

BHUTANESE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (BAASA)



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Service Security Progress Prosperity



PO Box 265, Salisbury SA 5108

W: www.bhutanese.org.au

E: basa@bhutanese.org.au



Message from the Chairperson

Impressive accomplishments and significant changes and the achievements made by Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia Inc. (BAASA) 2014-2015 was year of great progress for Bhutanese Community. One of our most significant success 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 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.

The achievements of 2014 and 2015 were made possible by the excellent leadership dedication of all executives, volunteers and community members. I appreciate to the dedication and efforts that all executives put towards community development. I was fortunate to lead this vibrant organization for two years term period. As we look forward to 2016, the Association will continue to serve our members. Organization will emphasise 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 through community engagement activities.

May I say a big THANK YOU to everybody involved with BAASA, Management, Staff and volunteers, it is your untiring work that makes this organisation so unique. If we can count on your support for next year, we can only be better.

Kamal Dahal, Chairperson, BAASA

Message from Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Member for Ramsay



Congratulations to the Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) on your fifth Annual General Meeting. I am a proud to be a friend of BAASA and would like to acknowledge the wonderful work that BAASA does for resettled Bhutanese families in South Australia and the broader South Australian community.

Every year BAASA increases its range of activities and services. From a program to greet and support new arrivals to our state, a youth soccer program, an ethnic school and a radio show as well as fundraising activities and regular social, religious and community events, BAASA works all year round to assist the Bhutanese community in South Australia to progress and prosper.

In the past year I have attended the ethnic school grand cultural festival, the annual Bhutanese community dinner, the 7th settlement day of the Bhutanese community, a celebration of Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement at John Harvey Gallery and a community health project, just to name a few events organised by BAASA.

The terrible bushfires that ravaged our state at the beginning of 2015 were a reminder of how vulnerable we can all be. I was very moved that one of the first organisations reaching out to assist and support affected South Australians was BAASA. Congratulations on another successful year and I look forward to working with you in 2016.

Hon Zoe Bettison MP,
Member for Ramsay



Introduction

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 wide ranging services and security, and to help realize all-round progress and prosperity. It also works tirelessly to promote and develop cross cultural bonding and good relationships with the broader Australian community and institutions, and participates in environmental conservation activities.

Mission Statement/Objectives

- To work collectively, in good faith, to provide the members with wide ranging services and security, and to help realize all-round progress and prosperity.
- To protect, promote and preserve diverse culture, language and heritage prevalent in the community and to strive for world peace.
- To inculcate better socio-cultural, ethical, pluralistic and democratic values; sense of responsibility and accountability and civic sense in children, youth and adult members.
- To enhance better understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, amity and unity amongst members of the community.
- To promote and develop cross cultural bonding and good relationships with the broader Australian communities and institutions, and participate in environmental conservation activities.
- 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.
- To promote and facilitate the settlement of Bhutanese in South Australia and continuously support their transition and integration in the mainstream Australian society.

Executive Board 2014-2015

Kamal Dahal	Chairperson
Lal Bahadur Rai	Vice Chairperson
Jai Narayan Bhandari	General Secretary
Amber Poudel	Treasurer
Tika Katel	Public Officer

Extended Executives 2014-2015

Chitra Gautam	Housing Coordinator
Laxmi Dahal	Press and Publicity
Tilchand Sapkota	Sports and Recreation Coordinator
Mohan Prasad Bhattarai	Volunteer Coordinator
Hari Pokhrel	Assets Coordinator

Members of Advisory Board

Bhabi Lal Shankar	Birkha Gurung	Buddha Khatiwods
Chitra Gautam	Gauri Niroula	Gopal Ghimeray
Harki Maya Biswa	Jogen Gazmer	Laxman Yogi
Nar Bahadur Magar	Pabitra Dahal	SanMan Kafley

Suren Ghaley	Sushil Pokhrel	T. B. Rai
Amrita Magar	Beda Bista	Bhim Bahadur Magar
Chandra Rai	Deepak Sunar	Dhanrup Biswakarma
Dilip Majhi	Kalu Singh Subba	L.B.Yogi
Lila Subedi	Madhu Gurung	Menuka Yogi
Prem Gurung	Ram Maya Majhi	SitaDulal
Som Maya Subba	Sovitman Poudel	Yoga Maya Bhattarai

Ombudspersons

Avishek Gazmere	Ambika Prasad Dulal	Bhanu Adhikari
Dom Nath Kafley	Ichha Poudel	Rup Kumar Ghaley

Club of Former Chairpersons

Jogen Gazmere	Suren Ghaley
---------------	--------------

This is the third Annual report by Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) presented at the Third Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2015 in Adelaide. The report comprises details of activities carried out between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2015.

