



Rocket Science



Dhul Qaida /
Dhul Hijjah 1433

October 2012

*In the name of
Allah, most
Gracious, most
Merciful*

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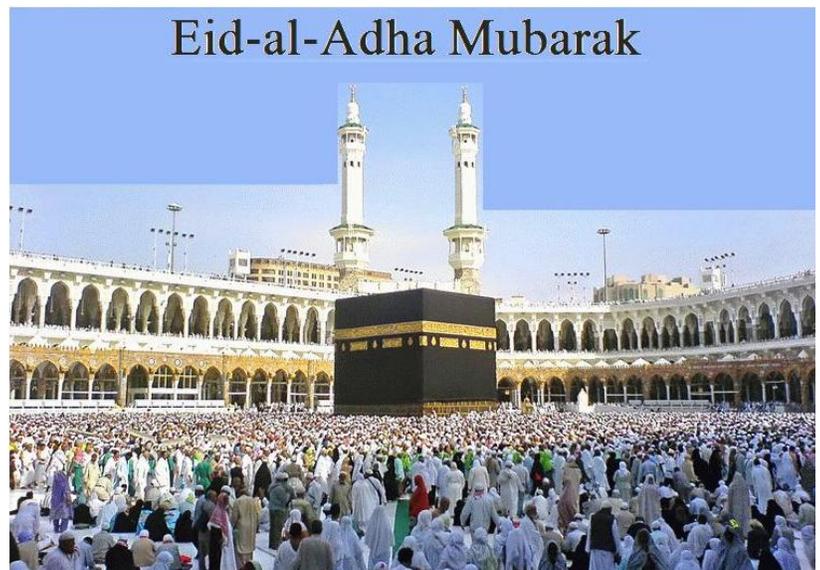
Eidul-Adha mubarak!

Eidul-Adha 1433 is projected to fall on Friday 26 October (subject to confirmation). On this great occasion, we remember two events.

Firstly, the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham, as) to sacrifice his (at that time, only) son Ismail (Ishmael, as) in obedience to the commandment of Allah (swt). "O my Lord! Grant me a righteous (son)!" So We gave him the good news of a boy, possessing forbearance. And when (his son) was old enough to walk and work with him, (Abraham) said: 'O my dear son, I see in vision that I offer you in sacrifice: Now see what is your view!' (The son) said: 'O my father! Do what you are commanded; if Allah wills, you will find me one practising patience and steadfastness!' So when they both submitted and he threw him down upon his forehead, We called out to him saying, 'O Ibrahim! You have indeed fulfilled the vision; surely thus do We reward those who do good.' Most surely this was a manifest trial. And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice. And We perpetuated (praise) to him among the later generations. 'Peace and salutation to Abraham!' Thus indeed do We reward those who do right. Surely he was one of Our believing servants" (Quran 37:100-111). As a result, he was granted another son, Ishaq (Isaac, as). "And We gave him the good news of Ishaq, a prophet from among the righteous" (Quran 37:112).

Secondly, we remember the many Muslims who travel to Makkah in order to fulfil the requirements of the fifth pillar of Islam, the haj pilgrimage.

All of us at *Rocket Science* and the Mount Albert Islamic Trust wish all our readers "Eid Mubarak!"



Haj: an epic journey

Haj, the pilgrimage to Makkah, is an epic journey. It is the most important journey in our lives. Many fortunate ones have undertaken that journey. There are many more who are longing, praying and asking Allah (swt) for that single opportunity, with the blessings of Allah.

Haj is also a summation of the dramatic story of our faith, Islam. It is also the story of the selfless sacrifice of Ibrahim (Abraham, as). It is a journey that reminds us about our primordial human nature (fitra). In simple terms, fitra is our natural state, the way Allah made us. We were born innocent and pure, but we can easily be distracted. We can forget what we learn easily and that leads to sinful and shameful deeds. Allah (swt) promises us redemption. That redemption can come only through Haj. Haj brings us redemption, divine mercy and forgiveness.

Haj teaches us many lessons about sacrifice, about loving Allah more than anyone or anything else, just as Allah's model Prophet Ibrahim (as) did. He was prepared to undertake any sacrifice for the sake of Allah without question. The most unbelievable sacrifice he was willing to perform was to sacrifice his own beloved son Ismail (Ishmael, as), whom Allah blessed him with at a very advanced age. For this unselfish willingness to sacrifice, he earned for himself the honourable title "khaleel Allah", the friend of Allah.

