

The Albanian Australian Islamic Society Celebrating 50 Years of People and Place

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

OUR MISSION: Preserving the Albanian Muslim identity and promoting harmony, mutual understanding and cooperation among other communities in Australia.



The Albanian Australian Islamic Society (AAIS) was formed in 1963 by Albanian Muslim migrants who travelled from the lands of the South Eastern Balkan Peninsula (Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro) to build their new lives in Melbourne, Australia.

The establishment of the AAIS was both a historic and symbolic event for the Albanian Muslim migrant community as it signified the official presence of the Albanian community in Melbourne, and of the people embracing Australia as their home. Since the 1920's, Albanian migration to Australia has been steady with the early establishment of small communities in both regional and urban areas, which were mostly dispersed throughout Queensland and Victoria. For these early migrants, there was not only a yearning for a sense of community and a place of gathering, but also a connection to faith. This desire to remain connected with their Islamic faith prompted a small but determined group of local Albanian Muslim men to come together with the sole purpose of building an Albanian Mosque. Donations were collected, plans were drawn up and the construction of Melbourne's first Mosque commenced in 1969. This was a monumental achievement for Albanian Muslims in Melbourne who finally established a place of congregation and prayer. The Mosque provided a central location for the Albanian community to meet; it was a sacred place for worship, and a communal space to maintain knowledge of their faith, cultural heritage and language. The establishment of the Mosque not only benefited the Albanian Muslim community, it also altered the cultural landscape of Carlton, making a unique contribution to Melbourne's reputation as a growing cosmopolitan city.

The AAIS has unified the Albanian community whilst actively engaging with the broader society over the past 50 years. In the present day, the Society is more active than ever with a diverse range of community engagement activities, some of which include: Mosque open days; educational tours for school groups; Albanian language and religious studies; feeding the homeless; Red Cross blood drives; The Royal Children's Hospital 'The Good Friday Appeal'; National Tree Day and much more. The AAIS recently called on its Members to contribute towards another major community project. In 2013, the AAIS Youth Centre in Truganina was officially opened. This centre provides a dynamic space to engage with young people whilst also serving the growing Albanian community in Melbourne's western suburbs.

The Albanian Mosque has maintained its commitment to welcome Muslims from diverse cultural backgrounds and to openly invite the local community to learn about Islam and Albanian culture. It is this generosity and dedication to multiculturalism that enriches the history of the Albanian Mosque and ensures a vibrant future for many generations to come.

Shoqata Islamike Shqiptare Australiane - duke festuar 50 vjet komunitet dhe vend

Misioni ynë: Ruajtja e Identitetit Mysliman Shqiptar dhe promovimi i harmonisë, mirëkuptimit reciprok dhe bashkëpunimit midis komuniteteve të tjera në Australi.

Shoqata Islamike Shqiptare Australiane (AAIS) u formua në vitin 1963 nga migrantët myslimanë Shqiptarë që udhëtuan nga trojet e Gadishullit Ballkanit Jug-Lindor (Shqipëria, Kosova, Maqedonia e Veriut dhe Mali i Zi), për të ndërtuar jetën e tyre të re në Melburn, Australi. Themelimi i AAIS ishte njëkohësisht një ngjarje historike dhe simbolike për komunitetin migrant Mysliman Shqiptar pasi sinjalizoi praninë zyrtare të komunitetit Shqiptar në Melburn, dhe të njerëzve që përqaftuan Australinë si shtëpinë e tyre.

Që nga vitet 1920, migracioni Shqiptar në Australi ka qenë i vazhdueshëm me krijimin e hershëm të komuniteteve të vogla në zonat rajonale dhe urbane, të cilat shpërndaheshin kryesisht në të gjithë Kuinlandë dhe Viktorias. Për këta migrantë të hershëm, ndjenja e bashkimit dhe grumbullimit nuk përfaqësonte thjesht vetëm një dëshirë të madhe por edhe një mundësi për të forcur më shumë lidhjen me besimin Islam. Kjo dëshirë për të qëndruar të lidhur me besimin e tyre Islam bëri që një grup i vogël por i vendosur burrash Myslimanë Shqiptarë vendos të mblidheshin sëbashku me qëllimin e vetëm për ndërtimin e një Xhamie Shqiptare. Donacionet u mblodhën, u hartuan planet dhe ndërtimi i Xhamisë filloi në vitin 1969. Kjo ishte një arritje madhështore për Myslimanët Shqiptarë në Melburn që më në fund themeluan një vend mbledhjeje dhe adhurimit. Xhamia siguroi një vendndodhje qendrore takimi për Komunitetin Shqiptar; ishte një vend i shenjtë për adhurim dhe një hapësirë shoqërore për të ruajtur njohurit mbi besimin, trashëgiminë kulturore dhe gjuhën. Themelimi i Xhamisë jo vetëm që i dha doli Komunitetit Mysliman Shqiptar, por gjithashtu ndryshoi peizazhin kulturor të Kariltonit, duke dhënë një kontribut unik në reputacionin e Melburnit si një qytet kozmopolit në rritje.

