



## THE GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION of Victoria Inc.

G.P.O Box 963  
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[www.GOAV.org.au](http://www.GOAV.org.au)

August 21<sup>st</sup> 2010

### President's Report

Fellow Members,

Welcome to the 2010 AGM for the Goan Overseas Association of Victoria Inc. I am pleased as the current President to be able to report on the activities of the past 12 months.

Twelve months ago when we met for the first time as a new Committee after taking office in 2009, we set ourselves the following goals –

- to increase our membership by 10%
- to organise functions of a social, cultural, educational and recreational nature for the benefit of our members
- to promote an appreciation of the Goan culture
- to find a way to eliminate the bank fees that our account incurs.

We started the year off by saying “Together we can make a difference”, and I am happy to report that through your support, the support of family and friends and that of our well wishers and sponsors, we have achieved considerable success in the year gone by. Listed below are the key highlights:

- Record new membership applications with low attrition rate.
- Record number of events during the year
- Record surplus since the last 5 years
- For the first time, no account keeping fees or trans. charges on our bank accounts.
- Enormous good will and great feedback from members and non members
- Huge awareness of our Association among other Indian Assoc. and with govt. bodies.

Overall, in planning for the events to be had during the year, we wanted to ensure that we provide for the broader community participation. The Senior Citizen's Get Together was a new initiative to bring our seniors together. It was great to see our founder member Mr. John Rodrigues and his wife attend the event. The day started with a cooking demonstration of Goan delicacies: pork Vindalho, fish curry, beef potato chops and Ale Bele. A cook book of the recipes was distributed to all attendees. The day was rounded up with a Konkani movie. Our seniors had a great time and were very grateful for the initiative that we had started.

At the traditional Melbourne Cup day Potluck picnic at Jell's park, the weather was excellent and we had a great crowd that enjoyed playing some field games like cricket, dodge ball, kho-kho while the others just chatted and enjoyed the surroundings with a stroll. Lunch time was the most exciting part as one by one the dishes that people had brought to share with the group started to unfold and when it was all laid out, it was a treat for the eyes. Everyone sat down to enjoy the meal. Soon it was time for Cup sweep and the race that stops the nation. There was some vigorous cheering and for the lucky few it was sweet victory. With music playing in the background

and after some delicious tea and biscuits, we played some games and then the crowd broke into a dance routine that drew the attention of other picnickers. It was a great day.

The St. Francis Xavier Feast celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, Glen Huntley was filled with the faithful. The feast mass with all the traditional music and singing provided the perfect backdrop for all to enjoy the festivities at the Parish Hall. The Goan Sweets, all of which were done at our Goan Cooking Class and the Chaurice pav stalls was the perfect warm-up for what was to unfold. The young talent show provided a glimpse of our young talent where a spirited Trent with his tribute to Michael Jackson through song and dance drew the biggest applause. It was time for Santa to distribute his bag of goodies to all the kids. After the buffet dinner, it was time to dance the night away to the beat of our own Regeneration Band. It was a great celebration.

Australia Day picnic at Fawkner Park was a great time as it was a celebration of India's Republic day as well. The weather was again excellent and the traditional India vs. Pakistan cricket match at the oval did not disappoint. The dodge ball and the old game of seven tiles were very popular with both the young and the old taking part. The brain teaser team game was fiercely competitive. It was a fun day and we had to wind up a little early as many of our members had booked to go to the Jai Ho concert in the city.

For the first time ever, the Association organized Konkani language classes. It was very encouraging to see the attendance of our young folks at these classes and a very special thank you to the parents for making this happen. Certificates were awarded to all the participants. We continue to get requests for more of these classes to be held.

The Annual Sports day was a much anticipated event. For the first time, we introduced Indoor cricket and it was great to see Rolando who is a grandfather take to the bowling and score lots of runs. After a great run of winning the men's table tennis for five years running, the reigning champion lost in the semis. Lunch was delicious with butter chicken and pulav rice. It was great to see some new participants at the event.

The weekend away at Araluen Camp at Anglesea was a spectacular camp site with excellent site facilities. The 80 strong crowd enjoyed themselves. The kids had a great time catching up with their friends and enjoying the outdoor activities, the Low Ropes course was really challenging. The others stayed indoor and indulged in Rummy games, billiards, table tennis, carom or singing the karaoke. The more adventurous took to tackle fishing nearby. It was great to see the teams including the kids help out in the kitchen and meal duties. All meals were of the highest quality including the BBQ. It was indeed a relaxing weekend at a great site.

The Annual Anniversary Dance was organized at the vintage Collingwood Town Hall. The band played great music. The lights sound and the fabulous crowd provided a great atmosphere. DNS caterers provided delicious food. Lots of great prizes were given away. The crowd had a great time and left wanting more. We received some great feedback on the event.

The Fish Curry Night was a roaring success with record crowd participation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running. Dorelli made the evening special by providing free Chaurice pav to all. After a few games of Bingo it was time for the much anticipated Fish curry meal. Our culinary experts once again put up a great Fish Curry meal. The post meal Whist Drive game saw some great tricks won. A Souvenir book containing photographs of our past events, Goan recipes and some great photographs of GOA beaches and Churches was distributed at the event. It was a great evening with a great crowd at the refurbished Sacred Heart Hall.

The year was absolutely busy with almost one event each month. The commitment, hard work, enthusiasm and creativity that went into organizing these events was worth it given the response,

feedback and good will that we have received. All of this would not be possible without the generous support from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Yarra Council, our sponsors and more importantly our members, friends and well-wishers that attend our function. To you all and to the Committee for their untiring efforts even in the face of adversaries, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart and let me end by saying "Together, we can make a difference".

**Josemarie Alphonso**  
**President**  
Goan Overseas Association of Victoria  
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## Programs Organized by the Association for the year July 1 2009 - Jun 30 2010

- **Senior Citizen's Get Together - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**
- **Goan Cooking Lessons - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**
- **Melbourne Cup Day Potluck Luncheon - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - 2009**
- **Making Goan Sweets - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009**
- **St Francis Xavier Feast & Christmas Tree - Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009**
- **Australia Day Picnic - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010**
- **Konkani Language Classes - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010**
- **Annual Sports Day - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010**
- **Anglesea Weekend Away - Fri - Sun 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010**
- **Anniversary Dance - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010**
- **Fish Curry Night - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**