



# NAMASTE



Issue 6

June 2011

## BASA Plans 5 years and beyond

What Bhutanese in South Australia will be doing during this period and beyond that? It's seems imaginary yet practicable for Bhutanese Association of South Australia (BASA).

Called 'The Strategic Planning Session', the three-day gathering took place at the scenic eastern Adelaide Hills, an hour drive from Adelaide city, inside the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Centre.



Members of the constitutional bodies of BASA, Executive members, Advisors and Ombudspersons, well wishers and volunteers gathered at the YWAM centre on April 15, 16 and 17 to develop strategy for the delivery of effective services to the community for next five years and thereafter.

*Continued on page 7*

## Bhutanese in SA celebrate three years of settlement

Bhutanese Australians in Adelaide observed the third year of their settlement in Australia with cultural presentations and Bhutanese-Nepali cuisines on May 13.

The participants and guests began arriving about 6pm at the Olympic Centre in the heart of Adelaide city and each guest was welcome with Khada.

The celebration formally began in traditional manner with Guest of Honour, Lt Governor of South Australia Hieu Van Le, AO and the Chief Guest Hon. Michael Atkinson,

the MP representing Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon Grace Portolesi, jointly lighting candle. Other guests included Mr. Tony Japia, the Federal Member of Makin, settlement agencies officers and volunteers.

In his welcome speech, chairperson of the BASA Mr. Jogen Gazmere highlighted the progress made by the Bhutanese Australians towards integration and adaptation into the new home. He said, "Many are still facing difficulties in adjusting in their new country, while some are settling down

well. Being entrenched in tradition, the Bhutanese community is sometime seen to face dilemmas and difficulties in adjusting to the new multicultural environment. The difference in the outlook of older and younger generation is possibly going to generate rift in the future, where reconciliation will be the only recourse to resolution. The gender issue and the issue of cohesion and harmony will equally demand attention in the days to come which needs to be addressed sensitively, but firmly."

*Continued on page 7*

## Buying a house

BASA under SGP grant organised information session on buying a house on May 18 in ARA office, Underdale. Six people from the Bhutanese community attended the session. The information session was facilitated by Sarah Gerard, Branch Manger of Bendigo Bank, Fulham Gardens.

Community members primarily sought information on rate of interest, comparative advantage Bendigo Bank in

## Employment

BASA organised information session on employment at ARA office, Underdale on June 8. The session was part of the SGP grant programme.

A total of 5 community members attended the information session facilitated by Derek Guymmer, employment service officer at the ARA.

He shared tips on career building in Australia, ways of resume writing, preparing and facing job interviews and the need of commitments to work

members. Suresh Kumar, an auto mechanic of the GNG Auto.

This is the second time car maintenance session was organised by BASA. Similar session was organised in November last year.

The participants were given information on changing tyre, periodic change of oil, safety inspection and using coolant among others. The participants were also given practical knowledge changing tyre.

## Backyard Veggie Patch

BASA with the support from Bunning's Warehouse organised information session on backyard vegetable gardening. Facilitated by Jamie Sammut, DIY presenter of Bunning's Warehouse, the information session held at Bunning's in Parafield on May 26 was attended by 18 community members.

Even the old people had expressed interest in learning making backyard vegetable pads. Vegetable gardening is popular among Bhutanese community.

Participants primarily expressed interest in learning preparing soil, making compost, identifying seasonal vegetables, rotation of plantation, use of pesticides including patch sucker for spinach.

Initially scheduled for an hour, the information session was extended for two and half hours due to number of questions raised by the participants.



taking loan, differences in interest rate for fixed and variable payments among others. She advised the participations that it is better to wait for the right property than to rush into something you may regret later.

According to her, for people to qualify for home load, they need to have employment, good savings and less debt.

for which you applied. Get up and presentation during the interview process was also discussed.

## Car maintenance

BASA organised information session on basic car maintenance on May 21 in Salisbury. The session as part of the SGP grant was attended by 11 community

## Zoo trip for elderlies in Sydney

Anything which is not gotten into sights ever is worth stealing one's heart. This obvious fact has been a ruling factor in the hearts of the Bhutanese seniors in Sydney.

