

NRN Australia 2008 Achievements and Agenda for 2009



From the President

As with previous years, 2008 was a very busy year for NRN Australia team. We undertook a large number of activities including Nepal Festival 2008 Melbourne and Sydney with some very pleasing results. Much of this is due to the work that you as members carried out on a voluntary basis for the NRN and in effect, the community. Without such contribution, none of these achievements would have been possible

Remember, there is no they and I at NRN; there is only us and ours, that is why it says, “**By Nepali, for Nepali**”.

NRN Australia major achievements in 2008 include:

- January 2008- Participated in “Send Home a Friend” program launched by the Government of Nepal, to be implemented by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) and Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) in partnership with the growing Nepali Diaspora
- February 2008 – Collected & transferred to NRN Save Life Dolma Relief Fund \$2,692 for Save life of Dolma Sherpa Campaign
- May 2008 – The following personalities attended the Third NRNA-ICC Regional Conference from Australia which was held on 24-25 May 2008 in Bangkok Thailand and NRN Australia sponsored \$2000 as a Regional Conference partner
 - Ms. Indra Ban (NRNA ICC Regional Co. Oceania)
 - Mr. Yuba Raj Bhattarai (NRN Australia VP)
 - Mr. Ganesh KC (NRN Australia Exe. Member)
 - Mr. Bhabani P Oli (Member NRNA ICC Constitution Committee)
 - Mr. Tapindra Thapa (NRN Australia Registered Member)

Partners of the NRN Regional Conference 2008

MR. JANAK KUMAR BASNET
Isle of Man



- April 2008 – Appealed for Sunkoshi Campus Sindhuli Library Community.

Project Summary

1. Estimated budget NRs 700,000 (\$1= NRs 53 = \$13,208)
2. Contributions Collected amounting to \$4,498 as at 10 July 2008
3. Expected to be completed by 30 June 2009
4. Expected to be inaugurated during the 4th NRNA ICC Global Conference in the present of NRN Australian Delegation.
5. Help Nepal Australia is supporting to build E-library estimated budget for the project is NRs 300,000
6. July 2008 appealed for late Suroj Shrestha- collected and donated \$4,864 to his widow.
7. June 2008 NRN Australia supported and participated -Interaction Programme in Sydney(Friday, June 27, 2008 at Hotel Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport) organised by Embassy of Nepal and received \$1000 from the Embassy of Nepal
8. August 2008 appealed for Koshi Flood Victims Relief in conjunction with www.ausnepalnews.com -Donated \$2,671.00



NRNA ICC President Dr. Upendra Mahato handing over the Flood Relief Cheque to Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund on behalf of NRNs

9. 7 September 2008 – Nepal Festival Melbourne staged- “Nepal Festival 2008 in Melbourne on Sunday was a resounding success. I am struggling to put this into words how much it meant for every single Nepali who was there to be part of this historical moment for our community. Fed Square estimated the peak crowd to be around 7-8 thousand and would easily have been more than 10 thousand throughout the day. 7000 at one time was beyond our wildest dream” Raju Shyka, Coordinator Nepal Festival Melbourne 2008.



Nepal Festival Melbourne 7 September 2008

Nepal Festival 2008 Melbourne Income & Expenditure Summary

Total income received \$29,150 (Excluding raffle + Extra contribution by Chandra Yonzon \$3000)

Total Expenditure \$38,511

Shortfall \$9,361

13 September 2008 – Nepal Festival Sydney 2008 staged

What other said?

Warren Duncan Media Officer Department of CRC NSW Government

“Dear Gobu,

I am writing to congratulate you on a fantastic festival on Saturday. I think I can say without any fear of contradiction that I have been to more festival in Sydney than anyone, by a long margin. Yours was as well organized and as enjoyable as any I have attended in the last ten to fifteen years.

I got some wonderful photos of the performances. I have attached one snap of the cultural presentation.

Please let me know if you are organizing other events.”

Sydney Morning Herald (Kids play youngsters enjoying yesterday’s Nepalese festival in Sydney’s CBD)

“The Nepalese community turned out in their most colourful national costumes to dance and sing in Darling Harbour in Sydney yesterday. It was the third year of the annual Nepal Festival held in Sydney and Melbourne to preserve Nepali culture among the 22,000 Nepalese who have settled in Australia or come here to study.

Tumbalong Park reverberated to the sound of bells and cymbals as children and adults danced and sang traditional songs.

Thousands of people came to taste Nepali food at the dozens of stalls, as well as learn about life in the mountainous country one of the fastest growing ethnic communities in Australia’

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA)

“One of best festivals yet and the largest in term of the infrastructure staged festival at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour Sydney”

“Historic success of Nepal Festival Sydney 2008 “**The Nepali Times Australia, Nepali Post, nepalnews.com, ausnepalnewes.com, nepalaustrianews.com, SBS Radio**



Picture tells you how the Nepal Festival was, was it enjoyable to audiences?



