

Annual Report 23/24

Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA Inc)

NEPALI ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AUTHORED BY: SANDEEP ADHIKARI SECRETARY NAWA INC. 23/25 1 OCTOBER 2024

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

DR RAJU DHAKAL CHURAMANI LAMICHHANE YOGENDRA PATHAK RUDRA BHANDARI BHUWAN KHADKA

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1. Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of NAWA,

It is with great pride and joy that I present to you the Annual Report for the year 2023/2024. This year, "A year of Growth", has been a remarkable journey for NAWA Inc., filled with valiant growth, numerous achievements, vibrant cultural events, and significant community engagements. Our collective efforts have not only strengthened our community bonds but also showcased the rich heritage and traditions of Nepal in Western Australia.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our active members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have made a positive impact and set a strong foundation for future endeavors.

Warm regards, Churamani Lamichhane President, NAWA Inc. 23/25



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2. Overview of NAWA Inc.

The Nepali Association of Western Australia Inc (NAWA) is a non-profit organization established in 2005. Our primary aim is to support individuals of Nepali origin and their families in Western Australia. We strive to promote Nepalese culture, heritage, and goodwill between Australia and Nepal through various social, cultural, and educational events.

NAWA serves as a platform for the Nepali community to come together, celebrate our traditions, and support each other in times of need. Our activities range from organizing cultural festivals and charity events to providing educational support and mental health services. Additionally, NAWA Inc. runs a Nepali Language and Art School with over 200 students across four different sites in Perth.

3. Mission and Vision

3.1. Mission:

To foster a strong, united, and vibrant Nepali community in Western Australia by promoting cultural heritage, providing support services, and enhancing community engagement.

3.2. Vision:

To be a leading community organization that empowers individuals of Nepali origin, celebrates our rich cultural heritage, and contributes positively to the multicultural fabric of Western Australia.

4. Executive Summary

4.1. Key Achievements

- **Successful Cultural Events:** NAWA Inc. organized several major cultural events, including the Joint Haritalika Teej Festival, Annual Dashain Event, Christmas Pageant, and Nepali New Year 2080 celebration. These events saw significant participation and were well-received by the community.
- Educational Initiatives: The Nepali Language and Art School expanded its reach, now serving over 200 students across four different sites in Perth. Special workshops and training sessions were conducted to enhance the educational experience.
- **Community Support:** NAWA Inc. provided mental health support to individuals and collaborated with various Nepali community organizations to strengthen community ties.
- **Fundraising and Charity:** Successful fundraising events, such as the Manavsewa Ashram Charity Dinner, raised significant funds for good causes.
- External Collaborations: NAWA Inc. engaged with local councils, state bodies, and non-profit organizations to promote cultural heritage and community welfare.

4.2. Major Events and Activities

- Joint Haritalika Teej Festival: Organized in collaboration with NRNA Nari Nikaunja, this event saw over 600 attendees and was a successful fundraising effort.
- **Annual Dashain Event:** Held at Kings Park with over 1000 attendees, this flagship event featured traditional dance, music, and food.
- **Christmas Pageant:** Featuring a Gurkhas-themed parade, this event received positive feedback and showcased national pride.
- World on the Plate: Hosted by the City of Gosnells, this event highlighted Nepali cuisine and cultural performances.
- Holi and Annual Momo Festival: With over 1200 participants, this outdoor event featured colorful celebrations, cultural performances, and community bonding.
- **Nepali New Year 2080:** A large outdoor event with over 2500 attendees, featuring live performances and a multicultural showcase.