SydWest Multicultural Inc. (SWMI), Blacktown arranged an enjoying excursion for the Bhutanese seniors to the biggest Zoo in Sydney, lying at the city on 20 May. Taken to Tangara Zoo in the coordination of Narayan Dhimal, the Cultural Coordinator of ABA- Sydney and bilingual teacher of Macquarie Community College, Blacktown, seniors and their carers enjoyed a big time again in their life having their elderly gossips.

SWMI had the two way bus reservation while the participants individually bought the tickets for the zoo for \$ 31.50 each. The 20 elderly and their carer were seen greatly moved to gather to march for a new move to the zoo. As they reported at the SydWest, it was 9:00 am and reached the destination at 10:30 am.

By the time they reached the gate, they received a zoo map as a guide. As they moved through the zoo, the diversity of the beasts sneaked their hearts. "I loved moving and didn't even feel I was moving", said Manorath Dhamala, an octogenarian Bhutanese. "The main attraction there I felt was kangaroo", he added. The presence of apes, bears, ostriches and different kinds of birds, reptiles, and other animals added glow to their energy for most of the seniors. Another attraction of the zoo for the elderly was the location of the zoo at a beautiful hill. The animals were seen kept separate as South Asian, Australian and other. They entered the gate at the top of the hill and enjoyed a good view moving down at the most enjoyable pacing.

At the base they visited toilets and had a short rest and had lunch. While getting back, they even had sky bus (cable car) driving on the same expense.

SWMI has been focusing the issues of addressing the basic emotional needs of the elderly people of the various ethnic groups, especially migrants, to ease a happy living in

Australia. Earlier SWMI took these people to Bankateswor and Gokul temples in Sydney. SWMI is also giving some kinds of basic orientation the elderly Bhutanese on the grounds of Health and safety every Friday. Noting the importance of the weekly gathering of the elderly people, Hari Khatiwoda, the General Welfare Coordinator of ABA Sydney and Generalist Worker for Bhutanese at SydWest said, "In future we are planning for mixed interaction of the Bhutanese elders with the elders of other communities. So it creates a sense of respect and understanding of pluralistic society." SWMI is also giving trainings and seminars to the people of other age groups on different areas of their needs. This has helped the Bhutanese at large to avoid loneliness and depression as beginners in Australia.

*Nanda Bhandari (Sydney)*

## Hobart Bhutanese get organised

The Bhutanese population in Hobart, Tasmania is growing faster and is their community organisation. There are over 200 Bhutanese (including five children born here) under Bhutanese Community of Tasmania, Hobart.

The progress Bhutanese making here is satisfactory. At least one in every family has obtained Australian driver license. Around 10 percent of the population have got permanent work while others do part time or casual work.

Some of the Bhutanese have received trainings organised by centacare to help them find job.

The community is worried about the upcoming census scheduled for August 9. According to community organisation chairman Thir Thapa, they have received no information about the census and this might be confusing for Bhutanese to face the first Australian census.

The community organisation will hold its first AGM next month to elect new executive and intensify community activities.

*Khadga Thapa (Hobart)*

## इश्वर भ्रमका कुरा

सृष्टि गरेको धेरै नबित्दै मान्छेमा यतिका धेरै परिवर्तन आए पछि भगवानलाई खपी नसक्नु भएछ । मान्छेको कार्यशैली, पौराणिक भन्दा फरक जीवन शैली र हृद् भन्दा माथिको आधुनिक हुँदै अत्याधुनिक र आक्रामक बानी व्यहोरा देखा पर्न थाल्नु अघि नै इश्वरले एउटा जुत्ती निकालेछन ।

हिजो भन्दा आज, आज भन्दा भोली हुँदै दिनानुदिन हिंसात्मक र नास्तिक बनेको कालियुगी मान्छेलाई ठीक पार्न भगवानले सिर्फ मानिस भित्रको हृदय जस्तो स्वच्छ स्थलमै बासस्थान जमाएर मात्र उसलाई अधिनमा लिनुको बिकल्प भेटेनछन् ।

एक दिन भगवानले आफ्नु भौतिक रूप मानिसमै लिन गरेछन र गएर उसको हृदयमा बसेछन । भगवानको उपस्थितीको पबित्रतामा उसको हृदयले केही छोटो समयमै दया, करुणा, खुशी, सन्तुष्टी, प्रेम, भात्रित्व, मानवता लगायतका उसभित्रका सुक्ष्म मनोजीवहरू यसरी बदलिदिएछन् भगवानले मान्छेलाई बुझ्न सम्म हम्मै पर्न थालेछ ।

