

ISLAMIC IDENTITIES – Melbourne Islamic School Tour
<https://melbournewalks.com.au/melbourne-islamic-tour/>

My name is Haneen Zreika, Australian Rules footballer

I was the first person of Lebanese descent, and the first Muslim to play in the AFL. Actually, I started first as a rugby player but at 15 switched to Australian Rules Women's football (AFLW) when my high school sports teacher invited me to a footy clinic. After competing in the 2016 AFL Youth Girls National Championships I made my AFLW debut in the 2019 where I was nominated for the AFL Women's Rising Star award in round seven



My name is Shaniera Akram, the 'Aussie Princess of Pakistan'

I was born in Melbourne and am now a social worker in Pakistan where my husband is a famous Pakistani cricketer Wasim Akram. I have a celebrity following on social media and YouTube because of my fashion career, my social comments and my charity work for the Askram Foundation assisting the disadvantaged. In Pakistan they call me the 'Aussie Princess of Pakistan'. I believe in exploring new worlds and ways to help your community wherever you live.



My name is Jessica Smith, OAM Para-Olympian, motivational speaker, book author

I was born without my left arm and then suffered burns to 15% of my body in an accident. Not a great start to life! But aged ten I discovered swimming! I swam for Australia for seven years including the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. In 2019 I was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to the community including motivational speaking. It's not what you physically look like but what's inside that counts! My children's book *Little Miss Jessica Goes to School* is about a young girl with only one arm and the challenges she faces on her first day at school.



My name is Sabrina Houssami – Model (Miss World Asia Pacific), TV & Radio presenter, Mensa member

I was born in Australia of Lebanese and Indian parents. In 2006 I won the Miss World Asia Pacific title in my role as Miss World Australia. In 2009 I was a contestant on the first Australian season of 'The Apprentice' and was Ambassador for the 2007 Australian Grand Prix. In my role as a charity ambassador, I have helped raise over \$5 million for world charities. Mensa made me a member. You have to have an IQ in the top 2% of the global population. Concentrate on your intelligence first and you will go far.



My name is Carmen Marton, World Taekwondo champion

My parents were Polish refugees to Australia. I became Australia's first ever world taekwondo champion when I won the women's lightweight gold medal at the 2013 World Taekwondo Championship. I have also qualified for three Olympics. My partner Safwan Khalil, my brother and my sister all won Gold in taekwondo at the 2015 Pacific Games. My motto is 'hard work and ambition overtake natural ability'. I was raised Catholic but converted to Islam in 2009. To me the great religious stories are the same.

**My name is Mona Shindy, Navy Officer, engineer, businesswoman**

I was born in Egypt in 1968 and migrated to Australia with my family at the age of three. I was a Captain in the Royal Australian Navy and their Strategic Advisor on Islamic Cultural Affairs. I try to be a leader to young Muslims and remove barriers between communities. In 2015 I named National Telstra Business Woman of the Year and awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross.

**My name is Delina Darusman – Australian Fashion blogger**

I am the creator of Muslim Street Fashion, a fashion blog for Muslim women and get a lot of traffic online with followers from Malaysia and Indonesia as well as Australia. All my friends used to ask me where I purchased my clothes from so I decided to set up the blog to help them out. I also wanted to let them know that Muslim women can be stylish as well with garments such as Muslim swim wear and wedding hijabs. Media publications worldwide that have featured me include Frankie, Grazia, Laiqa and the Daily Telegraph. I was also listed in the top 18 Badass Australian Bloggers on BuzzFeed.

**My name is Randa Abdel-Fattah, best-selling book author and lawyer**

I am born Muslim in Australia from Palestinian and Egyptian parents. I have published several popular books including for children and teenagers, dealing with issues of race, identity, cultural stereotypes, and adulthood. My books include *Ten Things I hate about me*, *Noah's Law* and *Does my head look big in this?* I have been a regular on ABC's *Q&A*, and often visit schools around Australia discussing social justice and inequality with students.