Acknowledgement

Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australian (BAASA) acknowledges the support and work done by its volunteers and community members through the years. BAASA would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support provided by all levels of government, service providers, community organizations and individuals. Without this support our services and programs would not be as successful.

DIBP	DSS	DCSI
City of Salisbury	City of Marion	City of Playford

Family SA

Anglicare SA

Club One

Port Adelaide Enfield Council

HomeStart Finance

Department of Premiere and Cabinet

ABC1 News Channel

Australian Refugee Association

Migrant Resource Centre

International Organotin for Migration

Radio Pahichan

Uniting Communities Wesley

Bhutanese Seniors

Wakefield Electoral Division

Bhutanese Ethnic School

Electoral District of Ramsay

Punya Foundation

Port Adelaide Electoral Division

BHUMMATS



Tejj Festival



Soccer Team



Special Humanitarian Program

On 1 March 2014, Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australian (BAASA) initiated and held an information as well as interaction session between the Bhutanese in Adelaide and official from the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) from Canberra, Mr. Ibrahim Bangoura. More than 300 people attended the session conducted on Saturday (1 March) in Salisbury, the biggest settlement area of the Bhutanese community in South Australia. Accredited interpreter Mr. Avishek Gazmere mediated the session for translation into Nepali.

Participants primarily inquired about the processes involved in the sponsoring, time needed, costs and other legal aspects. The Australian government has announced that hereafter exiled Bhutanese will be resettled under Special Humanitarian Program only, where sponsor is required and plays the main role. Mr. Ibrahim informed participants that people willing to come to Australia must bear the cost of flight from Kathmandu to their destination in Australia while the Australian government has agreed to bear the costs incurred for health check-up in camps, travel to Kathmandu, food and lodging in Kathmandu and IOM miscellaneous expenses, thus bringing down the costs for the refugees. Refugees have to provide three documents during the process:

- Grant notification letter
- An application form for loan by the proposer
- A letter from community organisation standing as guarantor for the loan and community support letter

BAASA chairperson, Mr. Kamal Dahal informed participants that BAASA is ready to provide such guarantee and support letter. IOM committed to provide interests free loan for families to meet expenses of travel from Nepal to Australia. It was estimated to be around AUD 770

per head but differs with the seasonal changes in the airfare rates. This Information Session briefed about IOM Interest Free Loan to propose family and friends in Bhutanese Refugee Camp for resettlement in Australia under Global Special Humanitarian Program Visa (SHP) subclass 202.

Since then, the volunteers from within BAASA Board Members and Executives have been actively involved in supporting the community members in filling up the proposers application forms and even the applicant's application form at times. The first group of four families from Bhutanese refugee camps in Nepal under the Special Humanitarian Program of Australian Government for 202 visas arrived in Adelaide, South Australia on 3 April 2014. They were welcomed at the airport by their families, relatives/proposers and representatives of BAASA and were assisted by BAASA volunteers to Centrelink, Medicare and Bank for registration.

Special Humanitarian Program was introduced by the Australian Government for Bhutanese Refugees after the previously declared 5000 quota under Global Humanitarian Program was fulfilled. We are expecting more families in the near future to reunite with their families who have arrived in Adelaide earlier. BAASA executives and volunteers have volunteered every Thursday and Saturday to fill up the proposer forms for proposing their family members or relatives who are still living in refugee camps. Since April 2014, more than 50 families have arrived in Adelaide, South Australia under this program.



New Arrivals

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 organising events and activities that enable people to work together across organisational 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.



Financial Report by Treasurer

Amber Poudel

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.

Statement of Comprehensive income for the year ended 30/06/2015

	2013-14	2014-15
Revenue		
Account forward	\$28,043.83	\$7,008.06
Donations	\$2,561.00	\$17,866.15
Grants	\$8,520.00	\$10,618.34
Utensils hire	\$90.00	\$110.00
Trailer hire	\$0.00	\$450.00
Membership fee	\$1,600.00	\$0.00
PA System hire	\$0.00	\$100.00
Raffle	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Total Revenue	\$40,814.83	\$38,652.55
Expenses		
Annual Days	\$2,166.33	\$2,000.00
Depreciation of Catering utensils	\$201.69	\$171.43
Depreciation of Office Furniture	\$197.57	\$167.93
Depreciation of Office Equipment	\$510.88	\$434.25
Depreciation of trolley	\$44.40	\$37.75
Depreciation of PA systems old	\$244.17	\$207.54
Depreciation of Cultural costumes	\$92.85	\$78.92

