Nepalese Association of Victoria



25TH

ANNIVERSARY

SOUVENIR BOOKLET

25TH ANNIVERSARY

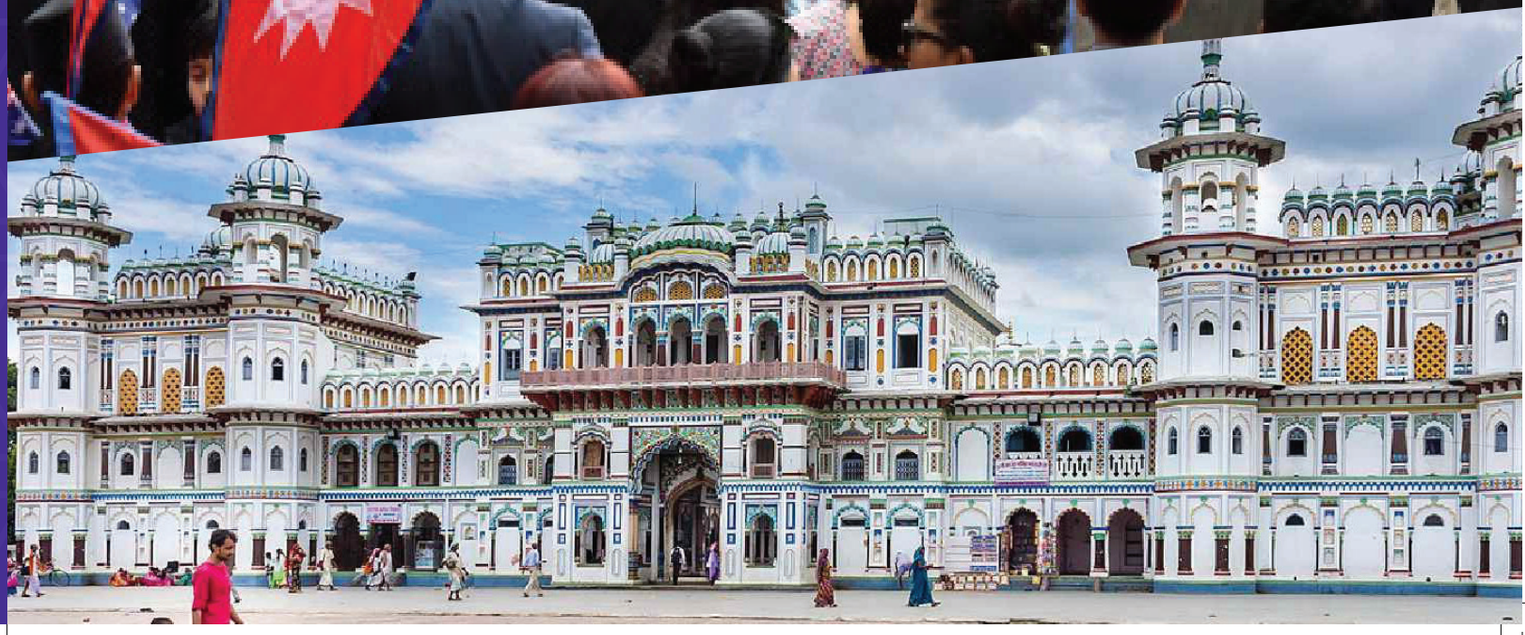
NEPALESE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

1997- 2022









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Acknowledgement: NAV has made its best effort to capture and highlight all its key events and activities and associated individuals and organisations in this publication. We sincerely apologise If we have inadvertently omitted any of the of names of events, individuals or organisations. NAV is always grateful of their contribution.

Website:
www.nav.org.au

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Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV): 25 Years of Community Spirit

NAV is celebrating its 25th anniversary on 3rd April 2022 and deserves true accolades to reach this stage and for its milestone achievements. It is a time to celebrate, review and plan ahead for the future. In January 1997, 25 years ago, NAV was formally registered after two years of community consultations with the objectives to support, promote, advocate Nepali identity, heritage and community well-being.

Prior to this, Nepalese community identity was linked to Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAFA) in Victoria, which primarily focussed on community interaction programs. Following registration under the Australian Incorporation Act 1980, the Nepal community formally acquired its legal status. The Executive Committee, led by several presidents, played a pivotal role in shaping and defining the NAV future through various flagship programs. NAV thus evolved through different stages of growth amidst various challenges and is now playing a greater role in meeting the expectation of over 40 community organizations and fast-growing communities in Victoria. It acts as a conduit between the community and Government to represent their voice in the Victoria Government.

To celebrate this 25th anniversary, NAV is publishing a souvenir booklet that will provide an insight into its historical journey. NAV has played a strategic role in unifying the Nepalese community's voice to the Victoria Government and contributed to Victoria's mainstream policies and programmes over the years. In the past two years, NAV had to work virtually online amidst COVID crises and successfully transitioned to digital forums. NAV has enormous opportunities and challenges ahead to institutionalize the above accomplishments and take the organization to the next level, further reinforce the Nepalese community's voice and contribute to Government future policies and programs in emerging areas such as gender equality, domestic violence, language, cultural, sports, migration, represent and represent in Government committees. NAV also needs to work closely with the Federation of other CALD Community organizations and contribute to the voice of migrant communities of the regions.

25TH ANNIVERSARY
NEPALESE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
1997- 2022

As an umbrella organization, NAV will continue to play a strategic role in strengthening our multiculturalism through a unified community voice.

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National Anthem



Nepalese National Anthem

सयौं थुँगा फूलका हामी, एउटै माला नेपाली
सार्वभौम भई फैलिएका, मेची-महाकाली।

प्रकृतिका कोटि-कोटि सम्पदाको आँचल
वीरहरूका रगतले स्वतन्त्र र अटल।

ज्ञानभूमि, शान्तिभूमि, तराई, पहाड, हिमाल
अखण्ड यो प्यारो हाम्रो मातृभूमि नेपाल।

बहुल जाति, भाषा, धर्म, संस्कृति छन् विशाल
अग्रगामी राष्ट्र हाम्रो, जय जय नेपाल।।

Nepalese National Anthem (transliteration)

Sayãũ thũgā phūlkā hāmī, euṭai mālā nepālī
Sārvabhaum bhai phailiekā, Mecī-Mahākālī.

Prakṛtikā koṭi-koṭi sampadāko ãcala,
Vīrharūkā ragatale, svatantra ra aṭala.

Gyānabhūmi, śāntibhūmi Tarāī, Pahāḍ, Himāla
Akhaṇḍa yo pyāro hāmro mātṛibhūmi Nepāla.

Bahul jāti, bhāṣā, dharma, sāskṛti chan viśāla
Agragāmī rāṣṭra hāmro, jaya jaya Nepāla.



Australian National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Messages of Feliciations

Ram Gurung
NAV President



Namaste,

Firstly, I would like to start off by saying it is an honour to celebrate NAV's 25th anniversary. This is a huge milestone to everyone who is involved with NAV, that includes members from the past, present, and future. Therefore, I would like to congratulate everyone for this tremendous achievement. I would also like to acknowledge and give my gratitude to our honourable past NAV presidents for all their dedication to bring forth where NAV stands now.

After being elected as the president of NAV, I quickly came to realize NAV is an organization beyond what I had imagined. NAV is an organization for Nepalese community to support people who are far away from home, to feel like they are home and can access support here in Victoria. With the growing population of Nepalese in Victoria, different organisations have been built to support our community. NAV is honoured to have worked alongside with most of them, as our goal is the same and that is to support our community. Not only were we able to receive support from different and diverse communities from other counties but are also closely collaborating with our Local Government, Local Ministers, Department of Health, and Victorian Multicultural Commissioners. I believe these bonds have made NAV stand out and are widely recognised.

Since I left Nepal in 1994, I was honoured to serve as a community leader for over 15 years in Hong Kong. It gave me great in-depth experiences and understanding. However, with time things have evolved quite a lot to say the least. During my time as president in NAV, my team and I have come across a lot of challenges. These obstacles brought our team closer, made us think outside the box and learn. Such as the pandemic, people's different perspectives, opinions and relying on the use of technology.

This pandemic has been a very difficult period for everyone across the world, but even more for our younger generations with student visa who are struggling. In this situation NAV was able to reach out to our Local Government, DHHS, and VMC for some assistance. We were granted a generous Grant to manage a distribution to our multicultural communities. We were able to create a taskforce and put together essential needs for people who are in-need. Our executive members and I personally volunteered in the distributions with all covid protocols intact.

NAV started multiple zoom sessions on mental health and wellbeing educations to break the stigma on mental health and provided hotlines to reach out to people in need. Along with many educational trainings by professionals such as information on covid vaccinations, barista training, mental health awareness sessions, resume writing and many more. We are pleased to be able to assist over 1500 people despite the odds.

Lastly, I would like to mention again how honoured I am, to be able to serve our community through such a great organisation as NAV. NAV stands here for you only because you stand alongside with NAV.



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

NEPALESE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
25TH ANNIVERSARY

I am delighted to offer my congratulations to the Nepalese Association of Victoria on its 25th anniversary.

Australia is the most successful multicultural country on Earth: people from all over the world have helped to build and sustain our nation with energy, ingenuity and indomitable spirit.

By nurturing and proudly showcasing your cultural traditions, the NAV promotes the benefits of our unique diversity and adds to the long and rich history of the Nepalese community in Australia.

From camaraderie at Gallipoli to becoming one of the fastest growing communities in Australia today, the Nepalese experience is an essential part of our nation's history and identity.

In deepening our appreciation of the vision and values at the heart of the NAV, this souvenir book will stand as a poignant reminder of the diversity that strengthens our nation and help inspire future generations in writing the next chapter of our national story.

I am grateful to the NAV for your leadership during this challenging time. You have supported our national efforts – encouraging your community members to turn to one another with love and care, and giving voice to important public health messages.

On this occasion, we commemorate not only a wonderful milestone, but also the threads woven by the Nepalese community into the rich tapestry that is multicultural Australia.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

February 2022



The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia
Telephone: +613 9651 5000

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

I'd like to send my best wishes to the Nepalese Association of Victoria on the occasion of your 25th anniversary.

This is a fantastic achievement and I want to congratulate everyone involved with the Association on reaching this significant milestone.

For a quarter of a century, you have worked alongside and on behalf of your community to strengthen and preserve Nepalese culture here in Victoria.

Through community sporting events, your partnerships with the Victorian Multicultural Commission and your fundraising efforts to support your friends and family in Nepal, you have deepened your community's connection to each other and your heritage.

On behalf of the Victorian Government and all Victorians, I'd like to thank you for all that you do.

Congratulations and I wish you all the very best for the next 25 years.

Dan Andrews



Hon
Matthew Guy MP
VICTORIAN LIBERAL LEADER

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am delighted to congratulate everyone associated with the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary and to extend my warmest greetings to the Nepalese-Australian community on this very happy occasion.

During its twenty-five years, the Nepalese Association of Victoria has fostered Victorian and Nepalese relations by championing and promoting awareness of the Nepalese culture and language through cultural, educational, charitable and social events. Its activities ensure that the Nepalese heritage continues to be enjoyed by all Victorians and passed onto future generations.

The Nepalese Association of Victoria has achieved many great things from its humble beginnings, working hard to foster closer relationships with other community groups in Victoria. In addition, the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) provides invaluable advice to both established and newly arrived migrants to help them integrate into the broader Australian society.

Victoria is home to a vibrant Nepalese community that continually contributes to every facet of our lives and is renowned for its love of family, hard work, and tradition. Values that make Victoria one of the most successful culturally diverse societies globally.

I take this opportunity to thank the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) for its unwavering commitment to upholding Nepalese traditions and culture in Victoria and strengthening our multicultural society. I also thank its past and present members, whose effort and dedication have contributed to the Association's many achievements.

I wish the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) every success in the future.

THE HON. MATTHEW GUY MP
Leader of the Liberal Party
Leader of the Opposition
Member for Bulleen

24.2.22

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The Hon. Ros Spence MP

Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth

GPO Box 1774
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 9651 5584
www.dffh.vic.gov.au

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

It is with great pleasure that I send my congratulations to the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) on your 25th anniversary. I wholeheartedly extend my gratitude to your staff, volunteers and leadership team for your efforts in continuing to support and strengthen Victoria's Nepalese community.

Victoria is home to so many different cultural and religious communities, and it is thanks to this inclusivity and diversity that our state is proud to be one of the world's most successful multicultural societies. It gives me great joy to know that there are organisations such as NAV that are committed to preserving culture, faith and heritage.

Since its establishment in 1997, NAV has played an important role in representing the Nepalese community through a range of initiatives, including the annual Bal Diwas celebrations, the Melbourne Chautari radio service and the founding of the Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre.

NAV has also created meaningful connections with Victoria's diverse communities through engagement with the Victorian Government and the Victorian Multicultural Commission, bringing a unique and valued perspective to a range of social, economic and cultural issues.

On behalf of the Andrews Labor Government, I want to sincerely thank the Nepalese Association of Victoria for your ongoing contributions to enriching our state with the vibrant culture of Nepal. The ways in which you champion and advocate for your community are to be commended and I look forward to seeing this longstanding commitment continue well into the future.

Congratulations again on this special milestone.

The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

23/2/22

VICTORIA State Government

VICTORIAN multicultural commission
strengthening our community

MESSAGE FROM THE VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSON

On behalf of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Nepalise Association of Victoria on your 25th anniversary of establishment.

Each and every community member should be proud of your contribution to the multicultural fabrics of Victoria over the past 25 years, and your continued a participation in all aspects of society to make this place the best it can be, now and in the future.

I have witnessed the level of collaboration, unity and commitment to this society by the Nepalise Association throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and the way in which you came together to support members of the Nepalese community as well as the broader community was heartwarming and a testament of multiculturalism at its best.

This milestone is another testament of your commitment to Victoria and I express my appreciation for this commitment.

Congratulations.

Yours Sincerely

Vivienne Nguyen, AM
Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission
12th March 2022



Victorian Multicultural Commission
Level 3, 1 Macarthur Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL

eccv
The Voice of Multicultural Victoria

22 February 2022



I am delighted to send a message of felicitation to the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) on its Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

NAV is a proud member of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV); it is a cause of celebration to see one of our members reach such an important milestone.

NAV was established in 1997 as a peak body representing the Nepalese communities of Victoria, and shares with the ECCV deep values, such as fostering community cohesion through inclusiveness and promoting a vibrant multicultural society.

Over the years, NAV has made an important contribution through celebrations of national festivals such as Dashin, Tihar, Nepali New Year, and its community radio service (Melbourne Chautari). NAV was also one of the pioneers of the Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre.

NAV has established strong ties with other multicultural organisations, such the Victorian Multicultural Commission, and supports our communities through its charitable activities

ECCV commends the Nepalese Association of Victoria for its work, and takes this opportunity to wish NAV every success in the years to come.

Your sincerely,

Eddie Micallef

Chairperson,
ECCV



Embassy of Nepal
Canberra, Australia

I am happy to know that the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year and publishing a special Silver Jubilee Souvenir incorporating its journey so far.

I would like to congratulate and thank the incumbent and past executive team members of NAV for their support to the Nepali community based in Victoria and for their significant role in promoting Nepali culture and adding multicultural flavour to the Victorian community since their establishment in 1997.

As one of the oldest Nepali community organisations in Australia, the NAV has wonderfully represented Nepal and its people, not only in Victoria but also all over Australia. Connections between people have always been pivotal to the Nepal-Australia bilateral relations. The role of Nepali community organizations such as NAV has been vital in strengthening our friendly relations.

New Nepali students/migrants face particular challenges in accessing local services such as health services and employment opportunities and adjusting to local settings in Australia. Therefore, there is an important role to play by the community organizations in supporting those in need by sharing information about local culture, lifestyle, and access to resources. It is also necessary to transfer our Nepali culture and tradition to new generations who were born and grown up here.

I, without hesitation, can say that NAV has played a significant role in transferring traditional cultural values, Nepali language and knowledge about Nepal to new generations by organizing various programs in the past 25 years of its establishment.

On behalf of the Embassy, I would like to commend the President and the whole team of NAV who are directly and indirectly involved in it for their work. I assure you Embassy's full cooperation and support as well and look forward to working with the NAV team in the days ahead.

I wish the NAV team all the best in their future endeavors.

Durupada Sapkota
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Consulate of Nepal
Victoria, Australia

21 March 2022
Melbourne, Australia

Message from the Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria, Mr Chandra Yonzon

Dear President of the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV),

On the very special occasion of the 25th Anniversary of NAV, the Consul General of Nepal to Victoria presents its compliments to your office, and has the honour of extending congratulations to you, to NAV's entire past and present officials, its volunteers, and to all of those involved in bringing this esteemed organisation to its current stage.

I acknowledge NAV's commendable work in promoting diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism, and community harmony in Victoria, and showcasing the unity and solidarity amongst the Nepalese and its wider communities residing in Victoria.

This year the organisation is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. This is a commendable milestone and is a result of the ongoing commitment and dedication of its members to the welfare of the Nepali and Australian communities. For this, I applaud the sincere effort by NAV for bringing communities together to enhance and explore Nepal's rich culture, language, heritage, festivals, sports, and its various awareness programs, including women empowerment, and assisting the community.

The Nepal Consulate Office of Victoria is proud to have supported the NAV organisation and its activities since its establishment in 2008.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who have worked tirelessly over the years since NAV's establishment, each of whom have contributed to the organisation's success.

Congratulations again on celebrating the Silver Jubilee and publishing this souvenir booklet.

I wish you continued success and look forward to seeing this organisation continue to grow and achieve many more feats in the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank NAV again and its organising committee for coordinating the upcoming 25th Anniversary celebration event. I wish NAV a very successful event and may everyone have fun and enjoy themselves!

Thank you!

Chandra Yonzon
Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria, Australia

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FeNCAA
Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia

(Association Number: A0[illegible] Date of Incorporation: 2nd August, 2018 ABN: 99 921 485 119)

NAV 25th Anniversary and Silver Jubilee

Witnessing such a historic moment is an honour. May the coming years bring more success to NAV to multiculturalism in Victoria by fostering unity, inclusiveness, and social harmony within the Nepalese community and with the wider Australian community; and to represent and advocate the interest of Nepalese community in Victoria. Happy 25th anniversary!

Over the years, Great work has been done by all the executive teams, volunteers, artists, and sponsors. Your dedication has led NAV's contribution in the Victorian community in providing support and social platform to the Nepalese community and showcasing its culture to the diverse Australian community and its engagement with the CALD and broader Australian community. You have executed many community projects successfully!

It is an honour to provide volunteer service to our community for the past 25 years. Let us call for the biggest silver jubilee celebration for the organisation. It is your hard work, commitment and loyalty that made this journey possible.

On behalf of Federation of Nepalese Community Association of Australia (FeNCAA), We would like to congratulate and best wishes Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) and its entire team for this significant occasion.

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary!

