



Annual Report 2024



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Acknowledgement to the country

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, learn, meet and work. We accept the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution. We recognize their continued connection to land, waters and culture, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

A word from President



As we look back on the past year, I am deeply moved by the resilience, compassion, and unwavering commitment that defines our DBSV community. In a time marked by economic pressures, limited resources for grassroots organizations, and the ongoing challenges faced by women balancing work, family, and community responsibilities, we have stood together with strength and purpose. This year has been a testament to what we can achieve when we unite around shared values. Our programs have reached further, our voices have grown louder, and our impact has deepened. We have continued to advocate for women's wellbeing, support vulnerable members of our community, and celebrate the rich cultural heritage that binds us.

From health screenings and mental health workshops to cultural festivals and environmental initiatives, our work has touched lives across Victoria. We've expanded our partnerships, strengthened our networks, and created safe spaces for dialogue, healing, and growth. Our commitment to empowering women through education, skill-building, and leadership has remained at the heart of everything we do.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Programs: We worked tirelessly to support the mental health needs of vulnerable community members, including women, children, elderly individuals, and students. We established dedicated platforms for discussing mental health and wellbeing policies specifically for Nepalese women, strengthening social cohesion and significantly increasing women's participation in community activities.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Support: We provided comprehensive door-to-door support to domestic violence survivors through empowerment programs and family counseling services. Our efforts received overwhelming positive feedback from the community, demonstrating our commitment to creating safer environments for women and families. **Organizational Growth and Expansion:** We have successfully expanded our networking capabilities, services, and group activities from Greater Melbourne to regional Victoria. Our organizational structure now includes 17-unit committees, one executive committee, and one advisory committee, reflecting our growth and community reach.

Environmental Stewardship and Cultural Celebrations: We have actively participated in environmental initiatives including tree planting programs, demonstrating our commitment

to sustainability. Our cultural festivals have celebrated the rich heritage that binds us while strengthening community connections.

Strategic Partnerships and Recognition: We have cultivated continuous support from diverse stakeholders and established partnerships with nine City Councils, the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), and numerous community organizations. We've also been honored with recognition from local councils and national institutions, affirming the value of our contributions to multiculturalism, social cohesion, and community development. **Health and Education Initiatives:** Our comprehensive health screenings and educational workshops have improved access to vital services for our community members. We have focused on improving women's quality of life through personalized support programs, strengthened by robust community networking.

These acknowledgements are not just milestones—they are reminders that our work matters. Our efforts have led to significant improvements in women's empowerment, skill development, capacity building, governance and policy advocacy, community decision-making, and domestic violence prevention and awareness. DBSV is more than an organization—it is a reflection of the hopes, dreams, and determination of Nepali women in Victoria. It is a space where voices are heard, where support is offered freely, and where every member is valued. Our unity and compassion form the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to overcome challenges and build a community we are proud to call home.

As we move forward, our vision remains bold and inclusive. We are laying the foundation for new projects that will further enhance our reach and deepen our impact. Our future pathway is bright and promising, with exciting plans in development that will continue to strengthen our community. I encourage each of you to stay engaged, to continue offering your time, energy, and support. Together, we will build a community that is not only strong and vibrant, but also compassionate and forward-thinking.

To our volunteers, team members, stakeholders, and supporters—thank you for walking this journey with us. Your dedication fuels our progress, and I am confident that the coming year will bring even greater achievements. Each member has played a vital role in our accomplishments, and I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your invaluable time, skills, and resources.

With warm regards and deep appreciation,

Roshani Shrestha

President, Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV)

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Background

Founded in October 2012, **Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV)** emerged from the vision and determination of a group of strong, active Nepalese women committed to advocating for a better world—both in Nepal and Australia.

DBSV is a **women-led, community-driven organization**, officially registered under the **Incorporation Act 1981**, and proudly represents the voices, aspirations, and resilience of Nepalese women across Victoria.

The name “Didi Bahini Samaj” reflects the spirit of sisterhood— **“Didi” and “Bahini”** meaning elder and younger sisters in Nepali—symbolizing unity, care, and collective strength.

Since its inception, DBSV has been at the forefront of empowering women, promoting cultural harmony, and driving social change through advocacy, education, and community engagement.

Our Values & Vision

At Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV), our values are the foundation of everything we do. They guide our actions, shape our culture, and reflect the spirit of sisterhood that drives our mission.

