

AMMA NEWS

August 2002

Issue No 4

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Hello Friends

In Kerala, Onam is a bit early this year and will arrive in August. In Adelaide, AMMA is celebrating Onam on 24 August 2002.

It is AMMA's tradition that we have the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the same day as our Onam celebrations. This year, we need to elect a new Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two members for the committee. Nominations forms are attached with this newsletter. We understand that the Treasurer will be standing in for another term (if elected by the AGM) but the Vice President, Secretary and members have determined to have a break from the committee activities.

This coming year will be significant year for AMMA as we propose some amendments to the constitution. These amendments are mainly to better the membership definitions and fees structure. It will introduce a "life membership" and "Honorary membership". It will also introduce a sub clause in the Objectives to be able to set up a fund to assist any struggling Malayalees. Our honorary solicitor has approved these clauses. However, please read the amendments attached with this newsletter as the AGM is the ultimate decision maker in this case. Underline shows what has been introduced and the line through indicates the deletions. If you have any questions, please ring one of the committee members.

Celebrations will commence at 5:00 PM at the Burnside Community Centre. The AGM will commence about 6:00 PM. Malayalees take a lot of pleasure in serving and enjoying, delightful and tasty meals. It has been a practice that each family brings a requested dish for the Onam and Christmas functions. The past few functions, we have experienced shortage of dishes, sometimes the quantity of food requested is not received, and sometimes people don't turn up for the function and so we run short of the dish they were requested to bring. So we would really appreciate if you could bring the right quantity of serves requested and if you are not able to come to the function or have any other problems in providing the dish, please ring the food committee at the earliest and let them know, so that we could arrange alternatives. To overcome this problem in the future, some of the members suggested that we should look at options of having the dinner catered by some Indian restaurants. We would like to hear your views on this idea.

You would note that we received some logos as a result of the competition we introduced some time ago. Recommended logo will be showed at the AGM and the AGM will determine if that is acceptable for the organisation.

Congratulations to Leena and Varkey on the birth of their baby daughter Christine, and Lisa and Abraham on the birth of their daughter Julia. Deepthi & Devadas on the birth of their baby boy.

We would like to welcome some of our new members, some have been here for a few months and some are new arrivals, Nevin Abraham and Sayu Shankar who are students, Dr Bijith, wife

Rekha and daughter Alicia, Joe George & wife Tina, Dr Cherian Thomas, Anita, Tomy & Sara, Priya Jacob, Denice & Kavitha Manoharan, and daughter Nathasha, Rakhee Chandra, Cherian & Preethi and kids Vivek & Vinaya, Tom & Lisa and kids Anju & Asha , Dr TU Zach and Dr Philip's wife Binu and son Adarsh.

The Cultural & Film night held in June was a success. There was a good turn out; everyone appreciated the variety of dances and the night concluded with a film, which we are sure all enjoyed. We look forward to seeing you that the Onam celebrations.

AMMA Management Committee

GENESIS

In the beginning when they abandoned the White Australia Policy, Adelaide was desolate of Malayalees. As far as we know Dr. Eapen Mathew and his wife Anne were the first arrivals in 1969. The growth of Malayalee Community was a slow one in Adelaide. When we arrived here in 1975 the community was still too small consisting of Padmanabhans, Georges, Kuruvillas. Dases, Cherians , Mathews & D'Silvas , Narayans and Alex Daniel. Since then there was a reasonable influx of Malayalees into Adelaide, though not as big as to Sydney or Melbourne.

Malayalees never had a social get together as a group until Soman & Lalitha organized one for Onam on 30th Sept 1977 at their Plympton Residence. Then it went quiet for a few years until, late Mr. P C Daniel took the initiative of having the Onam social at his residence in Para Hills in 1982 though we were celebrating in different groups. And ever since we have always celebrated our Onam and Christmas and enjoyed having a Tennis- BBQ in summer. As the community was growing we had to move out of private back yards and held our functions in the Migrant Centre in Gouger Street for a few years and then moved to the Indian Association Hall located at Blamey Ave, Broadview. Every Onam and Christmas was conducted by a different Committee until we incorporated the Association on 20th September 99. And Biju Kurien was the 1st President and Alex Daniel was the Vice- President. The present Association of AMMA has come a long way under the great leadership of Rajiv Mouveri assisted by Asokan Edakkadan, with an efficient Seema Sreekumar as Secretary supported by a Committee of innovative ideas. The inception of NEWS LETTER, I thought was a great leap, but Jessy can do even better with more interest and contributions from members of AMMA.

On reflection, in the brief history of the Malayalee Community in Adelaide when I look back, I remember the first hand- written Membership List of about 10 families and as the membership grew Molly Daniel helped us to type the list for some years and then Leon updated the list, typing out invitations and programmes until the Association took a shape. Currently, on paper we have about 130 listings. In late eighties we were looking for an Official name for the Association, there were a few suggestions, but when the present name was suggested by Capt. Rajagopal, I wanted to sing and dance.

I believe the arrival many young people of Tool Making profession into the community had a great and significant impact in taking the Association to new paths and ideas. And we always fondly remember the participation of medical personals from CMC Vellore and TVM Medical College. In recent years, guided by Reshmi Kuruvilla, Vimala Krishnan etc, young ladies and children have been making contributions in the cultural front. Before, I conclude, I shouldn't forget some great people who helped us to where we are now. Late Wendy Padmanabhan, Late Das, Senior Padmanabhans, Ken Soman, Sam George, Renuka Narayan, Alex Daniel, PJ Kuruvilla, Molly Daniel (Gass), Sivaprasad, Jalaja and a few others.

AMMA has always been beacon for Malayalees in Adelaide. It always acted above religious, regional, economical and occupational diversity. I am certainly optimistic about the future of our great Organization.

George (Sunny) Varghese