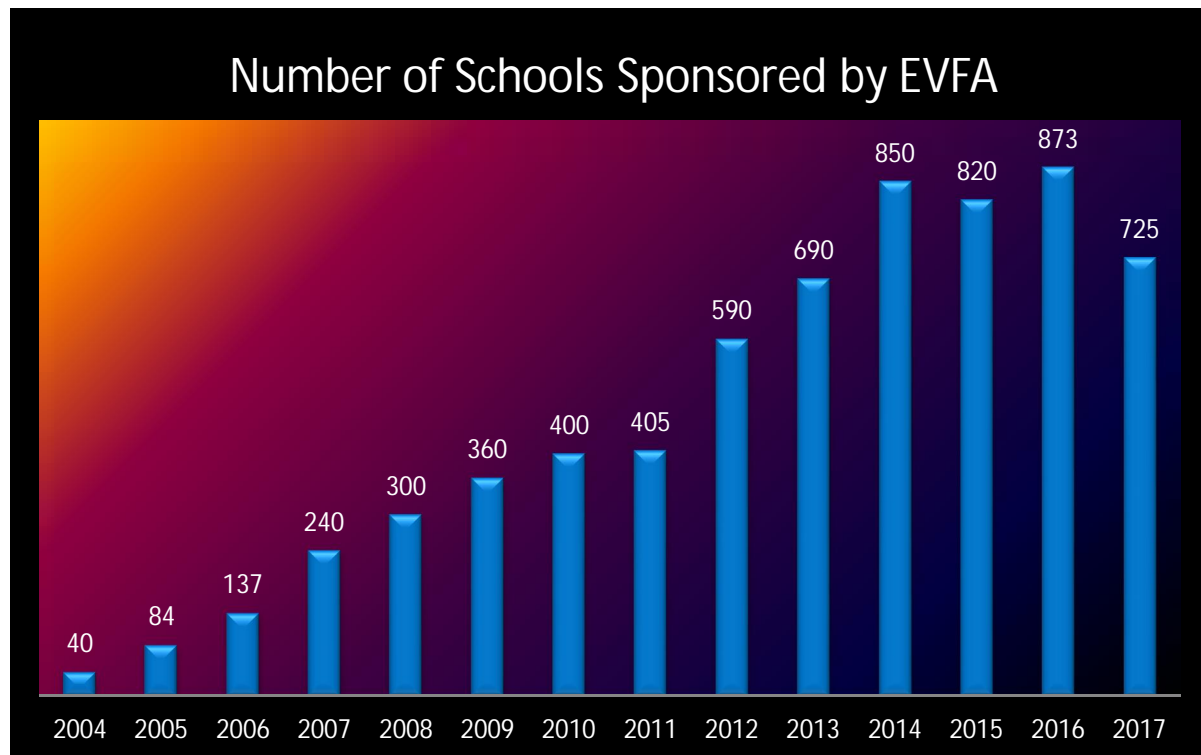


# EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



## **Dear Ekal Sponsors, Supporters, and Friends**

On behalf of the Ekal Volunteers team it is my absolute honour and privilege to present to you the Annual Report for 2016-2017 of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of Australia.

This year in February, EVF Australia participated in two functions organized by other institutions. The first function was Trivia Night organized by India Avenue Investment Management. This function helped us reach many new community members and at the same time raised about \$2000 to sponsor four Ekal schools.

The second function was organized by UIA women wing which was attended by many leading women community members including Honourable Jodie Mackay, the Member of Parliament of Strathfield, NSW Government.

EVF Australia volunteers were very busy during the first half of this year in organizing the Ekal Nite 2017 function which was scheduled on 29 July 17. The night was a grand success, similar to the earlier functions and raised about \$15000 in addition to about 25 new school sponsorships.

One of the significant changes in Ekal operations from this year is change in school sponsorship year. Until this year, the school allocation year has been from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. EVF India has changed the school sponsorship year to 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September from this year to meet requirements from many stakeholders including EVF US who sponsors in excess of 20,000 Ekal schools. Accordingly, the school sponsorship this time will last till 30<sup>th</sup> September 18.