Our Core Values

Compassion: We care deeply for those in need, offering empathy, respect, and unwavering support. We work collaboratively, ethically, and with honesty at every step.

Courage: We rise to challenges with boldness and resilience. We champion gender equality, embrace innovation, and stand firm in knowing our rights.

Respect: We honor the uniqueness of every individual. Differences are not barriers—they are opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. We treat others as we wish to be treated.

Change: We are agents of progress. With hope and adaptability, we lead transformative efforts that benefit women and society. We continuously strive to evolve and improve.

Our Vision

We envision a society where Nepalese women are empowered, confident, and actively engaged in shaping their futures. Our mission is to:

Promote women's participation in social, economic, cultural, and developmental activities to enhance their quality of life and affirm our commitment to gender equality.

Provide a shared platform for Nepalese women to voice their concerns, build support networks, and co-create innovative programs that uplift and inspire.

Foster capacity-building through meaningful engagement—celebrations, conversations, publications, coaching, mentoring, and community-driven initiatives that strengthen confidence and leadership.

Together, we are building a vibrant, inclusive, and empowered community—one woman, one voice, one step at a time.

DBSV Highlights: A Year of Empowerment, Healing, and Cultural Engagement

Breast Screening Program

DBSV organized a targeted breast cancer screening program in Werribee specifically designed for Nepalese immigrant women aged 55-74. The program was successfully delivered with the dedicated support of volunteers including Roshani Shrestha, Babita, Manita, Julie, Gagan Gurung, and Mamta Thapa. The initiative focused on providing mammogram services (X-ray pictures of the breast) to detect cancers that may be too small to see or feel through regular examination.


This vital health initiative addressed critical healthcare access barriers faced by older immigrant women who may have limited knowledge about preventive health services or face cultural and linguistic obstacles to accessing mainstream health programs. The program emphasized the life-saving importance of early detection, educating participants that breast screens can identify cancers in their earliest stages when treatment outcomes are most favorable. By specifically targeting the 55-74 age group, the program focused resources on women at higher risk while promoting the evidence-based recommendation for biennial screening for women aged 40-74. The culturally and linguistically appropriate delivery ensured that participants could access services in a comfortable environment with familiar community support, potentially overcoming traditional barriers to healthcare engagement. The volunteer-supported model created peer connections and trust, making the screening process less intimidating for women who might otherwise avoid medical procedures. This program contributed to reducing health disparities within the Nepalese community by providing targeted access to potentially life-saving preventive care. The initiative also built health literacy within the community, as participants gained knowledge, they could share with family members and friends, extending the program's impact beyond direct participants. The successful delivery demonstrated DBSV's capacity to coordinate complex health programs while addressing specific cultural and linguistic needs of their




community members. This transformative retreat provided participating women with dedicated time and space for personal reflection, skill development, and emotional rejuvenation away from daily responsibilities and stresses. The Mother's Day timing honored women's roles as caregivers while emphasizing their individual identities and personal growth needs beyond their relationships to others. The two-day intensive format allowed for deep engagement with empowerment activities, meaningful connections between participants, and comprehensive exploration of topics related to women's wellbeing and personal development.

Automobile Maintenance Workshop


DBSV organized a hands-on workshop on learning the basics of car maintenance, aimed at empowering community members—especially those with limited automotive knowledge—to take control of their vehicle's upkeep. Participants were introduced to essential skills such as checking oil levels, inspecting tyres, understanding dashboard warning lights, and replacing wiper blades. The session demystified routine car care, helping individuals feel more confident and self-reliant on the road. By promoting safety, cost-awareness, and practical know-how, DBSV reinforced its commitment to everyday life skills that enhance independence and wellbeing within the community.


 Nepalese Neighbourhood Community


 Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria


NEPALESE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INC & DIDI BAHINI
SAMA J VICTORIA PRESENTS:

Learn basic skill for car maintenance with Sameer Joshi

 Saturday, 27 July 2024

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

 Car Tech Melbourne - 181 Barry Road, Campbellfield VIC 3061




What you will be learning:

- check tyre pressure
- check oil
- change tyre
- check Windscreen water
- check lights and indicators
- warning signs in your car
- what to do when you get into an accident? How to protect ourselves in situation when you have hit or your cars been hit?