Sincerely,

Mr Bhola Giri



State Co-ordinator, VIC
Federation of Nepalese Community Association of Australia (FeNCAA)

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Community strength through a unified Nepalese voice

FOR NEPALI BY NEPALI

Australian Perspective and Law

The Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Australia

SCC VIC

Namaste!

I wish to extend my compliments and congratulations to all Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) current members, founding members, executive team, and all the Nepalese community leaders in Victoria on its historic 25th anniversary. I would also like to highly commend you all for achieving its milestone.

I would like to acknowledge the incredibly active, passionate, and cooperative members (past and present) of executive committees who made it possible to successfully run the organization for the past 25 years.

Being one of the oldest Nepali organisations in Victoria, NAV has been recognized for playing a very proactive role in promoting and preserving multiculturalism in Victoria. NAV has now established strong ties with the Victoria State Government, Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and local councils by participating regularly on many projects in cultural, social, and sporting events. The cooperation and collaboration with different multicultural communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic was commendable. **NAV is continuing to grow in vision and activities, and we all are proud of its history and legacy.**

NAV is history in itself and we all feel proud to be part of this great legacy. NAV will continue to play a great role in coming years and act as a conduit between Victoria Government and Nepali Communities and gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of Government of Victoria, Victoria Multicultural Commission, Nepal Consulate office, Business communities and Nepali communities at large which made this journey possible. I wish the organization every success in its future endeavours.

Kind Regards,

Hari Khadka

VP NRNA AUSTRALIA

STATE COORDINATOR VIC



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Dr Shesh Ghale

Founding member of NAV
Former Honorary Consul of Nepal for Victoria,
Global President of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) (2014-2018)
Patron of Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre

I would like to heartily congratulate Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) on its 25th Year Anniversary.

It is indeed a milestone for a community organisation to reach this far and I feel like it was not long ago in 1996 when I and my wife, Jamuna, was a part of the founding members who were planning to establish our own community organisation to represent a small numbers of Nepalese living in Victoria back then. Since then, Nepalese community in Victoria and Australia have grown to be one of the fastest growing migrant community and NAV has been playing a crucial role along with other partner organisations like Non-Resident Nepali Association to promote and preserve the culture, language and well-being of our community members. For that, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the past and present NAV presidents, executive committees and volunteers who have been a part of this proud journey.

We hope to see Nepalese Association of Victoria grow stronger in the years to come and continue to be a strong advocate of the Nepalese people in Victoria working in collaboration with other community-based organisations as well as with Victorian government and key stakeholders to advocate for social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the community. It is also important we create a nurturing environment to pass this baton to our first generation Nepalese youth in our community and encourage their involvement in keeping the community spirit alive for which NAV can play an active role within Victoria.

It is indeed a proud moment for Victorian Nepalese and as a part of the founding committee, it gives me immense pleasure to celebrate 25th year of Nepalese Association of Victoria. I extend my continued support to NAV and wish NAV for many more successful years ahead.

Namaste.



Rajesh Acharya CA

President ANMC

On behalf of Australian Nepalese Multicultural Center (ANMC), I offer my congratulations and best wishes to the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) while it is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Silver Jubilee has a special significance in the life of any organization as it signifies a coming of age and maturity. 2021 is a time to pause and reflect on the glorious history of NAV and review its vision and goals in the changed scenario.

Since its establishment in 1997, NAV has been able to promote the interest of people of Nepali origin living in Victoria (Australia) and promote Nepali culture, language, and heritage in Australian Society. Thank you to all selfless volunteers, community leaders, and members of Nepalese Community who have worked tirelessly to bring NAV to today's form. As a pioneer organization of one of the fastest growing communities in Victoria, the role of NAV is evolving day by day.

I am delighted to acknowledge that NAV has always played a pivotal role in our community, in promoting our rich culture, running various awareness programs, and assisting community members who are in dire need of support. The leadership shown by NAV and its executive committee to assist COVID affected community members and international students was highly commendable.

I am honored to be associated with NAV ever since I migrated to Australia in 2007. On this special occasion of NAV's 25th anniversary, I would like to extend my best wishes to every member of NAV.

Regards.



Past President's Messages



Dr Raju Adhikari (1997-2001)

It is my great pleasure to write this message on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the organisation as its founding president. Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) was established in January 1997 under Australian Incorporation Act 1983. Prior to this, Nepalese community identity was linked with a friendly association group Nepalese Australia Friendship Association (NAFA).

In its foundation years 1997-2000, NAV laid down the vision, mission, policy through an inclusive constitution which had enabled NAV to grow, develop and institutionalise its activities and establish Nepali identity over the years. From the foundation year to this date, all NAV presidents and team advanced the mission and vision of the organisation through core programs with a slogan our community and our strength, united the voice Nepalese communities to safeguard community interest and well-being. NAV was recognised very early for its efforts and received VMC awards and grants.

NAV also initiated philanthropic project in Nepal by supporting Dolkha project with Help Nepal Network in Nepal in 2000 and played a lead role in the establishment of HeNN Australia Chapter and support HeNN global network expansion. At the same time NAV also envisioned the concept of a Multicultural Centre precinct for Nepali cultural promotion and Federation of Nepalese Associations of Australia to represent the united voice of Nepali communities and these two organizations are now formally registered.

NAV is the first Nepalese Association registered in Australia for people of Nepalese origin living in Victoria. The organisation is proud to have played a pivotal role in providing much needed support to advocate Nepali community, identity, aspiration, recognition by representing the unified voice of Nepalese community and in supporting the growth of various Nepalese community organisations.

NAV is history in itself and we all feel proud to be part of this great legacy. NAV will continue to play a great role in coming years and act as a conduit between Victoria Government and Nepali Communities and gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of Government of Victoria, Victoria Multicultural Commission, Nepal Consulate office, Business communities and Nepali communities at large which made this journey possible. I wish the organization every success in its future endeavours.

1997
2001



Late Mr Benu P. Adhikari (2001-2003)

On behalf of my late husband Benu Adhikari, it is a great pleasure to write
this message on the occasion of 25th anniversary of Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV).

During his presidency from 2001-2003, NAV had continued the signature activities Dashain/Tihar Celebration, New Year Celebration and Community welfare programs. He also initiated the Student Meet and Greet program as he had realised the financial difficulties and social isolation faced by international Nepali students. He also introduced a mortgage awareness program to newly arrived migrants who were not familiar with the banking and loan process.

We were also a new migrant at the time of his presidency, but he was a true community champion and volunteered to the role of president for the community service and provided leadership to the organisation.

He was very proud of NAV and our family feels proud to be part of this great legacy. NAV has a great future and will continue to do great community service.

We wish the organisation every success.

— Mrs Munu Adhikari and family

2001
2003



Ranjan Vaidya (2003-2007)

Namaste,

Congratulations to all Victorian on the 25th anniversary of the Nepali Association of Victoria (NAV). It was a great pleasure to serve this association of Nepali origin for two terms from 2003 to 2007, together with the great executive team members. I found valuable friendships within my excellent team members during the period. I truly value them to this day. Together, we initiated many programs of great value to the community. Some of them were Bal Diwas, Melbourne Chautari, NAV cup, Nepali language classes, the first Nepali movie in Melbourne and numerous musical events. I want to thank all the executive members of the time once again. Most of them continued to serve the community in a big way and are well-known names today. It is evident on the executive member's list (2003 – 2007).

Demography and the size of Nepalis in Victoria have changed significantly since the inception of NAV. Hence, NAV should adapt to the new needs of the community. Working with all Nepali organizations in Victoria and identifying services gaps may be one of the areas NAV should explore. A single organization to represent Nepali living in Victoria to contribute to Victoria meaningfully seems missing. I think NAV can fill that void by working closely and respectfully with all Nepali organizations.

I would like to thank the founding team led by Dr. Raju Adhikari. I would like to request all Victorian Nepalis to cast eyes on the names of the founding executive team members with gratitude. I would also like to thank all NAV executive teams for the continuity of the various initiatives since the inception of NAV till today.

Lastly, a big thanks to Nepali Consul General in Victoria Hon. Chandra Yonjan, the Former Honorary Consul Generals in Victoria Dr Shesh Ghale and Mr. Simon Hill, Victorian Multicultural Council, Vic Health, Moreland Council and other government agencies for the continued support to NAV in these 25 years.

Dhanyanad

2003
2007



Dr Deepak Raj Pant (2007-2009)

Happy 25th Silver Jubilee anniversary to the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV). Congratulations on reaching a milestone from birth to a fully grown mature 25 years old adult. Top Nepalese organization with excellent performances and achievements in Victoria. Gurkhas soldiers are the People of Nepal. They were born and brought up in the rugged Himalayan Mountains. Gurkhas have a simple hard-working lifestyle and carry a very heavy-duty load at their back. They have strong muscular strength and run up-down with their doko at hills without support in a mountainous region. Doko is a basket made from bamboo and is hand-woven by humble & kind-heart Gurkhas who carry essential goods for a living. Nepal is the country where a world-renowned & respected brave Gurkhas soldier's ancestral origin comes from. Gurkhas have a fierce warrior knife called khukuri, a special superfood called kodo ko dhido, and unique Himalayan culture & festivals at the foothill of the biggest mountains in the world. Many retired Gurkhas (British Gurkhas, Indian Gurkhas, and Singapore Gurkhas) have migrated to Australia and living with their extended family members at Victoria.

On ANZAC Day, Gurkhas march in Victorian cities and towns and emerge at the "Shine of Remembrance". Gurkhas with their family are robust and active. They are always helpful, offering, smiling, joyful, and volunteering at NAV and contributing to Nepali communities' at functions & festivals. NAV expresses Kudos to Gurkhas! Due to increasing our increasingly globalized world, homogeneous Nepali people sometimes find it difficult to adjust to the heterogeneous complex Victorian way of life.

NAV has been an active, powerful engine to transform Australian-Nepalese comprehensive civilization to blend into Victoria. In the year 2022 AD, Nepalese have a big multi-generation family in Victoria. 1st Generation, 2nd Generation, 3rd Generation, and even 4th Generation. Presently NAV is dealing with superb complex identities of students, new migrate, parents, elderly parents, grandparents, great grandparents, retirees, teenagers, and children under NAV's one roof. NAV areas of focus have been in sports, radio programs, children, festivals, cultural interaction, gathering, crises help out (Covid-19, vaccination, Nepal Earthquake, vulnerable Nepalese students, etc.). They are few sung and many unsung heroes among Nepalese communities who have devoted their precious time to NAV. Wishing NAV good luck in the future and continue to blossom.

2007
2009



Bom Yonzon (2009-2014)

What a great & proud moment to all the Victorian Nepalese Community that the NAV 25th Glorious Years has arrived at the doorstep. It is the time of significant milestones to celebrate with exchanges the memories of past, act to the present and think deeply to the future where NAV has to set up its goals and mission for future generation leadership, and the community needs to move ahead; with mainstream multicultural communities?

On this auspicious moment, I myself, with my life partner Ms Dambari Yonzon would like to extend our warmest congratulations to President Mr Ram Gurung and your team for taking this important decision to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV). At this moment, I would like to remember my team members and their great contributions to the NAV, who tirelessly worked hard as volunteers in both tenures as team members from (2009-2014). We work as a United Victorian Nepalese Community from diverse backgrounds as one voice, "Our Community, Our Strength".

Remembering those days, I had a wonderful experience with a great young and energetic Exec team member in both the Precedential tuners for 2009- 2014 to drive NAV that there is one and only one Nepalese Community pick body in Victoria. NAV advocated the new, young and emerging community voices to the state government of Victoria through the Victoria Multicultural Commission (VMC). Over the period of nearly five years of my tenure, NAV has been a popular name with the Victorian Multicultural Commission, State Government to Governor's House and then to the Commonwealth Government of Australia, Canberra. Similarly, they started to invite broader multicultural communities. Some of them are ECCV, FECCA, DECC, AVWA, SACLG and many more communities in Victoria.

Last but least, NAV will continue to lead all Nepalese Ethnic Community voices to Victorian Parliament, Broader Multicultural and CALD Community in Victorian with the Victorian Multicultural Commission's support and guidelines as per community need.

2009
2014



Sudhir Shakya (2014- 2016)

Congratulations Nepalese Association of Victoria, commonly referred to as NAV, and the Victorian Nepalese community on 25th Anniversary of NAV since its inception in 1997.

It has been my absolute pleasure to witness and be part of NAV's journey which commenced with the leadership of inaugural president Dr Raju Adhikari. NAV have grown significantly over the last 25 years and established itself as a leading Nepalese organisation in Victoria to represent and advocate for the Nepalese living in diaspora.

With the changing demographics of the Nepalese population, the role of NAV has also evolved and accordingly, its priorities and activities have evolved as well. The portfolio of activities listed in this publication is the testament of NAV's contribution and engagement with the community. I'm confident that NAV will continue to identify the ever-changing needs of the growing community and adopt itself to better serve the community effectively and maintain its relevance with the community through engagement and collaboration.

I am humbled to serve the community under every NAV president till date in various capacity – as a Newsletter Editor, Executive Committee Member, General Secretary, Treasure and finally as a President of NAV and currently as an Advisor to NAV.

I also take this opportunity to thanks NAV presidents, the committee members I worked with in all the committees I have served, in particular my own executive team members during my presidency, for their support and guidance in achieving our common goal. I also like to acknowledge contribution of the Victorian Government, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Local councils including Darebin City Council, Moreland City Council and the Nepalese community-based organisations.

Thank you and Namaste.

2014
2016



Dr Anupam Pokharel (2016-2018)

It is a great moment of joy for everyone involved in the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) since its inception to be able to celebrate its 25th anniversary. On behalf of my team for the tenure 2016-2018, I expressed deep gratitude to all the members and committee members of various tenures since 1997 to make this day happen. Victorian Nepali Society has grown significantly, not only quantitatively but qualitatively, for the past three decades. We have always enjoyed pluralism, right from the beginning, historically since Nepal. Victorian Nepali continues to champion multiculturalism in its own way and finds itself very much in tune with multicultural Victoria.

Nepalese Association of Victoria has always engaged in inter-cultural and intra-cultural coordination. It had led celebrations of festivals when the community was small and has engaged in a meaningful way with other organizations in festival celebrations more recently, as the community has become larger. NAV has a prior history of involvement in sports by organizing tournaments, and more recently, it has played a constructive role with other sporting organizations as well. NAV has led various support work for its community members, irrespective of their membership status with the organization. More recently, it has yearned to play a supportive role at local levels and, at the same time, has been in the forefront while working together with the Victorian Government at the state level.

While a growing community like ours is bound to have many organizations for various requirements, it is important to have a common and peak organization to represent the Victorian Nepalese voice to the state government. With a proud 25 years of history, NAV emphatically and undisputedly has attained this status. At the same time, NAV will have an ongoing responsibility to play a coordinating role with a multitude of linguistic, ethnic, regional and council based organizations of the Victorian Nepalese community.

I am sure, with the help of our great community, NAV will continue to thrive on this responsibility as well. I am deeply indebted to the State Government of Victoria and Australia's Federal Government for their steadfast support to our nascent community, which now has become an active contributor to mainstream Australian society.

2016
2018



Tara Gaire (2018-2020)

I wish to extend my compliments and congratulations to all NAV current members, founding members, executive team, and all the Nepalese community leaders in Victoria on its historic 25th anniversary. I would also like to highly commend you for achieving its milestone.

I would like to acknowledge the incredibly active, passionate, and cooperative members of all three executive committees (2014-2020) and my predecessors. More significantly, special thanks to all the members of the respected executive committee members 2018-2020.

Being a new and emerging community in Victoria, NAV has been recognized for playing a very proactive role in promoting and preserving multiculturalism in Victoria. NAV has established strong ties with the Victoria State Government, Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), and local councils by regularly participating in many cultural, social, and sporting events and projects. The cooperation and collaboration with different multicultural communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic was commendable. NAV is continuing to grow in vision and activities, and we all are proud of its history and legacy.

As the population of Nepalese in Victoria has grown significantly, I believe the Nepalese Association of Victoria should work for the benefit of Nepalese and other multicultural communities by modifying its objectives and taking the lead among the Nepalese community organizations in Victoria

2018
2020

Nepalese Association of Victoria: Past, Present and Future

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) represents a unified voice of the Victorian Nepali Community to the Victoria Government. NAV is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year — two and a half decades of history is a proud legacy for the Victoria Nepalese community. While it is a time to celebrate the achievements it is also a time to reflect on NAV's past, present, and future.

Background

After three years of community consultations, in April 1997, NAV was formally registered under the Australian Incorporation Act 1988 with the sole objective to represent, support, advocate, and promote Nepali identity and cultural heritage and work for the well-being of the people of Nepalese origin in Victoria. Prior to this, Nepalese community identity was linked with Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAPA) and an ad hoc committee led by Chandra Tamang, Chandra Yonzon, Dr. Netra Khadka, Pradeep Pradhan, Dr. Raju Adhikari, and senior community members which played a key role to develop the concept of NAV and conduct interim activities. Following NAV's registration, the elected executive team led by Dr. Raju Adhikari played a pivotal role in drafting the constitution, policy, and frameworks and provided a solid foundation for the organisation. Those 25 years of milestones journey under different executive teams' leadership is a testimony to the role that NAV has played in uniting and meeting the expectations of fast-growing Victoria's Nepalese population and community organisations. NAV would like to acknowledge all the past presidents Benu Adhikari, Ranjan Vaidya, Dr. Deepak Pant, Bom Yonzon, Sudhir Shakya, Tara Gaire, Dr. Anupam Pokharel, Ram Gurung, and the executive teams for their leadership and vision. We would also like to express gratitude to our senior members: Jog Limbu, Janak Gautam, Hem Yonzon, Tilak Rai, Mahesh Bhandari, and many other members from the community at large who had played active roles throughout NAV's journey and contributed to the bring the organisation to this stage.

Activities

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, NAV is publishing a special souvenir booklet to commemorate the occasion and highlight its journey. As a founding president and member of the presidential council, I have seen NAV transformations closely and would like to share some thoughts on the key aspects of its organisational growth. In the early years, NAV started modestly laying down the vision, mission, and policy by drafting an inclusive constitution which enabled NAV to grow, develop, and institutionalise its activities and identity over the years. From the concept of Dashain Tihar celebration, Multicultural community centre, Federation of Nepalese association in 1997 to Melbourne Chautari, Balchautari, Community Radio, Sports (NAV cricket, badminton, Table Tennis) tournaments, Nepali Pathshala, Teej, Nepal festival, formation of presidential council, advisory body, community excellence awards to COVID crisis management with a slogan our community and our strength, NAV has represented the voice of Nepalese communities to safeguard community interest and well-being. Two of the NAV-led projects FeNCAA and ANMC are now registered as separate organisations and playing an important role in promoting our culture and unified voices in Australia. In the past two years, NAV had to work virtually online due to COVID restrictions and the team quickly transitioned to a digital forum and did commendable work despite the challenges. Over the years, NAV has also made submissions in a wide range of policy matters such as domestic violence, gender equality, and COVID impact. NAV was born to unite Nepalese in Victoria









NAV in action in 1997, rare photographs showing cultural activities: Deusi program, Nepal Artist cultural exchange visit and meeting with His Excellency Prof Kedar B Mathema in Melbourne.

and channel our community strength to play a meaningful role and contribute to Victoria's mainstream policies and programmes to make a positive impact in the Victorian community while preserving Nepalese culture and heritage. NAV's commitment, and exemplary leadership role during the COVID crisis period has made it even more evident.