5. Governance and Leadership

5.1. Executive Team

Here is the list of the current executive team members of NAWA Inc. for 2023-2025:

Churamani Lamichhane - President

Yogendra Pathak - Vice-President

Sandeep Adhikari - Secretary

Bijay Kumar Shah - Joint-Secretary

Rudra Bhandari - Treasurer

Bhuwan Khadka - Joint-Treasurer/Event Manager Dr. Raju Dhakal- Principal – Nepali Language and Arts School Samanata Dhakal - Social Worker - Mental Health Navin Bhandari - Member Kunta Koirala - Women Coordinator Rustam Maske - Sports Coordinator Dilli Ram Paraiuli - Member Basanta Pokhrel - Social Media Coordinator Aarjoo Thapa - Member Labin Gaire - Member Raniu Gurung - Member Rati Pradhan - Member Dr. Nabin Dangal - Health Consultant Samundra Puri – Public Relation Officer Sunita Tamang - Cultural Coordinator Karma Lama - Member Sarina Dhakal - Member Prakash Thapaliya - Member Sangita Bista - Community Engagement & Outreach Representative Bikesh Shrestha - Member

5.2. Organisational Structure

NAWA Inc. operates with a well-defined organisational structure that ensures efficient management and execution of its activities. The executive team is supported by various initiative/area leads and volunteers who contribute to different aspects of the organisation's operations.

5.3. Governance Processes

- **Meeting Schedules and Attendance:** Regular meetings are held to discuss and plan upcoming events, review past activities, and make strategic decisions. Attendance is recorded to ensure active participation from all members.
- **Decision-Making Processes:** Decisions are made through a consensus-driven approach, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered. This promotes transparency and inclusiveness within the organization.

 Policies and Procedures: NAWA Inc. follows established policies and procedures to maintain consistency and accountability in its operations. This includes a social media policy, standard designs for NAWA posters, and an open, transparent decisionmaking process.

6. Annual Activities Jul 2023- Jun 2024

6.1. Cultural and Traditional Events:

- Joint Haritalika Teej Festival On 15 September 2023, NAWA Inc. collaborated with NRNA Nari Nikaunja to organize the Joint Haritalika Teej Festival. This event was aimed at supporting a good cause and turned out to be a successful fundraising effort. With over 600 attendees, the festival featured traditional Nepali music, dance, and cultural performances. The event was coordinated by Kunta B Koirala and received positive feedback from the community, highlighting the importance of preserving and celebrating Nepali traditions.
- Annual Dashain Event Held on 28 October 2023 at Kings Park, the Annual Dashain Event is a one of the core and flagship celebration for the Nepali community in Western Australia. This event has been a tradition since the inception of NAWA. It attracted over 1000 attendees who enjoyed a day filled with traditional dance, music, tika jamara, and delicious Nepali food. The event provided a platform for the community to come together, celebrate their heritage, and strengthen their cultural bonds.
- Participation in Christmas Pageant The Christmas Pageant on 2 December 2024 was a unique celebration featuring a Gurkhas-themed parade. With over 50 participants dressed in traditional Gurkhas attire, complemented by the women's group in traditional wear, the parade was a spectacular display of national pride and bravery. The event, managed by Ek Samapang Rai, captivated the largest crowd in Western Australia and received excellent feedback. It was a remarkable celebration that showcased the rich cultural heritage of Nepal. NAWA Inc. Has been participating in this event for number of years now.
- World on the Plate On 8 March 2024, NAWA Inc. participated in the "World on the Plate" event hosted by the City of Gosnells. This event was an opportunity to showcase Nepali cuisine with three distinctive dishes and present cultural performances representing various communities from Nepal. The Tharu Samaj of WA delivered special performances and food tastings, engaging a diverse audience and promoting Nepali heritage. The event, coordinated by Bijay Shah with the help of over 15 volunteers, was well-received and well-attended.
- Holi and Annual Momo Festival The Holi and Annual Momo Festival, held on 24 March 2024 at Sutherland Park, Huntingdale, was a major event of NAWA Inc that went outdoors for the first time. With over 1200 participants, the festival featured colorful celebrations, cultural performances, food delights, games, live music, and DJ sessions. The event also included various activities for kids, fostering community bonding and engagement. The festival received 99% positive feedback, thanks to the

efforts of volunteers, performers, supporters, and sponsors. Thank you to City of Gosnell's for a generous community grant for this event