AAIS ka unifikuar komunitetin Shqiptar ndërsa angazhohet aktivisht me shoqërinë e gjerë gjatë 50 viteve të fundit. Në ditët e sotme, shoqata është më aktive se kurrë me një gamë të larmishme të aktiviteteve të angazhimit në komunitet, disa prej të cilave përfshijnë: ditë të hapura në Xhami; turne edukative për grupe shkollorë; Gjuha Shqipe dhe studimet fetare; ushqimi i të pastrehëve; Dhurim i gjakut Kryqit të Kuq; "Apeli i së Premtes së Mirë" në mbështetje të Spitalit Mbretëror të Fëmijëve; Dita Kombëtare e Pemëve dhe shumë më tepër. AAIS kohët e fundit u bëri thirrje anëtarëve të saj të kontribuojnë drejt një projekti tjetër të madh shoqëror. Në vitin 2013, Qendra Rinore e AAIS në Truganina u hap zyrtarisht. Kjo qendër ofron një hapësirë dinamike për t'u angazhuar me të rinjtë, duke i sherbyer njëkohësisht edhe komunitetit Shqiptarë në rritje në lagjet perëndimore të Melburnit.

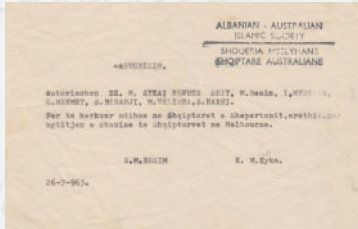
Xhamia Shqiptare ka mbajtur angazhimin e saj për të mirëpritur myslimanët me prejardhje të ndryshme kulturore dhe për të ftuar hapur komunitetin lokal për të mësuar rreth Islamit dhe kultures Shqiptare. Është pikërisht kjo bujari dhe përkushtim ndaj multikulturalizmit që pasuron historinë e Xhamisë Shqiptare dhe siguron një të ardhme të gjallë për shumë breza që do të vijin.

Exhibition officially opened on 17th November 2019.
Historical collection researched and collated by Ali Ymer (Research & Collections Manager).

Proudly Presented by



Foundations of the Albanian Australian Islamic Society



Authorisation to Collect Donations, 26 July 1963

Letter of Authorisation for collection of donations by Committee to purchase a property for a Melbourne Mosque. This request for donations was to the Albanian Muslims in Shepparton (and surrounds). Written in Albanian.

This is a copy of the original document. Courtesy AAIS.

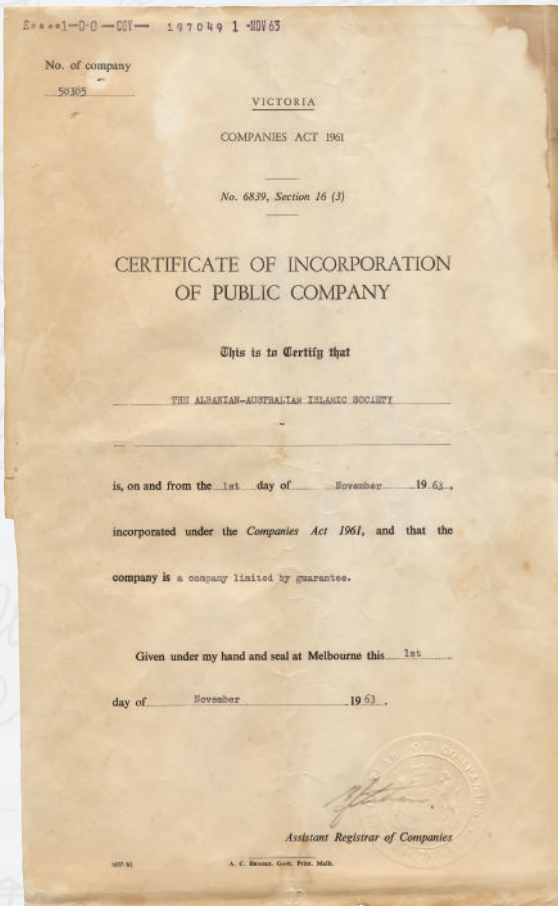
Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

Albanian Australian Islamic Society

Authorisation

Authorised Messrs M. Zyka, Nevrus Seit, M. Besim, I. Myrteza, G. Mehmet, S. Biranji, M. Velisha, S. Haxhi. Are authorised to ask for donations from the Albanians of Shepparton (and surroundings) for building the Albanian Mosque in Melbourne.