Limited seats are available
RSVP by: 22nd July 2024

CONTACT:
Amrita Gurung: 0421 636 195
Sangita Timilsina: 0406 425 441

SUPPORTER:
 Whittlesea Community Connections

Teej Cultural Celebrations

DBSV organized their annual Teej celebration on Saturday, August 24th, 2024, from 5:00 PM onwards at St. Bernadette's Community Centre, 21-29 Cooke Avenue, Sunshine North. The festival brought together community members to celebrate this significant cultural tradition while supporting a meaningful cause, with proceeds from the event specifically designated to support women in Nepal who are survivors of sexual assault.



This vibrant cultural celebration successfully preserved and transmitted important Nepalese traditions while simultaneously addressing critical social justice issues affecting women globally. The Teej festival, traditionally celebrating women's devotion and marital bliss, was transformed into a platform for women's empowerment and international solidarity, demonstrating how cultural events can evolve to address

contemporary social concerns. The fundraising component created direct impact for vulnerable women in Nepal, showing how diaspora communities can maintain meaningful connections with their homeland while addressing urgent humanitarian needs. The event strengthened community bonds through shared cultural celebration, allowing participants to reconnect with their heritage while building relationships within the Australian Nepalese community. The involvement of guest artists and sponsors demonstrated successful

community partnerships that made the celebration both culturally authentic and financially sustainable. The volunteer-driven model fostered community ownership and engagement, with many members contributing their time and skills to create a memorable experience for all attendees. The celebration's success in preserving culture while raising hope for survivors of sexual assault exemplified DBSV's mission of combining cultural celebration with social activism, creating lasting memories while making tangible differences in women's lives both locally and internationally. This transformative retreat provided participating women with dedicated time and space for personal reflection, skill development, and emotional rejuvenation away from daily responsibilities and stresses. The Mother's Day timing honored women's roles as caregivers while emphasizing their individual identities and personal growth needs beyond their relationships to others. The two-day intensive format allowed for deep engagement with empowerment activities, meaningful connections between participants, and comprehensive exploration of topics related to women's wellbeing and personal development.



Gaura Festival

It was a true honor for Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV) to be represented at the vibrant Gaura Festival, beautifully organized by the Far Western Nepalese Society Nepal. The event was a joyful celebration of rich cultural heritage and traditions, bringing together community members in a spirit of unity and pride. DBSV is deeply grateful to FANV for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful occasion, which not only showcased the beauty of Nepalese customs but also

strengthened cultural connections within the broader community.

Tihar Celebration

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV), in collaboration with the DBSV Aintree Group and Melton Nepalese Community, successfully hosted the Tihar Celebration 2024 on 2nd November at Rockbank Hall, with generous support from Vaidik Sanatan Samaj Victoria and Melton City Council. The event was a vibrant showcase of Nepalese culture and tradition, featuring meaningful rituals such as Mha Puja (self-care), captivating traditional dances, lively Deusi-Bhailo performances, and engaging storytelling sessions. The celebration brought together community members of all ages, fostering cultural pride and strengthening social bonds in a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

Premier's Diwali State Reception

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria was honoured to participate and contribute to the Premier's Diwali State Reception 2024 held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event served as a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity, unity, and shared values, bringing together communities from across Victoria in the spirit of Diwali. As homes were illuminated with festive lights, the occasion also lit up hearts with gratitude for the rich traditions that shape our collective identity. DBSV extends warm wishes to all for a joyful Diwali filled with love, harmony, and togetherness.



Chhath Celebration

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria was privileged to participate in the vibrant Chhath celebration held at the ANMC venue, beautifully organised by MCV Australia. Chhath Puja is a sacred festival that honors the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya, offering heartfelt devotion and gratitude for their life-giving energy. Deeply rooted in purity, tradition, and spiritual discipline, the celebration reflects a profound bond between humanity and nature. The event brought together the community in a spirit of unity and reverence, celebrating cultural heritage while nurturing harmony with the environment.



Sixteen Day Activism against Gender Violence

DBSV organized comprehensive program during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, featuring both a panel discussion on December 10th and a community hiking event at Plenty Gorge. The panel discussion, focusing on the role of community leaders in family violence awareness programs, brought together distinguished experts including Roshan Bhandary with her 25+ years of experience in family violence prevention, Dr. Basundhara Bhattarai as an international development specialist with gender expertise, Sujan Bharati serving as community leader and President of Amazing Parents, Manorama Shah specializing in nursing and women's mental health, and Ashley Yadav Thapa working as a youth worker and LGBTQIA+ advocate. The hiking component was organized by the DBSV Doreen Mernda unit in collaboration with the Doreen Mernda Nepalese community.

