

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Service

Security

Progress

Prosperity



The Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) is an inclusive, non-for-profit organization, which strives to assist the Bhutanese community resettled in South Australia. It was formed in 2009 with the mission to work collectively, in good faith, to provide the community members with the wide ranging services and security, and to help realize all-round progress and prosperity.



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To our community members and stakeholders

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS –KAMAL DAHAL

This report highlights our volunteer work to serve the community in South Australia as well as at national and International level. We sustained and grew our organization through our vibrant movement of community members and well-wishers and we look forward that each of us can do something to make this community a stronger and self-reliable.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS- MR TARA GAUTAM

It is my pleasure to report that Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) financial situation for the 2016– 2017. The team of the Executive carefully developed a budget that allowed us to maintain budget despite of lack of funding. Our thanks go to our funding bodies for without their funding the services provided by BAASA would not be possible.

HIGHLIGHTS

One of our most significant successes was ‘helping community members to propose their family, relatives and friends from the refugee camps to resettle in Australia under Special Humanitarian Program (SHP)’. Our organization was able to help more than 100 families from the community to fill up proposal form, organizing support letter for interest free loan with International Organization for Migration (IOM), applying rental property, conducting community engagement activities and airport reception.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look forward to 2018, the Association will continue to serve our members. Organization will emphasize the importance of individual and encourage community engagement. Attaining positive outcomes for our community members is one of the key goals of our organization. For the period of two years, we ensured that services to community needs by listening and consulting with community members and service providers through community engagement activities.

Kamal Dahal
Chairperson, BAASA

Financial Statements- Mr Tara Gautam

It is my pleasure to report that Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) financial situation for the 2014– 2015. The team of the Executive carefully developed a budget that allowed us to maintain budget despite of lack of funding. Our thanks go to our funding bodies for without their funding the services provided by BAASA would not be possible.

	2015-16	2015-16/17
Revenue		
Account forward	\$4351.7	\$1002.35
Donations	\$3075	\$4800
Grants	\$5000	\$10000
Utensils hire	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trailer hire	\$0.00	\$00
Membership fee	\$1350	\$0.00
payment from Bendigo	\$0	\$1307.12
PA System hire	\$0.00	\$0
Total Revenue	\$13776.7	\$17109.47
Expenses		
Annual Days	\$2745.22	\$6514.12
Depreciation of Catering utensils	\$145.71	\$123.86
Depreciation of Office Furniture	\$142.74	\$121.33
Depreciation of Office Equipment	\$369.11	\$313.74

Depreciation of trolley	\$32.08	\$27.22
Depreciation of PA systems old	\$440.25	\$374.23
Inter State Soccer	\$2266	\$1756
Administration Expenses	\$200	\$327.49
Teej	\$1705	\$1543.7
Insurance	\$1148.85	\$1200
Trailer Expenses	\$56	\$0
Post Box renewal	\$126	\$129
Volunteer program	\$3737.28	\$4094
Lawyer fee	\$450	\$0
Magar community Refund	\$340	00
Total Expenses	\$12774.35	\$15564.31

Settlement Day Report

The Bhutanese community is an emerging and newest community in Australia that began in 2008. Bhutanese Community in South Australia celebrated the 8th Settlement Day on 21st May 2016 at Vietnamese Community Hall, 62 Athol Street, Athol Park SA 5012 and 9th 'Settlement Day' on Saturday, 13 May 2017 at 5 Maxwell Road, Pooraka, Adelaide, South Australia respectively, organised by Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA). This event marked the first arrival of Bhutanese in Adelaide, South Australia under Australian government humanitarian program so that every year this event has been organized by Bhutanese Community in order to remember the 'First Arrival Day' in Australia. This event has become a common platform for showcasing and sharing Bhutanese language, culture and traditions to the wider Australian community and fostered the ethos as well as practice of multiculturalism.

Bhutanese Community in Australia have been successfully integrating and coping regardless of transitional, cultural, social and other challenges being one of the newest communities in Australia. He has highlighted that BAASA has been playing key role to empower newly arrived young people, especially from Bhutanese Refugee background and helping them to explore different pathways to achieve their personal and professional goals. He also stated that BAASA has been liaising between the school entity and the broader community especially where cultural differences are an occurrence and connecting young people to external service providers and assisting young people to establish networking opportunities in the broader community through youth agencies, non-for-profit organisations and other service providers. On behalf of Bhutanese Community in South Australia, he thanked the government of Australia for generosity and giving us place to build our new homes after two decades of miserable life in the refugee camp.

