

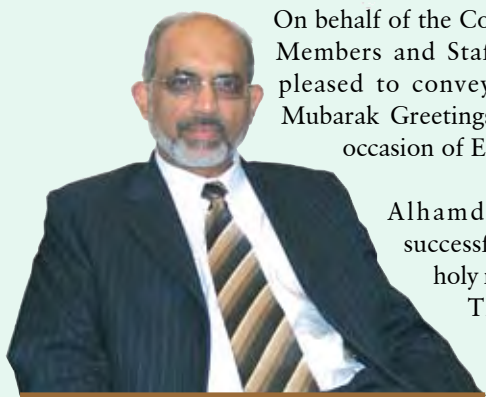


EID'UL FITR 2008 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FIANZ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(In the Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful)

*Brothers and Sisters in Islam,
Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatoh*



On behalf of the Council and Executive Members and Staff of FIANZ, I am pleased to convey my heartiest Eid Mubarak Greetings on this auspicious occasion of Eid'ul Fitr.

Alhamdullilah, we have successfully completed the holy month of Ramadhan.

The glorious month of Ramadhan was observed throughout

the world with all sanctity and reverence it deserved. The act of fasting not only tested our physical endurance, it also trained us to observe patience in battling desires, encouraging sympathy, to have care and compassion with our fellow Muslims and Non-Muslims. It inculcated in us the virtues of patience, perseverance and everything good and kept us away from unprofitable activities.

Ramadan was the time when Muslims - even as we continue with our daily routines - strove to become even better by strengthening our faith, carrying out more deeds of social responsibility and expressing gratitude to Almighty Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala for every blessing that we have received. Fasting empowers the Muslim community so that we remain resilient in the face of challenges.

Eid'ul Fitr marks the end of Ramadhan. This is an occasion for thanksgiving and forgiveness and signifies openness of the mind. It is undoubtedly, an occasion for family and friends to partake in the good food and to strengthen our friendship and bond.

We are grateful to Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala that in New Zealand, we are able to celebrate the Eid with our families, relations and friends in a safe and secure environment.

In celebrating the Eid, we are reminded that success in any endeavour requires sacrifice, effort, discipline, perseverance and unity in family and society. We should also remember those who are less fortunate and still suffer from the calamities of war and natural disasters and supplicate to the Almighty to relieve them from their sufferings and uplift their wellbeing.

We also pray for those who have departed us in this world. Inna lillahi wa inna illaihe raje'un. May Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala shower His bountiful rewards to the souls of the departed and grant them Jannatul Firdaus. A'meen.

Alhamdullilah, the Muslim community in New Zealand is united and collectively makes strides to uplift the wellbeing of their members. In this regard, FIANZ, with its main objective of upholding the Islamic values, has been playing the role as the driving force to maintaining unity of the Muslim community in New Zealand and ensuring that we are able to integrate well with the mainstream New Zealand community.

عيد مبارك

I hope this unity among the Muslim community will continue for ever in the spirit of Islam for peace, happiness and progress for New Zealand and the whole human society.

Let us seek Allah Almighty's guidance to lead us on the right path, the path of peace and brotherhood. Let us once again pray that a sincere effort will be made by all Muslims to come closer together and closer to God.

Eid Mubarak! Kullu Amanthum Bi Khair

Wassalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatoh

Javed Khan
President of FIANZ





NEW ZEALAND MUSLIMS STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 2008

On June 30, 2008 FIANZ held its first Stakeholders Forum at the Banquet Hall, Parliament Building in Wellington. The theme of the Forum was "To Build Strong New Zealand Muslim Families". The event aimed at bringing together the religious and community leaders of the NZ Muslim community to dialogue with representatives of the Government and non-governmental organizations that directly impact on the NZ Muslims' ability to raise strong families.



Br Javed Khan welcoming the delegates to the first Muslims Stakeholders Forum

The Forum was attended by the Prime Minister of NZ The Right Honourable Helen Clark, some of her Ministers and parliamentary colleagues, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the New Zealand Muslim leadership, top officials of many NZ Government Departments (Ministries

of Social Development, Health, Education, Women Affairs, Youth, Foreign Affairs, Families Commission, Children's Commission, New Zealand Police, Victoria University, SPARC and Non Governmental Organisations as well as members of the general public.

