



Message from the President

EVF Australia had a stall at the Deepavali Fair 2009 organised by Hindu Council of Australia at Parramatta Stadium on October 11. Members of our Volunteer team were busy that day in spreading the message of Ekal movement to hundreds of visitors attending the Fair.

This year's AGM was held on 22nd November 2009 and a brief report is provided in this newsletter.

In addition I am delighted to announce that a number of youngsters have shown a keen interest in starting Ekal Youth wing in both Sydney and Melbourne. The team in Melbourne is already planning a function in January 2010. I am confident that we will see more such activities in the new year.

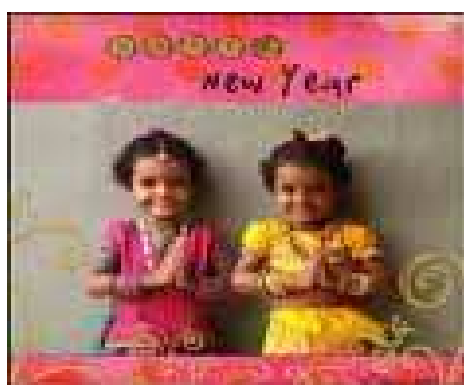
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind support in 2009. It is this support that has enabled EVF Australia to sponsor 366 Ekal schools this year, ensuring education to over 10,000 children in tribal and rural parts of India.

We would also like to encourage you to send your suggestions as to how can we spread this movement more effectively in the community at large.

Finally I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

- Dr. Nihal Agar

To all readers, EKAL Children, Sponsors and Volunteers A Happy & Safe New Year-2010



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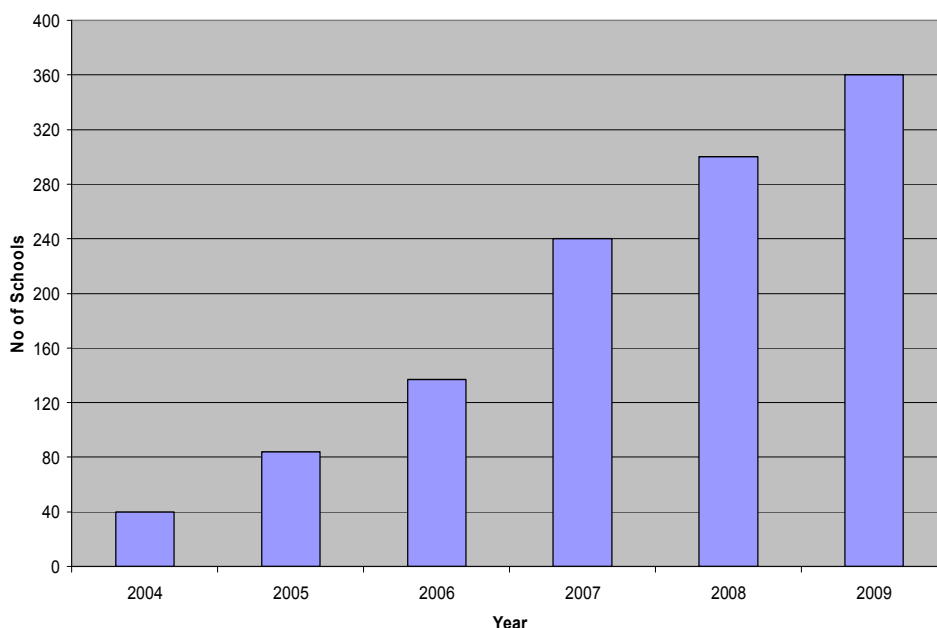
AGM Briefing

The annual general meeting (AGM) for the year 2008-09 was held on 22nd November at 30 Elva Ave Killara NSW 2071. The AGM was chaired by the vice president Mr Devendra Gupta as the President Prof Nihal Agar was overseas.

The Agenda for the Meeting included:

- To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- To provide update on the activities of EVF Australia for the period 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2009
- To provide financial report for the last financial year
- General discussions on Future directions and activities of the organisation
- To elect office bearers and committee members of EVF Australia for year 2009-10
- Selection of Auditors (or approval of the existing Auditors) for the financial year 2009-10.

Ekal has continued to grow over the last six years as shown in the graph below. Currently EVF Australia sponsors 366 schools through generous support by sponsors in Australia.



Prof Nihal Agar will continue serving EVF Australia as President and Mr Devendra Gupta will continue serving as Vice President. Mr Tara Sharma has been appointed as Secretary while Jayendra Shah will continue providing support as Joint Secretary. Mr Sushil Gupta has been appointed to serve as Treasurer and Mrs Savita Gupta will serve as assistant treasurer. Anil Yadav will continue serving Ekal as a member of the marketing team. Jayendra Shah will continue as nominated public officer for EVF Australia.

