

2018 IMA REPORT

ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

ART HERITAGE DISCOVERY

WE ARE IMA

The Islamic Museum of Australia provides educational and cross-cultural experiences and showcases the artistic and cultural heritage of Muslims in Australia and in Islamic societies abroad.


It aims to foster community harmony and facilitate an understanding of the values and contributions of Muslims to Australian society.

OUR MUSEUM ON



www.islamicmuseum.org.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US

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Moustafa Fahour OAM
FOUNDER AND PATRON

Assalamu Alaikum and welcome to the Islamic Museum of Australia.

The IMA opened its doors to the public in 2014 when there was a real need for education about Islam and today, four years later, it is evident that education is power. The IMA has welcomed well over 50,000 school children and guests and continues to be a resource used by schools today. As founder and patron, this makes me extremely proud because I always had the intention to showcase the beauty and factual information of Islam through the arts. Just like sport, the arts transcend gender, age and culture. The arts play an important role in creating an understanding of Islam in a way that is manageable and the 5 permanent galleries in the IMA are curated to lead you on a fascinating journey of arts, heritage and discovery.

Despite all of this good news, the Muslim community still faces challenges to overcome barriers and break stereotypes. Despite this reality, the IMA is empowering young artists to showcase their work as well as empowering the curious general public about a faith that is often misunderstood.

Each and every time I revisit the IMA, memories flood back to a time when this was an old factory and me and the team envisioned an institution that would be interesting, fun, enlightening and interactive. We envisioned a hub for visiting exhibitions, rare artwork, international guest speakers and of course, a place that Muslims could be proud of.

Today, I am proud to say that these goals are being met and are continuously strived for by our wonderful team.

I invite you to spread the word and be part of this unique Museum and explore your knowledge about Islam.

MOUSTAFA FAHOUR OAM
FOUNDER AND PATRON OF IMA

CHAIRPERSON

As Chairperson of this outstanding institution, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the Islamic Museum of Australia.

Over the years, it has been a joy to watch the Islamic Museum grow into a leading arts and cultural institution that creatively showcases the significant contributions and achievements of Australian Muslims to this great nation, and more broadly, the world. This vision and mission of this Museum remains committed to providing innovative environments, programs and tools that help people nurture their curiosity about Islam and ultimately, builds bridges of understanding between communities.

Born from a dream to create the first Islamic Museum of its kind by visionary Founder Moustafa Fahour OAM along with his team in 2010, this Museum has since established a significant global presence with over 50,000 visitors since inception. We are also grateful to Ahmed Fahour and family for their outstanding contributions and donations to the realization of this living and learning museum. In 2017 alone, we hosted 11,000 students from over 160 schools, have established over 500 community partners and engaged with over 119,000 followers across social and multimedia channels. In 2018, our foray into virtual reality will launch with the rollout of our anticipated online education portal with free curriculum aligned teaching resources for teachers and students.

I am particularly proud of the 12 cutting-edge visiting art exhibitions that we have hosted since opening, including Islamic Coins, Australian Muslim Artists, Borderlands by Phillip George, Between Inscription and Gesture and The Laughing Apple by Cat Stevens to name a few. Artistic discourse transcends space, time and boundaries to communicate instead in the universal languages of feeling, emotion and experience – reminding us that at our core we are humans with an innate need to be understood, respected and valued. It is this philosophy that we keep close to our hearts here at IMA, working collectively to facilitate spaces for critical reflection and personal interpretation. In the act of sharing, common myths and prejudices are dispelled and mutual understanding is established.

It is my pleasure as Chairperson to work with and lead a community of like minded professionals, volunteers, visitors, supporters and friends in cultivating significant societal change through the events, initiatives and workshops held here at the museum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous donors and sponsors for their significant contribution towards helping us showcase the vitality, complexity and diversity of the Islamic world, in particular our principal partners, The Australian Government, The Victorian State Government, Commonwealth Bank, Maurice Blackburn and Bank of Sydney.