- Manavsewa Ashram Charity Dinner In March 2024, NAWA Inc. organized the Manavsewa Ashram Charity Dinner, which saw over 90 participants and raised more than \$6000 for a good cause. The event, coordinated by Rustam Maskey, was a testament to the community's generosity and commitment to supporting charitable initiatives. The funds raised were directed towards supporting the Manavsewa Ashram, reflecting NAWA's dedication to social responsibility.
- THE BRIGHT COLLAGE Nepali New Year 2080 The Nepali New Year 2080 celebration on 13 April 2024 at Forest Place, Perth CBD, was a flagship event of NAWA Inc that went outdoors for the first time. With over 5000 attendees, the event featured live performances by national artists, a multicultural showcase, and various activities for kids, including face painting, bubble shows, and sensory play. The celebration was a huge success, bringing together the community to welcome the new year with joy and enthusiasm. Nepali multiple award winning singer Shiva Pariyar was the highlight of the show to which thousands of audiences enjoyed his singing. Thank you to the Office of Multicultural Interest, Lottery West, Road Safety Commissions, City of Perth and all the sponsors for the financials support. Our long-standing partner The Bright Collage was our title Sponsor for this flagship event.
- Buddha Jayanti Celebration On 26 May 2024, the Perth Nepali community gathered at the Kenwick Community Facility to celebrate Buddha Jayanti. This event, co-organized by the majority of Nepali organizations in Western Australia, included cultural performances and inspiring talks about the teachings of Buddha. It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to connect, celebrate their heritage, and learn more about Buddhism.
- International Mount Everest Day International Mount Everest Day was celebrated on 26 May 2024 with a hiking event supported by the majority of WA organizations. This event aimed to honor the achievements of Nepali mountaineers and promote the spirit of adventure and resilience within the community. NAWA Inc was one of the major partners of the organizing team, led by Yogendra Pathak.
- Inaugural NAWA Recognition Night The Inaugural Recognition Night, the first of its kind in Western Australia's Nepali community, was a resounding success. Over 200 members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners were acknowledged for their contributions. The event featured the induction of the NAWA Hall of Fame and the presentation of the inaugural Excellence Awards. It was well received by the community and volunteers, highlighting the strong support and enthusiasm for such initiatives. We plan to continue this event annually, aiming to make it a sustainable and cherished tradition within our community.
- Participation in Fusion Festival by City of Gosnells NAWA Inc has been leading the Nepali community participation in one of the biggest multicultural festivals organised annually by City of Gosnells. This year we showcased Nepali dance and music along with display of Nepal related crafts and materials.

7. Educational Initiatives:

7.1. Nepali Language and Art School

NAWA is continuing exclusive support on all the academic activities and events of Nepali Language and Arts School (NLAAS) in 2023/24. NLAAS has added two new branches – Mirrabooka NLAAS in Herb Graham Centre Mirrabooka, and Caversham School at Caversham Valley Primary School. Recently, NLAAS has started running its South Lake School at Treeby Primary School. With such growth, NLAAS now proudly serves at four schools located at Kenwick, Treeby, Mirrabooka, and Caversham. This truly reflects the "Year of Growth" in educational initiatives in Perth promoting and transferring Nepali Language, culture and arts among the new generations of Nepali community. The school also implemented a digital curriculum, lesson plans, and attendance systems, enhancing the educational experience. Funding was secured from different sources to support the multi-site operations, ensuring the school's sustainability and growth.

