




FeNCAA

Federation of Nepalese Community
Associations of Australia

FeNCAA Report 2019-2021

2nd FeNCAA AGM and Convention
Sydney, 27 June 2021





This booklet was prepared with contribution from various authors and edited by FeNCAA publication team. Please contact FeNCAA publication team for any feedback and suggestions.

- Dr Raju Adhikari [0412 853 603]
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FeNCAA 2nd AGM and Convention program schedule

SESSION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
10.45 – 11:00	Connect to Zoom & Meet and greet
11:00 – 11:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AGM formally commences ▪ Chair: Dr Raju Adhikari, President, FeNCAA ▪ Co-Chair: Ms Indra Ban OAM, Vice President, FeNCAA ▪ Chief Guest: HE Mr Mahesh Raj Dahal, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal, Canberra ▪ Special Guests: Honorary Consul Generals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hon Mr Deepak Khadka (NSW), Hon Mr Chandra Yonzon (VIC) and Hon Mr Deepak Dhamala (SA) ▪ Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Elders and distinguished guests ▪ House Keeping
11:05 – 11:10	Welcome speech by Dr Raju Adhikari, President, FeNCAA
10.10 – 10:15	Speech by Chief Guest HE Mr Mahesh Raj Dahal, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal, Canberra
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the minutes of the last AGM held in September 2019 in Canberra for acceptance by Dr Krishna Hamal, General Secretary, FeNCAA ▪ Annual Report 2019 -21 by Dr Krishna Hamal, General Secretary, FeNCAA ▪ Discussion and acceptance of Annual Report 2019-21 by FeNCAA delegates
11:30 – 11:40	Financial Report 2019-21 by Mr Rajan Koirala, Treasurer, FeNCAA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership fee: Why \$1 now ▪ Strategy for resource collection ▪ Discussion and acceptance of Finance Report 2019-21 by FeNCAA delegates

11:40 – 12:25 (5 minutes each)	Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Indra Ban OAM, Vice President, FeNCAA ▪ Hon Mr Deepak Khadka, Honorary Consul General NSW & FeNCAA Advisor ▪ Hon Mr Chandra Yonzon, Honorary Consul General VIC & FeNCAA Advisor ▪ Hon Mr Deepak Dhamala, Honorary Consul General SA & FeNCAA Advisor ▪ Mr Bishnu Hamal, Coordinator, Membership Committee, FeNCAA ▪ Mr Bholu Giri, Member for VIC, Membership Committee, FeNCAA ▪ Mr Ang Dawa Shrepa, Member for WA, Membership Committee, FeNCAA ▪ Mr Umesh Pant, Coordinator, Constitution Committee ▪ Ms Janaki Paudel, Regional Women Coordinator, NRNA ICC, FeNCAA Advisor
12:25 – 12:30	5 Minutes Break
12:30 – 13:10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation by 10 member organisations (nominated by EOI) on their major projects and expectation from FeNCAA (3minutes each) 2. Open Discussion
13:10 – 13:25	Introduction and oath taking of New Executive Committee by Chief Election Commissioner, Mr Jog Limbu in the presence of all Election Commissioners Mr Kamalayan Shrestha, Mr Rajendra Rajbhandary and Mr Ashish Sapkota
13:25 – 13:30	Vote of Thanks by Mr Bom Yonzon, Spokesperson, FeNCAA
13:30	AGM Close

Foreword

FeNCAA 2nd AGM in Sydney on 27th June 2021, will choose a new executive team for next two year and it is time to reflect how FeNCAA has reached to this stage.

After years of community consultations since 2009 when the concept was launched, a five-member core team comprising of Dr Raju Adhikari, Indira ban, Dr Krishna Hamal, Rajan Koirala and Bom Yonzon was formed after wider consultative meeting of the Nepalese community organisations held in Sydney on 4th April 2015. The core member and extended team from different states held extensive consultations for the next two years with wider Nepalese communities and the first Melbourne Convention was held on June 10, 2017. The Melbourne Convention endorsed the registration of the organisation and FeNCAA was formally registered on the 2nd August 2018 under Australian Incorporation Act 1991. Following registration, FeNCAA first AGM was held on the 10th September 2019 in Canberra and the 1st elected Executive Committee team formed. The Executive Committee constituted several committees to undertake various tasks and worked tirelessly to bring the FeNCAA to this stage. The notable achievements were: FeNCAA membership grew to 74, made amendments to the constitution to make it inclusive and participatory and the organisation has been able to make several key submissions to the Federal Government in a wide range of important areas from regional migration policy and migration intake, gender equality, COVID impact on international students and community, COVID support to Nepal and was able to establish a strong linkage with the Australian Government. FeNCAA would like to thank member organisations and other community-based organisations (CBOs) in every States and Territory for their significant feedback on above submissions.

In the past two years, FeNCAA had to work virtually online amidst COVID crises restrictions but despite that FeNCAA successfully lobbied and established strong links at both State and Federal levels. The organisation worked closely with the Nepalese



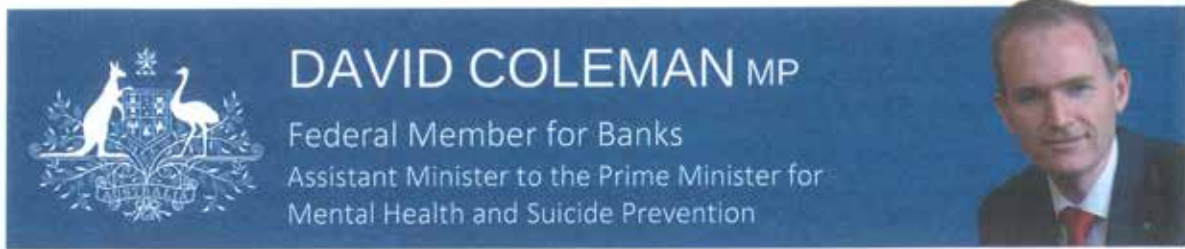
Community Organisations, NRNA Australia and the Embassy of

Nepal, Canberra to lobby the Federal Government on COVID matters. FeNCAA would like to thank both the Australia and New Zealand Governments for their financial contribution worth \$ 8 M for relief materials to Nepal. The concept of the Federation of the Community Associations was born to unite and streamline efforts of the Nepalese communities across Australia, play a meaningful role, and contribute to Australia's mainstream policies and programmes which was evident from its role during the COVID crisis period.

FeNCAA has enormous opportunities and challenges ahead to institutionalise the above initiatives and take the organisation to the next level, reinforce the voices of Nepalese communities and contribute to Government future policies and programs in areas like gender equality, domestic violence, language, cultural, sports, immigration, represent and play a meaningful role in Government committees. FeNCAA also needs to work closely with the Federation of other CALD Community's organisations and contribute to the voice of migrant communities of the regions.

I would like to thank the Executive team, Task committee, Member organisations, the Embassy of Nepal and Nepalese consulate office and Community at large for constant feedback, continued support and encouragement in the establishment of FeNCAA and for its activities. I am honoured to have led this great organisation since its inception and wish the forthcoming team all the success and my continued support.

