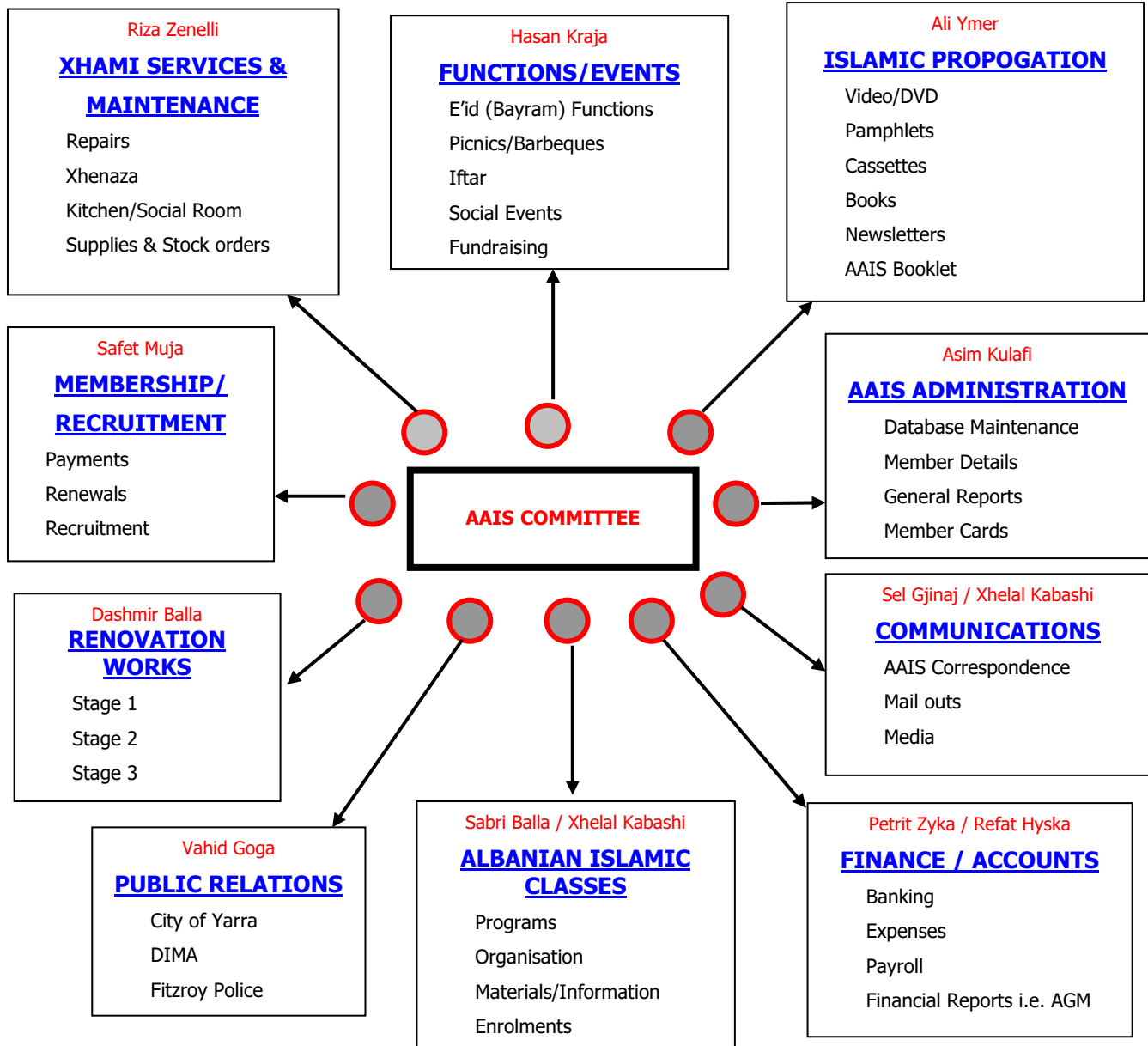
REFERENCES

8. Self Esteem--the key to success in school and in life, " The National PTA-87, A Special Red book Section, (The Hearst Corporation, 1987) pgs. 36-42.

The following article is reprinted by permission from [Family Roots: The Quranic View of Family Life](#), by Mildred M. El-Amin, 1991, pp. 116-118, 220.



AAIS COMMITTEE BOARD - UNITS



AAIS SISTERS SUB-COMMITTEE

Asalamu Alaikum

We have recently formed a sub-committee for Albanian sisters. Therefore, we wish to extend an invitation to any sisters who may be interested in being a part of this sub-committee. We hope to have a meeting sometime in June 2005 to develop key membership roles and to discuss ideas about what we can achieve to help the Albanian Muslim community, particularly females. The more involved, the better!

If you are interested in joining our sub-committee, please contact Sr. Amina Ymer via mobile 0410 412 849, or aminaymer@hotmail.com.

Editorial Board

Chief Editor:

Ali Ymer

Executive Editor:

Sel Gjinaj

Contributors:

Br. Vahid Goga

Br. Dashmir Balla

Sr. Selima Nasser

Br. Asim Kulafi

Br. Safet Muja

The Light of Islam – Drita Islame is published by the AAIS. The Editorial Board & AAIS do not necessarily share the views of the writers.

Contributions, questions and comments are welcome.

Letter writers must give their full name, home address and phone number for verification.

Please address all correspondence to :

THE LIGHT OF ISLAM - DRITA ISLAME

765 Drummond St.

Nth Carlton

Victoria 3054.

news@aaais.org.au

Phone/Fax: 9347 6505

www.aaais.org.au

SPORTING CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Nuri and Ajfer Balla on the success of their sons Qamil and Ibrahim with their boxing.

