



NAMASTE



Issue 5

March 2011

BASA Receives More Grants

Bhutanese Association in South Australia (BASA) has received various grants this season.

BASA received \$6340 for purchase of Office Furniture and IT Equipments. The funding is for purchase of a desktop, a laptop, two desks, one projector, one photo copy-print-scan-fax machine and a filing cabinet.

Similarly, grant of \$1800 is spent for purchasing utensils. Community members can hire the utensils whenever they have functions at home such as marriage, rituals paying nominal fees. Click here to find more details.

Both the grants were received from Community Benefit SA Round 29 & 30 Respectively.

With \$300 support from Sexual Health Information Networking and Education (SHineSA), 25 young Bhutanese girls received training on sexual health, puberty and other health issues concerning to young girls. Gauri Giri and Devika Adhikari facilitated the training.

BASA has also purchased PA System to be used



for smaller community functions. MYSA contributed \$1000, Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) \$400 and Lutheran Community Care (LCC) \$400 and further \$600 was contributed through ARA-BASA SGP project for purchase of the equipments. The sound sets can be hired by any one for community or personal use. Nominal fees will be charged for hire.

For more information on how to hire utensils & PA System please contact our SGP workers.

Swimming Lessons



Marion Outdoor Pool user Group is organising free swimming lesson for Bhutanese and other new arrivals in Adelaide since February 20.

These lessons will be held at the Marion Outdoor swimming centre, Corner Oaklands Rd and Hendrie Sts, ParkHolme (BUS 248, STOP 22) every Sunday afternoon starting at for an hour and half. The partici-

pants will have freedom to swim around after the training session.

Over 35 Bhutanese, young and old, are participating the training facilitated by Glenda Spencer and two other volunteers. The training session is free of cost. The participants have to bear entry fee for the swimming pool.

The training will continue for six weeks. Anyone willing to join the training is welcomed to join the training session. Similar training session was organised to Bhutanese community members two years ago as well. The program is linked through Australian Refugee Association.

For more information on this program please contact our SGP workers.

Insurance Information Session

BASA under SGP project organised information session on 'insurance in Australia' for the Bhutanese community members on February 25.

The session was attended by over 30 Bhutanese held at Australian Refugee Association (ARA) office premises. The primary focus of the community members was to learn more about car insurance, house insurance and health insurance though several other kinds of insurances available in Australia were discussed including income protection, content insurance, life insurance, travel insurance, sickness insurance, business insurance and public liability insurance.

Insurance broker Wade Stirling of Webster Hyde Heath Insurance Brokers facilitated the information session coordinated by Sushil Niroula and Bikram Adhikari.

Placement at BASA

Sangita Upreti, a student doing Community Service at TAFE SA (Port Adelaide) has completed her placement, prescribed by her course, at BASA office.

She is now volunteering to support various

activities run by BASA in association with ARA.

Cultural Gathering

BASA is holding monthly cultural gathering from February for Bhutanese community members. The gathering is held last Saturday of every month.

The gathering has the objective of encouraging young people to get involved in cultural activities to keep Bhutanese culture alive. Further, the gathering aims to identify young talents in dance, singing and using musical instruments. All those interested are free to join the gathering.

This is part of the BASA's preparation for celebrating third annual day on May 13 with grand festivities. The annual day will see cultural shows, food and drinks and presentation on achievements made and problems faced by the Bhutanese community while settling in Australia.

First phase of preparation for the grand celebration has begun. Practice for cultural show has started. Identifying guests for the show and finding venue for the function is underway.

Around Australia and New Zealand

Victoria

The newly formed Thunder Dragon Football Club of many Bhutanese in Melbourne has received a fair-play team award in its debut match on February 20 in Melbourne. The club has won the hearts of spectators but has sustained the community won the fair-play team award in minutes of the game and fall victim of one goal avoiding embarrassment to Yeti Blue team.