Inter State Soccer	\$12,206.64	\$10,345.85
Administration Expenses	\$236.61	\$747.41
Teej	\$0.00	\$894.63
Insurance	\$1,152.95	\$1,173.85
Trailer Expenses	\$85.00	\$300.00
Post Box renewal	\$146.00	\$131.00
Refugee day	\$0.00	\$722.59
Domestic Violence program	\$0.00	\$937.25
Radio Pahichan (Yuba Sansar)	\$5,724.91	\$8,640.00
Nepal Earthquake	\$0.00	\$8,332.15
Youth Project	\$11,998.33	\$0.00
Stationaries	\$90.00	\$250.00
Total Expenses	\$35,504.13	\$36,435.45
Profit before income tax	\$5,310.70	\$2,217.10
Income tax expense		
Profit for the period	\$5,310.70	\$2,217.10
Items recognised directly in equity		
Comprehensive Profit for the period	\$5,310.70	\$2,217.10

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

	203-14	2014-15
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Commonwealth Bank Cheque Account	\$7,008.06	\$4,177.82
Other current assets		
Total current assets	\$7,008.06	\$4,177.82
Non-current assets		
Trailer	\$2,299.56	\$1,954.63
Trolley	\$251.65	\$213.90
Catering Utensils	\$1,142.88	\$971.45

Office equipment	\$2,894.99	\$2,460.74
Office Furniture	\$1,119.55	\$951.62
PA System old	\$1,383.60	\$1,176.06
PA System New	\$3,453.13	\$2,935.16
Cultural Costumes	\$526.13	\$447.21
Total non-current assets	\$13,071.49	\$11,110.77
Total assets	\$20,079.55	\$15,288.59
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Other current liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Current liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Non-current liabilities		
Other non-current liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total non-current liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net assets	\$20,079.55	\$15,288.59
EQUITY		
Surplus/ Deficit	\$5,310.70	\$2,217.10
Membership Fees	\$1,600.00	
Accumulated funds	\$13,168.85	\$13,071.49
Total equity	\$20,079.55	\$15,288.59





Report from Laxmi Dahal Publicity Officer

BAASA is a not-for-profit community organisation established on 25th October 2009. It's an incorporated body representing Bhutanese community, managed and run by volunteers resettled in South Australia. As a community organisation BAASA has been performing various tasks to support resettled refugees from Bhutan. It is very challenging for the new arrivals from refugee camps to start their new life in a new country, new environment, culture and system. In such a circumstances BAASA is basically helping the community by supporting or acting as a link between the community and services, government and nongovernment. It is continuously working to provide the members with wide range of services and strives to give a sense of security necessary to live in the broader Australian community with its limited resources.

The present executive committee and volunteers of BAASA actively involved in community activities providing support to its members ranging from information sharing to sports and recreations. Since the day of election the new executive committee worked hard in providing information about the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP), helping proposers to fill their forms, raising community awareness about various issues, cultural programs and participation, finding rental property for new arrivals, coordinating youths in games and sports and many more.

It's always challenging for newly arrived refugees to find an affordable housing. It has become more challenging because of the changes made by government for receiving new arrivals and providing them with accommodation and other requirements. More community involvement has become necessary and proposers or relatives were given greater role, particularly receiving them on the day of arrival and providing them with temporary accommodation. With its limited manpower and resources

BAASA helped new arrivals under the SHP to find rental property which was a great opportunity to help but not without challenge.

It was challenging because of the absence of 100 points required by real estate agencies necessary for any rental application to be accepted. In such circumstances, the executives and volunteers of BAASA helped all the community members who have come to seek support or advice for rental property and the requirements to look for the property. BAASA executives especially Housing Coordinator Chitra Gautam took a great initiative to negotiate with the real estate agencies in his own capacity and recommending tenants in close coordination with their proposers in Australia. BAASA helped more than 100 new families to look for rental properties, filling forms and applying for the property, making appointments and taking them to Families SA for bond requirements. BAASA also coordinated with Immigration department, Anglicare SA and MRCSA for providing furniture and other household requirements for the new families after getting rental property.

Annual day celebration is one of the biggest events of our community. Every year it is organised on the second Saturday of the month of May. This year too it was celebrated on 9th May at Parafield Gardens, with variety of items including cultural, educational and entertaining activities. This event is one of the biggest gatherings of community members and has become the platform to observe our culture, language art and entertainment. BAASA invited important dignitaries to grace the program like in the previous years. Honourable Hieu Van Le, the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, and Honourable Zoe Bettison, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion were the chief guests for 2014 and 2015 Annual Day celebration respectively.

Besides BAASA coordinated and helped the community youths to participate in the interstate soccer carnival and youth festival 2014 and 2015 that were held in Sydney and Albury respectively. Starting from

Brisbane in 2012, this event has become a tradition of huge Bhutanese gathering from all over Australia for recreation, fun and social interaction, the only event of its type so far.