Before the inaugural speech by the Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Kaumatua Bob Penetto from the Department of Internal Affairs, welcomed the Forum attendees with the traditional Maori Mihi, and then the Chairman of FIANZ Ulama Board Sheik Mohamad Amir recited a Chapter in the Quran pertinent to the Forum's theme of strong families.

Javed Khan the President of FIANZ outlined the role that the Association plays as the umbrella organization of NZ Muslims, particularly in the areas of building bridges and engagement with the wider society. He said FIANZ "as a representative organisation, with roots firmly established in local and regional communities throughout the country, see it as its role to work with Government and its agencies towards the common objectives out lined in various initiatives." Mr. Khan stated that the first stakeholder forum chose the theme: "To Build Strong NZ Muslim Families" because "strong and stable families form the foundations of a strong society." He then continued that "we are here today because we believe and trust in the power of family". Mr. Khan emphasised the role of parents in providing a secure,

warm and caring home environment and in instilling positive values in their children.

The NZ Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Hon. Chris Carter, inaugurated the forum. In his speech, Mr. Carter underlined the Government's strong commitment to building a society where everyone is respected. He confirmed that in 2005 NZ launched the building bridges program as a strategic project to engage Muslims. Mr. Carter placed emphasis on the fact that "we are all stakeholders today whether Muslim or not, young or old, we all have interest in building a strong New Zealand where everyone feel valued and part of the country."

Member of NZ Parliament, Dr. Ashraf Choudhary, spoke and enumerated some of the initiatives of the NZ Government that he believed has helped to create an environment that support the building of strong Muslim families. These initiatives include: a) the provision of interest free student loans - which will enable Muslims to go to school without worrying about taking usurious loans; b) the shared equity housing scheme - which will operate on a profit and loss basis and will provide no interest loan opportunities for low income families to buy their first homes, and c) the opening of an Islamic Studies Centre at Victoria University of Wellington.

Professor Paul Morris, the Programme Director (Religious Studies Department) of Victoria University of Wellington, used the forum's platform to launch the National Centre for the Study of Islam. The centre will focus on the study of Islam in NZ and the Asia Pacific Region. Professor Morris called for the centre to be supported in a similar fashion as the centres in Australia have been supported by grants from wealthy Middle Eastern Countries.

The events main activities were divided into four sessions with the following sub-themes focusing on different aspects of developing strong NZ families:

- Building A Strong Community
- Building Strong Families
- Building Strong Youth & Women
- Building Healthy & Educated Communities



Panel participants: Prof Paul Morris, Programme Director (Religious Studies), VUW, Sister Fazeela Raza, National Operations Manager, Office of Ethnic Affairs and Joris de Bres, Commissioner Race Relations



The RT Hon Helen Clark addressing the gathering



Dr Mustafa Farouk wrapping up the event with a word of thanks

Each session of the forum included a panel of speakers followed by a question and answer session.

The Prime Minister Rt Hon Helen Clark also addressed the gathering. In her speech, she enumerated some of the policies of her Government including connecting diverse community projects; building bridges programs; statement on religious diversity; Asia Pacific Interfaith Forum; Alliance of Civilization forums and the establishment of Islamic Studies Centre among others as policies that create the environment within and outside NZ conducive to building strong Muslim families. The PM acknowledged the fact that strong families are not built by Governments, but rather, are built on love and support for each other. A document on NZ plans to support Alliance of Civilization programs were presented by the PM at the Forum and she thanked FIANZ for working for NZ Muslims and for its relationship with NZ Government.

Dr Mustafa Farouk, First Vice President and Daawah (Outreach and Dialogue) Coordinator of FIANZ gave the

concluding remarks and thanked all those who participated at the first stakeholder forum. Farouk said the outcome of the first stakeholder forum will form part of a book on Raising a Muslim Kiwi which FIANZ plan to publish following its first National Convention to be held at the end of 2008 or early 2009.

Forum conclusions

The goal of the forum to bring the leadership of Muslims and relevant stakeholder organizations in the building of a strong Muslim family in New Zealand was realised.

NZ government policies as outlined in various presentations and the structures existing in the country support and encourage communities including the Muslim community to build strong families.

ome of the current policies discussed at the forum were specifically created to engage Muslims. Other policies like the interest free student loans and the shared equity housing scheme, though not targeted to Muslims specifically, operate on principles that make it easy

for Muslims to acquire education and housing and at the same time abide by their religious principles of not taking usurious loans.