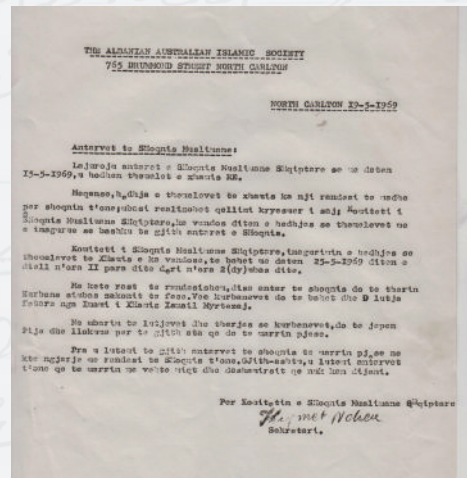
S. M. Besim, K. M. Zyka
26-7-1963



Certificate of Incorporation of Public Company, 1 November 1963

This document certifies that the Albanian Australian Islamic Society is, on and from the 1st day of November 1963, a company limited by guarantee.

This is a copy of the original document. Courtesy AAIS.



Foundation Day Letter, 19 May 1969

Letter from the AAIS to Members inviting them to the inauguration of the Albanian Mosque including prayers and Qurban to be held on 25 May 1969 between 12pm and 2pm. Written in Albanian.

This is a copy of the original document. Courtesy AAIS.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

The Albanian Australian Islamic Society
765 Drummond Street North Carlton
North Carlton 19-5-1969

To the Members of the Islamic Society

We would like to inform all the Members of the Albanian Islamic Society that on 15/5/1969 were built the foundations* of the new Mosque.

Since building the foundations of the Mosque is very important for our Society, the Committee of the Albanian Islamic Society have decided to inaugurate the day when foundations were built with all the Members of the Society.

The Committee of the Albanian Islamic Society have decided to hold the inauguration of the foundations of the Mosque on Sunday 25/05/1969 from 12pm to 2pm.

On this important occasion, some Members of the Society will perform Qurban according to the custom of the religion. Apart from Qurban, the religious prayer will be held by the Imam of the Mosque, Ismail Myrteza. After the prayer and Qurban, there will be drinks and lokume (Turkish delight) for those who attend. So, we invite all the Members of the Society to attend this important event of our Society. Also, please invite all your friends and loved ones that are not aware of this event.

For the Committee of the Albanian Islamic Society
Hiqmet Ndreu, Secretary

*Foundations – pouring of the concrete slab



Lesson and Prayer Booklet, January 1966

This booklet was produced and printed by Bilal Kalaja, former President of the AAIS. Approximately 250 booklets were printed on a Roneo machine and distributed to AAIS Members. The booklet contained general information about Islam including how to pray, the five pillars of Islam, and the six articles of faith. Written in Albanian.

This is a copy of the original document. Courtesy Genc Kalaja.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

Lesson and Prayer Summary from the Voice of Religion.

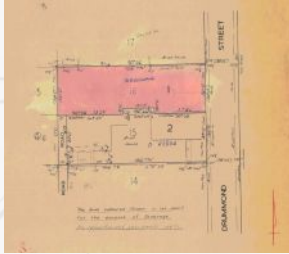
By B.S. Kalaja
Ramadan-27-1385.
Melbourne, January 1966.

Looking Back...