Gokani & Associates will continue as the auditor of EVF Australia.

EKAL - Regional News



This year on 9th and 10th October Urja showcased **Jhoom 2**, once again in response to a huge success last year in raising \$6500 for Manav Sadhana (www.manavsadhna.org) working for children living in slums.

In addition this year Urja supported one more charity, **Ekal Vidyalaya** (<http://ekalindia.org>). This charitable trust initiates supports and runs informal one-teacher schools all over India, particularly in rural and tribal villages.

Featuring local artists, **Jhoom 2** is a dance-drama that has been created, choreographed, composed and performed the dance group of Indian youth of Perth.

It was created in the hope to bring together young adults between the age groups of 18 - 30 in the arts (dancing, choreography, stage set-up etc) to showcase their skills and raise funds for charitable organizations in India.



2009 Jhoom 2 production was approximately 15 dancers strong and over 50 people helping backstage with make up, changing attire etc. This includes mum's, dads, brother, sisters, friends, work colleagues and many more.

Urja raised approximately \$13,000 and some was donated to Manav Sadhna and the rest to Ekal Vidyalaya.



Urja was created by Rhujuta Mehta and Smruti Chauhan, in Perth in the year 2008.



EKAL - Regional News

EVFA youth committee of Melbourne is organising Garba Dandiya.

Join us for making this event as success.



**YOUTH COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIA**

The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation is a charitable trust that initiates, supports, and runs non-formal one-teacher schools all over India. With the participation of numerous non-profit trusts and organizations, this program has now become the greatest non-governmental education movement in India.

**DONATIONS WELCOME
(tax deductible)**

www.ekal.org.au



Help eradicate illiteracy in India through song and dance

GARBA DANDIYA extravaganza!

JANUARY 15th, 2010

Glen Waverley

7pm - 12pm

Community Centre

(doors close at 10pm)

700 Waverley Rd,

Glen Waverley

Tickets: \$10

Contact:

(pre-sale)

Nikita

0430 648 848

**Dandiya sticks
available for \$5
purchase**

Karishma

0432 562 751

Vrinda

0425 100 234

To purchase your tickets

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION



**EKAL VIDYALAYA
FOUNDATION**



Youth Committee Australia

Inspirational Stories from Sponsors!!



Seventeen years old Dipali Agarwal of Erode Tamil Nadu, daughter of Sri Dinesh Agarwal FTS Treasurer Erode chapter, achieved 96% in her year twelve (12) results, requested all her relatives to give her cash instead of gifts of appreciation so that she could collect enough to sponsor a school of Ekal Abhiyan in Talwadi region of Tamil Nadu.

-EVFI Supporter Tamil Nadu, India

Different and Great way of celebrating Christmas!!

One of EVFA supporter requested his family members to donate Christmas Gift money to their favourite charity and they decided to donate to EVF Australia. When we asked him, he shared his views in a email as...

My wife and I would like to remain anonymous. Over the course of a year we give to many good and just causes as in today there have been disastrous bushfires in our state, Western Australia, so of course we will be donating to that.

