

## COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE - ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF BRISBANE



On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2010, student representatives from schools all over Brisbane attended the Commonwealth Day Observance at Parliament House in the city. The Captains and Vice-Captains of the Islamic College of Brisbane were fortunate to be able to represent the school at this event.

The Commonwealth of Nations is an inter-governmental organisation of over fifty nations, almost all of whom were part of the British Empire. Commonwealth Day is the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations, which includes Australia. In the observance of this event, a theme is chosen every year and is integrated into the service. 2010's theme was Science, Technology and Society.

The ceremony was heralded open by Ms Penelope Wensley, the Governor of Queensland, who read a message from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The observance was also attended by Mr Lawrence Springborg, former Leader of the State Opposition, as well as religious leaders of 7 different faiths. Islam was represented by Brisbane's own Imam Tariq.

The observance gave selected students to present affirmations relating to world affairs, religion and the theme, to be answered by the religious leaders. I was given the privilege to be one of these students. After each affirmation, the congregation pledged their support to work towards making the world a more harmonious and successful place.

The ceremony closed with a student procession, with each student holding a flag of each nation of the Commonwealth. The morning ended with small refreshments, and an opportunity to get to chat to other student leaders in Brisbane.

All in all, the Commonwealth Day Observance was a great opportunity for us, as Captains and Vice-Captains to represent the college and to represent Australia.

By: Momina Ahmed Allahwala (College Captain 2010, Islamic College of Brisbane).



*College Captain Momina Ahmed Allahwala presenting her affirmation to the congregation*



*College Captain Aymen Houadchia and Vice Captains, Minass Richani and Usama Ahmad carrying flags in the procession.*



*The Islamic College Of Brisbane Student Leaders for 2010 after the ceremony.  
(L-R) C.Aymen Houadchia , C.Momina Ahmed Allahwala,  
VC Minass Richani and VC Usama Ahmad*

## YR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK ON MT TAMBORINE

On Feb 25<sup>th</sup> our Geography class headed out to Mt Tamborine to conduct some field work as research for a report that we have to write soon. The report topic focuses on a (fictional) proposal for a skyrail to be built over the rainforest canopy for a distance of 3kms on the north facing slope of Mt Tamborine.

The purpose of the excursion was to visit the sites of terminals of the proposed skyrail, and to do the rainforest walk of the Joalah Section of the national park to experience the uniqueness of the rainforest ecosystem and its biodiversity.

The weather forecast did not look good at all, with showers and rain periods predicted. The day started well with blue sky and sunny patches, but it did not stay that way. Luckily we were warned to bring wet weather gear, because half way through the Joalah circuit, down it came.

A visit to the Information Centre at lunch gave us a pleasant interlude out of the rain, but then it was back in the bus and off to Gallery Walk.

By this time, the mountain was shrouded in mist, and we could not see more than a few metres in front of us. Our task on Gallery Walk was to interview as many people as we could about their opinions of a skywalk on the mountain, and it was interesting to find such a mixture of thoughts on the subject.

Now it is back to school, with the job of processing all of the information we have gathered, and preparing to write a report in which we make a recommendation to the local council as to whether the application for approval be accepted or not. Interestingly, we have not made up our minds yet whether it would be a good thing, or not.

*Written by Mrs M Sattler on behalf of the Yr 12 Geography class. Photographs by Aabida Khan.*



## MUSLIM LEGAL NETWORK

On Tuesday 13 April, the Muslim Legal Network (MLN) organised a legal information session for young Muslim lawyers and law students. The session consisted of a Panel of some of the leading Muslim lawyers in Melbourne including:

**Adel Mohamed** from a top tier commercial law firm;

**Rehana Chowdry** from Victorian Legal Aid;

**Saba Hakim** consultant lawyer specialising in IP; and

**Urfa Masood**, Barrister specialising in Criminal Law, Family Law and Child Protection matters.

The session was hosted at Logie-Smith Lanyon Lawyers, with halal food and prayers facilities provided.

Fatima Dennaoui, President of the MLN said that she was surprised with the strong interest Australia-wide for this event. Fatima said that the: "Session was very well attended, and covered many different areas such tips for getting a job, motivational advice, dealing with non-halal legal matters, family life-work balance, tips for CV's, challenges of wearing the hijab, and career advice generally."

Sister Fatima said that the MLN was planning on holding another session in the near future, and would be working with a number of Community Legal Centres to provide 'preventative legal seminars' for young Muslims, dealing with issue such as: mobile phone debt, traffic and motor vehicle offences, infringements, public transport offences, employment law issues, where to go for help etc.

Anyone interested in joining the MLN, or learning more about the MLN can do so by visiting the Facebook site:  
<http://www.facebook.com/%21/group.php?gid=32731009622&ref=ts>

Pictured are the presenters and some of the participants from the event.

