

# AISV Views

Volume 38, January 2012



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## The President's Message

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and peaceful New Year.

I am pleased to inform you that Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. recently received 'Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence' Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria-Community Services at a ceremony held at Government House. The citation reads,

*Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. Community Services*

*The Australia India Society of Victoria was created in 1963 to promote understanding and good will between the people of India and Australia, and to promote cultural, religious and social aspects to Australians. Since that time AISV has provided support in political, financial and cultural areas to the Indian community in Victoria.*



*Dr. Gurdip Aurora*



*Dr. Gurdip Aurora receiving award from Premier Ted Baillieu*

This is a great honour for the AISV and testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the committee and its members.

Australia India Society of Victoria and Australia India Business Council are jointly celebrating India's Republic Day and Australia Day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at the Malvern Town Hall. I think this is the first time a community organisation and a business organisation have come together to celebrate a National day Event. The details of the event are elsewhere in the newsletter. I extend an invitation to you, your family and friends to join us on this festive occasion.

I am also pleased to inform you that AISV has turned 50 this year, a significant achievement in the life of any community organisation. We will celebrate the gala event in a big way on Saturday May 12. Please keep this date free.

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Australia India society of Victoria (AISV) has provided valuable service to the community in the past 50 years and I hope it will continue to do so in time to come. AISV experienced very rough times in the 90's when the Indian High Commission in Canberra diplomatically isolated AISV at the request of the Honorary Counsel. The reason was that AISV refused to join with the Federation of Indian Associations (FIAV). This move had no effect on AISV. This was followed by a writ against the then president of AISV, AISV and I by the Honorary Counsel. We successfully challenged the writ and the society withstood these difficult times by successfully going about its normal community work with greater determination, vigour and enthusiasm.

The society has produced some great and dedicated men and women who have worked tirelessly for no reward or money, but for the betterment of the Indian community.

We will be looking forward to meeting you on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at the Malvern Town hall.

Gurdip Aurora



*Australia India Society of Victoria and Australia India Business Council are celebrating*

# Australia Day and India's Republic Day

On

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
6.30 pm for 7.00 PM Start

At

The Malvern Town Hall,  
1251 High Street, Malvern 3144

**\$65**  
Per Head

Food  
& Cultural  
Program

**Book your seat early for an exhilarating evening of Dance, Music and a Three course meal**

AIBC members please pay for your tickets in the AIBC Vic bank account with ANZ. BSB 013280 A/C 498214726. Payment only via net banking will be accepted. For further information Contact [aibcvic@aibc.org.au](mailto:aibcvic@aibc.org.au)

AISV members can pay for their tickets in the AISV bank account with NAB BSB 083453 A/C690471204 or send your cheques to. the Treasurer 9 Gymkhana Road Endeavour Hills Vic,3802.

For further Information Contact Dr.Gurdip Aurora,President AISV on 0417 357 715.Booking Details with names of guests, Veg or non Veg should be faxed to 03 9764 2060 before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

We have invited the Indian cricket teams subject to their availability as they are playing a match in Melbourne on Friday 3rd February and again on Sunday 5th February in Melbourne.

[www.aivsv.org.au](http://www.aivsv.org.au)

[www.aibc.org.au](http://www.aibc.org.au)



## Dr. Manjula writes about.....

AISV TASKFORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIAN AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES celebrated Multi-cultural White ribbon day was On 13 November 2011 at the glamorous Langham Hotel, attended by 160 multi-ethnic people from the Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, the Jewish communities along with the mainstream Australian community.

The AISV TASKFORCE 's White Ribbon Day was graced by politicians of both sides- Liberal The Hon Heidi Victoria MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Ted Baillieu was the chief guest , The Hon Colin Brooks MP representing the leader of The Opposition Mr. Daniel Andrews and The Hon Mr. Jude Perera MP, Cranbourne.

The MC of the day was the Youth icon of NSW, a young Indian lady Divya Dhingra, the new Zee TV anchor and the newest face of the cosmetic company *Lakme* (best known in India), and an IT student. She spoke eloquently on the need for the youth to actively involve themselves in prevention and recognition of Domestic Violence. Co MC was Dr. Manjula O'Connor, Chair of the AISV TASKFORCE, and lead researcher of the community research and education project on Domestic Violence in Melbourne's Indian community.



Dr. Manjula O'Connor



The counsel General of India His Excellency Dr S. Behera opened the proceedings, emphasizing the need for the men of Indian and the ethnic communities to become actively engaged and support events such as the white ribbon day that create awareness and draw attention to the thorny issue of domestic violence. Prof Amitabh Mattoo, Director of The Melbourne University's Australia India Institute spoke about the human rights violation caused by domestic violence. Every woman, man and child is entitled to human rights that consist of treatment with respect and dignity and domestic violence erodes that right. As a solution he suggested Human Rights ought to be taught as part of the school curriculum.