**My name is Mary Wortley Montagu, poet and pioneer in Islamic vaccine**

When I lived in Istanbul, Turkey as the wife of the British ambassador. I met many Muslim women there who inoculated their children against smallpox by using very small amounts of live disease. I used this save my own daughter in 1721 and then took this incredible inoculation method back to England where I saved many lives. Unfortunately many English people even doctors were extremely ignorant and called me horrible names but Islamic science was eventually proved correct! Inoculation has saved hundreds of millions of lives and is used against the corona virus today. Read a recent book about my life *The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montagu* by Jo Willett.



My name is Fatima al-Fihri, founder of the world's oldest Uni

I used my wealth to create a mosque in Fez, Morocco that became the University of Qarawwiyin in 859. The Guinness World Records describes it as the oldest University in the world. Yes, for over 1000 years students have been coming to study at my university. You can still come today! One of my students was even Pope Sylvester II. He brought the Arabic numerals which we use today to the western world i.e 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Your phone, computer and any electric or digital communication all use code based on Arabic numerals.



My name is Scheherazade from *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*.

Ever heard of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, Sinbad the Sailor and Aladdin? My stories are regularly performed in Melbourne in films, theatre and musicals. I am the storyteller in one of the world's most famous story books *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*. A Sultan married a woman each day and beheaded her the next morning. So I told him one story each night but never finished by morning. After 1001 nights the Sultan had fallen in love with me. Weird and wonderful! In 2020, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra performed my symphony Scheherazade at the Melbourne Town Hall. The fabulous Forum Theatre is an Arabian Nights fantasy cinema. Magic!



My name is Dr Susan Carland - Academic, TV presenter, commentator.

I grew up in Forest Hill in Melbourne's eastern suburbs and converted to Sunni Islam when I was 19. I have a PhD from Monash University where I teach gender studies, politics, and sociology with a special focus on Muslim women in Australia. I was also a TV presenter of the SBS comedy show *Salam Cafe*. I am active in the Islamic Council of Victoria. My husband Waleed Aly and I have two children.



My name is Samina Yasmeen, Professor Political Science and International Relations

My family is from Pakistan. I often appear in the news and television to discuss Islam in politics. I try to influence Australia and the world by explaining perceptions of and by Muslims and Islam around the globe. I have especially written widely about Pakistan. I was appointed to the Council for Multicultural Australia and was honoured to receive the Order of Australia in 2014 for services to this country.



My name is Mariam Veiszadeh, lawyer and human rights advocate

I was born in Kabul, Afghanistan during the Soviet War in 1984. After years of jumping countries, my family finally got asylum in Australia in 1991. I am a well-known fighter for Muslim rights in this country including Ambassador for Welcome to Australia and Participate Australia. I also sit on the board of Our Watch, a national organisation to stop violence against women and their children. In 2015 Elle Magazine Malaysia listed me amongst the 12 most influential women helping to change the world for the better alongside Michelle Obama and Angelina Jolie.



Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Engineer, Young Australian Muslim of the Year, engineer, ABC presenter, actress, book author

I was born in Sudan and came to Australia as a baby. My I graduated as a mechanical engineer. At 16 I helped found Youth Without Borders and in 2007 was named Young Australian Muslim of the Year and Queensland Australian of the year in 2015. I was a presenter on the ABC and an actress in the SBS series *Homecoming Queens*. Some people don't like my opinions but I think we are all grown up enough to survive a diversity of views. My recent novel *You Must Be Layla* is for young readers about a Sudanese girl who struggles to fit into her new school.



My name is Husein Daeng Rangka, the last Islamic sailor 1845 – 1927

A century before Captain Cook, 1000 of us Islamic sailors were visiting Australia or 'Marege annually from Makassar, Indonesia. In 1927 I was the last Makassar fisherman to visit Australia. I was shipwrecked four times and once had to escape 644 km in a canoe. Two of my wives were Aboriginal. Even today name is well known in northern Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal people still used Macassar language today eg pali pali for canoe.



