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Editorial

Unity of purpose

Nepal Festival is being held across all Australian cities this year. Perth successfully held one, Sydney is all geared for 6th of September and Melbourne is preparing rigorously to stage best ever Nepal festival event on November 2nd. As an organiser, Non Residential Nepalese Association Victoria has done tremendous job in driving the mega event to the fruition.

This year's festival is the third time that an event of this sort is being held in Victoria, many community members have their own experiences from the past two. Those, who directly got involved or the ones that were just spectators, they all have some -would have been- and should have been- from the previous two Nepal festival events. Some were proud the way it went, some are still holding bitterness about the things that did not go too well.

Lots of money, time and other resources got put into it. Was the investment worth the return? that can be argued. However, we should not forget, the first two laid the foundation for the third. Nepal festival is not a cheap event to organise. This year's estimated



Ramjee Poudel | Editor
Email: editor@nepalesevoice.com.au

budget is around hundred thousand dollars. Within the same context, people opine "is it necessary to spent such large sum of money to promote Nepal? But the point here is, we are not just talking about how many Australians can we attract from this festival to go to Nepal. The essence of it is, in what other program in Australia, twenty thousands of us get to gather and shout out to "Nepal" together? It's the common sentiment- it's the sense of connection that we will demonstrate through the event- that no money can buy.

There might have been weaknesses in the past two Nepal festivals from the organiser point of view, but it's about learning from them and moving on. Being judgemental, being dismissive doesn't serve the cause. The success of Nepal festival is directly linked with the pride of our community. The success of this event lies in our hands. It is again time for us to unite for a purpose.

Cover Photo Courtesy: Sabin Thapa, NNN Media

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Melbourne Band "Moksha"
Photo: Sabin Thapa, NNN Media



Events are way of life in modern society. They are form of expressions, whether it is private celebrations, political rallies, public grief, sports tournaments, musical concerts or even fund raising gathering, events mirror the society. It's a show of strength and solidarity. In modern society organised events are used for multiple purposes and the basic criteria for all the successful events is a proper management.

Nepali community is the fastest growing field for event managers. Rapidly growing Nepali population has led to the proliferation of large number of event management firms and individuals that are appraising their future prospect into it.

In Victoria alone there are over half a dozen event management companies that are active. Most are commercial firms and their motive behind organising events is effectively to make bucks and there are few that also want to use their events to give back to community. Since these are the com-

munity based activities, it poses a topic of discussion for the community as to how profound and impactful these events are being for us.

As it stands:

Only till half a decade ago Nepali events in Victoria were rare occurrences. Apart from family and festival gatherings, there weren't many public events happening as such. Few years on, the scenario has changed dramatically. Commercial event management companies, community organisations such as NRN and NAV and sports clubs—they all use events to meet their aspirations. We now see public events being held almost every second day. It is a natural progression for events and activities to occur as by-products of growing Nepali population but the disproportional supply versus demand can also have negative effects to all stakeholders.

There are few established event management firms but there are some new ones that lack what's required to put up a successful event.

Opportunities

Non Residential Nepalese Association, Nepalese Association of Victoria and other community organise various activities as part of their event calendars. NAV's Dashain festival, Teej Mela, Children's Day are increasingly popular. These events play an important role in preservation of our traditional culture. What NAV does with its festivals is an extraordinary example of community harmony. Highly participated and thoroughly embraced. For instance, Teej Mela, a yearly NAV event is probably the biggest of Nepali women gathering not only in Australia but in the whole Nepalese Diaspora. Such events are a pride of the community.

Events have become a means for businesses to promote their products and services. As they could get their message straight to the target market, many Nepalese businesses are hosting community events or sponsoring them. Migration agents, educational institutes and colleges, travel agencies, restaurants they all seem to be on board. So it suffices to say that events have provided a great platform to link businesses to its primary customers directly. In that sense, it's a win-win for businesses, event management companies and the general community members. Business get to reach out to their potential clients, organisers get sponsored and the community get to know about more service providers to choose from.

Events have also become a way of recreation for the community, specially for youths that would otherwise work around the clock, to just chill and enjoy some times with mates.

Challenges

Most event management companies rely on the sponsorship from businesses and the ticket sale. As there are limited number of Nepali businesses, there is only so much they can offer. Leave a couple, there aren't too many businesses that can allocate significant marketing budget. So event managers are left with no options but to turn to same businesses again and again for sponsorships. "Too many, too soon" has also affected the revenue from ticket sale. So the shrinking budgets have directly effect on the quality of the event.

There are few established event management firms but there are some new ones that lack what's required to put up a successful event. The recent trend also suggest that many new organisers do these events just for the glamour of it rather than with a long term vision. This has resulted in many unsuccessful events, an embarrassment for the organiser, performers and the participants.

In conclusion, events should have some sort of positive impact on community. After, having spent so much in organising it, there should be some sort of an effect that could better us as community. If we intend to just gather and party, by all means, it's an individual right. But if we are promoting, publicising and selling it as a public event—we need to be careful.



NORGEN NORBOO
Solangture

Our name is self explanatory about our vision. Solangture represents Society, Language and Culture. The work that we have done is like an open book for everyone in the community to see. Having spent quite a few years into this we are now clear about our direction as an event management company.

Event is not just about a rock concert. Our colleagues who have just entered this field should know that there is unlimited possibilities that we can explore. Corporate events to wedding parties, there is so much we can do. Managing events requires creativity. We should be thinking about innovative ideas for each project. Everyone is fantastic in their own unique way, but we need to do a bit more reflection on our own work and find ways to improve ourselves.



PRANISH MANANDHAR
Mila Creations

Our main aim is to bring our community closer through entertainment, be it movies or events at the same time not missing out on the element of fun. Capturing the moments on photos and reliving the event through videos. I think Solangtute and S-Events 'were and still are' the pioneers of Nepalese Event Management and new comers can learn from them.

With the growing number of events being held, social media such as Facebook has made it easier to promote them. That said, we got to be careful that we don't oversupply our activities to the broader mass just so events do not lose its charm. All in all, the positives definitely outweigh the negatives. If all of us can work together that will lead us to better Nepalese Events in the future. We also get to explore new possibilities, new venues, new methods of marketing, new artists, talents, acts etc there is always something to learn from one another. A healthy competition is something that should be sought after, while not forgetting fun and entertainment for all.



BIBHUSAN JOSHI (SUN)
Smart Access Entertain
Australia

Our entry in event management is due to the passion that we had to present a top class event to Melbourne Nepali community. With due respect to our predecessors, we wanted to do it bigger and better. With each of our events, we want to work towards promoting Nepali music, Nepal instruments and Nepali culture to the world. Our followers will see all those elements in our upcoming projects.

Events are very good way to show our existence to the broader Australian society. Such activities are also important in promoting Nepal's tourism and investment potential.

There are many emerging firms and individual doing events front left and centre. At this moment we need to collaborate and plan a yearly event calendar. That's a suggestion to all my colleague, but Smart Access Entertain Australia is publishing a calendar of its own for next year.



SUNOD SHRESTHA
S-Events & Multi Media

For us it's all about quality and professionalism. S-Events wants to not just do events in Nepali community but also enter mainstream. Our track record has shown that we are capable of executing any kind of events. We have got the skill, knowledge and expertise to pull off any sort of event managements. However, there are challenges and we are prepared to overcome them with new and fresh strategies.

We would like to tell our upcoming folks to do enough research, and at least gain certain knowledge about event management before you take up a project.



SANJAY SHAH
Nepaly Events

Nepaly Events is focused on delivering a quality events. We want to give our unique twist to each event that we do. We want to maintain professionalism and give our followers what they want. Whether it's a movie or a musical concert, we want to make sure that we make it all worth for our audience. Being a event management company, we see it our responsibility to also promote Nepal's music and artists and that's what we are here for.

In Melbourne's context, It's encouraging to see lots of new event companies are coming up. We can do bigger and better events if all organisers work together to benefit each other's project.



SUDEEP NEUPANE
Brotherhood Nepal

Brotherhood Nepal came to Melbourne's event management scene to support various social causes. I, having been an undergraduate student of event management course, had conceptualised Brotherhood Nepal. My close friends Bhushan Shrestha, Gyanendra Bastola and Raghav also share the same vision. We wanted to bring about something fresh. Our company's name suggests what we want to achieve, that is to spread the feeling of brotherhood among community members.

There are plenty of event companies in Melbourne who are doing a great job to organise fantastic events. As audience ourselves, we attend various events, movies and concerts and enjoyed them. But our goal is to add the aspect of charity to those events. Therefore, we created the company with the motto "Supporting social causes through entertainment" that reflects the true meaning of Brotherhood Nepal.

In terms of management, we all make mistakes along the process. It's about learning from them and improving ourselves.

We appreciate all the other existing event companies who welcomed us with open arms and supported our cause. In a short period of time we have been able to do quite a few events and that was all possible due to all your help.

"A healthy competition is something that should be sought after, while not forgetting fun and entertainment for all."

- Pranish Manandhar
Mila Creations



PRAKASH THAKURI
Yours Events

Yours events is related to our life style. It's been eight months since it was established. In our short existence we have tried to present some experimental ideas through our events. We did 'Dhaka topi (Nepali Hat) and Masquerade', that had patriotism written all over it. We recently completed 'Sounds of Spring' where more than thirty artists from all over Australia participated. We do event for happiness. It's our passion and we will follow it regardless of the commercial outcome.

We also want to take this opportunity to show respect to our seniors in the industry, specially Solangtute and S-events. They have done a tremendous service to the community. Our respect also goes to Mr Tonnu Ghothane, who in a sense is a founder of this concept.

Our advise to the upcoming event managers is that it's a serious job. Do your research and study feasibility of your project before you start it.



SREE RUDRA SILWAL
Chahalpahal Melbourne

We established Chahalpahal Melbourne to help out in Nepal's social sector. We also aim to promote new artist while honouring the old. From our recent event we raised some fund for Sindupalchowk victim. We also sponsored the local football club in Pokhara. In that sense, Chahalpahal Melbourne is all about giving back to the community.

We have lots of other event organisation in Melbourne but not everyone maintains professionalism. We see lots of them just focused on making profit. Community events should not always be used as cheap advertisement strategy.

In sharing our experience with other colleagues, we would like to say that having a good strategy, creativity, planning and enthusiasm is important, otherwise your arrival won't make any mark.

Horoscope September 2014



ARIES

AA good month for working towards your financial, professional, and leadership goals. All three are in sync at various points this month. Health and social life looks average. You also have a huge amount of playful and adventurous energy promoting the idea that you should love.



TAURUS

You are more interested in your romantic and financial partnerships at this time. Things appear to be going fairly well within these types of partnerships too. You are in the mood to bond with a loved one and to focus on what it is that entertains the two of you.



GEMINI

Things are going much better at work now that all of last month's drama has ended. You are able to get a lot accomplished and win the respect of your peers. Next month, it should be even better. For all of your productivity and great work ethic, do not forget to take some time out for playtime this month.



CANCER

For over a year, Uranus was trapped in battle from within your success and leadership sector in which he could not help you to shine as the uniquely talented, clever, and creative person that you are. Now that the battle is once again on hiatus, he is able to work with both your personal wealth sector and your productivity sector to help begin making progress again.



LEO

Two areas of your chart are lighting up with positive activity. One is the area

involving your ability to get along with local friends and family and includes all of those lovely electronic gadgets that we love as well as your ability to bargain hunt, negotiate, communicate, and get yourself around town.



VIRGO

Financial and romantic relationships are benefitting from excellent conversations, negotiations, and finding ways to compromise and to create a sense of security in the relationships. At times, your financial goals are clashing with your playtime activities, luxury shopping, or date nights.



LIBRA

You and your romantic, social, or business partner began experiencing quite a bit of fun, profits, and/or good luck while socializing, or working on Internet, team, or group oriented activities. This month you still have plenty of that going on, but now the two of you are also getting along with extended family, neighbors, and community members.



SCORPIO

This month is a bit of a hodgepodge. At various times, you have excellent professional, social, financial, and community-oriented opportunities. The annoying things still happen, but not as intensely as they were a few months ago and they are mostly overshadowed by the good times.



SAGITTARIUS

You end up with a bit of a tug of war between work and home, but it is your social life that really has your atten-

tion. You are fun to hang out with and an excellent team player. This is also an excellent time for Internet activities and networking projects. And yet, as you juggle work, home, and social obligations, your heart is mostly interested in playtime activities, creative pursuits, hobbies, loved ones, travel, cultural studies, and intelligent things that will broaden your horizon.