In recognition of NAV contributions, several NAV leaders, members, and community leaders have been awarded with VMC (Victorian Multicultural Commission) awards for Excellence. NAV has received several grants worth thousands of dollars to support its ongoing activities. NAV is now well recognised in Australia and the recognition has built our confidence, and cemented closer ties with VMC and Victorian Government which has further helped initiate new projects and activities. NAV is now well represented in various government committees and activities as an advisor to VMC Advisory Committee, South Asian Ministerial Advisory Council (SAMAC), Advisory body of Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and Federation of Ethnic council of Australia (FECCA).

NAV has represented the voice of Nepalese communities to safeguard community interest and well-being.





Future Role

The Nepali population in Victoria has significantly increased over the past decade. Consequently, Nepal is now ranked on the list of ten top migrant countries in Australia. As of current data, Nepali population is the seventh largest population in Australia representing 0.4% of the Australia total population. 40% of them live in Victoria. It is estimated that there are over 40 Nepalese community associations in Victoria representing culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Nepali communities.

The Victorian Government has highlighted the role of CALD communities to strengthen multiculturalism and socio-economic prosperity of the state. NAV now has enormous opportunities to represent the Nepali community in the government committees to contribute to future policies and programs in emerging areas such as gender equality, domestic violence, language, cultural programs, sports, immigration, etc. NAV needs to work closely not only with sister community organisations but with other CALD Communities to voice their concerns of national importance. Moreover, NAV needs to connect to youth and encourage women's leadership to generate new ideas and energy to sustain the community's voluntary spirit. Further, we have also realized that NAV needs to develop a council structure to integrate academic and business communities into NAV activities.

NAV will continue to act as a think tank on Government and VMC policy matters and play a strategic role to facilitate the community's harmony, build inter and intra-linkages, mutual respect, trust, ownership, inclusiveness, and team spirit. NAV will also work closely with the Consular office and other Nepali Community Based organisations(CBOs) and set up an endowment fund to support vulnerable communities and students in emergency situations. NAV needs to develop long term policies and sustain its growth and activities while guaranteeing community inclusivity and leadership in the organisation.

The 25th anniversary celebration has helped reinforce NAV's long term goals and its legacy will continue to grow and provide a strong foundation as well as momentum for the future generations of Nepali in Australia.



Executive Committee of NAV: 1997-2022

1997-1998	
President	Dr Raju Adhikari
Vice president	Chandra Yonzon
Secretary	Dr Santosh Aryal
Treasurer	Madan Dhungel
Joint Secretary	Danny (Dil Bahadur) Gurung
Executive Members	Dr Nagendra Shah Ishowr Bajracharya Munu Adhikari Neelam Pradhananga Pradeep Pradhan
Student Coordinator	Danny (Dil Bahadur) Gurung
Cultural Coordinator	Hem Yonzon
Webpage Coordinator	Bhupal KC
Newsletter Editor	Sudhir Shakya
Advisors	Dr Netra Bahadur Khadka Chandra Yonzon Shesh Ghale Dr Santosh Aryal Kishor Pant

1998-2001	
President	Dr Raju Adhikari
Vice president	Dr Jagdish Timisina
Secretary	Megh Nath Acharya
Treasurer	Madan Dhungel
Joint Secretary	Danny (Dil Bahadur) Gurung
Executive Members	Dr Nagendra Shah Ishowr Bajracharya Munu Adhikari Hemanta Bhatta Benu Adhikari
Student Coordinator	Danny (Dil Bahadur) Gurung
Cultural Coordinator	Hem Yonzon
Webpage Coordinator	Bhupal KC
Newsletter Editor	Sudhir Shakya
Advisors	Dr Netra Bahadur Khadka Chandra Yonzon Shesh Ghale Dr Santosh Aryal Kishor Pant, Dr Bashkar Amatya

2001-2003	
President	Benu Adhikari
Vice president	Hem Yonzon
Secretary	Deepika Sherchan
Treasurer	Madan Dhungel
Executive Members	Sudhir Shakya Raja Ram Thapa Nita Pokharel Tonnou WG Gothane Gopal Gurung
Advisors	Shesh Ghale Chandra Yonzon Dr Raju Adhikari Dr Jagadish Timilsina

2003-2005	
President	Ranjan Vaidya
Vice president	Deepa Rai
Secretary	Sudhir Shakya
Treasurer	Surendra Sedhai
Joint Secretary	Tonnou WG Gothane
Executive Members	Bom B. Khadka Parsuram Sharma Luital Jaya Sharma Sachin Yonzon Bishnu Adhikari
Event Coordinator	Raju Shakya
Advisors	Jog Limbu Raju Adhikari Chandra Yonzon Diwaker Basnet Ganesh B Shrestha Sindhu Dhungana

Executive Committee of NAV: 1997-2022

2005-2007	
President	Ranjan Vaidya
Vice president	Deepa Rai
Vice president	Raju Shakya
Secretary	Sudhir Shakya
Treasurer:	Surendra Sedhai
Joint Secretary	Tonnou WG Gothane
Executive Members	Parsuram Sharma Luital Shiva Neupane Bishnu Adhikari Anamika Rai Tshering Gurung* Mahendra Basnet*
NRN Coordinator	Pramod Khatiwada
Advisors	Jog Limbu Raju Adhikari Chandra Yonzon Diwaker Basnet Ganesh B Shrestha Madhu Pokhrel

2009-2011	
President	Bom Yonzon
Vice president	Mahesh Bhandari
Secretary	Khem Gurung
Treasurer	Sudhir Shakya
Joint Secretary	Bijaya Budhalhoki
Executive Members	Pesal Luitel Vikrant Tamrakar Kundan Karki Subi Rai Anamika Rai
Media Coordinator	Hari Pandey
Advisors	Chandra Yonzon Dr Raju Adhikari Ranjan Vaidya Dr. Deepak Pant Jog Limbu Bharamsher Rai Raju Shakya Tonnou WG Gothane Parsuram Sharma Luilel Ganesh B Shres tha Laxmi Adhikari Diwakar Bosnet

2007-2009	
President	Deepak Raj Pant
Vice president	Bola Giri
Secretary	Sudhir Shakya
Treasurer	Shiva Neupane
Joint Secretary	Pasuram Luitel
Executive Members	Mahesh Bhandari Hari Panday Tamoj Bajracharya Surendra Sedhai Tonnou WG Gothane Pramod Khatiwada
Advisors	Shesh Ghale Dr Raju Adhikari Jog Limbu Chandra Yonzon Ranjan Vaidya

2011-2014	
President	Bom Yonzon
Vice president	Mahesh Bhandari
Secretary	Bijaya Budhathoki
Treasurer	Mahesh Mainali
Joint Secretary	Saroj Sharma
Executive Members	Saroj Koirala Sunil Ranjit Hari Khadka* Krishna Neupane Mahadev Dhanuk Jitendra Singh Niraula* Om Prasad Upreti Surya Mani Pandey Naresh Poudel* Sunil Bhandari Saurab Baid Hariram Soni
Media Coordinator	Dipesh Chaulagain

Advisors

Chandra Yonzon	Tonnou WG Gothane
Dr Raju Adhikari	Ganesh B Shrestha
Ranjan Vaidya	Laxmi Adhikari
Dr. Deepak Pant	Diwakar Basnet
Jog Limbu	Sudhir Shakya
Bharamser Rai	Bola Giri
Raju Shokyo	Madan K Dhungel
Rajan K Basnet	

* resigned before the full term

Executive Committee of NAV: 1997-2022

2014-2016	
President	Sudhir Shakya
Vice president	Surendra Sedhai
Vice president	Deepa Rai
Secretary	Manisha Rai
Treasurer	Ranjan Shrivastav
Joint Secretary	Fom Thapa Magar
Executive Members	Bishnu Dabadi Gautam Lamichhane Keshav Kandel Tara Gaire Kusum Pokharel Ram Kadel Sunil Bhandari
Advisors	Bam Gurung Bhola Giri Bom Yonzon Chandra Yonzon Dr Anupam Pokhrel Dr Chandra Deepak Pokharel Dr Jagadish Timilsina Durga Acharya Ganesh Bhakta Shrestha Jog Limbu Mahesh Bhandari Raju Shakya Ram Kumar Shrestha Rishi Kandel Tonnou WG Gothane
Presidential Council	Dr Raju Adhikari Mr Ranjan Vaidya Dr. Deepak Pant Bom Yonzon

2016-2018	
President	Dr. Anupam Pokharel
Vice president	Tara Gaire
Vice president	Manisha Rai*/ Ms Resika KC
Secretary	Norgen Norboo Moktan
Treasurer	Santosh Pandey
Executive Members	Dhawa Lama Dhawa Lama Anup Rana Bharat Tiwari Ms. Shweta Bohora Santosh Bastakoti Bhawani Paudyal Dr. Tilak Pokharel Abhisekh KC*
Advisors	Chandra Yonzon Keshav Kandel Ms DeepaRai Jog Limbu Ram Chandra Sapkota Surendra Sedhai Mohan Rana Anamika Rai Laxmi Pokhrel Shree Pant Sunil Bhandari Bhim Neupane Dr Ugendra Regmi Dikpal Dev Pangeni
Presidential Council	Dr Raju Adhikari Ranjan Vaidya Dr. Deepak Pant Bom Yonzon Sudhir shakya

* resigned before the full term





NAV Presidency Bell: This traditional bell is handed over to the incoming president by the outgoing president as a symbolic gesture of transfer of leadership.

Executive Committee of NAV: 1997-2022

2018-2020	
President	Tara Gaire
Vice president	Santosh Bastakoti
Vice president	Diksha Neupane
Secretary	Prerana Malla*
Treasurer	Prakash Kaji Thapa
Joint Secretary	Arjun Shrestha*
Executive Members	Prem Raj Uptreti Ram Gurung Saroza Sharma Shankar Thapa Siddhartha Marasiri Prakash Acharya MD Aslam*
Advisors	Chandra Yonzon Keshav Kandel Jamuna Parajuli Dr Chandra Deepak Pokharel Deepa Rai Jog Limbu Sunil Bhandari Durga Acharya Surendra Rouniyar Suresh Pokhrel Madhav Poudel Niraj Karanjit Mahendra Karki Madhuri Sharma
Presidential Council	Dr Raju Adhikari Ranjan Vaidya Dr. Deepak Pant Bom Yonzon Sudhir shakya Dr Anupam Pokharel

* resigned before the full term

2020-2022	
President	Ram Gurung
Vice president	Prem Raj Upreti
Vice president	Miss Lalisha Thapa
Secretary	Bimlesh Kumar Ranjitkar
Treasurer	Dr. Yakindra Timilsena
Joint Secretary	Miss Punam Gurung
Joint Treasurer	Hem Raj Chalise
Executive Members	Krishana Chalise Nabin Shrestha Man Maya Gurung* Sudip Shreshtha* Bidur Sharma Giri* Ganga Aacharya*
Advisors Jog Limbu Deepa Rai Som Gurung Madhuri Maskey Keshav Kandel Mahadev Dhanuk Suraj Khatri Lal Prasad Kandel	 Dr. Surendra Rauniyar Durga Aacharya Narayan Kafle Ganesh Paudel Lok Raj Paudel Sunil Mainali Sunil Bhandari
NAV Honorary Advisors	Con. Gen. Chandra Yonzon Dr. Shesh Ghale
NAV Counsellor Advisor	NRNA ACC (VIC): Hari Khadka ANMC President: Rajesh Aacharya Didibaini Samaj : Dr. Jamuna Parajuli Balchautari (NAV): Surendra Sedhai
Project Coordination Advisor	Parsuram Sharma Luitel
Presidential Council	Dr Raju Adhikari Ranjan Vaidya Dr. Deepak Pant Bom Yonzon Sudhir shakya Dr Anupam Pokharel Tara Gaire

Our Mission, Vision, Strategy and Values



Vision: Our vision is to be a leading, trusted and inclusive Nepalese community organisation in Victoria, Australia.

Mission: Our mission is to promote, preserve & celebrate Nepalese culture & interests by advocating, uniting and providing a common platform for our community within Australian multicultural society.

Values: Accountability, Collaboration, Advocacy, Respect, Inclusiveness, Innovation

In October 2015, during the presidency of Sudhir Shakya, NAV conducted multiple workshops with the Nepalese community and leaders from NAV, one of the first of its kind. Workshops were facilitated by an external facilitator. This process saw great engagement and participation from across the community, with more than 30 people who participated in multiple workshops.

The key objectives of these workshops were to crystalise the Mission (why does NAV exist), develop Vision 2025 (where does NAV want to be in 2025), its Strategy and Values.

The workshops were engaging and provided an environment for positive outcomes through healthy discussion on a number of important issues and opportunities for NAV. Workshops were moderated by Jog Limbu, Ranjan Vaidya and Dr Raju Adikari and facilitated by an external facilitator.



1. NAV Mission:

Our mission is to promote, preserve & celebrate Nepalese culture & interests by advocating, uniting and providing a common platform for our community within Australian multicultural society,

1.1 **Promote, Preserve & Celebrate -** A common voice for the Nepalese community, to promote and preserve its culture and its people. We exist to help, serve and support community members.

1.2 **Uniting and Common Platform -** Unite and bring the Nepalese community together, and harness multicultural values within the Nepalese community, and a common platform to share ideas and address common issues and needs.

1.3 **Multicultural Society -** Integrate the community with broader Australian society, and develop harmonious relations with the Australian community.

2. NAV's Vision:

Our vision is to be a leading, trusted and inclusive Nepalese community organisation in Victoria, Australia

2.1 **Leading -** A strong presence in Australia, an umbrella organisation in Victoria (peak body) that is effective and representative of the community – a common platform for Nepalese voice, and a model community organisation – to meet needs & aspirations of the community.

2.2 **Trusted and Inclusive –**

Trusted: Transparency and organisation that community trusts. Maximise participation of Nepalese under 1 organisation that provides the ability to influence government and stakeholders on important issues that matter to Nepalese community.

Inclusive: An organisation that welcomes all - culture, traditions, values, identities, dress, ethnicity, age, gender, interest group and 2nd generation pass (रति रिबिाज, परमपरा).

3. NAV Strategic Themes:

3.1 **Leadership and Communication:** Enhance Communication, Leadership and Vision - Develop leadership for the future, and Develop Mission, Vision, and Strategy in alignment with NAV objectives for setting direction, and Enhance communication within NAV and outside, and Drive accountability and ownership, and Obtain commitment of members including the executive committee.

3.2 **Transparency, Trust and Inclusiveness:** Drive Transparency, Trust and Inclusiveness - Rebuild trust and confidence with the community, and enhance communication, e.g., frequency, relevancy, different channels, clear processes, and procedures, and provide transparency in activities, and make NAV more inclusive through participation and providing a platform for feedback and inputs.

3.3 **Planning, Prioritisation, and Resourcing:** Implement effective planning, prioritisation, coordination of activities and optimise resources - Agree on priorities in alignment with NAV objectives, vision, and strategy, develop long term plans, and refine priorities for maximum impact in the community, and optimising resourcing, i.e. right resource in the right areas, and set expectation and communicate the progress to the community on a regular basis.





3.4 **Membership Growth:** Drive Membership Growth - Develop member value proposition and deliver on it, and work collaboratively with other organisations to set NAV on the leading platform, and keep the needs of the members at the heart of the NAV projects and initiatives – relevancy of initiatives (2nd generation), and keep the focus on the core value proposition.

4. NAV Values: ACARII

What do we believe in and how we want to act?

NAV Values	Accountability	Collaboration	Advocacy	Respect	Inclusiveness	Innovation

We shape our community's future together. The community is changing and so we (NAV) are. We have clear objectives and strategies to support us on this journey.

We are building a new culture, underpinned by values that support inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, accountability, empowerment, communication, and multiculturalism. This is an exciting time for our community and with your involvement & support, we are ready to make a difference.

Looking back at the past six years of NAV's journey and achievements, the Mission, Vision, and Strategy workshops carried out in 2015 gave a clear pathway where NAV wants to be in 2025. Since then, NAV has achieved a lot and there are plenty of opportunities that we need to embrace and explore.

It is important that the new NAV Executive Committee takes their time to discuss and understand the Mission, Vision, and Strategy of NAV for a clear alignment to ensure we are heading in the right direction. To adapt to new challenges and opportunities NAV will review and discuss its Mission, Vision, and Strategy ongoing basis through the annual planning cycle.

The beginning of NAV

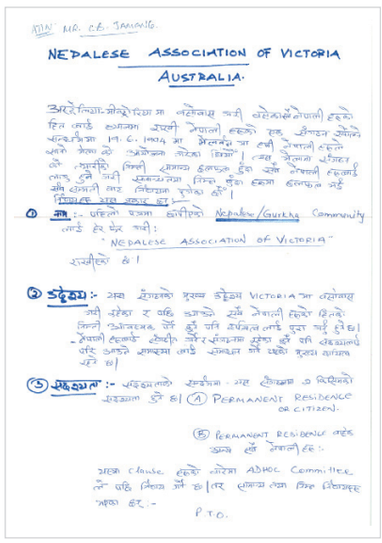
The Nepalese Association of Victoria has completed 25 years of its establishment, a rare milestone achievement for any communities' organizations. The journey of 25 years conveys the history of Nepali community settlement in Victoria and their contributions. The name Nepalese Association of Victoria was endorsed after discussion with prominent community members of the Nepali community at the time, from its initial proposed name 'Nepalese / Gurkha Community' in a meeting held on June 19, 1994. The community's desire to make an inclusive organization to represent all people of Nepali descent living in Victoria was the primary reason for agreeing to the above name.

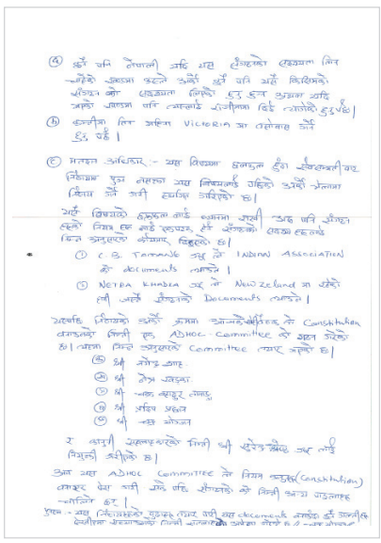
The main objective of the organization identified was to unite and work for the community wellbeing and promote our cultural diversity for the benefit of all Nepalese living in Victoria. It decided to do so by organizing meetings of Nepalis and take necessary action to address their problems. The meeting also outlined the rules and regulations for the organization. It was decided that to become member of the organization, a person should have resided in Victoria for at least three months with legal visa status of residency and or citizenship.

