

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



USMAA

UNITED SRI LANKAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA

**5 TH.
ANNUAL
FELLOWSHIP
DINNER.**

**25th. November 1995.
Mulgrave Community Centre.**

Words of Advice

Allah, the most exalted
has revealed to me
that you should show
courtesy and be cordial
with each other. So that
nobody should consider
oneself Superior to any
person or harm that
person.

Muslim

Prophet Muhammed (p.b.o.h.)
Messenger of Allah

President's Message

Assalaamu Alaikum

Dear friends, welcome to the 5th Annual Fellowship Dinner of United Sri Lankan Muslim Association in Australia.

We have successfully reached 5 years of excellent and sincere service to our community.

Over the past 5 years USMAA has successfully attracted a growing number of membership, resulting in a diversity of experience, qualifications, skilled and semi skilled individuals. These individuals are an asset to the society, regardless of their academic qualifications. It is important that we encourage wider participation of people to achieve any goal of a community.

In a multi cultural society it is inevitable and a must that we be exposed to other cultures for tolerance and better understanding of other cultures. Bearing in mind that any society is blessed with the good one's and the not so good one's. One should not adopt any foreign custom into one's culture without deep research and debating the subject. Instead, one should and must preserve the sovereignty of one's own culture.

As a Islamic society, we have strict guidelines in how we recognise another human being, the foremost being with equality regardless of one's social status, colour or race. As Muslims we must not discriminate by any means another human being for we invoke wrath of Almighty Allah.

So let us all communicate and live harmoniously and peacefully in beautiful Australia.

With Best Wishes and Salaams

Sherajh Rahim
President of USMAA 1995

**UNITED SRI LANKAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION
IN AUSTRALIA**

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 1995/1996

President:	Sherajh Rahim
Vice President:	Mohamed Salahudeen
Secretary:	Deen Mohamed
Treasurer:	Hamza Zahir
Committee:	Mohamed Maharoof Safeen Mohamed Zarook Salih Najeeb Rahman Meerapillai Naufan
Trustees:	Eddie Dole Imtiaz Issadeen Dr. M. Farouque

USMAA PROFILE

USMAA (United Sri Lankan Muslim Association in Australia) was formed in Melbourne in 1991 and was incorporated in Victoria in August 1992.

MISSION STATEMENT

USMAA is an organisation upholding Islamic Principles and beliefs and serving the Sri Lankan Muslims living in Australia. It is our intention to promote mutually beneficial relationship with all other communities.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives are:

1. To promote the practice of the Islamic faith.
2. To foster Islamic culture and beliefs.
3. To act on behalf, where appropriate, of USMAA members, Muslims in Sri Lanka, and other Muslims within Australia and around the world.
4. To raise funds and to dispense them to those in need.
5. To address refugee problems and issues.
6. To facilitate members to obtain required skills for gainful employment.

The Message of Islam

The distinctive mission of Islam, the last of the revealed truths was, is and will always be, a message of creative, spiritual development for international co-operation. This process for the Islamic goal is based on the faith of the unity of Allah, the unity of man and the unity of the universe with all its diverse peoples, races, cultures and sub-cultures. From its inception early in the 7th century A.D., Islam has been a religion of diversity within unity. Islam regards humanity as one fraternity - inside which it affirms the existence of the Islamic brotherhood - wherein all distinctions of caste and tribe, race and colour, language and territory are superseded and obliterated.

Side by side with code of conduct and ordained laws, Islam also gives a code of human love which relates to the dealings of Muslims with the larger brotherhood of man.

As regards forcible conversion, it has been explicitly banned by Islam with the Quranic declaration - "there is no compulsion in matters of faith". It is pure fabrication that Muslims went out into the world with the sword in one hand and the Quran in the other to forcibly convert non-Muslims. Such erroneous information comes from prejudiced historians and orientalists and their propaganda. Indeed, it is so utterly unfounded that even a non-Muslim like the Reverend Dr. O'Leary admitted: "the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered people's, is one of the most absurd myths that the historians have ever spread". (Islam at the Crossroads, p.8).

The principle of equality of the human races is rooted in the Quranic Ayat:

Oh mankind! We have created you, male and female, and made you nations and communities that you may know one another. The Goodliest of you with Allah are the most pious. 49:13

In the sphere of worship, Islam is based on the direct relation between the human being and God. There is no priesthood or clergy in Islam. It is wrong to regard the Ulama (scholars) or the Imams (leaders of congregational prayers in the mosques) as priests. The consensus of opinion among non-Muslim historians is that "Islam endowed its people with a dignity peculiarly its own. Direct access to God makes one of the strongest appeals to Islam."

By making freedom the birthright of all human beings, by proclaiming human equality without distinction of caste, colour, race or nationality, Islam has established human dignity, worth and destiny on the highest possible pinnacle. When a Muslim commences his prayers by Allahu Akbar (God is the Greatest), he is actually saying that faith in Allah means that no man can be God. Loyalty to the truth, the ultimate truth, leads where it will, and devotion to human welfare is embedded in Allahu Akbar - I am for Allah, therefore I am. This is the essence of Iman when one has faith and is not just a believer.



PREMIER OF VICTORIA

1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, Victoria 3002

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Facsimile: (03) 9651 5298

Internet: premier@dpv.vic.gov.au

Our Ref:

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

Greetings to the United Shri Lankan Muslim Association in Australia on the occasion of its Fifth Annual Fellowship Dinner.