CAPRICORN

Your social life, home life, and career are all busy with a lot of good things happening. Yes, there is the occasional argument or challenge, but mostly you are just running around like crazy as you juggle all of the exciting and productive developments in your life. You manage to find time to continue learning and exploring new ways of seeing the world too.



AQUARIUS

Political, legal, cultural, religious, academic, travel, and/or media related challenges are causing some headaches this month. People are argumentative know-it-alls. There are a number of times when it seems as if everything that can go wrong will go wrong within these topics. But the good news is that you are still doing really well financially, professionally, romantically, and socially.



PISCES

You and a partner or rival are disagreeing about something. However, the two of you are able to find diplomatic solutions and you could even have some fun while opening your minds to learning new things together. You also have some excellent opportunities to work towards achieving your financial, fitness, leadership, and professional goals.

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Protect yourself when booking holidays, says Australian government

A new campaign by Australia's consumer protection agencies is reminding travellers of the simple steps they can take to protect their travel and holiday bookings.

Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria Dr Claire Noone says that increased competition and the growth of online bookings has changed the way people plan and purchase their trips. "For some people, booking a holiday might be a quick and simple process, while others put a lot of time and effort into planning their trips."

"We know that Australians love travelling, and many go back to their countries of origin to visit family and friends," says Dr. Noone.

Statistics show that Australians made nine million trips overseas in the past year. "It is easy to get too excited about a holiday and forget about the simple precautions you should be taking to protect your purchase."

Dr Noone says that apart from protections that all consumers have under the Australian Consumer Law, there are

some basic steps they can take to protect their purchases.

"Reputation and customer service is a really simple way of making sure that your holiday is going to be a great one," says Dr Noone.

"Look at reviews and ask family, friends and others in your community for their recommendations. If you are booking with a travel agent, check that they are accredited. Any business you book with, either in person or online, should have clearly stated refund and complaint policies."

Consumers can also protect themselves by choosing how they pay for their travel.

"Credit cards can be a more expensive way to pay for purchases but do offer some protection as consumers may be able to seek a reverse payment from their bank if they book and do not get what they paid for."

Consumers can ask their bank to reverse a payment if it was made with credit cards or by selecting 'credit' on Mastercard or Visa debit cards, not

if they paid by 'cheque' or 'savings' on debit cards, cash, cheque, money transfer, direct debit or BPAY.

Holidaymakers are strongly encouraged to take out comprehensive travel insurance when they are travelling, and check what circumstances and activities are not covered by their policies.

For more tips and information on how to book your next holiday safely, visit www.packsomepeaceofmind.gov.au



"Look at reviews and ask family, friends and others in your community for their recommendations. If you are booking with a travel agent, check that they are accredited. Any business you book with, either in person or online, should have clearly stated refund and complaint policies."

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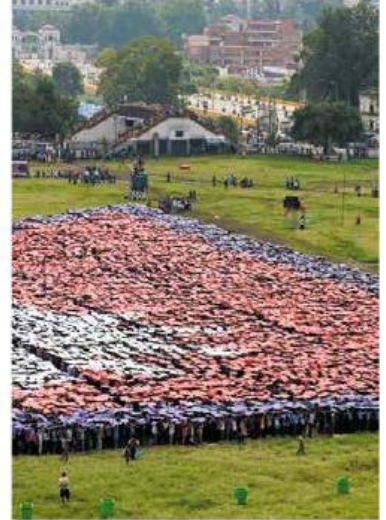
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Nepal sets world's largest **HUMAN FLAG RECORD**

More than 35,000 Nepalese made a bid last month to form the world's largest "human national flag" as they sought to set a new international record. As the country's anthem played, participants held up crimson, blue and white coloured cardboard for 10 minutes on an open ground in Kathmandu's city centre to form the national flag.

Cries of "Nepal!" rang out as participants threw the cardboard pieces in the

air to celebrate after the attempt. Nepal's flag is the world's only one which is not a quadrilateral. Instead it is comprised of two triangles.

"We conceived this idea to spread the message that all our countrymen are united under one flag," said Bhawesh Khanal, president of Human Values for Peace and Prosperity, the group that spearheaded the event.

Nepal is in the process of drafting a new constitution, a key step in a stalled

peace process begun after the end of a ten-year civil war in 2006. Leaders have promised an inclusive constitution and federalism, ending gender and caste-based discrimination.

Numbered tickets were handed out to participants to keep a count of how many took part in the flag event. "Our vision came true. Thousands of people came together to form our country's flag and claim a new world record," Khanal told the media. He said the group will

now submit its claim with photographic and video evidence for a new record to the headquarters of Guinness World Records in London. They expect Guinness World Records to give a ruling on their submission within two months.

The current record for the world's largest human national flag was set in February 2014 when 28,957 people gathered in Lahore, Pakistan, to create a Pakistani flag, according to Guinness World Records.



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NRN Victoria highlights it's accomplishment from the first year

We take immense pleasure in sharing NRNA Victoria's accomplishment in the past one year. After the formation of a new committee with the unanimous vote last year, NRNA Victoria has not only maintained its position as an umbrella organisation by binding all Nepalese living in the state of Victoria in one rope but also reinforced our responsibilities towards our motherland as NRNs in various ways. There is still a lot to be done but as the saying "Morning shows the day", it has been a very encouraging first year for the state council and I would like share some of the highlights.

NRNA Victoria partnered with Nepalese Association of Victoria in preserving Nepali culture and tradition by celebrating all our major festivals such as Dashain, Tihar and New Year. We collaborated with other community bodies in line with our agendas to maintain the unity and harmony through various activities in the state.

As a regular calendar event of NRNA Victoria State Council, works are underway for this year's Nepal Festival-2014 that is scheduled for November 2nd. To make this year's festival a bit more innovative we will be conducting a workshop "Tourism

and Business Promotional Workshop" a day prior to the actual event. The main objectives of this workshop will be to foster the economic and cultural relationship between Nepal and Australia. In this process, we have been concerting with other community organisations to ensure the maximum participation in the festival. We have commissioned various sub-committees to get the job done in the most organised manner.

As our attempt to strengthen organisation's financial position as well as to endorse the artist and musicians from Nepal, NRNA Victoria organised a fundraising musical night with very talented Nepali singer Hemanta Rana.

NRNA Victoria has always reached out to the community when they needed us the most. When we lost a community member Jiblal Basel in a tragic incident, we extended our helping hands by collecting fund to send his body back to Nepal. Even though the amount was not as significant but our willingness to help mattered a great deal to his family in those difficult times.

We take pride in having been involved in the fundraising of "Pathivara Jetha Nagarik Pratisthan". Despite the fact that we live away from our

The main objectives of this workshop will be to foster the economic and cultural relationship between Nepal and Australia.

motherland, our duties towards our parents and elderly can never been ignored. It was greatly satisfying that NRNA Victoria took part in the fundraising campaign initiated by NRNA Australia to construct an elderly home in Nepal. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards everyone involved in the fundraising dinner that was held in Melbourne raising approx \$25000 dollars for the cause.

As we all know, constructing its own office building has been one of the topmost priority for NRNA and its leadership. On behalf of NRN SCC, it was our privilege to be part of global initiation to raise fund for our own common home in Nepal. As the slogan said "Our building Our responsibility", NRNA Victoria fulfilled its responsibility by raising around 70 lakh rupees from the gala dinner that was held in 26th of July. This was possible only due to the faith and belief laid by community members on NRNA and its long term vision towards the prosper and developed Nepal.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to those organisations and individuals that have always guided us through this journey. We are highly indebted to Nepalese Consulate Office, Nepalese Association of Victoria and all the other organisations for their continuous support. I would also like to acknowledge Victorian Multicultural Commission for recognising Nepalese Community in Victoria as an integral part of Victorian society and for partnering us in all our missions.

We look forward to the same support from you all in the years to come.
-NRN Victoria

NRN updates Nepal Festival - 2014 progress



**Nepal
Festival
updates**

NRNA Victoria has updated local Nepalese community media on the status of Nepal Festival-2014. A media brief was held in Melbourne on 23rd of August to circulate the progress made so far by the organisation and the festival coordinating team.

Opening the meeting, NRN Victoria's Nirajan Gauli, touched upon the key achievements of the organisation throughout last year. He said, "we are satisfied with what we have accomplished since the formation of the new committee last year. We have been there whenever the community needed us. Whether it was by raising fund, or just by extending our moral support, NRNA Victoria has stood behind the community all along," he said.

NRNA Victoria's Co-ordinator Rishi Kandel thanked the media for their support and said "media plays vital role in despatching information to a broader mass. Local Nepali media has been quite supportive in this process." He said "as the festival is fast approaching we as Nepal festival coordination team would like all the community members

to contribute what they can to make this event a successful one." "We are currently looking for volunteers and dancers, we would welcome anyone who wants to participate", he informed. Mr Kandel also clarified the questions asked by the media in various NRN related topics.

On the occasion, NRN Victoria member and Entrepreneur Mr Tonnou Ghothane said, an interaction such as this is important in maintaining the harmonious and coherent community. He said "it's great to see NRN festival co-ordination team and the media working together to cultivate the best strategy towards the success of Nepal festival -2014."

Mr Raju Shakya, on behalf of program management team gave a snap shot of the event details. He said "we are trying to experiment with lots of our presentations this year. The challenge for us is to be innovative while maintaining the essence of Nepali culture and traditions."

A press statement was handed out to the media about "Tourism and Investment Promotional Forum", a business

workshop that has been scheduled a day prior to the festival day. "With great deal of appreciation and respect to the previous organizers, Nepal Festival-2014 Co-ordination team is prepared to take that legacy further with this year's event," it says. The statement further reads "we have been concerting with various government and private agencies from both countries to use Nepal festival as a platform to explore new investment possibilities in Nepal. Guided by this very objective, we are organizing "Tourism and Investment Promotional Workshop", a day prior to the actual event, for the first time in the history of Nepal festival."

The co-ordination team also unveiled the name of the business houses that has been finalised as main sponsors of this year's Nepal festival. According to which, AECC Global has been decided as main event partner, and Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT) and Royal Gurkhas Institute of Technology (RGIT) as Platinum Sponsors, leaving only one more spot under the category.

NRNA Australia signs MoU with FORWARD Nepal and IPNI for skills and knowledge transfer in eastern Nepal

A MoU for an agriculture-focused project entitled, "Transfer, evaluation and dissemination of an innovative fertilizer management tool (Nutrient Expert) for increasing crop yields and farmers' income" was signed by the representatives of NRNA Australia, FORWARD Nepal (a Chitwan-based NGO) and International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), South Asia Office, New Delhi on 16 August in Birtamod, Jhapa. Dr. Jagadish Timsina (Advisor, NRNA Australia and Member, NRNA ICC/NCC Committee), Mr. Netra P. Sen (Executive Director, FORWARD Nepal) and Dr. Kaushik Majumdar (Director, IPNI, South Asia) signed the MoU during their 2-days hectic programme of farmers' field visits and interactions with several groups of farmers in Jhapa and Morang districts on 15 and 16 August. The project proposal was presented by the project leader Dr. Jagadish Timsina during the NRNA Australia's "Skills, knowledge and innovation (SKI) transfer" workshop on 19 July in Sydney. This project will be implemented from the upcoming winter season with support from IPNI, initially for 2 years, and will be the NRNA Australia's first project under the "SKI transfer" theme to be implemented on the ground. The project will focus on improving nutrient and fertilizer management practices for rice, maize and wheat crops to increase crop yields and farmers' income. FORWARD Nepal will be the implementing organization and NRNA Australia will provide the skills and knowledge necessary for the project. The project will

Farmers were extremely cooperative, enthusiastic, and were keen and interested to share their knowledge and experience on farming to the project team members and showed their full commitment and support to participate in the project.

initially conduct nutrient management evaluation trials with active participation by farmers and local stakeholders. It will initially work with 200 farmers in the two districts in the first year and will upscale upto 5000 farmers by three years. It is expected that after three years project staff and stakeholders and farmers will learn about scientific method of nutrient management practices for the above three crops and farmers' income will increase substantially through increases in crop yields.