This change in school sponsorship will suit us even more. We will send school sponsorship reminder in the last week of May requesting sponsors to pay before 30 June if they wish to claim tax exemption in that financial year. Alternatively, they can pay till 30 September and claim tax exemption in the following year.

We seem to have stuck at around 700 – 900 school sponsorship from Australia for last four years. In fact, this year the number has gone down to 725 schools as sponsorship fees has increased to Rs 20,000 per year from last couple of years and the exchange rate has not been as high as it used to be during earlier years. EVF Australia looks forward to any new ideas and suggestions to break this barrier and reach and exceed milestone of 1000 schools in coming years. We are glad that some new volunteers have joined the team this year and we look forward to contributions from all in moving ahead on our journey.

Ekal Youth continued with their enthusiastic work in 2016-2017. As expected their annual function 'Rhythms of Bollywood' which was hosted at Bowman Hall in Blacktown on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 was a great success with 500 attendees. The youth wing also organised a Fabulous Four-hour Spectacular Bollywood Cruise on board the Bella Vista Glass Cruise ship. Their enthusiasm and zest for spreading the Ekal message and raising funds for the sponsorships of more schools is commendable.

I take the opportunity to sincerely thank all Ekal Volunteers, Ekal Sponsors and supporters for your ongoing support and good will. With your enthusiasm, hard work and commitment we can continue our Ekal journey of not only eradicating illiteracy from the rural and tribal India but also empowering the women and girls of these regions. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Once again thank you and kind regards

Jayendra Shah  
President, EVF Australia  
November 2017

# Activities during the Year

## UIA – International Women’s Day Function

Every year on 8th March International Women’s day is celebrated in countries across the globe. This year the slogan is “Be Bold for Change”. International Women’s Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievement of women.

In Sydney, this day was celebrated at the Auburn Community Centre by the Women’s Steering committee of UIA. As is the tradition, the team headed by Sue Advani draws attention to the various issues that affect the lives of women across the globe. Dr Marlene Kanga, a member of the Board of Innovation Australia and Chair of the R&D Incentives Committee which administers the largest innovation support program for industry in Australia via the taxation system was the key note speaker. She spoke about the role of Indian Australians in Australia’s growth, the strengthening ties of trade between India and Australia, the advantages Indian-born Australian have over the general populace and what women must do to raise their profile in the area of employment, especially technology.



*Professor Nihal Agar and Jayendra Shah of EVF Australia with UIA Members and the Chief Guests  
Honourable Jodie Mackay*

Other speakers included Jodi McKay, member for Strathfield, Julie Owens, member for Paramatta, Geoff Lee, member of the NSW Legislative Assembly representing Parramatta and president of UIA, John Kennedy.

This year all funds raised were donated to Ekal Vidyalaya, a people's movement that began in 1986 with the intention of taking education to the villages of India. Jayendra spoke about this 'people's movement' and a video about the work that Ekal does was shown. Ekal schools across the length and breadth of India place great emphasis on Women's empowerment and education of the girl child. The team from Ekal comprised of Dr Nihal Agar, Jayendra Shah, Shobha Yadav, and Poornima Menon.



***Shobha Yadav and Poornima Menon of EVF Australia with UIA Team Members and the Chief Guests Honourable Jodie Mackay***



## India Avenue Trivia Night

India Avenue Investment Management (IAIM) headed by Mugunthan Siva is a boutique investment management business focused on creating optimal investment solutions for investors by participating in the exciting growth opportunities presented by India's capital markets.

IAIM looks for socially responsible businesses which are focused on more than just making a profit. These companies are also hoping to make the world a better place. These companies that care make sure to build social responsibility into their business models and continue to be pillars of the community.

The first annual India Avenue Trivia Night for the benefit of India Avenue Sports Club was organized on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Massey Park Golf Club, Concord, Sydney.

As a socially responsible business unit, IAIM partnered with EVF Australia for this function donating 25% of all the revenue raised from participants and all proceeds from Auction to EVF Australia for sponsoring schools in India.

The function was attended by about 150 of IAIM's supporters, well-wishers, and clients. The team from Ekal comprised of Jayendra and Bhavi Shah, Anil and Shobha Yadav, Sudesh and Suman Gupta, Sandip and Shilpa Shah, and Arun Manjunath. Jayendra spoke about the Ekal movement taking education to tribal and remote villages of India.