The TWGG Cup 9-A-Side Interstate Tournament was organised by Yeti Soccer Club where 10 teams from Darwin, 2 from Sydney and 6 from Melbourne participated. The Bhutanese team was coordinated and prepared under the guidance of BCA Sports Coordinator Devi Ghimire, supported by Bhuwani Rai as captain. The team uniform was sponsored with the funding from AMES, a statutory arm of the Victorian government responsible for resettling newly arrived

tournament, the smooth play and refugees, and football and other fairness has not only surprised logistics from Football Federation of Victoria. Khem Dahal from the Bhutanese community won the kicking award and was awarded a T-shirt signed by the artists of Cobweb Bands- a rock band of Nepal who are currently in Melbourne and were present to witness the match. The Bhutanese team also played another tournament on March 19 organised by Ghurkha Nepalese Community of Victoria. (*Parsu Luita*)

Contd on next page

Acharya families in Melbourne held Puran, the Hindu rituals that run for seven days, from March 5. This is the second of such rituals organised by Bhutanese in Australia. The first Puran was held in Launceston, Tasmania, last year. The three-member priest team of the Puran was led by Khagendra Neupane, a resident of Adelaide. Acharya families also conducted Pitresti – a ritual to pray the ancestors. *(KN Acharya)*

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Queensland

Bhutanese are witnessing, from the nearest sphere of natural calamities here in Australia, especially those who are relocated around Queensland, Brisbane and Victoria and the freshest of which is the quake in the neighbouring New Zealand.

Around 200 Bhutanese individuals are relocated around Cairns, Queensland as a part of humanitarian settlement programme. The first flock of Bhutanese in Cairns was brought in the first quarter of 2009. Around 140 Bhutanese were also among the thirty thousand residents evacuated for safety in about 8 evacuation centres set up in shopping centres, schools and university. Around sixty Bhutanese individuals managed safety at homes. No Bhutanese were injured. There are recovering from the trauma.

The category 5 cyclone, which hit the city of Cairns and the neighbouring cities in the first week of February, brought about disadvantaging impacts in structures, environment, human settlement and agriculture. No human casualties were reported.

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On March 12, Bhutanese community in Cairns in active participation of young members of the community organised cultural programme to welcome National Executive Director of Caritas Nepal, Fr Silas Bogati. Fr Bogati, travelling to Cairns from Sydney on March 11, attended cultural show on the following day and a meeting with regional council of Cairns hosted by Migrant Settlement Service. The meeting focused on the ongoing

situation of Bhutanese resettlement programme in Cairns, the challenges ahead for the emerging community and share the success stories. *(PrahlaD Dahal)*

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The devastating earthquake of 6.3 magnitude that hit the city of Christchurch, New Zealand on February 22 has made some impacts on Bhutanese resettled in the city. There are around 243 Bhutanese from 60 families residing within the range of 5 km from the city.

According to a Bhutanese in Christchurch, many of them have their chimney, sewage, doors and windows damaged with the shocks of the quake. Though there was no casualty reported from the community, they survived many aftershocks time and again with great fear and trauma. He claimed that he had witnessed the collapse of the buildings and structures live.

Along with the natives, they were being transferred to welfare centre in Burnside High School. They were helped by Work and Income NZ and Red Cross NZ with the temporary accommodation, food voucher, petrol voucher, water and other basic needs. Also Civil Defence managed to organise travel and exit support for those who wished to move to another for safety. With this support, 55 Bhutanese individuals managed to go to Auckland (in North Island) where they were provided with lodging, clothing and groceries support.

Also Refugee Services is organising temporary accommodation for other families. On March 7, 79 individuals of 18 families were transferred to Dunedin, a city further south in the South Island which is 7 hours drive from the city of Christchurch. Other supporting agencies are still working out to shift the remaining ones to the other cities possibly for safety and bring them back to the normalcy. *(Devi Pokhrel with the help of Shaha Dev Chhetri in Christchurch)*

Tasmania

Australian Ambassador to Nepal Susan Grace met the Bhutanese community members in Hobart, Tasmania, on February 12.

