

## EASTER MUSLIM SPORTS CARNIVAL

The Bill McKinlay Park Stadium in Panmure attracted a number of soccer enthusiasts to be part of the annual Muslim Easter Sports Carnival. Soccer teams from the following areas participated in this sports carnival: Avondale; Hamilton; Hunters Corner; Kelston; Mangere; Manukau; Mount Wellington; Papatoetoe; Ponsonby; Palmerston North; Ranui; Sydney (Australia); Takanini and Wellington

“We are delighted to have 4 teams from outside Auckland and one from Sydney, Australia, participating in this annual event. It was great fun to watch the 14 senior soccer teams prove themselves on the soccer field. We were delighted to have a team from Sydney participating in a very popular event of the year in the Muslim community of Auckland. We are very pleased that Sydney could join us in this event,” were the comments made by Br. Sher Jawan, the Chairman of the New Zealand Muslim Youth & Sports Association (NZMYSA).

“We have a very tight schedule and have planned to have the Quarter finals, Semi-finals, veterans, the tug-a-war as well as the final on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> March. We have also squeezed in the presentation on the same day, after the Magrieb Salaat (after the sunset prayer),” said Israr Sheikh, the Secretary of the Organising Committee.

Kick-off took place at 3.00pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March after the weekly Jumah Salat (Friday congregational prayer). Six games were played on Friday and on Saturday the soccer fans were entertained to another 12 games. These 40 minutes games brought enough excitement, thrill and pleasure to a crowd of soccer enthusiasts.

Ponsonby beat Mt Wellington 3-0 in the semi-final. Manukau toppled Hamilton 5-4 in the other semi-final of the tournament, which was played in fine weather conditions to a very entertaining crowd. A capacity crowd watch Ponsonby Soccer Club beat Manukau Soccer Club by 4 goals to 0 in the 60 minute final to walk off with the Moshims Muslim IDC 2005 Cup. Ponsonby Club were also awarded the Most Valuable Player, the Golden Boot award and Best Manager award.

“The good teamwork with the Ponsonby Soccer Team is the result of mainly two factors. Firstly, the team has a good support system from its management as well as the wider community supporters. Secondly, the team has been playing together for a while now. They also participate in the New Zealand Football Premier & Reserve League on a weekly basis. I would encourage the other teams to affiliate to this league where you will get a greater opportunity to play together in stiffer competition,” were the comments made by Br. Imran Daud, the spokesperson of the team.

### The full results of the Muslim Sports Carnival are as follows:

<p><b>Friday March 25</b> (Papatoetoe 0 - Hunters Corner 0), (Ponsonby 4 - Takanini 0) (Manukau 1 - Mangere 0), (Avondale 0 - Mt Wellington 0) (Papatoetoe 3 - Ranui 1), (Ponsonby 2 - Kelston 1)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, March 26</b> (Manukau 2 - Hamilton 2), (Avondale 0 - Wellington 1) (Palmerston North 2 - Ranui 2), (Sydney 1 - Kelston 1) (Hamilton 4 - Mangere 0), (Hunters Corner 2 - Ranui 0) (Papatoetoe 2 - Palmerston North 0), (Ponsonby 1 - Sydney 1) (Takanini 0 - Kelston 4), (Wellington 0 - Mt Wellington 1) (Hunters Corner 0 - Palmerston North 1), (Takanini 1 - Sydney 6)</p>
<p><b>Sunday March 27 Quarter Finals</b> (Papatoetoe 1 - Manukau 3), (Hamilton 5 - Hunters Corner 2) (Ponsonby 4 - Wellington 0), (Mt Wellington 2 - Sydney 1)</p>	<p><b>Semifinals</b> (Manukau 5 - Hamilton 4), (Ponsonby 3 - Mt Wellington 0)</p>
<p><b>NZMYSA Special Awards:</b> <b>Most Valuable Player:</b> Sameer Ali (Ponsonby), <b>Golden Boot:</b> Sameer Ali (Ponsonby) <b>Best Manager:</b> Mohammed Sadiq (Ponsonby), <b>Best Goalkeeper:</b> Mohammed Shadiq Nicholas (Hamilton), <b>Best Dressed Team:</b> Sydney <b>Best Disciplined Team:</b> Wellington, <b>Rookie of the Year:</b> Shayad Abdul Aiyaz (13 yrs) Hunters Corner <b>Achievers Award:</b> Palmerston North</p>	<p><b>Veterans Soccer Finals:</b> <b>Nadroga Mt Roskill 2 - Moshims Papatoetoe 0</b></p>