- Dr Raju Adhikari, President, FeNCAA



15 June 2021

FeNCAA Annual Report Message

I would like to extend my greetings to the Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia (FeNCAA) as it gathers for the Annual General Meeting for 2020-21.

FeNCAA is an important organisation which brings together representatives of Nepalese community groups from across the nation, including the Peshurst Nepalese Community in my electorate.

Since its formal inauguration in 2019, the Association has effectively presented a united voice for Nepalese Australians to governments and the broader community.

The presence of a strong public voice for Nepalese Australians was as important as ever this year as the pandemic continued to disrupt life here in Australia and in Nepal.

Congratulations to the FeNCAA executive team and all the community group representatives on another great year and thank you for your continued work in advocating for the interests of Nepalese Australians.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Nepalese Australian community in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "David Coleman".

David Coleman MP
Federal Member for Banks



नेपाली राजदूतावास
Embassy of Nepal
Canberra, Australia

Date: 17 June 2021

Message

I am happy to know that the Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia (FeNCAA) is organizing its annual national convention on 27 June 2021 in Sydney.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to FeNCAA and its executive members for working together with other Nepali community organizations for the support and wellbeing of Nepalis living in Australia, and especially for its role in mobilizing Nepali Community organizations and lobbying with the Australian Federal and State Governments and other stakeholders in garnering support to help Nepalis and Nepali Government to minimize the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal.

I am confident that this organization will be even more active to achieve its mission and be supportive to the Nepali Community members living in different parts of Australia.

I believe the cooperation between FeNCAA and the Embassy for the promotion of mutual interests between Nepal and Australia will grow further in the days to come.

I wish all the success of the convention.



Mahesh Raj Dahal
Ambassador

Chancery: 22 Kareelah Vista, O'Malley ACT 2606, T +61262868006
Email: concanberra@mofa.gov.np, Website: www.au.nepalembassy.gov.np
Postal Address: PO Box No. 1070, Mawson, ACT 2607

List of Executive team 2019-2021

Name	Position
Dr. Raju Adhikari	President
Ms. Indra Ban	Vice President
Dr. Krishna Hamal	General Secretary
Mr. Rajan Koirala	Treasurer
Mr. Bom Yonzon	Spokesperson
Dr Mani Paneru	Assistant General Secretary
Dr Binod Nepal	Public Officer
Mr Ang Dawa Sherpa	State Coordinator – WA
Mr Raju Upadhyaya	State Coordinator – SA
Ms Punam Pant	State Coordinator – TAS
Mr Bhola Giri	State Coordinator – VIC
Dr Durga Dutta Kandel	State Coordinator – ACT
Mr Bishnu Hamal	State Coordinator – NSW
Mr Suman Joshi	State Coordinator – QLD
Mr Sudeep Shrestha	State Coordinator – NT
Mr Govinda Rana	Assistant Spokesperson
Mr Pradeep Dhungana	Assistant Treasurer

FeNCAA submission

- Community role and collaboration
- Medicare health support to international students during COVID-19 crisis
- Community response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Impact of COVID on Nepalese communities
- Regional migration policy
- Migration intake program 2021-22
- Support for Nepal's 2nd wave worsening situation

FENCAA Committees

Constitution

- Umesh Panta
- Surya Bhattarai
- Binod Nepal

Research and Publication

- Dr Raju Adhikari
- Dr Bharat Raj Poudel
- Hari Pandey
- Dr Krishna Nirola
- Dr Bandita M Bhusal
- Ms Jyoti Kc
- Dr D D Kandel

AGM

- Indra Ban
- Bishnu Hamal
- Janaki Paudel
- Jabin Shrestha
- Bom Yonzon

Membership

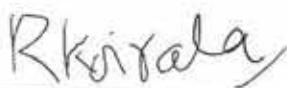
- Bishnu Hamal
- Bhola Giri
- Ang Dawa Sherpa
- Rajan Koirala

Election Commission

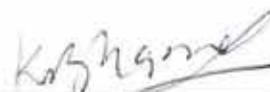
- Jog Limbu
- Kamalayan Shrestha
- Rajendra Rajbhandary
- Ashish Sapkota

FENCAA Financial report

FEDERATION OF NEPALESE ASSOCIATIONS OF AUSTRALIA (FeNCAA)	
FINANCIAL REPORT (2020/21)	
BANK BALANCE AS OF 20 JUNE 2020: \$2,018	
INCOME	
Activities	Amount
Fencaa Membership Drive	\$54.00
Grant Volunteering Australia	\$5,000.00
Financial Support from Fencaa members to pay NRNAA (DECMT)	\$450.00
Sponsors for Fencaa AGM-2 Sydney Event	\$1,250.00
Volunteering Australia Refund	\$1,250.00
Fencaa EC nomination fee	\$2,200.00
AGM -2 Registration	\$1,120.00
Fencaa member's contribution to meet AGM-2 venue booking	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,824.00
EXPENSES	
Fencaa Insurance payment	\$513.59
Fencaa website development	\$275.00
Purchase of a Laptop and printer: Office establishment	\$2,664.00
Payment to NRNAA related to DECMT jointly organised program	\$600.00
Payment to Multiculture	\$800.00
Payment to Santosh Malla: Mental Health Training Team	\$760.00
Volunteering ACT membership	\$77.50
Payment to Volunteer Managers training	\$1,250.00
Zoom subscription fee	\$230.80
Miscellaneous Expenses for training	\$265.82
Deposit for venue booking for AGM-2	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,436.71
NET AMOUNT (\$11,824.00 - \$8,436.71)	\$3,387.29
Carry over from 30 June 2020	\$2,018.00
BANK BALANCE AS OF 20 JUNE 2021	\$5,405.29



Rajan Koirala (Treasurer)



Dr Krishna Hamal (General Secretary)

The Past, Present and Future of Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia (FeNCAA)

*Dr Raju Adhikari, Dr Krishna Hamal, Indira Bun, Bom Yonzon and Rajan Koirala
Executive Team Member, Federation of Nepalese communities Association (FeNCCA)*

www.fencaa.org.au

Federation of Nepalese Communities Association (FeNCCA) represents a unified voice of the Nepali Community's organisations and communities to the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Nepali population in Australia in the past decade has significantly increased and Nepal is now ranked in the list of ten top countries of migrants in Australia. Nepalese population is the seventh largest population in Australia representing 0.4% of the Australia total population.

It is estimated that there are over 150 Nepalese community associations in Australia representing the culturally and linguistically diverse Nepali communities. Australian Government recent policies have reemphasized the strength of multiculturalism and role of migrant communities to overall socio-economic prosperity of the country. Due to this, a need for a strong unified voice of the Nepalese community organisations and community at large was felt necessary at the federal level to consolidate our efforts, recognition and contributions. Thus, the establishment of the Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia (FeNCAA) was a necessity and after extensive consultations with communities, the organisation was registered under the incorporation ACT 1991 on 2nd August 2018 with a registration number A05974.

FeNCAA members are community organisations and their voices are represented to the Federal and State Governments on issues that affect the Nepalese community directly and indirectly and lobby for funding for community projects. FeNCAA acts as a think tank on Government community's policy issues on language, migration, multiculturalism, health, employability and promotes closer ties between the two countries. FeNCAA through its organisational representation play a pivotal role to facilitate the community's harmony, build inter and intra linkages, mutual respect, trust, ownership, inclusiveness, team spirit to achieve greater outcomes for Nepalese communities.