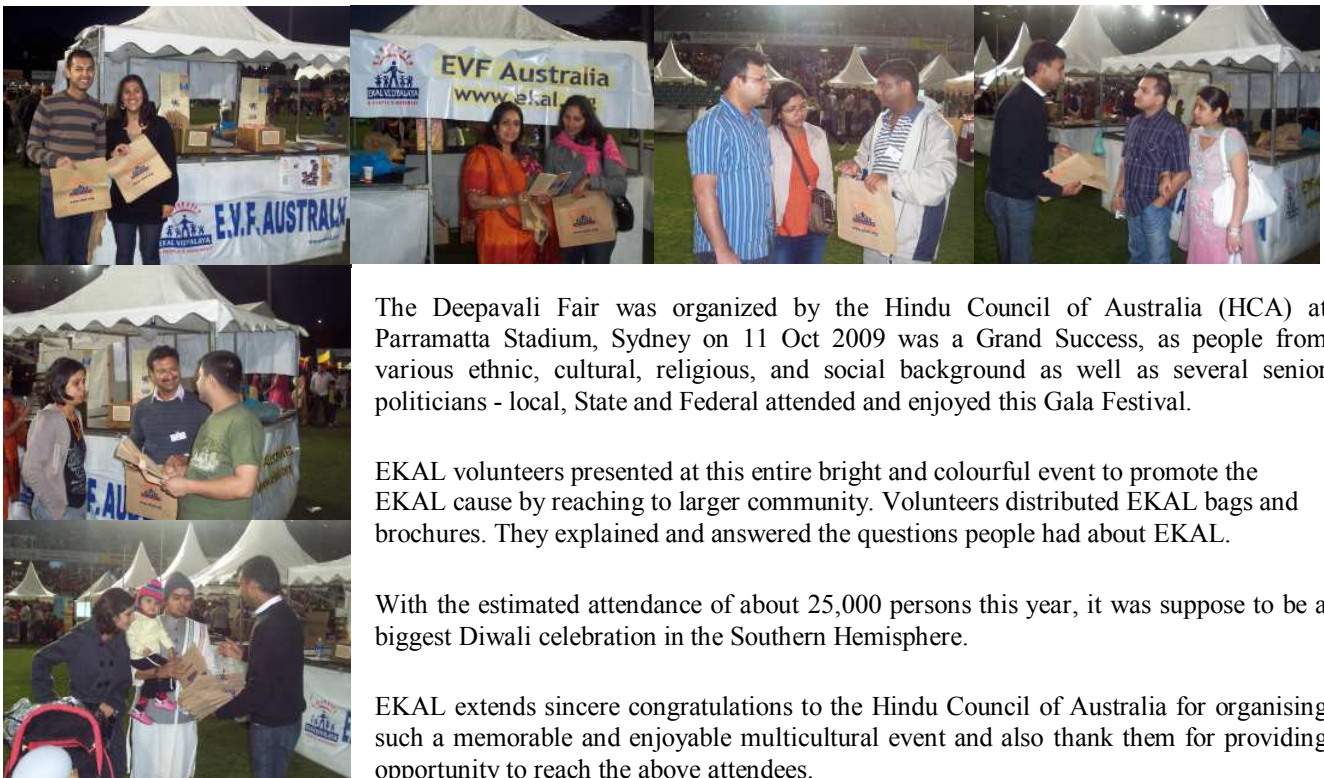
We became aware of EVFA from the Anglo Indian association of Western Australia's website of which I am a member. We recently had a trip to India away from the usual tourist bits with friends from Uttar Pradesh. I was really upset by the plight of the poor who are poor beyond belief and being a fairly "new" grandparent it really brought it home to me when I saw children not much older than my Granddaughter labouring in the slate mines and brick kilns.

As a result of a chance airplane flight with a member of the Perth club I informed him that my mother was Anglo Indian and as a result I joined the association.

For us this is a worthwhile charity where we know our money will actually get to the troops on the ground and help those who need it most.

- EVFA Supporter from Perth, Western Australia

EKAL at Deepavali-2009 Fair in Parramatta, Sydney



The Deepavali Fair was organized by the Hindu Council of Australia (HCA) at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney on 11 Oct 2009 was a Grand Success, as people from various ethnic, cultural, religious, and social background as well as several senior politicians - local, State and Federal attended and enjoyed this Gala Festival.

EKAL volunteers presented at this entire bright and colourful event to promote the EKAL cause by reaching to larger community. Volunteers distributed EKAL bags and brochures. They explained and answered the questions people had about EKAL.

With the estimated attendance of about 25,000 persons this year, it was suppose to be a biggest Diwali celebration in the Southern Hemisphere.

EKAL extends sincere congratulations to the Hindu Council of Australia for organising such a memorable and enjoyable multicultural event and also thank them for providing opportunity to reach the above attendees.

"Do you know all donations to EKAL are tax deductible in Australia? Why not use the tax refund to sponsor another EKAL school?"



EKAL-WALK FOR YOU

OUR SEVENTH WALK

EVF Australia are proud to announce the formation of a new monthly walking group

1st Sunday of every month

Time: 9:30 am

All ages welcome

Starting in June, the Ekal walking group will gather on the first Sunday of each month to walk around a beautiful park in Sydney, and meet new and old friends — so please join us and have fun!

Members and non-members of EVF Australia, friends and family are all welcome.

For senior citizens, transport to and from the venue can be arranged with volunteers.

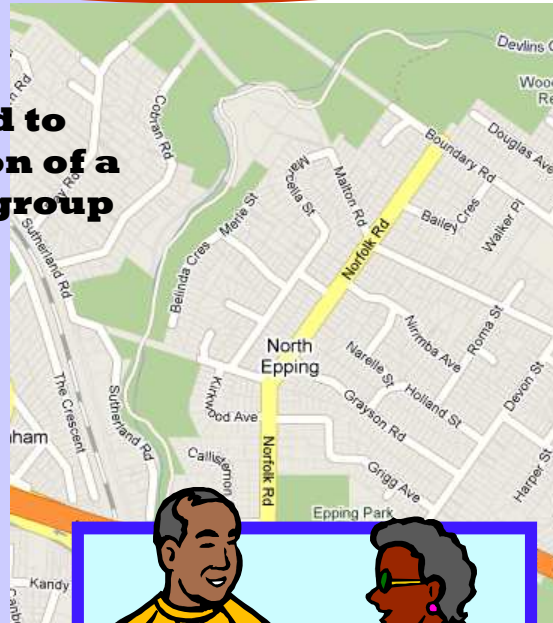
For more information or to join the mailing list, please contact:

Vijay Gupta: 0414 879 542
vgupta@optusnet.com.au

Savita Gupta: 0403 148 052
savita_r_gupta@hotmail.com

Virendra Patel: 0401 687 213
vp.july05@optusnet.com.au

Hari Kishan: 0412 258 183
hari_40@bigpond.net.au



Boundary Road, North Epping

9:00 am

Sunday, 6th December 2009

Meet at the end of Boundary Road. Free Street Parking is available.