These interconnected events provided the community with enhanced awareness of gender-based violence prevention strategies specifically tailored to the Nepalese community context. The program offered culturally appropriate resources and support pathways for survivors while strengthening community leadership capacity to identify and respond to family violence. Participants gained access to networking opportunities between service providers and community members, fostering cross-generational dialogue on violence prevention and gender equality. The hiking component uniquely combined physical wellness with social activism, creating a supportive environment where survivors and allies could connect while demonstrating community solidarity through collective action. The outdoor element provided mental health benefits through nature-based activity and peer support, building both literal and metaphorical resilience.

among participants while raising public awareness about gender-based violence in community spaces.



Multicultural Teen Workshop

DBSV Glenroy unit collaborated with Headspace Glenroy to deliver an online program - Understanding Your Teens - for Nepalese parents on December 5th, 2024. The session addressed the unique challenges faced by parents navigating the complexities of raising teenagers in a multicultural context. The program covered essential topics including understanding the emotional needs of teens, the parent's role in managing teen emotions, strategies for effective communication, emotional coaching techniques, and the role of Headspace in supporting youth mental health.



This program helped strengthen parent-child relationships through improved communication strategies while reducing intergenerational cultural conflicts by providing culturally sensitive guidance. Parents gained enhanced understanding of mental health challenges facing multicultural youth and were connected with professional mental health services through the Headspace partnership.

Sound Healing Therapy



Mental peace and self-care are essential for living a balanced and fulfilling life. In a recent event organized by Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV), participants experienced a deeply transformative session on Sound Therapy. The immersive vibrations and guided techniques created a serene space for emotional release, clarity, and inner calm. It was a powerful reminder that nurturing our mental well-being is just as vital as caring for our physical health. The gathering fostered a sense of community and reflection, encouraging everyone to prioritize self-care and embrace moments of stillness in their daily lives.

Winter Wellbeing

DBSV proudly witnessed a powerful moment of transformation as women from the Nepalese community stepped beyond cultural taboos to participate in swimming lessons—many for the first time in their lives. Traditionally, swimming has been viewed as an activity not commonly pursued by women due to modesty norms, limited access, and generational beliefs. By creating a safe, respectful, and culturally sensitive

environment, DBSV encouraged these women to challenge long-held barriers and embrace the opportunity to learn a life-saving skill.

Beach Safety Program

DBSV Casey and East units jointly organized a comprehensive beach safety program on December 8th, 2024, serving approximately 30 women from the community. This collaborative effort involved multiple partners including South East Water who provided community grant funding, Bonbeach Life Saving Club and Life Saving Club Victoria who delivered the safety training, Kathmandu Catering who provided lunch. The program was coordinated by dedicated volunteers from the community.






The program enhanced water safety knowledge and skills among women through practical, hands-on learning experiences in safe aquatic environments. This program helped develop confidence in participants to safely enjoy Australian beach. The initiative



served as an important preventive measure against potential drowning incidents while fostering community connections through shared learning experiences. Most importantly, the program empowered women with life-saving skills they can share with their families and broader community, extending the safety impact beyond the immediate participants.

Laughing Yoga

As part of its ongoing commitment to community wellbeing, Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria has introduced laughter yoga sessions led by Dr. Kishor Vaidya, designed to uplift spirits and foster joy among participants. These sessions invite individuals to bring their positive energy, unwind through laughter, and experience a boost in mood and mental wellness. With a lively mix of giggles, storytelling, and shared good vibes, the program encourages social connection and stress relief in a fun, inclusive setting. Community members are encouraged to spread the word and bring friends along, making it a collective celebration of happiness and health.





LAUGHTER YOGA

When	Where
FRIDAY 31/05/2024 TIME: 6 PM	TIMBERTOP CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY CENTRE 1 TIMBERTOP PARADE, AINTREE VIC 3335

Yoga session to be Led by:
DR KISHOR VAIDYA

"Laugh your way to joy with Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria's laughter yoga session to be led by Dr. Kishor Vaidya! Join us for giggles, stories, and good vibes!"