The community consultative meeting held in Sydney in April 2017 had endorsed the formation of a five-member core team to hold a wider consultation with communities in different states. Following the consultation, the 1st FeNCAA National Convention

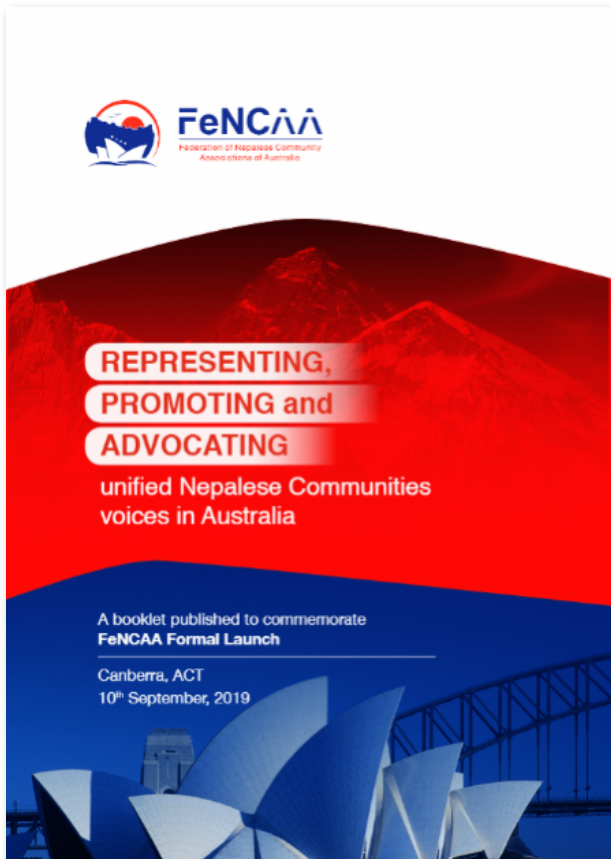


held in Melbourne in 2019 which authorised the establishment of FeNCAA. Thus, the organisation was finally registered under the Australian Association Act 1991 in April 2019.

FeNCAA inaugural and 1st AGM and Convention was held in Canberra on September 10, 2019 and was attended by parliamentarians and dignitaries from various community's organisations from other countries (Figure 1) and unanimously elected the first executive team. The FeNCAA executive team since then has been representing Nepalese community to Federal and State Governments.



Figure 1: FeNCAA First National Convention and AGM in Canberra in September 2019 addressed Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs Hon Jason Wood, Dr Raju Adhikari, FeNCAA President and Participants; FeNCAA Souvenir booklets 2017, 2019 (next page)



FeNCAA souvenir booklets:

**Softcopy of the booklets can
be downloaded from -**

**[https://www.fencaa.org.au/current-
projects/projects/](https://www.fencaa.org.au/current-projects/projects/)**

In the past two years, the FeNCAA executive team took several executive decisions, formed various task committees to spearhead Constitution, Research and Publication, Membership, AGM and COVID mitigation activities. The constitution team after consultations with the members' organisations made several amendments to make the constitution more inclusive. FeNCAA membership has now increased from 1928 to 74 organisations. FeNCAA has supported and participated in various conferences, mainly National Disaster Convention in Canberra in April 2021, Education investment opportunities in Nepal ,DFAT seminar, Volunteer Training program, Nari Nikunj NRNA Australia and COVID Research publication (Figure 2).



Figure 2 : FeNCAA supporting and participating NRNA National Disaster Convention, Canberra and DFAT Education Investment seminar (Nepal)



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
सिंहदरबारको सम्मेलन: विचार, शक्ति र सुझाव

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEPAL: EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF COLLABORATION
BGC Webinar Series 2

Second Discussion: October 12, 4 pm
Nepal Time

watch at
www.facebook.com/groups/bgcNepal
& www.facebook.com/NepalBGC
(Webinar livestreamed via YouTube link)

Panelists/Speakers

Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs
His Excellency Mr. Mahesh Dahal, Ambassador of Nepal to Australia
Prof. Dr. Kusum Shakya- Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, TU
Prof. Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel- Senate Member, KU
Mrs. Durapada Sapkota, DCM, Embassy of Nepal, Australia
Dr. Raju Adhikari-Principal Scientist, Hon. Fellow, CSIRO, Australia
Dr. Bandita Mainali Bhusal-Assistant Professor, LaTrobe University, Australia
Dr. Bharat Raj Poudel-Media Expert, Writer, QUT Graduate, Australia
(Moderator of the Discussion)

Facilitator: Santosh Gautam
Brain Gain Center, Nepal

FeNCAA worked very closely with the Federal government during the crises and made six submissions on COVID, Regional Migration policy and Mental Health Crises. FeNCAA also received grants for volunteer training and worked with the Australia Nepal Public Link (ANPL) to run a Mental Health First Aid Training Program in Canberra, and sports grants for Oceania meet submitted.



Figure 3: FeNCAA General Secretary Dr Krishna Hamal, NRNA team with Consulate Deepak Khadka meeting Hon David Coleman, MP Assistant Minister to the Prime-Minister for Mental and Suicidal prevention and making submission for support to Nepal COVID situation.

FeNCAA also held several consultative meetings with the member organisations to discuss and review progress and seek their invaluable input into policy submission documents. Due to COVID crises and isolation measures, the FeNCAA executive team could not hold face to face meetings in different states and most of the meetings were held by ZOOM online. FeNCAA convened a Special General Meeting (SGM) on 25th May 2021 to endorse the constitution amendments and to form election commission to conduct the free and fair election.

FeNCAA is the only Federal association of Nepalese communities' organisations and with the growing organisation's membership, FeNCAA is reaching its full potential and strength. FeNCAA has greater responsibilities and challenges ahead to fulfill the growing community needs and expectations. The tenure of the Executive committee is for two years and each state will have the opportunity to take the leadership role and play an important role. The new Executive team and various committee will work with member organisations and drive the organisations to its mission and goals.

The current FeNCAA Executive team would like to thank member organisations, the Embassy of Nepal, Nepalese Consulate office, NRNA Australia, supporters, well-wishers and community at large for the continued goodwill and support to the establishment of the organisation. Please visit website www.fencaa.org.au for further information and contact details.

Nepal Eye Projects

My journey over the last 6 years

Anil Sharma MD, FRANZCO,
Advisor- Medical Profession FENCAA QLD
Ophthalmologist Rockhampton Eye Clinic & Central Lakes Eye Clinic, Caboolture

In the last booklet published to commemorate FeNCAA Formal Launch on 10th September, 2019 I had written an article about 2 Eye Projects that had been concurrently run in Nepal . One year eight months later I would like to summarize as to what has happened since then.

Part 1:

Support to Lions Eye Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal -an Initiative of The Lions Club of Rockhampton Fitzroy River (2016-2021)

It all started off in 2015 through a kind donation of AUD \$6000 by a well known patient of mine. He asked me to use the money for some useful Eye services in Nepal.

