



## EID MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FIANZ

**O**n this auspicious occasion of Eid'ul Fitr, I am most pleased to express my heartiest Eid Mubarak Greetings to the Muslim community in New Zealand.

I thank and praise Allah Almighty for blessing us to successfully complete our fasting and offering yet another opportunity to celebrate this Eid with family and friends. May the genuine spirit of Eid, the spirit of goodwill and peace, bring to all of you an abundance of blessings. A'meen.

For Muslims all over the world, we have successfully completed the Holy Month of Ramadan. It was observed throughout the world with all sanctity and reverence that it demanded. It was a time for worship and reflection and brotherhood. A month that encouraged us to have care and compassion with our fellow Muslims and Non-Muslims. It inculcated patience, perseverance and everything good.

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 the Almighty for every blessing that we have received.

During Ramadhan, Muslims celebrate life with intense supplication so that they may rejoice in this world and in the hereafter. The month of Ramadan was also about doing good work for society. Muslims are enjoined to do good. In fact, the Holy Quran specifically mentioned that people, whether or not they are Muslims should compete in doing good work. Helping the poor and indigent, bringing relief to the needy and orphans, providing safety for the weak members of society are but few examples of good work. The Holy Quran states those who do more good deeds during the blessed month of Ramadan, will receive more rewards than usual. Almighty Allah has also promised His mercy, forgiveness and the saving from hellfire to all Muslims as a reward for fasting in Ramadan.

Eid'ul Fitr marks the end of Ramadhan. It is celebrated as the culmination of a month of devotion, sacrifice and sharing with others in the hope that Ramadhan had inscribed in our spirits as human beings principles that will strengthen our efforts to the end. 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.

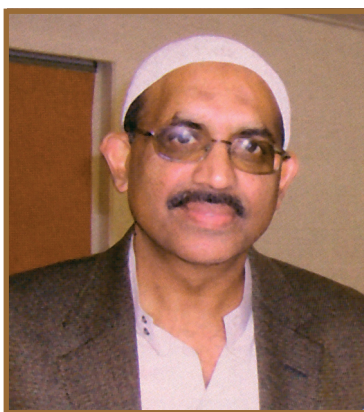
Eid'ul Fitr is celebrated together with family and friends and the wider Muslim community which not only helps to reinforce moral and family values and foster a sense of identity and belonging to one's particular community, but also helps the wider Muslim community to appreciate them.

In spite of the fact that the Muslim community in New Zealand is relatively small which is in excess of 40 different nationalities, within the context of wider New Zealand society, we feel that we have always been an integral part of this nation and consider all citizens as partners in the cause of peace and prosperity, irrespective of race, faith, or ethnicity.

The Muslim community in New Zealand is known for working together and helping each other in times of need. I believe that with strong community support, we will be able to make significant gains for the betterment of the community. The strong community support will be a force for positive change in our lives.



Our community should work very hard to lead a decent but meaningful life. We must capitalize the spirit of working together to effect transformation at the individual, family and community level. We need to embrace excellence in everything we do. Sayyidina Ali was quoted as saying: "Mingle with people in such a way that as long as you are with them, they are drawn to you and love and enjoy your company, and when you are no longer amidst them they weep for you".



Mr Javed Khan, President FIANZ

A Muslim touches the lives of everyone whom he comes into contact with. The Muslims in New Zealand must strive for our community to be one that is admired by other communities in New Zealand. In order to realise this vision, we need to come together. Everyone who has a stake in the community must come forward and join in our effort of identifying issues and working out coherent solutions.

Our aim must be to build a progressive Muslim community in New Zealand with Islam rooted strongly in our beliefs and customs. Our Islamic beliefs coupled with our commitment to a rational outlook in life are sources that can immensely help us to build a community of excellence. We have to collectively work together to bring about change in our community's orientation towards life, an orientation that will bring the ideal of excellence into the centre of our community's life.