The meeting formed an ad hoc advisory committee to formulate the policy of the organization. The committee members comprised of Nagendra Shah, Netra Khadka, Chakra Bahadur Tamang, Pradip Pradhan, Chandra Yonjan and Surendra Shrestha as the legal advisor. Following community members played a significant role and assisted in completing the above task.

Chandra Bahadur Tamang, Bharansher Rai, Pradeep Kumar Pradhan, Parashuram Tamang, Tim Narayan Tiwari,Milan Shrestha, Rajni Shrestha, Nirmala Shah, Prabik Basnyat, Deepak Aryal Anand Thapa, Madan Dhungel, Pramita Dhungel, Shrijan Gyawali, Deepika Sherchan, Nita Pokhrel, Vijay Bahadur Gurung, Ranjan Koirala, Dr. Nagendra Shah, Samit Shrestha, Ashok Khatiwada, Raj Amatya, Jum Bahadur Gurung, Mars Lama, Dhan Bahadur Tamang, A. Basnet, Lokdarshan Lama, Chandra Yonjan, Rajan Sharma, Pradeep Lamsal, Bhupal KC, Dr Raju Adhikari and Santosh Aryal.

The organisation was formally registered in January 1997 under Australian Incorporation Act 1983 and the first Executive team led by Dr Raju Adhikari was officially formed.


NEPALESE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA.



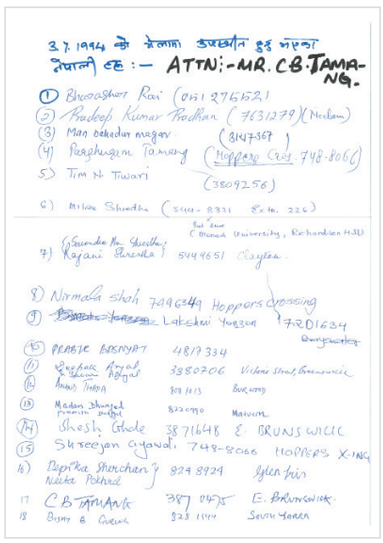
न्याभको शुरुवात: संस्था नामाकरण र पहिलो बैठक

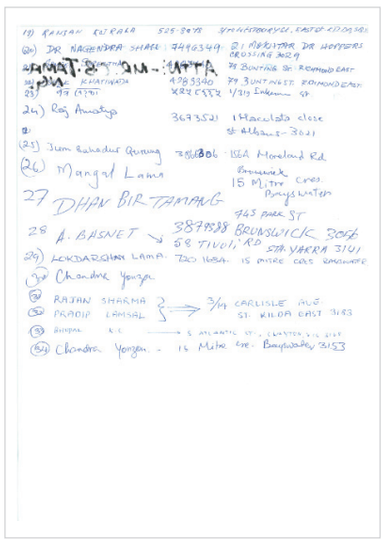
नेपलीज एसोसिएसन अफ भिक्टोरियाले आफ्नो स्थापनाकालको २५ वर्ष पूरा गरेको छ। भिक्टोरियामा नेपालीहरुको पूरानो यो संस्थाले नेपाली समुदायको इतिहास बोकेको छ। त्यसो त, न्याभको अवधारणा सुरुमा नै आएको भने होइन। सुरुमा नेपाली समुदायका केही अगुवाहरु मिलेर संगठन निर्माण गरिएको थियो, जसको नाम थियो 'नेपलीज/गुर्खा कम्युनिटी'।

सन् १९९४ को जुन १९ मा एक भेलाको आयोजना गरिएको थियो। उक्त भेलाले भिक्टोरियामा बस्ने नेपाली मूलका सबै व्यक्तिहरुलाई समेट्ने गरी संस्था खोल्ने बारेमा निर्णय गर्यो। जसमा पहिले नामाकारण गरिएको नेपलीज/गुर्खा कम्युनिटीलाई परिमार्जन गरी नेपलीज एसोसिएसन अफ भिक्टोरिया नामाकरण गरियो।

पहिलो बैठकको माइन्युटमा न्याभको उद्देश्यको बारेमा भनिएको छ," यस संगठनको मूख्य उद्देश्य भिक्टोरियामा बसोवास गरिरहेका र पछि आउने सबै नेपालीहरुको हितको निम्ति आवश्यक पर्ने कुनै पनि दायित्वलाई पूरा गर्ने हुनेछ। नेपालीहरुलाई संगठित गर्ने र संगठनमा रहेका कुनै पनि सदस्यलाई परि आउने समस्यालाई समाधान गर्ने यसको मूख्य दायित्व रहनेछ "।

उक्त बैठकले संस्थाको खाका र सदस्यताका लागि नियम पनि तोकेको थियो। जसमा संस्थामा अष्ट्रेलियाको नागरिकता लिएका तथा पीआर लिएका र पीआर नलिएका गरी दुई किसिमका सदस्यहरु छुट्टाइएको थियो। साथै सदस्यता लिनका लागि अन्य संस्थाको सदस्यता नलिएको हुनुपर्ने, कम्तिमा तीन महिना भिक्टोरियामा बसोवास गरेको हुनुपर्ने नियम तोकिएको थियो।





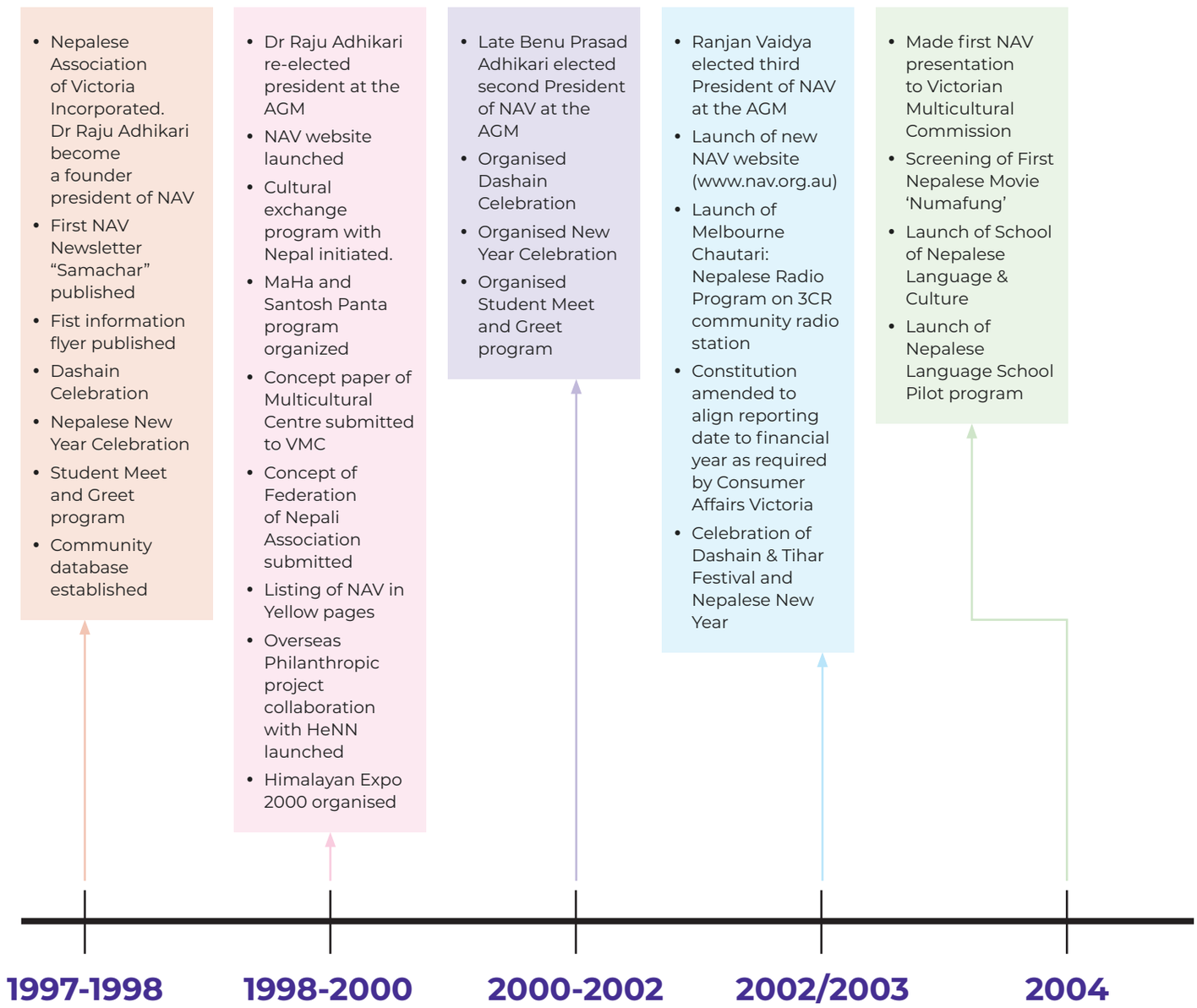
उक्त बैठकले संस्थाको नीति निर्माणका लागि तदर्थ सल्लाहकार समिति गठन गरेको थियो। उक्त समितिमा नगेन्द्र शाह, नेत्र खड्का, चक्र बहादुर तामाङ्ग, प्रदीप प्रधान चन्द्र योञ्जन र कानूनी सल्लाहकारको रुपमा सुरेन्द्र श्रेष्ठलाई नियुक्त गरिएको थियो।

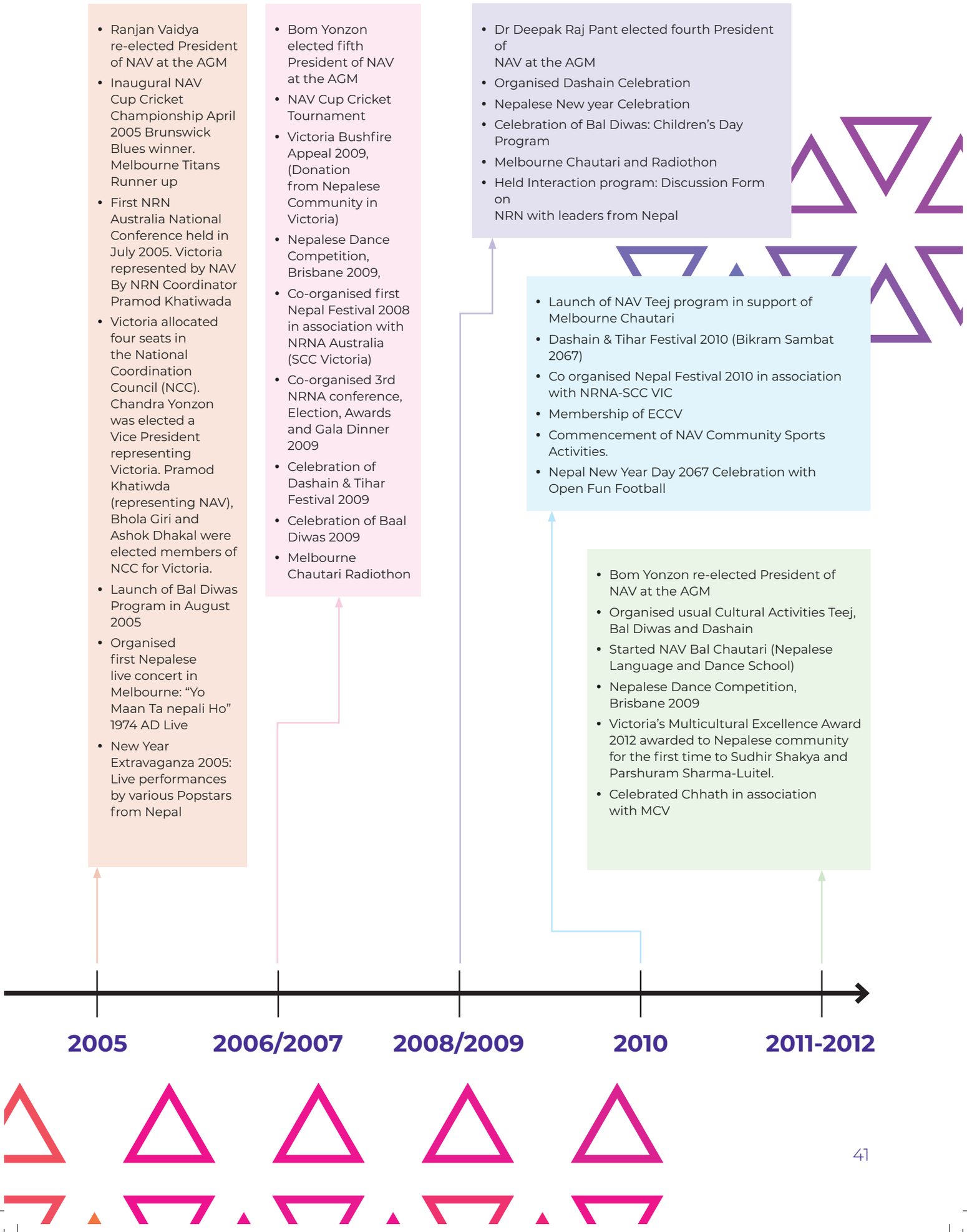
उक्त सल्लाहकार समितिले नीतिको खाका पेश गरिसकेपछि संस्थाका लागि अन्य कदम चाल्ने सहमतिका साथ बैठक टुङ्गिएको र आवश्यक काम गर्न निम्न प्रमुख समिति सदस्यहरुले महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेलेको थियो

चन्द्र बहादुर तामाङ्ग, भरनशेर राई, प्रदीप कुमार प्रधान, परशुराम तामाङ्ग, टिम नारायण तिवारी, मिलन श्रेष्ठ,रजनी श्रेष्ठ, निर्मला शाह, प्रबिक बस्न्यात, दीपक अर्याल, आनन्द थापा, मदन ढुंगेल, प्रमिता ढुंगेल ,शेष घले, श्रीजन ज्ञवाली, दीपिका शेरचन, नीता पोखरेल, विजय बहादुर गुरुङ, रन्जन कोइराला, डा नगेन्द्र शाह, समित श्रेष्ठ, अशोक खतिवडा, नेत्र खड्का, राज अमात्य, जुम बहादुर गुरुङ, मंगल लामा, धन बहादुर तामाङ्ग, ए बस्नेत, लोकदर्शन लामा, चन्द्र योञ्जन, राजन शर्मा, प्रदीप लम्साल, भुपाल केसी, डा राजु अधिकारी, सन्तोष अर्याल.

पछि संस्था औपचारिक रुपमा अस्ट्रेलियन इन्कोर्पोरेशन ऐन १९८३ अन्तर्गत दर्ता भएको थियो र डा राजु अधिकारीको नेतृत्वमा पहिलो कार्यकारी टोली औपचारिक रुपमा जनवरी २७, १९९७ मा गठन भएको थियो।

Key Milestones and Achievements of NAV 1997-2022




• Ranjan Vaidya re-elected President of NAV at the AGM
• Inaugural NAV Cup Cricket Championship April 2005 Brunswick Blues winner. Melbourne Titans Runner up
• First NRN Australia National Conference held in July 2005. Victoria represented by NAV By NRN Coordinator Pramod Khatiwada
• Victoria allocated four seats in the National Coordination Council (NCC). Chandra Yonzon was elected a Vice President representing Victoria. Pramod Khatiwda (representing NAV), Bhola Giri and Ashok Dhakal were elected members of NCC for Victoria.
• Launch of Bal Diwas Program in August 2005
• Organised first Nepalese live concert in Melbourne: "Yo Maan Ta nepali Ho" 1974 AD Live
• New Year Extravaganza 2005: Live performances by various Popstars from Nepal
• Bom Yonzon elected fifth President of NAV at the AGM
• NAV Cup Cricket Tournament
• Victoria Bushfire Appeal 2009, (Donation from Nepalese Community in Victoria)
• Nepalese Dance Competition, Brisbane 2009,
• Co-organised first Nepal Festival 2008 in association with NRNA Australia (SCC Victoria)
• Co-organised 3rd NRNA conference, Election, Awards and Gala Dinner 2009
• Celebration of Dashain & Tihar Festival 2009
• Celebration of Baal Diwas 2009
• Melbourne Chautari Radiothon
• Dr Deepak Raj Pant elected fourth President of NAV at the AGM
• Organised Dashain Celebration
• Nepalese New year Celebration
• Celebration of Bal Diwas: Children's Day Program
• Melbourne Chautari and Radiothon
• Held Interaction program: Discussion Form on NRN with leaders from Nepal
• Launch of NAV Teej program in support of Melbourne Chautari
• Dashain & Tihar Festival 2010 (Bikram Sambat 2067)
• Co organised Nepal Festival 2010 in association with NRNA-SCC VIC
• Membership of ECCV
• Commencement of NAV Community Sports Activities.
• Nepal New Year Day 2067 Celebration with Open Fun Football
• Bom Yonzon re-elected President of NAV at the AGM
• Organised usual Cultural Activities Teej, Bal Diwas and Dashain
• Started NAV Bal Chautari (Nepalese Language and Dance School)
• Nepalese Dance Competition, Brisbane 2009
• Victoria's Multicultural Excellence Award 2012 awarded to Nepalese community for the first time to Sudhir Shakya and Parshuram Sharma-Luitel.
• Celebrated Chhath in association with MCV
2005
2006/2007
2008/2009
2010
2011-2012

Key Milestones and Achievements of NAV 1997-2022

2013

- Re-alignment of Constitution to meet new requirement of Victorian Justice Department for Incorporated organisations.
- Celebrated 10th Anniversary of Melbourne Chautari
- Launch of inaugural NAV Excellence Award 2013
- NAV was awarded Victoria's Multicultural Excellence Award 2012 (Institution category)
- Victoria's Multicultural Excellence Award 2013 awarded to NAV Advisor Jog Limbu
- Convened first AGM under revised NAV Constitution as per government regulation.