During the meeting that lasted almost for two hours, Bhutanese shared their experiences of being in the new land. They expressed their joys of getting resettled in Australia.

Krishna Thapa informed the envoy that 510 hours of English classes for resettling Bhutanese is not sufficient for them to learn the language and requested for extra hours. The envoy has assured them that she would discuss the matter with the higher authority.

(Khadga Thapa)



Sydney

Druk FC Boys soccer team of ABA Sydney played a friendly match with Tibetan Boys on February 19 at Beacon Hills. Tibetan Boys led the game with three goals on first half in return for one score by Bhutanese. The second half of the game turned amazing when Bhutanese team scored six goals while Tibetans scored only one.

The scorers for Druk FC were Dillip Poudel (2), Krishna Gautam (2), Damber Dhungyel (2) and Govind Gautam (1). Both the teams enjoyed BBQ managed by the Tibetan community after the game.

The two teams will play another friendly match in the first week of April at Werrington football ground.

(Damber Dhungel)



ABA Sydney organised a one-day training on Team Work and Communication for its Executive Committee members as per the decision to focus on three major areas of works during 2011 - team work, communication and capacity building.

The training held on January 29 was a joint initiative of ABA, Breakthru Solutions and Sydwest Blacktown, facilitated by Di Edwards, Manager of Breakthru and Megan Boshell.

Beside prescribed subject matter, volunteering for community work as well as roles and responsibilities of executive committee members was briefly covered during the training. The training concluded with a traditional Bhutanese-Nepali lunch. *(Bishnu Dhungel)*



ABA Sydney celebrated first Annual Sports Day on December 25 Werrington soccer field. People from all age groups participated in the activities. The function attracted around 150 people.

The event was funded by Penrith City Council. The sports events included were Volleyball, chocolate race for kids, balloon bursting for early teen agers, spoon race, musical chair, cock fight for senior boys, senior girls and adult male, athletics, mixed relay race, soccer for middle-aged boys and girls and tug of wars.

Some of the prizes and trophies were sponsored by Peter Law, a senior management staff from Telstra.

(Parshu Acharya)



ABA organised organised picnic for youths in Sydney on January 30 at Bicentennial Park, Rozelle Bay, Sydney.

Beautiful clear sky, cascading sunshine, cool sea breeze and musical sound of the waves lapping against the beach welcomed all the picnickers. The golden sand of the beach, naturally carved beachside stones, boats and unprecedented design of bridge made youths posing and staging for pictures as soon as they got to the spot.

Green blanket like grass on the shade of trees, view of beautiful fishes on a nearby river, close to a big sporting field and most importantly easy excess to BBQ made this the instant choice as picnic sports.

After an hour or so of playing games, drinks were served. This was followed by an Antaksheri in three different languages - Nepali, Hindi and English.

(Parshu Acharya)

Volunteering

After a short halt, Bhutanese refugees have again started arriving Adelaide from early this month. The population of the community is likely to rise sharply in the next few months. They are coming in bigger number.

Increase in number of arrival means, the community is in need of more volunteers. It's only we who can guide these new people. While offering to work for this selfless service, we might want to recall our initial days when things were hazy, difficult and sometimes unmanageable. These new people need more guidance that what we had sought.

Volunteering is not only helping our own people but we are building our career as well. Volunteering is purely motivational and your conviction to lend a hand to one who is willing to build a new life. Also, getting job in Australia starts here.

Lets take short break off our works, studies and assist our people and help them settle here worriless.

Bhutan Updates

School principle of Phajoding Lower Secondary School and secretary general of Phuntsholing Women Association Dechen Wangmo, 48, has been sentenced for 15 years of jail term on charges of treason for her link with Narad Mani Adhikari of Druk National Congress (Democratic).