The Muslim community in New Zealand is determined to live in peace and abide by the law. We clearly pronounce our commitment to the welfare of our nation as much as we feel entitled to live in peace, and be respected as honourable citizens of New Zealand.

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. A'meen.

Wasalaam.

**Javed Khan**  
President FIANZ



## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

FIANZ's spanking new office is functioning from its new premises at the ground floor of the Wellington Islamic Centre. The office has been simply, yet elegantly retrofitted for FIANZ. The entrance to the office begins with the reception area continuing with three offices. A long hallway leads to a large conference room. Behind the conference room is a storage room and amenities. A small kitchenette is also constructed to cater for the staff and for meetings.



*The beautiful new office at FIANZ, Wellington*

With the shift in the location (in the Mosque), FIANZ has now permanently anchored itself in the Mosque premises. We are extremely delighted about the move as it is considered to be very positive, boosting our standing as an organization working for the benefit and well-being of the NZ Muslim community. We are, after all, community-based organization!



## COLLABORATION WITH POLICE COLLEGE



FIANZ collaboration with NZ Police College continues. As in the past, FIANZ has been invited by the Police College in Porirua, Wellington, to deliver lectures to the Senior Police Officers to be deployed as Ethnic and Youth Police Officers in the community. These lectures are delivered from the religious and secular perspectives of Islam vis-à-vis the Muslim Community in New Zealand. This is positive for FIANZ and the community. It shows the police confidence in us, particularly the positive role played by FIANZ in inter-racial harmony and peace.

## FIANZ Executive Appointments for 2005-2007

During the Annual General Meeting of FIANZ held recently in Wellington from 21-22 May 2005, the following Executive Appointments have been confirmed for the period 2005-2007:

### President

Br Javed Iqbal Khan  
Auckland  
Tel: (09) 367 9801

### First Vice President

Dr Mustafa Farouk  
Hamilton  
Tel: (07) 838 5260

### Second Vice President

Br Abdul Lateef Smith  
Palmerston North  
Tel: (06) 355 1996

### Secretary-General

Br M Hanif Ali  
Wellington  
Tel: (04) 384 3208

### Treasurer

Br Daud Azimullah  
Auckland  
Tel: (09) 627 5786

### Assistant Treasurer

Dr Ghazi Hawwari  
Dunedin  
Tel: (03) 473 0667

Along with the Executive Appointments, the following appointments were also confirmed by the FIANZ Council for the period 2005-2007:

### Legal Adviser

Br Umarji Mohammed  
Tel: (09) 270 3625

### Chairman, Ulama Board

Sheikh Mohammad Amir  
Tel: (04) 389 2636

### Dawah Coordinator

Dr Mustafa Farouk  
Tel: (07) 838 5260

### Halal Coordinator

Br Tamiq Hussein  
Tel: (09) 263 6257

### Chairman, Business Committee:

Br Ahmad Zainuddin  
Tel: 021 679 030

## EID'UL FITR GREETINGS FROM THE ULAMA BOARD

The Ulama Board of FIANZ sends its Eid'ul Fitr Greetings to the Muslims of New Zealand and congratulates all of them for having had this opportunity to fast in Ramadhan, the most blessed month. May Allah SWT 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 Fitra sum for this year is \$5.00 per person. It must be paid by every Muslim guardian for young and old, male and female by the end of Ramadhan. "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 to make sure that everyone in the community has the means to celebrate a joyful Eid. The Holy 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



## FIANZ RELIEF APPEAL

Thousands of lives have been lost, and many are made homeless, without food and clothing, in the recent devastating earthquake in South Asia (Pakistan and India). We kindly request all our Brothers and Sisters to generously contribute to our Relief Fund. You may make donations to FIANZ's Account directly as follows:

Name of Account FIANZ Appeal Account

Name of Bank Bank of New Zealand

Account Number 020 500 - 0737236 - 06

If you wish, you may also send your contributions to the FIANZ Office as well.





## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

*Assalamu Alaikum Wa'rahmatullahi Wa'barakatoh*

We are pleased to inform you that we are resurrecting our Newsletter again. In the days gone by, we used to struggle to get our individual Association's newsletters published. It took effort from so many people, and there was a lack of funds as well as printers. At that time, FIANZ decided to



coordinate all efforts towards publishing a single newsletter with news contributions from all Associations. That scheme was only partially successful, even though the final newsletter had 42 pages and was of a very high quality.

We are, once again, embarking on publishing a newsletter with high hopes that it will simply get better with time, Insha Allah. An Editorial Committee has been set up comprising Sr Rehana Ali, Brs Gul Zaman, Hanif Ali and Sultan Eusoff. We will certainly welcome your contribution with articles and photographs (digital preferably) to maintain the momentum with quarterly issues.

We hope you will find this quite informative and keep you updated on our progress.

*Eid Mubarak to everyone!*

*Hanif Ali*



## UNITY IS STRENGTH

By Sultan Eusoff

The creation of partnership is prevalent today across many sectors. If we look at the airline industry, we see that even the best airlines have changed their mental models and created viable new partnerships so as to span more of the globe. In banking, accounting and legal sectors, we see many merging so as to harness talent and critical mass, becoming stronger and more capable. The underlying principle is that such partnership should bring greater value to the clients and stakeholders. So, the lesson for us is that we should build on our partnership with one another so that every one of us will benefit.

Diverse as we are in our culture and heritage, together, we should continue to look beyond and work to uplift the Muslim community in New Zealand. If we come together, focus our energies to tackle various issues plaguing the community, we will certainly make a long-term difference to our Muslim community in particular and the New Zealand society in general.

There are many lessons in the life and pursuits of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) which I would urge all of us to ponder on so as to derive meaning for our own lives here in modern secular state in the 21st century. The Prophet (SAW) has shown us that true fellowship with Allah is not about retreating or becoming a recluse. On the contrary, true saintliness is about getting involved in the affairs of the world as a worker, a businessman, a scientist, a doctor, a social worker, a sportsman, a wife and a husband, a son or a daughter. As Prophet (SAW) taught, true spirituality and morality lie in our fulfilling such roles as well as religious duties in this temporal life - honestly and to the best of our ability.

Our beloved Prophet (SAW) also said that: "All Muslims are equal like the teeth of a comb". He further said: "In relation to one another, the Muslims are like a building: every unit reinforces and is reinforced by all others".

### Racial and Religious Harmony

Our beloved Prophet (SAW) is also a symbol of peace for the entire humanity. The true spirit and essence of Islam is to believe and practice peace. We must



therefore ensure, through our words and deeds that the message of peace and progress prevails. We must continue to guard against any encroachment of fear, suspicion or hatred under the guise of religion.

Here in New Zealand, everyone enjoys the freedom to practice and profess his or her faith. Religious harmony is very important and we should develop stronger bonds across people of different religions. Racial and religious harmony has a strong foundation in New Zealand and in this regard, all our Local Associations, Mosques and Trusts

can play an active part in promoting inter-racial and inter-religious confidence.

Allah Subhanahu Wa'Taalah does not wish man to be lost in skepticism, to be corrupted by injustice, alienation and ethnocentrism. On the contrary, Allah wishes man to realize universal brotherhood through justice, truth, dignity and mercy; to restore to him his lost poise and equilibrium; to guide him towards peace, well-being and happiness. It is Allah Who said in Al Quran: "O mankind, We created you from a single (pair) of male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know and cooperate with one another" (v.49:13),

Taking the cue from our beloved Prophet (SAW), it is important for us to have solidarity, co-operation and standing by one another - in good times and bad. These are basic elements that are needed to realize our vision of a sound and progressive Muslim community in a cohesive New Zealand. This is also in line with Allah's exhortation in the Glorious Al' Quran (Surah Maidah) that we should work with one another in pursuit of virtue and heedfulness.