Mr Lal Bahadur Rai
Vice Chairperson
BAASA

Community Development Report

Change has to take place largely through empowerment from the bottom up. Society relies on community development to facilitate this, yet the occupation is not well known. When it is being done well, community development combines various functions: helping people set up groups, supporting forums and networks, and organizing events and activities that enable people to work together across organizational and community boundaries. It actively tackles the divisions, social exclusion and discrimination that deter some people in communities from participating in activities and decision-making. It also works with public authorities and agencies to help them understand and engage with the communities they serve, and facilitates links upwards, downwards and 'horizontally' across communities and agencies.

During the last financial year the achievements of the executive team members have included engagement with individuals and agencies to strengthen and build resilience with our community. This has been achieved through ongoing provision of community development group programs, training of another group of bicultural facilitators, facilitation of successful community events to enhance understanding community issues, conducting community awareness and education sessions and continuing to be the lead agency for a network of service providers in South Australia. The achievements of the last two years show the wide range of ways the team work and the community building that have accomplished.

Volunteer Coordinator Report

Volunteering is the ultimate expression of human relationships – people acting on behalf of their communities, because of a desire to contribute and help. As a result, volunteers tend to be highly engaged and committed to the outcomes of their work. A person engaged in volunteering benefits from increased self-confidence in their power as an individual to influence change and inspire others. They act as a bridge between organizations and the communities they aim to serve and can inspire change in behavior and attitude in a wider group. They encourage the collective responsibility that enables solid outcomes, such as shared skills or changed practices, to be sustained. The volunteer-community relationship is about collaboration and working together to develop solutions, meaning that change comes from the grassroots and is community owned.

I joined the BAASA as Volunteer Coordinator and have enjoyed my role in an organization that actively supports its volunteers. Volunteer work is recognized as an important source of advocacy and expressing community concern and making a social contribution. We have engaged or reengaged 100 volunteers to provide events support, friendship and social support directly to community. Our volunteers have been active in providing voluntary support to community development events and activities and assisting with the service that BAASA provides. Community people engage in volunteer work to achieve a positive result for both the community and themselves. I thank all the volunteers and soccer teams for their help and contribution to make organizational events such as Annual Day, Interstate Soccer Carnival, Refugee Week, etc. a great success.

Mohan P Bhattarai

Volunteer Coordinator

BAASA

Cultural Activities and Events Report

BAASA organized several events that gave opportunities for Bhutanese community to celebrate their cultural moments. BAASA, enshrined in its constitution and encouraged by the Australian government policy, has devoted good amount of time in preservation of language and culture. Bhutanese women group jubilantly celebrated Teej 2016/2017– biggest festival of women. In 2016, Teej festival was celebrated at Khmer Buddhist Hall, 376-386 Salisbury Highway, Parafield Gardens SA 5107, and in 2017, Teej festival was celebrated in Golden Grove Recreation Centre. Similarly, BAASA has been organizing programs to celebrate Dashain in community gathering. The culture has remained continued since its inception in 2009. Young and old joined all the Dashain programs held so far – where youngsters receive tika and blessings from senior members of the community. Similarly, BAASA organized other major festival Tihar in 2016/2017. Tihar, popularly called the festival of lights, had not been observed well in the past years due to fewer number of community members and feelings of loneliness in a new country. Two decades in Nepal passed without any glimpses of celebrating festivals. It was only after arriving in Australia that Bhutanese opened their heart to celebrate the festivals. From the beautiful decorations and dances to the menu it was obvious to all who attended put great time and effort into making this community event a big success.

Sports and Recreation

Bhutanese people are those who have resettled in Australia under Australian Humanitarian program, after spending about two decades in refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Of about five thousand people who are resettled in Australia, more than 2500 are in Adelaide and live mainly in the northern suburbs. Other places of resettlement are Sydney and Albury in New South Wales, Melbourne and Wodonga in Victoria, Hobart and Launceston in Tasmania, Brisbane and Cairns in Queensland and Darwin in Northern Territory. Though the Bhutanese have been resettling since 2008 in different towns and cities of Australia, the Inter State Soccer Carnival, started in 2012 under the initiation of Bhutanese community of Brisbane, is the only interstate activities or competition held between us. The first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth events were held in Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Albury, Tasmania and Cairns in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The Carnival gave an opportunity for Bhutanese youths to connect with others from around our country and represent our state of South Australia. It provided an opportunity to learn best practice in community development and sporting clubs as

well as promoting teamwork, state and city pride, and fun and fitness. The skills gained by Bhutanese youth attending the Interstate Soccer Carnival, has assisted BAASA in expanding its Bhutanese soccer program within South Australia and increasing its engagement with the broader Australian community. The whole essence was to promote integration, interaction and bringing people together through sports. In the past two years, the Bhutanese soccer teams have played a major role in transformation of Bhutanese youths from unproductive to productive youths with a valuable structure of Interstate Youth Soccer Carnival. The carnival empowered Bhutanese youths by providing soccer skills that promotes positive values, healthy habits, and education through soccer games resulting in real life power on and off the playground.