2014

- Sudhir Shakya elected sixed President of NAV and the new executive committee sworn in.
- Establishment of Nepalese Collection Corner in Moreland Library Coburg in association with Sahitya Sangeet Jamghat
- Established NAV Presidential Council
- Celebrated 10th Anniversary of Bal Diwas program with first workshop for parent on "raising children in intergenerational society"
- Co-organised Nepal Festival 2014 with NRN-SCC Victoria
- Victoria's Multicultural Excellence Award 2013 awarded to NAV Past President and Advisor Ranjan Vaidya
- Hosted Interstate Sports Tournament 2014
- NAV in collaboration with NRNA Victoria formally established of Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC) to build Nepali Community Centre
- Convened Annual General Meeting 2014

2015

- Launch of Social Awareness Forum series: Events included "Coping with Bullying", "Child Sexual Abuse: Psychological Effects and Prevention"
- Celebrated 10th Anniversary of NAV Cricket Cup Tournament
- Convened NAV's Strategic Planning Workshop on future direction of NAV
- Coordinated Nepal Earthquake Appeal- Victoria Stands for Nepal- together with NRNA Victoria and Honorary Consulate of Nepal.
- Annual General Meeting 2015

2016

- Annual General Meeting 2016
- Hosted Fundraising event for CNN Hero Pushpa Basnet's "Butterfly Home"
- Dr Anupam Pokharel elected seventh President of NAV
- Hosted NAV Community Award Gala Dinner attended by Minister for Multicultural Affairs Hon. Robin Scott MP, the first by any government ministers.
- New Executive Committee sworn in at NAV Excellence and Achievement Award Gala Dinner

2017

2018/2019

- Organised usual Cultural Activities Teej, Bal Diwas and Dashain
- Organised NAV Cup Cricket Tournament 2017
- Organised first Kite Festival in association with Solangture
- Bal Chautari started in Tarneit in 2017.
- Celebrated Bhanu Jayanti,
- Organised Kabita Concert
- Organised Sarangi Bhela
- Organised Women cricket training
- Organised Badminton tournament in coordination with Badminton Victoria.
- Publication of a list of Nepali language-speaking General Practitioners, Tax Agents and Mortgage Brokers.
- Propagating FENCAA concept and cause
- Organised Awareness and community capacity building activities
  - Information program for international nurses (Collaborated with ANMF)
  - Collaboration with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
  - Taxation and accountancy information sessions
  - Resume Writing and Interview Skill Training
  - Cyber-safety: Parents Workshop
  - Anti-Gambling Seminar (in collaboration with ANMDA)
- Annual General Meeting 2017

2019/2020

- Organised first NAV Multicultural Cricket
- NAV Excellence Recognitions & Award 2018 and Gala Dinner
- Signed MOU with Harmony Cricket, Cricket Victoria
- Tara Gaire elected eighth President of NAV
- NAV Teej Mela 2018 in association with DDBS
- Organised NAV Bal Diwas 2018
- Organised NAV Dashain, Tihar and Chhath 2018
- Organised first NAV K-town Ballers Basketball Tournament
- Organised 14th NAV Cup Cricket Tournament
- NAV Golf Tournament
- Annual General Meeting
- Organised Social Awareness Activities including:
  - Induction – Basic Information Shared
  - Coffee Making Training
  - Graduate Employability & Networking Session
  - Waiter training – Food handling
  - Student Awareness & Motivation Session

2020-2021

- Organised Teej Mega Saanjh 2019
- Organised Bal Diwas 2019, Dashain Tihar and Chhath 2019
- NAV Cup Cricket Tournament 2020
- NAV Multicultural Soccer Tournament 2020
- Annual General Meeting
- Launched COVID-19 Support, Awareness, and information session in Association with NRNA Victoria
- Ram Gurung elected ninth President of NAV

2022 (as at April 2022)

- Organised over 21 webinar sessions with Nepalese Communities on COVID Information, Relief materials, Vaccination, Counselling, Mental Health, First aid training, Spiritual healing session at regular interval
- Celebrated 24th Anniversary of NAV,
- Organised 16th NAV Cup Cricket Tournament
- Organised two Charity Cricket Match Events as fund raising campaign,
- Organised 10th NAV Cup Golf Tournament
- Organised NAV Multicultural Soccer Tournament
- Organised Speech competition, blood donation,
- Organised Zoom Events to celebrate NAV Teej 2021 Bal Diwas 2021, Dashain Tihar and Chhath 2021
- Radiothon special program
- Organised Food and Safety program
- Organised Speech competition to mark Australia Day
- Celebrating 25th Anniversary of NAV (April 2022)

NAV Excellence and Recognition Award

Award is an honour and is a way of recognising for an exceptional performance, contribution and achievements. Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) being an organization representing Victoria's Nepalese community realizes that there is a need to acknowledge the outstanding performance and achievement of individuals or groups and share their stories with the wider community so that we can draw inspiration from them to serve and promote the interest of Nepalese community.



NAV established "NAV Excellence and Recognition Award" in 2013 during the presidency of Bom Yonzon with an objective to recognise and reward exceptional performance demonstrated by Nepalese community members or other community members through outstanding behaviour and results relating to a specific event or achievement of significance for the Nepalese community.

Whilst the category of awards may vary, NAV Excellence and Recognition Award include following major categories.

- Initiative, Leadership or Advocacy
- Arts, Culture and Language
- Young Achiever Award
- Professional or Academic Achievement
- Commendable Service To Nepalese Community

This Award is open to Nepalese Associations, Community Organisations in Victoria, Nepalese community members living in Victoria and broader community members in Victoria.

Award Receipets are selected by the Award Committee formed by NAV executive committee. NAV has developed an award Policy as well as nomination criteria for the purpose of this awarding the recognition. NAV Award Receipient are usually announced at a gala event, NAV Excellence Award Ceremony, in April.

NAV Excellence Award was not held in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.



The receipients of NAV Excellence Award since its inception in 2013 are listed below:

NAV Excellence Awards 2013

Commendable Service to Nepalese Community 2013

- Paul Hameister
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- Sunrise Children's Association

Initiative, Leadership & Advocacy of the Year 2013

- Bharansher Rai
- Ram Kumar Shrestha
- Yeti Soccer Club
- Solangture

Language and Culture of the Year 2013

- Melbourne Chautari
- Nepali Sanchar Media
- Sahitya Sangeet Jamghat

Professional & Academic Achievement of the Year 2013

- Rohan Khanal
- Shree Pant

Professional Achievement of the Year 2013

- Atul Shrestha
- Sporting and Wellbeing of the Year 2013
- United Football Club (UFC)







NAV Community Excellence Awards 2016

Initiative, Leadership or Advocacy

- Dr. Sambridhi Adhikari
- Jog Limbu
- United Football Club

Arts, Culture and Language

- Sabitra Kandel Kafle
- Nepal Festival – NRNA Australia
- NAV Bal Chautari – Nepali Dance and Language School

Young Achiever Award

- Rashi Singh
- Pooja Gurung
- Dr Rija Khanal
- Ashim Pant

Professional or Academic Achievement

- Tilak Pokharel
- Benu Adhikari
- Sunam Gautamn
- Saurabh Jha
- Tonnou Gurung Gothane
- Sewa Rijal
- Ganesh Poudel

Commendable Service to Nepalese Community

- Seven Women Inc
- Mosquito Foundation Inc
- Royal Melbourne Hospital Rehabilitation Team











NAV Excellence Recognitions & Award 2018

Language, Art & Culture

- Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (NAV Award)
- Melbourne Saptaha 2017 (NAV Recognition)
- MoMo Fest – Solangture (NAV Recognition)
- Parbati Pahari (NAV Recognition)
- Pitamber Koirala (NAV Recognition)

Professional or Academic Achievement

- Dr. Raju Adhikari (NAV Award)
- Dr. Prabhat Lamichhane (NAV Recognition)
- Dr Pankaj Deo (NAV Recognition)

Initiation, Leadership or Advocacy

- Surendra Sedhai (NAV Award)
- Deepa Rai (NAV Recognition)
- Dr. Chandra Deepak Pokharel (NAV Recognition)
- Keshav Raj Kandel (NAV Recognition)
- United Football Club Girls Team (NAV Recognition)

NAV Commendable Service to Nepalese Community

- Aussie Action Abroad (NAV Award)
- Moreland City Council (NAV Recognition)
- Praveen Kumar (NAV Recognition)
- Uniting Church Glenroy (NAV Recognition)
- Women's Circus Melbourne (NAV Recognition)

Young Achiever Award

- Bishal Shrestha (NAV Award)
- Atul Shrestha (NAV Recognition)
- Prasanna Thapaliya (NAV Recognition)
- Sushant Yonjan (NAV Recognition)
- Vesna Giri (NAV Recognition)

Sports Award

- Anita Sapkota (NAV Award)
- Madhu Pokharel (NAV Recognition)
- Rajshree Khanal (NAV Recognition)
- Yashwant Subedi (NAV Recognition)
- Yeti Football Club (NAV Recognition)







Nepalese Honoured with Victoria's Multicultural Award

The Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence recognises the outstanding achievements of individuals from many diverse backgrounds. It is awarded to individuals or businesses for their significant contribution made to their own community and to the broader Victorian community as a whole.

NAV was awarded Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2013 in the community organisation category, thus becoming the first Nepalese organisation to receive such an award in Victoria.

Sudhir Shakya and Parsuram Sharma-Luital were one of the first recipients of Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence - Meritorious Service in the Community category in 2012 in the Nepalese community. Since then, several individuals and organisations from the Nepalese community have been awarded the VMC Awards across various categories. All receipts of the Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence since 2012 is listed as below.

Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence Recipients since 2012

2012

Meritorious Service to the Community

- Sudhir Shakya
- Parsuram Sharma-Luital JP



2013

Meritorious Service in the Community

- Jog Limbu

Meritorious Service to the Community (Organisation)

- Nepalese Association of Victoria
- Yeti Soccer Club





2014

Meritorious Service in the Community

- Ranjan Vaidya
- Karna Rana

2015

Meritorious Service in the Community

- Raju Shakya
- Dr Raju Adhikari

Ambassador Award

- Hanisha Sharma-Luital

Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll

- Roshan Bhandary

2016

Meritorious Service to the Community – Individuals (Volunteer)

- Deepa Rai

Certificate of Merit

- Niru Tripathi

2017

Meritorious Service to the Community – Individuals (paid work)

- Jamuna Parajuli

2018

Meritorious Service to the Community - Individuals (Volunteer)

- Bom Yonzon

2019

Meritorious Service to the Community - Individuals (Volunteer)

- Dr Raju Adhikari









Key events

Melbourne Chautari: The first Nepali language radio program

The only radio program for the Nepalese community in Victoria began airing on 3CR in October 2003.

Brought to you by the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV), the program has Nepali music, news and current affairs from Nepal, community announcements and discussion. The program is an essential mass media for the Nepali community.

The founding team included Ranjan Vaidya, Raju Shakya, Sudhir Shakya, Surendra Sedhai, Raja Ram Thapa and Deepika Sherchan. More than fifty volunteers have served the Melbourne Chautari radio program in the last 18 years.

The longest-serving RJ of the radio so far is Lok Rai, Peshal Luitel and Sudhir Shakya.

The program started as a 30 minutes radio program, which quickly became an hour program broadcasted every Thursday from 9 pm to 10 pm on 855AM.

The radio contents in the early years were community news, local news, information from Nepal, music, interviews, talkback, musicals etc. The majority of the contents are continuing till today. More recently Melbourne Chautari has played an active role in community awareness in various social and health issues including mental health and COVID 19.



Melbourne Chautari has seen a few ups and downs in the last 18 years, but many community volunteers kept the program going. Current radio jockeys are Dr Tilak Pokharel, Dr Anupam Pokharel and Lok Rai.

The Melbourne Chautari is funded mainly by the listeners and subscribers. The annual radiothon fundraising is held around June every year.

The Nepalese Association of Victoria and the Melbourne Chautari team request all community members to listen to this radio program on 855AM every Thursday at 9 pm and provide feedback.

We use this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the volunteers, listeners and contributors for keeping Melbourne Chautari alive.

Bal Chautari, the weekend Nepalese language program

The Nepalese language School idea was conceived ever since the Nepalese family started living in Victoria.

Even before NAV was formed, Nepalese children had contributed to various cultural activities in Victoria for several years. A Nepalese language school came to fruition in 2013 in the form of Bal Chautari. This school, run by parent volunteers, teaches the Nepalese language and provides dance/music education to Victorian Nepalese children. The school venue was provided by the Darebin City Council, where the Council provided a grant, Cash well, and an equivalent for the venue grant from its inception. This school contributed children artists to the Nepalese and multicultural programmes in Victoria several times a year. They have also been active participants in the Nepal Festival, held every two years. The second edition of this programme, the Bal Chautari West, was initiated in Tarneit, Victoria, in 2017, for which a grant was obtained from the Victorian Multicultural Council. Bal Chautri and other independent Nepalese Language schools in Victoria have played a significant role in organising the children's day. Bal Chautari has inspired many other Nepali language schools in Melbourne and has worked actively with other weekend Nepali language schools.



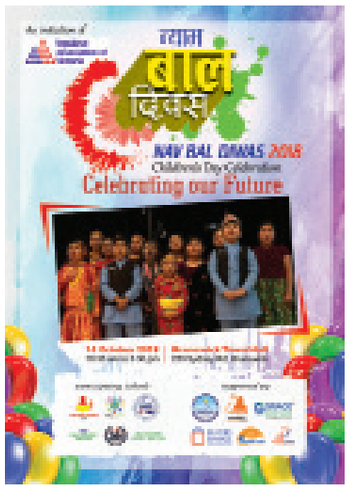






Bal Diwas: The Children's Day





The Children's Day – Bal Diwas was started in Melbourne 2005 in the month of Bhadra of Bikram Sambat (Nepalese calender), which falls in September.

This program was started first under the leadership of Mr Ranjan Vaidya and was continued by successive teams. Over the years, the children's day celebration has changed in its appearance, and various modifications have occurred. Initially, when the number of children was not that many, this program was organised in one of the Nepalese restaurants.

From 2014, to accommodate the ever-increasing number of children and parents, this programme was organised in larger community halls. The programme in 2016-2019 involved the involvement of local Council officials. From 2014 itself, it also attempted to engage the parent in the form of parents workshops aiming to enhance their understanding of various issues of raising children, such as cyber-safety and one language vs bilingualism in growing children. From 2017 onward, the children's day celebration activity engaged various Nepalese language schools in Melbourne, and in recent years, they have played an active role in organising this programme. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent children day, in 2020, was celebrated by Zoom, with children in their own home, in the form of speech competition, and by actively encouraging the involvement of various Nepalese languages at school in Melbourne. Since 2016 the Victorian Multicultural Council has provided financial assistance to this programme.

NAV TEEJ Celebration

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) continued the tradition of organising Teej celebration every year in August since 2012. The NAV Teej Celebration has been one of the key events of NAV which is attended by more than 500 ladies dressed up in red, colourful saris and glittering jewellery.

While Teej has its own cultural and religious signification, this event is all about celebrating happiness, expressing womanhood and their individuality and at the same time to maintain connection to Nepali culture and tradition. At this event, women of all ages dance to the non-stop various traditional Nepali songs along with feasting on traditional Nepali cuisine.

NAV Teej event endeavoured to go beyond singing and dancing, and attempted to find hidden talents among Nepali women in the community and made the Teej event a platform to display their talents. At the same time, the contribution and achievements of Nepalese women in the community is acknowledged and highlighted during the program.

NAV Teen program was attended by State government as well as local government officials including Mayor, Deputy Mayor, VMC commissioners and representatives as well as representative form the local and CALD community organisations.







Capacity Building Program

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) capacity building program dates back to 2014. It started in the form of a workshop with parents on multilingualism or unilingualism for migrant/ Nepalese children growing up in Australia.

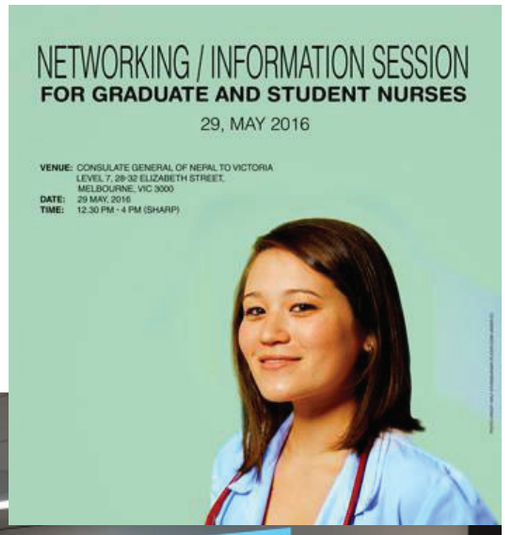
This program occurred as part of the children's day program. NAV organised a capacity-building interactive programme on bullying in 2015 involving Bully Zero Australia and Nowicki Carbone Lawyers. This programme was initiated as NAV social awareness forum. Several other capacity-building programmes followed this in the subsequent years.

Some of these programs worthy of mentioning are:

- Introductory program for International nurses.
- Presentation from the Australian Bureau of statistics for community leaders regarding Census 2016.
- Capacity building program for businesses and the general community on Taxation related matters.
- A program for parents on cyber safety for children
- Resume Writing and Interview Skills Training
- Awareness programme against gambling











Between 2018-2020, in collaboration with the NRNA Australia SCC-VIC and Nepalese Consulate Office, NAV conducted a Student Assist Program series to provide training and guidance to newly-arrived Nepalese migrants in Australia. The series of 5 work-shops aimed to help the newly arrived Nepalese students assimilate into Australian life and help the fresh new graduates start their careers.

- Student Induction: General information about Melbourne, accommodation, job search, road and water safety, etc.
- Coffee and tea making training
- Basic Wait-staff training
- Student Awareness and Motivation session including tenancy rights, and gambling awareness in collaboration with Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV)
- Graduate Employability and Networking session including Resume writing, interview, and networking skills

With the onset of COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, NAV continued to conduct awareness activities during the COVID-19 pandemic on initially safety matters and subsequently on vaccination. NAV also regularly conducted series of programs on mental health to promote wellbeing in the community.

ANMC, a common dream of Victorian Nepalese Community

Establishment of community center was a longtime dream of Nepalese Community in Victoria. After having several rounds of discussions at community level, The Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC) Inc. also known as “Nepalese Community Centre” was finally established in 2014. ANMC is a not-for-profit organization registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV).

The sole objective of ANMC is to establish a community centre to preserve and promote rich Nepalese culture and heritage in an increasingly multicultural Australia. Originally promoted by Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) and Non-Resident Nepalese Association (NRNA), ANMC is now supported by Nepalese communities all across Victoria.

ANMC’s model of community center is uniquely designed as it accommodates Hindu temple, a Buddhist stupa and a multipurpose hall and this will be implemented in multiple stages, either in a single location or in various locations within Victoria.

Ranjan Vaidya, Gopal Pokharel, Rajesh Acharya, Bom Yonzon and Sudhir Shakya were the founding members to work on the establishment of ANMC in 2014.

Why do we need a “Cultural Centre”?

Nepal has over 125 distinct ethnic groups and each of them have a vibrant and diverse culture. ANMC aims to promote the culture of all these ethnic groups. As one of the fastest growing communities in Australia, we strongly believe that the Nepalese community continues to add significant value to the cultural scene of modern-day Australia.

In short, the cultural center once established will serve the following purposes,

- a place to showcase Nepalese culture and heritage
- a place for social gathering and celebrating festivities
- a place of worship for both Hindus and Buddhists
- a mediation center
- an information centre to help better understand the Nepalese Culture
- a dynamic space to promote multiculturalism in Victoria

How will ANMC achieve its goals?

The active participation of passionate volunteers, donors and members and partnership with the local, state and federal Government and various multicultural community groups, will play a crucial role in helping ANMC reach its goals. The financial resources required for the project will be managed via membership fees, donations and from other fund-raising events within the community. As this is a multimillion-dollar project we will also be seeking financial support from the state and federal government for its execution.