The Phuentsholing court's judge Sonam Tshering pass the verdict. She was arrested in October.

According to reports received, she sent several Bhutanese girls overseas through Adhikari. A candidate of PDP during the first parliamentary election, Wangmo has also been charged of sending her son to marry a girl, Sonam Choden, in refugee camp in order to get US visa.

Bhutanese law state that any act to be considered an act of treason should have a subversive act and that subversive act which creates requirements like a rebellious act with the known enemy of Bhutan, a revolutionary act or behaviour culminating into and including destruction of national properties, threat to national security.

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The judiciary in Bhutan has ordered the government to withdraw the tax it raised last year on import of vehicles. In a recent verdict, both High Court and Supreme Court said decision of the government to increase tax without consulting parliament is against constitution.

After the court order, the government said over taxed money will be returned.

The court also clarified that the government must present budget to upper house National Council for discussion. For last three years, the government bypassed upper house while endorsing budget.

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Four policemen were severely injured in an ambush at Patabari in Sarbhang on February 19 midnight. The security personnel were attacked while returning from village.

More than 47 rounds of bullets were shot at them from the distance of two meters from the road by 20 men in camouflage dress. The vehicle's tyres have been burnt and glasses broken. Policemen sustained bullet

wounds on their lower abdomens and are referred to the National Referral Hospital in Thimphu.

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Bhutan on January 21 held local election in four municipalities (Thromde) - Thimphu, Phuntsholing, Gelegphug and Samdrup Jongkhar. The elected people are:

Thimphu Mayor: Kinley Dorji; **Tshogpa:** Ugyen Penjor, Ugyen, Kungen Yonten, Kinley, Namgye Tshering; **Gelegphug Mayor:** Namgay; **Tshogpa:** Karchung, Lok Bahadur Chhetri, Sithar Dorjee, Chencho, Gyaltsen, Krishna Prasad Sharma; **Phuntsholing Mayor:** Tshgeten Dorji; **Tshogpa:** Karma Chen, Krishna Bdr Tamang, Ganesh Rai, Nar Bahadur Rai, Sharmila Limbu; **S/ Jongkhar Mayor:** Karma Sherab; **Tshogpa:** Thogyal, Norbu Wangdi, Sonam Lhamo, Ugyen Dorji, Ugyen Peljor, Jigme Wangchuk, Tashi Tobgyel

Elections for 2 Tshogpa seats in Thimphu, 2 each in Gelegphu and Phuntsholing and 1 seat in S/ Jongkhar are yet to be held. They had no candidates during the January 21 elections.

A Journey

By Indra Rizal, Perth

Me and my family have been resettled in Perth, Western, Australia. We came to Australia on February 4, 2009. After sometime, we went to Cairns as it seemed apparently difficult for parents to stay in Perth as no Bhutanese refugees were resettled. On March 8 of the same year, we boarded a plane for Cairns. Since then, my parents are happily living there with two sons and one daughter. We also lived in Cairns for 10 months where we received beloved daughter Joy. As time went on, I found the situation extremely difficult to have any skill development facility. As I am visually challenged, Cairns did not have any training facility for me to build a career suitable to my interest. After analysing the situation, I decided to come back to Perth to take some kind of training at the Association for the Blind of Western Australia. Since March, 2 2010, we have been living in Perth renting a

two-bedroom apartment very close to public facility as well as the Association for the Blind of WA.

Under the Assistance of the Training and Workforce Development of the Government of Western Australia, I did Certificate I in IT last year. At present, I am studying Certificate III in Business Studies at the same institution. I do all the assignments and study on the computer using JAWS, (Job Access With Speech) that was given to me by the grant aid program of the Lottery West. Also, I have been provided with a mobile phone with speech and a KNFB reader to undertake basic reading and to use internet on the phone. On one hand, I am pleased to be here in Perth, but there are no Bhutanese refugee mates, relatives and well-wishers.