Qamil Balla is now Australian Lightweight cadet amateur champion after winning his title in Perth in early April this year. Ibrahim Balla is now Australian Flyweight cadet amateur champion after winning his title in Cairns last November.

The AAIS wish both boys all the very best of success with Qamil aiming to qualify for the Olympic Games in 2008.



If you have any sports or other announcements of interest to be made in our next newsletter, please email your details to news@aaais.org.au, or you may contact Sr Selima on 0414 548 017.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

It is with sadness that we forward our deepest sympathies to the following families who have had their loved family member pass away.

The Ymer family on the passing of Qerime Ymer.

The Xheka family on the passing of Pame Jeka.

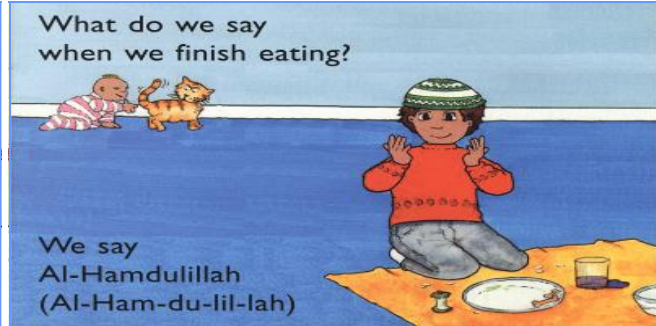
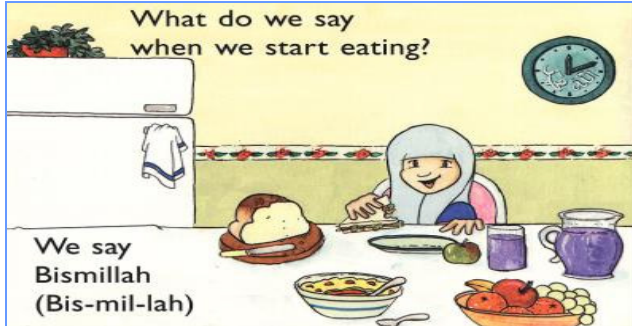
The Balla family on the passing of Hajdar Balla.

Insh'Allah they are granted the highest place in paradise.





Kids Corner



Asalamu Alaikum

Welcome to the AAIS very first Kids Corner! Each newsletter we will bring you something fun to do.

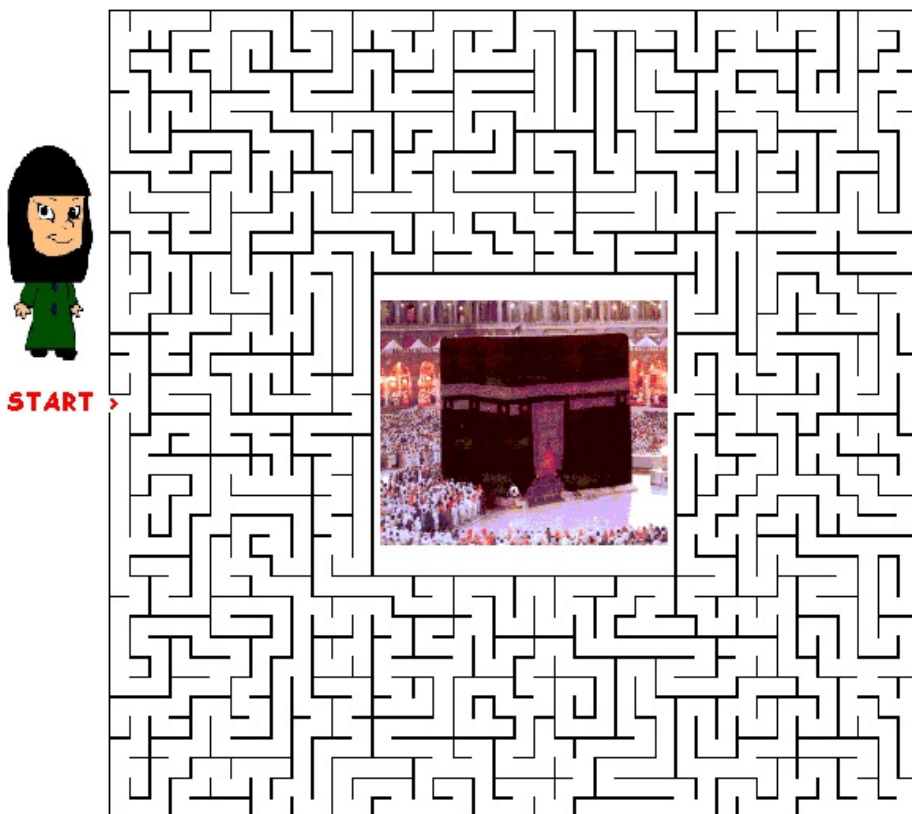
Remember, it is very important, as a good Muslim kid, to be very kind and helpful to your parents. Try to do one nice thing a day. Here are some ideas...do your bed, look after your younger brother or sister when mum is cooking, ask your mum if she wants you to dry the dishes. Can you think of some more?

Allah loves those children who are kind to their parents.

We have a colouring competition for different age groups. Please colour in the attached picture and there are prizes to be won! Until next time....

Sr. Selima Nasser

Can you find the way to the Kaaba?



Did you know that the Kaaba is the black cubical stone structure in the courtyard of the Great Mosque at Makkah. It was built by the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Ismail (Ishmael). The Kaaba is empty, and it is not entered. When Muslims pray, wherever in the world they are, it is the direction of the Kaaba they face. During the Hajj, pilgrims circle the Kaaba seven times.