- We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the Albanian Mosque stands.
- 1870 — William Thompson purchases Lots 15 and 16 for the sum of Three Hundred and Seventeen Pounds (£317) in the newly subdivided area of 'North Carlton and Brunswick'.
- 1879 — William Thompson sells Lots 15 and 16 to Thomas O'Callaghan (Fifth Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police).
- 1880 — Thomas O'Callaghan starts construction of 'Carlton House'. The original 'Carlton House' consists of brick and comprises of 8 rooms, bath, balcony, veranda and wash house.
- 1902 — 'Carlton House' comprises of 13 rooms.
- 1920-1930 — First main wave of migration from Albania to Australia.
- 1963 — Mr Muharem Besimi, Mr Ferit Mantseli and Mr Selami Haxhi initiate action to purchase a property for the purpose of an Albanian Mosque. Over a period of four to five weeks, they visit the homes of fellow Albanians including Mr Mehmet Zyka and agree to build an Albanian Mosque.
- The men then turn their attention to the purchase of a house to be used as an Albanian Mosque, as well as a separate block of land. The forthcoming auction of lots 1 & 2 at 765 Drummond Street, Carlton North seems to be the ideal location.
- 11 September:** Mr Hodo Hamit attends an auction held at 3pm on the afternoon of Wednesday the Eleventh of September 1963 being Lot 2 'Carlton House' 765 Drummond Street, Carlton North. Mr Hamit is the successful purchaser as trustee on behalf of the Albanian Australian Islamic Society (acting for a company yet to be formed) for the sum of Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred Pounds (£11,200) with the deposit being Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Pounds (£2,800), with settlement over a five-year term.
- 1 November:** The 'Albanian Australian Islamic Society' becomes an incorporated entity.
- 1965 — **5 February:** The first Bajram (Eid al-Fitr) function on record is held at Collingwood Town Hall.
- 22 May:** The first Albanian Language Class in Australia commences with teacher Mitat Jusufi.
- 1966 — Planning by the Committee for the construction of the Mosque commences.
- 1967 — Plans are drawn up for the construction of the Albanian Mosque. On 16 March, a permit is approved by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.
- 1968 — 'Carlton House' is paid off as per the five-year settlement period on the contract of sale.
- 1969 — **February to April:** Demolition of 'Carlton House'. Qerim Zyka (Committee Member) recycles and cleans red second hand bricks retrieved from 'Carlton House' to be used for the inner course of the Mosque walls.
- 15 May:** Pouring of the concrete slab.
- 25 May:** Foundation Day is held on Sunday at 12pm to celebrate the inauguration of the Albanian Mosque.
- 9 July:** Commission of Public Health Building Surveyor Report states building progress; brickwork to approximately 6 feet above floor level.
- 1970 — **1 April:** Official approval for opening of the Albanian Mosque (Stage 1) by the Department of Health.
- 30 November:** Completion and opening of the Mosque by the AAIS. Mubareq Risilia recites the Adhaan (call to prayer).
- Note: Donations towards the initial purchase of 'Carlton House' and construction of the Mosque (Stage 1) are made between November 1963 and May 1971. There are a total of 461 donations made (some who donate several times) which amounts to \$33,305.
- 1978 — New roof to hall at rear of the Mosque complete.
- 1982 — Re-roofing of the area between the Mosque and hall.
- 1994 — Minaret construction.
- 1995 — Gazebo for wudu (ablution) area construction.
- 2002 — Addition of new kitchen, social room, janaza (funeral) holding bay, toilet block construction and concrete paving.
- 2004 — Renovations to the Multipurpose Room.
- 2005 — Formation of the AAIS Women's Committee on 1 September, with the primary goal of organising social, religious and fundraising activities for women and children in the community.
- 2007 — Mosque internal renovations. The inside of the Mosque is beautified with the addition of a large ceiling dome, tall arches, decorative plaster work and domed skylights. The width of the Mosque increases in size and incorporates the unused land that is behind the Minaret.
- 2010 — Front façade of the Mosque is updated.
- 2012 — Imam residency building works: separate entry, 85m² apartment comprises of two bedrooms, large kitchen, spacious living room and balcony terrace. At the same time, renovations are complete to the AAIS Committee office, Imam's office and upstairs bathroom.
- 2013 — The AAIS purchases and establishes a Youth Centre in Truganina, Melbourne's West. The centre comprises of an indoor soccer pitch, volleyball court, café and learning space to run lectures, weekly Islamic and language classes.
- 2019 — **Melbourne's First Mosque – 50th Anniversary of the Albanian Mosque.**

Melbourne's First Mosque

The Albanian Mosque



Plan of Subdivision, 30 July 1963
Lots 1 and 2, Plan of Subdivision.
Lot 2 details the property boundary which followed the shape of the house.
This is a copy of the original plan.
Courtesy Victoria Land Registry Services.

CARLTON NORTH AUCTION.
WEST SIDE, Hill, at 2.15 PM.
LOT 2, CARLTON HOUSE,
160, DRUMMOND STREET.
Substantial 1 1/2 storey brick
Residence, having 13 spacious
rooms, incl. 2 kitchens, very
large livingroom, PLUS commodi-
ous verandah, canopy, brick
storeroom to the rear, service,
etc. VACANT POSSESSION.
LOT 1, 451, 765 Drummond St.
VACANT LAND.
VALUABLE FLAT SITE.
10 ft. x 116 ft. approx. There
is a constant demand for flats
in this area, and the site is
ripe for development.
TERMS IN EACH CASE,
20% deposit, residue over 3
years on vendor terms.
These properties make a favored
neighborhood, the south side, from
the rear of NORTH
CARLTON, handy to city, shops,
transport, schools.
For brochure or inspection ring
CHRIS DOYLE REIS
(LAURENCE J. DOYLE, Auctioneer),
ESTATE AGENT & SWORN VALUATOR,
167 QUEEN'S BLDG., Clifton Hill,
VIC 3068. All hours.

