

## Newsletter of the Bhutanese Association in South Australia



# NAMASKAR



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### Bhutanese in South Australia-

Over 30,000 individuals have been resettled all around the world in Canada, Denmark, Netherland, New Zealand, Norway and United States as part of the third country resettlement of the Bhutanese refugees from the refugee camps of Nepal. And more than a thousand have been resettled in Australia, with more than 400 in South Australia, since 12 May 2008. And the population, in the future, is due to reach more than three thousand in South Australia.

In South Australia, the emerging Bhutanese Australian community is steadily developing amidst, overcoming the social and economic barriers of 17 years spent in refugee camps, in exile. And with a completely new life, in pursuit of happiness, with all the expected and unexpected, ups and downs, the display of strength to progress, by the community as a whole, remarkable .



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### The Bhutanese Association in South Australia –Aims, Institutions, Relations and Plans:

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008, two Bhutanese families reached Adelaide in South Australia, under the Third Country Resettlement program launched by the Seven Core Countries - Australia, New Zealand, Netherland, Norway, Denmark, Canada, and United States. To date over 400 Bhutanese have been resettled in South Australia.

Since late 2008, Bhutanese youth had been taking initiatives to launch the community organization. The youth formed a drafting committee and drew up a constitution. In March 2008, the Adhoc Committee was constituted to work towards formalization of community organization. On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009, the newly constituted drafting committee presented a draft constitution incorporating good elements from few constitutions that were in the making. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009, the Constitution was adopted through a Constitutional Convention held in Adelaide. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the community organization was formally incorporated he Association. (contd.-Pg 2)

#### CALENDER:

**12 May-** *The Bhutanese Annual Celebration 2010*  
(Friday 14th May)

**14 April-** *Nepali new year*

**17 October -** *Vijaya Dashami*  
(festival celebrating victory of the good over the bad)

**5 November-** Lakshami Puja  
(Tihar- the festival of lights)

**7 November -** *Bhai tika*

As enjoined by the Constitution all the constitutional bodies, like, Apex Council, Executive Committee, Advisory Board and Ombudspersons have been formed. The Apex Council is the highest body that formulates and approves plans, programs and policies. It institutes nominated committees and bodies, and monitors and reviews the programs and activities undertaken by nominated bodies. The Executive Committee, a nominated body, implements and undertakes all programs and activities of the Association. The Advisory Board, another nominated body, advises and aids the Apex Council & other nominated bodies. The Ombudspersons, and another nominated body, engages in conflict resolution within the Association, when required. And importantly, the Members' Assembly serves as the foundation stone of the Association. The Constitution enjoins all Bhutanese to work collectively for service, security, progress and prosperity of Bhutanese community in South Australia. It envisions preserving and promoting diverse culture, language and heritage prevalent in the community and supporting the promotion and protection of human rights of Bhutanese people, both living within and outside Bhutan. It further envisages to enhance better understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, amity and unity amongst the community members; to promote and develop cross cultural bonding and good relationships with the broader Australian communities and institutions; to materialize necessary social and emotional support to aged people and people with disabilities; to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in the community and to promote equality of rights of women and men; to provide services and support to student and youth members to achieve

excellence in the field of education and vocation, and to assist members to find suitable and sustainable employment; to inform, educate and empower members by organizing appropriate trainings, workshops and seminars on varied issues and topics and to facilitate the settlement of Bhutanese in South Australia and support their transition and integration in the mainstream Australian society.

Being the newest community in South Australia, Bhutanese, despite transitional challenges, are coping up well. Many young and adult Bhutanese are learning English in ELS TAFE and LM. A good number of teenagers and youths have been enrolled in schools, vocational courses and universities. A few have already been employed. With the passage of time, Bhutanese will grow into vibrant and potent community. And as a community organization, BASA will have an important role to play in promoting all-round development and progress of Bhutanese community in South Australia.

Ichha Poudel,  
Coordinator,  
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Bhutanese Association in South Australia

### Mon Maya laid to rest in Adelaide:

Adelaide, October 20, 2009: The funeral ceremony of Late Mon Maya Ghimirey was completed at the Enfield Memorial Park, on the 13th day of her demise.