The objectives of this visit by the joint team was (1) to sign the MoU (2) to conduct the rapid rural appraisal of the project command areas, (3) to select project villages, and (4) to understand the farmers' existing cropping systems, and nutrient/fertilizer management practices for above three crops so that economically-optimal nutrient/fertilizer management recommendations could be made for each participating farmer's field considering each farmer's man-



agement practices in each field. During the 2-days visit, four FORWARD staff, two IPNI staff and Dr. Timsina traveled together and interacted with two farmers' groups in Babia Birta and Itahara villages in Morang district and two groups in Dhukurpani and Gauradaha villages in Jhapa district. At least 20-40 farmers comprising of both males and females participated enthusiastically in each village. Farmers were extremely cooperative, enthusiastic, and were keen and interested to share their knowledge and experience on farming to the project team members and showed their full commitment and support to participate in the project. Farmers from nearby villages also rushed to the interaction sites and requested the team members to hold such meetings to their villages too.

FORWARD Nepal and NRNA Australia will organize the project inception

workshop on 6th October in Chandragadi, Jhapa where local stakeholders and representatives from different agriculture organizations and NGOs will be invited. Farmers' field visits and interactions with more groups of farmers in other villages will also be organised on the 7th October where Dr. Timsina will represent from NRNA Australia and will lead the team.

During his visit to eastern Nepal, Dr. Timsina also visited the NRNA Australia's Bridhashram (Sradhashram) project site in Biratnagar together with the member secretary of the Bridhashram project and staff of Biratnagar Municipality Mr Punam Dahal and obtained up-to-date information about the project.

(Prepared by Dr. Jagadish Timsina, Adviser to NRNA Australia and Member, ICC/NCC SKI Committee)



US collects whopping \$40 million rupees for NRN building

Non Residential Nepalese from the United States have collected approximately Rs 40 million to construct NRNA Nepal office in Kathmandu, breaking record of all fund raising events so far.

A fund raising campaign held in New York on 24th of August set a

new record by collecting two hundred and eleven thousand US dollar from a single event. NRNA Prez Shesh Ghale was in the US all last month to drive fund raising campaign to build NRNA Nepal office in Kathmandu.

Earlier, US\$ 21 thousand has been collected from Seattle. Likewise, \$ 29

thousand from California, 15 thousand from Boston, 10 thousand from Chicago, 17 thousand from Texas and 70 thousand from Washington DC have been collected.



Melbourne "Teejed" by Ladies in Red

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) continued the tradition of organizing Teej celebration again this year on Sunday, 24th August 2014. The NAV Teej Celebration, which was organized at the Thornbury Theatre, was attended by approximately 700 ladies dressed up in red, colourful saris and glittering jewellery. NAV says while Teej has its own religious significance, this event is all about celebrating happiness, expressing womanhood and their individuality and at the same time to maintain connection to Nepali culture and tradition. At this event, women of all ages were seen letting go of their otherwise demure stature and were dancing to the songs of their choice, including those ones with double entendre splattered all over the lyrics.

This year NAV endeavored to go beyond singing and dancing, and attempted to find hidden talents among Nepali women in the community and made the Teej event a platform to display their talents. Among the talents was a group of amateur theatre artists who performed a Teej drama, "Rato Sari". It was directed by Niru Tripathi. The artists were able to mesmerize the audience with their beautiful performance.

A group of twenty women did a catwalk on the stage of Thornbury theatre displaying latest fashion from their personal collection. The fashion show was coordinated by Anamika Rai. The stage show concluded with a beautiful Teej dance performance by Himalaya Club trio Manisha Lamichhane, Samjhana Parajuli and Shikha Dhakal Gaire. Amid the dancing music and flashing lights, ladies patiently queued up to have their elegantly dressed photos taken. The star attraction of the event was Roma Neupane, an inspirational one leg dancer from Nepal. Roma had lost her leg when she

was eight years of age. Instead of getting discouraged by the disability, she continued to follow her dream to become a successful dancer. She is an inspiration to many people with disability around the world. She is also an advocate of disability rights. She is currently travelling around Australia to raise funds for her non profit organisation Volunteers Association of Disability (VAD), which raises awareness against discrimination based on age, gender and disability. Roma danced to two Nepali songs. Her dance was able to win hearts of everyone.

NAV thanks its event partner: AECC Global and major sponsors Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT), Buyer's Choice Home Loan Service, Australian College of Trade (ACOT) and Buddha Travels for their support. NAV is also grateful towards the gift sponsors Everest View Travels, Asta's Tandoor Restaurant, Nepalese Crafts, Nepal Melbourne Shop, Buyers Choice, Ranjan Shrivastav, SK Nepali Translation and Basecamp Restaurant

and hopes the support will continue in the future as well. NAV acknowledges the contribution of Mila

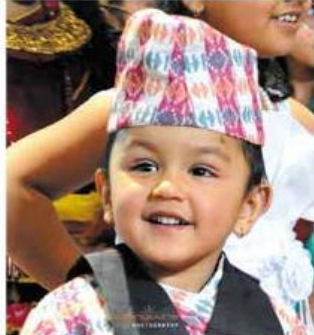
Creations and Solangture in this event and thanks all media for covering this event. NAV would also like to express sincere gratitude to all the volunteers whose tireless effort, their valuable time and energy made this program a big success. The program was attended by Deputy Mayor of Moreland City Council Cr Meghan Hopper, Cr Angela Villella of Darebin City Council, Jian Xiao Darebin Ethnic Community Council and representatives of the Moreland and Darebin City Council.



NAV acknowledges the contribution of Mila Creations and Solangture in this event and thanks all media for covering this event. NAV would also like to express sincere gratitude to all the volunteers whose tireless effort, their valuable time and energy made this program a big success.



NAV celebrates Bal Diwas showcasing kids' talent



Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) organized 11th NAV Bal Diwas (children's day) 2014 for children of Nepalese origin living in Victoria, Australia on 10th of August. NAV has been organizing Bal Diwas every year since 2003, with an aim to engage Nepalese children into the community through various activities. The organisation believes that program such as Bal Diwas

year. Mr Sudhir Shakya, President NAV welcomed the guests and talked about the history of the Bal Diwas program. Mr Chandra Yonzon, Nepalese Consul General to Victoria and Cr Meaghan Hopper, Deputy Mayor of Moreland City Council talked about importance of such program and the support Nepalese community has enjoyed from Moreland City Council. This program was also attended by NRNA

The program, which was attended by 140 children and almost equal numbers of parents started with lighting of candles in the 'panas,' traditional Nepalese lamp by two little girls in Haku Patasi, a traditional Newari outfit. It was followed by singing of Australian and Nepali National anthem by a group of children.



allows our children- our future generation, to acknowledge the culture and heritage of their parents' home country and appreciate cultural diversity in Australia. Furthermore, it fosters integration of children of Nepalese Immigrants with each other and the wider local Nepalese community.

The program, which was attended by 140 children and almost equal numbers of parents started with lighting of candles in the 'panas,' traditional Nepalese lamp by two little girls in Haku Patasi, a traditional Newari outfit. It was followed by singing of Australian and Nepali National anthem by a group of children.

The program showcased children's talent, which included singing, dancing, poetry, reciting and hula hooping. The children also participated in a number of fun filled activities- face painting, craft and colouring, and reading stories; and games -musical chairs, a general knowledge quiz contest, spoon and egg race, cardboard race and pin the tail on donkey. The fun-filled day was concluded with hitting piñatas filled with lollies. Children left the venue with smiles on their faces and pockets full of lollies.

United Football Club (UFC) provided a short football 'fun-training' for the children. Manij Hada from UFC said children, especially boys thoroughly enjoyed the training and added that NAV should organize such event more than once a

Australia Vice President Rishi Kandel, MIT Director, Mrs Jamuna Gurung, NAV past presidents Bom Yonzon and Ranjan Vaidya, NAV advisors and various other community leaders and members.

Former NAV President Mr Ranjan Vaidya conducted a workshop on challenges of raising children as first generation migrants. It was attended by twelve parents. The recommendations of the workshop have been forwarded to NAV for consideration. The program was coordinated by Kusum Pokharel, NAV Executive Member. Ms. Pokharel said that it was a unique example of NAV and community coming together to make this program widely inclusive and successful.

NAV thanks its event partner- Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT), and the sponsor Buyer's Choice Home Loan Advisory Service; and also would like to emphasise that it was the tireless effort of volunteers who gave their valuable time and energy that made this program a big success and express sincere gratitude to all of them.

The next NAV event is NAV Teej Celebration being held on Sunday, 24th August 2014. This year's program includes, Teej drama by local artists, Fashion parade, photography and more. There will be a special performance by Roma Neupane, an inspiration dancer with disability.



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inclusion, integration & collaboration through media...

Huge marble statue of Lord Shiva unveiled in Campbelltown, Sydney



The Mukti-Gupteshwar Mandir Society has unveiled a large statue of Lord Shiva. The height of the Statue, including the pedestal, is approximately, 4.5m. The statue is carved from one piece white marble and weighs 3.5 tonnes. A special crane was used to lift the statue onto a specially constructed concrete pedestal.

The statue of Lord Shiva has four arms, rear two arms carrying a trident and a small drum. Shiva is wearing a snake and prayer beads all carved from the same piece of marble.

This form of Lord Shiva is known as the provider of salvation and freedom from cycle of birth and rebirth to devotees. The statue is fitted with seven coloured LED lights and is striking at night, with colours changing every minute over the seven colours for a seven minute cycle.

A ceremony has been conducted which is Hindu term has brought the sacred image to life. There are two ways to understand the ceremony. The first is as a contract between the Deity and devotees. The deity agrees to descend into the sacred image, and the devotee agrees to care for the Deity in the form of service to the community. The ceremony

causes the Deity to awaken within the stone. The other view is more theological. By definition, God is all pervading and omnipresent and so breath does not need to be established within the statue because God is already there! On this view, the purpose of the ceremony is to awaken the minds of devotees to the presence of divinity within the sacred image. At the start of the ceremony people see only stone but by the end they see God. The real installation takes place not on the stone but in the minds of the participants.

Lord Shiva is an exciting newcomer to the attractions of the Campbelltown-Macarthur region, and a great example of cultural enrichment brought by Australians of the Hindu faith.

The Mukti-Gupteshwar Mandir is the world's first human built underground cave temple at 203 Eagleview Road Minto, 2566. More information is available at the website www.muktigupteshwar.org.

For further information, interviews and photograph opportunities contact Mr Prem Misra on 0412 13 9000 or Ms Rama Misra on 0422 22 6724. Email: info@muktigupteshwar.org

Nepali families from Yeunedumu host a dinner to help landslide victims in Nepal

Nepali origin families in the remote Yuendumu town of Northern Territory hosted a dinner with their local friends in a bid to collect fund to support Sunkoshi River landslide victims of Nepal. Madhu Panthi, Diwa Bhusal, Biblav Sapkota and Namita Pokharel organized the event in their own residence in the remote Australian town.

Yuendumu lies 1500 km of North West of Darwin and 1800 km north of Adelaide. The nearest market from the town is Alice Springs which is 293 km far. It has just 817 populations, most of them are aboriginals. More



than 15 Australian nationals attended the event where AU\$550 have been collected. The amount has been handed over to Australia-based Non-Resident Nepali Association. An entire village was swept away by the landslide killing about 200 and displacing 500 that occurred three weeks ago in Sindhupalchok district of northern Nepal.



Nepalese in Gold Coast show their solidarity towards landslide victim through Teej Program

As many Nepalese living around Australia are offering their support to Sunkoshi landslide Victim, Nepalese living in Gold Coast have organized a Teej celebration program to show their solidarity towards the victim of deadly natural disaster.

Nepali Community Gold Coast (NCGC) organized the event on 19 August at the Community Hall of the South Port, where the fund raising program was held for those in need the most.

Coastal Education, Pizza Keepers- Mermaid Waters, Touch of India and Little Curry Kitchen sponsored the event likewise Himalayan Delicacies catered for the participant.

Prasun Upadhaya, Suresh Sapkota, Naresh Shah, Anil KC, Kishor Tiwari, Pradeep Timilsina, Hem Kandel, Subash Khadka, Dev Nepali, Arpit Ananda as well as others have contributed substantially to make the event a grand success.

Likewise, Mona Gangol, Sabin Chettri, Shreya Nepal and Sunil Shrestha played significant role in managing the program.

According to the organizer, the collected fund will be handed over to the landslide victims as soon as possible.

About 200 people died and more than 500 have been displaced in a landslide at Mankha VDC of Sindhupalchok district last month.