The function raised \$2000 to sponsor four Ekal Schools educating about 120 children for one year.

## Rang Tarang - Ekal Nite 2017 (EVF Australia Annual Event)

On Saturday, 29th July the Sydney Bahai Centre came alive with the sounds of music and rhythms of dance as Ekal Vidyalaya, Sydney hosted their annual fundraising event. This year the program was very appropriately called 'Rang Tarang' – a colourful journey of dance, drama and music.

The event was supported by the major dance schools in Sydney. The audience were treated to a variety of genres of dance from the purely classical Mohiniattam to the regal Kathak and the vibrant Bhangra. There were semiclassical and Bollywood inspired performances too. Reputed local singers from the Indian diaspora, Dilip Bhawe, Merina Sumesh, Abhijeet and Vinod Rathore entertained the audience of over 650 people with some foot tapping numbers.

The evening began with the lighting of the lamp by Dr Nihal Agar, followed by a speech by the President Jayendra Shah. Anita Gopi and Anjana Chandran gave the cultural program an auspicious beginning with graceful Mohiniattam piece invoking the Gods. This was followed by a dance presented by the students of Purvi Desai's Lotus Dance School. There were two Kathak performances, one each by the students of Sumati's Swastik Dance Academy and Ruchi Sanghi Dance Company. While Vijanti Amarsee's Bollywood Dance School presented a 90s Bollywood Fusion, Holi was the theme of Ajanta Bhattacharya's Rhythms Dance Troup. Alisha Sharma's Nach di Shaan Group and Seerat Dhillon's All-Star Sydney Group presented the two Bhangra performances.



*One of the Great Performances*

Little Tanya Garg mesmerised the audience with her 'Krishna' dance and Mukesh Rao's skit had a message for the audience – 'the importance of education in all walks of life'. Students from Hamsa Venkat's Samskriti School of Dance lit up the stage with a beautifully synchronised Bharatnatyam piece and Vijanti Amarsee's Bollywood Dance School brought in a change of mood with a medley inspired by Madhuri Dixit numbers. Shiamak Davar's Dance Group provided the finale to the evening with their quick moving steps that had the audience on their feet and asking for more.

The main purpose of Ekal's annual fund-raising event is to engage the community and elicit community participation to raise the much-required funds to sponsor more Ekal schools in India. The Ekal team of volunteers were overwhelmed by the generosity of the people who attended the show as about \$20,000 were raised and this does not include the sponsorship of about 25 schools by the attendees. The response only further reiterated that Ekal is a people's movement and only the people can drive this movement forward.

The Ekal volunteers are for ever grateful for all the support received from the community here in Sydney. The team welcomes more people on board to support the very noble purpose of creating opportunities for the children in rural and tribal India to access education by setting up schools there for their ease and convenience. The evening concluded with raffle draw and vote of thanks by Sudesh Gupta.



*One of the Scenes from Skit*





***Ekal Women at the Counter on Ekal Nite Function***



***Ekal Family at the End of the Function – Ekal Nite 2017***



## **Ekal Youth Australia (EYA)**

Ekal Youth Australia has completed its 6<sup>th</sup> year in working towards supporting the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation. We have strived to work towards the mission and values of EVF and will continue to do so in the upcoming years.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the EVF Australia team for their ongoing support and guidance over the years.

This year we had two successful events that enabled us to distribute \$9,000 as proceeds to support rural education in India. Our team has worked effortlessly over the past few months to ensure that all events have been successful and maintain the high standards of EVF's and EYA's principles of practice.

