



# ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

*(A registered community & cultural organisation in South Australia)*

ABN 28539417787

## Performance Report 2010-11

### Continued focus towards building a sustainable future

Dear AMMA Family Members,

On behalf of the Management Committee of Adelaide & Metropolitan Malayalee Association, I am delighted to present the performance report of for the year 2010-11, while our association is entering into the teenage since it was formally registered in Dec 1998. As a newly elected Management committee in July 2009, it was our mission to converge our efforts towards building a Caring, Collaborative and Culturally rich community for fostering a progressive and sustainable future.

#### Membership

Further to the decision taken in the last AGM held at the Slovenian Community Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010, the annual membership subscription fee for the members has been revised to \$20.00 for family and \$10.00 for singles, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2011. At present, AMMA has 531 registered members, which includes 53 new members joined during last one year. For the efficient data management of members, all the currently registered members have been allocated with a unique family code in October 2010, as it was proposed and agreed in the last AGM.

#### Initiatives

While maintaining our traditional values & programs, we have been able to continue introduction of new programs as well as enhance the existing ones in order to involve our members of all ages and make our programs enjoyable. Introduction of **ANZ Mortgage Introducer Program** for the benefit of AMMA members, Health information sessions for Women organised through Cancer Council SA, Study tour to **MedSTAR** base at Adelaide Airport for the benefit of Youth Forum members, Collaboration with Adelaide Festival Centre for Adelaide Kalamela 2011, Migration of **Malayali Shabdham**, our news letter from black & white to colour, a new look Pravasi magazine- AMMA's biennial publication (to be released on the occasion of AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011) are the noteworthy changes we brought in during last one year. Electronic fund transfer facility introduced late last year for making the membership subscription renewal online is being used by many members. We encourage all AMMA community members to utilise this facility to maintain their membership subscription updated. Further, the new version of AMMA website will be going –on live from 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011.

#### Onam Celebrations 2010

Continuously growing membership of our association demanded for a larger capacity hall for organising large Programs. Accordingly, last year Onam celebrations was held at a new location to our community, the Croatian Cub, 15 Wood Avenue, Brompton, SA 5007 on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The celebrations commenced with group songs sung by AMMA's musical troupe 'Saregama' that created a fabulous environment of Onam in the heart of AMMA community members. This was followed by a traditional procession to receive "Mahabali" the mythical emperor of ancient Kerala as well as variety of other cultural programmes staged by community members, which included traditional dances, classical dances and cinematic dances. The multicoloured "Onapookalm" (flower bed)

prepared by young girls at the entrance of the venue was outstanding. Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission was the Chief Guest. The grand feast "Onasadhya" served at the end was yet another impressive part of the celebrations. Onam Celebrations were attended by over 650 community members, despite the extreme weather conditions.

### **India's Independence day celebrations and Faces of the World Concert**

Our talented artists were actively involved and participated in India's Independence day celebrations organised by Indian Australian Association of South Australia at Woodville Town Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Their yet another performance at "the Faces of the World Concert" organised by Multicultural Festival of FSA at Woodville town hall on 5<sup>th</sup> September was also highly appreciated.

### **Friends of Cheltenham Community Centre**

AMMA community along with Members from the local Kaurna (Aboriginal), Maltise community, Zimbabwe, Ogaden (Somali), Eritrean and the Vietnamese communities came together to celebrate Cheltenham's annual 'Food and Cultural Festivals' at Cheltenham community centre on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The forum of cultural diverse communities known as "Friends of Cheltenham Community Centre", where AMMA is also a member helps to facilitate a greater cultural awareness and social cohesion among the communities by breaking down communication barriers and minimising social isolation. Besides food stalls and cultural performances, Mosaic Flag workshop, Jewellery workshop, Henna Tattooing, Jumping Castle, etc added true multicultural flavour for the event.

The Food and Cultural Festival was a great success with over 400 people from diverse communities attended the celebrations.

### **Reception hosted by the Premier of South Australia**

The premier of South Australia Hon Mike Rann MP hosted a reception for Indian community in Adelaide on the occasion of XIX Commonwealth Games 'Delhi 2010' at Entertainment Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010. About 70 invited AMMA community members attended the programme along with invitees from other Indian communities and non-Indian communities. It was yet another opportunity for AMMA community to show case our cultural flair at a prestigious forum and it was indeed a great recognition to our cultural talents.

### **Children's day celebrations & Youth Forum Launch**

Having introduced Children's day function last year for providing a platform for the budding talents in AMMA community, this year again the children's day programme was conducted at IAASA Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

Like last year, Fancy dress competition conducted for children less than 10 years attracted everyone's attention. As part of the event a general quiz competition for the children in the age group of 12 – 20 years was also conducted. Over 40 children from AMMA community participated in the event. The winners were awarded with magnificent trophies and certificates in addition to presenting them with free movie tickets.

