


How I Celebrate

UTS Multicultural Women's Network

2023



Multicultural
Women's Network



The UTS Multicultural Women's Network acknowledge the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands the UTS campus stand. We pay respect to Elders past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands and recognising their continuing connection to land, waters, country, and community. We acknowledge the historical oppression of land, language, and culture of First Nations People and commit to the decolonising journey we all share.



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WHAT?

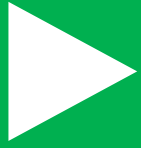
The Multicultural Women's Network aims to showcase significant cultural events through our e-booklets.

WHY?

To acknowledge the cultural diversity of UTS. Using an assets-based approach of amplifying how people celebrate, this project aims to empower people to feel proud of their cultural backgrounds, as well as to celebrate the cultural diversity of our UTS community.

WHO?

This is for UTS staff, students and anyone else you think would benefit from learning more about cultural events.



This month, we're spotlighting

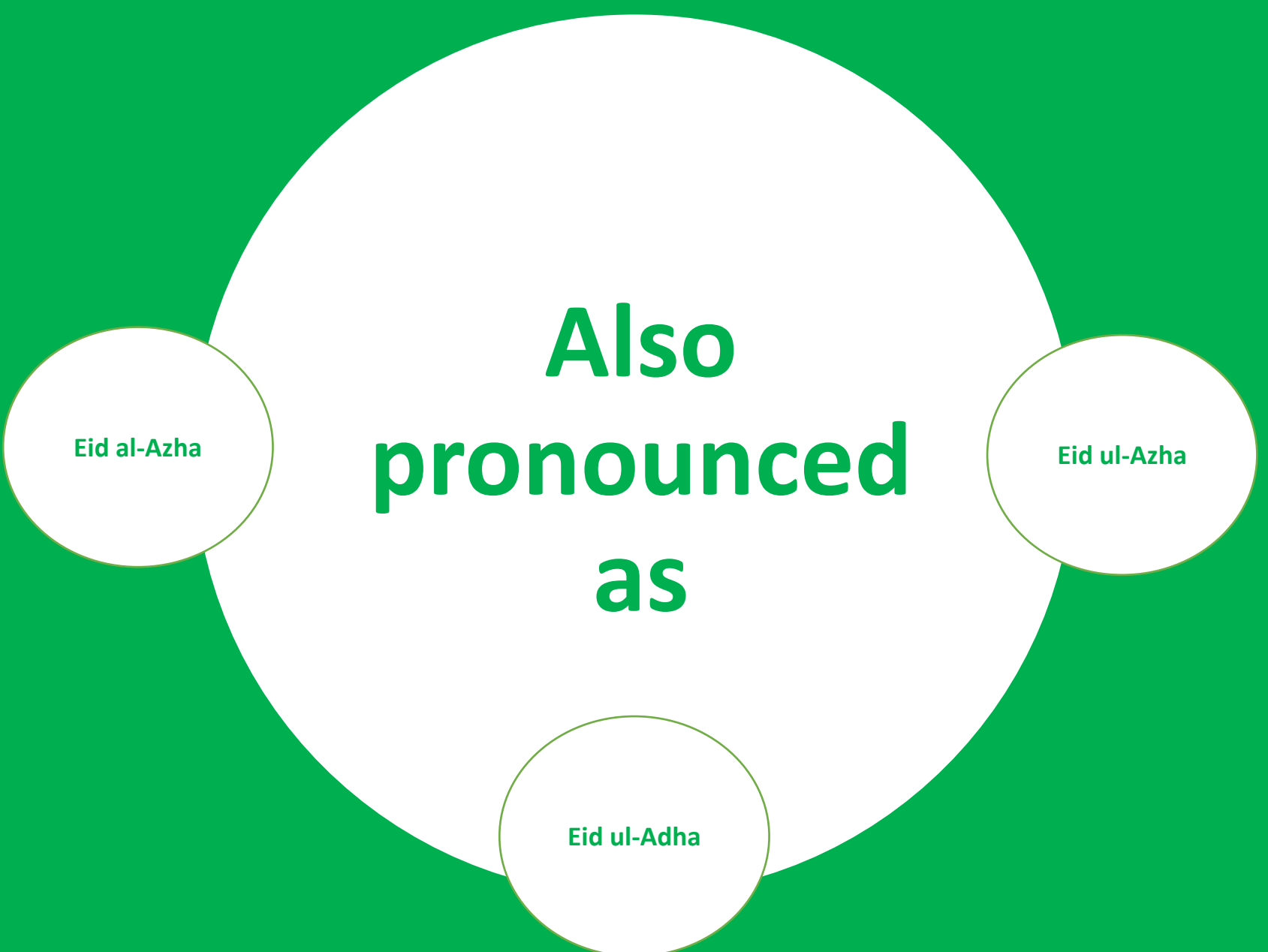
Eid al-Azha

Eid al-Adha

Eid ul-Azha

Eid ul-Adha





**Also
pronounced
as**

Eid al-Azha

Eid ul-Azha

Eid ul-Adha



What is Eid al-Adha?