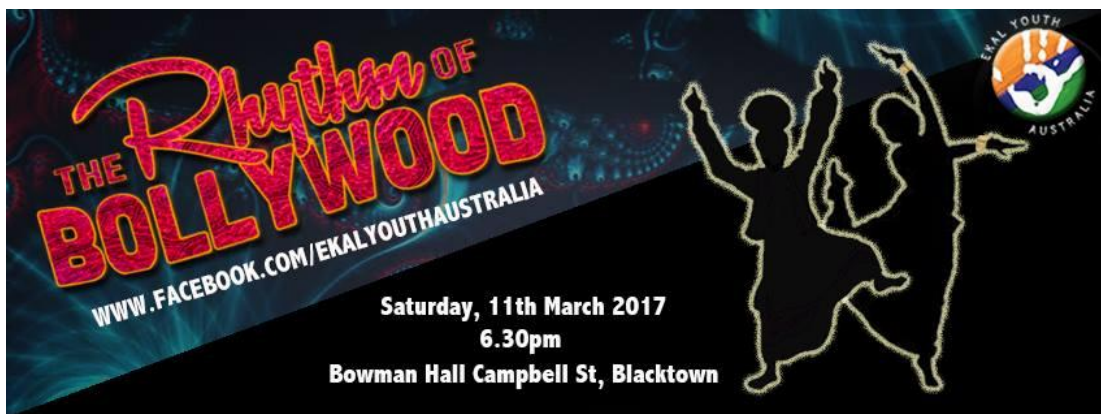
We look forward to continuing our work with EVF in raising awareness in the community and working towards eradicating illiteracy. Every Ekal Youth Australia volunteer holds passion towards their commitment to EYA and we as a team promise to strive for far greater achievements for our community.

### **EYA Executive Team 2017**

- Jessica Sharma – President
- Thripura Hariharan – Vice President
- Sonia Agarwal – Vice President
- Pooja Hariharan – Treasurer

Our team comprises 20 additional members.

## The Rhythm of Bollywood 2017: Bollywood through the Ages



Ekal Youth Australia's annual event, The Rhythm of Bollywood, took place for the fifth consecutive year on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2017.

Like every year, The Rhythm of Bollywood 2k17 showcased a range of performers with debut performances by Sydney's newest Garba group 'Khel Khelaiya' and an elegant piece performed by Ms Riana Das, representing a new dance school 'Beats and Harmony'. We also had the amazing CK Performing Arts, Down to Bhangra and the dancing duo Smarth and Sneha perform this year!



With the amazing DJ Dipak rocking the music, the event attracted almost 500 attendees making it a great success for both the EYA team and for the schools we support in rural India. This level of success would definitely not have been possible without our sponsors – Fortune World Tour, Nawaz Flavour of India, Mr Solar Australia, Shine Business Advisors and Taj Indian Sweets and Restaurant.

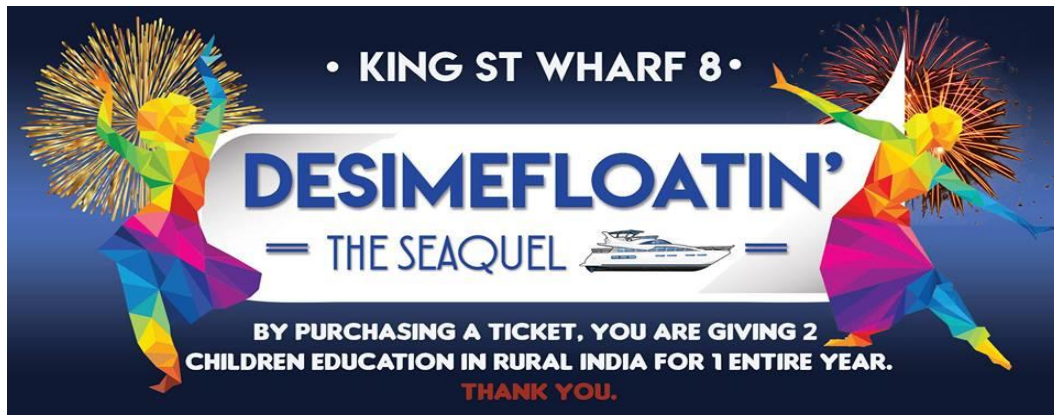
A special thank you also goes to Decor-A-Shaan for their yearly supply of the beautiful decorations we use for the event.

Furthermore, our media partner Desi Australia has always been a great pillar of strength and support for our events, without whom we would have not been able to achieve as much as we have.





## EYA's Mid-Semester Cruise: Desimefloatin' ~ The Sequel



Last year, Ekal Youth Australia hosted the BIGGEST BOLLYWOOD CRUISE – The Desimefloatin' Cruise 2016!

This year we did it again but, bigger and better!