During the event AMMA Youth Forum was officially launched by Major General Vikram Madan (Retd), the President, IAASA.

### **Christmas 2010 & Kerala Fest**

AMMA community members celebrated Christmas and Kerala Fest with great enthusiasm at the Slovenian Community Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The event had a variety of programs including traditional, semi-classical, cinematic dances, comedy skit and there were plenty of musical talents showcased by the young and old. In keeping with the theme of the day there was a traditional nativity play. Santa's visit towards the end of the celebrations was exciting to all the young and the young at heart.

The event was closed with a sumptuous meal prepared by the volunteers. Although many of the AMMA family members were overseas on holidays, it was a spectacular event attended by over 500 community members.

### **2011 Australia Day & Indian Republic Day**

The activities in the New Year started with our participation along with other regional communities from India at the 'Australia Day Parade in City' on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The Indian community was lead by IAASA at the parade and this year the Indian contingent showcased the "Indian State Punjab".

### **Family Fun day & Sports Meet**

AMMA conducted one of its popular events Family Funday at Enfield Harrier Club on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The significance of this event was for the first time we arranged a day long programme covering a variety of outdoor events for all the age groups by combining fun games as well as track & field events. On this occasion an awareness session on breast cancer was arranged for the ladies with the support from the Cancer Council SA. Further, a cooking competition was also organised exclusively for ladies by the sub-committee for Pravasi, the biennial publication of AMMA, The competition was to identify the ingredients in a cooked dish. The winners of the competition were announced subsequently. Over 300 community members attended this event with great enthusiasm, where BBQ lunch was also served. ANZ Bank sponsored the medals for the winners of track & field events.

By and large more than 30 individual & group events were conducted, in which over 130 community members of all ages participated in various events and over 100 winners were given away the prizes. Congratulations to all the winners!

### **Adelaide Kalamela 2011**

For the first time, this year AMMA's cultural band wagon Adelaide Kalamela was presented in collaboration with Adelaide Festival Centre at Her Majesty's Theatre on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Hon. Grace Portolesi MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Govt. of South Australia addressed the audience during the programme. Mr. Hieu Van Le A.O, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and the Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural & Ethnic Affairs Commission was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Over 900 art lovers in Adelaide, comprising of Indian and Non-Indian communities, witnessed the spectacular event that featured cultural performances not only from the Indian sub-continent, but also from other parts of the globe. A medley of traditional and modern dances & music from India along with top class performances from the Japanese, Bhutanese, Ukrainian and Irish communities showcased a spectacular blend of cultures and transported the audience across the borders of Australia.

A colourful souvenir providing invaluable information about our native land Kerala, our cultural & traditional values to improve awareness about our community among other Indian and non-Indian communities was released on this occasion.

Once again this year, the principal sponsor of the event was Mr. Vivek Padmanabhan for "Padmanabhan Family" and co-sponsored by ANZ Bank.

### **Pravasi 2011**

PRAVASI, the biennial magazine published by AMMA is ready to release at AGM 2011. As in the past the sub-committee for PRAVASI 2011, conducted literary competition for various age groups to bring out the literary talents within AMMA Community. As part of the competitions, this year a Cookery competition for ladies was introduced. Yet another significant change for Pravasi 2011 is inclusion of photos of our events to make it a comprehensive digest of AMMA Community programs. The prizes for the literary competitions were sponsored by Navas Khan.

### **Colouring and Painting Competition**

Colouring competition for children below 10 years of age and painting competition for others in two different age groups was conducted at Cheltenham community Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The judges for the competition Jathin Balan, Kirosh Rajan and Sunil Naik evaluated the entries and chose 9 winners from over 40 participants.

### **Games & Sports**

Since February 2011, AMMA community members, irrespective of their age have been actively participating in a multitude of sports & games -variety of indoor & out door events such as Badminton, Cricket, Volleyball, Soccer, Chess, Cards and range of track and field events organised over a period of about four months. Blue house and Red house were the joint winners of overall championship with equal points.

AMMA Cricket team won the inaugural Dr. Raj Thalluri Memorial Cricket Tournament, organised by the Telugu Association of SA (TASA) in May 2011. In all four teams participated in the tournament, which was conducted on knock out basis. The final match between Adelaide Tamil Association team and AMMA team was held at Park Lands Ground (Fullarton) on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The winners were given a rolling shield and a cash prize of \$500.

### **Management Committee and Sub-Committees**

In the last AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010, AMMA Management committee was re-constituted for filling-in the vacant positions by electing Vimaldas Kottarapat as the Vice-President, Afzal Kadar as the Treasurer and Dr. K.M. Sanoj as a Committee member. Subsequently, Asha Thomas was co-opted to the position as a committee member, when Tisha George was moved inter-state in September 2010. AMMA Management committee members met once a month at Cheltenham community centre for planning, executing and reviewing community programs and associated activities relevant to AMMA portfolios. The attendance in the meetings were 100% always except in cases when anyone in the committee was away overseas on holidays or due to professional exigencies.