The meaning of WHITE RIBBON DAY is largely a symbolic one- it stands for the opposition by men to Domestic Violence. It is a matter of great pride that 12 men of Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin stood up and spoke against domestic violence on the WHITE RIBBON DAY arranged by AISV TASKFORCE .

'MEN CAN BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION' was the title of the panel and 10 men spoke as members of the panel including two policemen. They all spoke on 10 different solutions to the domestic violence problem. Prof Ajay Kapoor, Dean Swinburne University on 'Ancient Vedic View of respect for wife.', Mr Kashif Boun (Co-founder/honorary advisor, Pakistani students association of Australia, and Essendon

Football Club Multi-Cultural Officer) representing Pakistani culture and Islamic view on respect for women, Dr. Nazmul Alam (CSIRO) represented the strengths of Bangladeshi Culture that prevent DV and remedies . MP Mr Jude Perera (representing Sri Lankan cultural view point), Mr Amit Tiwari spoke against the Dowry and its harmful impact on respectful relations, Mr Jasvinder Sidhu mentioned the old movie *Mother India* showing us the powerful impact of mother's on sons and their relationship with their wife. This is one relationship that can make or break the new marriage. Young men's view was presented by Ananth Gopal, an actor enhancing community cultural development. Ananth told us that male strength is not diminished by show of vulnerability. Student's representative- Jeewan who gave us a moving personal story of the impact of Alcohol Abuse, Domestic Violence on children in the family,

Sri Lankan Experience. Police View--Ash Dixit and Dinesh Nettur (Vic Police, Multi-cultural unit) spoke on the lack of reporting to police and ways forward was to see the police as your friend and not a foe. Ms Deepa Mathews spoke about the Christian view on DV that love is the essential message of Christianity and domestic violence is opposite to love.



Prof Ajay Kapoor, Dean Swinburne University gave the ancient view of women's position in the Indian culture – Patni, he said, is the Tamil word for wife, adapted by Hindi and 'it means the one who leads!!' This enlightened attitude of our ancient culture was lost in medieval times (5 - 6th century AD) when Manu (much to our shame) described women as children who should be kept in control like animals and slaves. Ananth Gopal told us that young modern Indian men do live in modern times (and not medieval times). He said 'the young Indian men of today feel that it is not a

sign of weakness for the man to be not in control. He said 'Male strength is not diminished by show of vulnerability'.

Some original research findings elicited in the Indian Community project were presented by Dr Manjula O'Connor. Domestic Violence, she said is seen to have one main objective by many Indian women and that is to create fear and to demonstrate power and control by the husband and the joint family over the young bride (by telephone when the joint family lived overseas). Emotional abuse which is a key constituent of domestic violence was defined by Indian women as constant criticisms, blaming her for anything and everything, humiliation, social isolation, deceitful behavior, money demands made to her parents, lack of control over her financial affairs.

Ms Manprett Kaur from SBS, Punjabi program summed up the proceedings saying *respect and space* is important ingredient for a happy home life. She mentioned the need for future direction. Community support systems which could be systematically developed in order to adequately assist the victims.

Entertainment was the spice of the afternoon and Mrs. Rajashree Behera enthralled the audience with her Classical Odidissi dance performance.

Two young School age students performed Rajasthani dances while the audiences tucked into amazing Indian afternoon tea served by The Langham hotel staff. A great deal of fun was had by all amidst the serious message

**'Respectable Indian and South Asian Men from The Indian Sub-continent Do Not Condone Domestic Violence.'**



Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.  
Membership Application/Renewal

(Please Print)

New Application .....Renewal.....

Title/s .....

First Name.....Surname.....

Partner/Spouse's First Name  
.....Surname.....

Children's names

1.....

2.....

3.....

Address

.....

City .....Post Code .....

Tel (B/H) .....Tel: (A/H) .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Other Details: (Hobbies, Interests)

.....

.....

Would you be interested to join the committee of AISV Yes ..... No.....

Membership Category (Circle one) Life: \$500, Family: \$80, Concession: \$50, Single: \$50

Do you want a receipt Yes/ No

I hereby apply/renew membership of AISV in the above category. I am aware of the rules and regulations of the society.

.....

Signature / Date

Membership Application may be sent to:

**The Secretary**

**Australia India Society of Victoria**

**P O Box 482**

**Brunswick VIC 3056**

**Australia**