We should consider ourselves blessed, because one does not find in any other religion such time-tested and long-lasting rituals. Haj takes us on a journey back through time. On our way, we are taught the moral and spiritual history of humanity.

On our journey, the first place we visit is the Kaaba. It was the first place of worship, built before the first church, temple or synagogue. Here we find ourselves at the House of Allah (bait Allah). It is the home of monotheism, the cradle of divine unity (tawheed).

Here we walk around the geographical centre of Islam. Some call it the centre of the Earth. But, to us Muslims, the Kaaba is the centre of our Islamic universe.

Next, we engage in walking round the Kaaba (tawaaf). Tawaaf symbolises effort, action in a constant circular motion, centred round a fixed and immovable idea of unity – unity of belief, unity of purpose – amidst a diversity of opinions and different starting points.

The great plain of Arafat becomes the stage for a role-play of the very beginning and the very end. Long before time and space existed, long



sacrifice

fitra

*Ibrahim
Ismail*

Kaaba

tawaaf

Arafat

day of Arafat

ihram

Mount of Mercy

*journey of a
lifetime*

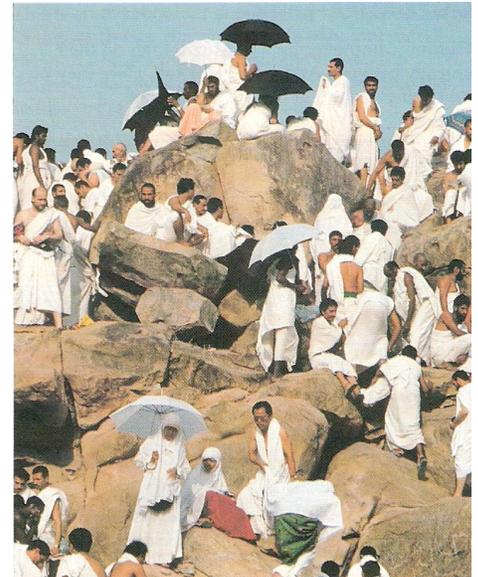
before the big bang 14 billion years ago, Allah created the souls of every human being that ever was and ever will be. Then he asked them to testify according to themselves by declaring the first covenant (kalima shahadah). This was in the state of metaphysical or pre-eternal time.

In the Quran (7:172), Allah (swt) reports that He addressed the assembled gathering of human souls, "Am I not your Lord?". They all answered together and in one thunderous voice, "Yes, indeed. You are! We testify to this, so that we have no excuse on the Day of Judgment to say that we were not aware of this covenant".

Those of us who have performed Haj and mingled with the large throng of pilgrims on the plain of Arafat know that the great gathering on that day is also a dress rehearsal for the Day of Judgement (yawmul qiyyamah). This is how the entire human race will one day stand before Allah, awaiting the final judgement. In our simple ihram clothes, we cannot distinguish anyone's wealth and social status. No one can see who is rich and who is poor; the president, the billionaire, the taxi driver and the farmer all look exactly alike, just as Allah sees us. Allah is only concerned with who is best in their deeds, and who is best in their moral and ethical behaviour. This is what this earthly life (hayaat ad-dunya) should really be all about – preparing ourselves for the eternal life after death. Do not forget Allah's promise that a person who performs Haj with sincerity (ikhlas) will have all his previous sins forgiven and he will return home like a newborn child. There will be no black mark on his record. Is this not a great blessing (ni'mah) from Allah?

We come to the Mount of Mercy (Jabal ar-Rahma), a low hill rising above the plain of Arafat. It signifies the central theme of atonement, forgiveness after we have acknowledged our sins and pleaded for Allah's mercy. Here we follow the role model of Adam (as). Here we stand not simply as Muslims or believers. Here we stand as Bani Adam, descendants of Adam and Eve (Hawa, ra). Here is where the first human beings sought forgiveness and this is where Allah forgave them. In the Quran (7:23), Allah reports their prayer: "Our Lord! We have truly wronged our own souls, and if You do not forgive us, we will truly be among the losers!" Prophet Adam's epic spiritual journey began from a state of primordial innocence and purity (fitra), and went through human forgetfulness and distraction to commit sin. But Allah also gave him the ability to recognise his mistake, to regret, to be filled with remorse and to plead for forgiveness, and finally to earn redemption. All this is graphically, vividly recalled on the Haj.

