



Society's Report

Submitted to the Annual general Meeting on 24 June 2007

The Executive committee presents this report as a summary of the activities carried by during the last year:

- The Society's financial standing is sound and the documentation is under control and fulfilling the auditing requirements as shown in the financial report. There are few things that needed care and more attention such as the collection of membership fees and finishing the preparation of the accounts soon after the end of the financial year. However the committee is committed to continual improvement of its management to the society's financial affairs.
- We have renewed the public liability insurance which costed us over \$2500. This is important for the continuation of the Society to be active and registered.
- The Society continued to receive donations from the Supreme Islamic Council for Halal Meat of Australia (SICHMA). We hope that the council's income increases which will mean more income to the society.
- The society has organised some functions and picnics. Some of these functions were extremely successful with good participation and some were not successful with very low participation.
 - Canberra Trip and visiting the Egyptian Embassy and the Austrlian War memorial and the parliament house was a great success.
 - Celebrating the return of the Hajjis from Mecca was very successful and attendance by many members.
 - Ramadan Iftar (fully booked) and the weekly iftar meetings at Georges Hall and Blakehurst.
 - Eid picnics were organised and the picnic area was hired but unfortunately there was not much interest in attending.
 - Participating with the Egyptian Forum in a function to honour the HSC graduates.
- The Society was active in the welfare side by assisting few needy people in and also the funeral assistance account has been active in collections and assisting in funeral expenses. The money in the Funeral assistance has increased and more money is needed to be able to assist in emergencies.
- Monthly meetings at Blakehurst public School and the hall at Georges Hall were attended by Sh. Taj for spiritual talks and advice.
- The Society has been involved in larger Muslim community activities and co-operating with other Muslim organisations for improving the status of the Muslim community in Australia.
- Again last year the Society was active in trying to find a permanent centre by entering bids and making enquires for suitable buildings; however we were not successful in finding the suitable place yet. The executives formed a new company PTY Limited to handle the purchase and the loan. The current executives will be the company directors. The executive were very close in many occasions to purchase a centre,



however circumstances out of our hands prevented this to happen in many occasions.

Some of these attempts include but not limited to:

- A house in Greenacre with a cost of around \$700,000, but council approval was very difficult to obtain.
- A church in Auburn, but it was full of termite and would have needed a lot of expense to fix it and also no guarantee for council approval.
- A factory in Bankstown with an area of about 2000m² and a cost of about \$900,000. We were very serious about this place because it would have been perfect for our community. We have engaged a solicitor and gave him \$90,000 for the 10% deposit and arranged the loan for the rest of the money with MCCA. At the same time we engaged a consultant to investigate all issues related to the usage of the factory for our community and the council's opinion. Alhamdulillah, before we exchange the contracts, the consultant came with a report with all the findings that made us decide to stop the purchase. It would have costed the Society 100s of thousands of dollars to fix the place from contamination and water drainage elevations, etc.
- Another house was looked at in Greenacre but also council approval was a problem because it is in a residential area.
- Also a house in Silverwater was looked at but for the same reasons above we could not continue with it.
- The executive committee never stopped looking for a place to use as a centre.
- The executive committee continued the strong ties with both the Egyptian embassy in Canberra and the Egyptian Consulate in Sydney and we have established much closer contacts with their respected staff including both the ambassador and the new Council General, as well as combining efforts on a number of issues concerning national and international events and representations that had specific focus on Egyptian interests.
- The Executive committee continued its responsibility in supporting our members in their time of difficulties and needs by providing physical and moral support as well as the social participations in accordance with the Islamic manners and obligations among Muslim brothers and sisters.
- We have established links at the local level with agencies that may be of interest to our community members such as immigration, some MP's and foreign affairs.
- The executive committee feels that members that are interested to serve as executives or take responsibility in the committee should possess characteristics that include pertinence, dedications, good manners, team work, respect to others, hard work and finding the time and efforts to offer help and participation in activities, to have initiatives and new ideas to help the society progress and achieve its objectives..

The executive committee urges the members to be more responsive to functions and meetings organised by the executive committee. This will encourage the committee to organise more meetings and more activities.

With more participation from the community members, the objective of finding the community centre will be easier to achieve In-shaa-Allah.

The constitution and the financial reports can be downloaded from www.helals.net/ties

Wasslamu Alaikum

The Executive Committee.