Source: bhutanesesa.org.au

### Bhanu Jyanti -

Adelaide, 12 July 2009: Literature of Bhutanese from Southern Bhutan, is indeed *Nepali* literature. Nepali is the language used by the Southern Bhutanese, and their powerful attachment to the language could only be explained more, when it is said that the language was banned from the schools of Bhutan in the 1980s.

Hence it is not hard to understand that the source from which language would flow for poets gathered on a cold winter morning in Adelaide could invariably be fantasy or verbal disorder. The source was strength, unity and the spirit of development to achieve higher and advance in Australia.

Adelaide Bhutanese gathered at the MRCSA community hall to recite poems, compete and win prizes, in what could be a commemoration of the famous *nepali* litterateur Bhanu Bhakta Adhikari, but would more obviously mean an annual occasion for literature in Nepali culture. And we hope events such as these continue into the future.



### Celebrating Arrival to Australia:

The Bhutanese residents of South Australia on 12 May 2009 marked their first anniversary of residence in Australia. It was a historic day for Bhutanese and it has laid the foundation for the future, when generations to come will actually look back to, when they actually started arriving in Australia.

The occasion was celebrated with culture and food. Many agencies supporting migrants were present and appraised our development and communal unity.

The picture below captures mature Bhutanese dancing to folklore.



### Ride Planet Earth 6th December 2009:



Well it goes without saying that climate change is a problem, and what could be more useful than if everyone followed the rules of nature. Bhutanese residents got together at the mega event Ride Planet Earth, and paddled along to Victor Harbor.

### Bhutanese Youngsters: Mission Soccer

Bhutanese Youth had been intensively indulging into soccer since June 2009. The program was a huge success with 45 Bhutanese youth (both sexes) regularly making it to the 'Football Federation of South Australia' training sessions, on Sundays and the games that were played there on e.g. two teams played in the Multicultural Youth Soccer Carnival.

It was all possible because of the Star Club Pilot Project, and with support of the Sacred Heart Senior High School, along with ARA which made brought out people like Mike Feszczak along with Bikram Adhikari, who organized the whole thing.

From no soccer gear, resources, or grounds to play in, the soccer program propelled many young players into the sport at a time when they couldn't have expected it. And the Bhutanese youth couldn't be more thankful than they are in these pictures.



### Teej: Women's Day in our culture



Adelaide, 21 August: Women of the Bhutanese Community in South Australia, jubilantly celebrated Teej which is the women's festival in our culture. Assembled at the Migrant Resource Centre SA hall, they sang folk songs filled with politics, euphemism and sarcasm and danced to the *madal*.

### Bhutanese in Adelaide Support Fire Victims in Nepal : January 2010

When a 100 huts were destroyed in the Beldangi Refugee camp fire, Bhutanese in South Australia gave a hand in whatever they could to support the relief package for Bhutanese Refugees still languishing in the refugee camps. It was made possible by the crew of the Bhutan News Service. Their network helped us all. And it gives us great pleasure to say that Bhutanese communities all over Australia, and the world got to together to help our fellow sisters and brothers facing extreme hardship. The culture of giving back in Australia is gradually infecting us as well.

### Australia Day: Bhutanese in South Australia

Around 60 Bhutanese South Australian residents took part in the Australia day 2010 parade. We marched off from Grenfell Street, Adelaide and then onwards it was just a special experience of walking through people of Australia.

Though we fully understand it is a demonstration, nevertheless, it is the demonstration of people all at once, with distinctive cultures and practices, which actually gets the message through, that Australia is multicultural with the largest scope of harmony and peace. And we feel at home.

As Bhutanese South Australians, march towards progress we await a fully grown community doing it's best.



### Dashain: Festival of Blessings

Adelaide, 2009: The Dashain festival that happens annually in the month of September-October was characteristically celebrated in 2009, with the eldest people of our community giving blessings to others for a prosperous life.

The festival is based on epic Hindu mythology, that when good were victorious over the evil. The festival is considered also to instill virtue, compassion and discipline in life. Hence elders pass down blessings.

During the he festival from pre-historic times, people travel to their villages and homes to meet their families, to eat and play traditional games. However, in Adelaide, seniors and juniors received *Tika* from the eldest people of our community.



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