Haj is truly a journey of a lifetime. It takes us not only on a journey tracing the spiritual history of Islam, but it also symbolises the inward journey each and every one of us must undertake, to find our own centre, in the Kaaba of our heart. What desires, what emotions and passions are still circling, making tawaaf around our spiritual heart? The Heart (qalb) is the locus of our personality. This is our real driving force. Let us make sure that it is surrounded by loving thoughts of remembrance of our most Beloved Lord, Allah. It is only when we remember Allah with love and gratitude that our hearts will find everlasting peace and contentment.



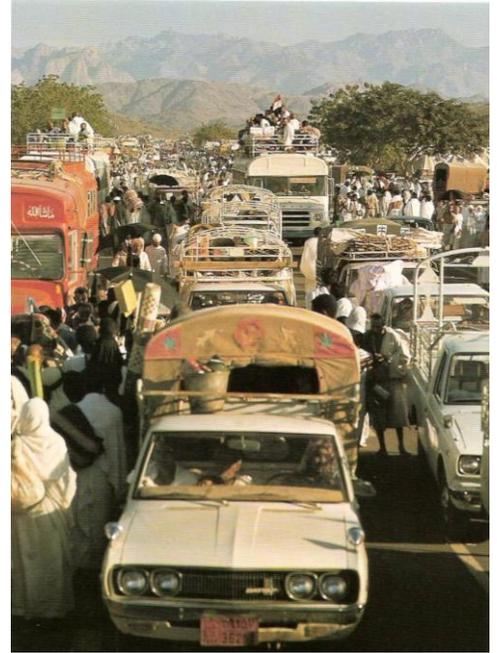
Haj by train

For many years, pilgrims undertaking haj have had to summon up reserves of patience (sabr) and wait, often for several hours, in traffic jams as over two million pilgrims were transported between the main haj sites. There have also been many incidents of stampedes, building collapses, fires and other tragedies during the few days of the haj.

All that has now changed, insha Allah, with the Mecca Metro and Haramain High Speed Rail.

The Mecca Metro is a Saudi riyal 6.7 billion (NZD2.15 bn) project awarded to the China Railway Construction Corporation, part of a Saudi-French-Chinese consortium. It covers, among other areas, the 18-kilometre haj route between the Masjid al-haram, Mina, Muzdalifa and Arafat. It is an elevated railway at a height of about ten metres from the ground with a capacity of 72,000 pilgrims per hour. Tickets are priced at SR250 (NZD80) for a full trip in and out of Makkah for seven days.

The Haramain High Speed Rail project is a 450-kilometre intercity rail link connecting Madina and Makkah via King Abdullah Economic City, Rabigh, Jeddah and King Abdulaziz International Airport. The high-speed service is planned to operate at 320 kph and to carry three million passengers a year.



Mecca Metro

Haramain High Speed Rail

**Muslim
population up
11% in 8 years**

2 million

local support

converts

Mosque-ow?

A report from the BBC¹ highlights the changing face of Moscow, the capital of Russia. Islam has always been the second biggest religion in Russia, but it has never been as visible in Moscow as it is now. This is due to two factors. Firstly, the non-Muslim Russian population is shrinking. Secondly, Muslims in the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have been forced by poverty and conflict to seek new lives in Russia and have gravitated to the capital.

The population of Russia as at the 2010 census was 142.9 m, a decrease of 1.6% from the 2002 figure². However, in the same period, the population of Moscow grew by 10.9% to an official figure of 11.5 m. Unofficially, this may be as high as 17 m³. This makes Moscow easily the largest city in Europe, well ahead of London in second place with 7.7 m.

There are now over two million Muslims living and working in Moscow. It has thus become one of the biggest cities for Muslims in Europe. They are also praying in Moscow, and this has led to Moscow's four mosques being overstretched to cope. Thousands of Muslims have to pray Friday jumuah in the rain and snow outside the mosques. "There are too many of us," says Ulugbek, a young migrant from Uzbekistan. "We have to be grateful that there are mosques in Moscow. The city was not ready to host millions of us all of a sudden."

Mosque authorities have tried to expand facilities. "We are asking the authorities to let us build new mosques, but they are ignoring our demands," says Hasan Fakhritdinov, imam of what is known as the city's Historical Mosque.