EYA organized a FABULOUS FOUR-HOUR SPECTACULAR BOLLYWOOD Cruise on-board the Bella Vista Glass Cruise ship! With food included in the ticket, a cash bar and 2 levels of an open Western beats, we put together an entertaining and successful event!

With over 400 attendees, our sponsors Mr Solar and Taj Indian Restaurant were highly supportive with the event and helped make it a success.



## From school kids studying at Ekal Vidyalaya to Officers working for the Indian Army & CISF



This is the story of two village children who started their studies in Ekal Vidyalayas in their villages. Later they joined former schools and after further studies have joined the army and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Many others who started their initial entry to literacy in Ekal have also made their mark in achieving success in various fields.

Gurupreet Singh joined Ekal Vidyalaya in 2005 when Ekal started school in his village – Bathadhittad in Firozpur district of Punjab. He says that his teacher was very loving and they encouraged him in sports as well as in studies. He was very motivated from them so he decided for higher studies. After, he joined the Indian Army as a constable and at present, he is posted in Pune.

Butta Singh studied in Ekal Vidyalaya – Bagge village in Fajilka district of Punjab from 2004 to 2006, still remembers his teacher's name, Smt Paramjeet Kaur. He did his higher secondary in nearby Jalalabad district where he passed with first division and then pursued his graduation in BA from Delhi after which in 2013 he was selected by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and now he is presently posted in Chennai High Court. He conveys his appreciation to Ekal Vidyalaya without which this would not have happened.

## EVF Australia Reaches \$2 Million Milestone

EVF Australia has been facilitating sponsorship of Ekal Schools since 2004 and this year it reached \$2 million milestone. See details below. EVF Australia appreciates generous donations for school sponsorship from all EVF Australia sponsors current and past for being instrumental in helping us reach this milestone.

EVF Australia Revenue & School Historical Record			
Year	Year	Sent to EVFI	Schools
1	2003-4	\$14,616	40
2	2004-5	\$30,254	84
3	2005-6	\$49,867	137
4	2006-7	\$56,571	240
5	2007-8	\$113,985	300
6	2008-9	\$172,000	360
7	2009-10	\$107,800	400
8	2010-11	\$205,500	405
9	2011-12	\$40,000	590
10	2012-13	\$200,000	690
11	2013-14	\$165,755	850
12	2014-15	\$280,000	820
13	2015-16	\$205,000	873
14	2016-17	\$220,000	725
15	2017-18	\$265,000	
		\$2,126,348	



# EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2017

2016			2017
	CURRENT ASSETS		
	Cash:		
21,359.18	Cash at bank	14,267.83	
198,051.70	Bank Relief Fund	221,656.90	
9,588.19	Cash in hand	5,244.42	
-----		-----	
228,999.07	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		241,169.15
	CURRENT LIABILITY		
550.00	Accrued expenses		550.00
-----			-----
\$228,449.07	NET ASSETS		\$240,619.15
=====			=====
	ACCUMULATED FUND		
210,115.77	Balance at beginning		228,449.07
18,333.30	Surplus for the year		12,170.08
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\$228,449.07	Balance at end		\$240,619.15
=====			=====

# EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2017

2016		2017
	INCOME	
207,146.60	Gross Income-Sponsorship	229,261.43
21,835.70	-Donations	5,556.20
-----		-----
228,982.30		234,817.63
	Less	
	EXPENDITURE	
550.00	Audit	550.00
205,000.00	Sponsorships	220,000.00
0.00	Hall hire	186.20
0.00	Insurance	911.35
0.00	Raffles and prize	1,000.00
5,099.00	RAAS Australia	0.00
-----		-----
210,649.00		222,647.55
-----		-----
\$18,333.30	SURPLUS for the year	\$12,170.08
=====		=====

**EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2017**

	<b>30-Jun-16</b>	<b>30-Jun-17</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from sponsors	207,146.60	229,261.43
Other receipts	21,835.70	5,556.20
Sponsor payments	(205,000.00)	(220,000.00)
Payments to suppliers	(5,649.00)	(2,647.55)
Interest received	-	-
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>18,333.30</b>	<b>12,170.08</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>18,333.30</b>	<b>12,170.08</b>
Cash at beginning of year	210,665.77	228,999.07
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>228,999.07</b>	<b>241,169.15</b>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.