यता मानिसहरू भने भगवान एक्कासी लोप भएपछि भ्रमित भैरहे । प्रत्येकका दर्शनमा इश्वरले अदृश्य रूप धारण गर्नुको फरक बुझाई रहेको देखिन थाल्यो । इश्वर भ्रमको रहस्य बुझ्ने र बुझाउनेहरूले मानिसहरू बिचको समानताको दुरिलाई थप् रहस्यमय र जटिल बनाइदिए ।

उनिहरू भन्न थाले.. "थोरै एक थरिका मान्छेहरूले भगवानलाई भित्री हृदय मै छाम्न सके । अथवा, भित्री आँखा भएकाहरूले भगवानलाई

हृदयबाट नै देखिरहे, भेटिरहे मानिसको सेवाको माध्यम बाट" । अर्का एक थरि, बाहिरी आँखा भएका भनिएका मान्छेहरूले भने दुइगा-मुडा र निर्जिव बस्तु लाई भगवान को प्रतिमुर्ती देखे । यी दुई थरी भन्दा अलग्गै जो दुवै आँखा नभएको अर्थात दुवै आँखा भएका आशंका गरिएकाहरूले भने भगवान हुदैनन् भनिरहे ।

अझै पनि मान्छे यीनै तीन भ्रम मध्ये कुनै एकका पछि दगुरीरा'छ - त छाड र म छाड गरि । द्वन्द, हिंसा र अशान्ति मच्चाइ राखेको छ भगवानको नाममा । 'कोरडोन् एन्ड सर्च' को माध्यमले होस्, इनटिलिजेन्स एजेन्सिको दुर्दर्शी आँखाले होस् या त झर्का लाग्ने सान्तीका नारा लगाएर होस्, सालीक मोल्न, सालीक ढाल्न र धावा बोल्न मान्छे खप्पिश बनिरहेको छ दिनानुदिन इश्वरको नाममा ।

डोम काफ्ले  
ब्लेयर एथोल

## सुचना

प्रिय पाठकहरू

हामीले यस अंक देखि नेपाली र अंग्रेजि साहित्यिक लेख रचनाहरू समेट्ने प्रयास गरेका छौ । तपाइहरूको पनि कुनै लेख-रचना भए [media@bhutanese.org.au](mailto:media@bhutanese.org.au) मा पठाईदिनु होला । स्थान अभावका कारण छोटो लेख रचना पठाउन अनुरोध छ ।

*Australia is where community organisations have important role to play to help community members adjust with the wider Australian society. We come from environment where politics dominate all spheres of life, it's now time to realise that survival of our identity is crucial and is possible only through organised community activities. We remain apart means, we will be like drop in ocean and dissolve there in no time.*

*Progress, prosperity and sustainability is possible only when we remain together. Additionally, BASA and its leadership has greater obligations to make feel every Bhutanese living in South Australian that it is their organisation too. Every community members must feel ownership of the organisation for realisation of our vision, goals and objectives.*

*Next month is probable date for the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BASA. To strengthen Bhutanese community, keep alive*

## Bhutan Updates

Eastern districts of Lhuentse, Mongar, Pemagatshel, Samdrupjongkhar, Tashigang and Tashiyangtse faced long power shortage early May. The districts turned black between 6:30 am to 11 pm on May 2.

The blackout was caused after the tip of a transmission tower between Nangkor and Nanglam was knocked down when power officials were trying to string a land-line. Nganglam, Zhemgang, Trongsa and Gelephu were saved from going black out with immediate power supply from India.

ཨོཾ

The government hopes that the long awaited Thimphu Techpark will come into operation on schedule by September this year. Government is also planning to organize an international conference on ICT for GNH on November 1, along with the formal opening of the park.

When it starts operation, main building for IT and IT enabled services (ITES), with more than 50,000 square feet of office space and utility services like ATM, travel desk,

shared services and cafeteria will be completed.

ཨོཾ

Bhutan's consumer price index for first quarter of this year recorded highest increase for the first time in a decade.

Urban Bhutanese are paying 10 percent more for goods and services than they were doing 12 months ago. The price is calculated at the wholesale rate of Food Corporation of Bhutan from 22 urban settlements. The retail prices might be even higher.

ཨོཾ

Bhutan continues to face a shortage of Science, Dzongkha and Mathematics teachers. The country has 7000 teachers currently. Even for science subjects, schools are short of Physics and Chemistry teachers.