Nepalese Community Gold Coast, Teej 2014

ECCV celebrates 40 years of advocacy in style, Nepalese Community leaders join in

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday, 16 August, with a spectacular gala dinner at the St Kilda Town Hall. The night marked 40 years of advocacy, standing up for equality, fairness and inclusion.

Guest speakers on the night included Premier of Victoria Denis Napthine, Deputy Opposition Leader James Merlino and renowned writer Alice Pung. They praised ECCV for its remarkable work over the past 40 years with many acknowledging ECCV as the peak body promoting and encouraging a multicultural Australia.

ECCV chairperson Eddie Micallef said the organisation has followed the transformation of Australia over the past four decades from a closed, largely mono-cultural society to an open, vibrant and harmonious multicultural society and recognised that it was important to have organisations like ECCV to help create other culturally diverse organisations.

Premier Denis Napthine also congratulated the ECCV for 40 years of service and advocacy and said it was important to continue to build a multicultural Victoria. He said multiculturalism in Victoria was a strength and added value to the state.

Dr Napthine said statistics show 26 per cent of Victorians are born overseas and 47 per cent of Victorians are either born overseas or have at least one parent

born overseas. "I can announce that if the Coalition Government is re-elected in November, that the ECCV whose funding under the current arrangement ceases in July 2015, that not only we will continue that funding for another four year term but we'll increase that funding by 25 per cent to \$312,500 a year," he said.

The message of the night was clear that multiculturalism must continue to be acknowledged by the government to build a healthier and brighter Australia. Deputy Opposition leader James Merlino said multiculturalism used to be a policy but now it was simply a way of life.

"One reliable measure of policy success is when people stop referring to it as a policy, diversity is now our principle and our pillar," Mr Merlino said.

In a video presentation, former Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Fraser, and other contributors to multiculturalism praised ECCV's continuous commitment in constructing and supporting a culturally diverse society.

Keeping with the theme of the night, the audience was entertained by two performances from the Asanti Dance Theatre, an internationally recognised African dance group. Guests also danced the night away to the Latin band Son Tres.

"This media release was written by ECCV/SBS/Deakin media mentoring project student Salam Hasanein.



Representing Nepalese community, many community leaders participated ECCV gala dinner. Nepalese Association of Victoria President Sudhir Shakya, former Presidents Bom Yonzon and Ranjan Baidhya, NAV VP Surendra Sedhai and Deepa Rai, former VP Mahesh Bhandari, NRN Victoria's Co-ordinator Rishi Kandel, Founder of Haamro Pathsaala and NAV member Kusum Pokharel and VMC Multicultural excellence award winner Mr Jog Limbu were among the participants on the multicultural gusto.

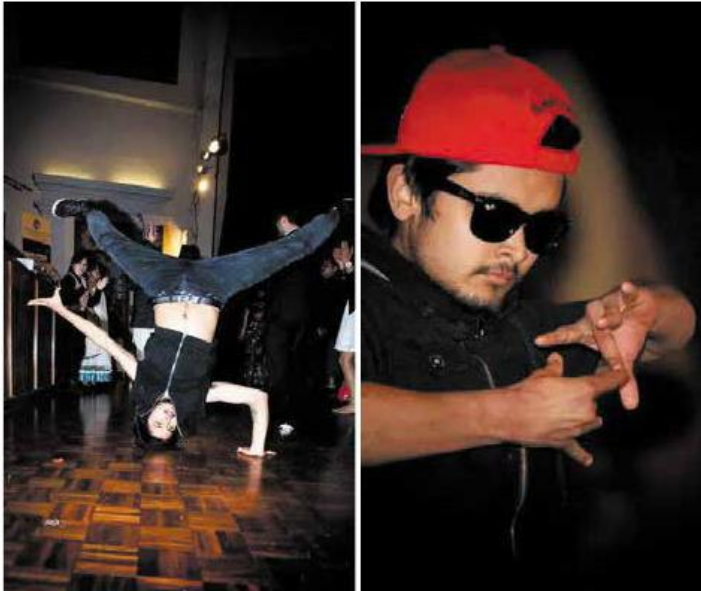


"As the representatives of NAV, it was our great pleasure to attend the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) celebration of its 40th anniversary. We have heard the history of the ECCV and that night marked 40 years of advocacy, standing up for equality, fairness and inclusion. As a new and emerging (Nepalese) community, we have been participating and assimilating in Victoria's diverse communities in the social, cultural, economic and political life of Victoria. NAV will play a vital role in the Nepalese community's participation in the transformation of Australia into a vibrant, diverse, fair, equal, inclusive and multicultural society."

- Jog Limbu
Multicultural Excellence Award-2013 recipient



Sushant's dancing journey



Sushant remembers his childhood days when his parents made him dance to Bollywood song. Dancing was part of his family ritual. He says, "It was something that I picked up unexpectedly but eventually got addicted to it."

He shared, "We all have some sort of inspiration that inspires us to follow our passion. My biggest inspiration was my friend Anad Gurung. He is the closest and oldest friend of mine. He used to dance in events and parties. The attention that he was getting kind of attracted me into dancing as well. He guided me and taught me the nitty gritty of dancing. Like anyone else, I had my self doubts in my ability. But my passion for dancing took me to perform at school for the first time. I consider that a turning point in my dancing journey."

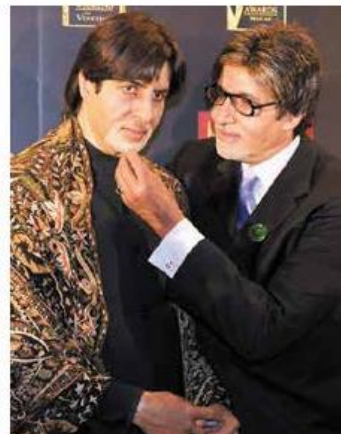
"Once I arrive here in Australia, it has been hard to pursue it, however we have formed a group just to keep our passion alive. I would like to acknowledge Samjana didi, Suman dai (Sam Nepali), Samjana didi, Ishwor dai, Suvi did and Sunil dai for all their encouragement. Hope the journey will continue," he said.

Sunita Dulal wins Teej Music Award 2071



Teej Music Award 2071, a music award of teej songs, an event organized by Bajaj Entertainment Pvt.Ltd. in Kathmandu on 26th August 2014. Singer Sunita Dulal won the award 'Best Teej Song of Year'. Her song titled 'Teeja ko aayo lahara...' from her teej album of 2071 titled 'Nachau Sarara...' marketed and distributed by Kamala Devi Digital Music Company, took away the title.

Sydney Madame Tusaads to have Amitabh Bachchan statue



Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan will join the unique line-up of celebrities at Madame Tussauds Sydney this year.

According to an official statement, the 71-year-old actor's wax statue would be featuring with celebrities like Captain Cook, Donald Bradman, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Johnny Depp and Lady Gaga.

The legendary Bollywood star would be placed in an interactive setting that would allow fans to get close and have a personal experience.

The statement noted that Bachchan, for the first time in the history of Madame Tussauds, was nominated to be portrayed by fans in a world-wide internet poll.

Madame Tussauds Sydney is located on Sydney's renowned Darling Harbour.

Earlier in 2012, Madam Tussauds Sydney had superstars like Kareena Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Hrithik Roshan under the Bollywood World Tour.

CONDOLENCE



Shree Krishna Shrestha
1967 - 2014

Nepalese Voice expresses a heartfelt condolence to Nepali actor Shree Krishna Shrestha, who passed away while being treated for bone cancer in Delhi's Ganga Ram Hospital. His service towards the Nepali arts and entertainment industry will always be remembered. We pray for his family to have a strength to deal with this irreplaceable loss.

'Tandav' in Melbourne



Actress Namrata Shrestha along with Rap sensation Lahure (Ashish Rana) will be seen sharing silver screen in the new upcoming Nepali movie "Tandav". Along with Namrata and Lahure, Anup Baral, Ian Gurung, Beepin Karki will be seen in the movie as lead characters. The movie is being premiered in Melbourne on 21st of September. This is a debut film for Laure who became a sensation with his rapping skill recently. Namrata Shrestha has played a character of call girl in the movie.

The movie has been directed by British director Murray Kerr and produced by Mohan Dotel. The movie was released in cinemas in Nepal on 22nd August. Tandav is Murray Kerr's second direction after "Sick City". Tandav has been shot at Taulihawa and Kathmandu. Some foreign actors are also seen in this movie.

Khushbu Mishra wins Miss Nepal USA 2014

Khushbu Mishra was crowned Miss Nepal USA 2014. The Ohio resident left behind 14 competitors to win the title as well as a scholarship worth USD 5,000, a two-way ticket to Nepal and an acting offer for director Suraj Subba Nyalbo's next film.

California's Sushma Sharma won the title of First Runner-up while Norwood's Sushma Adhikari was the Second Runner-up. They were awarded with scholarships worth USD 3,000 and 2,000 respectively.

Organized by E-Planet Nepal in association with Event Planet Inc, the event took place in New York. According to the organizers, 10% of the amount



raised from the ticket sales will go to the landslide victims in Sindhupalchowk.

Miss Nepal 2011 Malina Joshi was the emcee for the program where singer Hemanta Rana and YouTube sensation Bhim Niroula presented some of their popular tracks. Nepali ambassador to America Durga Prasad Bhattarai was also present at the event as the chief guest while Non Resident Nepali-International Coordination Committee (NRN-ICC) Chairman Shesh Ghale was the distinguished guest.

The jury included banker Raveena Desraj Shrestha, film director Suraj Subba Nyalbo and Dr Upendra Lal Karna.

KASAM Premieres its first music video in Melbourne

Kala Sanskriti Manch Australia released a Teej special musical album in Melbourne amid a special program held at Nepalese Consulate office on the 10th August. This was the first ever Nepali folk duet album ever to be released outside Nepal. At the event, a music video from the album "Sabaile Vanchhan Mero Budi Hot" was premiered. Popular singer Ram Chandra Kafle and Manju Poudel have given a rendition to the song penned by Melbourne based song writer Binod Ghimire. Jeevan Rasali, renowned cameraman who currently lives in Melbourne shot the video. The project is largely supported by entrepreneur Saroj Sharma from Expert Education and NRNA Victoria's Krishna Neupane.

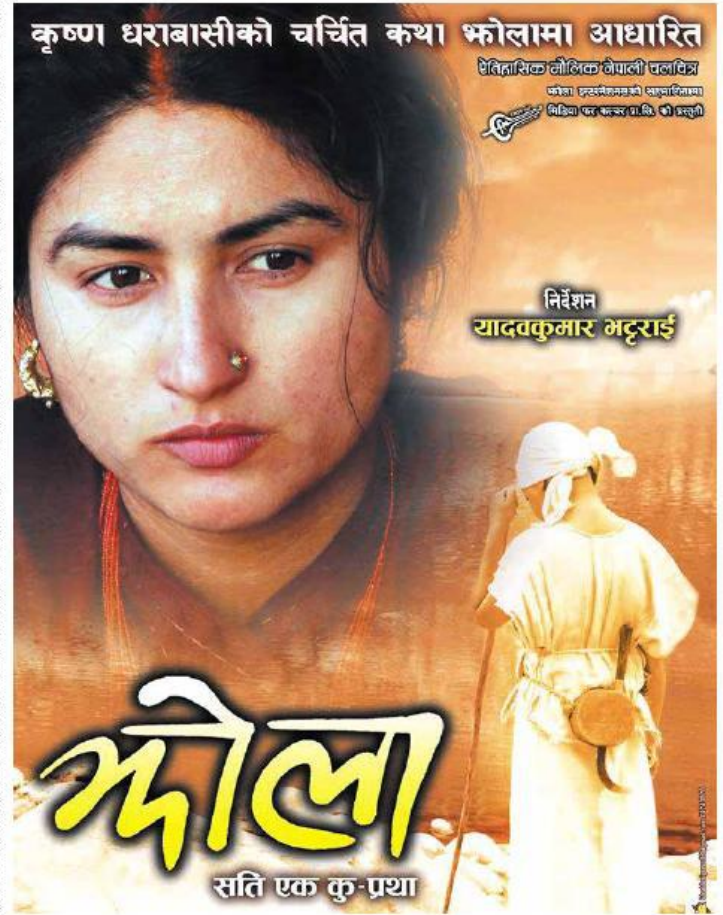
All the local female talents have acted in the video, adorned in Nepali



typical outfit to represent Nepali culture and tradition. According to Binod Ghimire from KSM the video is based on the theme of western influence on Nepali youths.