Also known as the 'Feast of the Sacrifice', Eid al-Adha is the second-most important event in the Islamic calendar.

During the 3-4 days celebrations, Muslim families around the world come together to honour Prophet Ibrahim's devotion to Allah with gifts and feasting.

The occasion also marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to [Mecca](#), which is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Click [here](#) for the source of this information.



What is Eid al-Adha?

According to the Quran, Ibrahim and his wife Hagar had a son after many years of praying to be blessed with a child.

However, Allah asked Ibrahim to sacrifice his son as an act of devotion. The couple travelled to Mecca to undertake the sacrifice – a route followed on the Hajj pilgrimage.

But at the last minute, Allah...provided him with a ram to sacrifice instead.

On Eid al-Adha, Muslims honour Ibrahim's devotion to God by sacrificing a sheep, goat, cow or camel in their homes or other designated sacrifice spots. Honouring begins with a special prayer, 'Salat al-Eid', followed by a sermon called a *khutbah*. Traditionally, this is followed by the sacrifice.

Click [here](#) for the source of this information.

Maheera Zahid shares her reflections on Eid

Student, Faculty of Design and Architecture (Interior Architecture)
Former Marketing Coordinator at UTS Muslim Society.
Current Dawah Coordinator at UTS Muslim Society

Eid-ul-Adha is a moment of joy, fulfilment and contentment. For Muslims globally, this occasion is a source of happiness due to its historical context and great importance. The great sacrifice of our Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) of his son who was then replaced with the ram. Allah mentions in Quran 37:108: "and blessed Abraham with honourable mention among later generations". The Festival of Eid is a beautiful and a deep bridging connection between believers and the Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him).

Firstly, one of the most important traditions of Eid is the recitation of Takbir, the glorification of Allah, which Muslims recite in a loud voice in unison to celebrate the occasion. It is a joyful expression of gratitude and devotion.

Every act of the festival is basically cherishing the sunnahs like filling our hands with intricate henna designs, visiting/inviting families and even playing games. Each Eid Muslims are the happiest, as we celebrate we are reminded that Allah provides a better replacement and rewards abundantly to those who firmly hold onto faith with patience and sacrifice for the sake of Allah alone.

Secondly, we celebrate this festival by performing Eid congregational prayer to get together and greet.

The main highlight of the Eid is distributing the Zibah Meat from the sacrifice equally in three parts. It is given to the family, friends, and the poor (both Muslim and non-Muslim alike) to share the happiness of the Eid around. This act signifies unity and equality in Islam and reinforced brotherhood in society.

We decorate our Homes with love and lights and visit family and friends over a feast of sacrifice while exchanging gifts as an act of high reward in Islam from sunnah (prophetic tradition) of our last and final Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).



Most important things about Eid al-Adha from our UTS community

Peace

Reciting the
tahleel in
unison

Trust

Remembering
the sacrifices of
our prophet

Connection and
unity to all the
Muslims around the
world

Sacrifice

Love

Community
bonding

Giving gifts to
family

Seeing friends
and family in
the morning



Stories from our UTS community



There's a buzz in the air when approaching the Eid prayer in the park. You see your relatives, your close friends, and all those old family friends that you don't see except at the prayer. Everyone's dressed in their best clothes. An elder passes the microphone to the kids so that they lead the recitation of the ['tahleel'](#) proclaiming the Oneness of God, and the crowd follows on. The thrill is in the air. Happy kids run around, getting fairy floss sticks and lolly bags then hopping onto jumping castles and rides. Everyone's happy faces add to your own joy and make the day so special.



Maymouna El-Kiki

Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) student, UTS
Muslim Society member



Dr. Bilquis Ghani

UTS Alumni and former UTS Gender Equity Programs
Manager and FASS Casual Academic
Currently the Head of Inclusion,
Sydney Opera House

"My dad would go to the mosque early in the morning and Eid began when he came home having completed the Eid prayers. We had a beautiful Eid breakfast spread waiting for us all when he got home:

Delicious eggs cooked with tomato, onion, garlic, red capsicum. Sprinkled with black pepper, I can still smell it! Warm Afghan bread when we could get it.