From humble sausage sizzle in front of Bunnings and garage sale, to a dental surgeons' full day revenue, to the kind generous donations of Lions Cabinet District 201Q4 and donations from other Lions, Lionesses Clubs of Zones 11 and 12, contribution from Queensland branch of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologist- donations in small and big started to come in.

Myself, being a Member of Lions Club Rockhampton Fitzroy at that time it was decided to make it a project of the Club.



Donations came in from common folks following 2 radio interviews with myself on ABC. The medical industry stepped up with Zeiss Australia Foundation donating a Zeiss VISU 210 operating surgical microscope, Optimed Australia donating a YAG laser machine and City Heart Medical a general practice in Rockhampton donating a functional sterilization unit.

A total sum of AUD \$ 80,000 was raised.

The money was used to buy a Phacoemulsification Machine and accessories. The Phacoemulsification Unit was donated to Lions Eye Hospital, Kathmandu in the presence of the Australian Ambassador in March 2016 and the other equipment arrived later by freight.



The Lions Eye Hospital is a Community Eye Hospital in Min Bhawan, New Baneshwor and serves the marginalized and underprivileged, with majority of patients coming from low socio-economic background of the surrounding area of Kathmandu valley. Some of them have no source of payment for even the basic cataract surgery.

Cataract Surgery is the most common surgical service provided by the centre. Besides that general eye consultations, medical management of common eye ailments, YAG laser capsulotomy for posterior capsular opacification and dispensing of eye glasses for refractive errors are services that are offered.

Table1: Numbers of Phaco-surgeries carried out at Lions Eye Hospital, Kathmandu

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-till March	Total cases
Numbers	255	289	326	323	165	13	1492

One can see that in 2020 the number of surgeries dramatically dropped in view of COVID19. However it seems to picking up lately.

Dr Ramesh Pradhan, a colleague Eye Specialist, continues to work part-time and currently is training another young Ophthalmologist in Phacoemulsification surgery at the centre. I understand few previously trained young Ophthalmologists have moved on to other centers.

Small manual Incision cataract surgery SMICS is the standard of care. However Phacoemulsification surgery is offered to those that can contribute some amount to the costs. It is however also offered to patients if Phacoemulsification is thought to be indicated by the medical team. It is either done for free or at discounted price.

The YAG laser unit continues to function reasonably.

Furthermore a nurse (S T) from the centre, was offered a scholarship for a 3 years course of Bachelor of Ophthalmic Nursing training program at the Nepal Eye Hospital, a tertiary Eye Hospital in Kathmandu. She has completed her 3 years of training and is awaiting final results.

I understand she is looking for work either at the Lions Eye Hospital or possibly another Eye Hospital closer to her home in Bhaktapur. Wherever she goes I hope she continues serving the deserving population. During my visit in 2016 I had found her to be skilled and talented. It is not uncommon for trained staff and Doctors to move on and retention of staff is always an ongoing issue for the management.

My current relationship with The Lions Club of Kathmandu and The Lions Eye Hospital have also come to an end after 6 years. I had to submit my resignation to The Lions Club of Rockhampton Fitzroy due to work commitments- running 2 practices one in Rockhampton and the other in Caboolture was getting too busy for me.

The Lions Club of Rockhampton Fitzroy River has finalized the project and it is now all wrapped up. I would like to Thank all LIONS ,LEOS ,LIONESS of both Australia and Nepal that have made contributions to the programme.

I believe the management Board of Lions Eye Hospital , Kathmandu and the current team of medical staff will take it into the future independently.

I have also come to understand that Bagmati Provincial Government has given Nepalese 35 lakhs money to the construction of a training centre and another 20 lakhs for the proposed reconstruction of the center which has been promised for the next budget, which will be a good boost for the center . I do wish them all the Best into the future!

Part 2:

Phacoemulsification Training for SMICS experienced Nepalese Eye Surgeons -a joint project of Queensland Ophthalmologist and Lumbini Eye Institute (2017-2020)

Many young Nepalese SMICS surgeons are embracing Phacoemulsification Cataract surgery for its excellent results and also for the financial benefits that comes with reproducible results.

Given the significant number of cataract patients , the number of Phaco surgeons in Nepal like many developing countries are limited and therefore most likely to grow. Most Nepalese Ophthalmology residency programs do not have focused structured syllabus on Phacoemulsification, however some get few step to learn ad hoc depending where they train.

Till COVID-19 struck some Nepalese doctors travelled to India for upskilling.

Currently I understand a few Institutions like Tilganga Eye Institute Kathmandu, Nepal Eye Hospital Kathmandu, Lumbini Eye Institute Bhairawa, Biratnagar Eye Hospital, Biratnagar, Mechi Eye Hospital, Jhapa and Geta Eye Hospital, Dhangadi offer Phacoemulsification training.

A collaboration of Queensland Ophthalmologists, Australia and Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh(NNJS) was initiated and a MoU was signed to develop Phacoemulsification training for qualified Nepalese Ophthalmic Surgeons at Lumbini Eye Institute (LEI) from 2017-2019 to enhance Surgical skills

A team of Consultant Ophthalmologists from Queensland on a Voluntary basis, at their own expenses, visited Lumbini Eye Institute in Bhairawa twice a year for on-site intensive supervision in collaboration together with Nepalese Consultants for a 2 week period.

SMICS experienced candidates were selected by the Hospital. The Basic Knowledge of the trainees was established with web- based learning portal(IOP.Vision), followed by multiple choice question tests.

The outcome was evaluated using the Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Rubric of the International Council of

SMICS experienced candidates were selected by the Hospital. The Basic Knowledge of the trainees was established with web-based portal learning, followed by multiple choice question tests.





Ophthalmology (ICO-OSCAR) where each step in Phacoemulsification surgery was accessed taking into account - Intraoperative complications, complexity of cases and takeovers by the supervising Consultants and each candidate received a grade.

Video-recording of each case facilitated the assessment.

I would like to thank the Visiting Consultants from Australia together with the Nepalese Consultants who were the full time Trainers and Supervisors.

- Dr Graham Lee, Dr Andrew Klienschmidt, Dr Andrew Carroll, Dr Peter Cranstoun, Dr Todd Goodwin , Dr Jim McAllister , Dr Isabel McLean and myself – all from Australia.
- Dr Salma KC Rai, Dr Arjun Bhari Malla, Dr Nanda Kumari Gurung, Dr Sushila Patel, Dr Gyanendra Lamichhane and Dr Koshal Shrestha- all from Lumbini Eye Institute, Nepal

I would also like to thank the candidates:

Dr Saraswati Pandey, Dr Anjita Hirachan, Dr Binita Bhattarai, Dr Lazza Singh and Dr Amrit Bastola who were very eager to learn and excel in this surgical skill.

Phacoemulsification surgery is the standard of care for Cataracts in Australia and most developed nations.

I would like to thank ICO for being able to use the ICO-OSCAR Rubric and to Drs Graham Lee and Dr Peter Shah for being able to use their online International Ophthalmology portal IOP.vision at no costs to the Nepalese candidates

I am happy to say we were able to train at least 5 Nepalese Phaco Surgeons during 2018-2019. Unfortunately, the last visit to Nepal had to be withdrawn due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

I would also like to thank Dr Lily Ooi, Dr David Gunn and Dr Sean Cheng who would have participated otherwise had it not been for the Pandemic and express my apologies to Dr Laxmi and Dr Manita, 6th and 7th candidates, who could not participate due to last minute cancellation of the program again due to the pandemic.