There is no any indication that New Zealand government will in the future create policies that will limit the freedom or prevent Muslims from maintaining their identities or in building strong families.

Families are not built by government policies. Governments can only help by creating the environment; it is the membership of the family, the neighbourhoods and the communities that can build strong families.

Sufficient tips have been provided by various speakers on how to raise a strong family that were consistent with Islamic principles.

The challenge is on NZ Muslims individually and as a community to continue to raise strong families and to seek help if they face difficulties in the process.



FIANZ Development Awards (FIDEA)

FIANZ is pleased to announce that in its effort to promote creativity among the Muslims of New Zealand, has instituted a yearly Development Awards termed "**FIANZ Development Award**" (FIDEA). The award will be in three categories:

- **Science Innovation Award** - For the best new science invention with the potential of making a difference in the life of humans or animals
- **Business Innovation Award** - For the best business idea or product with the potential to benefit the Muslim community and humanity at large
- **Dawah and Outreach Award** - For the best tools for promoting FIANZ activities and the understanding of Islam and Muslims in NZ
- A handsome monetary reward and post-award support will be provided to the winner and runner up in each category. Entries will be judged and awards presented at the FIANZ National Convention

Details of the requirements for the award competition will, Insha Allah, be released soon through FIANZ's Secretariat in Wellington

Eid'ul Fitr Greetings from the Ulama Board

The Ulama Board of FIANZ conveys its heartiest Eid'ul Fitr Greetings to the Muslim community of New Zealand and congratulates them for successfully completing the fasting during the glorious month of Ramadhan. May Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala accept our prayers and fasting. May He also bless you with all the happiness and prosperity on the most auspicious and happy occasion. Ameen.

The Ulama Board decided that the Zakat-ul-Fitr for this year will be \$10.00 per person. This has been decided after taking into account the increase in the cost of living. It is imperative that this Fitr must be paid by every Muslim guardian for young and old, male and female before the end of Ramadhan or the latest on the day of Eid before commencing Eid prayers. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) enjoined Zakat-ul-Fitr on the one who fasts, to purify oneself from any inappropriate act or speech during the fasting period, as well as to provide food for the needy. The most deserving persons to receive this Zakat are poor relatives and the needy people living around you. This is to make sure that everyone in the community has the means to celebrate a joyful Eid. Our beloved Prophet has specifically advised us: "Free the needy from their wants on this day". This is the reason why the Zakat-ul-Fitr is more appropriately given nearer to the Eid day, or before proceeding to the Salat-ul-Eid, even though it can be given earlier.

SHEIKH MOHAMMAD AMIR

IMAM OF JAME' E MASJID (WELLINGTON)
AND CHAIRMAN, ULAMA BOARD OF FIANZ



NEWS FROM WELLINGTON Community Iftar at the Wellington Islamic Centre



Community Iftar by Wellington Youth Group



Community Iftar by Arab Community

In the month of Ramadhan, the Wellington Islamic Centre comes alive during weekends and some weekdays with the gathering of the community for Iftar (breaking of fast). True to its name - International Muslim Association of NZ (IMAN), the cosmopolitan Wellington Muslim community is made up of Muslims from various part of the world - Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Najashi community (Ethiopia and Eritrea), Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Morocco, Kuwait, Fijian, Sub-Indian Continent, Europeans (Germany, United Kingdom) and Turkey. So far, following Iftar functions were held at the Wellington Islamic Centre:

12 Ramadhan	-	Cambodian, Malaysian and Singapore
13 Ramadhan	-	Fijian Indian
17 Ramadhan	-	Indonesian Embassy
19 Ramadhan	-	Youth Group of Wellington
20 Ramadhan	-	Pakistan Community
21 Ramadhan	-	Najashi Community
23 Ramadhan	-	Arab Community
25 Ramadhan	-	Iranian Embassy
26 Ramadhan	-	Somali Community
27 Ramadhan	-	Indian Community

For the first time this year, the Wellington Youth Group (comprising mainly teenagers) came together and organised an Iftar evening for the community. It was really very encouraging to see our youth taking part in this kind of activity.