**Auction Notice 'Carlton House',
7 September 1963**

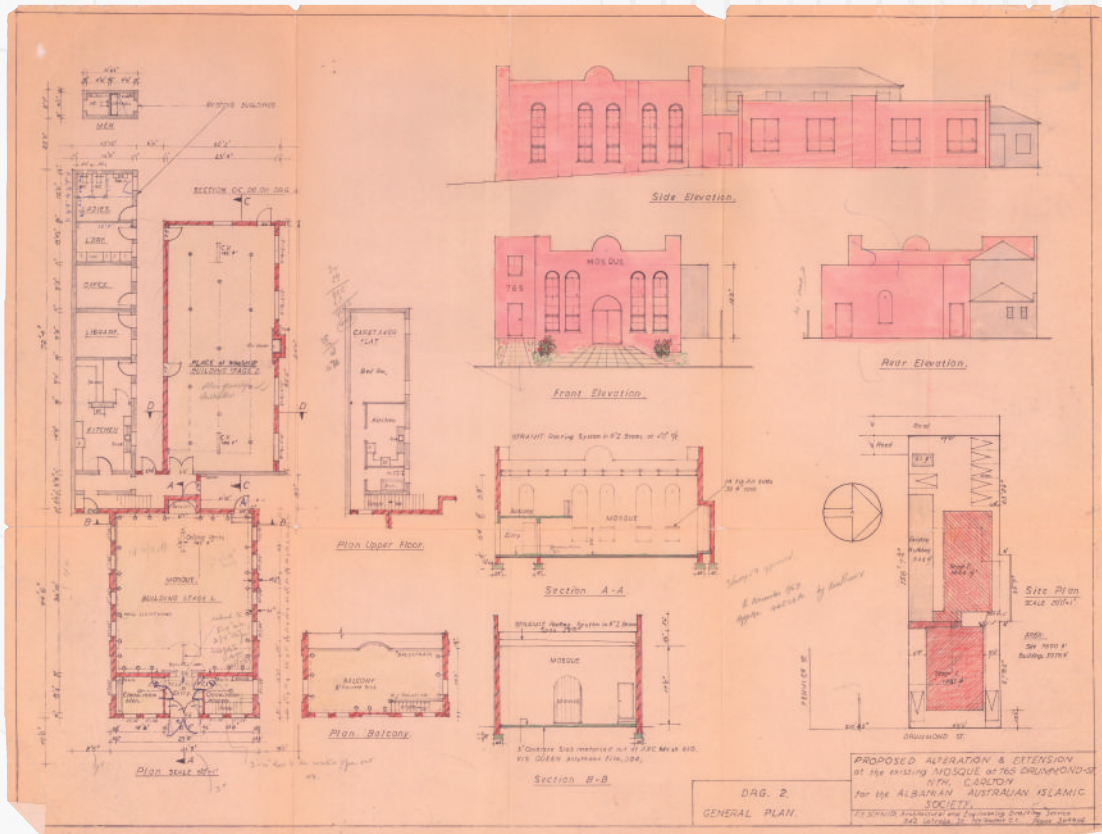
Newspaper advertisement for the
upcoming auction of 'Carlton House'
765 Drummond Street, Carlton North.
This is a copy of the microfilm obtained
from the State Library of Victoria.
Courtesy The Age Newspaper.



**Contract of Sale of Land,
11 September 1963**

Contract of Sale of Land
between Purchaser Mr. Hodo
Hamit (acting as trustee on
behalf of the Albanian Australian
Islamic Society), Fishmonger
and the Vendors Ellen
O'Callaghan, Ethel Mary
O'Callaghan, Mary Agnes
O'Callaghan Spinsters and Mary
Agnes O'Callaghan as
Administratrix of the Estate of
the late Margaret O'Callaghan,
all of Carlton House, 765
Drummond Street, Carlton North
for the sum of Eleven Thousand
Two Hundred Pounds (£11,200).

This is a copy of the original
contract of sale.
Courtesy AAIS.



Proposed Plan for Albanian Mosque, 16 November 1967

Proposed alteration and extension at the existing site 'Carlton House' at 765
Drummond Street, Carlton North. Amendments were made to the final plan before
building commenced in 1969.

This is a copy of the original plan.
Courtesy AAIS.



**Construction of the Albanian Mosque,
September 1969**

Brickwork to the above front door arch of
Mosque September 1969 (Commission of
Public Health building service progress
report dated 9 July 1969 states that
brickwork is approx. 6 feet above floor level).

This is a copy of the original photograph.
Courtesy Zyka Family.



**Plan for Minaret and Alterations to Existing Mosque,
25 October 1993**

This is a copy of the original plan.
Courtesy AAIS.

Faith and Community Leaders

Timeline of the AAIS Faith Leaders

1963 – 1965 | Ismahil Myrteza Hoxha

Born Bozhigradi, Korçë, Albania

Ismahil travelled to Australia on the ship Romolo, arriving in Melbourne on 23 August 1963 on a MIQAN flight under the Assisted Passage Scheme. He arrived with his wife Sadberk (nee Sahinbegovic) and five children. He was an Imam who originally served in Shepparton before moving to Melbourne. Imam Yuemnue served the AAIS as the first official and paid Imam between 1966 and 1967. He later moved to Canada with his family.

1966 – 1967 | Hafiz Muhammad Emin Yuemnue

Born Shkup, North Macedonia

Hafiz Muhammad Emin Yuemnue travelled to Australia via Vienna, Austria in January 1963 on a MIQAN flight under the Assisted Passage Scheme. He arrived with his wife Sadberk (nee Sahinbegovic) and five children. He was an Imam who originally served in Shepparton before moving to Melbourne. Imam Yuemnue served the AAIS as the first official and paid Imam between 1966 and 1967. He later moved to Canada with his family.