I would also like to thank Lisa O'Donnell for all the hours of administration /secretarial work as well as Chairman NNJS and Mr Sailesh Mishra, Executive Director and administration staff of NNJS, as well as the Chairman and Staff of Lumbini Eye Institute for their support to the Project.

All the 5 candidates were issued **Course completion Certificates** after submitting audit of their respective cases. Two weeks of intensive surgical supervision with about 50-60 Phacoemulsification surgeries were performed per candidate on average.

Strengths and shortcomings have been identified on both sides.

Currently due to lockdown from the Pandemic the number of surgeries and training has slowed down. Hopefully once it all settles the Medical Director at Lumbini Eye Institute assures me, he may be able to restart the training.

2 of the 5 candidates have gone to the private sector and have relocated from LEI

3 candidates remain with LEI and continue their work with dedication. One of them after finishing the Phaco training program is about to complete his Vitreo-Retinal fellowship at LEI in July 2021

COVID19 and the Political instability in the country over the last 2 years are 2 main reasons that have interrupted services throughout the country .

Working together with Lions Club of Rockhampton Fitzroy river, Lions Club of Kathmandu, Nepal, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh and Queensland Ophthalmologist, I can say we have done very well.

FeNCAA, as an organization is very keen to see such mutually developed and beneficial projects foster.

It not only does good to the patients and their communities but strengthens interaction between the Australian and Nepalese doctors, possibly could promote research work and may work as an example to take this type of project to other parts of Nepal or even further to other parts of the world too.

It would really be appreciated if The Australian Government would support this activity financially and make it a model project.



Nepali Pathshala

Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ), Brisbane

Mrs Sanchita Koirala, Director, Nepali Pathshala , NAQ

(The opinion expressed in the article is authors own narrative)

Background:

Majority of young members of the emerging migrant Nepalese community in Australia always want to keep themselves away for social and cultural gatherings. The main reasons behind this are their inability to understand and speak Nepalese language, and their lack of knowledge of Nepalese tradition and culture. Whenever there is a community



gathering organized by elder members of the community, the language of conversation is Nepali. Nepali language is also the main medium of communication in significant cultural events organized by the Nepalese Associations when presentations and live performances to mark Nepalese tradition, culture and heritage are made.

There is an increasing trend of Nepalese migrants' parents from Nepal visiting the families here and staying with them for a period varying few months to years. The objective of such a visit is to strengthen the families try and also to help the families in raising their children. However, due to language problem discussed above, the communication

remains very poor and this brings hindrance to the objectives stated above. There have been few cases where the grandparents shortening their stay here in Australia because of their inability to communicate properly with their grandchildren.

Other related problems are:

- Poor participation in community events especially of the younger generation
- Unable to share the cultural experience among the fellow children of the migrant families
- Lack of appreciation of one's own culture and heritage and those of others more broadly in the Australia society.

In order to overcome these problems and bridge the gap between the generations, it is absolutely necessary that the children of migrant families have adequate language skills and knowledge of their traditional culture. The members of local community have felt a greater need of arrangements for addressing the above issues, and have requested Nepalese Associations in major cities across Australia for the same.

History of Pathshala and My Experience:

When we arrived in Australia in the year 1991 to get our passport stamped, we found that most of the children were speaking in English and, not in their mother tongue, Nepali. At that time, we were living in Thailand where most of the family used to speak in Nepali with their children. So, this came as a surprise to us. I still remember the day when I went back home, my mum asking me, "How was Australia?" I burst into tears because I had no answer to it. The pain of losing our family, the pain of losing our motherland and on top the fear of losing our culture, our language, hit me badly. But my husband and I decided to speak in Nepali with our children and, keep our language alive.

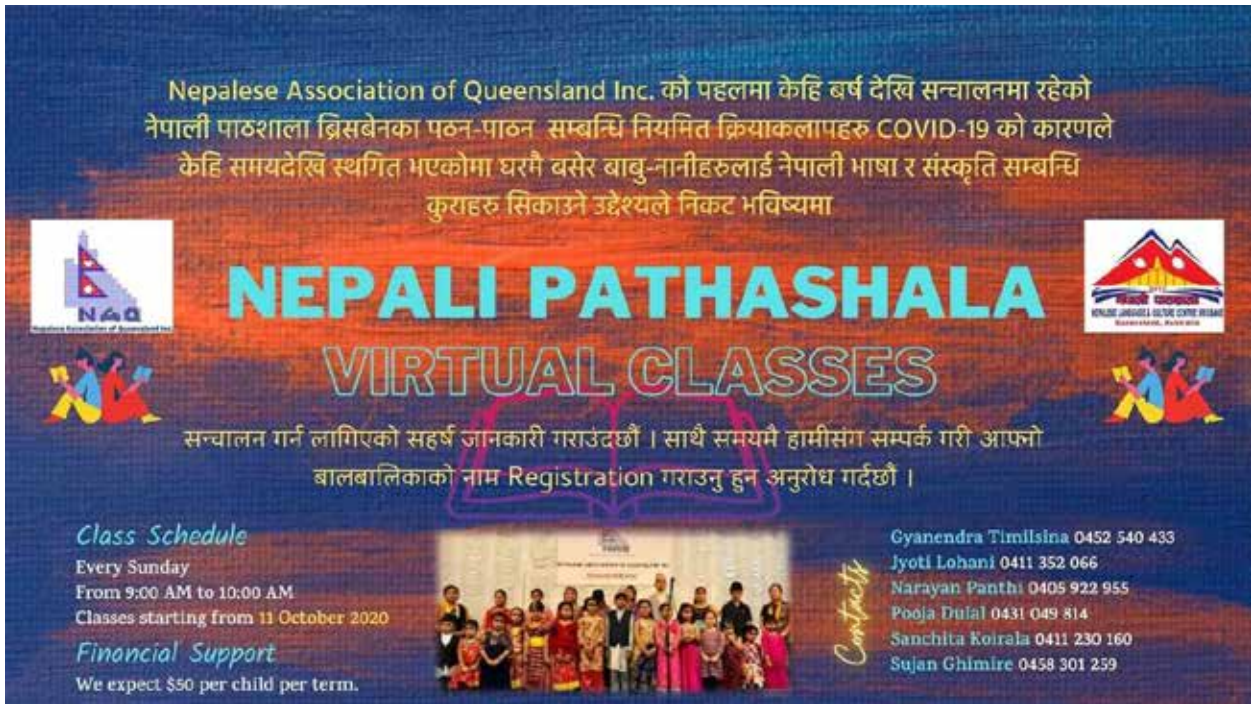
When we permanently migrated to Australia in the year 1993, we spoke to each other in Nepali at home. We thought we were doing a great job, until one day when we were at a park, all parents started talking about whose child speaks in Nepali language? I obviously with pride raised my hand. A friend of mine pointed out to me that I was wrong. She asked me to call my son, which we did. I spoke to my son and asked him few questions, he replied in English. This is when it hit us extremely hard how quickly children could switch from one language to another. Unknowingly, my son had started speaking in English in within five six months since we had landed. We parents, living in the close by suburbs of St. Clare, Werrington, and Kingswood, in Western Sydney had a meeting to discuss the need of Pathshala in the early year of 1994.