Not-For-Profit status

ANMC is a not-for-profit organization and any individual who supports the mission of the organization can become its member.

The constitution of ANMC bans the distribution of any profit and net assets to its members. Under clause 6 of the ANMC Constitution, the association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.

The sole objective of ANMC is to establish a community centre to preserve and promote rich Nepalese culture and heritage in an increasingly multicultural Australia.





Workshops on establishing ANMC

Clause 76 of the constitution bans the distribution of any surplus to its members in the event of its dissolution. It clearly states that the surplus assets will be passed on to another charitable organization and will not be distributed to any members of neither the original nor the substitute organization.

The Governing Body

The executive committee is responsible for the overall management of ANMC. The committee comprises of a team of volunteers who will be elected by its members every two years. The Executive Committee will form various sub-committees/task forces in order to manage various tasks. The following sub-committees are actively working at the moment:

- Planning Permit Coordination Committee: This committee is coordinating the process of planning permit for the change of usage of existing building at 100 Duncans Lane, Diggers Rest.
- Media and Publicity Committee: Responsible for the overall management of media and branding side of ANMC
- Master Plan Drafting committee: Currently drafting the master plan of the project in line with the mission of ANMC
- ANMC Interest Lobbying Group: Responsible to engage with parliamentarians and Government bodies for the financial and non-financial grant.
- Information Technology (IT) and digitization committee: Looks after the website, email and other technical side of the organization

On the top of sub-committees, the Executive Committee is supported by the Patron and Advisory Board. While the patrons are permanent members of this Board, advisors are nominated by the Executive Committee for the period of two years.

Current Status of the project

While ANMC has a long journey to go, a significant progress has been achieved so far with the collective efforts of various committees. In the year 2020, we bought a parcel of land (15 acres) at 100 Duncan's Lane, Diggers Rest, VIC 3427. The land was bought by raising fund from the Australian Nepalese residing mainly in Victoria. ANMC conducted series of fundraising events since its establishment and the biggest one was the Melbourne Spatha in 2017. It was a very successful 7 days' program moderated by Pandit Din Bandhu Pokharel. Melbourne Saptaha witnessed the exceptional generosity of Victorian Nepalese community where we were able to raise nearly $1.2 million.

We currently have approximately 1150 life members. Anyone who endorses the mission and vision of the organization can become its life member. The joining fee is $1,100 for a single adult and $1,500 for a family.

Our immediate goal is to convert the existing structural facilities 100 Duncan Lane, Diggers Rest into the place of worship and meditation center. We have lodged the planning permit application with Hume Council, and we are expecting the decision of the council in the next couple of months. Upon approval of planning permit application, we will establish a temporary Hindu and Buddhist temples



Existing building at 100 Duncans Lane, Diggers Rest

and small meditation hall by making minimum alternation to the existing structures. The current Executive Committee is aiming to bring the temporary facility into the operation in the next 12 months' time. However, the implementation of this plan depends upon how long the Hume Council takes to approve our planning permit application.

The permanent structures on the site are aimed to be built over the period of next 7-10 years in various stages. The actual time frame depends upon the availability of fund and volunteers to executive the plan. The master plan coordination committee led by the founding president Mr Ranjan Vaidya, is currently working on the master plan of the project.

How can you assist ANMC?

ANMC is a dream of thousands of Nepalese residing in Victoria. It is a project aimed for our community and it will be achieved with the collective efforts of the community. There are various ways you can contribute to this project. Some of them include,

- Become a general/life member
- Offer one-off or regular donations
- Promote ANMC in your community events/functions
- Share your ideas, feedback, vision and talents with the ANMC team members
- Offer your skills by becoming a volunteer
- Encourage community members to become a member of ANMC
- Contribute via one of the sub committees mentioned above
- Promote ANMC amongst the new members of Nepalese community and beyond
- Explore grant and donors



Proposed floor plan of existing building at 100 Duncans Lane, Diggers Rest

NAV Community Response

Nepal Earthquake Appeal: Victoria Stands Together for Nepal

On Saturday, 25 April 2015, Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake with a 7.8 magnitude. This devastating earthquake has destroyed many world heritage monuments, monasteries, buildings and infrastructure across the country. Over 8,000 lives were lost and a large number of people injured and rendered homeless.

Amid this tragedy, Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) along with the Non Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Australia (Victoria), Consulate General of Nepal for Victoria and all Victorian Nepalese community organisation, joined hands to form an Earthquake Relief Committee, Victorians Stand Together For Nepal, to provide necessary support to the relief operations in Nepal. This was indeed a true demonstration of mateship and unity by the entire community and the country by coming together to help people in villages and cities destroyed in the earthquake in Nepal.

VSTFN received overwhelming support form the Victorian and broader Australian community and businesses by donating medical supplies, food, blanket, tents as well as providing monetary donations for the relief operation in Nepal.

The earthquake appeal raised over $300,000 in Victoria which was deposited into the NRNA Victoria account to facilitate swift transfer of funds to Nepal. NAV would be forever grateful to all donors and in particular the volunteers from the community who contributed so much to this cause.









Nepal Earthquake Appeal: Victoria Stands Together for Nepal

Supporting the Nepalese Community during COVID-19 Pandemic

In March 2020, WHO had declared COVID-19 a pandemic crisis and introduced a range of precautionary measures: travel restriction, wearing of masks, sanitizer, quarantine and lockdowns to stop the spread of the virus. In December 2020, the vaccination was rolled out which helped to mitigate the crises and was reassuring.

However, the emergence of new highly transmissible delta and more recently Omicron variants proved that safety precautionary measures are necessary even post vaccination. After continuous lockdowns and multi-pronged strategies, both Federal and state governments have eased restrictions after 90% of the population got fully vaccinated in November 2021. In Government multiple strategies approaches to alleviate the crises, CALD community organizations played a significant role. The Government injected huge funds close to 30 million dollars for different services which included community partnership programs and extended translation services through the Department of Multicultural Affairs and was greatly appreciated by CALD communities.

The main purpose of the grant was to provide food and essentials to the affected population and organize information sessions on various aspect of COVID-19 in their native languages through various means of communication including social media, print media, TV and radio programs, webinars and Face-to-Face program following health guidelines. Majority of the support were targeted to vulnerable community members financially hit hard international students, and temporary visa holders as other government support were not available to them.

NAV executed the above tasks working closely with community partners, DHHS and VMC. NAV was able to distribute 500 relief packages in the first phase in April 2020 and approximately 1000 packages in the second phase by December 2020. During this period, NAV COVID taskforce team organized several online information sessions on various government support measures, DHHS regular updates on health guidelines, organize small business, mental health, international students' enrolment and counselling sessions etc. All these activities were supported by the Victorian Government's different grants including COVID response and Priority Response to Multicultural Communities (PRMC) Grant programs.



The main purpose of the grant was to provide food and essentials to the affected population and organize information sessions on various aspect of COVID-19 in their native languages.



NAV COVID information and Q&A sessions and mental health webinars

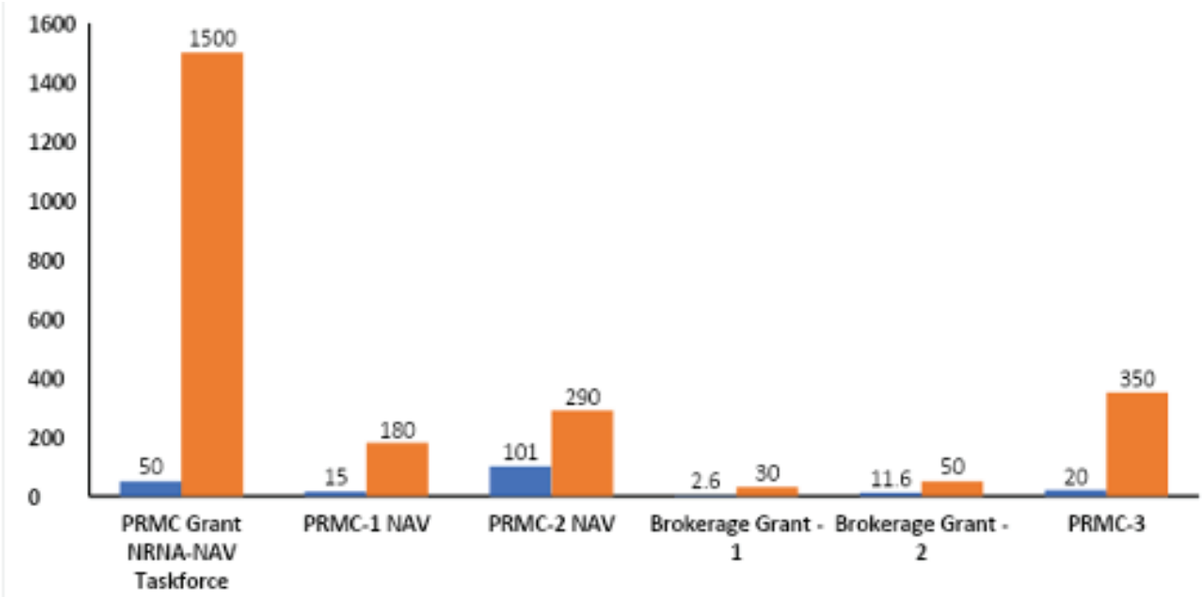
Distribution of food and emergency items was mostly provided to the community members who were infected by COVID-19 and to the individuals or families who lost their job and whose working hours were reduced. This support played a vital role in meeting their immediate demands of food and sanitary items. Community radio program, online meetings with communities in hot spot areas and webinars with the experts organised to share COVID information and Q&A sessions. Spiritual wellbeing sessions, food safety and nutritional wellbeing sessions and COVID-19 vaccine information and education sessions were also part of NAV's webinar response to COVID-19 crises. Different activities and the details of the grants received, and the number of food relief packages distributed are summarized in Figure 1-5.



NAV COVID relief materials distribution to vulnerable Nepalese community and international students.



Flyers of various information sessions organized as a part of community response of COVID-19.



Details of grants and number of relief packages distributed



COVID-19 was a unique challenge which the NAV never experienced and Nepalese community were severely impacted on all fronts. Government support, support from various community leaders and active involvement of youth volunteers provided a great impetus to our journey during the 20 months of pandemics. The recovery wouldn't have been possible without the support from all stakeholders and community members.

NAV has now established a database of vulnerable community groups which will help effectively coordinate above relief distribution in the future. Vaccination is the only hope to break the lockdown vicious cycle and Nepalese community have responded to this very positively. This is the first time NAV partnered with organizations like VMC and DHHS to share greater responsibility to work on one of the most challenging projects. NAV will continue to play a lead role in the future in partnership with both Government and community stakeholders.

NAV would like to thank the Nepalese community organizations, senior community leaders and community at large for their feedback and support. NAV duly acknowledges the funding that it received from Victoria Government to support distribution of relief materials, community outreach projects and vaccination campaigns. NAV would also like to thank the Australian Government for providing relief assistance worth $7 million to Nepal.

NAV Sports

17 years of NAV Cup Cricket Tournament

The NAV cup cricket tournament, which was initiated with the passion and enthusiasm of a limited number of people about seventeen years ago, is now held with the participation of more than 10 Victorian Nepalese clubs each year. This tournament has created a separate identity in Nepalese community in Victoria especially among the youth cohorts.

About the First tournament

The first NAV Cup cricket tournament was held on Saturday, 10 April 2005 at Clifton Park, Victoria Street, Brunswick. The match was organized to coincide with the celebration of the Nepalese New year 2062 and was held between Brunswick Blues and Melbourne Titans. Demonstrating great talent, the Brunswick Blues claimed the Victory after a nail-biting finish.

Continue to grow

NAV Cup's primary objective was to introduce these sports within our Nepalese community especially among the youth cohorts and help to develop sporting culture. Since then NAV has continuously organized the NAV cup cricket tournament where teams participate for 35 overs.







Breakthrough

A breakthrough happened in 2015 for this tournament when the NAV Sports team coordinated by Mr. Tara Gaire, brought a new idea. NAV introduced the T10 format, color jersey, and white ball in the competition. With a new twist, the tournament was able to establish itself as one of the most prestigious and community-involved sporting tournaments in Victoria and Australia amongst the Nepalese community. NAV also organized social organization vs community organization friendly cricket matches to engage senior community members and leaders. Following the narrative of inclusiveness, NAV also organized kids cricket and female cricket activities to attract a new generation to get involved in cricket.



As a continuation of the proud tradition, NAV successfully organized its 16th edition competition in March 2021. 10 different Victorian Nepalese cricket clubs participated in this tournament which ran for nearly 3 months. The Himalayan Club has won most of its title, five times and followed by Brunswick Blues three times.



10th Anniversary NAV Golf Tournament

On Sunday, 18 April 2021, the 10th Anniversary of the NAV Golf Tournament was held at the Freeway Golf course, Melbourne with incredible success. 22 Nepali and 4 multicultural golfers took part in the tournament. The Race Discrimination Commissioner of Australia, Mr. Chin Tan attended as the Chief Guest and VMC Commissioner, Bwe Thay attended as a special guest. Mr. Chin Tan was present in the prize giving ceremony. Grace International Education and Migration sponsored the golf trophies.

A handful of Senior Nepalis started the NAV Golf Tournament in 2011. Now there are more than 50 Nepali golfers in Victoria. Amongst them, the majority of golfers are from the younger generation. Vic Nepali golfers have been actively participating in the Oceania Nepali Sport Meet Golf Tournament for the last 8 years. Golf is becoming popular in the Nepali community, promoting wellbeing and encouraging socialisation among the young and senior demographics. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between NAV and Grace International for the golf tournament sponsorship for the next five years.

Over the 10 years, NAV Golf tournament has significantly boosted the Nepali community's relationship with the broader Australian community, improved well being in the community and brought the Nepali community together. Started with the intention to embrace one of NAV's visions, to integrate and develop harmonious relationships with the broader Australian community, the tournament has established itself one of the most remarkable events in the Nepali community. In coming years, NAV would like to see more multicultural golfers from all age groups participating in the NAV Golf Tournament. We heartily invite multicultural golfers from all over Australia.



NAV Sports: Golf









Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM) – NAV Involvement as a Founding Member

Following the registration in NSW Fair Trading on 28 Nov 2017 under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, and 4 Jan 2018 in the Australian Securities and Investments Commission(ASIC), the ONSM acquired its legal status. ONSM is the largest Nepali sport meet in Australia.

The objectives of the ONSM are:

- To improve health and fitness at the community level by organising and promoting sporting events in Australia and Oceania region;
- To provide a platform for community organisations and individuals to better interact with fellow community members through social-sporting, volunteering, and networking; and
- To inspire, encourage, and support young sporting talents.



NAV played an important role in founding the ONSM, and it had been actively participating in all ONSM events. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM) and the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) was signed on 16 March 2021.

Following are the founding members of ONSM: Jog Limbu (VIC), Madhu Pokhrel (VIC), Dr. Durga D Kandel (ACT), Bishnu Hamal (NSW), Jabin Shrestha (NSW), Hari Khadka (QLD), and Abhimanyu KC (QLD). Tara Gaire is the current Vic Coordinator for ONSM.

The first Nepali Interstate Sports Meet (NISM) was held in Sydney in 2013 by the Nepalese Recreation Club (NRC), the second NISM was held in Melbourne in 2014 by the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV), the third NISM was held in Brisbane in 2016 by the Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ).

The second NISM hosted by the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) where players from four states (ACT, NSW, QLD, and VIC) and one player from New Zealand participated in five sports (Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Cricket and Golf).

With the growing popularity and participation, the NISM was renamed as Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM) to represent the Nepalese community in the Oceania region. The 4th ONSM tournament was hosted in 2018 in Sydney by Nepalese Recreational Club

NAV Sports: Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM)





(NRC) where players from all eight states and territories of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea took part in nine sports categories (Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Golf, Cricket, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, and 5KM run).

The 5th Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM) tournament is being organised in Canberra from 15th to 18th April 2022 (Easter break). The ONSM is dubbed as a mini-Olympics within the Nepalese community in the Oceania region and is supported by the Nepalese community organisations in the region.

Over 700 players and their family members will visit Canberra on this occasion. The four-day event is expected to attract over 2,000 individuals including players and their families, community leaders, business owners, professionals, volunteers, and other supporters from all states and territories of Australia and New Zealand, and possibly from other countries in the Oceania region.





A Flashback of Victorian Nepalese Badminton Journey

Victorian Badminton is one of the first formally established and well recognised sports amongst the Nepalese community in Australia. It was initiated by a few sports lovers in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne in 2006 as a regular group practice with the aim of engaging the growing Nepalese community in the sport. Within a short period of time, badminton has grown rapidly and gained popularity within the Victorian Nepalese community.



Responding to the love for this sport in the Nepalese community, in 2010 the first Victorian Tournament was formally organised at Sportlink Vermont South by Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) in association with Eastern Warriors Sports Club (EW).

Our primary aim was to maintain the building momentum of badminton and help to develop sporting culture in our community. This tournament was able to establish itself as one of the most prestigious and community involved sporting tournament in Victoria and Australia amongst the Nepalese community. As result in the seventh tournament, not just Victorian but participants from many other states joined us under the Victorian banner.

Since then, badminton tournament has been successfully organised by NAV and EW on an annual basis. Victorian Badminton has also been integral in its contribution towards the development and achievement of Oceania Nepali Spots Meet(ONSM) from its inception.

NAV Sports: Badminton



From about 30 participants on the first tournament, the popularity has grown substantially which is evident by about 120 participants from Victoria and over 300 spectators in the 6th tournament in 2017. The event features 10 different category matches including fun categories for under 10 Juniors. Its continuous commitment towards community with special focus on promotion of this sport amongst the women and children has played a key role in its growth. As per the original objective, badminton tournaments organised by NAV is still playing a significant role towards integrating Nepalese community and keeping them engaged through sports.



Due to its success in community coverage, since the 5th tournament, Badminton Victoria has recognised and continuously supported the Nepalese Badminton community.

Unfortunately, the tournament could not be conducted in recent years; 2019 due to bush fires and 2020 - 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The credit goes to the Nepalese community, volunteers, organising committee, and coordinators who have helped to bring the tournament to this level. Moving forward, Nepalese Association of Victoria, Sport Chautari will continue to maintain this momentum and take this sport to even higher levels.

NAV Volleyball Tournament

Volleyball is one of the oldest and most popular sports in Nepal. Over the past decade, Volleyball became so popular in Nepal that it was declared the national game of Nepal in 2017.

To connect all the Victorian Nepali through sports, NAV organized its first volleyball tournament in 2012. Mahesh Shrestha coordinated the tournament. It hosted 6 different clubs from the Victorian Nepali Community - Craigieburn sports club, Galkot Samaj, Baglung Chargers, Yeti FC, United FC and Himalayan club. Yeti Club won the tournament, while United Football Club (UFC) bagged the runner-up position.

The MVP (most valuable player) of the tournament was Tara Gaire from Galkot Samaj.