However, there seems to be support among other Muscovites. "Moscow is developing and it is attracting more migrants who happen to be Muslims," two young women walking near the

old mosque told the BBC reporter. "Russians are building churches and no-one should stop Muslims from building their mosques either".

Many Russians, by coming into closer contact with Islam, have converted. One of them is Ali Vyacheslav Polosin, a former Orthodox priest and politician. He was once at the forefront of a campaign to make Orthodox Christmas (which falls on 6 January) a public holiday in Russia. He converted 12 years ago and now runs a Muslim support centre in Moscow, teaching and advising new Russian converts. Ayesha Larisa, who works at the centre, says that they have registered more than 10,000 newly converted Muslim women alone.



Moscow's Historical Mosque

1 Rustam Qobil 'Moscow's Muslims find no room in the mosque' BBC News www.bbc.co.uk 22 March 2012

2 'Russia's population shrinks, Moscow is growing' Russia-Now www.russia-now.info 12 April 2011

3 Herbert Mosmuller 'Moscow population: capital may hold 17 million people' The Moscow Times 3 Jun 2011. See www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/russianow/society/8555676/Moscow-17-million-people.html

koru

*crescent
heart*

New YMWA logo

The Young Muslim Women's Association Incorporated (YMWA) are pleased to announce their new, unique and modern logo, launched on 23 September at the Annual General Meeting.

Joint Winners Ronald T Raharjo and Afifa Chida took awards for the winning logo from the August Logo Competition. Several outstanding logo designs of high quality made the selection process very difficult on the judging panel. The koru (Maori for "loop", representing a new unfurling silver fern frond) symbolises life, growth and Aotearoa New Zealand. The two korus meeting represents the meeting of two cultures. The YMWA is an organisation that prides itself in its open policy to all ethnicities and cultures. With over 20 different ethnicities actively participating in YMWA's programmes, this logo epitomises the organisation's principles.

The YMWA is an organisation that believes in intercultural innovation and the presence of their Islamic faith being recognised in Aotearoa.

The chosen design also has the subtle shape of a crescent and a heart. The crescent represents the birth of the new moon, following the Islamic lunar calendar, and the heart represents love and sisterhood which the YMWA proudly stands for, with one of their key values being women's empowerment.



Annual meet-up to celebrate the mother-daughter bond

AGM

A-G-M: just three letters, but they held a whole lot of meaning for the Young Muslim Women's Association Incorporated (YMWA). Over 25 young women and mothers got together on Sunday 23 September at Avondale Masjid for YMWA's first ever AGM since its incorporation on 9 July 2012. The smell of freshly baked cup-cakes and brownies filled the room inviting guests from the car park into the curtained back area of the Avondale Islamic Centre, a spacious kitchen and meeting area.

mother and daughter tea

The day commenced with a mother and daughter tea gathering, where smiles, laughter and a feeling of sisterhood and friendship reigned. It was followed by a discussion workshop and concluded with the formal AGM, launch of the YMWA logo and official announcement of this year's summer camp.

reflective workshop

After a welcoming tea gathering spent with up to three generations nibbling on savouries of pizza, samosas, fresh rice, home-made baking, and pancakes with sweet stuffings and various traditional goodies, the organisers split the attendees into two groups, mixed with mothers and daughters, to talk business.

A workshop session followed, divided into parents and youth, on how they felt about the past year. A critical analysis of past performance formed the basis for future plans. The workshop session concluded with action plans and "To do" lists for the YMWA to explore at their Strategic Meeting.

activities

After concluding the workshop, the formal AGM began. The reports of the Ameerah/ President (Azoora Ali) and Vice President (Sidra Khan) were presented and accepted. The past year proved to be a very busy year for YMWA with over ten active programmes and many developments taking place in every area of YMWA's vision and mission. Some of the highlights were:

- Quran Reflection programme
- Football leagues
- Badminton leagues
- Active Trampers – Summer Series walks
- Active Play classes (group fitness sessions)
- Study circles
- Resilience workshops
- Youth Ambassador programme
- Youth ambassador projects
- Logo competition

executive team

The participants then elected a new Ameerah under the constitution as the former Ameerah had completed her two-year term. YMWA's new executive team for 2012-2013 is:

- Ohoud Eraki (Ameerah/President)
- Azoora Ali (Vice President & Treasurer)
- Sidra Khan (Educational Coordinator)
- Sasya Wreksono (Marketing Coordinator & Secretary)
- Malihah Sani (Social Coordinator)

awards

The Advisory Board for 2012-13 year was then elected consisting of Waseema Ahmed, Leena Azoor and Tazkiya Ali.