The country needs additional 80 Dzongkha about 27 Science, Mathematics, Commerce, Arts, Economics and information and communication (IT) teachers along with 222 general subject teachers for community primary schools.

ཨོཾ

Reversing the earlier decision, MPs have agreed for a

live coverage of the National Assembly again. The Assembly session started on May 20.

However, speaker has power to ban such coverage when matters involving national security or sensitive issues being discussed.

The decision followed after some members raised the need to reconsider broadcast of assembly proceedings live on TV during the pre-agenda meeting.

ཨོཾ

To promote Dzongkha, Green Dragon Media is hosting nationwide show where participants will have to translate English sentences into Dzongkha. The organisers say it will also encourage youngsters to speak Dzongkha without mixing up with English.

The show goes live on BBS TV. First phase of program will be conducted in Lhuentse, Mongar, Pemagatshel, Samdrupjongkhar, Trashigang and Trashiyangtse).

The winners from each district will be given a winner's certificate, Nu 5,000 and a Dzongkha dictionary.

## Rupesh gets excellent award

Change in education system, family circumstances or personal life aren't really hindrances for achievers. Rupesh Gautam is one such example from Bhutanese community in South Australia who proved that his talent continue to grow even after migrating to Australia. Rupesh received excellence award from Adelaide Secondary School of English this year when he completed his English improvement course of Grade 10 for new migrants. The school coordinates with Australian Refugee Association (ARA) to provide award for a student who achieves excellence every term. This is the first award any Bhutanese youth in South Australia received any such award. The award carried a cash purse of 100 dollars and a certificate.

The award is given based on overall performances of the student. Rupesh achieved 8/10



in English, 10/10 in science and mathematics to top all students in the school. He also performed well on extra-curricular activities, stayed disciplined and solemn. He is now admitted to Grade 11 in Salisbury High School.

Rupesh has interests in cricket and table tennis though he has participated only few sports activities in the school. Other area of his interest includes arts and painting – the talent he built while in Nepal. He has time to play with

friends, watch Tele, read some books yet prescribes at least two hours daily for his studies. Rupesh says, even while browsing through computer and internet, which he usually does 2-4 hours a day, he cares not to miss the information related to the subject matter of his interests.

Given his talent in Mathematics, Rupesh wishes to build career on this. "For all these years in Australia, I am repeating everything in Maths that I studied back in Nepal. I have learnt nothing new in this subject so far," he says.

Rupesh hopes his English skills will sharply rise as he moves to High School. He has met excellent friends in new school where only six Bhutanese are studying. Rupesh says, the excellence award has given more encouragement for him to devote on studies and wish he achieves better in a new school.

## Know Australian Law: Income Tax Return

In Australia, tax is paid out of money you earn from a job, business or investment to the government.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) collects taxes from individuals and businesses to pay for important community services like hospitals, schools, roads and railways.

If you earn any income in a financial year (between 1 July and 30 June), you must lodge an **Income Tax Return** with the ATO by 31 October of that year, unless other arrangements have been made. As a resident you are subject to Australian law and are generally required to disclose all income received from inside or outside Australia when completing

your income tax return.

You can get free help preparing your tax return if you are a low income earner. This free service is called Tax Help. Through Tax Help Centres, trained volunteers help you complete and lodge your tax return.

Tax Help is available from 1 July through to 31 October each year.

### AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone (including Tax Help) 13 2861  
Website [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

*Source: DIAC Handbook, Beginning a Life in Australia*

**BASA Plans.....****From page 1**

Australian Refugee Association (ARA), which runs the Settlement Grant Program (SGP) in partnership with BASA sponsored and facilitated the planning day.

The formal planning began after Celian Kidega, a trainer at ARA, presented on the need and different models of the strategic planning for the community.

The volunteers having special influence in the community who arrived in Australia lately joined the BASA constitutional body members and provided useful inputs to draw our effective plans for the community in several aspects such as education, employment, health, sports, recreation, entertainment, culture, settlement and such others. The major focus was laid on the self reliance of the community and integration into the mainstream Australian society. The plan will come into effect after Apex Council endorses it.

A short meeting of BASA constitutional bodies also resolved to call for Annual General Meeting (AGM) in second week of July this year for restructuring the constitutional bodies and slightly amend the constitution.