My name is Dost Mahomed, Explorer, Bourke and Wills Expedition 1860

Esau Khan and I were members of the famous Bourke and Wills Expedition which left Melbourne in 1860 for the first-ever crossing to the north coast of Australia. We managed the camels essential to the success of the expedition. Despite tremendous hardships and illness, we followed al halal prescribed by the Qur'an, performed the five daily Muslim prayers and held to our faith in Allah. I died on the route and am buried at Menindee.



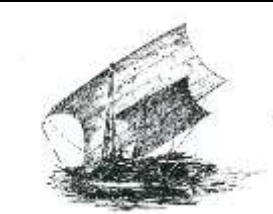
My name is Esau Khan, Islamic Explorer, , Bourke and Wills Expedition 1860

Dost Mahomed and I were members of the famous Bourke and Wills Expedition which left Melbourne in 1860 for the first-ever crossing to the north coast of Australia. We managed the camels essential to the success of the expedition. Despite tremendous hardships and illness, we followed al halal prescribed by the Qur'an, performed the five daily Muslim prayers and held to our faith in Allah. I died on the route and am buried at Menindee. Other great Islamic cameleer explorers included **Kamran** (Gosse Uluru Expedition 1873), **Saleh** (Giles Nullabor Expedition 1876), **Bejah Dervish**, **Said Ameer** (Calvert Great Sandy Desert Expedition 1896), **Moosha and Guzzie Balooch** (Horn Macdonnell Ranges and Oodnadatta Expedition 1894), **Abdul Dervish and Nur Moosha** (Madigan Expedition Simpson Desert 1939).



Kaldi goat herder, Inventor of coffee

I was herding my goats in Ethiopia 1200 years ago when I noticed when they chewed the bright red berries of a certain bush, they began to dance around. I tried it myself and wow! So I gave some to monks in a nearby monastery who said they were bad and threw them into the fire. The beans were roasted and produced a beautiful smell so they boiled them and made the first ever cup of Arabic 'quawa' or coffee. People began using it to stay awake during Ramadam prayers. It spread from Yemen to Mecca and Medina and then Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad, and Istanbul. Ahh Turkish coffee! It reached Europe in 1591. Coffee in the Melbourne cafes is worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year. They should pay me!

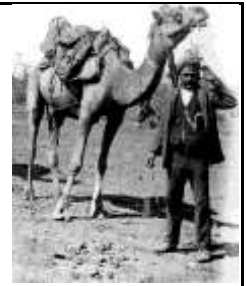
**My name is Pak Baso, Captain Makassar fleet**

In 1803 I met Captain Matthew Flinders the first British explorer to circumnavigate Australia. In fact the name *Australia* was his idea. But he got it wrong, the real name was *Marege*. I was Captain of a fleet of Islamic fisherman from Indonesia. We had been coming to

Marege for generations. A thousand fishermen a year! In the same year 1803 French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin also met a fishing fleet of 26 Makassar ships.

**The 'Afghans' Australia's first Islamic settlers –**

My name is Fazzledine, say hello to my camel. Over 2000 of us cameleers came to Australia from Afghanistan, India, Turkey and Pakistan from the 1860s-1920s although they called us all Afghans. The famous Ghan train from south to north Australia is named after us. Our skills with camels were essential to Australia's explorers, the gold mining industry, early settlement and the vitally important telegraph. We carried supplies across thousands of hostile country. Many of us married into Aboriginal families and Aboriginal surnames like Khan, Sultan, Mahomed and Akbar are still common.