By the mid of the year 1994, Nepali Pathshala opened. It was voluntarily run by Mrs. Rama Kunwar (who had great input in opening Pathshala) and parents of Nepalese community, as teachers. The class was held at Werrington Primary School. Parents were involved in management and running of the school. In the year 1995 due to work reason, we had to move to Queensland. In the year 1996 we found out that the Pathshala had stopped operating, due to lack of resources.

Need for Pathshala:

Once children are exposed to childcare or Family Day Care and later followed by school, they can easily switch from one language to another without notice. Which is very understandable, it is not their fault either because, they do have to fit in the environment, speak to friends in English, speak to teachers in English. This is when parents must come on scene. We as parents have to start thinking, “do we want to preserve our culture, our language? Our heritage too.” Once we lose our language, we also start losing our culture. We will start losing our roots too. There might come a time when we think, ‘so what? We live in Australia, why do we need to speak in Nepali?’ But let us take a break here. Let us sit and think about the negative side of losing our language. Losing our language means:

- Lack of communication in between grandparents (with no English-speaking background) and grandchildren. With excitement, thinking we will have a great time with our grandchildren, grandparents arrive in Australia, enthusiastically start talking to their grandchildren in Nepalese, only to find that their grandchildren are speaking back to them in English. Can you imagine their pain when their grandchild has forgotten their mother tongue and they are replying in English? This is when the gap beings in between grandparents and grandchildren. There has been situation that I know of those grandparents have left Australia for Nepal earlier than their scheduled time frame because they were unable to communicate. Isn't this a very harsh situation?
- As it is, if both parents do not work, it is hard to live in ease. Parents go to work from 08:00am in the morning and get home around 5:00pm (standard time). They do not have a choice other than putting their children in childcare center. Very understandable in everyone's lifestyle. Who would not want to earn? Who would not want to live a good life? Everyone does, especially us, first generation who migrate for our better future.
- But, in our busy schedule we forget that if we lose our language, we lose a lot. We will lose our culture, our family back home, who might not know any other language than Nepali.
- This is when as per my experience, we as parents must make a big decision. Speak Nepali strictly at home. Make your child understand the importance of our root because, even after living here in Australia for hundreds of years to come, we will always be a citizen with a non-English speaking background.
- Let us stop and think for a minute; can we stop eating rice and switch to pizza, pasta, and barbecue? We cannot. Why? Because rice is our nation's food back in Nepal, our main meal. If we cannot give up our taste, how can we even think of giving up our family, our friends, our relatives back home? Sad, isn't it? Time has come, time has come for us all to think very seriously about preserving our root. Who knows? Just like we migrated here, our children might want to go back home one day for their better life.



Nepalese Association of Queensland Inc. को पहलमा केहि बर्ष देखि सन्चालनमा रहेको नेपाली पाठशाला ब्रिसबेनका पठन-पाठन सम्बन्धि नियमित क्रियाकलापहरु COVID-19 को कारणले केहि समयदेखि स्थगित भएकोमा घरमै बसेर बाबु-नानीहरुलाई नेपाली भाषा र संस्कृति सम्बन्धि कुराहरु सिकाउने उद्देश्यले निकट भविष्यमा

NEPALI PATHASHALA
VIRTUAL CLASSES

सन्चालन गर्न लागिएको सहर्ष जानकारी गराउदछौं । साथै समयमै हामीसंग सम्पर्क गरी आफ्नो बालबालिकाको नाम Registration गराउनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछौं ।

Class Schedule
Every Sunday
From 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Classes starting from 11 October 2020

Financial Support
We expect \$50 per child per term.

Contact
Cyanendra Timilsina 0452 540 433
Jyoti Lohani 0411 352 066
Narayan Panthi 0405 922 955
Pooja Dufal 0431 049 814
Sanchita Koirala 0411 230 160
Sujan Ghimire 0458 301 259

- We might have properties back home. Can you imagine when they must read the paperwork, they do not understand what is in the papers? They do not know how to sign in Nepali. What then? They must rely on others for their work to be done. Isn't this going to be a harsh situation? I have heard many, many stories on how they have been cheated because they were not even aware they had the land that belonged to their forefathers', and it was snatched from them. Let us wake up now. Let us preserve our culture by preserving our language.

Nepali Pathshala in Brisbane, under the umbrella of NAQ:

To bridge the gap between the generations and to provide the knowledge about Nepalese tradition and culture to wider population, it is necessary that the children of migrant families have adequate language skills and knowledge of their traditional culture. The local members of the Nepalese community felt that it was a must to address the several issues mentioned earlier and requested NAQ to establish basic language and cultural classes for their children.

After conducting survey among the local community members, NAQ came to a decision that preserving our Heritage by preserving our culture and language was necessary. In the year 2012, NAQ was proposed to start Nepali Pathshala in Brisbane once grants to support the project financially was made available from the Queensland Government.

Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ) makes a history:

Before opening of Pathshala lot of brain draining had to be done. Meetings were called where Sabdamala from NSW and Nepali Pathshala from Melbourne were also consulted to share their experience.

Finally Nepali Pathshala in Brisbane was Established in July, 2012. There were around 50 children. It was a very memorial time for all local community members. Parents were excited. So were the children.

We had community people helping as volunteers. They were very enthusiastic to help in the good deed. The classroom was provided by Mr. Kamal Gurung at Central Queensland University in the Brisbane CBD. The class was run from there for few sessions then it moved to Kelvin Grove for better location. Due to increasing numbers and need for more than one Pathshala NAQ saw the need to open a second one too. It then split into two Pathshala. Now, one is run from the Southside of Brisbane, Heathwood and another one is run from the Northside of Brisbane, Geebung. We have around 30 children in both Pathshala. Due to growing population, NAQ feels that we might have to open one on the Eastside of Brisbane and one on the Westside of Brisbane too. This will ease parents from travelling a long way to get to the school.

But NAQ has not been able to take the step now due to insufficient resources. We need more capable teachers. More funding would be helpful to run the school in a better way. This is where FeNCAA could bridge and help Pathshala run smoothly.

Where from Here

Our community is progressing in a better way these days. Our new generation have felt the need of preserving our language. There are many Nepali Pathshala located in major cities of each state and territory across Australia these days.

- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Western Australia
- Northern Territory
- Australian Capital Territory
- Tasmania

Necessity of Coordination:

All these states are moving towards the same goal, and our main aim is, “preserving and fostering our culture, language and heritage.” We are planning to move towards a golden era. Living in a vast multicultural world. With better understanding, with brighter future.

How can different organisations like Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ), Nepalese associations located across Australia, NRNA and FeNCAA can help all the Pathshala run smoothly? As a director of Nepali Pathshala, Brisbane, under the umbrella of NAQ, what is our expectation from these organisations?