For details, please contact   **Shova 0426267122**
Vishma 0431638659

Community Service

Banksia Gardens Community Services, in partnership with Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (Craigieburn Unit Committee), is delivering a dynamic series of sessions designed to uplift and engage both women and children in the community. While children enjoy creative and recreational activities such as drawing, painting, games, dance, and movie time,

mothers participate in empowering workshops including Zumba, yoga, sewing, make-up tutorials, and educational sessions focused on women's health and leadership. This thoughtful approach allows mothers to learn and grow without worrying about childcare, fostering a joyful and supportive environment where both generations thrive. The initiative not only enhances individual development but also strengthens community connections, making it a meaningful and inclusive experience for all involved.

Office inauguration

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV) extends its heartfelt gratitude to MP Peter Khalil for graciously inaugurating our new office and engaging in meaningful discussions around community concerns. His presence marked a significant moment for our organization, leaving a lasting impression and reinforcing our shared commitment to community wellbeing. We are equally thankful to Uniting Church Glenroy for their generous support in providing the venue for our office. Their kindness and unwavering assistance have been instrumental in making this milestone possible, and we feel truly fortunate.

International Everest Day Celebration



Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria had the remarkable opportunity to participate in the 71st International Everest Day celebration held at the Victorian Parliament; an event proudly organized by FENCAA. The occasion was graced by esteemed dignitaries including Premier Jacinta Allan, Minister for Corrections, Youth Justice and Victim Support Mr. Erdogan, Members of Parliament Kathleen Mathew and Lauren Kathage, along

with representatives from various Nepali organizations. The gathering served as a powerful platform to recognize the vital contributions of the Nepali community in Victoria, particularly in addressing the urgent global issue of climate change and its impact on the Himalayas. Discussions highlighted the importance of conservation and sustainable development of Mt. Everest, reinforcing the community's role in shaping environmental awareness and action in the 21st century.

DBSV Family Picnic 2024

DBSV organized a community-wide family picnic on December 31st, 2024, as a New Year celebration bringing together community members and families for a shared festive experience. The event encouraged community participation through a collaborative approach, with attendees contributing food plates to share and bringing picnic mats, while families were welcome to bring activities and toys for children to enjoy. This celebratory gathering strengthened community bonds through shared fellowship and cultural exchange while providing affordable family entertainment during the holiday period.

Christmas and Team Building Dinner

The DBSV West unit organized a Christmas and team building dinner at the Gateway Hotel Cairo in December 2024, focusing on embracing cultural diversity while celebrating the holiday season. The event brought together DBSV team members and community stakeholders in a formal dinner setting designed to strengthen organizational relationships and celebrate achievements.

Lunch of Gratitude

DBSV organized a special Lunch of Gratitude on January 19th, 2025, at 10 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale South, to honor Uniting Church Glenroy and Pascoe Vale for their exceptional support over the past nine years. The event welcomed 24 guests from the Uniting Church alongside DBSV members and dedicated volunteers, bringing together a total of 55 attendees to celebrate this meaningful partnership.

This appreciation event recognized the profound impact of community partnerships in enabling grassroots organizations to serve their communities effectively. The Uniting Church's provision of free venue space over nine years created the foundation for countless DBSV programs and initiatives, demonstrating how institutional support can multiply community impact. The church's unconditional support empowered DBSV to serve the community with dedication and compassion, while their commitment to offering a new venue in Pascoe Vale ensures continuity of services without interruption. This celebration strengthened the partnership between faith-based and culturally specific organizations, creating a model for sustainable community collaboration. The event fostered deeper relationships between church members and the Nepalese community, promoting cross-cultural understanding and shared commitment to community service. By publicly acknowledging this support, DBSV demonstrated the importance of gratitude in maintaining long-term partnerships while inspiring other organizations to consider similar collaborative arrangements.

Mo:Mo Making Cooking Session

DBSV Craigeburn Unit organized their inaugural cooking session focused on traditional mo:mo making, combining culinary education with awareness activities for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The event was held in partnership with Banksia Gardens Community Services and featured guest speaker Madhuri Maskey, who shared meaningful and impactful stories. The session took place at the Newbury Community Hall located at 440 Grand Boulevard Craigeburn, establishing this as a regular weekly program running every Wednesday from 6-8pm, except during school holidays. The program specifically welcomed mothers and children residing in Hume area suburbs including Craigeburn, Mickleham, Kalkallo, Donnybrook, Roxburgh Park, Wollert, and Greenvale.