We strived to create an atmosphere of fun, equality, fairness and fair play. We endeavoured to make our youth appreciate the game of soccer and taught them life skills such as team work, commitment, dedication, personal achievement and physical fitness. We have fostered an atmosphere of development for all players, coaches, referees and administrators so that they may achieve their highest potential based on their own skill and desire.



COMMUNITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

A Report by: Coordinator – Jai Bhandari

Community is a group of people living in the same place and sharing a characteristic in common while a place where people from a particular neighborhood can meet for social events, education classes or recreational activities.

In my knowledge, the concept of 'Community Centre Development' propounded among the innocent hearts of Bhutanese Elderly population since 2012 when the

same population was struggling to find a proper place (room/hall) to run Nepali language classes under the name 'Bhutanese Ethnic School'.

Since 2014, the Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) under the chairmanship of Mr. Kamal Dahal provided more rigor and this concept started gaining a bit of momentum among the community members. Several formal as well as informal discussions were made to finalize and materialize the concept to give it a formal shape with proper vision and mission.

The Executive Committee meeting of BAASA on 17th January 2016 formally appointed me and Ms Tika Katel as Community Infrastructure Development Coordinators. After this, either because of individual job commitments and lack of time or due to the lack of knowledge and resources, there was a long silence regarding the Community Centre Development talks till November 2016.

Finally, the first meeting about CCD was held on 10th January 2017 that discussed the Aims and Objectives, Community Involvement and participation, and Community Awareness on the essence of Community Centre.

Within 2017, other three formal meetings were conducted. The outcome of these meetings and their implications are as bulleted below with dates:

13/03/2017: Second CCD Meeting came up with the followings:

- Total Attendees = 11
- BAASA to liaise and seek support from the government of South Australia, NGOs, Stakeholders and service providers.
- Buy an old established property, renovate it and sell with profits to buy new established centre or land to build a new centre
- South Australian Government is ready to provide grant for renovation
- Importance of community involvement and participation and it is must
- BAASA Executive members in collaboration with coordinators to develop policy, procedure, vision and mission of the project (yet to be completed)
- Voluntary investment from the community
- The following people expressed their commitments for donation:

1) Mrs. Bishnu Maya Dahal	\$1000
2) Mrs. Dhan Maya Basnet	\$1000
3) Mr. Kul Rai	\$1000
4) Mr. Kamal Dahal	\$2000
5) Mrs. Mon Maya Niroula	\$1000
6) Mr. Bhim Karki	\$1000
7) Mr. Bal Bahadur Bista	\$1040
8) Mr. Nar Bahadur Dahal	\$1000
9) Mr. Mohan Sunuwar	\$1000
10) Mr. Mohan P. Bhattarai	\$5000
11) Mr. Ambika Dulal	\$5000

17/04/2017: Third CCD meeting held at St. John Church further discussed onto the agendas of previous meeting.

24/04/2017: A week after the 3rd meeting, the chairperson of BAASA Mr. Kamal Dahal shared the structure and committee rules for CCD for other members to make some more addition with their ideas and give it a finish. No response from any members has been noted.

16/07/2017: The fourth CCD Meeting came up with the followings:

- A letter of authorization was disbursed among the members thereby providing them the authority to flourish the concept of community Centre and collect family/personal data to bring out the estimated number of households and population.
- Addition of new members kept open
- Different strategies for communication and correspondence
- Bank account details was distributed among the community members
- First donor for the cause, Mrs. Bishnu Maya Dahal donated \$500.00

03/08/2017: I followed up via email if the project proposal was completed. No response from any member has been noted.

Volunteering for a common cause is rewarding on one hand and frustrating as well as challenging on the other hand. Time commitment is very important and I haven't been able to commit much time.

Finally, I would like to share my opinion in a single sentence: Love Humankind to Love God and Serve Humankind to Serve God.