Over the past few months the Muslim community across Sydney has celebrated significant occasions and events on the Islamic calendar. Australian Muslims tuning into 92.1 FM have enjoyed broadcasting on Hajj – the journey of a life time, Eid Al-Adha and recently the blessed Hijrah (Immigration) – 1440 celebrating the new year. With Australian produced content and talent, 2MFM’s growing listener base tuned in for ‘Live’ local information and news in both English and Arabic, multi-lingual Islamic chants and series from local voices and personalities.

2MFM’s dedicated staff and passionate volunteers shared in the joys of our stations community activities and successes with live shows and events coverage. Community participation in all programs has been exceptional with ‘new voices’ and guests enjoying and winning some of our prized giveaways. Our teams’ presence at key government and community events has enabled us to build connections at so many levels; organisationally and across diverse and growing communities.

With increased diversity and interest in radio comes a hub of conversation, co-operation and development. This year 2MFM has continued to invest in the training and development of staff and new ‘young’ volunteers, with ongoing short-courses and workshops. We believe that up-skilling staff and volunteers will help us meet the expectations of our audience and enable our volunteers to continue enjoying radio work and giving back to the community.

I take this opportunity to thank our new staff and volunteers for their hard work, whether it be in reception work, production, broadcasting or on a committee. Our next season of broadcasting will provide coverage of Australia’s largest Mawlid Celebration that will be held on Sunday the 2nd of December 2018. So stay tuned!

**2MFM’S NADIA ZAHR — CBAA AWARDS FINALIST**

It gives 2MFM great pleasure to congratulate Community Connect presenter / producer Nadia Zahr on being announced as a finalist for the 2018 CBAA Community Radio Awards in the category of ‘Outstanding Youth Contribution’. The winner of this category will be announced at the upcoming CBAA conference in November 2018.
NEW SERIES LAUNCH — MAKING SENSE OF PREGNANCY & BIRTH

2MFM was delighted to officially launch a new series ‘Making Sense of Pregnancy and Birth’ (MSOPB) on the 3rd of September 2018. The series was put together by 2MFM producer/presenter Nadia Zahr and is proudly sponsored by the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF).

MSOPB is a 20 episode series that features expert guests who discuss a number of crucial issues for woman planning to fall pregnant or currently pregnant. Some of the topics discussed included: preconception planning, surviving through miscarriage, what to expect in various trimesters of pregnancy, what to prepare for hospital, baby’s arrival and recognising signs of labour.

If you’ve missed out on some episodes aired and would like to catch up, you can do just that by looking up the ‘Making Sense of Pregnancy & Birth’ playlist on the 2MFM SoundCloud page and listen to episodes at your convenience.

Finally, a special thank you to all those who participated in our MSOPB Facebook and Instagram baby hamper giveaway. The amazing gift was generously donated by Favour House and the lucky winner was sister Nihal who will be gifting the pack to her expectant sister.
HAJJ PROGRAMMING ON 92.1FM

MORNING ARABIC PROGRAM INTER-VIEWS

During the blessed month of Dhul Hijjah, Hajjeh Hanadi in her Arabic Morning Show had the opportunity to catch up with several sisters from various culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including Lebanese, Iraqi and Sudanese communities. The sisters expressed their delight to be on the show as they shared their fond memories of when they performed Hajj and what it felt like to be in the blessed cities of Makkah and Madinah.

Other notable interviews held during the season featured Sheikh Ahmad Bah from the African community who shared some wise words about the importance of being patient and Mustapha Ardati who inspired listeners with his determination to overcome the challenges and struggles that have come his way as a result of his disability.

Key segments and interviews from the Arabic Morning Show can be found on the 2MFM SoundCloud page.

RECONNECTING IN DHUL-HIJjah

Community Connect’s Nadia and Ola welcomed the Holy month of Dhul Hijjah in a short series that conveyed highly beneficial information including an overview of Hajj and its integrals as well as giving tips and advice to pilgrims in preparation for Hajj, comparing how the trip to Hajj used to take place before and after modern travel and technology. The series provided an insight on some personal experiences of Hajj and how it can change the perspective of the one who performs this great obligation.

If you missed out on these episodes, they are all readily available now on the 2018 Reconnecting in Dhul-Hijjah playlist on the 2MFM SoundCloud page.
THE SYDNEY EID AL-ADHA FESTIVAL

2MFM was one of the main participants at the Sydney Eid Al-Adha Festival held on Saturday and Sunday the 1st & 2nd of September 2018. The event was a fun-filled gathering of family, friends and communities.

The formal program of the event was held on Sunday with a number of speeches delivered by politicians and community leaders including a few words by 2MFM President, Mr Rafic Hussein, Councillor Bilal El-Hayek of Bankstown City Council, Secretary of the Australian Muslim Youth League Mr Ahmad El-Hage, President of the Muslim Women’s Welfare of Australia Mrs Faten El Dana OAM, Member for Liverpool Paul Lynch, Member for Granville Julia Finn, President of the ICPA Mr Muhammad Mehio, President of SPEARS Sports Club Mr Omar Kabbout and Chairman of Darulfatwa Australia Dr. Sheikh Salim Al-Husainyy.