This innovative program combined cultural preservation with social awareness, creating a unique platform for community education and engagement. The mo:mo making sessions preserved traditional culinary knowledge while providing a comfortable, culturally familiar environment for discussing sensitive topics like gender-based violence. The integration of cooking with activism created an accessible entry point for community members who might otherwise be hesitant to engage with difficult social issues. The regular weekly programming established ongoing support networks among participants, fostering deeper relationships and sustained community connections. By involving children alongside mothers, the program promoted intergenerational cultural transmission while modeling healthy family engagement. The partnership with Banksia Gardens Community Services demonstrated effective collaboration between mainstream and culturally specific organizations, creating pathways for broader community integration. The program's focus on the outer urban Hume region addressed the specific needs of

newly settled families in growing suburban areas, providing both cultural connection and practical life skills in a supportive environment.

2025 International Women's Day Celebration

DBSV Casey Unit partnered with the City of Casey to organize the 2025 International Women's Day celebration on March 8th, 2025, at the HNT Club Family and Community Centre, 40 Broad Oak Drive, Cranbourne East. The event featured an insightful panel discussion with inspiring Nepalese women working in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), focusing on gender equality and representation in male-dominated industries. The celebration welcomed all Nepalese women and girls over 10 years of age to attend and participate in the session.

This celebration addressed critical issues of gender representation and career inspiration within the Nepalese community while promoting broader gender equality goals. By featuring Nepalese women in STEM fields, the event provided culturally relevant role models for young women and girls, demonstrating that career success in technical fields is achievable within their cultural context. The panel discussion format allowed participants to hear firsthand experiences about navigating male-dominated industries, providing practical insights and encouragement for career development. A significant outcome of the celebration was the presentation of \$6,500 to NGO AWAAJ, funds that had been raised through previous Teej celebrations, demonstrating the community's commitment to supporting women's causes. The event also marked the inauguration of cervical cancer prevention self-testing kits video, representing a crucial step towards women's health awareness and early detection initiatives. The presence of honourable MPs Belinda Wilson and Pauline Richards elevated the event's significance and demonstrated government support for multicultural women's empowerment. The celebration challenged traditional gender expectations within the community while celebrating women's achievements and contributions to Australian society, fostering community pride in women's accomplishments while building networks among professional Nepalese women who can continue to mentor and support each other's career development.

Nepal Festival Melbourne 2025

DBSV played a prominent and multifaceted role in Nepal Festival Melbourne 2025, held on March 15th at Federation Square, with the cultural parade beginning at the State

Library of Victoria at 10:00 AM. The organization not only participated extensively but proudly led the cultural parade, showcasing the rich heritage and spirit of the Nepalese community to thousands of attendees and high-level dignitaries. DBSV operated stall number MS8 at Federation Square in partnership with the Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative, focusing specifically on cervical cancer prevention awareness and the importance of cervical screening, including information about self-screening options.



This major cultural celebration provided DBSV with an exceptional platform to combine cultural pride with vital health advocacy, reaching thousands of women and men who visited their stall to engage in discussions and collect life-saving health information. The organization's leadership of the cultural parade demonstrated their significant standing within the Nepalese community while showcasing vibrant cultural traditions, performances, and the warm hospitality that characterizes their heritage. The innovative "Own It" selfie frame became a major attraction, bringing energy and excitement to their cervical cancer awareness campaign while making health education more engaging and accessible. DBSV members delivered powerful performances celebrating women's empowerment, with their traditional dances earning widespread appreciation and making the entire community proud. The festival served as a perfect opportunity for community

members to reconnect with their cultural roots while celebrating diversity and sharing the beauty of Nepalese culture with the broader Australian community. Through their comprehensive participation, DBSV successfully merged cultural celebration with health advocacy, creating lasting impact by normalizing conversations about women's health within traditional community settings. The event strengthened DBSV's reputation as both a cultural leader and health advocate, demonstrating how community organizations can effectively use cultural platforms to advance important social and health initiatives while maintaining authentic cultural connections.

Discussion Forum on Inclusive Multiculturalism in Australia

DBSV was invited to participate as a representative organization in a high-level Roundtable Discussion Forum on Inclusive Multiculturalism in Australia, joining Assistant Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Julian Hill, Federal MP Peter Khalil, and other multicultural community leaders. The forum provided a significant platform for sharing thoughts, ideas, concerns, and challenges related to multicultural issues facing Australian society.