NAV held its third volleyball tournament in 2014 to continue the competition that became so popular among the Volleyball enthusiasts in the Nepali community. The 2014 competition was coordinated by Tara Gaire and it had interstate teams as participants too. The tournament was a massive success and lifted the Nepali Volleyball players' morale a lot. Pokhara Samaj Sydney lifted the winners trophy in the 2014 NAV Volleyball tournament.



Winner of 3rd NAV Volleyball Tournament 2014, Pokhara Samaj Sydney

NAV 1st K town Ballers Basketball Tournament

On 4th November 2018, NAV hosted its first-ever basketball tournament in collaboration with K-Town Ballers basketball club, a local Nepali basketball club in Victoria.

Organized with the objective to promote sports in the community by uniting Nepali basketball talents from all over Australia and giving them a platform for healthy competition, the tournament was coordinated by then secretary of NAV, Prerana Malla. For the first time, a Nepali basketball tournament in Victoria had Nepali National basketball players participating as well.

The 1-day tournament was a huge success and set a new benchmark for local Nepali basketball tournaments in Australia. It was held at Broadmeadows Basketball Stadium. Mr. Jog Limbu Co-coordinator of NAV Sports Chautari honored the event as the chief guest. Teams from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide participated in the tournament with a few players who have represented Nepal on an international level. Womens' match and multicultural mixed game were also played delivering a message of inclusiveness and harmony among multicultural communities.

Wild Yaks from Adelaide and Mona Myagdi from Sydney fought for the title in the final match and Wild Yaks lifted the winner's trophy. One of the National basketball players of Nepal, Mr. Ashim Shrestha from the Wild Yaks won the titles of the Most Valuable Player(Finals) as well as the highest scorer in the tournament. The winning team also received a cash prize of $1500. Gopin from Mona Myagdi won the Most Valuable Player (League) award whereas the best 3 pointer award went to Dinesh Thapa Magar from Monda Myagdi. Likewise, Mr. Kunga Sherpa from Wild Yaks was announced as the best defensive player.









NAV Multicultural Soccer Tournament

With the motto of “connecting communities through sports”, Nepalese Association of Victoria organised NAV multicultural Soccer tournaments in 2020 and 2021 in association with Royal Western Club and was funded by Victorian Multicultural Commission.

In the 1st Year 6 different countries of origin soccer teams participated in the tournament and Albions Thunder won the first-year competition.

Kaushaliya Vaghela MP, Daniel Mulino MP, Federal Member for Fraser, Cr Kim along with many other Nepalese community leaders in Keilor joined us to support the community event in 2020.

MP Kaushaliya Vaghela also acknowledged this event in the parliament on her speech and said that “Sports always brings people from diverse background together and creates the spirit of game and friendships in everyone.”

In 2021, NAV organized its second edition ofthe NAV Multicultural Soccer Tournament in association with Royal Western Club. 12 different countries of origin soccer teams participated in the tournament and Yeti Football Club won the competition. Community leaders from Nepalese community and other different multicultural communities joined the event to show their support and set an example of unity in diversity. NAV aims to keep this spirit high and continue to contribute to playing a key role in bringing communities together through the love of this beautiful game.







NAV Multicultural Cricket Tournament

With the objective of "connecting multicultural communities through sports", Nepalese Association of Victoria organised NAV Multicultural Cricket tournaments in 2017 and 2018 in association with Cricket Victoria and Victorian Multicultural Commission.



NAV team with Jodie Fields and VMC commissioner.

Six different countries of origin cricket teams participated in the tournament and Northern Lions (Team Srilanka) won the first-year competition.



Team Pakistan with winning trophy

Jodie Fields, Former Captain - Australian Women's Cricket Team and Wicketkeeper made a special appearance on 16th April 2017, on the final day of the first NAV Multicultural Cricket Tournament. Jodie's role was to work with development officer Sam Norman from Cricket Victoria in assisting the young group in skill development, aimed to inspire ongoing participation in the game. Having such an influential personality join us on our first Multicultural Cricket tournament raised the essence of it to the next level.

After the great success of the first competition, NAV organized the second Multicultural Cricket Tournament in 2018. Representing different multicultural communities, six teams participated in the competition and the Pakistan team won the competition. Team Afghanistan finished second. This event was conducted with financial support from the Victorian multicultural commission and the competition was truly successful in connecting the multicultural communities.

NAV Collaboration

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) Role in Federation of Nepalese Communities Association in Australia (FeNCCA)

NAV, an umbrella organisation of Nepalese Community Organization in Victoria played a lead role in the establishment of a Federation of Nepalese Communities Association (FeNCCA) which now represents Nepali unified voice to the Commonwealth Government of Australia.



There are over 100 Nepalese Community Associations in Australia and the FenCAA concept was born out of necessity for a unified representation of our communities to the Federal Government of Australia. The FeNCAA concept was proposed in 1997 by NAV and several articles were published by Dr Adhikari highlighting the need of such an organisation. However, considering Nepalese population was relatively small, it was a wait and see approach to register the organisation while consultation continued. The concept was revisited at length on several occasions with communities' association leaders in Sydney, Canberra and Victoria. Later in 2009, NAV made a formal presentation in the community's association meeting in 2013 and took the decision to draft the constitution and explore the registration process. Later in the NRNA led community consultative meeting in April 2017, FeNCAA concept was presented. The meeting endorsed the initiatives and formed a core team composed of Dr Raju Adhikari, Dr Krishna Hamal, Rajan Koirala, Bom Yonzon and Indira Ban to do needful for its establishment. Following 2 years of consultation





with communities in different states, the 1st FeNCAA National workshop was held in Melbourne in 2017 and a registration committee formed. The committee prepared the final constitution and the organisation was registered under the Australian Association Act 1991 in April 2019.

NAV and FeNCAA would like to thank Hon Consulate General Chandra Yonzon for his support and advocacy from the beginning, key community personalities Dr Anupam Pokhrel, Jog Limbu, Chiran Devkota, Dikpal Dev Pangeni, Bhim Neupane, Hari Pandey, communities-based organisations and community at large for their support in the establishment of FeNCAA concept to a reality.

Following the registration, FeNCAA first formal inaugural AGM and Convention was held in Canberra on September 10, 2019 and was attended by parliamentarians and dignitaries from various Community's organisations and CALD communities (Figure 1) and elected the first executive team led by Dr Adhikari. A commemorative booklet was published on the occasion (Figure 1).

FeNCAA executes its reasonability through various task committees and FeNCAA has 78 member CBOs. FeNCCA partners with CBOs to hold seminars, webinars and conferences on contemporary and matters of Community concerns. FeNCAA made several submissions on COVID, Regional Migration policy and Mental Health Crises (Figure 2)

In September 2021, a new elected executive team led by Dr Krishna Hamal is now spearheading the task towards its goal. In the new FeNCAA executive team, Mr Bom Yonzon and Bhola Giri from Victoria are in Vice-president and State coordination roles and responsible for executing FeNCAA activities in Victoria.

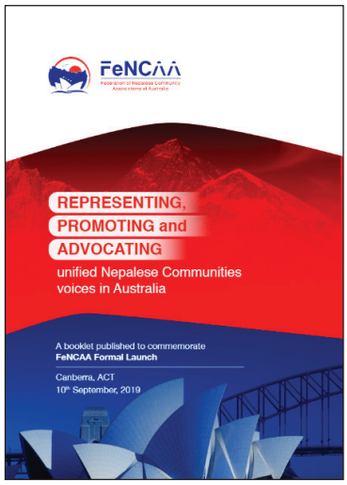
FeNCAA is the only federal association of Nepalese communities and has greater responsibilities and challenges ahead to fulfill the growing community needs and expectations and NAV will continue to provide leadership roles.

NAV takes pride of its role towards establishing FeNCAA and congratulates the FeNCAA team for their excellent work and leadership and representing Nepalese communities' unified voices and advocating their identity, culture heritage, concerns, making great contributions to policy matters and bringing much needed recognition. Please visit website www.fencaa.org.au for further information and contact details.









NAV Multicultural Initiative and Engagement

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) is the first Nepali Community Associations in Australia which was registered under the Australian Incorporation Act 1988 with the objective to represent, advocate and promote Nepali identity. In the past 25 years since its establishment in April 1997, NAV has come a long way celebrating its 25th years Anniversary this year.

It is time to reflect on how NAV has been able to achieve its goals and be recognised as one of the strong CALD community organisations in Victoria. Major policy decisions and initiatives led by executive teams over the years had provided much needed direction and enabled the organisation not only to grow but unite fast-growing communities and 40 different Nepalese communities' organisations. It also helped develop strong linkages with other CALD communities' organisations and importantly developed strong linkages with government agencies like Victoria Multicultural Commission (VMC), Federation of Communities Council of Australia (FECCA) and Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (EECV) over the years.

Following the first proposal submission to VMC on Multicultural Centre in 1999, NAV has received several grants worth several thousands of dollars to execute and sustain its key signature projects and activities (www.nav.org.au). During the presidency of Mr Bom Yonzon from 2007-2011, NAV had played a key role in spearheading and reinforcing NAV linkage with CALD communities, parliamentarians and various Government agencies which helped raise the organisation's profile. Today several NAV members are actively participating in VMC policy meetings in advisory roles in regional and metropolitan regions. Several of our members have been recognised for their contributions and received numerous VMC awards in different categories.



NAV members are also represented in FECAA committees and contribute actively in c policy matters. EECV is another organisation where our members attend important meetings and represent Nepalese community's voice. NAV has also established strong linkages with parliamentarians and various local councils and received several grants for community projects. Our relationship with Hume City Council, Moreland City Council, Geelong City Council are very strong through projects like Nepali language, Nepali library and Sister City, Senior citizen projects; it has helped develop long term relationships with councils.

NAV participation in CALD program

Further NAV members are strongly represented in South Asian Ministerial Advisory Councils (SAMAC). Bom Yonzon, Deepa Rai, Dr Jamuna Parajuli and Dr Raju Adhikari are its members since its establishment by former Hon Minister for Multicultural Affairs Robin Scott in 2017.

Through our working relationship with above government agencies, NAV has made successful submissions in a wide range of important policy matters on domestic violence, gender equality, regional migration, COVID crises and impact , discrimination laws etc. The NAV above outreach policy and collaborative initiative has enabled NAV to make significant contributions to Victoria's mainstream policies and programmes.

NAV values and will continue to nurture established relationships. NAV will work towards further strengthening these relationships to make greater contributions for the wellbeing of our community and strengthen our vibrant multiculturalism in future.



Nepalese Community organisations in Victoria

- Nepalese Association of Victoria
- Amazing Parents
- Australia Nepal Public Link
- Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre
- Australian Nepalese Senior Citizen Society
- Ballarat Nepali Community
- Bhutanese Community Australia
- BP Chintan Pretishthan
- Casey Samaj Victoria
- Chitwan Samaj Victoria
- Craigieburn Nepalese Community
- Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria
- Doreen Mernda Nepalese Community
- Epping Wollert Nepalese Community
- Everest Lion Nepalese Association of Victoria
- Far Western Society Victoria
- Fawkner Nepali Community Victoria
- Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia
- Galkot Samaj Victoria
- Geelong Nepalese Community
- Greater Geelong Nepalese Community
- Gulmi Samaj Victoria
- Gurkha Nepalese Community of Victoria
- Help Nepal Network Australia
- Jana Pargatishil Munch
- Jhapali Samaj Victoria
- Kirat Society of Victoria
- Madhesi Community in Victoria
- Magar Samaj Victoria
- Melbourne Nepalese Community West
- Morang Samaj Victoria
- Nepal Consulate general VIC to Nepal
- Nepalese Association of South East
- Nepalese Shepparton Community
- Nepali Jana Sampark Samiti
- Nepalese Neighbourhood Community Inc
- Nepali Organisation of Wyndham Victoria
- Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Australia
- Northern 7women Group
- Overseas Nepali Unity Forum Victoria
- Senior Club Victoria
- Sherpa Association of Victoria
- Society of Nepalese Engineer in Victoria
- South Asian Community Link
- Tamang Society of Victoria
- Tamu Samaj Victoria
- Women Leader Vic

Nepalese Schools in Victoria

- Bal Chautari (Thomastown)
- Bal Chautari (West)
- Bal Sansar Glenroy
- Balbikash Pathshala DMNC
- Balchautari Wyndham (West)
- Cragieburne Nepali school
- Epping Wolert Balbatika
- Hamro Nepali Pathshala Vermount South

Nepalese Sport Organisations in Victoria

Soccer Clubs

- Chandra Surya FC
- Cragieburn Brigade Sporting Club
- Everest United Club
- Football For Fun and Fitness
- Gulmi Tigers Football club
- Himalayan Football Club
- Royal Western Club
- Royale FC
- The Himalayan Tigers FC
- United FC Melbourne
- Yeti FC

Basketball Clubs

- K-town Ballers
- Nepcity Basketball

Volleyball Clubs

- The Himalayan Tigers
- UFC Melbourne

Cricket Clubs

- Everest Lions Cricket Club
- Expert Sagarmatha Blues
- Far west Hunter Cricket Club
- Global Interface Cricket Club
- Gorkhali Cricket Club
- Gulmi Tigers Cricket Club
- Maven Cricket Club
- Narre Kings Cricket Club
- Royal Rhinos Cricket Club
- The Himalayan Club

Other Sport Clubs

- Eastern Warriors Sport Club
- Everest Taekwondo School
- Oceania Nepali Sport Meet - VIC

Nepalese Media in Victoria

- Bal Chautari (Thomastown)
- Bal Chautari (West)
- Bal Sansar Glenroy
- Balbikash Pathshala DMNC
- Balchautari Wyndham (West)
- Cragieburne Nepali school
- Epping Wolert Balbatika
- Hamro Nepali Pathshala Vermount South

Gurkha's settlement in Australia

The movement started in 1990 here in Victoria when a retired Gurkha Army officer from the Brigade of Gurkha, India; Colonel Charles Campagnac published an article in the "Age Newspaper" stating the need for Gurkhas as a defence force of Australia. Mr. Campagnac strongly suggested to the Australian Government to bring 4,000 young Gurkha British armies in Australia after the Hong Kong handover to China in 1997. At the time there were 8,000 Gurkha British armies in Hong Kong and the British Government was willing to take only 4,000 soldiers to England and the rest were returning to their homeland Nepal.



Mr. Bharansher Rai (a retired British Gurkha) was the first person to come to Victoria from Sydney and meet with Mr. Charles Campagnac with the mentioned newspaper article in his hands. Right after him, many more Ex-Gurkhas moved to Victoria from all states of Australia, mostly from Sydney.

Gurkhas are well known to Australians because of their involvement with Australian armies in the 1st World War and the 2nd World War. They fought side by side along with Australian soldiers against enemies in the wars.



Because of their strong background, they were warmly welcomed to join the ANZAC parade in 1990 for the first time in Moe RSL. This was the first-ever ANZAC parade that was marched by Ex-Gurkhas/Nepalese in Australia. Mr. Bruce Ruxton, then Victorian RSL President & National Vice President requested all Ex-Gurkhas & their families to participate in the Melbourne ANZAC parade in 1991 and since then it's been an ongoing tradition.

Gurkhas are well known to Australians because of their involvement with Australian armies in the 1st World War and the 2nd World War. They fought side by side along with Australian soldiers against enemies in the wars.



Victorian RSL President Mr Bruce Ruxton

Gurkhas became famous in Australia with the huge support of RSL, the 60 Minutes TV show, and the Australian general public. This was a great encouraging moment for all Nepalese living in Australia and paved the way to establishing their own organisations and clubs. NAV (Nepalese Association of Victoria) and GNC (Gurkha Nepalese Community) were being acknowledged and warmly welcomed by the Australian community side by side. Moe RSL, Morwell RSL and the Gippsland Migration Resource Centre were actively helping the Gurkhas and their families since as early as 1996. In 2000, the Gippsland Gurkha Nepalese Community was officially incorporated under the Australian Incorporation Act 1981. Initially, GNC was based in Gippsland but now it's active in Melbourne because the majority of its members are residing in Victoria.



Left to right- Mr Bill Jones (Nepalese Consul general), Mr Bharansher Rai, Vic. RSL President Mr Bruce Ruxton and Colonel Charles Campagnac.

Experience of Multigenerational Nepalese Born in Australia

First-generation perspective from an early settler from Nepal

One of the pioneer Nepalese person Deepak Raj Pant, along with his spouse and their two-year-old daughter, first arrived on the Australian mainland in 1985. He boarded a Qantas Airline International flight thirty-seven years ago to Australia. Deepak vividly remembers that only Narayan Pradhan, who was in New South Wales then, had landed on Aussie soil before him.



Deepak finished his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in 1989 at an Australian university and spent years working as a Postdoctoral Senior Research Fellow at Flinders University and Adelaide University. His numerous research papers have been published in many reputed International Journals. Deepak had completed his M.Sc. degree (Physics) in Nepal in 1980 prior to his Australian endeavor and worked as an Associate Professor of Physics at Tribhuvan University, Nepal for five years.



Deepak grew up in a small neighbourhood in Kathmandu, Nepal, a country with panoramic views of the seven biggest snow-capped mountains (the world's highest Mt. Everest), abundant and diverse flora, and fauna, a rich cultural way of life, religious harmony, and culture diversity. His parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and his ancestors - everyone was born in Nepal. He married a beautiful Nepalese girl Bahini Baba Pant, a Child Educator, in Nepal forty-two years ago. Although Deepak arrived in Australia thirty-seven years earlier, he maintains a strong bond and love for Nepal. He often travels to Nepal for trekking, sightseeing, hiking in the Himalayas, and family union. He stays with senior family members uncle, aunt, and elder sister who are still alive. He was appointed by the Prime Minister of Nepal Lifetime Academician, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). NAST is an autonomous apex body established in 1982 by the Government of Nepal. It is passed by the Act of Nepal's Parliament to promote science and technology. He is a life member of Nepal Physical Society and Nepal Geological Society and recipient of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) award.