- Currently, majority are running in an ad hoc way. But time has come for a better coordination among organisations. This will definitely give a better outcome.
- We have our own resources now. But our resources can be shared with Pathshala all over Australia for a better outcome. In similar way other Pathshala can share their views, resources. We can optimize available resources in a more productive way minimising duplications.
- If organisations like NAQ, FeNCAA, NRNAA and other leading institutions such as Sabdamala and Nepali Pathshala Adelaide could come together and do knowledge sharing in a professional way it would be beneficial to the wider community in a long term. Holding a virtual workshop is easy, but it must be brought in practice too. Create an environment for teachers so that they can get motivated by the seminar. Follow up with teachers after the seminar. Get their combined views. Give support to teacher, provide incentives and resources as needed.
- Incentive sharing: create an environment for teachers so that they get motivated, and they get encouraged to do more better in their own field. To improve teaching standard, arrange workshops and trainings for teachers. Let the workshops/ trainings provide ideas on creation of fun learning environment. With just book work there is a high chance of children getting bored, especially a child from the age of 5 until 12 years.
- Create an environment for virtual teaching in remote areas where physical teaching is not practical due to resources issues. Create an idea for virtual library to share information to remote area children. Make use of technology to share our dream with people all over Australia so that when tomorrow comes our children do not turn back on us and say, “you did not teach me”. Let us bring awareness in us. Keep reminding ourselves who we are, where we come from, because our root is important for us.

What role can FeNCAA play in Pathshala:

- There is no doubt that FeNCAA members will increase rapidly. Currently, there are 75 members (June 2021 data). The existing FeNCAA members, as per my understanding, have their own distinct catchments, so information can be disseminated consistently to the right customers, and on time. FeNCAA, in collaboration with NRNAA and other institutions currently involved in running Nepali Pathshala, can initiate dialogue across Australia involving relevant skilled people from its members with an intention to preserve and foster Nepali language, culture, and heritage amongst primary school-aged children. A survey can be conducted to find the existing practices in each State and Territory.
- FeNCAA, I am positive, can form a team with proactive members from all states and territories. They can help in seeking state/federal grants. Such grants can be used to purchase teaching materials locally or import from Nepal, and also to provide trainings/run workshops to produce skilled manpower. FeNCAA can also engage local experts or from Nepal to develop curriculum and teaching materials which can be used all over Australia.

In concluding remarks, I would like to request the FeNCAA team to provide a platform so that its members can approach to all relevant institutions (including FeNCAA non-members) those involved in running Nepali Pathshala across Australia. This can be a good start to compile information such as Curriculum, teaching materials, teaching methods etc and then share such valuable information among the relevant FeNCAA members. It is strongly recommended to establish a language and cultural promotion team made of subject matter experts involving FeNCAA members and non-members. In order to gain and sustain trust with its members, the FeNCAA team must look for State and Federal grants to support running Nepali Pathshala effectively and efficiently to a high standard.

FeNCAA Organisational Representatives of 6 June 2021

NOTES:

14. Only registered representatives of FeNCAA associations can apply for the executive committee and for State and Territory Coordinator positions.
15. Only registered representatives of FeNCAA member associations will be allowed to vote on behalf of their associations.
16. FeNCAA associations can change their representatives by 9 June 2021, 4 PM (AEST). The revised list of representatives will be published on the same day by 11:59PM (AEST)

SNO	ORGANIZATIONS	DELIGATE Representative
NSW		
1	Nepalese Australian Association	Dr Madhusudan Pudasaini
2	Gurkha Nepalese Community Inc.	Dr Rajan Chhetri
3	Nepalese Australian Welfare Society	Chiran Tiwari
4	Help Nepal Network	Harsha Gautam
5	Nepalese Cricket Association of Australia	Niraj Shrestha
6	Association of Nepal Terai in Australia	Jumaddin Hawari
7	Nepalese Kala Saskriti Tatha Sahitya Pratisthan	Bhagawati Acharya
8	Nepalese Recreational Club	Bishnu Hamal
9	Pokhara Samaj Sydney	Raj Kumar Adhikari
10	International Nepali Literary Society	Mamata Devi tiwari
11	Magar Samaj Australia	Sudarshan Thapa Magar
12	Northern Beaches Nepalese Society	Hari Koirala
13	WE Team Australia	Prakash Mani Lamichhane
14	Australia Nepal Public Link	Bharat Nepal
15	Bridge The Gap Nepal	Shiva Shrestha
16	Australian Nepalese Medical and Dental Association Australia	Dr Chandra Deepak Pokharel
17	Sudur Paschim Samaj Australia	Shyam poudel
18	Gorkha Samaj Australia	Trilochan Pokharel
19	Nepalese Community in Sydney, Westmead	Babu Krishna Bagale
20	Rupandehi Social Network Australia	Mukti Ram Pokhrel
21	Dhading Australia Samaj	Arjun KC
22	Edmonson Park Bardia Nepalese Community	Rabin Neupane
23	Southern Highlands Nepali Community	Santosh Badal
24	Vision for Motivation	Mahesh Prasai
25	Oceania Nepali Sports Meet	Jabin Shrestha
26	Syangja Australia Society	Deepak Chhetri
27	Thakuri Samaj Australia	Dhiroj Malla
28	Nepalese Seniors Welfare Society Australia	Dr Narayan Pradhan
29	Central Coast Nepalese Community	Ashim Gautam
30	Nepalese Community of Western Sydney	Kabin Joshi
31	Dignity Forum Australia Inc	Dr Mom Bishwakarma
32	Nepalese Volleyball Association Australia	Krishna Sunar
33	Galkot Samaj Australia	Janga kunwor
34	Nepalese Penshurst Community	Laxman shrestha

VICTORIA		
1	Nepalese Association of Victoria Inc. (NAV)	Ram Gurung
2	Farwestern Nepalese Society of Victoria	Mahadev Dhanuk
3	Royal Western Club	Bom Yonzon
4	The Himalayan Club	Bhola Giri
5	Geelong Nepalese Association	Kshitiz Chandra Rai
6	Didi bahini Samaj Victoria	Jamuna Parajuli
7	Tamang Society of Victoria	Pema Dorje Bomjan
8	Craigieburn Nepali Samaj	Madhav Paudel
9	Doreen-Mendra Nepalese Community	Gopal Kafle
10	Epping Wollert Nepali Community	Roshan Upadhyay
11	Nepalese Neighbourhood Community Incorporated (NNCI)	Amrita Gurung
12	Australian Nepalese Senior citizen Society Inc	Tirtha Mktan
13	South Asian Community Link Group	Dr Raju Adhikari
14	Magar Samaj Victoria	Mohan Rana
QUEENSLAND		
1	Nepalese Australian Association of Mackay Region INC	Gopal Dahal
2	Nepalese Association of Queensland INC (NAQ)	Rajan Koirala
3	Nepalese Association of Toowoomba INC	Pukar Ghimire
4	Bundaberg Nepalese Community INC	Pranaya Gurung
5	Nepalese Community Gold Coast Inc	Suman Joshi
6	Central Queensland Nepalese Association Rockhampton	Yadav Bajagai
7	Nepalese Community In North Queensland (Townsville) INC	Sadikshya Subedi
8	International Nepali Literature Association, QLD Chapter, Australia	Dr Keshab Sharma
ACT		
1	Australia-Nepal Friendship Society Inc (ANFS)	Dr Krishna Hamal
2	Canberra Nepalese Football Club Inc (CNFC)	Suraj Paudel
3	Canberra Nepalese Cricket Club Inc (CNCC)	Pradeep Bhattarai
TASMANIA		
1	Nepali Society of Tasmania Inc (NEST)	Meghna Raut
2	Tsmanian Nepalese Cricket Association (TNCA)	Prakash Upreti
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
1	Adelaide Nepali Samaj	Suren Regmi
2	Nepali Pathshala Adelaide*	Kapil Pandey
3	AussieMed Foudation	Dr Kush Shrestha
4	Adelaide Nepalese Cricket association	Bijay Joshi
5	Nepalese Tennis Club Australia	Supak Adhikari
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
1	Nepali Association of Western Australia Inc (NAWA)*	Ang Dawa J Sherpa
2	Pashupatinath Boudhanath of WA (PBWA) Inc.	Nirajan Pokharel
3	We Care Nepal Inc.	Ujwal KC
4	Nepalese United Football Club	Mani P Rai
5	INLS Perth Chapter	Hari Prasad Adhikari
6	Nepalese Cricket Ass of WA	Nabin Bidari
NORTHERN TERRITORY		
1	Nepalese Association of Northern Territory Inc (NANT)	Sudeep Shrestha
2	Nepalese Community Alice Springs Inc. (NCAS)*	Rajen Paudel