As always, I am grateful for the community support that we have received at a grassroots level and look forward to welcoming you and your family to IMA for an immersive, intercultural experience in the near future.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bulent Hass Dellal AO

CHAIRPERSON



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Islamic Museum of Australia is a not-for-profit foundation founded in May 2010 with the purpose of establishing the first Islamic Museum in Australia. It showcases the rich artistic heritage and historical contributions of Muslims in Australia and abroad through the display of various artworks and historical artefacts.

This is the first centre of its kind in Australia and showcases a diverse range of Islamic arts including architecture, calligraphy, paintings, glass, ceramics and textiles. Islamic arts date back to the 7th Century with the advent of Islam, and include the different artistic styles and cultural influences of various empires that came under Islamic rule, such as Spanish and Persian influences. The Museum also aims to promote new and established Islamic artists, both locally and internationally.

The purpose - built Islamic Museum is geared towards sharing the artistic and historical achievements of Muslims internationally, and more importantly, in Australia. It provides unique cross-cultural and educational services offering fascinating insights into the Muslim Australian experience for visitors and school groups.

The IMA continues the proud tradition that Australia, and namely the State of Victoria, have initiated in becoming a world leading Multicultural Hub. This is through working with communities, cultures and faiths to develop numerous educational centres, cultural events, festivals and other initiatives.



ORGANISATION

The Islamic Museum of Australia is a not-for-profit foundation and recognized by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).

FOUNDER AND PATRON

Mr Moustafa Fahour OAM

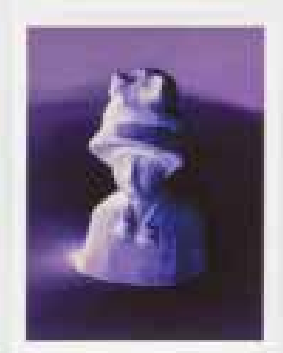
HONORARY PATRON

Mr Ahmed Fahour OM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr Hass Dellal OM
Ms Padmini Sebastian OAM
Mr Asad Ansari
Ms Azmeena Hussain
Mr Abdullah Saeed
Ms Miriam Silva
Mr Huss Moustafa OAM

MISSION, VISION & OBJECTIVES



MISSION STATEMENT

The Islamic Museum of Australia provides educational and cross-cultural experiences and showcases the artistic and cultural heritage of Muslims in Australia and in Islamic societies abroad. It aims to foster community harmony and facilitate an understanding of the values and contributions of Muslims to Australian society.

VISION STATEMENT

The Islamic Museum of Australia is a community foundation with the vision of establishing a leading cultural institution to showcase and preserve the arts, history, culture and rich heritage that Islam and Muslim societies have brought to the world and more importantly, Australia.





OBJECTIVES

- To provide visitors a unique insight into the Australian Muslim experience.
- To promote community harmony and mutual understanding by sharing the arts, history, culture and heritage of Muslim communities in Australia with the general public.
- To provide a national resource centre detailing the arts, history, culture and heritage of Muslim communities in Australia and abroad. To establish, preserve and document a collection that reflects the vitality, complexity and diversity of the arts of the Islamic world and exhibit this collection to the public.
- To collect, preserve, archive and display significant documents and artefacts chronicling the history of Muslims in Australia.
- To collaborate with Australian and International museums and galleries to operate a centre of excellence, hosting high calibre visiting exhibitions which will promote tourism and renew public interest.
- To operate a shop on the Museum premises to provide patrons with Museum souvenirs, crafts, artworks, exhibition information and a range of books on Islamic art and culture. The shop includes a café serving light refreshments.
- To maintain a versatile community facility to provide a suitable venue for many cultural activities. These include: book launches, corporate functions, cross-cultural training, calligraphy, art & craft classes, among other events.





EXTERNAL REVIEWS

Deakin University undertook a study of the Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA), seeking to find out how, if at all, it created value at multiple levels-individual, organisational and the community to facilitate social inclusion.

