



**Nepalese
Association of
Victoria**

Annual Report 2005

Nepalese Association of Victoria Inc

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About this report

The Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) 2004-05 Annual Report documents the association's activities and performance for the year ending April 2005.

Any queries in relation to the activities and information provided on this report can be forward to NAV executive committee by email info@nav.org.au or by mail GPO Box 2537 Melbourne 3000.

Message from the President

Namaste and Happy New Year 2062

I am amazed to think that the Nepalese calendar year Bikram Sambat (BS) 2062 is upon us, and two years have passed since the current executive committee took the NAV office.

It is a great pleasure to present this Annual Report with encouraging list of activities and financial report. This report is self evident why I must personally thank the dedicated and hard working executive committee members including committee members who served the association in first half of the term and the advisory board.

Along with the association's defined objectives, this executive committee's main objectives for the term have been to focus on programs to highlight presence of Nepalese community in Victoria and establish amenities to flourish Nepalese language and culture. I believe preserving Nepalese culture would benefit people of Nepalese origin, and at the same time, this would strengthen one of great cultures in multicultural Australia.

With establishment of Nepalese language radio program "Melbourne Chautari", initiation of School of Nepalese Language and Culture (SNLC), screening of film Numafung, staging of artist from Nepal (Dabali) at BS2060 Dashain program, staging local artists during BS2061 Dashain program and organising live concerts like 1974AD, it is fair to say the objectives are well met. I would like to thank all those who contributed to success of these projects.

I would like to express my great appreciation to Deepa Rai, Sudhir Shakya, Surendra Sedhai, Raju Shakya, Tonnou Gurung, Parasuram Luitel, Depika Sherchan, Rajaram Thapa, Sindhu Dhungana, Jog Limbu, Dr Raju Adhikari and Chandra Yonjon. I would also like to thank Bishnu Adhikari, Sachin Yonjon, Ganesh Bhakta Shrestha, Deewaker Basnet, Shesh Ghale, Madan Dhungel, Kush Pant, Lok Rai, Jaya Sharma & and all those who contributed directly and indirectly in various projects of the association.

And, of course, big thanks to previous committee members lead by Late Shree Benu jee's.

And importantly, I would like to thank you, the members, for your support. I am confident you will continue your support to the new committee and participate to make things better in years to come. There are already two cultural programs scheduled for end of April and mid May 2005. And projects such as establishing emergency trust fund and a study of building a landmark symbolising Nepalese culture and heritage are in the pipeline.

I strongly believe constructive work by community associations such as NAV can bring about lot of good things to the community, nation and the world in general. And, as we look forward, it is good time to review our situation, our values and commitment to make NAV a stronger, responsible association. Part of such attributes come from the diversity of our members.

Though working relation with sister organisations within and outside Victoria has been established and improved in past two years, further work needs to be done to optimise our resources. Similarly, partnership needs to be extended and fostered with other ethnic community organisations and government agencies. Thanks to Victorian Multicultural Commission, VicHealth, Wujunderi art group, Ozequest, NAFA, HENN-Australia, MUSUN, Yeti Soccer Club and all our corporate sponsors for their partnership in various programs.

Finally, I would like to thank Jony and Aisha for their great support.

I hope you all have wonderful New Year. Thank you and Namaste!

Ranjan Vaidya

About Nepalese Association of Victoria

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) was established in 1997 with an aim to represent Nepalese (or people of Nepalese origin) living in Victoria and to provide them an opportunity to meet and mingle with their fellow citizens by organising various social events.