Kevin Liston, a former CEO of ARA working with communities for last 35 years, now senior staff with the Family SA, inspired the participants reflecting the strength of the Bhutanese Australians especially on education, culture and the step taken towards self reliance.

Hari Pokhrel, Kedar Chapagain and Damanta Adhikari supported the event in catering needs.

**Bhutanese celebrate third year....****From page 1**

He added, "As a community we have the strengths and weaknesses as well as virtues and vices. However, the vision of creating a productive and purposeful community will demand us to premise our endeavor on our collective strengths and virtues".

Lt Governor appreciated the progress being made by the Bhutanese community members to settle down in Australia. "Since becoming the member of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, I have seen many communities established themselves in

this state including my own community – the Vietnamese community. But I have to say, I can recall very few, however, that have made such excellent progress in short period. And you the Bhutanese community."

He also appreciated the five year plan charted out by BASA in their efforts to build a strong and vibrant Bhutanese community. "I am sure that the members of the local Bhutanese community have the ability to adapt to maintain social harmony and most important of all to succeed in your new home," he further said.

Similarly, Mr Atkinson said, "Bhutanese community in South Australia is characterised by energy and mission and their outstanding organization to establish a cohesive and strong identity." He mentioned that Bhutanese settlement is the one of the success stories of the state.

The choir sang the song that carried a message about the progress, strength and integration of the Bhutanese community in wider Australian society symbolized as a colourful drop in the ocean. The crowd cheered when they sang together, 'We love Australia'. The dances that followed hit the ground which depicted the Bhutanese-Nepali culture and tradition of entertainment for the community.

The volunteers worked the whole day in the kitchen preparing typical Bhutanese-Nepali cuisines including Datshi. Special chefs from Sagarmatha Nepali Restaurant mentored the Bhutanese volunteers prepare the traditional dishes. The Bhutanese costumes, musical instruments including madal (tom-tom) and other cultural stuffs were staled for exhibition which mostly attracted visitors and guests.

"With partial grants from some service providers and the money collected from community members, BASA was able to organise yet another big event most successfully", said Sushil Niraula, Cultural Desk Coordinator of BASA and coordinator of the Third Annual Day function. Bendigo Bank, Refugee services of Department of Families and Communities and Multicultural SA supported the event.

The Bhutanese Annual Day in South Australia marks the arrival of two Bhutanese families in Australia under Third Country Resettlement programme in 2008.

## BASA gets new SGP grant

Bhutanese Association in South Australia (BASA) has received annual grant for running SGP programme for one more year. With a total of AUD

77,000 BASA will run several programmes helping newly arrived Bhutanese community members settle down well. Details of the approved grants

and programmes will be circulated among community members by next month and will also be covered in detail in our next bulletin.

## Community Notices

### Annual General Meeting

Bhutanese Association in South Australia (BASA) will hold its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) next month. All members are requested to renew their membership to be able to attend the AGM. The date and venue for the AGM will be announced later this month.

All members are requested to send list of issues to be discussed and considered for further action. The AGM will also discuss and endorse the BASA's plan for next five years.

### Bhanu Jayanti

BASA and International Nepali Literary Society (INLS) Australia are jointly celebrating 198th Bhanu Jayanti to remember the contribution of First Nepali language poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya.

The programme will be held at Coglein Community Hall, Adelaide on July 10 from 12:00 noon. All those interested in literature are requested to submit their articles for recitation. Outstanding poems will be awarded.

The top poem will be recommended for international poetry festival organised by International Nepali Literary Society (INLS) Washington, scheduled for July 23. Winner of this international festival will get award of USD 1,000 and certificates. Interested writers are

requested to contact Bikram Adhikari, Sushil Niroula or Indra Adhikari for further details and registration of interest for participation in the programme.

### Volunteer information session

BASA is organising volunteering information session on June 23 between 5:30 – 6:30 at ARA office in Underdale.

All community members interested in volunteering are hereby requested to register their names for the session. Contact Bikram or Sushil for registration.

### Monthly cultural gathering

This is just to remind you all that the Fourth Monthly Cultural Gathering will be hosted on 25/06/2011, Saturday at Coglein Community Hall in Adelaide City.

The program starts at 12.00 pm and will go for one and half hours that includes the art and talent of any of the Bhutanese.

Therefore, please register your interest latest by Thursday, 23/06/2011.

Late comers will not be included in the program.

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