



# The Islander

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*Christmas Island Community Newsletter*



*The Shire Of Christmas Island  
 councillors and staff would like to  
 wish the community a  
 prosperous and peaceful Ramadan*

## Christmas Island Muslims Observe Ramadan

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar which commenced on June 18th and will finish on July 16th. It commemorates the revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Mohammed according to Islamic texts. Observation of the tenets of this month is one of the Five Pillars of Islam with the most well-known obligation being the fast. It is a time of spiritual reflection, improvement and increased devotion to the needs of others and worship. A key tenement of this season is the observation of actions around generosity and the inclusion of the marginalised.

What happens during Ramadan?

The Islamic faith asks devotees to participate in a month long fast during daylight hours, abstaining from consuming food and water. Devotees are also to abstain from smoking, refrain from negative speech, fighting and other sins. Many of the Islamic faithful recite the Quran through means of special prayers called the Tarawih, which breaks down the Quran into thirty instalments to ensure full completion at Ramadan's end. Muslims are encouraged to go about their usual routine instead of reducing activity. This is where the challenge of patience and endurance occurs and they can gain a better understanding of how those less privileged have to live their lives. The increase in awareness encourages Muslims to show closeness to God through inclusion of others.

How do Christmas Island Muslims observe Ramadan?

Like other Muslims around the world, Christmas Island Muslims observe for the rise of the new crescent moon to signify the start of the fasting month. People generally wake up at around 4am to partake in preparation and consumption of Suhoor, the pre-dawn meal, which has to be completed by 4.58am. The evening meal, Iftar, may take place after 5.30pm. The CI Mosque makes a call to followers to indicate when the breaking of fasts can occur. Both Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island has Friday July 17th as a gazetted public holiday to mark the end of the Ramadan month, a festival known as 'Hari Raya Aidilfitri.' Residents decorate their homes with lights and prepare to receive visiting relatives, friends and neighbours.

A Christmas Island Muslim tradition is to organise an all-island community event at the end of Ramadan to celebrate the Hari Raya commemorations. More information will be out at the end of the Ramadan month.

The Shire of Christmas Island wishes Ramadan Kareem to all the Islamic residents in this season.



## CHRISTMAS ISLAND GOLF CLUB CIP CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



Over the last weekend in May and the first weekend in June, thirty one of Christmas Islands best golfers took the opportunity to match their skills against the challenge that the Christmas Island Golf Club provides. This event has no been sponsored by Christmas Island Phosphates for in excess of 15 years and they continue to be fantastic sponsors of the golf club and its members.

The championships contained a little bit of everything from fine blue sky days to overcast windy days. From high scoring holes and rounds to a hole in one (Congratulations Chris Carr). It included golfers from ages 12 to above 60, males, females as well as representatives of the many cultures on Christmas Island.

After 72 holes the results were as follows:

2015 Club Champion – Greg Graffin (gross 285)  
 Runner-up Club Champion – Rhys Bird (gross 300)  
 A Grade net winner – Gerard Rasenberg

B Grade Champion – Pang Kee Liet (gross 313)  
 B Grade runner-up – Paul Buhner (gross 317)  
 B Grade net winner – Matt Beaven

C Grade Champion – Pete McKenzie (gross 341)  
 C Grade Runner-up – Hayden Faulkner (gross 342)  
 C Grade net winner – Jon Faulkner

The Net winners for each round were

Round 1 – Pete McKenzie  
 Round 2 – Chris Carr  
 Round 3 – Pang Kee Liet  
 Round 4 – Josh Carr