7.1.1. Major Improvements and Growth:

- Expansion of Sites: NLAAS has expanded to four different locations in Perth Kenwick, Treeby, Mirrabooka, and Caversham, making it more accessible to students across greater Perth area.
- **Upgrade of Assets:** NLAAS has equipped its school with new IT assets, including 1 pc/laptop, three tablets with internet plans, three printers, three Bluetooth speakers with microphones, 1 overhead projector, vacuum cleaners and sufficient educational resources. These assets and resources have become instrumental in supporting the academic activities and school's overall operations. NAWA and NLAAS sincerely appreciate to many supporting hands for their generous support on this project. Including City of Gosnells.
- Digitalization of Materials and Processes: NLAAS has developed its curriculum, lesson plans, and activity plans and established an online database for its academic documents and resources. Furthermore, NLAAS streamlined its registration and enrolment process online that not only efficiently manages all administrative processes but also assists in keeping records, tracking attendance and performance.
- **Relocation to Academic Environments:** NLAAS has relocated two branches into Western Australian Primary School premises at Caversham Valley Primary School, Caversham and Treeby Primary School, Treeby to provide an academic environment and better learning atmosphere to our students.
- Senior Student Workshop: NLAAS organised an inaugural special workshop for senior students on 6 July 2024, to increase connection among and participation of high-school students to NLAAS and its activities. The workshop presented various academic, lingual, cultural, and health issues relevant to high-school students along

with a session on Yoga and Meditation. This program was greatly received and appreciated by the participants and their parents.

• **Participation in Multiple Events:** NLAAS actively participates in various community events, including those organized by Indian and Bangladeshi community schools, as well as major Nepali events like New Year, Nepal Festival, Holi, and Dashain.

7.1.2. School Picnic:

- **Date:** 15 October 2023
- **Highlights:** NLAAS organized a picnic that saw a huge turnout with various activities for kids. The picnic saw a huge turnout with loads of activities for kids, making it a memorable event for all attendees

7.1.3. Special Teaching Training Session with Kiran Pradhan:

• **Highlights:** Special workshops were conducted by Nepali musician and educational specialist Kiran Pradhan, focusing on improving Nepali handwriting. The workshop on "Improving Nepali Handwriting" was well-received, with active participation from parents and community members.

7.1.4. Digitalization Initiatives:

- **Development of Curriculum, Lesson Plans, and Activity Plans:** The school also implemented a digital curriculum, lesson plans, and attendance systems, enhancing the educational experience. These digital resources have enhanced the educational experience for students.
- Online Enrolment and Attendance Tracking: These systems have made administrative processes more efficient.

7.1.5. Multi-Site Operation:

7.1.5.1. Venues and Times:

- Herb Graham Centre, Mirrabooka: Saturdays 4pm 6pm
- Connect@Kenwick, Kenwick: Saturdays 4pm 6pm
- South Lake Ottey Centre, South Lake: Saturdays 9am 11am

NOTE: Post Jul 2024 – 1 more Addition of one more site at Caversham Valley Primary School and South Lake Ottey Centre, South Lake has been relocated to Treeby Primary School.

7.2. IT Assets and Administrative Functions Upgrade:

• **New Equipment:** The school has acquired one laptop, three tablets with internet plans, and one printer to support its operations. Thank you to City of Gosnells for their support for this project.

7.3. Functional School Management Committee:

NLAAS has established a functional and dedicated management committee that oversees the school's operations and ensures its smooth administration and academic functioning at all four schools

7.4. Funding Secured from Different Sources:

This financial support has been crucial in maintaining and expanding the school's multi-site operations. Funding was secured from different sources to support the multi-site operations, ensuring the school's sustainability and growth.

7.5. Notable Other Activities:

Participation in Multiple Community Groups: The school has been invited to participate in events organized by Indian and Bangladeshi community schools.

Participation in Multiple Nepali Events: The school actively participates in major Nepali events such as New Year, Nepal Festival, Holi, and Dashain.

7.6. Capacity Building Activities:

- Attended Teachers Training: Teachers have participated in training programs to enhance their skills.
- Adequate Physical & Supporting Resourcing: The school has ensured that it has the necessary resources to support its operations.
- **Upgrade of Assets:** The school has upgraded its assets, including computers, tablets, printers, speakers, and projectors.

8. Mental Health Support

NAWA Inc. provided direct mental health support to at least five individuals, with additional indirect support for many others. A 24/7 helpline was made available for community members to reach out for assistance, reflecting NAWA's commitment to the well-being of its members.

