

## **Australia Day Report**

On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2009, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Australia got into the spirit of the nation to celebrate Australia Day at the Bait-Ul-Huda Mosque in Sydney.

The program was conducted by Syed Fawaz Ahmed and it commenced at 2:20pm after a brief welcome to all the guests by Fawaz with the recitation and translation of the Holy Quran by Syed Tariq Ahmad. Everyone then rose up for the singing of the national anthem which was led by a group of Atfal and Nasirat. Then a tiftl, Usman Khan gave a speech in English on the foundation of the country and duties of an Ahmadi towards the nation. He quoted a most beautiful saying of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), which said "Love of your homeland is part of your faith." Javed Ahmadi proceeded to deliver a speech on the responsibilities of an Ahmadi in Australia. He highlighted that every human being has obligations toward the Creator and His creations. He advised the audience to remain loyal to the country and abide by its laws. The Ahmadiyya Community is fortunate that they have the freedom of speech and freedom to practice their religion freely. The speaker emphasized that every member of the Community should continue to love and respect Australia not only by words but by actions as well. This can be achieved by taking part in the Clean Up Australia Day and Red Cross Door Knock Appeal, which the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been actively contributing towards for many years.

Next it was the turn of the guests to say a few words. Cnr. Tony Bleasdale, who was representing the Mayor of the City of Blacktown thanked the Ahmadiyya Community for inviting him. He talked about building the future of the nation and to celebrate all the cultures existing in this country together. Australia is a united nation and everyone living here should be proud of it. He ended his brief talk by expressing that he was very humbled and proud to come to the mosque and be associated with the Ahmadiyya Community.

Louise Markus MP, Federal Member for Greenway in her address stressed that the members of the Ahmadiyya Community should be grateful that there is no fear of oppression against their Community. She was also grateful for the contribution of the Jamaat towards the community. She highlighted that there was hope for the nation that it would get through these tough economic times and come out stronger on the other side. Finally, she mentioned that it was a pleasure for her to be

present at the mosque and she wished the Ahmadiyya Community the very best for 2009.

The song 'We are Australian' was then sung beautifully by a group of Atfal and Nasirat led by a Khadim, Haris Khan. In conclusion, Syed Fawaz Ahmed thanked all the distinguished guests for attending the program and Nasir Kahlon, Naib Ameer of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat Australia led silent prayers at 3pm. Refreshments were served for everyone to bring a very successful end to the Australia Day Program.