Vice Chairperson's Report

Lal Bahadur Rai

Fund Raising Events for Disasters

On 2nd January 2015 there was destructive bush fire occurred in Adelaide Hills. In this situation of huge loss of property BAASA has extended the helping hand through cash and crowd donation. Premier and Cabine, Government of South Australia had invited for the BBQ refreshment program for the volunteers and the donor organizations in Adelaide bushfire disaster including Bhutanese volunteers.

On April 25th at 11: 14am, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck approximately 50 miles northwest of Kathmandu which had caused the significant damage and loss of more than 10000 people. Therefore, BAASA and our community members didn't want to be isolated in this terrible and miserable situation of our neighbouring country Nepal. Therefore, BAASA executives took initiative to raise the earthquake relief fund for Nepal from our community.

Sausages sizzle (BBQ) fund raising event was conducted at St. John Church, Salisbury SA 5108 (in front of Commonwealth bank) on Saturday 2/5/2015. This event was mainly organized by out active volunteer Mr Sushil Niroula and his team. In this fund raising event all sausages, bread, Sanitizer, ice and few more items were mainly sponsored by:

Australian Refugee Association Office work, Croydon

Twelve-25 Youth Centre Ron Tremaine Pacific Butcher

At length, total amount collected by Bhutanese in Adelaide and supporters for Earthquake victim in Nepal: \$8332.15. This event was also supported by BHUMMATS, BES, Punya Foundation, Bhutanese Seniors and different Samajs. BAASA organised the meeting in May 2015 at 10 St. John church Salisbury 5108 for sending funds to the victims. In the meeting we decided to send the funds through UNHCR Australia. Hence, as per the decision made in the meeting, chairperson of BAASA, Mr. Kamal Dahal coordinated with UNHCR Australia and deposited the total relief fund in UNHCR Australia Bank Account. The contribution details are available in organization's Facebook.



Fund Raising Event for Nepal Earthquake Victims

Sports and Recreation Coordinator's Report Tilchand Sapkota



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 and third events were held in Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. So, the Bhutanese community of Albury organised this year's tournament which is called "Forth Interstate Soccer Championship 2015".

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 Bhutaneses 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.



Volunteers Coordinator's Report Mohan P Bhattarai



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 organisations and the communities they aim to serve and can inspire change in behaviour 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 organisation 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 organisational events such as Annual Day, Interstate Soccer Carnival, Refugee Week, etc. a great success.



Seniors performing sangini



Bhutanese Ethnic School children performance



Cultural Activities and Events Report

BAASA organised 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 2014/2015– biggest festival of women. Assembled at Salisbury Primary School hall in 2014 and 2015 Teej festival was celebrated at Khmer Buddhist Hall, 376-386 Salisbury Highway, Parafield Gardens SA 5107. Similarly, BAASA has been organising programmes to celebrate Dashain in community gathering. The culture has remained continued since its inception in 2009. Young and old joined all the Dashain programmes held so far – where youngsters receive tika and blessings from senior members of the community. Similarly, BAASA organised programmes to celebrate other major festival Tihar in 2014/2015. 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.

Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia Inc. and City of Salisbury jointly held a special Refugee Week Event on Saturday 20 June 2015 to complement the 2015 theme “Celebrating a global milestone-100,000 Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement”, which was one of the community event 'with courage let us all combine'. This event was featured inspiring and true stories of Bhutanese people settled globally, presentations- a model hut, water tap, oven, and live music. As a part of community event, Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia (BAASA) organized 6th and 7th Settlement Day Celebration of Bhutanese Community in South Australia on Saturday 10th May 2014 and 9th May 2015 respectively at Khmer Buddhist Hall, 376-386 Salisbury Highway, Parafield Gardens SA 5107. This event aimed to mark the beginning of new life of Bhutanese Community Members in Adelaide as its Settlement Day, it was marked by a cultural program comprising of songs, dances and items of cultural, traditional, linguistic and ethnic importance. Community and local performers involved in cultural performances that allowed for cultural exchange in wider Australian community.

Nine young South Australians embarked on the adventure of a lifetime this year when they travelled to Vanuatu for a five-week volunteer assignment working with local communities. Among nine South Australians, one of the participants was Bhutanese Youth Lok Ghimire, who was born in a refugee camp in Nepal. He headed to Vanuatu on 22 April 2015 through the Australian Volunteers for International Development program. He volunteered with the Vanuatu Ministry of

Youth and Sport, sharing his skill in sports, education, health and nutrition.

As previous years, Bhutanese Community (Bhutanese Australian Association of SA) participated in the Australian Day Parade 2015. The community had an opportunity to come together to celebrate our country “Australia” and its culture. 2015 Australian Day Parade Committee gave is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the richness of our cultural diversity and to demonstrate the pride of being Australian.