1968 – 1970 | Ismahil Myrteza Hoxha

Ismahil Hoxha served for a second term.

1973 – 1975 | Hafiz Hilmi Mustafi

Born Neproshten, Tetovo, North Macedonia

Hafiz Mustafi travelled to Australia via Qantas flight 7622 on 18 September 1973. He arrived with his wife Ferizate and four sons. At a young age Mustafi studied both the Turkish and Arabic languages. His memorisation of the Holy Quran earned him the title of Hafiz. He completed his religious education at the Sinaniye Madrassa in Tetovo. Upon his arrival in Melbourne, Hafiz Mustafi immediately commenced his role as the Imam of the AAIS. In 1975 he returned to Macedonia with his wife and youngest son.

1976 – 1981 | Dr. Badi Uz-Zaman Amir Sayed

Born Dholka, Gujarat, India

Dr. Sayed arrived in Australia with his wife Hamida and three children in 1974. He along with his sister were orphaned at the age of six. He was a bright student and was promised a scholarship if he studied hard. He was diligent in doing so and would study under street lights after lights out in the orphanage. He excelled in his studies and was subsequently given a scholarship to study medicine in London and furthered his studies in Edinburgh.

He was known for supporting the poor and needy with much of his charitable work devoted towards single mothers, widows, supporting orphanages, mosques and the building of water-wells. After he came to Australia he worked as a Medical Pathologist. He was a devout Muslim who enjoyed passing on his Islamic knowledge to the youth. Dr. Sayed led Jummah, Tarweeh and Bajram prayers and also held Sunday Islamic classes.

1981 – 2011 | Hafiz Rexhep Idrizi

Born Shkup, North Macedonia

Hafiz Rexhep Idrizi arrived in Melbourne, Australia on 17 November 1981. He completed his Hizf of Al Quran between 1968-1970 in Shkup, Macedonia. He continued his studies at various Universities throughout the Middle East. Hafiz Rexhep Idrizi ran weekly Islamic studies classes and regular Quran classes for children and adults. He was the Editor of the first Albanian Australian Islamic Newsletter 'Zeri Shqiptarvet Mysliman' ('The Voice of the Albanian Muslims') first published in July 1982.

2011 – Present* | Imam Dr. Bekim Hasani

Born Vushtri, Kosovo

Imam Dr. Bekim Hasani arrived in Melbourne, Australia on 24 December 2011. He commenced his education in Islam in Kosovo where he completed his Islamic High School studies. His enthusiasm and pursuit for knowledge led him to travel to Brunei Darussalam in 2001 where he successfully completed a course in the Arabic language and his degree in Islamic Law at the University of Brunei Darussalam. Following the completion of his degree, he continued studying for his Masters in Shariah (Criminal Law in Islam), which he completed in 2008 at the University of Brunei Darussalam. In that same year, he enrolled for his Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Islamic Politics (Human Rights in Islam) at Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University, Brunei Darussalam and completed his PhD within three years.

His role includes leading the prayers at the Mosque as well as funeral prayers when required, performing marriage ceremonies as a religious celebrant, offering counselling, running information seminars on religious topics and other community engagement events. He is currently working as an Imam at the Albanian Mosque.

2019 – Present* | Imam Perparim Shaban Sulaj

Born Kurdari, Mat, Albania

Imam Perparim arrived in Melbourne, Australia on the 31 March 2019 with his wife and son. He commenced his formal Islamic studies in 2001 at the Islamic Institute in Bulqize, Albania. He furthered his Islamic studies at the University of Science and Technology - Theology between 2004-2009 in Sana'a Yemen. Imam Perparim worked as an Imam in Mat, Albania for ten years. In addition to being an Imam, Imam Perparim was also an English teacher for primary and secondary students. He was much respected by his colleagues and students not only because of his professionalism, but also for his religious virtue.

His role includes leading the prayers at the Mosque as well as funeral prayers when required, offering counselling, and running information seminars on religious topics. He also teaches weekly children's Islamic classes as well as the weekly Albanian language classes. He is currently working as an Imam at the Albanian Mosque.

*as of November 2019



AAIS Meeting Minutes, 12 November 1970

A plea was made to the Albanian Islamic community for donations to pay for the burial of a deceased member of the Albanian community. Written in Albanian.

This is a copy of the original meeting minutes. Courtesy AAIS.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

Minutes

Meeting held on Friday 12/11/1970 6.30pm at the Albanian Club 6 Smythe Lane Melbourne under the chairmanship of the Committee's President of the Muslim Albanian Australian Society, Treasurer Mr. Kurtali Perona and Vice President Mr. Xhemal Lesha. Also, in attendance were Society Members Messrs Sali Gani and Nuri Sali.