Nepal Festival Sydney Official inaugural Ceremony program

Nepal Festival 2008 Sydney Income & Expenditure Summary

Total income received \$71,731
 Total Expenditure \$62,433 included \$6,500 paid to Melbourne Festival
 Surplus appro \$9,298 (out of these, \$2,861 to be paid to Melbourne Festival)
 Note: Total paid to Melbourne Festival \$9,361 from NRN National Account

Nepal Festival 2008 Sydney & Melbourne Combined Income & Expenditure Summary

Total income received \$100,881
 Total Expenditure \$94,444
 Surplus \$6,437 (Included debtors to be received \$3500 –
Melbourne \$2500 and Sydney \$1000)
Net Surplus appro \$6,437
 (Note: Total paid to Melbourne Festival \$9,361 from NRN National Account)

- October 2008 – sought an expression of Interest for Kathmandu Airport Trolleys Partnership Program to the business communities and donated 20 trolleys amounting to U\$5000.00 to Kathmandu Airport on NRN Day 13 October 2008 – proudly sponsored by
- Pacific College of Technology – 5
- Bakers Delight – 4
- Oli & Associates – 4
- Crown Institute of Business & Technology – 3
- Gurkhas Institute of Hospitality & Management , Melbourne Australia - 3
- www.ausnepalnes.com Director Keshab Sapkota – 1



- October 2008 –Participated Ashfield Carnival was organised by Ashfield Council leading by Bhoma Limbu (Joint Coordinator NRN Australia) & Bishnu Hamal (Public Officer NRN Australia) and received \$200 from Ashfield Council.
- December 2008 – Released 500 Nepal Festival Sydney DVDs - Net proceeds (profit) from this will go towards the NRN Project in “Sunkoshi Campus Sindhuli Library” on behalf of all Nepalese residing in Australia, the NRNs.



It is a good value for your money, which works out to be \$15.00 per DVD. You can add it to your a valued precious collection of historical event of great significance to all Nepalese residing in Australia. This is because Nepal Festival 2008 was the greatest successful Nepali Festival outside of Nepal to achieve a mega success. You can watch it with your family members at your personal convenience time again and again. It is also a good tool to brief our children about our culture, music, and way of life and to touch base about Nepal.

- December 2008 – organised a thanks giving ceremony to artists, volunteers, sponsors, stallholders, media partners and community organizations.



H.E Ambassador to Australia Mr. Yogendra Dhakal presenting the certificates to the artist

Some NRN Australia in-house achievements in 2008 include

- Redesigned and upgraded NRN Australia website
- Created Nepal Festival 2008 Website
- Stocked up cultural customs valued amounting to Nrs 80,000 to artist to Melbourne and Nrs 125,000 to artists to Sydney during Nepal Festival 2008 Melbourne and Sydney. Some of them contributed by Nepal Tourism Board.
- Successfully trialled NRN Australia meeting's by the teleconferencing – leading by Dhruva Raj Subedi (NRN Australia National Coordinator and supported by Tika Karki Director of Himalayan Radio)
- Lunched NRN Australia e-newsletters – designed and developed by Mahendra Oli (NRN Australia Exe. Member)

Overall, the year 2008 has given us some fruitful achievements and more challenges greater than ever before. Achievements that are at the door did not reach us overnight; we all as a global family have worked hard enough to persuade the lawmakers, the public and the wider community, the NRN family is strong stakeholder in the process of rebuilding New Nepal. Along with the wider public in Nepal, we all NRNS should continue to see our strengths in the unity. Unity within diversity is our strength. Regardless of where we are, we all have always been there when it comes to supporting the NRN cause, the motto that keeps us together and relates back home.

Thank you to those who, on top of working day jobs, caring for loved ones or perhaps raising children, availed their time to read emails and give hand on important issues helping take the NRN movement to a new level. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time and believed in its cause.

Thank you to the candidates who were brave enough to put their hands up for NRN task forces and committee, and to those who worked across a diverse range of organizations to lead important campaigns on the burning issues despite they weren't always the easy ones. I look forward to working with you in taking NRN movement and NRN Australia to a new height in the next sixth months of our existing team's term.

In 2009, well, it will give us what we put in. With our sights on the stars, we move forward to an exciting and constructive new year.

Other projects on the NRN Australia's agenda for 2009 include:

- **Ongoing construction and establishment of Proposed Nepalese Community Center in Sydney**
- **Establishing a Social Welfare Fund**

- **Organizing NRN Australia Third National Conference to be held on July 2009 (Proposing trial online voting/ postal voting system)**
- **Amending NRN Australia constitution to make it in line with amended NRNA ICC constitution.**
- **Releasing Skills data base "Who is who in Australia" leading by Ms. Indra Ban (NRNA ICC Regional Coordinator Oceania) and Shree Napit (NRNA ICC Co-opted Member)**
- **Creating a platform for professional network to Nepalese community professional groups residing in Australia leading by Shishir Nepal**
- **Approached by NSW Event Organizer to attend Ester Show 2009 cultural programs leading by Bhoma Limbu (NRN Australia Cultural Coordinator)**
- **Releasing Nepal Festival Melbourne 2008 DVDs**

Right now, I just want to wish everyone a memorable holiday full of well-earned rest, celebration and peace.

At last but not least, I would not forget to thank NRNA ICC team Australia, NRN Australia team members for their energetic engagement in the activities carried out by NRN Australia, high level of energy and vision in taking NRN Australia to current shape in the benefit of the wider Nepalese Community!

Thank you everyone!

I wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and New Year 2009. I look forward to working with you again next year.

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