Apart from the formal program, 2MFM conducted a quality survey and active membership drive. The Kids Show team got the kids engaged and entertained as they hosted a live Kids Show on both days of the Eid Festivals.

Listeners also had the opportunity to meet 2MFM personalities, sign-up as volunteers and purchase CD’s/DVD’s from the 2MFM stall. Thank you to our devoted listeners who continue to support Australians no.1 Muslim community radio station — 2MFM.
DHUL-HIJJAH PROGRAM GIVEAWAYS

During the blessed month of Dhul-Hijjah, many of our listeners had the opportunity to participate in our competitions by calling in our live quiz shows for their chance to win one of many brand new smart tablets and other giveaways.

These giveaways were given to their recipients at the Sydney Eid Al-Adha Festival by Sister Ola, Brother Ahmad as well as our dedicated Layaleena program volunteers.

Congratulations to all the winners and we look forward to your participation in future giveaways.
CONGRATUALTING ALL THE HUJJAJ & THE HIJRIYY NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

We praise and thank Allah for enabling those who performed Hajj (pilgrimage) this year. We ask Allah to grant them a Hajj that is Mabrur. 2MFM would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two members of the 2MFM family for undertaking the Hajj journey this year, our Vice President Hajj Abdul Ghaniyy Ghannoum and Arabic morning program presenter Hajjah Hiba Mneimneh.

The return of pilgrims also coincided with the fare-welling of the previous Hijriyy year. On this occasion, the community gathered to celebrate the new Hijriyy year 1440H. The MC of the celebration was Sheikh Muhammad Eid. Speeches were delivered by Dr Sheikh Salim Alwan Al-Husainyy and Sheikh Ibrahim El-Shafie. The night featured a beautiful chants by the ICPA Chanting Band. May Allah accept all their good deeds. Ameen.
Over the past few months, we have had a number of special guests visit 2MFM for interviews, excursions and training courses in media for our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Mrs El Dana OAM conducted an interview with the recently appointed Bankstown Police Commander, Superintendent Michael O’Toole. The interview was an opportunity to introduce the new commander to the local community. 2MFM looks forward to future opportunities to work with Bankstown Police and raise awareness on important community issues.

Hajjah Hanadi interviewing Hajjah Mariam Behti about the volunteer work which she does within the community and the importance of teaching the correct Religious knowledge.

Mrs Faten El-Dana OAM and Sandy with Afghani Sister Shukriya discussing the needs of the Afghan community in terms of radio programming. We look forward to seeing positive outcomes from this meeting for the Afghan community in Sydney and the broader community.
Mrs Faten El Dana OAM and Sister Ola hosting year 12 graduates during their excursion at the radio station.

Sisters Ola and Lea, Hajjah Hanadi, and Brothers Ahmad and Muhammad hosting the year six primary students during their excursion at the radio station.

2MFM gladly accepted the invitation to attend the state election launching campaign for the new Labor candidate for Oatley, Lucy Mannering hosted by Member of the Legislative Council and Chair of the Arabic Friends for Labor Mr Shaoquett Moselmane. The event was attended by a large number of politicians, councilors and community leaders.
Presenter Hajjah Faten El Dana OAM conducted an interview with Palestinian writer and peace activist, Dr Olfat Mahmoud, who was visiting Australia to launch her story entitled: Tears from Tarshiha.

It is an inspirational story of a Palestinian refugee who tells of her lifelong struggle to return to her homeland which her family was displaced following the 1948 Nakba, Catastrophe. She chronicles the Palestinian people’s remarkable capacity for love and bravery in the most extreme conditions.

The book was launched in several Australian cities and at NSW Parliament by former New South Wales Premier, Bob Carr.

TRAINING TIME FOR 2MFM TEAM

The 2MFM team have been undertaking a number of training courses over the past few months to develop their skills and knowledge.

The formal training has been delivered by the Community Media Training Organisation (CMTO) and has included courses such as the Certificate III in Media and pathway workshops e.g. strategic planning and programming review.

We hope that the skills team members have gained will help 2MFM deliver even more programs that meet the needs of the community and engage them in the broadcasting process.
WELCOME ABOARD THE 2MFM TEAM

We happily welcome back Sister Ola Nafeh to the team of Community Connect. Ola has years of experience and expertise in the radio sector. We look forward to all the interesting episodes that will be making their way onto the airwaves of 92.1FM.

We also welcome to the 2MFM Team Sister Sara Kahil who will be adding more colour, vibrance and enthusiasm to our very popular weekend program ‘The Kids Show’. Welcome aboard Sara!

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