The awards ceremony took place with certificates and awards being handed out to special members (Arisha Aqeel, Rawand Shiblaq, Saphiya Zaza, Zainab Esau and Mariam Almasri), volunteer members (Leena Azoor, Woroud Alzاهر and Tazkiya Ali), executive members (Sidra Khan, Azoor Ali, Malihah Sani and Sasya Wreksono) and the advisory council (Waseema Ahmed and Nazreen Hannif) for their contribution and achievement over the past two years.

A special launch was held introducing YMWA's new look and logo, with award winners Afifa Chida and Ronald T Raharjo winning beautiful trophy awards to acknowledge their success.

Finally, the venue for the YMWA Camp 2012 was announced with details of enrolment, fees and activities being officially released. The camp will be held at a pristine waterfront location: the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre, Long Bay. Details can be found at www.ymwa.org/content/camp.



2012 camp

Four day YMWA girls camp
Cultural Integration

December 14th, 15th, 16th & 17th
 Sir Peter Blake Marine Education & Recreation Centre, 1045 Beach Rd, Long Bay

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!
 The camp fee this year is **only \$95!**

Value \$260	YMWA Subsidy 63%	You save \$165!
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**LIMITED PLACES!
 GET IN QUICK!**

- ✓ Tree Abseiling
- ✓ Canoeing
- ✓ Abseiling
- ✓ Sailing
- ✓ Climbing
- ✓ Multi-Sport Challenge
- ✓ Spiritual Learning
- ✓ Leadership Workshop
- ✓ Talent quests
- and many more!

Please visit <http://www.ymwa.org/content/camp> for a registration pack

All registrations are to be returned no later than November 9th 2012. Places will be given on a first come first served basis until all available places are filled. You must be 12+(-25) to attend this camp.

Iqra students visit MOTAT

What an exciting day! On 15 September, Iqra students accompanied by a few parents visited the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT). Students, divided into four groups each led by two parents, left the Iqra premises at midday. The children enjoyed the wonderful experience of the different events and activities at MOTAT: telecommunication, the mirror maze, the activity centre, the earthquake centre and space ship experiences. Many went to the communication centre and played with the old phones to ring their friends. They also enjoyed the whisper dishes, and Oxford Theatre showcasing the old days of the cinema. There was great excitement as we rode the tram to the Aviation Display Hall (MOTAT 2) and back.

Thank you so much to the fantastic group of parents helping us on the day.



Lunch!



At the Aviation Display Hall



*communication
centre*

aviation hall

Voice of Islam



VOI delivers the message of Islam based on the teachings of the Noble Quran and the Sunnah (practices) of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). The show neither delivers nor promotes any political, national, ethnic, social or class perspective – its focus is purely on da'wah and deen-al-Islam (the Islamic faith/way of life).

VOI television is broadcast on:

- Triangle TV in Auckland (8.00 & 11.30am Sat; 8.00am Sun)
- CTV in Christchurch
- Channel 9 Dunedin
- Telstra Digital TV in Wellington & Christchurch CH 50
- SKYTV CH 89 and Freeview CH 21 in New Zealand
- MAITV in Fiji
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa

6 & 7 October

Qur'an 2: 21-23

LECTURE: Women in Islam-subjugated or liberated by Abdur Raheem Green

DOCUMENTARY: The fact of creation – camouflage in living things by Harun Yahya

13-14 October

Qur'an 2: 21-23

LECTURE: Know the final messenger of peace by Yusuf Estes

DOCUMENTARY: The Creation of the universe by Harun Yahya

NO STONE UNTURNED: Allah by Bilal Dannoun

20 & 21 October

Qur'an 2: 252-254

LECTURE: Prophet Muhammad as a leader by Tawfique Chowdhury

TID BITS: Zakat by Yusuf Estes

DOCUMENTARY: Makkah the mother of all cities by Harun Yahya

NO STONE UNTURNED: Hajj by Bilal Dannoun

27 & 28 October

Qur'an: 2: 21-23

MY PATH TO ISLAM: by Sr Melissa McCoskery

NO STONE UNTURNED: Festivals by Bilal Dannoun

DOCUMENTARY: Altruism in nature – self sacrificing creatures By Harun Yahya

TID BITS: Hajj by Yusuf Estes



Abdur Raheem
Green

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: www.voiceofislamtv.com

Auckland prayer timetable for October 2012

(from www.islamicFinder.org. For other cities in New Zealand, see www.fianz.co.nz).