So, let us unite together and build upon our strength and gain Allah's Blessings and Bounties for this world and in the hereafter.

"O Allah, we take shelter under the light of Your face before Whom darkness became light, by Whose command this world and the next were firmly established. Save us all from Your wrath and displeasure. To You alone belongs the judgment. There is neither power nor strength except in You". A'meen.

*My heartiest Eid Mubarak Greetings to all!*

*Sultan Eusoff*  
Executive Manager



## PAK'N SAVE MT ALBERT

The Treasurer and the Secretary paid a courtesy call on the Manager/Proprietor Brian Carran of Pak' N Save in Mount Albert. He employs 35 Muslims and has taken the trouble to make a "Prayer Room", with wudu facilities, for them. This was something unusual. General discussion took



Brian Carran & Daud Azimullah at Pak'N Save

place in his office where this photo was taken. He introduced them to Br Umar (from Somalia) who took them to the prayer

room where they offered Zuhr salaah. They conveyed their appreciation and thanks for the consideration Brian had shown to his Muslim staff, whose needs are rather special in that wudu is a prerequisite for prayer. This is a very special person and takes good care of all his employees. Jobs are offered to immigrants, their needs are recognised and they are taken through a specially tailored training programme. He offers Halal goat meat and Eid cards in his supermarket, to cater for the Muslims who live in the surrounding areas. He generously said that it was simply a good business practice and as proof his turnover of staff was very low.



Hanif Ali and Br Umar in the prayer room at Pak'n Save

We believe this pioneering initiative in the New Zealand retail sector is part of an approach to people management that many employers can emulate.

His background comprises key roles in many charitable organisations. During his travels he met many people of different cultures; he also spent some time in India living in a village, he told us - that is a lot more experience that many of us have had.

We wish Pak' N Save Mount Albert every success in the future, and that it remains an exemplary place for Muslims to find employment, peace and prosperity.

### Upcoming Events

**FIANZ (NZMA SAMA) Eid'ul Fitr  
and Silver Jubilee Celebrations**

**11 Nov 2005, Western Springs Garden Auckland**

**FIANZ Executive Meeting**

**15 Nov 2005, FIANZ Office Wellington**

**FIANZ Council Meeting**

**16 Nov 2005, FIANZ Office Wellington**

**FIANZ Eid'ul Fitr and Silver Jubilee Celebrations**

**16 Nov 2005 Parliament House Wellington**



## PROPERTY IN AUCKLAND

We have been trying very hard for some time to become self-sufficient in terms of fulfilling one of our objectives, that is, of looking after the welfare of Muslims in New Zealand. Our efforts have been to acquire revenue-generating assets so that the income stream could be channelled into development of local communities, in establishing Centres and Mosques. These are an integral part of the life of Muslims - to be able to worship and educate themselves in the practice of Islam, to be able to assemble at a place and enhance fellowship and brotherhood within the community, as well as with the wider New Zealand community.

Toward this end, an investment property was purchased in Otahuhu, Auckland in July 2005. This very large two-storey building, in an industrial area, is leased to an Educational facility.



Daud Azimullah, Mustafa Farouk, Hanif Ali,  
Umarji Mohammed and Javed Khan

We are hopeful that we can continue to plan to acquire other assets in the future. The continued effort over many years of successive Council Members, all of whom give their time and energies voluntarily to our cause, has begun to pay off, and they deserve our gratitude, appreciation and support. Congratulations to all those who have done their very best to bring us to this happy situation, in particular Br. Ahmed Bhamji and his Business Committee. This is but a start for our long-term objective - to be self-sufficient. With our combined dedication we shall continue to prosper, Insha Allah.

### The Editorial Committee of FIANZ NEWS

Sr Rehanna Ali

Br Gul Zaman

Br Hanif Ali

Br Sultan Eusoff



اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية

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