**Arts:** Although there was no formal sub-committee for Arts this year, Melvin John, the committee member for arts co-ordinated the cultural programmes by forming event based task forces. Onam and X'mas celebrations provided opportunities for many new comers to make their debut performances. In July 2011, Ramesh Menon was given the charge of Saregama, the musical arm of AMMA's arts portfolio, when Mathew C Varghese stepped down, after two years in the role of Manager Saregama. A sub-committee consisting of Anitha Thomas, Hijas Punathil, James Kappamankal, Mahesh KS, Mathew Kuruvilla and my self as the chairperson was constituted for organising Adelaide Kalamela 2011 in collaboration with Adelaide Festival Centre. Dheeraj Sharma was the Volunteer captain for Adelaide Kalamela 2011.

**Publications and Community Relations:** Further to the interstate movement of Tisha George, this portfolio was very effectively been looked after by Ms. Asha Thomas. Asha played a very key role in promptly publishing the colour version of 'Malayali Shabdham' the quarterly news letter of AMMA. Besides the news letter, we also published 2011 version of AMMA Member's Directory in March 2011. A sub-committee consisting of Asha Thomas, Dileep Jose, Jose George, Kirosh Rajan and Sooraj Vishnu was constituted in November 2010 for publishing the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Pravasi, AMMA's biennial magazine. Pravasi 2011 is being released at AGM 2011 by Mr. Vivek Padmanabhan by handing over a copy to Mrs. George Varghese.

**Social Learning and Website:** The sub-committee led by Dr. K.M. Sanoj and supported by Jolly Mathews, Mahesh.K.S and Saji Verghese, continued this year again and arranged innovative and informative programs to inculcate community learning among AMMA family members. The task undertaken by Dr. Sanoj with the support of Rafeek Mohammed for providing a fresh look for our community website will go on live at the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011. Sam George (Sam uncle) who wrote the brief history of Malayalees in Adelaide for publishing on the website, will be launching the new version of AMMA website.

**Sports & Games:** The sub-committee lead by Lathish Namath and supported by Melna Shaji, Cinoj R Pillai and Robin was incredible in meticulously planning and organizing the sports and games. The sub-committee's task was made simpler with the effective support and co-operation from the house captains, Abraham Palakat, Don Joseph, Renjith Kollakkombil and Roy Konickan.

**Vazhikatty:** The sub-committee led by Vimaldas Kottarapat and supported by Tony John extended assistance to over 20 immigrant families and students to settle down in and around Adelaide, besides providing valuable information by email and by responding to phone calls from Malayalee immigrants from India, UK, Malayasia and Middle –East countries.

We have continued our close relation with City of Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide councils as well as members of 'Friends of Cheltenham'. We also maintained excellent relations with IAASA and other regional Indian associations viz. Adelaide Tamil Association, Adelaide Kannada Sangh, Telugu Association of SA, Shruthi Adelaide, Adelaide Marathi Mandal etc.

### **Acknowledgement**

AMMA owes its esteemed position in the society to its dedicated and committed community members by and large. On behalf of AMMA Management committee and my own behalf, I acknowledge the commitment, support and co-operation extended by one and all in AMMA family, particularly the senior citizens for their continued support and guidance, participants in each of the community events, the volunteers and the sub-committee members as well as house captains that enabled us in successfully conducting various programs.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Sujitha Adiyeri for providing exemplary service as the honorary auditor for seven years in a row.

I would also like to thank few individuals from our community who have made immense contribution in accomplishing our mission successfully; they are Tomy George, Venugopal, in leading the catering team during Onam & Christmas feast, Rafeek Mohammed for providing remarkable support in maintaining and updating AMMA website. I also take this opportunity to thank the past presidents of AMMA, Biju Joseph and Sreekumar Madathil for their continued active involvement in our community programs.

I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Hon Grace Portolesi MP and her ministerial colleagues, Mr. Hieu Van Le and his team members from Multicultural SA, Alison Wall from Cheltenham Community Centre and David Paull from Enfield Community Centre for extending their invaluable support to our community.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the advertisers, collaborators and sponsors particularly, Adelaide Festival centre, Padmanabhan family, ANZ Bank, UAE Exchange and APR Financial Services for bestowing their outstanding support to our community initiatives.

Finally, I thank all the committee members for their high level of dedication and magnificent contribution towards building a harmonious, progressive and sustainable AMMA Community. Further, I also appreciate and thank the family members of all the committee members including myself for their invaluable support.

Thank you.

**Prem Panicker**  
**President, AMMA**

Date 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011