**My name is Charley Khan, ANZAC soldier, World War One**

I was just another Aussie soldier doing my bit for King and country even if I was born in Calcutta. I served in Gallipoli, Belgium, Egypt and France. I was popular with my digger mates because when things got bad, I always tried to cheer them up! I came home after being badly wounded at Bullecourt in 1917. Our great general John Monash praised me in despatches and I was proud when the King was pleased to award me the Meritorious Service Medal. I hope you repeat the Ode on ANZAC Day for the diggers like me! *They shall grow not old/ As we that left grow old/ Age shall not weary them /Nor the years condemn/ At the going down of the sun/ And in the morning/ We shall remember them/ Lest We Forget.*

**My name is Gog (Yajuj) 1893 – Bad Guy**

My brother Magog (Majuj) and I have guarded **Royal Arcade** since 1893 and still strike the hour. The Qu'ran describes us as two evil beings who do mischief on earth. True we are only half the height of a man but we do have big hairy ears, hairy tails and big claws. A kind King built a wall to save the people by imprisoning us in the ocean surrounding the Earth. Every night we break down this wall but luckily for humans (and unlucky for us) Allah rebuilds the wall every day.



My name is Magog (Majuj) 1893 – Bad Guy

My brother Gog (Yajuj) and I have guarded **Royal Arcade** since 1893 and still strike the hour. The Qu’ran describes us as two evil beings who do mischief on earth. True we are only half the height of a man but we do have big hairy ears, hairy tails and big claws. A kind King built a wall to save the people by imprisoning us in the ocean surrounding the Earth. Every night we break down this wall but luckily for humans (and unlucky for us) Allah rebuilds the wall every day.

**My name is Monga Khan 1862-1930 Street Art Hero**

I became famous when street artist Peter Drew put up 1000 posters of me all over Australia in 2016. He was exploring the idea what is a true-blue Aussie anyway? Then a book about me followed where 36 writers and illustrators imagined my life. I was born in India I lived, worked and died in Australia in the 1900s. My job was travelling all over Victoria as a hawker selling goods from my horse and cart. Like a travelling milk bar! I had to apply for an exemption to the White Australia Policy so I could visit home in India without fear of being kept out of Australia upon my return. It was not fair. That is why Peter had this idea of turning me into a folk hero!

**My name is Bachar Houli, three-times premiership AFL player**

My parents came from Lebanon to Melbourne in the 1970s. I am best known as a three-time premiership player with Richmond and was named All-Australian half-back during my 2019 premiership season. I am a devout Muslim and am the third Muslim to play in the AFL. Read all about me in my book: *Bachar Houli: Faith, Football and Family*. Go Tigers!

**My name is Waleed Aly, TV presenter, musician, journalist**

I am a Melbourne Australian radio host and television personality but have worked as a lawyer and academic and am a frequent commentator on Australian Muslim affairs. I am lead guitarist in rock band Robot Child. I was born in Melbourne to parents from Egypt. In 2014 I became a co-host of *The Project* and in May 2016 won the Gold Logie Award for Best Personality on Australian Television. Read about me in my book *People Like Us: How Arrogance is Dividing Islam and the West*. My wife author Dr Susan Carland and I two children. And go Richmond!

**My name is Anthony ‘The Man’ Mundine Jr, champion boxer and rugby player**

In 2000 I was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person of the Year. I converted to Islam in 1991. From being the highest paid national rugby player in Australia, I switched to professional boxing in 2000, winning many championships including the super-middleweight and super-welterweight titles. I was inspired by Muhammed Ali and my father who was also a boxer. I often protest against racism in sport which made me unpopular with some people! Some say I am too opinionated but mate, ya gotta be true to yourself!



My name is Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 1881-1938, Turkish general and founder of modern Turkey.

I defeated the ANZACS at Gallipoli and then became the first President of Turkey but your sons are our sons. Of course, Australia and Turkey have now been friends for 100 years. Anzac Cove now holds our message to Australian mothers:

'There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.'



My name is Cass Mahomet (1895-1955) ANZAC singer, songwriter, acrobat, magician, fire-eater, author, producer,

I was born in Australia and known as The Indian Digger after I defied my parents to enlist in WW1. My family were all well-known performers in Melbourne and elsewhere. For four years I entertained our troops in the trenches gaining the British War Medal and Victory Medal. My famous family and I continued to perform in Melbourne and all over Australia for many decades to come. Ian Simpson wrote a book about me: 'The Several Lives of Cassim Mahomet'.