FINDINGS:

IMA is using innovative and strategic ways of dealing with the challenges to make Australia more inclusive, safe, and a secure and better place for present and future generations.

Findings suggest that by instilling a sense of pride and self-confidence particularly among young Muslims, with the potential to play a significant role in preventing them from being radicalised and also any possible retaliation in the face of negative stereotypes faced by them.

IMA is seen to create pride and a sense of belonging and a strengthening of identify. It was found to be inspiring. Visitors felt enriched or enlightened in being able to learn new things, such as the achievements and historical contributions of Muslims in Australia and abroad through the ages.

IMA visitors had opportunities to make community connections by breaking down stereotypes, being able to befriend Muslims by knowing more about them and feeling connected to them as people.

BLACKHALL & PEARL

The IMA invited Blackhall & Pearl to provide a proposal to undertake the 2017 Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA) Board Skills Review. The overall purpose of the review was to improve the quality of governance, boardroom discussion and decision-making of the IMA Board, including its interaction with its Committees and Executive Leadership based on the Board Skills Requirements.

MULTICULTURAL MUSEUMS VICTORIA (MMV)

Multicultural Museums Victoria (MMV) is a new partnership comprising Melbourne's Chinese Museum, Hellenic Museum, Islamic Museum of Australia, Jewish Museum of Australia, and Museo Italiano. Each of the five museums curates and presents exhibitions, offers education and public programs and operates to professional museum standards The IMA is a proud partner of Multicultural Museums Victoria (MMV), a unique alliance of multiple multicultural museums wishing to share their heritage, culture and art within a framework of shared values.

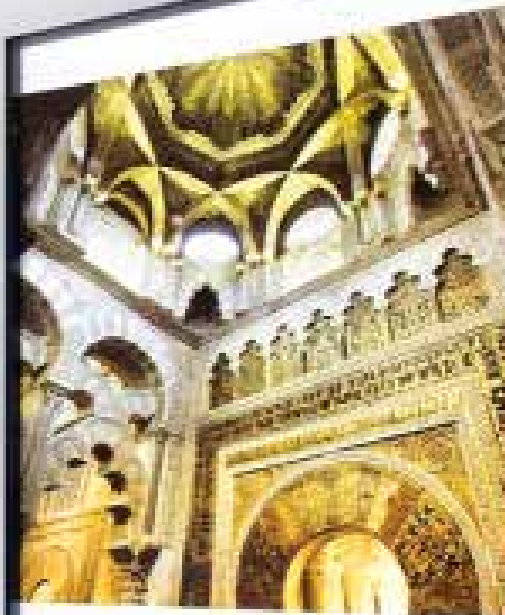
FIVE PERMANENT GALLERIES

ISLAMIC ART

The Islamic Museum of Australia collects, preserves and showcases original art pieces. These include unique, valuable and intricate pieces of art, calligraphy, textiles, mosaics and other crafts sourced from around the Muslim world as well as a significant collection of contemporary art by award-winning Australian Muslim artists. School and community groups have the opportunity to book Islamic art workshops. These explore Islamic geometric design, mosaic and calligraphy.

ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Visitors can witness beautiful visual displays immersing them into the wonder of Islamic geometric designs and architectural styles spanning many continents over several centuries. Discover the rich architecture of the following influential Muslim civilisations: Ummayyad (Syria), Andalusian (Spain), Mughal (India), Saffavid (Persia), Ottoman (Turkey) and more.





FIVE PERMANENT GALLERIES

ISLAMIC FAITH

A genuine curiosity exists among the general public about the beliefs and practices of Muslims. Every fasting Muslim has fielded multiple questions about Ramadan and the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca has generated equal fascination. Praying five times daily, Islamic dress, Halal food and Muslim festivals are among the topics explored in this informative gallery. This will foster a deeper understanding of Muslim life and thereby promote community harmony.