The program was also attended by Honourable Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr Chandra Yonzon, NRN Victoria's Coordinator Rishi Kandel and Entrepreneur Mahesh Bhandari and Saroj Sharma.

'Jhola' to represent Nepal in Oscar



Nepali feature film Jhola has been nominated to vie for in the Oscar Award under the Best Foreign Language Film Category. The story portrays the practice of Sati tradition in Nepal in which Hindu women were forced to burn themselves on the funeral pyre of their spouses.

The story of the film is written by Krishna Dharabasi, which depicts the cruel and inhumane practice faced by Hindu women.

Directed and produced by Yadav Kumar Bhattarai, the film narrates a

story of Kanchhi, a young and attractive woman married to an old man with an age gap of around 40 years. After her husband breathes his last, Kanchhi is forced to jump into the funeral pyre of her husband.

Another Nepali film Moksha was also on the fray for the Oscar nomination, according to the Film Selection Committee.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is holding the Oscar Awards ceremony in Los Angeles of the US on February 22, 2015.

Jems Pradhan's introduces first selfie music video



Multifaceted musician Jems Pradhan has done a selfie music video for his latest single 'Ma Hide Hai'. He has shot the film in all the tourist destinations around Kathmandu.

After the launch of his video he said, "I was interested in making a selfie-video five years ago when I got a DSLR camera but it was not possible as it was heavy. I used to shoot videos with my iPhone. Then I gifted myself a GoPro camera for my birthday this year. As I got used to it and good with it, I decided to do a selfie

music video with my daughter's encouragement," Pradhan shared the story of how the selfie music video of Ma Hide Hai came into being.

The song was arranged, penned, composed and sung by Pradhan himself. Except for the saxophone, the song is the sole work of the King of Jingles. From mixing to editing the video, Pradhan has entirely handled the making of Ma Hide Hai. As the video has captured "beautiful heritage sites", he believes that it will promote Nepal.

Pathways to Australian Permanent Residence for International Students

JUSTIN RICKARD B.A LL.B M.A (Syd.) M.M.I.A
Australian lawyer* # 11272 (N.S.W) & Registered Migration Agent # 9790625

Many international students studying in Australia hold the dream of being able to remain within Australia permanently in order to establish a home and family after the expiry of their student visas. This dream can become a possibility if a graduating student fulfils the eligibility criteria for particular visas which can provide a pathway to obtaining permanent residency upon completion of their studies. In all cases health and character requirements will apply, though they may vary in particulars for each sub-class.

As with any summary of such complex matters, the devil is in the details so professional advice from an experienced Australian registered migration agent (who is preferably a lawyer also) is crucial to avoid mistakes*. Even the tiniest mistake can render an application unsuccessful. The "pathway" visas include:

Skilled Recognised Graduate subclass 476 visa

Applicable to recent graduates younger than 31 years of age who have completed an eligible engineering qualification from a recognised institution in the past two years. Applicants can not have held a Skilled — Recognised Graduate visa (subclass 476) or a Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) before (unless they were a dependent family member) and be able to demonstrate English language ability.

An applicant may apply for this visa from both inside or outside of Australia however an applicant must be outside of Australia when the application is decided. This visa allows holders to travel, work, enrol in further educational studies and additionally study in order to improve their English skills. Holders of this visa may be eligible to apply for permanent residence if able to meet the required pass mark for the General Skilled Migration points test. The visa is valid for up to 18 months.

Skilled Independent subclass 189 visa

Applicable if recently graduated from an Australian University whilst on a student or qualifying visa and in possession of a skilled occupation listed on the relevant Skilled Occupation list



and you have obtained a suitable skills assessment for that occupation and not yet turned 50 years of age and achieved the score specified in your letter of invitation based on the factors in the points test.

You must have at least competent English. In comparison to the skilled nominated subclass 189 visa however this visa does not require an applicant to be sponsored by an employer, family member or state government but can be applied for on an independent basis. The difficulties with this pathway will include being able to pass a skills assessment or obtain enough points if you have little work experience, as well as the inability to obtain a bridging visa until an actual visa application is made.

Skilled Regional subclass 489 visa

This visa allows skilled workers to live and work in specified regional areas in Australia for up to four years. There are two streams for this particular visa:

1. Invited Pathway

- Invited pathway which requires a

letter of invitation and nomination by either an Australian State agency or an eligible relative living in an area designated for the purposes of this visa.

You Submit an Expression of Interest and then might be eligible to apply for this visa if invited. When you are sent your letter of invitation, you must also have:

- been nominated by an Australian State or Territory government agency or sponsored by an eligible relative living in a designated area
- nominated an occupation that is on the relevant skilled occupations list
- a suitable skills assessment for that occupation
- not yet turned 50 years of age
- achieved the score specified in your letter of invitation based on the factors in the points test
- at least competent English

2. Extended Stay Pathway

You can also apply for the Skilled Regional (Provisional) Renewal (subclass 489) visa if you hold a provisional visa in subclass 496, 495, 487 or 475

Extended stay pathway which requires an applicant to have held a provisional visa in subclass 475, 487, 495 or 496 for at least two years and want to extend your stay in Australia or be a family member of someone who holds this visa (subclass 489) or a provisional visa in subclass 475, 487, 495 or 496. Apply for a Skilled Regional (Provisional) Subsequent Entrant (subclass 489) visa

It should be noted however that meeting the minimum requirements and criteria will not guarantee nomination by the state as the state will only select these applicants with the greatest chance of finding stable employment.

Skilled Nominated subclass 190 visa

Applicable for recent graduates on a student or qualifying visa and in possession of an occupation listed on the State nomination list for graduates. This particular visa is points tested on a skill basis and in order to apply you must submit an expression of interest and then be invited through SkillSelect to lodge an application.

This particular visa is intended to

satisfy the high demand within Australia's labour market for potential employees possessing a particular skillset and as such possesses stringent minimum eligibility requirements. These include requirements similar to the subclass 489 visa however in addition PhD graduates who have completed a doctorate from an Australian educational institution or other doctorate of an equivalent nature in a specialist field listed on the State Nomination Occupation List may also be eligible for state nomination. Evidence proving successful completion of the PhD must be provided and the PhD must have been completed within the past 5 years.

Skilled graduate subclass 485 visa

Although this visa does not confer permanent residency it does allow a recent graduate from an Australian education to remain within Australia temporarily upon completion of studies for up to 18 months or more. There are two streams of Graduate Temporary Visa, these streams being:

1. Graduate work: An 18 month visa which requires applicants to pass a skills assessment in an occupation listed on the Skilled occupation list.

2. Post study work: A visa lasting between 2 years for those completing a Bachelor degree to 4 years for those completing a Doctorate. This particular stream does not require a skills assessment however there are relevant dates going back several years which must be investigated carefully in each case to ensure eligibility.

This visa does not require nomination by a State agency in order for an applicant to apply.

Visas are also available for full-time work sponsorship on a permanent or temporary 4 year basis, usually with an Australian employer.

Other pathways may exist based on your financial and family situation in Australia. Professional advice must be sought at earliest as long term planning is required in this complex and ever changing field.



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* Mr. Rickard almost always acts as a registered migration agent only on migration applications

*This article is a guide only and not intended as stand-alone legal advice.

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CALD Youth Census Report unveiled

CALD youth value education but need help finding jobs

A new report into the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and refugee youth in Australia says there's a need for a continuing focus on English, education and training, and employment. The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network commissioned Professor Graeme Hugo to prepare the report, which contributes to baseline knowledge about CALD and refugee youth in Australia.

The report has highlighted that it is important for policymakers at the Federal, State and Local area levels to understand the changing size and composition of its population. This report has focused on youth born in CALD and refugee countries between the ages of 12-24 and made comparisons with youth born in Australia at the state level to identify trends. It also point out that a great diversity of ethnicities within CALD and refugee population groups which not only requires a range of differing need and services but also translates into different settlement and distribution patterns that need to be understood more fully.

"However, it is useful to first assess them more broadly as population groups

in order to understand how youth from CALD and refugee countries as new additions to the Australia's population are benchmarked against the Australian born youth population," the report said.

When it comes to education, the report said, it was encouraging to see that youth born in CALD and refugee countries and with CALD and refugee ancestry generally had comparable rates of being enrolled at an educational institution.

In fact, youth born in CALD countries and youth with CALD and refugee ancestry performed slightly better than their Australian counterparts in the 12-17 age. Overall, youth born in CALD and refugee countries and with CALD and refugee ancestry had higher participation rates as students in either a full or part-time capacity at an educational institution when compared to youth born in Australian.

While it is considered that the population of youth born in CALD countries partly comprises international students, there is also some evidence that there is a stronger emphasis placed on education for migrant youth. The inverse relationship between employment and education

while their engagement with the workforce was still lower than the Australian born population, it was higher than youth born in CALD and refugee countries. It said this was an indication of how over the generations different population groups begin to converge towards the Australia born average. The Federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, launched The CALD Youth Census Report.



While it is considered that the population of youth born in CALD countries partly comprises international students, there is also some evidence that there is a stronger emphasis placed on education for migrant youth.

is apparent for youth born in Australia which has a significantly higher proportion of its 18-24 group participating in the workforce compared to youth born in CALD and refugee countries.

The report said this may be attributed to the Australian born population having more options available to them apart from post-secondary education compared to youth born in CALD and refugee countries. However, it said, for youth with CALD and refugee ancestry,

Broadly, she said, the report found that the rate of participation in education for CALD and refugee youth was comparable to Australian-born youth if not slightly higher, and there appeared to be strong emphasis placed on education among migrant youth. "This report will help us identify successes and areas which need more attention. It will allow us to make informed decisions about how we can best help this important target group."

Nepalese students concerned over dodgy migration agents

Fairfax media had revealed an Indian migration agent's three million dollars criminal racket in the first week of August.

The report had unravelled corrupt Immigration Department official and her husband that helped run a racket involving more than 1000 fraudulent visa applications. According to the report, Reetika Ajjan and her husband, Jeetender, fled Australia three days after immigration and federal agents raided their home in October 2011 – having wired more than \$1 million to overseas bank accounts after sniffing they were under investigation. They are currently

in Delhi and said to have been living free and comfortable lives. Just a week after, in the second week of August, an unreg-

istered migration agent, Maria Nani was sentenced for migration fraud offences in the Magistrates Court of Victoria.



According to the report, Reetika Ajjan and her husband, Jeetender, fled Australia three days after immigration and federal agents raided their home in October 2011 – having wired more than \$1 million to overseas bank accounts after sniffing they were under investigation.

The prosecution was the result of an investigation by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) into unlawful migration assistance to visa applicants. She was found guilty of providing false documentation to visa applicants in return for money. She was

sentenced to a community corrections order of 300 hours' community service over 18 months across all charges, fined \$10 000 and ordered to pay \$113.90 costs and \$4075 in repatriation orders.

These are two great and recent examples of how worrying the situation has been for International Students in Australia. As they require to seek assistance from the migration agents for their enrolment, course transfer, visa extensions and other services, Nepalese students are alarmed with the recent news about dodgy migration agents.

Suman Deuja from Nepalese Students Association of Victoria said, "So many of these victims could be our folks." He said "please be careful when you choose your migration agent. Their wrongdoing can ruin your career and waste your hard earned money." He said, "these recent incidents are quite worrying for international students specially for our folks whose fate relies on these agents." "I suggest everyone to do proper research before getting involved", he added.

Victorian Gov's appeal to join family violence prevention project

Victorian Government has launched a new initiative to assist culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to raise awareness of the harm caused by violence against women and children and develop tailored violence prevention programs. The project, led by The National Foundation to prevent Violence Against Women and their Children (the Foundation), builds the capacity of CALD communities to undertake family violence prevention activities which deliver the message that violence against women and children is never okay.

According to the government's statement, the Indian community has been specifically nominated for the initiative as it has demonstrated a strong readiness to participate in prevention efforts, and there is the potential to build on prevention activities already underway.

The programs will help the development of new projects for other CALD communities and inform broader prevention initiatives across both the state and Australia. They will each develop

community sector partnerships, tools, guides, resources and a community implementation plan, with support from the Foundation.

Expressions of interest are invited from agencies with a strong history of working with CALD communities and the ongoing infrastructure to support sustainability of the work beyond the life of the project.