This prestigious invitation recognized DBSV's leadership position within the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community and provided a crucial opportunity to influence

policy at the highest governmental level. DBSV strongly advocated for critical issues including domestic violence prevention and mental health support, contributing valuable policy recommendations that reflected the lived experiences of multicultural women and families. As a leading women's organization within the CALD community, DBSV's participation ensured that the specific challenges faced by culturally diverse women were prominently featured in policy discussions. The forum enabled direct dialogue between community representatives and key government decision-makers, creating pathways for more inclusive and culturally responsive policy development. Through their active participation, DBSV demonstrated their commitment to driving real change and ensuring that multicultural voices are meaningfully heard and incorporated into the policy-making spectrum. The organization's advocacy work at this forum contributed to broader systemic changes that can improve outcomes for multicultural communities across Australia, while establishing DBSV as a trusted voice in government consultations on multicultural affairs. This participation also strengthened relationships with other community leaders and government representatives, creating ongoing opportunities for collaboration and advocacy on behalf of the Nepalese and broader multicultural communities.

International Newa Day Participation



DBSV participated in the International Newa Day celebration and gratitude program organized by Newa Guthi as part of Nepal Festival 2025. The event honored the rich Newa heritage, culture, and traditions while recognizing the significant contributions that

the Newa community made to the broader Nepal Festival celebrations. This cultural celebration provided an opportunity for community members to come together in appreciation of Newa cultural legacy and traditions.

This participation demonstrated DBSV's commitment to supporting diverse cultural expressions within the broader Nepalese community, fostering inclusivity and cultural appreciation across different ethnic groups. The event strengthened intercultural bonds within the Nepalese diaspora by celebrating the specific contributions and traditions of the Newa community while building bridges between different cultural subgroups. DBSV's involvement showed solidarity with cultural preservation efforts and demonstrated how women's organizations can play important roles in maintaining diverse cultural traditions. The celebration provided opportunities for cultural learning and exchange, allowing participants to deepen their understanding of Newa heritage while sharing in the pride of this rich cultural legacy. Through this participation, DBSV reinforced its commitment to representing the diversity within the Nepalese community and supporting cultural events that strengthen community identity and cohesion.



New Year Eve Birdwatching

DBSV organized a New Year Eve birdwatching program at the West Water Treatment facility in West Melbourne to celebrate Nepali New Year 2082. This unique outdoor activity combined environmental appreciation with cultural celebration, providing

community members with a peaceful and contemplative way to welcome the new year while connecting with nature.



This innovative programming approach offered community members a refreshing alternative to traditional celebratory activities while promoting environmental awareness and appreciation for local wildlife and natural spaces. The birdwatching activity encouraged mindfulness and reflection, providing therapeutic benefits as participants transitioned into the new year with peaceful intentions and renewed connection to the natural world. The program demonstrated DBSV's creativity in developing diverse activities that appeal to different interests while maintaining cultural significance and community connection. The outdoor setting promoted physical wellness and mental health through nature-based activity, while the timing created a meaningful ritual for beginning the new year with hope and optimism. This unique celebration fostered community bonding through shared quiet observation and appreciation, creating space for participants to connect with each other and their environment in meaningful ways.

Women's Retreat Program - Beyond Happiness

DBSV organized a highly anticipated two-day Mother's Day retreat titled "Beyond Happiness" on May 3rd-4th, 2025, at 360 Don Road, Badger Creek, Victoria. The retreat welcomed 63 women for an intensive weekend of empowerment, personal development,

and community connection. Due to overwhelming interest and demand, the program reached capacity, with many interested women unable to be accommodated, indicating strong community appetite for such programming.

This transformative retreat provided participating women with dedicated time and space for personal reflection, skill development, and emotional rejuvenation away from daily responsibilities and stresses. The Mother's Day timing honored women's roles as caregivers while emphasizing their individual identities and personal growth needs beyond their relationships to others. The two-day intensive format allowed for deep engagement with empowerment activities, meaningful connections between participants, and comprehensive exploration of topics related to women's wellbeing and personal development. The retreat created a supportive sisterhood environment where women could share experiences, challenges, and aspirations while building lasting friendships and support networks. The program's popularity, evidenced by the waiting list, demonstrated the critical need for women-focused programming that prioritizes personal empowerment and self-care within the community. The retreat model provided a template for future programming while highlighting the importance of creating dedicated spaces for women's personal growth and community connection. The success of this program reinforced DBSV's understanding of community needs and their ability to develop responsive programming that addresses women's holistic wellbeing beyond traditional service provision.