ISLAMIC CONTRIBUTION TO CIVILISATION

Discover the numerous contributions made by scholars from the Islamic world in times gone by in the fields of mathematics, chemistry, literature, astronomy and more; from soap and coffee to Arabic numerals and algebra. Visitors can experience interactive displays showing these marvellous inventions and discoveries, which helped shape our modern world.

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM HISTORY

Australian Muslim History features the achievements of Muslims in Australia from the Afghan cameleers who pioneered exploration of the outback, Malay pearlers, Australian Muslim WWII veterans, and current Muslim sportspeople, authors and business achievers. These facts challenge popular misconceptions regarding Australian Muslim communities.

The IMA also launched a documentary and photography book of the Australian Muslim History titled; *Boundless Plains: The Australian Muslim Connection*, following the journey of four young Australian Muslims discovering the outback heritage of early Muslim pioneers.

Hosting events, exhibitions and workshops for the community is at the very heart of what we do here at IMA. We are proud to have offered a multitude of events since opening, each one celebrating the rich artistic and cultural traditions embedded within the Islamic faith and tradition. From our community art exhibitions, to thought-provoking guest speakers, poetry events celebrating lyrical mastery and kids art workshops, we strive to ensure that our museum serves the needs of our community supporters and visitors. From our IMA family to yours - we hope that you enjoy learning about our 2017 highlights and look forward to welcoming you at an IMA event in the near future.

EVENTS & VISITING EXHIBITIONS 2017





VISITING EXHIBITIONS

THE ILLUMINATED FIELD

The Illuminated Field was made while Leslie Eastman was undertaking an Australia Council studio residency in Spain in 2014. The version of the work developed for the Islamic Museum of Australia was a four-screen video installation documenting light from dawn till dusk at Abengoa Solar, Europe's first commercial power station in Andalucía.

AMA

AMA is an annual exhibition showcasing the work of emerging and established Australian Muslim Artists. AMA provides a professional gallery setting for artists to exhibit, enhancing profiles, and providing exposure to new audiences. Artists featured were: Leslie Eastman, Jake Carter, Elif Sezen, Avni Dauti, Lara Chamas & Reem Faiq.

BETWEEN INSCRIPTION & GESTURE

A calligraphic exhibition of urban typography probing the intersection of tags with traditional Asian and Islamic calligraphy. This exhibition was named a finalist at the 2018 museums & galleries national awards.

THE LAUGHING APPLE

Showcasing posters of digital and hand drawn illustrations by Yusuf Islam, otherwise known as Cat Stevens. The exhibition ran in concert with Yusuf's Peace Train Tour, commemorating 50 years since releasing the debut album Matthew & Son in 1967.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

The IMA Education Program is committed to supporting constructive social outcomes through education about Islam and Muslims, in Australia and beyond, and through facilitating intercultural encounters, conversations and dialogue with Muslim perspectives.

Designed as an 'Islamic Exploratorium', IMA is an innovative space that encourages visitors to partake in an immersive and interactive intercultural experience. It is purpose-built for education, with flexible learning spaces that include a multi-function centre, lecture theatre, and two workshop spaces.

IMA offers a variety of curriculum aligned educational packages for primary and secondary schools. All packages combine a presentation, Q&A, guided tour of the museum, and interactive activities. The IMA Education Portal will give students and teachers around Australia remote access to free, curriculum-aligned teaching and learning resources based on IMA's galleries and exhibitions. IMA also offers periodic professional learning sessions for school educators and a work experience placement program for Year 10 students.

IMA EVENTS (2017)

POETRY BOOK LAUNCH

The first event of IMA's inaugural Poetry Week was a reading of 'The Dervish with Wings' with Elif Sezen, a Turkish writer, artist and poet living in Melbourne who recently launched her first book in English, 'Universal Mother'. Attendees were able to cherish the opportunity to listen to Elif give a reading of selected poetic works.

POETRY UNDER THE STARS

The first iteration of our slam poetry night in collaboration with Ms. Millie's Pop-Up Poetry.