Minister for Community Services Mary Wooldridge said expressions of interest are now open and encourages agencies to submit their innovative approaches to delivering a prevention program specific to the needs of a CALD community.

"There are many inhibitors to speaking up about violence in culturally diverse communities – we are seeking to empower community members to speak out," Ms Wooldridge said. "The state Government has invested \$550,000 in the development of these family violence prevention programs that are specifically tailored to the needs of CALD communities."

Ms Wooldridge said the project will develop two separate family violence

intervention programs; one working within the Indian community and the other working within an emerging CALD community.

"We know that sometimes a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work. We are seeking to develop innovative approaches that work for specific cultural communities in a way that best benefits them," Ms Wooldridge said.

Director Policy and Evaluation for The National Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women, Lara Fergus

said that working with CALD communities ensures that initiatives genuinely address the concerns of the community and have the greatest effectiveness.

"Violence against women should be a priority for all of us – individuals, communities and organisations. We must establish equality between men and women in families, communities, and society as a whole. This project is an important step closer to ending violence against women," Ms Fergus said.



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Stoned...

continues from last issue...

Both of them were sitting in the lounge but none of them spoke a word. An awkward silence was there. Finally, she spoke and asked him how he had been.

"I was in the county to meet my client. I saw you in the window so came to meet you" he replied. He didn't even asked her how she had been. She felt amazed. Is he the same guy whom she had loved for a decade? She wasn't sure at this moment. She felt an inner urge to cry but she couldn't.

"I lost my firm. I couldn't secure enough orders to keep it solvent. So, I

"Is your business everything for you? Your wife, child, family means nothing to you?" She asked him with a feeling of mixed emotions. He couldn't answer her. He seemed puzzled. "I think we should get divorced" she eventually told him.

He was surprised. He hadn't anticipated this. He refused this. She insisted on being separated. He refused again and again. On the heat of the argument, he lost his temper. He grabs a vase and hit her with it. Her skull was fractured. She was bleeding. Her body takes a spin and then hit the corner of the wall. She became unconscious.

Crime Investigation Unit was still collecting evidences inside the house.

4 PM in the afternoon. Mary was admitted in the hospital. Her operation began. Eliza arrived later with her grandma. Eliza still didn't know what had happened in her home this afternoon neither she knows who did this to her mom and how this happened. With a sleepy eye, she looked inside the hospital and stares outside the window. Her grandma was terrified to learn from police about the incident. She was in a state of shock to know about Mary. She rushed to the hospital to see her daughter.

After 4 hours of surgery, Mary's operation was completed. She was declared to be in a stable condition. Eliza was taken back home by her grandma. After dinner, her grandma told her the story of prince charming. "One day a prince charming will come and take you to his kingdom" she told Eliza. Eliza was already asleep. She never stays awake to complete the story, thought her grandma. It rained all night. Eliza woke up early in the morning. She was missing Mary. She cried a lot this morning. Her granny could barely make her stop crying. After an early breakfast, she took Eliza and rushed to the hospital.

10 AM in the morning, doctor informed her that Mary has regained consciousness but they could meet her only in the evening. She returned home with Eliza. She was still in a state of shock after yesterday's incident. Her mind was still not coping with the fact that her daughter was in the hospital after serious injuries sustained in a violent attack by Keats.

In the meantime, Keats hasn't been able to come out of shock. He couldn't believe what he has done to Mary. She was his high school sweetheart, love of his life. All she asked her was to realize his mistake and apologize for it.

"All this could have been prevented if I had given up my ego" he said to himself. He could barely console himself. He wept in his interrogation cell. Quietly, he wiped the tears. He asked Ryan about Mary's condition. Ryan told him that Mary's operation has been successful and she has regained her consciousness. Ryan also



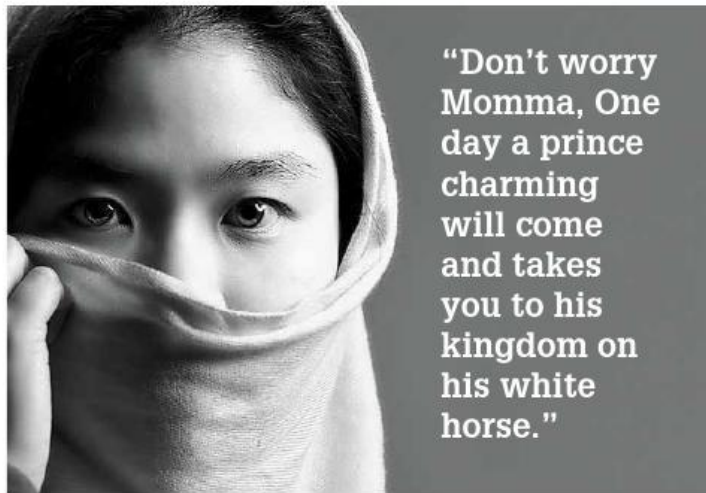
Abhishek Shiwakoti

told him that his team is underway to take her testimony. Keats was relieved to know that Mary is now safe. He breathed a sigh of relief.

At 6 PM in the evening, Eliza came to the hospital with her grandma to meet her mother. She came close to Mary and told her that she loves her. Mary couldn't utter a single word. She just gave smile to Eliza and stares at her mother. Her mother told her that Keats has been in police custody for further investigation. Meanwhile, two officers from Ryan's team arrived at the hospital to record her testimony. She felt uncomfortable to relieve all those moments once more. However, she braved all those instincts and narrated the incident to them. After sometime, the officers returned with the testimony.

Mary was alone in the room when Eliza and her grandmother reentered the room. Mary smiles a little. She felt better after her testimony. Perhaps, she vent out everything she had kept inside her for a long time.

Her mother was inconsolable. She hasn't been able to keep her tears inside. Eliza came close to her mother and told her in a soft voice, "Don't worry Momma, One day a prince charming will come and takes you to his kingdom on his white horse." She remembers her prince charming. All her life comes as a flashback in front of her eyes. Her prince charming has been a curse to her. He had stoned at her dreams. Her dreams had been shattered like a broken glass. No, she doesn't want any prince charming in her life. She wants to live her own life now. She wanted to tell this to Eliza but couldn't. She stares at the ceiling, tears rolling down her cheeks. It was still raining outside with thunders yet she stills felt silence in her life.



"Don't worry Momma, One day a prince charming will come and takes you to his kingdom on his white horse."

filed for liquidation" he told her.

She felt sorry for him. It was his dream to take his firm to a national level which now has been aborted prematurely.

"I wonder what I could I have been today if I could have secured that order", he told her without any second thought.

"I cannot be a female escort for the sake of your orders" she replied furiously, perhaps more furious than she was ever before. She was angry that he hasn't even realized what he set her up for.

"I didn't have any other option then. I wanted those orders, pay my loan and increase my business."

He dropped the vase on the floor.

He was feeling guilty at the moment. He kept calling Mary. Mary didn't reply. He became nervous. He wasn't sure what to do next. He call dialed 911 and asked for help.

Few minutes later police and paramedics arrived there. She was then taken into the ambulance and was rushed to the hospital. Detective Ryan asked him what had happened there. Keats narrated the incident. He was still trembling with fear and nervousness. Keats was taken into police custody for further investigation. Eliza will be taken to Mary's mother.

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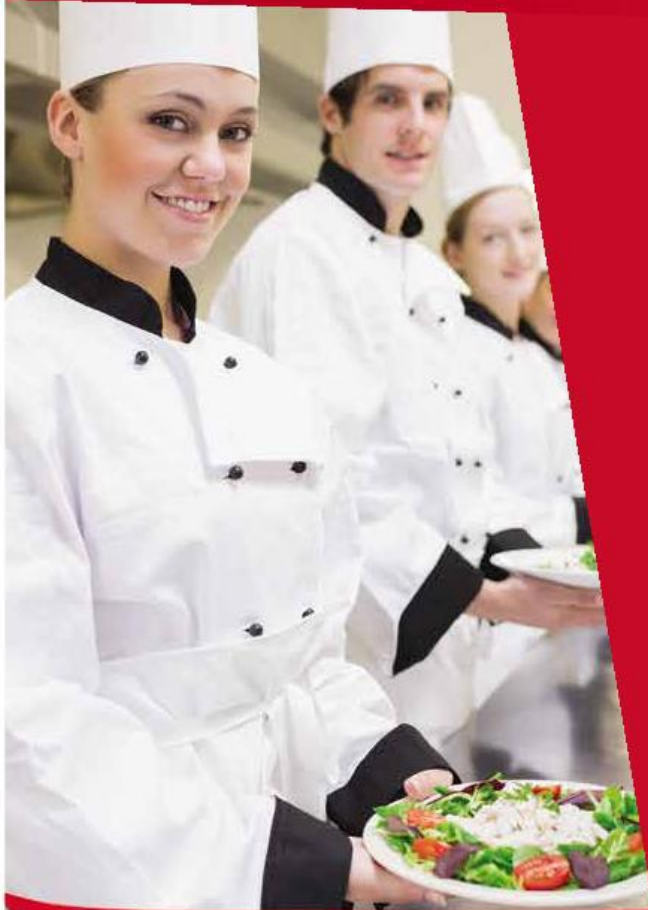
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Need to grow out of a timid psyche

Our Identity:

Nepalese community in Australia is rapidly growing but it is still considered relatively new to the broader Australian Community. Apart from being seen as the fastest growing community, the mainstream society would mostly identify with Nepalese as mountain climbing Sherpas that help their fellow climbers from the more affluent countries. Some would know Nepal as the birthplace of Lord Buddha, and some would harbour their sweet memories from 60s and 70s of walking side by side with cows on the streets of Kathmandu and purchasing hashish in a shop. For many Australians, whose relatives fought in the World War II, Nepal represents home to the valiant Gurkhas. All in all, whichever way Australians find their individual connection with Nepal, it would not be an overstatement for me to say that Nepalese stand for simple, loyal, laid back, hardworking and harmonious community.

Our Position in Australia:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics shows a growing number of Nepalese in Australia has reached the vicinity of 25000. The unofficial figure as claimed by some community leaders, which includes students and temporary residents, takes it to over 50000 in NSW alone, and Melbourne being home of more than 10000 residents with their origin in Nepal. Despite this big disparity in the official and unofficial figure, there is no doubt that Nepalese community has grown by manifolds in the last decade.

When we migrate to any new country permanently, there is a need of integration and also expectation of the broader community that we try to assimilate. In essence, this is what naturalization means anyways. Within this context, it becomes relevant to talk about the community organisations that are set out to work towards the welfare of our community and help its members have smooth transitions between countries and the cultures.

Governing bodies:

Particularly in reference to our community in Victoria, there are two main Nepalese organizations that claim to be the top community bodies. First one is Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV). Anyone with roots in Nepal is eligible for membership of NAV. The aim of this organization is to provide advocacy and practical supports to Nepalese in Victoria. NAV also organizes different festivals and celebrations, e.g. Children's day as well as women's

day. There is another organization - Non-Resident Nepalese Association (NRNA-SCC) - State Coordinating Committee, which is a Victorian Chapter of a much larger network of Nepalese community worldwide. This organization is actively involved in lobbying and negotiating with the Government of Nepal, primarily for dual citizenship, in return of collective and individual investment from its members to Nepal. This organization also provides financial support to social work, mainly in Nepal and



also to the Nepalese communities in the countries where they are based. Both organizations aim to promote business and tourism in Nepal. The NAV is purely a Victorian organization governed and dictated by its constitution, whereas the NRNA-SCC, being a part of a bigger organization has different executive layers and lacks independence that the NAV enjoys.

Although these two organizations appear to clash when it comes about taking leadership of the Nepalese communities in Victoria, so far their role in regards to the needy in the community has been appreciable. A significant proportion of people of Nepalese origin are affiliated with one or both of the above organizations.

Interestingly there are many other associations who follow political ideologies of most of the major political parties of Nepal. They have been established either as overseas branch of those political parties or identify themselves as affiliates of those political parties. More interestingly, some of the executives of such organizations are people of Nepalese origin who have acquired Australian

citizenship, and at this point in time do not carry any legal or moral rights to be actively involved with political organizations based in Nepal. It's important here for the readers from other backgrounds to know that Nepal does not permit dual citizenship, and considers one ceasing to be her citizen the moment a person acquires citizenship of another country.

Nepal hangover:

Whether through NAV, NRN or through other sister concern groups, one may wonder, why some of our

community members still want to continue their active party political life from Nepal in Australia. It appears that their unmet political and psychological needs to be recognized as leaders or just to feel validated, are the driving force for such association formation.

