

Executive committee
ecommittee@aisv.org.au

President

Dr. Gurdip Aurora
T: +61 (3)9763 5005
M: +61 (4)1735 7715
president@aisv.org.au

Treasurer

Mrs. Uma
Ganapathireddy
T:(04)1534 1627
treasurer@aisv.org.au

Committee Members
committee@aisv.org.au

Mrs. Meenakshi Sapra

Mr. Rajkumar Gorantla
T:(04) 3785 2450
raj@aisv.org.au

Mr. Sunil Deep Singh
T:(04) 0156 2800
sunildeep Singh@aisv.org.au

**Australia India Society
of
Victoria Inc.**
1401 Ferntree Gully Road
Scoresby
VIC 3179
Australia
<http://www.aisv.org.au>
<http://www.aisv.com.au>

President's Message

There is famous quote that reads somewhat like this, "If you learn from the mistakes of others you are a wise person. If you learn from your own mistakes you are a smart person but if you neither learn from other people's mistakes nor your own then you are stupid". I have no doubt in my mind that the leaders of the Western world including America and Australia fall in to the latter category.

No lessons have been learnt by the Western nations from the debacle in Iraq and Libya.

Now both the Syrian Rebel Army and ISIS are trying to bring down the government of Bashar Hafez al-Assad. If they were to succeed, Syria would also join the ranks of Iraq and Libya and become failed states and non-governable countries. There are sad images already appearing on Television about the death by starvation of innocent civilians both in Syria and Iraq, who by no fault of their own have become victims of the religious war tearing the Arab countries. Millions of Syrian civilians are leaving the country to find safe haven in Europe.

ISIS and the Syrian rebel army are both terrorist organisations fighting a religious war, a war between the Sunnis and the Shiites, a war that has been going for over 1400 years. America supports the Syrian Rebel Army (the good terrorists trying to depose President Assad) and President Putin helping Assad to fight both the Syrian Rebel Army and ISIS (the bad terrorists). It is true Assad is evil. But in real life if one is pragmatic one has to take sides with the lesser of the two evils. A stable Assad government would be more amenable to changes by political negotiations and dialogue rather than dealing with either the Syrian rebel Army or ISIS.



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

America and Australia did not learn any lessons from its intervention in Vietnam and Korea. The humiliation they suffered at the hands of the Vietnamese is beyond comprehension. Despite that humiliating defeat, America and Australia intervened in Iraq, deposed President Saddam Hussein because he had weapons of mass destruction, which were never found and the intervention caused unimaginable misery and destruction. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives and an equal number were maimed in that war and one can see what is happening in Iraq at present.

Then the Americans and British attacked Libya, supported the rebel army, deposed the 'tyrant Mohammad Gadhafi' and made Libya a non-governable country. The forces that Americans and British supported at the time are now their arch enemies. ISIS has got control of the state of the art defence hardware, which once belonged to the Gadhafi regime.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM of Australia India Society of Victoria has been scheduled for Sunday 10th April 2016. It will be held at the Clayton Hall, 264-268 Clayton Rd, Clayton VIC 3168. Lunch will be served at 12.30 PM followed by the AGM at 1:30 PM. Please mark this date and I request all members to attend.

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Similarly, the Americans always supported Pakistan against India. It is now becoming apparent to America that Pakistan is a failed state exporting terrorism in all the neighbouring countries.

Most of the wars going on in the Arab world, Middle east and Africa are religious wars, wars that will not end till such time the two religions declare a truce and accept each other's beliefs. The two most powerful opposing nations, Saudi Arabia and Iran will have to sort their ideological and religious difference before any peace can return in the Arab world and the Middle East. Innocent people have died in the last fourteen centuries and millions more will die in these religious wars for many more centuries to come. Any intervention by outside nations would be unproductive, futile and fraught with danger.

Taliban and al-Qaida is as strong today as it was 15 years ago. The capture of Osama bin laden has made no difference to its operative power.

The Western world should get out of Iraq and Libya as their relentless bombing is ruthlessly killing civilians with very little impact on ISIS.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.

AUSTRALIA - INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA IS HAVING ITS AGM IN MAY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AND BECOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2013: Winner of the most prestigious awards, the "Bharatiya Pravasi Samman Award" bestowed upon an Overseas Indian Association by the President of India.

2011: Winner of the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence towards community services.

Australia - India Society of Victoria Inc. (AISV), established in 1963, is the oldest and the largest integrated non-sectarian Indian association in Victoria. It is recognised and respected as such by the Governments of India and Australia. The society represents all Indians irrespective of their place of origin. It also has a significant Australian membership.

The main aim of AISV is to assist Indians in the fulfilment of their aspirations in their adopted country (Australia) and to encourage their active participation in, and contribution to, a just and culturally diverse society.

The society aspires to achieve the above through:

- Promotion of understanding and friendship between new migrants from India, those from other countries and indigenous Australians.
- Serving as a vehicle for established Indian- Australians to assist newly arrived fellow countrymen and women.
- Promotion of Indian culture as a vehicle for improved understanding of Indian heritage of non-Indian- Australians through demonstrated support of activities of established Indian dance/ music/ other arts schools.
- Involvement with Local, State and Federal Government agencies to ensure that in addressing issues that affecting migrants, Indian-Australians' needs are not over- looked.
- Engaging in charitable activities to help Indian-Australians and other deserving persons in dire circumstances who do not receive mainstream social service support.
- Encouraging and facilitating networking and mentoring between established Indian- Australians and newly arrived Indian- Australians to help the latter succeed in their new and competitive environment.
- Enhancing quality of life of the membership through entertainment and other varied activities.