Overall, the buzz in the family, everything so clean, we're wearing our Eid outfits...

While we still love Eid and it's very special, we also miss him [dad] dearly."



I would say one of my happiest moments celebrating this occasion was a couple of years ago. It was during a COVID lockdown. Eid al-adha goes for 4 days and my daughter, Nora was born on the 3rd day of Eid. The first two days were clearly not the happiest moments of my life because I had an intense and absolutely miserable labour. However, **celebrating this occasion with the birth of your child is really special**, particularly in lockdown.

The celebration more broadly is about sacrifice and divine spiritual trust and nothing speaks to that quite like the process of birthing a child.



Dr. Mehal Krayem

UTS Alumni and Shopfront Lead, Centre for
Social Justice and Inclusion



"You find great strength in surrendering when the birth process becomes an emergency.

Things are so beyond your control all you can do is trust that you will both come out of it together.

Those moments waiting for her to be born were ones of complete acceptance and trust - whatever was meant to be would be - and it was totally fine in the end so it's very easy to tell this story with a lightness.

...this speaks to the broader themes of sacrifice and trust that are marked by this beautiful celebration."



Dr. Mehal Krayem

My household is bustling on the mornings of Eid...



One person is on a duty to iron clothes, the other is in charge of picture-perfect decor and table setting, while someone's on the phone ticking off the long invite list



Mother of the house along with the most generous sister is usually up in the kitchen preparing delicious meals and making sure that the rest of the festival runs smoothly.



Not to forget the most important character of the house who has duff in the hands to entertain everyone.

My household is bustling on the mornings of Eid...

Every Eid I'm the person spreading sweetness in the household through my passion of baking delights, especially cakes.



I absolutely enjoy taking the baked items to family dinner invites because in Islam sharing increases Barakah(blessings) in your family and Rizk(wealth in all means).



Maheera shares this beautiful photograph of a popular Eid dish, sheer khurma. Click [here](#) for the recipe.

Maheera Zahid



Final Thoughts

Eid is a time of connection to family, joy and putting aside your differences. There is a basis in why we celebrate this day, while the rest of the Muslims complete their Hajj (pilgrimage).

It combines between enjoyment while still remembering our God on this day, and we are rewarded for celebrating it.



Maymouna El-Kiki



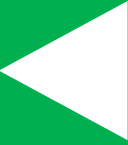
Eid

Mubarak

Have a blessed Eid

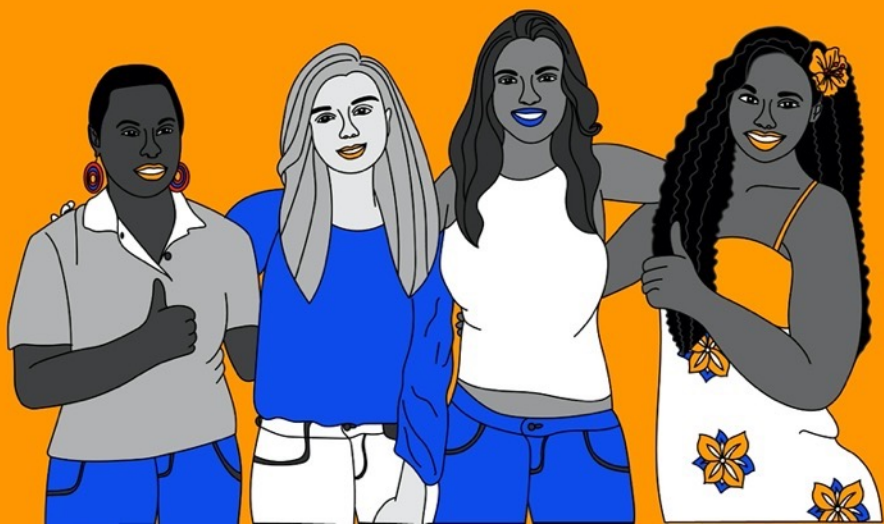


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JOIN US!

Supporting women at UTS to
reach their full potential



For more information,
email:
mwn@uts.edu.au

This booklet
was created
by Dr. Elaine
Laforteza

A big thanks to the [UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion](#) for their support, the [UTS Muslim Society](#) and to everyone who shared their stories and photographs.



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