This event particularly highlights the Association's commitment to the small but yet dynamic Shri Lankan Muslim community. This occasion also provides the opportunity for members and friends to gather and celebrate the community's positive contribution to the cultural life of Victoria.

Since its establishment, this Association has continued to promote and encourage cultural and educational activities for the benefit of its members. The Fifth Annual Fellowship Dinner is a fine example of the Association's dedication to the wider Shri Lankan Muslim community.

The Victorian Government sincerely encourages the growth of Associations such as yours and acknowledges the tremendous contribution this Association has made to the cultural diversity of this State.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I wish to congratulate the United Shri Lankan Muslim Association in Australia for organising this event. I am positive that the Fifth Annual Fellowship Dinner will be a most successful occasion and that all attending will enjoy the evening's warm hospitality and entertainment.

Jeff Kennett

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JOHN BRUMBY, M.P.
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I was pleased to receive your invitation to attend the United Shri Lankan Muslim Association's Annual Fellowship Dinner. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, I am unable to attend and have asked the Shadow Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Mr Eddie Micallef MP, to represent me.

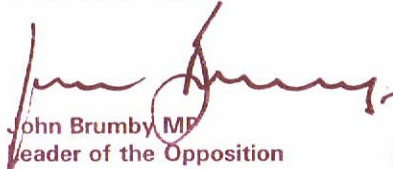
Sri Lankans, with their range of ethnic and religious backgrounds, have made a significant contribution to our own successful and flourishing multicultural society in Victoria,

The Sri Lankan community has a notable reputation for hard work. Many have come to Victoria without assistance, and have established professional careers for themselves.

The Sri Lankan community has also added immeasurably to Victoria's reputation as an education centre. The level of education amongst Sri Lankans is one of the highest in Australia, and this has helped contribute to Victoria's social and economic development.

On behalf of the State Parliamentary Labor Party, may I wish the United Shri Lankan Muslim Association a very pleasant Annual Fellowship Dinner, and every success with your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,


John Brumby MP
Leader of the Opposition

PROGRAMME

- 7:45 pm RECITAL OF QIRATH (Reading from Holy Quran)
BY BRO IRFAN LAFIR
- 7:50 pm TRANSLATION OF QIRATH
BY MISS SHAKIRA SALAHUDEEN
- 7:55 PM MUSLIM CULTURAL PAGEANT
PRESENTED BY CHILDREN OF USMAA
- 8:05 pm CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION
- 8:15 pm WELCOME ADDRESS
BY THE PRESIDENT OF USMAA
- 8:20 pm ADDRESS BY HON. EDDI MICALLEF
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS
- 8:30 pm ADDRESS BY MR. PETER SPYKER
MIGRATION LIAISON OFFICER
DEET LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMS
- 8:40 pm MAGRIB PRAYER
- 8:50 pm DINNER
- 9:45 pm TICKET DRAW
- 10:00 pm VOTE OF THANKS - WARNESIA DOLE

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
DR. FAHMI HANIFFA

MENU

FRUIT PUNCH

ENTREE

KEBAB
CUTLETS
PATTIES

MAIN COURSE

TRADITIONAL MUTTON BIRYANI
EGG La' TITMO
CHICKEN KORMA
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SUNDAY
10:00 am - 6:00 pm



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Eddie Micallef M.P.
Member for Springvale



EDDIE MICALLEF, M.L.A.
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS

25 November, 1995

As the Shadow Minister for Ethnic Affairs in Victoria, it gives me great pleasure to commend the United Sri Lankan Muslim Association in Australia for its continued efforts in promoting a viable and rich multiculturalism in this State.

The occasion of the 5th Annual Fellowship Dinner is a time to celebrate the many achievements of the Association, and all the efforts of its members.

Even though the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Victoria is not a large one, its efforts in promoting educational programs and the assistance it has given to refugees with settlement problems is to be highly commended.

I would like to take this occasion to extend my best wishes to the Association, and I am sure it will continue to have great success and many achievements in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eddie Micallef", written in a cursive style.

EDDIE MICALLEF

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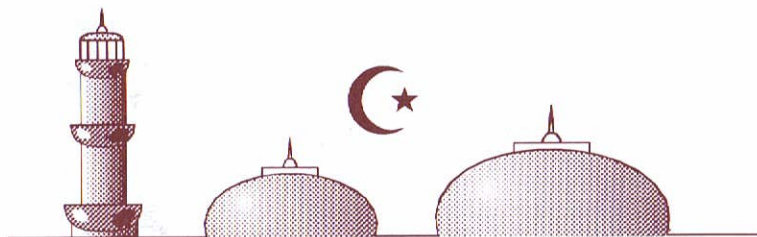
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USMAA PAST PRESIDENTS

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1992 - 1993	DR. YUSUF CADER DR. FAHMI HANIFFA
1993 - 1994	NISTHAR BUHARY
1994 - 1995	JIFFRY MARIKAR

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Words of Advice

*Avoid suspicion, for suspicion
is the greatest lie. Do not be
inquisitive about one another
or spy on one another. Do not
outbid one another with a view
to raising the price. Do not feel
jealous and do not hold grudges
against one another. Do not
backbite but be the servant of
Allah like brothers/sisters
among yourselves.*

Muslim

Prophet Muhammed (p.b.o.h.)
Messenger of Allah