Some of the noteworthy achievements have been

- Establishment of a facility to issue the Indian Visas in Melbourne.
- Establishment of the Victorian Indian Community Charitable Trust (VICCT). This is a recognised charitable agency approved by the Australian Taxation Office. It is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR). Donations of \$ 2.00 and above are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. It aims to provide support and assistance to the underprivileged and aged members in the community. Several hundred members and local Australians have been helped through this charitable trust.
- Submissions to various Governmental bodies such as the Law Reform Commission (re: multiculturalism and law, changes to Equal Opportunity Act), Council on Overseas Professional Qualifications on recognition of Indian Qualifications, Immigration Department on matters relating to Immigration policy and Acts of Parliament, Premier's Department on racial and religious tolerance.
- The establishment of special arrangements with Australian Unity for medical insurance for visiting Indians (a mandatory requirement for visitors).
- The establishment of the Koori scholarship fund in association with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated and the B'nai B'rith Jewish community relations group to support Koori students through their secondary education.
- Domestic Violence task force helping victims of domestic Violence
- Organisation of cultural and social activities for the community, actively encouraging and promoting members talents along with visiting overseas artists.
- Participation in local community events such as the Australia Day celebrations.

- Celebration of the two Indian National functions - Republic Day and Independence Day.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- While remaining focussed on the Society's vision and mission in pursuing activities such as those listed previously, are the major initiatives in the medium term to actively canvass ways of addressing the needs of the disadvantaged and elderly in the community.
- With the maturing of the community, social challenges similar to those faced by the mainstream Australian community (e.g. divorce, death of spouse, drug and alcohol dependency, desertion of children, domestic violence, loneliness, poverty etc.) may also need to be managed from an Indian perspective.
- Aging of first generation Indians who reach the retirement age poses issues of retirement accommodation as well as nursing home care.
- The needs of the second generation Indians will have to be understood and addressed in order to ensure that they stay connected with their heritage.
- The community needs are many and varied. There are ample opportunities for members to become involved and make a difference in the quality of life of Australians of Indian origin.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership of AISV offers

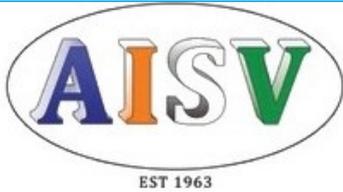
- Opportunities for social interaction with other Indians, Australians of Indian origin and Australians who have an interest in India, particularly through the traditional celebrations of Independence Day and Republic Day.
- A two monthly newsletter
- Representation to relevant government agencies where appropriate to ensure Indian Australians' needs are not overlooked.
- Other special events from time to time to meet members' interests.

We invite you to belong to this extended family – AISV



Photos from AISV Celebration of India's Independence Day Function at Cinnamon Club on 15th August 2015.





AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Day: Sunday 10th April 2016

Time: 12.30 PM

Venue: Clayton Hall, 264-268 Clayton Rd, Clayton VIC 3168.

All financial members are requested to attend

NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

I, (full name)

.....

of (address).....

being a financial member of Australia India Society of Victoria Inc., nominate

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Prof

for the position of (position title)

I, (full name).....

of (full address).....

being the financial member of AISV, support this nomination

Signature of Proposer

Signature of Seconder

Acceptance of the Nomination

I

Being a financial member of AISV accept this nomination for the position of

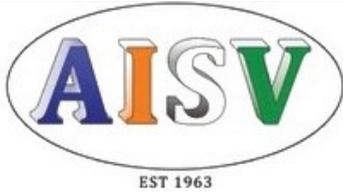
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Signature of Nominee

Date.....

- Positions:
- President (must be a member of the previous Committee)
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee Members (5 positions)

Duly completed nomination forms should reach the Returning Officer, Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. 1401 Ferntree Gully Road Scoresby VIC 3179 by Tuesday 5 April 2016



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Notice of Annual General Meeting

Day: Sunday 10th April 2016

Time: 12.30 PM

Venue: Clayton Hall, 264-268 Clayton Rd, Clayton VIC 3168.

All financial members are requested to attend

PROXY FORM

I,
(full name)

of

being a current member of AISV herewith endorse

Name

to act as my proxy for AISV's Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 17th May 2015

Signed

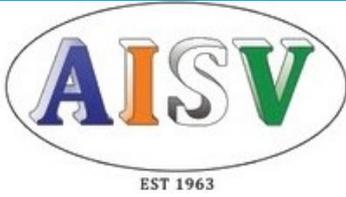
Dated.....

Please keep Monday 15 August 2016 free

Australia India Society of Victoria will be celebrating India's Independence Day on Monday 15 August 2016. The format of the celebrations will be dinner/dance and a cultural program by various ethnic groups. Please support our function by attending in large numbers.

Disclaimer

Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.(AISV) disclaim all and any liability to any person in respect of anything and of the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done by such a person, in reliance whole or partial, upon this newsletter or any part of the content of this newsletter.



Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 47 351 032 576 / Incorporated 1985 - A0004545G

Annual Membership* - New/Renewal Application Form

Select: **New Application / Renewal**

Title/s

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

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

Children's names

1.....

2.....

3.....

Address

.....

CityPost 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

Cheque Payable to Australia India Society of VIC Inc. or Online transfer : BSB 083-414 Account number 69-047-1204

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 / Place

Membership Application to be mailed to:

1401 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby, VIC 3179

* Except Life membership

Australia India Society of Victoria is an integrated non-sectarian, Indian Association in Victoria. It represents Indians and Australians from many parts of the world. AISV membership is open to anyone who is interested in India, her culture and her people. The aims of AISV are to promote cultural and social events in context of India, safeguard interests of its members and to act as representatives for the Indian community in Victoria at various Federal, State and Local governmental levels.