THE CONCEPT OF CELEBRATION IN ISLAM

By: Sheikh Mohammad Amir,
Chairman, FIANZ Ulama Board



Worshipping Almighty Allah SWT is the most important and essential element of human life. In fact the whole purpose of its creation lies in it, and the whole life is based upon this basic fact. Even the concept of Eid and festival in Islam is nothing more than but a collective worship of Allah SWT. That is where the saying of Rasulullah SAW came from:

“Eid is not for those who have worn beautiful new dresses, but the real Eid however is for those who have been mindful of their duties and responsibilities”

Islam teaches Muslims how to celebrate the Eids. Even though fasting is not permitted on the `Eid days, yet, the major part of the celebration is not eating or drinking - rather, it is a prayer that brings Muslims together to remember Allah's bounties and celebrate His Glory and Greatness.

The `Eids and their celebration in Islam carry a distinctive meaning and spirit. They are totally different from the celebrations in other nations and cultures.

For other nations, a holiday is a chance to immerse in worldly pleasures, or to involve oneself in prohibited acts to the utmost. Not so for Muslims!

For Muslims, the `Eid is an occasion to increase in good deeds. Each `Eid marks the conclusion of an important worship, and the determination to continue in obedience and submission to Allah SWT.

In moments of extreme pleasure or sadness, a Muslim never forgets his Lord's Greatness, Might, Glory, and Watchfulness. A Muslim's actions are always controlled by this continued remembrance and awareness.

Thus the `Eid is not an occasion to take a vacation from religious responsibilities and commitments, or to waste time and money in extravagance. It is not “fun for the sake of fun”.

Rather, it is controlled and directed rejoicing that is of ultimate and definite benefit for the Muslim.

The `Eid is a chance to multiply good deeds by bringing happiness and pleasure to the hearts of other Muslims, by helping and supporting the poor and needy, and by getting involved in pastimes that emphasize the strong and serious Islamic character.

As we are living in a society where it is very difficult to maintain our Islamic entity and religious dignity, the only place where we can safeguard our faith is the Masjid and its environment. So, we should always have a strong connection with the Masjid, and make it the focal point of our thought and activities, such as attending the prayers in congregation, joining the Islamic activities held there, bringing the friends and family and spending some time in it. Otherwise, it would be needless to have such a huge space without getting any benefit out of it.

Our objective was not to move from small place to a bigger place, but to move from small activities to bigger activities, and accommodate all other educational, religious and social activities which were not possible before, and get the maximum benefit out of it.

In order to instill a sound style of life in accordance with Islamic Shariah, the Prophet SAW said:

“Every new born is naturally predisposed as a Muslim. However, his parents are the one who make him a Jew, a Christian or magus”.

Hence, when a child is brought up with deep belief in Allah, he/she will eventually acquire good and sound culture as an adult. This is one of the unique characteristics of Islam as a religion of mercy and peace.

Let us conclude this by a saying of the Prophet SAW, in which he admonished a man:

“Take advantage of five (by doing good deeds and making amends for the bad ones) before another five befall you. Take advantage of your youth before you grow old, your health before you become ill, your wealth before you become poor, your free time before you become busy, and your life before it is time for you to die” (Musnad Ahmad, Hakim).

Let us also not forget on this auspicious occasion our less fortunate brothers and sisters in many parts of the world who are going through hardship and difficult times, and ask Allah SWT with sincere heart to release them from all calamities and sufferings, and give them a happy and peaceful life.

And may this Eid bring for them an end to all disaster and sorrow. Amen.



Converts Dawah Initiative by FIANZ

Assalaamu Alaikum Rahmatullah Wa Barakatoh

Introduction

My Name is Abdul Lateef Smith and I wish to talk with you all about an initiative for all FIANZ Constituent Associations which could potentially also provide similar assistance to any other organisation outside the umbrella of FIANZ.

On behalf of FIANZ, I am developing a programme for our Converts (Reverts) which will provide a whole of life approach and ensure that our Converts are fully prepared for their journey in Islam and will gain full and appropriate assistance from members of our Associations including key personalities, teachers, mentors and fellow Converts alike.

Activities and Courses

The programme will see the set up of a group of individuals in each Association who will become coordinators, teachers, mentors and advisors to our Converts, the establishment of a series of professionally run courses (which will be exactly the same no matter where you are located) aimed at providing an education through basic, intermediate and more advanced levels of Islam as well as in prayer. It will also see the conduct of an annual Converts Conference as well as a number of other initiatives which are still under development.

One of the Features

One of the features of the initiative will be the provision of a "Converts Pack" to Converts after they make the Shahada. This will be made up of a purpose made backpack, copy of the Noble Quran, prayer mat, Qiblah direction finder, a number of books and other items all aimed at setting our converts off on the right path and having access to the same support and literature.