My wife is quite frustrated as she is desperately unable to find a good driving school for her driving lessons. We even have to struggle from financial

point of view as the rental price is extremely high here.

We have no friends; no relatives and no volunteers to assist us in our real need. We love to stay with the society and want to utilize all the available opportunities for enhanced career. When we fall sick, we have to go to Royal Perth Hospital on our own. When I am in real need of somebody, I ring an Iranian guy for assistance and he does that for me. Otherwise, we have to manage our affairs by ourselves. There are no Bhutanese resettled here yet and we don't know what will unfold in future. So, there is no logic of forming a community. I don't have any special news to share but my eye operation did not become successful as there is no significant improvement in vision. We did not celebrate Bhai Tika but were able to have Dassain Tika from the hands of a couple from Nepal.

गीत मेरो*गंगा अधिकारी*

संझनामा टोलाउदा, बेहोसीमा कराउदा
साथदिनु तिमी मलाई, आँधीबेरी आइदिदा ।
दोबाटोमा अल्मलिदा, अन्धकारमा रुमलिदा
हात दिनु तिमी मलाई, अन्योलमा अताल्लिदा ॥

काम गर्ने जोस आउँदा, जीउँछु भन्ने आशा छाउँदा
आँट दिनु तिमी मलाई, पाईला अघि बड्न खोज्दा ।
लड्दै-पड्दै हिड्न खोज्दा, चौतारीमा थकाई मादा
साथमा हुनु तिमी मेरो, सफलताले ओठ चुम्दा ॥
संझनामा टोलाउदा, बेहोसीमा कराउदा
साथदिनु तिमी मलाई, आँधीबेरी आइदिदा ।

एकलोपनमा हराउँदा, साथ खोज्दै भौँतारिदा
नजीक आई बसिदिनु, सपनीमा भेट्न खोज्दा ।
साँझपख जून हेर्दा, अँधेरीमा एकलै कुर्दा
हात मेरो थामी दिनु, जीवन जीउने साथी रोज्दा ॥
संझनामा टोलाउदा, बेहोसीमा कराउदा
साथदिनु तिमी मलाई, आँधीबेरी आइदिदा ।

प्रिय पाठकहरू

हामीले यस अंक देखि नेपाली र अंग्रेजि साहित्यिक लेख रचनाहरू समेट्ने प्रयास गरेका छौं । तपाइहरूको पनि कुनै लेख-रचना भए

media@bhutanese.org.au मा पठाईदिनु होला । स्थान अभावका कारण छोटो लेख रचना पठाउन अनुरोध छ ।

Fuse Driving – producing new drivers

If you are a new immigrant to Australia, driving is, in most cases, a pre-requisite for getting a job. Learning to drive is not only intellectually challenging but financially too. In your endeavour to get an Australian license, Baptist Care is ready to help. Since their project Fuse Driving began in 2005, more than 280 people have benefitted of which 30 are Bhutanese (this year only). Most of the beneficiaries aged 20-30 years received support from Baptist Care to obtain their Learner's Permit and/or Provisional License.

The number of people lesson has grown sharply. Leader of Refugee Services have not be able to provide due to limitation of their Care receives 10-30 applica- driving lessons. Hanna said, quate applications from Bur- communities. Heaps of appli- fice are from Bhutanese and strategy is to make balance and gender. Unlike in past



has not been able to monitor the progress of each person receiving their support, primarily due to large number yet they call Australian School of Driving, with whom they have contract to provide driving lessons, regularly to update on general trend on how students are doing. Hanna regrets for not being able to support all those applying due to budget constraints. She has an economic yet excellent plan in longer run to find volunteers from each community who have full license to help learners with driving lesson on vehicles and petrol managed by the Baptist Care.