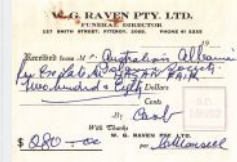
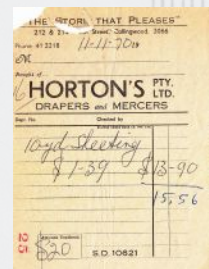
The Committee of Muslim Society called on all its Members to help financially for the burial of the deceased Faik Hasan who could not save enough money for this day.

The results of the donations collected amounted to a total of \$338, broken down as follows:

Albanian Club 6 Smythe Lane \$169, 218A Gertrude St. Fitzroy \$74, Sadik Molla \$26, Burial Day \$69. Total \$338 (Three hundred and thirty-eight dollars).

The sum raised as per above was received by the AAIS Committee from the club's representatives.

Signed by: Treasurer, Vice-President, President of AAIS.



Funeral Receipts, 1970

The above receipts are for the payments made by the AAIS for the burial of a deceased member of the Albanian community. Payments were made by the AAIS with donations collected from the community.

Receipts include the payment for the Funeral Director W.G. Raven Pty. Ltd, Hortons Drapers and Mercers for 10 yards of sheeting to adhere with Islamic rites of burial and Lisa Cooper Art Florists for the purchase of two floral wreaths.

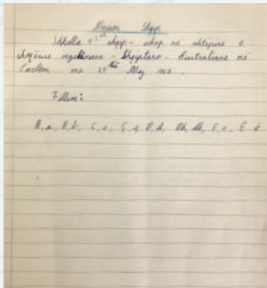
These are copies of the original receipts. Courtesy AAIS.

Timeline of the AAIS Presidents

Mehmet Zyka	1963-1965, 1967-1970, 1971-1973, 1975-1976, 1987-1989
Muharem Besim	1965-1966, 1973-1974
Bilal Kalaja	1966-1967
Bahri Bregu	1970-1971
Hodo Hamit	1976-1977
Nevrus Seit	1977-1978
Abdul Halim Xhaferi	1978-1979
Bujar Risilila	1979-1980, 1980-1981, 1981-1983, 1983-1984, 1997-1998, 1998-2000
Isat Kurti	1984-1985, 1985-1987
Bashkim Bekiri	1989-1991, 1991-1993
Bashkim Sherifi	1993-1995
Besnik Krasniqi	1995-1997
Dashmir Balla	2000-2006
Vahid Goga	2006-2017
Urim Balla	2017-Present*

Note: 1974-1975 President unknown
*as of November 2019

Community Events, Albanian Language School and Charity



Albanian Language School Class Notes, 29 May 1965

Student Albert Kalaja's class notes from the first official lesson. Written in Albanian. This is a copy of the original page. Courtesy Albert Kalaja.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

Learning Albanian Language
The 1st Albanian Language School opened at the home of the Australian Albanian Muslim Society in Carlton on May 29, 1965.
First lesson:
A, a, B, b, C, c, Ç, ç, D, d, DH, dh, E, e, È, è, È.

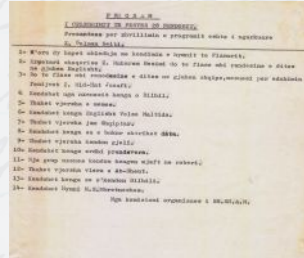


Albanian Language School Report Card, 1967

Certificate for Genc Kalaja. Written in Albanian. This is a copy of the original certificate. Courtesy Genc Kalaja.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

Albanian School, Melbourne, 1967
No. 19
Certificate
Name and Surname: Genc Kalaja
Date of birth:
Address: 71 Ramsden St, Clifton Hill
The course that followed:
behaviour, literacy, writing, dictation, conversation, grammar
NOTE: Grades range from 1 to 10 (the highest). Copies of certificates have been archived and duplicates may be issued on request.
Counsellor; Teacher

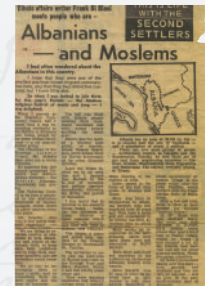


Independence Day Celebration Program, 1965

Program for the celebration of Independence Day held on 28 November 1965. Written in Albanian. This is a copy of the original program. Courtesy AAIS.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

28 November Celebration Program
Mr. Selman Seiti is in charge of the preparation of the program.
1. At 2 o'clock starts the activity with Albanian Flag Anthem
2. The head of the Society, Mr. Muharem Besimi, will speak about the importance of this date in English Language
3. Will talk about the importance of this date in Albanian language, the child education teacher Mr. Mitat Jusufi
4. The students will sing the song 'O Bilbil'
5. Reciting Mother's Poem
6. Singing in English Language the song 'Volshe Matilda'
7. Reciting the poem 'I am Albanian'
8. Singing the song 'How Beautiful is the Day'
9. Recited the poem 'Rooster Crows'
10. Singing the song 'Spring Arrived'
11. A student band sings the song 'Enough with Slavery'
12. Reciting the poem 'Homeland Values'
13. Singing the song 'The Song of Whistle'
14. Singing the M.S. Queen Anthem
By the organising Committee of AAIS.