Support From Outside New Zealand

Darul Arqam is an organisation in Singapore who provides the same support to its converts that we are proposing and they have kindly agreed to provide us all information they have including all course content as well as providing a source for the provision of the Converts packs and literature. In short, they have really gone out of there way to help us establish this project. Other organisations and in particular WAMY in Saudi Arabia have also been very helpful in providing us information and support.

We are hoping to have the framework for this initiative up and running toward the end of the year and as part of this, would like to try to register Converts from throughout New Zealand who wish to take part or help out in any way they can. I will provide further details re this in a letter to all FIANZ Associations in due course. If you wish to register your interest or support, you can email me at Fianzcdw@hotmail.com

Summary

To summarise, we will establish an effective process to assist our Converts throughout their journey in Islam from the time they first declare an interest which will be the same throughout New Zealand no matter where they are living or where they may move to in the future. I invite all Converts to be part of this initiative and hope that together and in conjunction with our coordinators, teachers and mentors we can really make a difference.



اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية
The Federation of Islamic Associations
of New Zealand (Inc.)

A United and Progressive Community

7 - 11 Queens Drive, Lyall Bay, Wellington, PO Box 1415, Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone +64 4 387 8023 • Facsimile +64 4 387 8024
Email fianz@vodafone.co.nz • Web fianz.co.nz





STRONG FAMILIES - BETTER SOCIETIES: A New Zealand 2008 Islamic Awareness Week Launch Report

Dr Mustafa Farouk, FIANZ First Vice President and Daawah Coordinator

The mission of Islam Awareness Week (IAW) is to increase awareness in New Zealand of Islam and Muslim New Zealanders. Islam has been in New Zealand since 1874 and IAW has been observed for many of these years at Islamic Centres and on campuses around NZ. The weeks were then locally organised by the various centres and student bodies with no central coordination. In 2004 FIANZ made the week a yearly national event coordinated to happen in the same week throughout the country. During the week, all the Masajid and Islamic Centres affiliated to FIANZ are opened to the NZ public and various activities are held under themes that differ yearly.

This years' IAW (2008) was observed from 4th -11th of August, 2008. The theme of the week was "Strong Families - Better societies". The week was launched at the Wellington Islamic Centre by His Excellency The Governor-General of New Zealand, The Hon Anand Satyanand. The event was attended by NZ Ministers, members of parliament, central and local government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps from many countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran, Singapore, USA, Britain and Russia and three visiting scholars from Saudi Arabia and members of the community at large.

The launching ceremony started with the recitation of verses of the Quran pertinent to the theme of family by Sheik Abdul Jabaar, Imam, Porirua Islamic Centre, followed by a translation of the recited verses by Sister Rehanna Ali, Representative, Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand.

The guests at the launching ceremony were welcomed by the President of IMAN Fawzan Hafiz. In His speech, brother Fawzan used verses of the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) to explain Islamic position regarding family and individual's responsibility in the society. He said "Islam teaches us that society starts with individuals and families and to strive towards a just and peaceful society begins with striving to be just and peaceful on the individual level". Brother Fawzan informed or reminded the guests the emphasis Islam placed on education and good upbringing, starting from giving a good name to a child to moulding the child to the way of the fitrah translated as nature - Al Islam. He quoted this saying of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH "the best among you is one who is best for his family, and I am the best among you in this regard" to underscore his point.

The President of FIANZ Mr Javed Khan spoke of FIANZ's partnership in the Diversity Action Programme led by the Human Rights Commission and informed the guests that Islam Awareness Week represents a major event in that Programme. Mr Khan said "Islam Awareness Week provides an opportunity for the members of the wider New Zealand community to learn and appreciate the beliefs, values and practices of Muslim New Zealanders and how these contributes to greater understanding and social cohesion". The theme "Strong Families - Better Society" was chosen according to the FIANZ President because "a strong family will raise its members to be strong people in their faith, work ethics, and relationship with the wider society".