Hanna offered thanks to DIAC for their generous support and expects to work together even after the current project ends this July.

seeking support for driving Hanna Browne, Team (Baptist Care) says, they support to all who applied budget. Each week, Baptist tions seeking support for they have not received ade- mense and Middle Eastern cations piled up in their of- African communities. Their of all refugee communities years, Fuse Driving school

Learn Laws : Australian Consumer Law

From 1 January 2011, all Australian consumers will have the same rights under the Australian Consumer Law, whether they shop at home, on the phone or online. By knowing your rights you can make informed choices and demand quality products and services.

Businesses must not make false, misleading or deceptive claims about a product or service. You are entitled not to be harassed or coerced by any retailer, service provider or their agent when purchasing from your home, on the phone or online.

If you are approached at home

or on the phone, you are not obliged to buy goods or services that you did not ask for. Beware of possible scams; visit www.scamwatch.gov.au.

At home or on the phone, you are entitled to know who you're dealing with and what your rights are. You are entitled to see the total price, inclusive of any additional fees, charges or taxes. You are entitled to receive a standard form consumer contract that has no unfair terms. You have extra rights for unsolicited sales made at home, over the phone or online. All products must be safe, durable, free from

defects, fit for purpose, acceptable in appearance, match its description and match any sample or demonstration model. Services performed in your home must be delivered with care and skill. Businesses must honour all guarantees, including express and extended warranties.

South Australia

The Bhutanese Community in South Australia contributed AU\$ 1925 to flood victims of Queensland.

According to community worker Sushil Niroula, who coordinated the donation drive, the money has been sent to the government trust for flood victims through Bendigo Bank.

A statement issued by the Bhutanese Association in South Australia (BASA) said, "We the members of Bhutanese Community in South Australia are deeply moved by the tragedy that has been brought about by the flood and cyclone in your beautiful state of Queensland."

It also said the community was immensely saddened by lose of human life and properties caused by the disaster. "We have been observing your able and wise leadership in this most telling hour of tragedy. With your time tasted stewardship, the people of Queensland will confidently march on the path of rebuilding and recovery," it added.

Beni Maya Rai (80): My livelihood is being supported by Australians. It is more than being generous to support them with whatever amount we have saved at this time of urgent need. We owe them.

R. K. Ghaley (65) : Everyone needs support during emergencies caused by natural disaster. This is humanitarian support. I wish to support anyone, anywhere, even in Bhutan, when one is in need.

Sohan Niroula (4): I donated because flood swept away everything that people have.

Jenesa Gazmere (17): So much of properties these people owned were washed by the flood. Seeing their pathetic condition, I internally felt need to help them."

Community Notice

Volunteer workshop

BASA in coordination with ARA is organising a workshop for those interested in volunteering. The workshop will be held on March 29 between 5:30 and 6:30 at ARA office 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale.

Anyone interested to do volunteering is requested to contact the SGP workers Bikram Adhikari and Sushil Niroula.

Annual Day celebration

BASA is celebrating annual day on May 13. The annual day will see cultural shows, food and drinks and presentation on achievements made and problems faced by the Bhutanese community.

Anyone interested in participating in the function is requested to contact the even coordinator Sushil Niroula.

Senior Programs

Dear Bhutanese Seniors

I would like to invite you all to attend "Bhutanese Senior Program" run by The City of Salisbury and Bhutanese

Association in South Australia (BASA) which will commence from 3rd March 2011.

We will be meeting every Thursday at the Anglican Church at 10:00 am, Church Street, City of Salisbury. We have focused on different activities during this program which include meditation, mantras and yoga, out-going-visiting Hindu temples, celebrations of Hindu festivities, social games like BAG CHAL, Cards Playing, and singing- Sangini dance- for women and acting dance for men. Exciting activities like information sessions- guest speakers' presentation, Bhutanese News and papers reading and community voice.

This will give you to increase an opportunity for physical and recreational activities that promote social connectedness and wellbeing.

Thank you for your consideration.

With Regards

Kamal Dahal,
Family Desk,
BASA