Generally almost non-existent for the community, such organizations

suddenly become active only when a political leader of a specific political party visits Australia, be it on official invitation, attending conference or personal visits. It is really a shame when such leader then proceeds to 'cadre workshop' and probably gets to fuel his narcissistic but fragile ego by being inflated by the people who identify themselves as followers of their political party in Nepal. We have examples that when such leaders visit Australia, they shy away from the mainstream interactions, and productive community debate. They would rather attend cocktail dinners, get some photo taken with a few, with no meaningful impact of their visits. Unfortunately such news are flaunted in Nepalese media here in Australia and back in Nepal. Along with that goes the name of the leaders of those political groups based in Victoria. This probably gives one more reason for the 'cadre' or self proclaimed leaders of the overseas branch of the Nepalese political parties to strive for such positions and justify their existence. One may argue that those organizations carry out charitable



Dr Anupam Pokharel

activities or contribute to good causes. But the point here is why we do not need so many new organizations, whereas we can already do those things through the existing ones like NAV and NRNA. To me, forming these sister concern groups of these political parties in Australia is meaningless and just a way to serve few people's personal ambition to rise in social portfolio.

Introspection:

Why am I so critical of the above phenomena? There are two main reasons - the first is that it is not letting us as a community to rise beyond petty politics and dispute that are based on what they believed when they were in Nepal. Few examples are: development of a core group in the recent NAV election and seeking votes in a clandestine manner, the political groups' common demand of 'shares' when it came about NRNA election just over a year ago, and also in some other community activities or projects. Would not they appear more genuine if they would like to come forward as an individual, when such activities are clearly driven by individual forces from different walks of life joining together as a common cohesive force? I am however more concerned by the second reason - being wrong examples to our children and being wrong role model by showing them a direction they are very less likely to pursue. When rest of the Australian community gets involved in Australian politics, are not we depriving our children, and more so ourselves too, from opportunities to assimilate. We still can preserve our uniqueness, and we will be better Australian Nepalese, if we accept who we are at the present, and get out from hangover of the past.

We need to get out from Non-resident psyche to Australian resident psyche. If we consider living in this great land for good, by not making this transition, we are doing a disservice to the next generation of Nepalese Australians' integration to the broader Australian Society and depriving them the full opportunity to move towards decision making and leadership positions in Australia.

Dr Pokharel is a resident of Victoria, Australia

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- tailored advice for businesses when they choose to access it, and
- direct links to Australian Government programmes and services, including the new Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme, Growth Fund, Industry Skills Fund and Manufacturing Transition Programme.

Find out more at Business.gov.au, or contact the Single Business Service on 13 28 46.

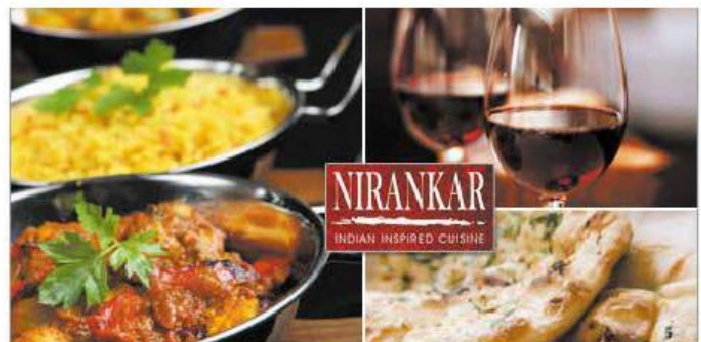


Have Chocolate Naan in Base Camp in September

Base Camp Nepalese and Indian restaurant, Northcote has unveiled its September special menu. The restaurant is serving dishes with interesting names such as Gurkha Bullets and Chocolate Naan. The menu also has a variety of interesting combination of dishes to choose from. If you have not tried Base Camp yet, it is worth a visit.

Nirankar open for operation

Another Nepali run restaurant has opened in Queen Street, Melbourne CBD. Nirankar Nepalese and Indian restaurant is now open for guests. Restaurant also caters for parties and functions.



Stalls opportunities in Nepal festival-2014

Nepal festival-2014 organising committee has invited businesses to secure stalls to promote their products and services. Stall co-ordinator Mr Saroj Sharma said "we are expecting over 30000 participants, so it is a very good opportunity for businesses to get exposure. It's money well spent for them." Interested candidates can contact Mr Sharma for stalls.

NRN Patra to go national

NRN Patra, a Nepali newspaper from Sydney is planning to go nationwide. The newspaper has been running in Sydney for a while. It is soon going to spread its wings to other states of Australia. Hom Dawadi from Melbourne chapter of the newspaper said, "we have formed a group nationally to produce and distribute our newspaper the best we can."

Nepali Times goes up north

The very first Nepali community magazine in Australia, Nepali Times Australia, has started its Queensland Chapter. After almost 6 years of operation in Sydney, the magazine started its Melbourne edition few months ago. The magazine aims to accommodate the Nepalese community based in Queensland with its new edition.



NNN media into event management with SETO BAGH

Melbourne based NNN Media has dived into event management with its first big venture in November. The media group is organising the premier of historical movie SETO BAGH in Melbourne. The movie is set in the backdrop of Rana regime that ruled Nepal for hundreds of years. Renowned actor and also the director of the movie Nir Shah is likely to arrive for the event.



Dhading Society to form Australia wide network of individuals from Dhading

"Dhading Australia Samaj" is hosting a gathering on 7th of September in Sydney to form an official committee. The organisation has invited all Dhadinges living in Australia as well as media and representatives from various community organisations to attend the meeting and provide feedback on the formation of executive committee and their future programs.

Dhading Australia Samparka Samiti is born out of a concept to unify all individuals from Dhading district of Nepal that are currently residing in Australia. It is purely a non-political organisation that primarily aims to benefit the district of its origin through its network in Australia.

DASS Co-ordinator Mr Kiran Adhikari said "as people from Dhading are in hundreds across Australia, we want to bring them all into one network so we can contribute back to our origin. Once our working committee is finalised, we will start working on our projects."

DASS is currently in the process of collecting data.

Dhading district, a part of Bagmati Zone borders the capital Kathmandu. It covers an area of 1,926 km², and around 350,000 people call Dhading home. The district holds a great significance in Nepal's economy not just because the transnational "King Prithivi Highway" runs through the district but it also has a great potential in farm products and hydropower.

धादिङ अस्ट्रेलिया संपर्क समाज

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NAV's membership overhaul

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) is updating its membership data. Under the new leadership, NAV has been focused on maximising and managing its membership data.

Issuing a statement, NAV President Mr Sudhir Shakya has said, "I would like to thank you for your continued support to the organisation. We are currently in the process of updating contact details of all our paid members to allow us to issue your NAV Membership Card and mail it to your correct postal address. As we currently don't have complete details of all our registered members, we would like to request

you to update your details by completing a simple online form by clicking on a link below. Please make sure you enter your correct NAV membership number when completing the form. We have provided your information on our records above for your kind reference. We apologize if we your current details are incorrect."

Existing as well as new members can get more details using the link below. Alternatively, go to website www.nav.org.au and click on "Update Member Details" under "Membership" menu.

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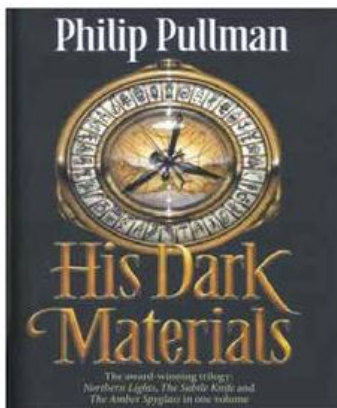
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Fiction staged in Nepal

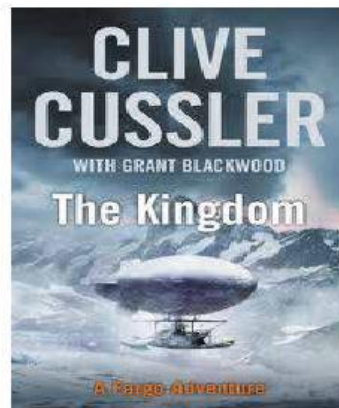
A lot has been written about Nepal by foreigners: from history books to scholarly papers about its art, culture, and people. Memoirs about alpine trekking in Nepal are equally plentiful. Fiction set in Nepal is not as famous, but it is nonetheless numerous, and many of them make for good reading. The Week brings you a list of fiction books where the events happen in Nepal.



His Dark Materials

by Philip Pullman

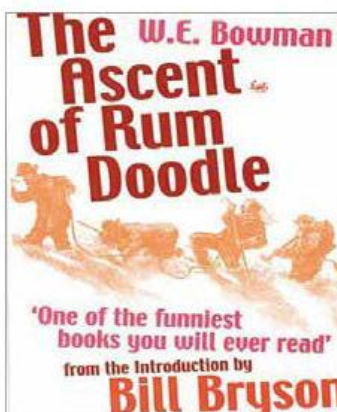
This trilogy covers not just different continents but many different worlds and universes, so finding a mention of the Himalaya among them is a treat. The protagonist Lyra is held captive in a cave among the Himalaya. A local girl called Ama helps her by bringing her herbs to fight the sleeping potion she is given (perhaps Pullman did not realize that Ama is the Nepali word for mother). Lyra's friend Iorek comes looking for her. Iorek, a polar bear whose home is melting fast, realizes that not all snows are the same. His understanding that he cannot survive in a snow that he doesn't know is a call for saving the habitats of wild animals.



The Kingdom

by Clive Cussler

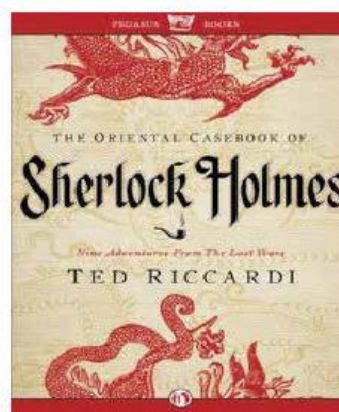
Clive Cussler is a name well-renowned for adventure tales, many of which have reached the New York Times bestseller list. A part of the "Fargo series" that features the husband-wife team of Sam and Remi Fargo, most of the action in this book takes place in Nepal. It starts with a hunt for a lost man, and ends in intriguing clues that go back to the medieval age. And on the way, it takes you through a trail of seemingly unintelligible clues that reveal fascinating patterns of the jigsaw when it ultimately fits. For once, Nepal is not the scene of religious or spiritual discourse but of a fast-paced, tightly bound plot.



The Ascent of Rum Doodle

by W. E. Bowman

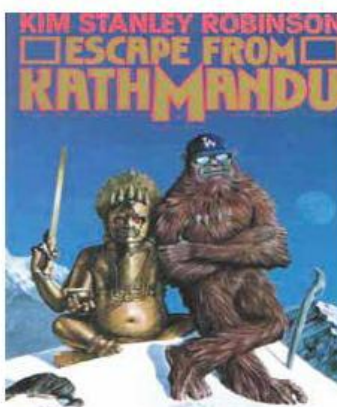
Many, many books have been written by and about mountaineers and their feats in Nepal. This is the book to ridicule them all. This fictional account parodies the real life memoirs and accounts written of alpine expeditions. The highest mountain in the world called "Rum Doodle" is a clear reference to Mt. Everest. It is located in "Yogistan", no prizes for guessing what that means. Each person in the ascent team is more incompetent than the last, the Yogistani porters the most incompetent of all. The team caps its under-achievements by climbing the wrong peak. Even though the book makes fun of the sport of mountaineering, it remains beloved among alpine-fiction enthusiasts. The name of the restaurant Rum Doodle in Kathmandu is said to be inspired by this book.



The Oriental Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

by Ted Riccardi

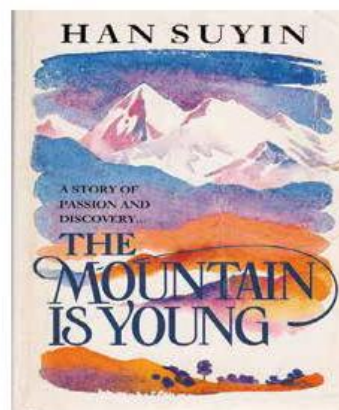
We all know the story of the legendary detective's death and resurrection: due to public demand, Arthur Conan Doyle was forced to write "Return of Sherlock Holmes" three years after he had been killed off. What was Holmes doing in the interim? Eighty years after Doyle's last Holmes story came out, Ted Riccardi came up with the answer. Sherlock Holmes spent those three years wandering across Nepal, Lhasa, and Tibet, and as was his wont, solving cases. Set during the British Raj, Holmes finds himself embroiled in all kinds of devious political plots involving powerful countries all over the world. A good read for anyone who wants more of Sherlock Holmes and enjoys Kipling.