9. Community Collaborations

- I. **PUBWA Inc**. Participation in the Lakshmi Jayanti celebration and other events, along with new land purchases and a membership drive, highlighted NAWA's active involvement with PUBWA Inc.
- II. **YUWA Inc. NAWA Inc.** supported YUWA Inc. in conducting workshops and seminars on various topics, including job readiness for aged care. These events were well attended and provided valuable insights to the participants.
- III. **NEWA Inc.** The "Mastering the Art of Giving Back" workshop, organized by NEWA Inc., saw over 60 participants. This event aimed to inspire, challenge, and ignite passion for community service.
- IV. **NRNA WA SCC NAWA Inc**. collaborated with NRNA WA SCC on multiple initiatives, strengthening community ties and promoting collective efforts.
- V. **INLS Perth Chapter NAWA Inc.** participated in various cultural events organized by the INLS Perth Chapter, including the Lakshmi Jayanti celebration, Maha Jatra event and Bhanu Jayanti.
- VI. **Other Nepali Community Organizations** Collaborations with Tharu Samaj of WA, Tamang Society of WA, Gurung Samaj of WA, Magar Samaj, and Kirat Samaj to celebrate Loshar, Maghi and other events further strengthened the community network and promoted cultural exchange.

10. External Collaborations

- I. **Connection with Councils, State Bodies, and Non-Profit Organizations** NAWA Inc. maintained regular meetings and collaborations with organizations such as OMI and the Department of Home Affairs. These interactions focused on discussing the needs of the Nepali community, NAWA's current projects, and future plans.
- II. Curtin University Drowning Prevention Evidence and Evaluation Project (DEEP) NAWA Inc. supported the DEEP initiative by Curtin University and the Royal Life Saving Society of Western Australia. This collaboration aimed to promote water safety within the community, recognizing its importance.
- III. Connecting with Non-Nepali Community NAWA Inc. engaged with various multicultural organizations, including the Bangladeshi Association of WA and the Indian Society of WA. These collaborations included participation in cultural events such as the "Bangla Mela" and "Hindi Diwas," fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchange.

IV. Cricket WA NAWA Inc. engaged with multicultural wing of WA cricket to work collaborative in enhancement and support of Nepali cricketing community. Regular meetups and planning were performed. One significant milestone of this engagement is participation of Nepali cricket club in upcoming cultural cup 2025. We will continue this engagement in the coming years.

11. Financial Report

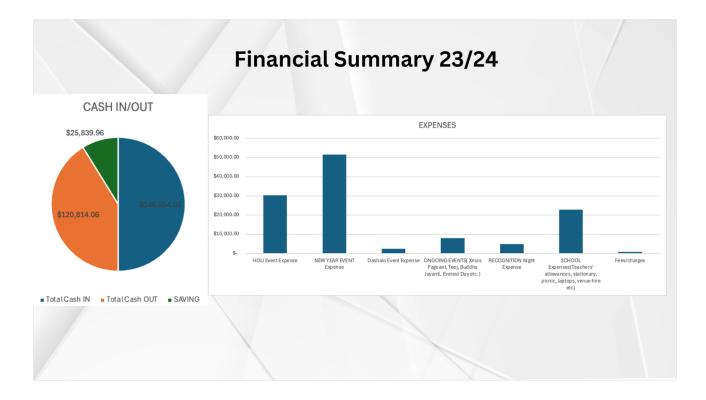
Detailed Income and Expenses are as follows as Approved in AGM 2024, 22 Sep 2024, 4:30pm - 8:30pm, Hillview Intercultural Community Centre, 1-3 Hill View, Bentley WA.