TEZHIP: THE ISLAMIC ART OF ILLUMINATION

Tezhip is an attractive, luminous manuscript artform established during the Ottoman Era. Sydney artist Gulay Pelin led a hands-on two day course and workshop for participants to create their own gilded manuscripts to take home.

COFFEE WITH SHERENE

IMA hosted an opportunity for visitors to attend the IMA and have a chat with muslims over a coffee to build a better understanding of Muslims in Australia. This grassroots initiative began on social media and is now an annual event.

MEHDI HASSAN LUNCH

In Melbourne, internationally acclaimed journalist Mr. Mehdi Hasan was joined in conversation with Antoinette Latouf and Stan Grant, both of the ABC, focusing on defeating extremism in the age of Trump. Before his keynote address at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Mehdi Hasan visited IMA to partake in a series of special and thought-provoking conversations with community representatives.

WOMEN'S MORNING TEA

IMA hosted two womens morning teas. In 2017, the IMA was fortunate enough to host esteemed guest speakers Dalya Ayoub and Professor Marcia Langton.

STORY TELLING

IMA welcomed award winning author, master storyteller and artist Mehded Maryam Sinclair for a popular event titled 'Reviving the Islamic Art of Storytelling' that captivated her young audience with a narration of the beautiful story of Prophet Musa (Moses) and her subsequent sellout event titled 'Malice in Wonderland' tailored for an older audience.

DR UMAR FARUQ ABDALLAH

IMA was honoured to host Dr. Umar Faruq AbdAllah for two public lectures, his first in Australia. An author, scholar, and founder and Chair of the Nawawi Foundation, Dr Umar has published books on a range subjects and is committed to providing meaningful Islamic teachings rooted in authentic scholarship.

POETRY UNDER THE STARS 2

The second iteration of our slam poetry night in collaboration with Ms. Millie's Pop-Up Poetry.

IMA EVENTS (2017)

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK: GRAFFITI WORKSHOP

This project was jointly conducted with professional aerosol artists who held instructional workshops and worked with students to paint a mural illustrating the complex facets of adolescent Australian Muslim identity. This art project reflects IMA's commitment to urban renewal, reconfiguring run down areas and injecting new life into urban spaces through community murals.

DEAR HOMELAND: MIGRANT LETTERS FROM AUSTRALIA. INTERCULTURAL JOURNEYS

A special film screening and panel discussion.

Co.As.It. and Museo Italiano, in partnership with Islamic Museum of Australia, hosted a screening of Dear Homeland videos, an ongoing series by SBS producer, Francesca Rizzoli, followed by a specialist panel discussion and Q&A with the audience. The event explored themes of migration and the integration of diverse migrant communities within Australian society.

AN ILLUMINATED GUIDE TO PARADISE

A devotional installation by Hanifa MacFarlane that ran over the last week of Ramadan.

NORTHLANDS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Mosaic and art workshops for kids held inside Northlands Shopping Centre during the school holiday period.

ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Calligraphy workshop taught by Soleiman Abukar to visiting Islamic schools.

FAMSY COMMUNITY ART SHOW

The FAMSY Community Art Show is the culmination of artists' work from the FAMSY Art Competition run in conjunction with the Islamic Museum of Australia. This initiative created an opportunity for talented individuals in the community to showcase their work. Such collaborations encourage artistic skills and bring the community together to appreciate and celebrate their youth.

SALAM FEST YOUTH CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

IMA provided materials, giveaways and promotional material for the 3 day SalamFest festival promoting the values of Peace, Love and Compassion in conjunction with State Library Victoria, ICV, and the City of Melbourne.

CAROLS IN ALL NATIONS

A mosaic box decoration workshop was hosted at Northcote Park sponsored by Darebin City Council Festivals and Events team.



FAST FACTS

Over **50,000** visitors since opening in 2014.

12 visiting art exhibitions since opening including, Islamic Coins, Australian Muslim Artists, Borderlands by Phillip George and The Laughing Apple by Yusuf Islam/Cat Stevens.