Albanians and Moslems News Article, 20 October 1976

Whittlesea Post article on Albanian Muslims. Dr. Sayed is mentioned in the article. This is a copy of the original newspaper article. Courtesy Whittlesea Post.



Letter for Bajram Prayer and Ramadan Bajram Function, 1965

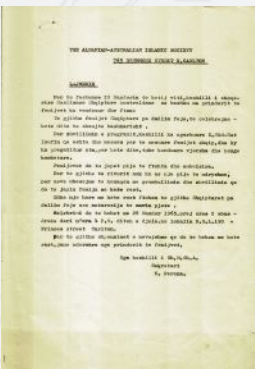
Invitation sent to all Financial Members announcing that Bajram prayer will be on 3 February 1965 at 5am. Further an invitation to join the celebration with a dinner to honour Bajram to be held at the Collingwood Town Hall on 5 February at 7pm.

The handwritten note refers to the measurements (four by two feet) of a proposed sign to be placed in front of the Mosque to identify it as an Islamic Society that never eventuated. Written in Albanian.

This is a copy of the original letter. Courtesy AAIS.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

The Albanian Australian Islamic Society
765 Drummond Street North Carlton
Invitation for Bajram prayer
We announce to all the Albanians with Muslim faith that Bajram will be prayed on 3 February at 5am in the morning.
Celebration and dinner in honour of Bajram
The Committee of the Albanian Australian Islamic Society in Melbourne will host a dinner in honour of Bajram and invites all Albanians without distinguishing religion at the Collingwood Town Hall on the 5th February at 7pm.
You are authorised and requested to invite all of your friends because we don't have their addresses.



Albanian Independence Day Party, 1965

Announcement of Independence Day celebrations, including description of event proceedings and venue details. To be held on 28 November 1965 at the RSL Club 150 Princes Street, Carlton. Written in Albanian.

This is a copy of the original letter. Courtesy AAIS.

Translation of the Document from Albanian to English

Shoqata Islamike Shqiptare Australiane
765 Drummond Street N. Carlton
Announcement
To celebrate the 28th of November this year, the council of the Australian Albanian Muslim Society together with the parents of the children, have decided and invites:
All Albanian children, regardless of religion, to celebrate this day together.
For the development of the program, the council have put in charge Mr. Mitat Jusufi, who is also the Albanian language teacher for children, and has also prepared them for this day by teaching them poems and national songs.
Children will be given cold drinks and sweets. There is no drink for all adults but we believe they will enjoy the program their children will perform on this occasion.
Once again on this occasion, all Albanians are invited, regardless of religion or membership, to participate.
The celebration will take place on Sunday November 28, 1965, from 2pm to 4pm, at the R.S.L. Club, 150 Princes Street Carlton.
All the necessary expenses will be borne by the parents of the children.
From the council of AAIS,
Secretary Z. K. Perona



Aerogramme from M. Masuood; Lahore Pakistan, 14 January 1976

Aerogramme from M. Masuood from the Islamic Missionary Society in Pakistan to Dr. Sayed, in response to his request for prayer books for the Albanian Mosque.

Description of Cursive Script

"P.S. Our Albanian friends must consider themselves lucky that they are not in Albania, otherwise they all would be communists by now. Alhamdulillah."

This is a copy of the original aerogramme. Courtesy AAIS.



Receipt for the Hire of Collingwood Town Hall, 15 February 1965

A receipt for the payment for the hiring of Collingwood Town Hall for the Bajram Dinner function.

This is a copy of the original receipt. Courtesy AAIS.

Generations

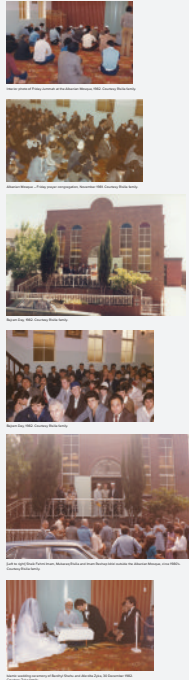
1960's



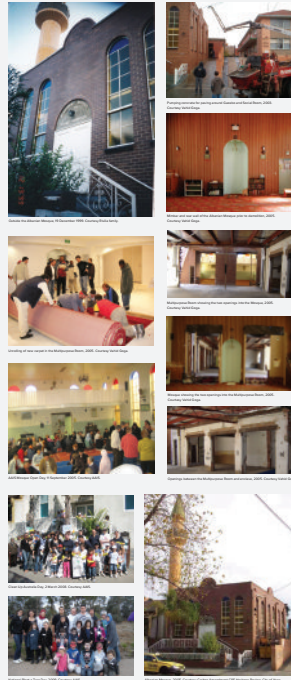
1970's



1980's



1990's - 2000



2010 - Present