11.1. Financial Summary

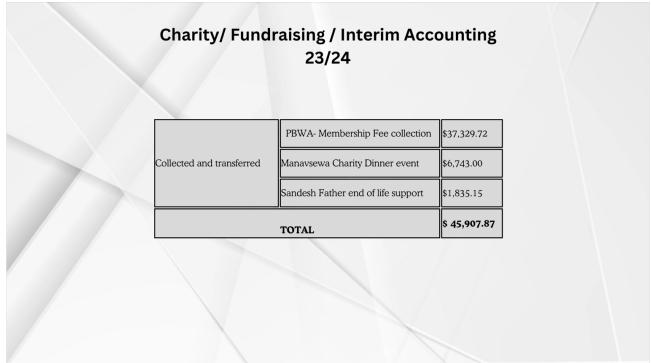
INCOMING AMOUNT						
Transferred from Old Account (on 13/10/2023)	\$ 34,179.58					
From Annual Sponsors (\$650 each)	\$11,200.00					
Title/Gold /Silver Sponsors Holi & New year	\$11,700.00					
Food Vendors (Holi and New Year)	\$8,582.20					
Grant (Events, initative, NLAAS)	\$63,700.00					
Misc. Income	\$3,186.00					
NAWA membership drive	\$5,182.04					
School Enrolment fee/Picnic charge etc	\$7,624.20					
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$1,300.00					
TOTAL	\$146,654.02					

EXPENSES AMOUNT		
Holi Event Expense	\$30,425.97	
New Year Event Expense	\$ 51,468.33	
Dashain Event Expense	\$ 2,450.95	
Ongoing Events (Xmas Pageant, Teej, Buddha Jayanti, Everest Day etc.)	\$ 7,979.27	
Recognition Night Expense	\$ 4,856.83	
School Expenses (Teachers' allowances, stationary, picnic, laptops, venue hire etc)	\$ 22,770.99	
Fees/charges	\$ 861.72	
TOTAL	\$ 120,814.06	

Balance in bank as of 30/06/2024: \$25,839.96



11.2. Fundraising Activities:



11.3. Future Projection Financial:

Financial Projection 24/25



Estimated Activities Expenses	Amount (Approx.)
Teej event	\$14,000.00
Dashain Event	\$10,000.00
Xmas Pageant	\$2,500.00
Organising and supporting various cultural and social programs	\$12,000.00
Operation of Nepali school (4 different venues)	\$40,600.00
HOLI Festival	\$25,000.00
New Year Event	\$65,000.00
New Initiatives (Womens Program, Mental Health Program)	\$15,000.00
Sports	\$8,000.00
Miscellaneous (adhoc support etc) expenses	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$197,100.00

Projected Income Source	Amount(Approx.)
Saving from 23/24 FY	\$25,839.96
Grants	\$125,000.00
Sponsors	\$ 60,000.00
School Enrolment fees	\$ 18,000.00
NAWA Membership	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 227,839.96

12. Plans and Goals for 24/25

• Governance & Capacity Building:

• Update constitution to strengthen governance

Estimated funds end of 24/25 term: \$35K Surplus

- Create Nepali community framework
- Establish MOUs with all registered Nepali non-profit community organizations for a collaborative approach
- Support upcoming groups and organizations
- Invest in capacity building for NAWA Inc. and community leadership programs
- Strategic collaboration with state agencies, city councils, and sporting bodies
- Digitalize systems and processes
- Set targets and KPIs for each term
- Increase membership base
- Start New Initiatives & Strengthen Current Ones:
- Strengthen mental health program
- Develop second-generation targeted events and initiatives
- Support sports activities
- Scope out women's activities
- Increase volunteer base
- Financials:
- Proactively source grants
- Identify diverse sponsorship sources
- Aim to become a sustainable organization
- Events:
- Strengthen flagship events like Holi and New Year

- Continue and sustain the Recognition Night
- Increase engagement with the second generation
- Ambitious Goals:
- Scope administrative and physical premises for NAWA Inc.
- Secure over \$100k in grants
- o Organize a unique event to celebrate 20 years of NAWA Inc. in 2025

13. Acknowledgement

- Lottery West
- City of Gosnell's
- Office of Multicultural Interest OMI
- City of Perth
- Road Safety Commission
- Kings Park and Botanical Garden
- Victoria park center for the Arts
- Western Australia Cricket
- All Nepali Community organizations
- All our valued sponsors
- Volunteers and helping hands
- Non-Nepali community originations like ISWA Inc., BAWA Inc