Key objectives of NAV include:

- To establish NAV as a peak body representing Nepalese community in Victoria
- To provide a platform for all members to gather and work together to achieve common objectives
- To promote and preserve Nepalese culture, language and heritage
- To organise events to celebrate important festivities of Nepal such as Dashain, Nepalese New Year
- Be a contact point for all residents, new migrants, students and visitors
- To develop cultural ties and goodwill between Australia and Nepal
- Work for betterment of community & foster multiculturalism and social harmony

Executive Committee 2004/2005

President:	Ranjan Vaidya
Vice President:	Deepa Rai
General Secretary:	Sudhir Shakya
Treasurer:	Surendra Sedhai
Joint Secretary:	Tonnou Gurung
Event Coordinator:	Raju Shakya
Committee Members:	Bom B. Khadka Parsuram Luita Jaya Sharma Sachin Yonzon Bishnu Adhikari
Advisors:	Jog Limbu Raju Adhikari Chandra Yonzon Diwaker Basnet Ganesh B Shrestha Sindhu Dhungana

Activities of Nepalese Association of Victoria in 2004/2005

New Year Celebration 2061 & AGM

NAV organised a luncheon to celebrate Nepalese New Year 2061 on Saturday, 11 April 2004 at Downunder Curry Restaurant, Northcote.

The program commenced with a formal proceedings of NAV's Annual General Meeting (AGM). President Ranjan Vaidya welcomed all members and attendees with his opening speech. General Secretary Sudhir Shakya and Treasurer Surendra Sedhai both presented their reports to the members for ratification. President Vaidya concluded the AGM with highlight of upcoming activities.

The AGM and New Year lunch was attended by approximately 90 people.

Movie Show: NumaFung

NAV organised a first ever Nepalese Movie Show on Saturday, 1st May 2004 screening of the Nepalese movie NumaFung at Union Theatre, Melbourne University, Parkville.

Nepalese Movie Show: NumaFung was organised as a part of our commitment to promote and foster Nepalese language, culture and heritage in Australia. NumaFung was an award-winning Nepalese movie directed by Mr Nabin Subba. Mr Subba was flown in from Nepal for this occasion.

NumaFung is a story of a young girl who is exploited time and again in the name of culture and tradition, and who eventually stands up against the system. This film is about the kind of social system that facilitates exploitation.

The event was a huge success with approximately 290 viewers attending the show.

Bada Dashain 2061 Celebration

'Bada Dashain' is one of the biggest and culturally significant festivals of Nepal. Dashain, like Christmas, is the most auspicious festival in the Nepalese annual calendar, celebrated by Nepalese of all caste and creed throughout the country.

In Victoria, Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) celebrates this festival every year in October for a day by organising various cultural programs, entertainment and Nepalese food.

NAV organised Bada Dashain 2061 program for the year in association with Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAFA) on Saturday, 30th October 2004 at Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Collingwood. The program was also supported by Victorian Multicultural Commission, City of Yarra and VicHealth. The celebration of this festival was marked with traditional dances, songs and performance by local artists. The program was complimented by delicious Nepalese food.

Addressing the occasion chief guest Mr George Lekakis, Chairperson of Victorian Multicultural Commission, said "When I think of Nepal, I think of the culture, traditions, the mountains, and the birthplace of Buddha". He also said that although the Nepalese community in Victoria was small with only about 1500, it was one which was diverse. Similarly, Mr Simon Hill, Royal Nepalese Consul to Australia, said that despite the ongoing conflict in Nepal, the number of tourists travelling there from Victoria had increased by 30 percent as compared to last year.

There were festival dances with the girls dressed up in traditional Nepalese attire. The guys had the hall rocking with their pop numbers living up the crowd. Around 300 people showed up for the event and was also attended by representatives from Victorian Multicultural Commission, VicHealth, City of Yarra and 3CR Community Radio.

"We hope that as we celebrate this festival as the triumph of good over evil peace will prevail in our country and the world," said Ranjan Vaidya, President of NAV. He also added that it was important for the Nepalese community in Australia to promote the Nepalese culture. Rajan Bhattachan, President of NAFA thanked all that were present for making the event a great success.

During the program Melbourne Chautari, the Nepalese radion program on 3CR, celebrated its first anniversary of broadcasting in Melbourne.