Escape from Kathmandu

by Kim Stanley Robinson

We in Nepal don't give much thought to the ape-man called Yeti, but the Yeti has definitely managed to capture the world's imagination. Escape from Kathmandu is one of the more famous books reflecting this fascination. This is a novella about two expats' fascination with Kathmandu. They go on a scientific expedition where they find a Yeti, and a lost Shangri-La kingdom. When they discover that the Yeti has been imprisoned and is being taken abroad, they set out on a rescue mission. This humorous story illustrates Nepal as it was fifty years ago. The characters have many encounters with the government and bureaucracy of Nepal, and many real-life characters make their appearances.



The Mountain is Young

by Han Suyin

The year was 1958, barely a decade after Nepal opened itself to the outer world in 1950. A young woman comes to Kathmandu, an adventurer looking for peace, self-discovery, and spiritual closure. It is said that this novel by Han Suyin, who came to Nepal to cover the coronation of King Mahendra, is semi-autobiographical, almost confessional. While her character Anna meets and marries a Nepali engineer, Han went on to marry an Indian and spend her life in South Asia. The gentle, lyrical book became a bestseller immediately after publication, and many remember it today for introducing Nepal to the world when it was shrouded in mystery.

Courtesy: My Republica

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Calling out from a Hungry Tiffin

Aaradhana Makhijani
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So I just returned last week from a 2.5 week long break in India – Oz is the Homeland of my heart, but India is still the Motherland, of course. After months for long work hours and the additional hours of training on top, for the Half-Marathon, I planned to jet off to Delhi immediately after the Run. A well-deserved and timed break, I tell you.

Having a reasonably-sized, Indian and Nepalese circle of friends, I regularly hear about these awesome trips going back home to – Delhi, Chandigarh (and many more cities in Punjab.. haaa.. haa) and Kathmandu, of course. I believe in 'Distance and Time obviously makes the heart grow fonder. Which is why I usually plan my trips back to Delhi far apart, giving me the opportunity to travel to other places. This time it was no different.

Rocking up at 5:30 a.m. Monday morning, I was ready to take on Delhi....!!

For those who don't know- Delhi has always been famous for 3 things – Delhi's Winter; Delhi's Roads and Delhi's Food. And that's how a true-blue 'Dilli-wali' like me would describe 'Dilli'. This time the plan was to live up to Delhi's reputation and enjoy all three and more, if possible.

You'll be happy to know that I managed to enjoy almost everything in the limited time – It was Summer time in Delhi- not Winters- After the gorgeous Summers we have been having in Melbourne recently, I was ready for more. My subtle tan from all the time shopping out in the sun is proof enough;

Delhi's Roads also got a fair bit of my attention for all the time spent on the roads commuting from one place to

the next, to catch up with all my 'Old & Gold' friends. Made me wonder, seriously... how many cars does one household have...?;

Well, Delhi's Foods is what I truly enjoyed the most. Straight from trying out the 'Rabri-flavoured Ice-cream' to eating 'Gol-guppas' every alternate day, I tried to eat and experiment as much as my converted-Aussie palate would now allow.

Another important discovery I made during this time, is how health –conscious the city has become. You guessed it right. There is no rest for the wicked- I was regular at the gym, even during my time off. And if you can't find a free treadmill in a reasonably large Gym at 6:30 a.m., I will have to say that India is fast-forwarding and is becoming as health-conscious as any other country. It

is good to see the culture developing.

However, my most cherished moments of this trip were the numerous Lunches, Dinners and Coffee-catch-ups to bond with family and friends.

My favourite way to catch up is over some coffee and cake. It serves a few purposes, actually. You can catch-up for some quick, quality time with mates who have busy lifestyles and also portion control those tiny pieces of heaven called Cakes.

And so, I offer my Chocolate Zucchini Mini-Cakes to you, as below. Some of my mates who tasted these cakes asked "Why Zucchini?... is that your way of saying its veggies.. so is healthy?. My answer "Well... Zucchini... cause it's a change from the norm and a lot more tastier".

CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI MINI-CAKES



Ingredients:

- » 120 gms Butter
- » 1/2 cup Vegetable Oil
- » 1 3/4 cups Sugar
- » 1 teaspoon Vanilla Essence
- » 1 teaspoon Baking Soda
- » 1/2 teaspoon Baking Powder
- » 1/2 teaspoon salt
- » 2 large eggs
- » 1/2 cup Greek Yoghurt
- » 2 & 1/2 cups All Purpose Flour
- » 3/4 cup Cocoa
- » 2 teaspoons Coffee, optional.
- » 2 cups Shredded Zucchini
- » 1/2 cup Chocolate Chips

For the Chocolate Ganache:

- » 170 gms of Heavy Cream
- » 250 gms of Chocolate Chips

Recipe:

For the Cake:

- » Preheat the oven to 180 degrees and line a baking tray you would like to use.
- » In a large bowl, cream the butter, oil, sugar, vanilla, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Finally, stir in the yoghurt alternately with the flour.
- » Add the cocoa and espresso powder and mix till smooth.
- » Finally, fold in the zucchini and 1/2 cup chocolate chips.
- » Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Here, you will have to be careful with the baking. If using muffin trays, bake for 8 mins initially and then check with a toothpick if baked. If it comes out clean or with only little bit of crumb, it is done. If using a larger, single tray, bake for about 20-25 minutes first and then do the Toothpick Test. Once, done, cool on a rack.

For the Chocolate Ganache:

- » To prepare the frosting, heat the heavy cream in a saucepan over medium heat until simmering.
- » Remove from heat and pour over the chocolate chips. Wait 3-5 minutes and then stir to combine. This will gradually thicken.
- » When warm pour over Cake/ Muffins and smooth with offset spatula. Allow frosting to set for about 30 minutes before serving.

Dassanayake returns to Nepal

Nepali national cricket team coach Pubudu Dassanayake returned to Nepal, Thursday last week ending any uncertainty over his new term. After the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) announced not to retain him sighting financial inabilities on June 30, the government stepped in to hand the coach one-year contract extension on July 2. However, Dassanayake's arrival was in limbo after CAN said it was unaware about his extension blaming Youth and Sports Ministry (MoYS) for keeping it in dark. Although the MoYS and CAN are yet to clear out the confusion over Dassanayake's status, the former had decided to bring the coach back before the 17th Asian Games. Dassanayake, who has been apprehensive over the current situation in Nepali cricket, was scheduled to meet MoYS officials in hope of clearing out the confusion. "I've been in regular touch with the ministry. Its up to the ministry now to show me the direction on how to move ahead. I don't want to get into any controversy," Dassanayake told reporters after landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

Dassanayake had become the national hero for taking Nepali team to the 120



cricket for the first time. He had then left Nepal, after he completed his contract after Nepal government was unable to extend his term.

Nepalese team to play AAA CALD soccer tournament in Perth



A Nepalese team has been formed to vie in the Australian Asian Association (AAA) CALD football tournament slated for September in Perth. Twenty one best performers from recently held NAWA cup has been selected to play the CALD tournament. According to Nepali United Football Club, the final 15-member team will be

shortlisted from the twenty one after the training sessions. AAA has been organizing the soccer tournament among the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Youth of different countries living in Australia in a bid to enhance brotherhood and philanthropy.

Taekwondo veteran Diwakar "Dan" Maharjan visits Melbourne

US based Taekwondo Guru Diwakar "Dan" Maharjan has visited Melbourne based Taekwondo Academy, Everest Taekwondo School on 21st of August. He was visiting Australia for 6th Oceania Taekwondo Championship as an official.

ETS had invited all the students and their parents to join them to welcome the Guru on the day. ETS Gurus Mhadev Dhanuk and Alok Rana presented Mr Maharjan a token of appreciation. On the occasion, Mr Maharjan interacted with the students and admired their enthusiasm for the sport. Chief Master Guru Diwakar Maharjan has been a national Taekwondo coach in Nepal and the United states. He has produced national, international, and official Asian world Taekwondo champi-



ons in his career. He is also a senior vice president and referee chairman of the US World class Taekwondo Association. Mr Maharjan also holds a certified international senior master license issued by World Taekwondo Headquarters, Kukwon, Seoul Kore. His other portfolios are, 1st class international referee, completed WTF Training Camp for the Beijing Olympics, awarded National Instructor of the year 1998 in USA.

Yeti Football Club signs former APF player Man Dangi



Yeti Football Club has signed Man Dangi, former player of Armed Police Force (APF) Nepal. Dangi had also played for Machhindra FC, Friends Club, MYA previously. Ironically, Dangi played against visiting Club Yeti FC in Safal Pokhara Cup 2013

Sharing the news, Yeti Football Club wrote on its official page, "Yeti Football Club is very delighted to have Man Dangi as part of our club. He brings wealth

of experience, having played professionally in Nepal with Machhindra FC, Friends Club, MYA and was currently with APF.

We are positive that his experience will bring freshness to our club and set a professional example for our upcoming young, talented kids with the likes of Mihir Pradhan and Amrit Gurung who are 15 & 17 and already playing Seniors in FFV State 5 League."

Sharing is caring!

May be not in every case

You and your bum chum may believe that friendship is all about loving, caring and sharing. While that may be true, but there are a few things that should be absolutely personal and private.

By Samita Shrestha, Altona

When we close to someone we share things naturally. We share love, emotions and our belongings too. But there are a few things that should be strictly personal regardless of how close you are with someone.

You and your bum chum may believe that friendship is all about loving, caring and sharing. While that may be true, but there are a few things that should be absolutely personal and private. Here are a few things that should be in that list.

Your toiletries: Not saying that you should act miserly and not share your toothpaste, but sharing your brush is a definite no-no. Also things like your

comb should be yours alone. It doesn't really matter how close you are with your friend, or if it is an unexpected overnight stay, some things just can't be shared.

Your undergarments: If sharing your toiletries is not done, then sharing your undergarment is a sin. It's just too unhygienic, no matter how many times you decide to wash it. Girl, sharing your clothes is fine, but what's underneath it, stays right there. The best thing to do would have a spare pair of fresh undergarments at your home.

Cosmetics: Each skin type is different from the other, while you may not



have sensitive skin but the same may not hold true for your friend. Make sure you don't get into some major trouble with your skin by using your friend's products.

Credit card/debit card pin number: No matter how close your friend is, you just cannot share banking details with him/her. Similarly, don't be offended if he/she refuses to tell you

about his/her savings or salary. There are some things that are best kept private.

Your ex and her ex: No matter how many times anyone says they are 'okay' with their best friend dating their ex, it just doesn't hold true. That applies both ways. Don't be surprised if your best friend stops responding to your calls because you've gotten to play with her ex.

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• Its Neeru from Kathmandu. I got to know about this magazine from my friend. I am a nurse looking for a husband who is settled in Australia.
My email add is kathmandulady@yahoo.com

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Call or Text: 0406 474 100

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• A 27 years old Nepali bride to be from Sydney looking for a decent & well educated bridegroom.
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• A 31 years old Nepali boy based in Kathmandu looking for a girl settled in Australia.
Email: mahendra_21@gmail.com or call Nepalese Voice

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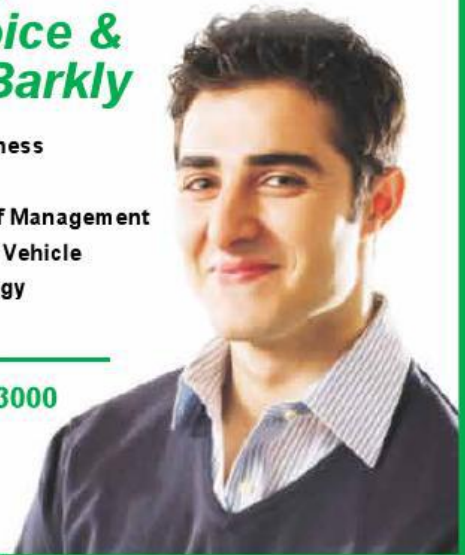


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