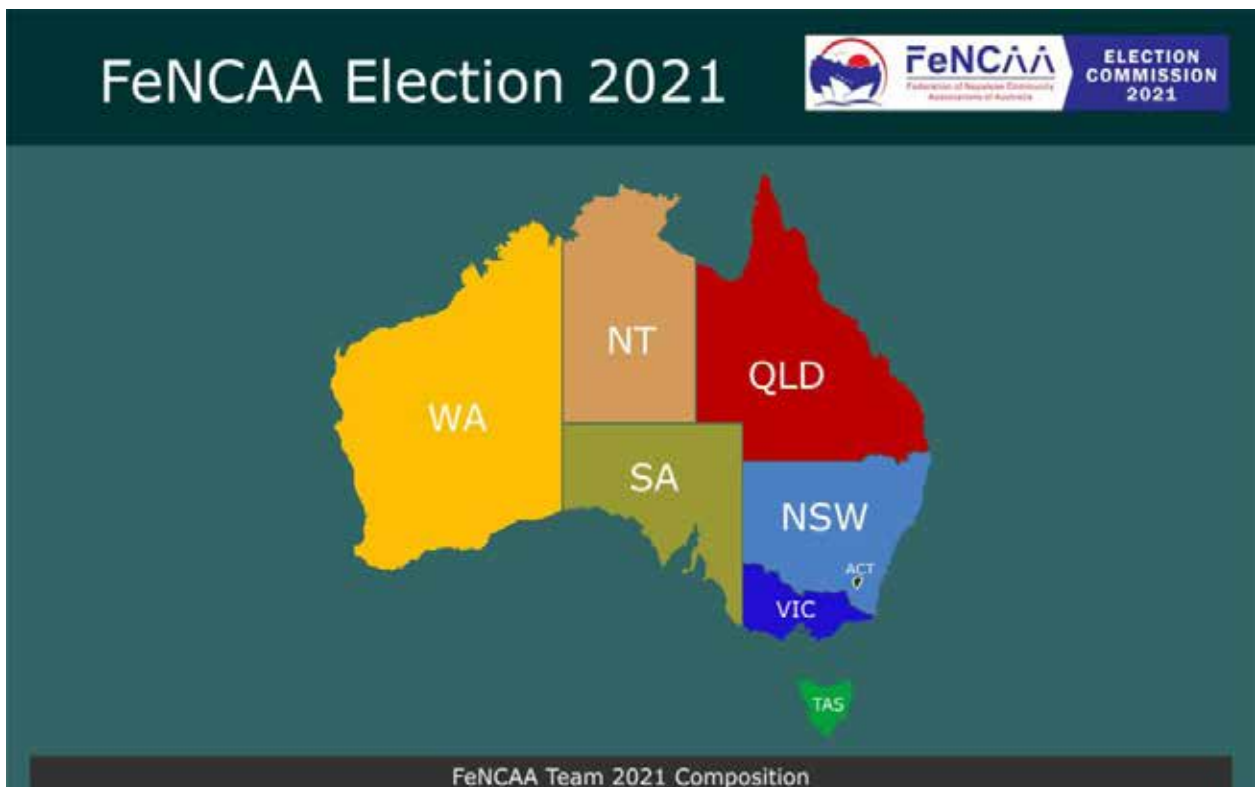
Membership Summary

NSW	= 34	Tasmania	= 2
Victoria	= 14	South Australia	= 5
Queensland	= 8	Western Australia	= 6
ACT	= 3	Northern territory	= 2

Total = 74

FeNCAA Election 2021 Calender

2021 ELECTION SCHEDULE			
JUNE	AEST		
ACTIVITIES	06	11:59 PM	PUBLISHING OF FeNCAA ELECTION GUIDELINE PUBLISHING OF DRAFT LIST OF VOTERS LIST BY FeNCAA
	09	11:59 PM	PUBLICATION OF REVISED REPRESENTATIVES OF FeNCAA ASSOCIATIONS IN WEBSITE
	09	08:00 PM	INFORMATION SESSION OF FeNCAA ELECTION WITH MEMBERS VIA ZOOM
	10-12	11:59 PM	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS FROM CANDIDATES
	14	11:59 PM	PUBLISHING FIRST LIST OF CANDIDATES
	15	11:59 PM	SUBMISSIONS OF OBJECTION ON CANDIDACY
	16	11:59 PM	PUBLISHING LIST OF CANDIDATES AFTER CONSIDERING ANY OBJECTION
	17	11:59 PM	APPLICATION TO WITHDRAW CANDIDACIES
	18	11:59 PM	PUBLISHING OF FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
	20	08:30 AM 06:00 PM	ELECTION USING ON-LINE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM
	22	11:59 PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULT
	27		SWORN IN OF THE ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN AGM



Refer to FeNCAA election 2021 page for more details:

<https://www.fencaa.org.au/election2021/>



FeNCAA
Federation of Nepalese Community
Associations of Australia

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

1. ORGANISATION:

Name of organisation: _____

Address: _____

Contact name: _____

Position: _____

Contact no: _____

Email: _____

Signature of contact person: _____

Registration Authority of your organisation:

Registration number: _____

Number of registered members of your organisation: _____

Website: _____

2. DELEGATE (Representative to act on behalf of your organisation at FeNCAA):

Delegate name: _____

Position at your organisation: _____

Contact no: _____

Email: _____

Ph: +61 2 6242 5950 M: +61 422 342 655 E: gs@fencaa.org.au
Address: FeNCAA Secretariat, 51 Tanami Street, Harrison, ACT 2914
Web: www.fencaa.org.au



Representative logos of some of the member organisations and supporters.

Member organizations



Supporters





FeNCAA

Federation of Nepalese Community
Associations of Australia

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**Representing, Promoting and Advocating unified
Nepalese Communities voices in Australia**

A booklet published to commemorate FeNCAA formal launch

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ABN: 19 921 485 119

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