The Governor General of NZ HE The Hon Anand Satyanand in his speech affirmed the importance of IAW and other initiatives aimed at improving religious understanding. He said the religious demography in NZ has changed with a diverse group of beliefs now found in the country. This diversity has the ability to enrich the society, but also poses some challenges. He mentioned the controversies that surrounded the Museum exhibit involving The Virgin in a Condom, the wearing of burqa in court, the desecration of Jewish headstones and the publication of the Mohammad cartoons as examples of the "challenges inherent in New Zealand's growing cultural, ethnic and religious diversity". The Governor General called on New Zealanders to try and really understand and not merely tolerate one another. According to him, "tolerance is largely passive in nature and the opportunity for real understanding rarely occurs; real understanding requires interaction-meeting, talking and socialising with others who are different from us. It also means getting to know people as individuals in their own right and not as automatons whose behaviour may be dictated by cultural or religious imperatives". He said events like IAW are important steps in breaking down the barriers between people of different cultures and religions and encouraging interaction by people at the community and neighbourhood level. He cited the speech of Governor Hobson at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi to underscore the fact that a sound basis for religious understanding has been established in New Zealand; a basis that New Zealanders must continue to build upon.

Mustafa Farouk, FIANZ Vice President and Daawah Coordinator spoke on the significance of IAW. Dr. Farouk said Pre-September 11, 2001, the activities during IAW were centred mainly around promoting the understanding of Islam and in doing daawah or outreach to non-Muslims, but post-September 11, 2001, IAW activities in NZ expanded its goals to include the following:

Removing the misconception surrounding Islam and Muslims - Muslims are portrayed as terrorist, fanatics, intolerant, oppressors of women and parasites to the society by the media and reckless politicians. IAW helps educate the public about the true teachings of Islam in the hope that the knowledge will reduce these misconceptions which are mostly perpetuated by ignorance.

Highlighting the contributions of Muslims and Islam to NZ - The contribution of Muslims to the spiritual, cultural and economic development of NZ are being highlighted more than in the past in order to dispel the notion some may have of Muslims and immigrants as leeches who only take and contribute nothing in return.

Promoting interfaith and cultural dialogues - These dialogues happen in various forms between Muslims and other faith and cultural groups throughout the year but extra emphasis are placed during IAW.

Promoting better integration of Muslims into the wider NZ society-

IAW activities also teaches NZ Muslims to better understand and respect the many cultures and values that make NZ what it is a multi-cultural multi-religious society.

Supporting NZ Government and other NGO initiatives -

New Zealand Muslims have not suffered any harassment in the hands of their government as did Muslims in other countries around the world Post 9/11. In addition a number of initiatives were taken since 9/11 by the NZ government that have positive impact on Muslim New Zealanders. For these and many other reasons, NZ Muslims under the auspices of their umbrella organization, FIANZ, decided to make IAW a yearly national event in 2004 to promote understanding and build bridges with the wider New Zealand society.

Br Sameer Al-Matary, FIANZ Council Member, beautifully recited in Arabic two poetries entitled "Helping Humanity" and "My Mother" and rendered their meaning in English.

At the launching ceremony, the 2008 IAW Harmony Awards were presented to Anne Dysart, Bruce Kelley, David Kinsett and Dr G.P Spray by HE The Hon Anand Satyanand. The Supreme Award went to Anne Dysart of the Ministry of Social Development for her work with the Muslim community.

The launching ceremony ended with a scrumptious lunch at the Wellington Islamic Centre.

By all measures, the launch event was a grand success as were the activities held throughout New Zealand during the week following the launch.



Br Javed Khan, President of FIANZ, addressing the gathering at the launch of IAW 2008 at Wellington Islamic Centre on 4 August 2008



Section of crowd during the IAW Open Day at Wellington Islamic Centre



Displaying the talent of Islamic Calligraphy writing during the IAW Open Day at the Wellington Islamic Centre



HE Hon Anand Satyanand, Governor-General of New Zealand at the official launch of the Islam Awareness Week 2008

NEWS FROM WELLINGTON

Chaplains Visit to Wellington Islamic Centre

Around 100 Chaplains from throughout New Zealand while attending a conference in Wellington visited the Islamic Centre in two groups. The first group of 50 Chaplains visited on Monday, 1 Sep 2008 and the second group was welcomed at the Centre on 3 Sep. On both occasions, Sheikh Muhammad Amir, Chairman of FIANZ Ulama Board and Imam of Jamie Masjid in Wellington received them. Sheikh Amir gave presentations on Islam. He also took the opportunity to emphasize the current perception held by non-Muslims about Islam. The visitors were also given opportunities to ask questions. All of them were indeed very happy and highly appreciative of their visit to the Masjid.