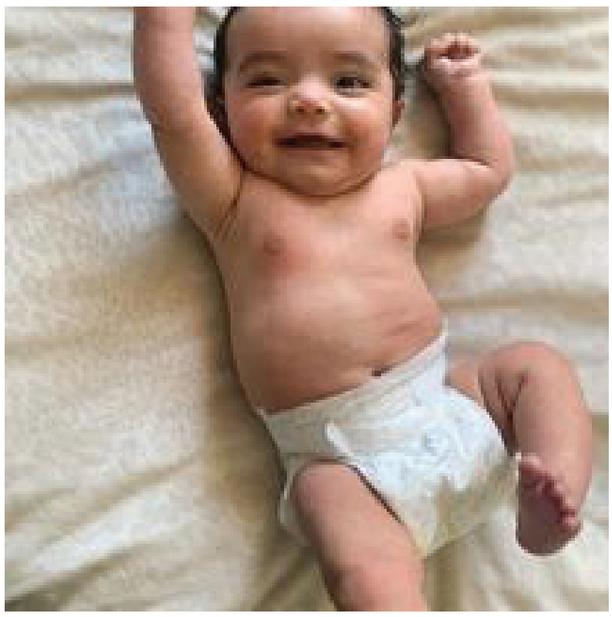
Deepak is now 68 years old, with three children and five grandchildren. He is an electric dynamic senior citizen of Australia. As an Australian-Nepali, he is a nice bloke (in Aussie slang) and keeps an interest in back-yard organic vegetable gardening, camping & bush-walking, bird viewing at bushland, emu, kangaroo, wallaby watching in an outback Australia, etc. For meals, he loves vegemite toast, meat pies, fish & chips, damper, roast lamb, BBQ, and VB beer. Nepal-born Deepak has definitely embraced and integrated into Australian culture with all his heart. Dinner time, however, is still dominated by Nepalese curry. As a food enthusiast, he likes helping his family prepare meals during Nepalese festivals and other cuisine feasts. His favorite Nepali foods are dal bhat tarkari, aloo ko achar, aloo tama, dhindo, dundruk, sel roti and gorkhali khasi ko masu. Deepak says "Most importantly, I love spending time at home and looking forward to enjoying Nepali festivals which have a great composition of delicacies, Nepali songs, and dancing mixed. I like to be alongside family, friends, and Nepali communities. I love cooking and always being with my loved ones (wife, children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren)".

When it comes to sports, Deepak watches cricket (BBL, Ashes, Test series, T20), Footy (AFL), and Melbourne Cup. His son, daughter, son-in-law, grandson, and granddaughter are Hawthorn Football Club (HAWKS) members. He comments joyfully "Playing cricket with your grandson is great fun because the little boy always wins". During hot weather in Melbourne, he heads towards St. Kilda Beach. He goes to the beach for swimming and sunbathing in Victoria.

Deepak has religious beliefs in Bhagavan (God) and he believes in doing everything in life through Bhagavan. He further adds that sole determination, and working hard is very crucial because nothing great comes easy. But, with God's blessing, everything is possible. He started Victoria 'Ramanyan Satsang' a monthly program consisting of bhajan, kirtan, puja, worship, and religious discourse. It assists people in the development of spiritual well-being, self-realization, and helps community members stay connected with faith.

Having soaked in such a strong background in the cultures of both countries, he is actively engaged in the Nepalese community. Deepak has been continuously involved in keeping Nepalese traditions alive in Victoria. He is positive and optimistic, always volunteering and contributing to society. He was the President of the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) from 2007 to 2009. Currently, he is the Vice-President of the Australian Nepalese Senior Citizen Society (ANSCS).





His message for Nepalese people is to cultivate deep affection for the Australian way of life and the Land of Oz, Down Under. Deepak says "I am a lucky man to have had the opportunity to embrace and appreciate Nepalese multicultural diversity culture along with Australian multicultural & cultural diversity."

Nepali gene achievements

— Rija Khanal

I arrived in Melbourne in January 2006 with my parents and brother. Within a few weeks, I was enrolled in year 10 in high school here. My grandparents and parents were born in Nepal. It felt like a completely different world at first and it took a little while to get used to the different shops, buses, trains, houses, and of course the Australian accent.



Melbourne quickly became my home as I finished high school, and completed my Bachelor of Biomedicine and Doctor of Medicine through the University of Melbourne. I am currently working as a pediatric doctor and am in the final few years of my specialist pediatric fellowship. Through my training, I have had the opportunity to work in many different regional, rural as well as metropolitan health care services. My favorite part of the job is working with different community groups, meeting people of such varied backgrounds, languages, religions, and beliefs. To better work with diverse population groups, I will be working as the immigrant and refugee health senior pediatric doctor at the Royal Children's Hospital in 2022. I find that immigrants bring a rich, powerful narrative to the Australian story – we are stronger by being accepting and welcoming of diversity as well as working to embrace the challenges that come with it.

It is a great privilege to get to work within two communities and cultures – to be of Nepali background, but also identify with the diversity of being Australian! It is wonderful to celebrate Dashain and also enjoy Christmas, to enjoy daal bhat and also vegemite scrolls, and to be able to express myself in Nepali and also in English. As an immigrant myself, I understand the challenges of newly arriving Nepali in a foreign country with a different work and healthcare system. Through my work, I want to help families navigate the healthcare system in Australia. I hope to work with many different children and their parents to lead healthy and happy lives!

Nepal my pride: My grass-root connections

— Tessa Amatya

"There is a saying, "it takes a whole village to raise a child". I think this is a fact. I would not be the person I am today without the love and support from my family, friends, and the Nepalese community. When my family first migrated to Australia, the Nepalese community was there for us and helped us integrate into the Australian way of life.

The Nepalese community also helped me shape into the person I am in a myriad of ways. As a second-generation Nepalese-Australian born in Australia, I was taught to respect and uphold the Nepalese culture and values while embracing the Australian way of life. I have many role models from the Nepalese community who have taught me to aim high in life, explore my full potential, and give back to the community. I carry my Nepalese values and heritage in every aspect of my life and do my best to teach others around me about the beautiful nation and its people."

Tessa clearly remembers how the seeds of community involvement were sowed in her heart. It was on a family holiday in Nepal that something twigged for Tessa Amatya. The landlocked South Asian country is the homeland of her parents that Tessa had visited many times from a very young age. But that trip was different. Tessa recalls, "For the first time, I was able to see the effects of poverty, and how important education is. It stirred this passion in me to work to help those who are the most vulnerable."

On her return home to Australia, Tessa started volunteering anywhere she could, from op shops to the local church. The satisfaction and purpose she gained from it led her to pursue more volunteering opportunities, and before she knew it, Tessa was back in Nepal as a 17-year-old, offering her time to a shelter for victims of human trafficking. "It was very, very sad," she says with a heavy heart. "Meeting women who had experienced these injustices further ignited the fire in me to push for a positive change in the world, because there is such a huge need for it." It was then that Tessa decided she would work towards becoming a human rights lawyer. She enrolled in a law and global studies degree at Australian Catholic University(ACU) and was awarded a community engagement scholarship.



In the third year of her degree, in early 2021, Tessa was one of the few students selected to analyse modern slavery statements created by companies and organisations, as part of a research project for the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network. The ongoing project involves 32 Catholic entities, including ACU, with a goal to "take bold and decisive action on the eradication of modern slavery". "We learned that over 40 million people in the world experience modern slavery today, which is just shocking," says Tessa, who is also a legal intern at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. She also volunteers for the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, the Victoria Law Foundation, and Action for Afghanistan.

Tessa looks back on those experiences as a wonderful time. "I got to put into practice our legal research skills while evaluating and analysing these modern slavery statements, working together towards the goal of eradicating modern slavery." adds Tessa. She plans to head back to Nepal to do an internship with Human Rights Monitors, an organisation that defends the rights of women and children, including victims of human trafficking. Her long-term goal is to work as a human rights lawyer or a diplomat in developing nations to help those who are the most vulnerable and in need. Recognizing Tessa's substantial impact in the community, the Australian Catholic University has also written an article about her. The article was written by Menios Constantinou and was titled 'For the good of the community".

Tessa says "Whatever area of law we choose to work in, I think it's so important that lawyers give back as much as we can and use our tools not to just help one group of people, but all,".

"When you help those most in need, it goes towards the common good, and in turn, that benefits your own wellbeing. It's such a beautiful cycle, and I think it's crucial that as lawyers, we understand that so that we use our power and our platform to benefit society as much as we can."



Second generation perspective

— Vesna Giri

As a 2nd generation migrant teenager, it is no surprise that my experience related to my culture and my upbringing has been very different from those of my parents (1st generational migrants).

The majority, if not all my life, has been spent growing up in Victoria. It is with that experience that I can say I have been able to enjoy both Australian and Nepalese culture. The latter is largely the doing of the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV). For that, I thank them.

My experience with NAV

The Nepalese community that NAV has banded over the years has organised and participated in many events reminiscent of the events back in our home country. Throughout my childhood years, our community has never failed to organise big festivals and celebrate them yearly, such as Dashain and Tihar. NAV has also organised various fundraisers to help the community in need. Besides, the community has come together to enjoy barbeques, Footy finals, and watch BBL cricket, to name a few.

The interconnection

The interconnections made within these celebrations organised by the NAV community don't stop there. Rice feeding ceremonies, anniversaries, receptions, and many more events continue to strengthen the bonds within our community. While all these events have their own traditional way of celebration - obviously Footy Finals won't be enjoyed in the same way that Dashain will - our Nepalese community has never failed to incorporate certain elements into our celebrations that remind us of our heritage.

The first element is dance. Throughout every gathering, I have never seen our community fail to bring together its children to perform and keep our culture alive through vibrant performances. The second element is music. Even whilst enjoying Australian culture, I and many others have been pleasantly surrounded by Nepalese music, which typically accompanies the performances. The third is food. Whether it is a great big function where we are being served heaping amounts of Nepali dishes or a small barbeque where each family contributes a Nepali dish, our community always brings together traditional delicious food. It is these three elements of our celebrations that I and many others have to thank for immersing us in our culture throughout our youth.

I may be biased in saying so, but one event, in particular, stands out to me. In July 2018, I was nominated for the NAV Excellence Young Achievers Award. It was NAV Excellence Recognition event, where young Nepalese children from all around Melbourne gathered in one hall to be recognised for all their achievements. I again thank NAV for giving us this opportunity.

By now it must be easy to see how my experience in Victoria as a second-generation migrant differs from my first-generation migrant parents. While I have not spent much time in my homeland, I and many Nepalese children are thankful for the culture that the first-generation Nepali migrants have brought with them. And as a part of the Nepalese community residing in Victoria, we are thankful for the many other multicultural communities that appreciate our culture with us and vice versa.



Being a 3rd generation Nepali in Australia

— Jai Sharma





My grandfather, grandmother, and mum arrived in Australia in 1985. My mum grew up here and my dad came to Australia to study in 2001. I was born in Melbourne and am currently in year 5 and I have a younger sister who is in grade 2.

We celebrate Nepali festivals like holi, dasain, tihar, and other festivals with my family and Nepali family friends. Dasain is my favourite festival as we go to my grandparents' house and family friends' houses to get blessings and money as gifts. We get to eat lots of variety of Nepali dishes and sometimes dress up in traditional clothes. Usually, people come over, have lunch, do puja, play cards, and have a good time.

Having my grandparents and uncle here from my mum's side keeps me connected to my heritage and being able to learn the Nepali traditions like puja to the many different gods we have. I also have family in Nepal and staying connected with them while living here helps me feel more comfortable when I travel to Nepal. I've been to Nepal four times already. I also get to enjoy the festivals celebrated in Australia like Easter, Christmas, and New Years with my family.

My favourite food is momo which is so yummy and we make it at home frequently. We have a mix of all different types of food like Nepali daal bhat, khasi ko masu as well as pasta, roast, pizza, and stir fry. I guess being in Australia gives me the best of both worlds as I get exposed to multiple cultures, traditions, and enjoy food from all around the world.

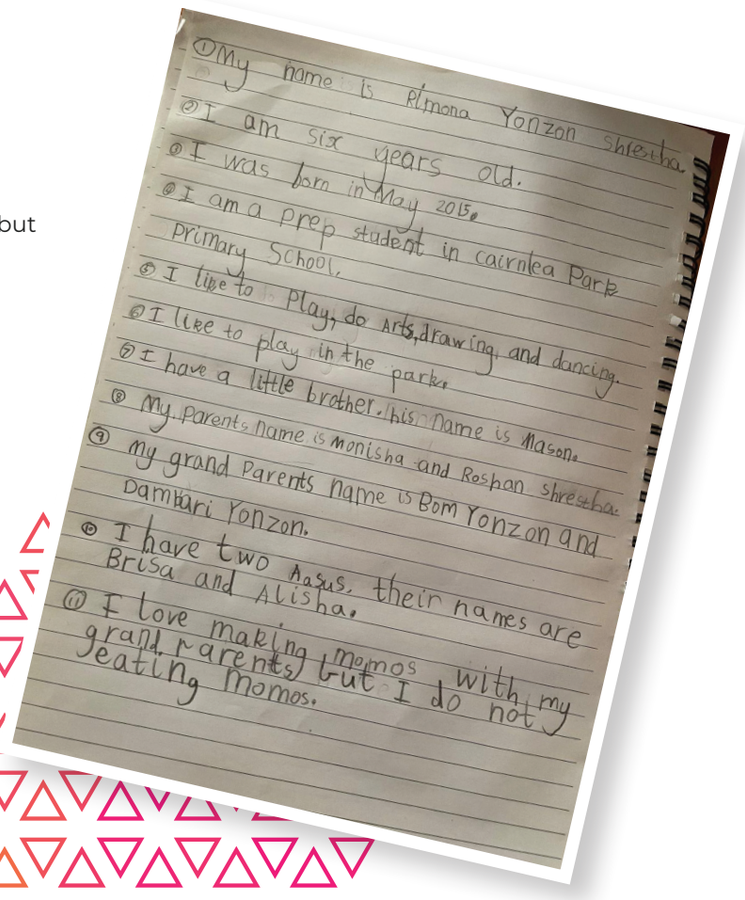
I am lucky that I can learn and keep the Nepali traditions like respecting elders, praying in festivals, the lights and festivities of dasain tihar. I also have some really good friends like me that were born in Australia but their parents are from Nepal which I get to celebrate all the different festivals in Nepal and Australia.

Some of the things that I have enjoyed doing within the Nepalese community have been the yearly deusi bhailo program and the golf tournament where the kids get to participate in the putting competition. I enjoy playing sports so any program that is related to it is fun for me. Being involved in these activities keeps me connected to the Nepali community and I get to learn new things and meet new friends. I would like to keep being involved in these activities in the future.

Fourth generation living in Victoria

— Rimona Yonzon Shrestha

1. My Name is Rimona Yonzon Shrestha.
2. I am six years old.
3. I was born in May 2015.
4. I am a prep student in Cairnlea Park Primary School.
5. I like to play, do arts, drawing and dancing.
6. I like to play in the park.
7. I have a little brother, his name is Mason.
8. My parent's name is Monisha and Roshan Shrestha.
9. My grand parent's name is Bom Yonzon and Dambari Yonzon.
10. I have two Aasus their names are Brisa and Alisha.
11. I love making momos with my grand parents but I do not eat momos.



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NEXOR MIGRATION • EDUCATION

Better Choice Mortgage + Finance

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SAPPHIRE Estate Agents INTEGRITY - TRUST - QUALITY

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SWAGAT GROCERIES REMIT (03) 94 642 699 0401 056 147 SEND MONEY ALL OVER THE WORLD

TW GG MIGRATION | EDUCATION

UIA Ultimate Institute of Australia

VDA Finance and Capital

VISA DIRECT EDUCATION | MIGRATION

Yatra the connection

ZEN MIGRATION & EDUCATION

KATHMANDU PROPERTIES

SK NEPALI TRANSLATION

webbrew /we brew your digital concepts/

Hungry Fusion Bar

Life Member Listing



- Durga Prasad Acharya
- Rajesh Acharya
- Dr Raju Adhikari
- Hari Aryal
- Suraj Ayer
- Diwaker Basnet
- Nira Basnet
- Santosh Bastakoti
- Lila Bhandari
- Mahesh Bhandari
- Sunil Bhandari
- Gandhi Bhattarai
- Tara Bhattarai
- Vijay Bhusal
- Shweta Bohora
- Roshan Dahal
- Sanjibani Dahal Regmi
- Bishnu Dawadi
- Tara Gaire
- Nirajan Gauli
- Mahendra Ghimire
- Tonnou Ghothane
- Bhola Giri
- Bam Gurung
- Ram Gurung
- Sudarshan Gyawali
- Merina Joshi
- Rajendra (Raju) Joshi
- Narayan Prasad Kafle
- Keshav Kandel
- Lal Kandel
- Ram Prasad Kandel
- Rishi Kandel
- Suman Kandel
- Suman Karki
- Bhupal Kc
- Resika Kc
- Suraj Khatri
- Dhawa Lama
- Gautam Lamichhane
- Jog Limbu
- Nila Limbu
- Prerana Malla
- Siddhartha Marasini
- Norgen Moktan
- Bhim Neupane
- Diksha Neupane
- Shiva Neupane
- Suraj Oli
- Santosh Pandey
- Dikpal Dev Pangeni
- Deepak Raj Pant
- Shree Pant
- Sudeep Pant
- Bimal Parajuli
- Bhesh Kumari Paudel
- Lok Raj Paudel
- Bhawani Paudyal
- Anupam Pokharel
- Basanta Raj Pokharel
- Chandra Deepak Pokharel
- Gopal Pokharel
- Rajendra Pokharel
- Tilak Pokharel
- Laxmi Pokhrel
- Madhu Pokhrel
- Ananta Poudel
- Ramjee Poudel
- Deepa Rai
- Anup Rana
- Lalit Kumari Rana
- Mohan Rana
- Archana Regmi
- Ugendra Regmi
- Keshab Sapkota
- Ram Sapkota
- Sabitra Sedhai
- Surendra Sedhai
- Raju Shakya
- Sabita Shakya
- Sudhir Shakya
- Saroj Sharma
- Sarozza Sharma
- Ganesh Bhakta Shrestha
- Rabindra Shrestha
- Soni Shrestha
- Suman Shrestha
- Prakash Thapa
- Shankar Thapa
- Bharat Tiwari
- Prem Upreti
- Sujan Upreti
- Ranjan Vaidya
- Joni Vaidya
- Bom Yonzon
- Chandra Yonzon
- Dambari Yonzon
- Laxmi Yonzon
- Seruna Yonzon
- Sumita Malla Bhandari
- Tej Gurung

Note: NAV has taken every care to keep its membership list up to date. If your life membership is inadvertently omitted from the list, we sincerely apologise and we request you to contact the NAV Secretary to update the records. WE thank you for your understanding.



Acknowledgements

Nepalese Association of Victoria would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our event sponsors, media partners, and local communities for their support, motivation, encouragement and financial contribution. We would also like to thank the Victorian government and Local government agencies, including the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) for their ongoing support.

Most importantly thank you to all NAV life members, general members for their continuous support.

NAV has made its best effort to capture and highlight all its key events and activities and associated individuals and organisations in this publication. We sincerely apologise If we have inadvertently omitted any of the names of events, individuals, or organisations. NAV is always grateful for their contribution.












Nepalese Association of Victoria
Teej Mela 2016
Event Partner
PLAY EVENTS


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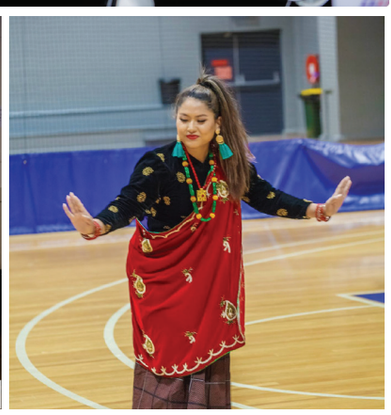



Dashain,Tihar
& Chhat
Celebration 2018
Nepalese
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