*"If a person enlivens the nights of Eidul-Fitr and Eidul-Adha with prayers, dhikr, recitation of Quran, or similar activities, his heart will be alive on a day when all hearts die."
(hadith)*

Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr 1	Asr 2	Maghrib	Isha
1	5:28	6:56	1:10	4:42	5:38	7:24	8:48
2	5:26	6:54	1:10	4:43	5:38	7:25	8:49
3	5:24	6:53	1:10	4:43	5:39	7:26	8:50
4	5:23	6:51	1:09	4:43	5:39	7:27	8:51
5	5:21	6:50	1:09	4:43	5:40	7:28	8:52
6	5:21	6:50	1:09	4:43	5:40	7:28	8:52
7	5:19	6:48	1:09	4:44	5:41	7:29	8:53
8	5:16	6:45	1:08	4:44	5:42	7:31	8:55
9	5:14	6:44	1:08	4:44	5:42	7:31	8:56
10	5:13	6:42	1:08	4:45	5:43	7:32	8:57
11	5:11	6:41	1:07	4:45	5:43	7:33	8:58
12	5:09	6:39	1:07	4:45	5:44	7:34	8:59
13	5:08	6:38	1:07	4:45	5:44	7:35	9:00
14	5:06	6:37	1:07	4:46	5:45	7:36	9:02
15	5:04	6:35	1:06	4:46	5:46	7:37	9:03
16	5:03	6:34	1:06	4:46	5:46	7:38	9:04
17	5:01	6:33	1:06	4:46	5:47	7:39	9:05
18	4:59	6:31	1:06	4:47	5:47	7:40	9:06
19	4:58	6:30	1:05	4:47	5:48	7:41	9:08
20	4:58	6:30	1:05	4:47	5:48	7:41	9:08
21	4:56	6:29	1:05	4:47	5:48	7:42	9:09
22	4:53	6:26	1:05	4:48	5:49	7:44	9:11
23	4:51	6:25	1:05	4:48	5:50	7:45	9:13
24	4:50	6:23	1:05	4:48	5:51	7:46	9:14
25	4:48	6:22	1:05	4:48	5:51	7:47	9:15
26	4:47	6:21	1:04	4:49	5:52	7:48	9:16
27	4:45	6:20	1:04	4:49	5:52	7:49	9:18
28	4:44	6:19	1:04	4:49	5:53	7:50	9:19
29	4:42	6:17	1:04	4:49	5:53	7:51	9:20
30	4:41	6:16	1:04	4:50	5:54	7:52	9:22
31	4:39	6:15	1:04	4:50	5:55	7:53	9:23

Asr 1: Maliki, Shafii and Hanbali schools (single shadow length)

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

Credits

Rocket Science is a monthly newsletter produced by the Mount Albert Islamic Trust.

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Why attend Rocket Park jumuah?

- ✓ Central location
- ✓ Plenty of free parking
- ✓ Facilities for ladies
- ✓ Bayaan (religious talk) before jumuah prayers
- ✓ All bayaan and khutbah in English

NB We are only open for Friday prayers – not for the five daily prayers.

In December 2010, the **Senior Citizens' Association building, Rocket Park, New North Road, Mount Albert**, was closed for renovation by the Auckland City Council. Following these renovations, we believe we are the only jumuah in New Zealand with air-conditioning and heating.

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Missed an issue of *Rocket Science*? All our monthly issues are available online at the Mount Albert Islamic Trust website: www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org

Swt, saw, as, ra

swt : subhanahu wa ta'ala "Glory to Him, the Exalted" (when mentioning Allah)

saw : salallahu alaihi wassalam "May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him" (when mentioning Muhammad)

as: alaihis salam "Peace be on him" (when mentioning other prophets)

ra : radi allahu anhu/ha/hum "May Allah be pleased with him/her/them" (when mentioning members of Muhammad's family, companions, etc)