School of Nepalese Language and Culture

NAV announced an opening of School of Nepalese Language & Culture (SNLC) in Melbourne in August 2004. After extensive preparation and consultation an introductory level course was launched as a pilot program commencing Saturday, 7th August 2004 at Coburg Library, Coburg. Each two hour session was aimed at teaching spoken Nepalese language for duration of six weeks. There were eight students who participate in this pilot project. All students were very satisfied with the progress at the end of the course. All students were presented Certificate of Completion on the final session of the course.

After successful completion of SNLC (School of Nepalese Language and Culture) pilot project, NAV started second language & culture course in collaboration with OzeQuest. The classes were held in Collingwood from 6pm to 8pm every Monday. There were eight students who were visiting Nepal very soon.

Having learnt from the pilot project, the course outline was slightly modified to suit beginners. Students showed great interest in the course and were learning very fast.

The course included a total of eight sessions. First four sessions were survival course and last four sessions were Basic level 1, with advanced levels planned for near future.

1974 AD – 'Yo Maan Ta Nepalese Ho' Australia Tour

'Yo Maan Ta Nepalese Ho' literally means '*This heart belongs to Nepal*' and is taken from 1974 AD's popular song titled 'Nepalese'. This song has been an unofficial anthem for thousands of Nepalese people living away from Nepal.

1974 AD performed live in Melbourne and Sydney as a part of 'Yo Man Ta Nepalese Ho' Australia tour. This was the first ever live Nepalese concert to take place in Melbourne. The concert was held in Melbourne on Sunday, 27th February 2005 at the popular Hi-Fi Bar on 129 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

The first ever-live concert of Nepalese Band generated immense excitement amongst the members of Nepalese community and friends. There were approximately 300 spectators at the event.

Report presented by: Sudhir Shakya, General Secetary

Ongoing Activities

Melbourne Chautari

Melbourne Chautari is the only Nepalese language radio program in Victoria. The program runs every Thursday from 9:00 PM –10.00 PM on 3CR community radio station on the frequency 855 AM. Melbourne Chautari is committed to bring infotainment and entertainment to the Nepalese population living in Victoria.

Melbourne Chautari is managed by a team of volunteers, who are members of Nepalese Association of Victoria.

Initially commenced as a half hour program, **Melbourne Chautari now runs for an hour.**

Summary of Financial Statements

Annual Financial Report for the period April 2004- April 2005

Prepared by: Surendra Sedhai, Treasurer

INCOME

Grants

Government Grants	\$ 6,800.00
3CR Grant for Melbourne Chautari	\$ 1,360.00

Income from Events

New Year 2061/Membership	\$ 1,310.00
Numafung Movie Show	\$ 7,720.00
Dashain Celebration 2061	\$ 6,078.00
Nepalese Language School Fees	\$ 672.00
1974AD Concert	\$ 14,205.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 38,145.00
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EXPENDITURE

New Year 2061	\$ 1,955.00
Numafung Movie Show	\$ 4,331.50
Radio: Melbourne Chautari	\$ 844.00
Dashain Celebration 2061	\$ 7,498.96
Nepalese Language School Fees	\$ 482.57
1974 AD Concert	\$ 12,365.74
Bank fee And Charges	\$ 180.00
Administrative Expenses	\$ 2,904.45
Sundry Expenses	\$ 400.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 30,962.22
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NET REVENUE (INCOME – EXPENDITURE)	\$ 7,182.78
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Balance brought from April 2004	\$ 2,044.56
Cash in Bank -April 2005	\$ 7,649.58
Petty Cash	\$ 677.00
Total Cash on hand	\$ 8,326.58
Cash Receivable (sponsorships)	\$ 900.00
Total Balance of Fund	\$ 9,226.58

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our event sponsors for their support and financial contribution. Their ongoing assistance is highly appreciated.

Most importantly thank you to all members for their continuous support.

Listen to Melbourne Chautari
The Only Nepalese Language Radio
Program n 3CR Community Radio Station

Frequency 855 AM
Every Thursday
9:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Brought to you by:



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