120,000 followers on Social Media Channels. Online Engagement reach of **110,948**. The first and only Islamic Museum in Australia.

Over **500** community partners.

In 2018 IMA launched an innovative, experiential **virtual reality tour bringing** our museum - to you.

One of a kind online **educational portal** with free curriculum aligned teaching resources for teachers and students.



VOLUNTEERS

The Islamic Museum of Australia would not be where it is today if it wasn't for the hard work of our volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to assist the Museum in the day to day tasks to make this organisation a success.

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Hafsa Azam, Houda Merhi, Safia Dahhan, Lynne Healy, Iman Balla, Natalia Gould, Liyana Sharif, Mariam Hassan, Livnat Segev, Nawsheen Coonjah, Nor Amalina Rahman, Mariam Hoblos, Rukaya Taleb, Judan Aburman, Asha Ibrahim, Daaniah Al-Masri, Amna El Samad, Adrienne Tsoulfidis, Maisha Hossain, Merve Onder, Sarah Baarini, Ramzi Elsayed, Fatima Dabdoub, Hiam Merhi, Zaynab Malellari, Sarah Haliem, Alaa Al-Masri, Sara Myhagos.



PARTNERS / SPONSORS

Government Partners



Principal Partner



Corporate Partners



Printing Partners



Technology Partner





WAYS TO SUPPORT US

Your kind support of the IMA will enable Australia's only Islamic Museum to continue its important work in fostering cultural understanding and social harmony.

IMA VOLUNTEER

To become an IMA volunteer please click on the link below:
<https://islamicmuseum.org.au/support/volunteer-form/>

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

We understand that your business needs are complex and multifaceted, hence, our options boast an array of benefits including brand recognition, visibility, networking opportunities and promotion. Together, we can promote your organisation to our vast network of contacts, businesses and communities across Australia, as well as internationally.

Whether you are interested in long-term sponsorship options, or are looking for something event-specific, our corporate sponsorship packages can be tailored to suit your organisational needs. Contact us to discuss how we can collaboratively work to engage, empower and enhance community cohesion and harmony across Australia.

FRIENDS OF IMA

Our exclusive three-tiered bronze, silver or gold friendship program awards a wide range of benefits to small groups, families, or individuals looking to support museum endeavours. Annual membership grants Friends of the IMA free, unlimited access to our events, exhibitions and community evenings, along with discounts to use at the IMA Café and Gift Shop. Becoming a Friend of IMA allows you to support the art, heritage and significant contributions of Muslims to the Australian cultural landscape.

DONATIONS

The generosity of your donations helps us preserve and promote the substantial work that this museum undertakes in building bridges between communities. A one-off donation, or regular monthly payment can be used to fund your chosen donation category, from maintenance, to education, or for our volunteers with all donors receiving a personalised report at the end of the year demonstrating how your gift has made a sustained and powerful impact for our future.

To learn more about our sponsorship options, membership or to make a donation please contact Ali Fahour, General Manager.



ali.fahour@islamicmuseum.org.au



0433 010 933

IMA is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) by the Australian Taxation Office. It is covered by items 1 & 4 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

The Prophet also said:

“Give charity without delay, for it stands in the way of calamity.”

- Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 589 -

For all online donations, please click on the link below:

<https://islamicmuseum.org.au/donation/>

RELATED ONLINE RESOURCES

Islamic Museum of Australia

<http://www.islamicmuseum.org.au>

Boundless Plains: The Australian Muslim Connection

<http://www.boundlessplains.com.au/>

Australian Muslim Artists <http://www.australianmuslimartists.com.au/>

Muslim Journeys. Uncommon Lives, National Archives of Australia

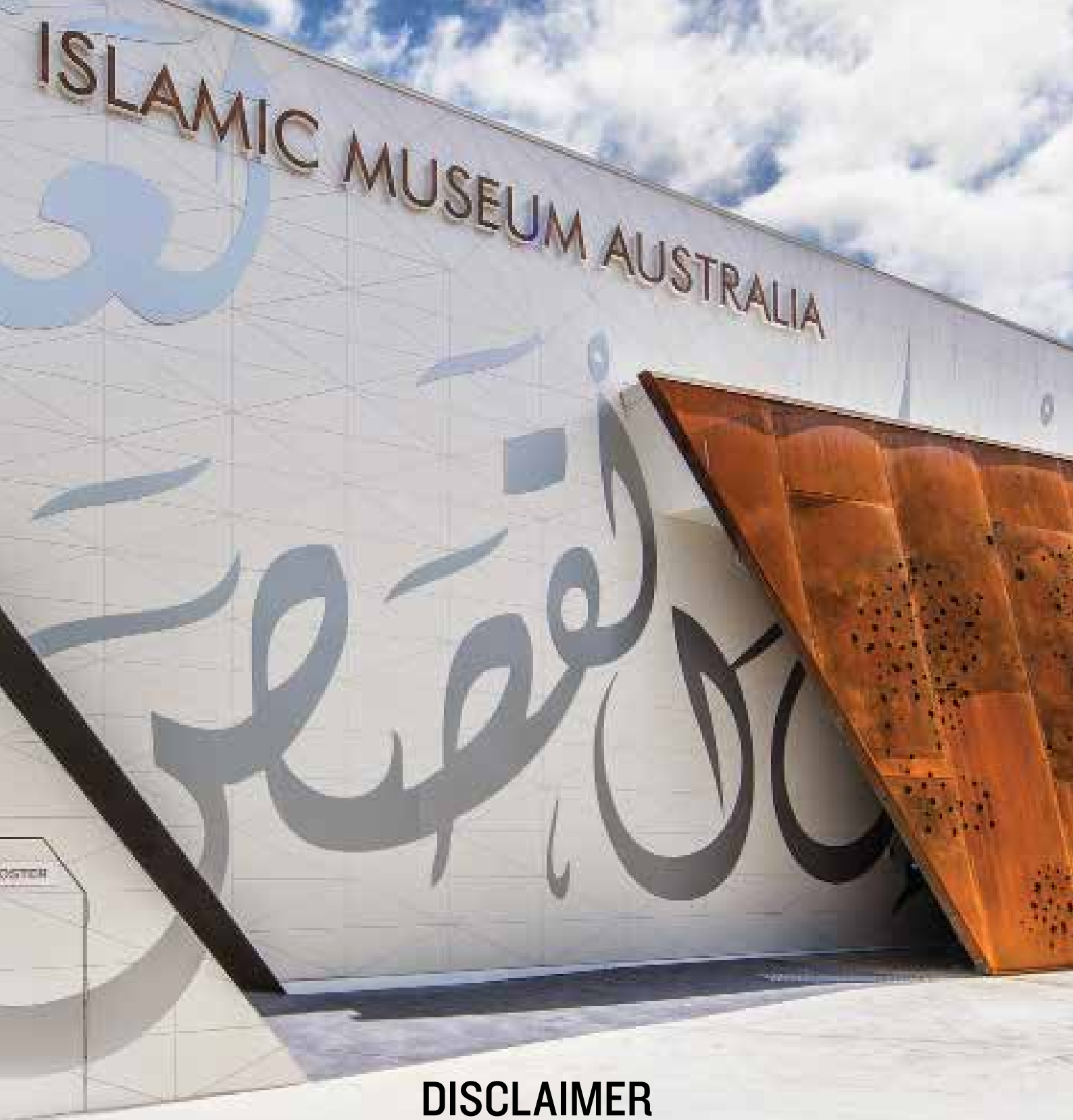
<http://uncommonlives.naa.gov.au/muslim-journeys/index.aspx>

The Australian Journey – Muslim Communities

http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/multicultural/pdf_doc/australian-journey-muslim-communities.pdf

The Australian Journey – Muslim Communities

http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol_2_no2/exhibition_reviews/australias_muslim_cameleers



DISCLAIMER

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