



www.sevainternational.org.au

info@sevainternational.org.au

## **SEVA CHRONICLE**

- 01-06

*To all SEVA Colleagues and well wishers – a joyous, peaceful and successful*

*New Year Greetings and good wishes for 2007.*

- ***This is the first edition of a periodical electronic Newsletter that will provide an update on SEVA' s activities – both preceding and forthcoming to its readers.***
- ***The newsletter will be integrated as a feature in SEVA' s new website – [www.sevainternational.org.au](http://www.sevainternational.org.au) – to be launched early in the year 2007.***
- **The profile of the South Asian Community in NSW.**
  - the largest and fastest growing migrant community in Australia and in NSW in recent years – and according to media reports the NEW ITALIANS;
  - nearly 65% of the total South Asian migrant community in Australia lives in the state of NSW;
  - bulk of the community lives in metropolitan Sydney area – from Sutherland in the south to Hawkesbury in the north and Bondi in the east to Penrith in the west and Campbeltown in the south west;
  - a rich diversity of languages and religions and migrating from over 17 different countries of origin – apart from the Indian sub continent region;
  - an underlying thread of social unity through shared experiences; common heritage, food, language and cultural traditions;
  - a spectacular source of diverse professional skills and technical capabilities with English language proficiencies and so a huge reserve pool of human resource pool for business, industry and the economy – coupled with entrepreneurial skills and cultural vibrancy.

- **The community' s needs and concerns.**
  - A variety of settlement issues common to all migrant communities – new as well as established families; young and old; men and women; student communities and others – in the areas of health, employment options in the areas of expertise and qualification; educational and professional qualifications evaluation and recognition; skills development; housing and transport needs – to list a few – are some of the issues that exists within this community and need to be addressed.

**SEVA' s Role.**

- *SEVA sees it as its role to act as a facilitator and integrator to enhance the physical, mental and social well being of this community through being a liaison organization between its three main stake holders – the local south Asian community, the south Asian business community and the agencies and service providers at the federal, state and local government levels.*

**Activities update for 2006**

- **SEVA AGM.**

SEVA held its AGM in August 2006. Apart from receiving reports from the President, Secretary and the treasurer, the meeting elected the following to its Committee of Management, for the year 2006-07:-

**Office Bearers.**

Kalyan Ram. – President.  
Vish Viswanath. – Secretary.  
Kazim Hussain. – Treasurer.

**Committee members.**

Rugmini Venkatraman.  
R. Jayaraman.  
Ashutosh Agarwal.  
Mallika Ganesan.  
Shantha Viswanath.  
Ejaz Khan.

The meeting also decided to develop SEVA's networking at the grassroots level with the local government authorities level – ie: local councils – in areas where the community has a strong presence in the north, south and western districts of Metropolitan Sydney.

SEVA also welcomes the following to its core group:-

Mr. Ian De Mellow;  
Mr. Ejaz Khan,  
Mr. Ashutosh Agarwal,  
Mr. Santhanam.

- Local Councils follow up:

As a result of the publicity from the successful South Asian conference enquiries were received from a few other councils in Sydney for presentation about SEVA and its objectives – eg: Bexley/ Hurstville; Ashfield which were followed up. Besides on its own SEVA followed through with other initiatives with the Hornsby, Kuringai, Parramatta and Baulkham Hills shire councils as well; Consequent to these efforts SEVA has succeeded in nominating the following to the consultative/ advisory committees on the following councils:-

- Hornsby shire – Mr. Kazim Hussain and Mr. Sampath – seniors Advisory committee;
- Parramatta Council – Mr. Ejaz Khan – Multicultural Advisory committee; Mrs. Shalini Patel – Arts Advisory committee;
- Kuringai Council – Mr. Kalyan Ram – Community Development and Seniors programs advisory committees;
- St. George MRC – Prof R Jayaraman – seniors advisory group;
- Baulkham Hills shire – } Mr. L Sethuram, Mr. Neil Jayasekera and Mrs Namita Dhorajiwala – Hills Community Development and Youth Networks and Hills Community Services Network respectively.
- Ryde city council – } nominations to be finalized in 2007
- Blacktown council - }
- Sydney Northern Region Health technical evaluation committee: Dr.Nihal Agar.

SEVA has also nominated Dr. Ian De Mellow on the Ministerial Advisory Committee of NSW on Ageing – as a representative of CALD communities;- this is subject to the minister's approval expected early in 2007.

- SEVA's strategic Plan for moving forward:

During the year 2006. with the assistance of the UTS Shop Front, Sydney secured the assistance of the School of Business studies at the UTS in drawing up a Strategic Plan setting out its course in the short and medium terms. This has provided it a blue print to assist in its future course of development and growth.

- SEVA's new Logo and Website.

Recently SEVA has also received a new Logo and website designed by students of the UTS school of design and architecture with the assistance of UTS Shop Front. These will be launched formally on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at the Parra Villa Function Lounge, in Parramatta. Details will follow.

- SBS radio broadcast:

SEVA had also organized a special presentation on SBS Radio with the assistance of Ms. Kumud Merani a special presentation to promote SEVA in which Mr. L Sethuram, Mr. Kazim Hussain and Mrs Seema Khare participated. Apart from outlining the aims and objects of SEVA, the broadcast also aired some of the issues and concerns facing established and new migrants. It elicited a good response from listeners with enquiries to SEVA.

- Info Sessions :

SEVA International Inc.

The following sessions were held on aged care, carers' and respite care, Meals on Wheels program and Volunteering:-

- Turramurra seniors centre –
- St. George MRC – in association with RAINS group of south Sydney.

**\* Planned activities for 2007.**

**A. Forum, Info sessions, Focus Group sessions and Workshops :-**

# April – SA Women and Children Focus Group session – Hornsby Council;  
- coordinator – ( Seema Khare)

# June – SA Over 55's Workshop session - Hornsby Council;  
- coordinator – Santhanam and Shantha Viswanath;

# August – Business and Employment Workshop - Parramatta Council:  
- Coordinator – Rugmini Venkatraman;

# September - Forum – Info session – SA Migrants - Ashfield Council;  
- Coordinator - Ram.

# October -Mental and Disability workshop – SA migrants- Holroyd Council;  
- Coordinator – Rajni Chandran.

# Relationship - SA perspectives - Baulkham Hills Council;  
- coordinator – Namita Dhorajiwala.

**C. Website - Logo Launch :-**

SEVA' s Logo and website – [www.sevainternational.org.au](http://www.sevainternational.org.au) and New Initiatives – 20<sup>th</sup> April. 2007

**D. A major Cultural Event –** a fund raising event in western Sydney -  
Details to be announced on finalisation.