Benefits of Walking

Walking is very beneficial to your health and wellbeing, and has been known to reduce the risk of many diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Walking also helps control existing conditions and builds aerobic fitness

EKAL AUSTRALIA
A PEOPLES MOVEMENT

<http://www.ekal.org.au/>

EKAL - Global News

Ekal Volunteers 'Mahakumbh' International Conference concludes in New Delhi – A report



New Delhi, 2nd Nov 2009: The 12,879 volunteers of EKAL, from the villages, towns and cities and even from abroad have all left with great satisfaction the Japani Park grounds in Rohini, New Delhi.

It all started on the 29th November when in the evening Yogrishi Swami Ramdev inaugurated the Ekal Exhibition. In this exhibition there were stalls depicting the work done by Ekal in the different states of India. This was the first time that Ekal had organized such an exhibition and volunteers from different areas could see what the others are doing.

Swami Ramdev in his forceful speech praised the Ekal for its wonderful work being done to educate the poor in remote areas of India. He said that our country is battling with so much of crime and terrorist activities and it is only the education provided by Ekal which can overcome this and help in making a better society.



It was announced that by 2013 Ekal will reach to the poor community in 100,000 villages.



In the concluding session on the evening of Sunday, Volunteers were told it is only education which can give self respect and make the poor self dependent and be made responsible till illiteracy is completely eradicated from the country. Sadhvi Ritambhara in her dynamic speech that the poor children of the country are just collecting garbage today. She asked the Ekal volunteers that they should not rest till their work reaches all the villages of the country.

The International Meet in Delhi

The four day meet attracted volunteers from all over. The Ekal supervisors who oversee the working of 28,000 schools came and talked about their experiences in the villages they operate in. They gave examples of the transformation that has happened in the community they serve and they also talked about the difficulties being faced. This was an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved so far and also to plan activities for the coming future.



Recognition was given to persons who have succeeded in achieving the targets set for them. These recognitions were for the activities in the field of Basic Education, Health Care Education, Development Education, Empowerment Education and for achieving self sufficiency.

A total of 14 sessions were held in the meet discussing all the aspects of Ekal Vidyalaya Movement. All the sessions were conducted by the people from the field which gave all an opportunity to witness as to what has been the empowerment of these rural people.

A very good media coverage was achieved this time. More than 60 newspapers around the Country gave coverage to this event.

For further details log on to www.ekalkumbh.org





शिक्षा से राष्ट्र, आत्मसम्मान व संस्कृति को बचाने का संकल्प

नई दिल्ली, (भा.सं.) : प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने शिक्षा को राष्ट्र, आत्मसम्मान व संस्कृति को बचाने का संकल्प व्यक्त किया। उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा ही एकमात्र रास्ता है जो देश को आगे बढ़ाने में मदद करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा ही एकमात्र रास्ता है जो देश को आगे बढ़ाने में मदद करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा ही एकमात्र रास्ता है जो देश को आगे बढ़ाने में मदद करेगी।



नई दिल्ली के सोनी में एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का दौरा प्रदर्शन कर रहे प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के साथ संसदीय दल के सदस्यों का एक समूह।

राजस्थान पत्रिका

जयपुर/अजमेर, शनिवार 31 अक्टूबर, 2009

राजस्थान पत्रिका, एक विशिष्ट, एक विशिष्ट, एक विशिष्ट। यह पत्रिका राजस्थान के समाज, संस्कृति और विकास को प्रदर्शित करती है।

रांची एक्सप्रेस

दिल्ली में एकल विद्यालय कार्यकर्ताओं का महाकुंभ

रांची, 27 अक्टूबर 2009

एकल विद्यालयों के कार्यकर्ताओं का दिल्ली में एकल विद्यालय कार्यकर्ताओं का महाकुंभ का आयोजन किया गया।

जनपथ समाचार

एकल अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन 29 से दिल्ली में

एकल अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन 29 से दिल्ली में आयोजित होगा।

दिल्ली/आसपास

अशांति फैला रहे हैं हिंसक आंदोलन : सिंघल

दिल्ली/आसपास, 27 अक्टूबर 2009

अशांति फैला रहे हैं हिंसक आंदोलन : सिंघल

Veena Gandhi from US narrates her exciting experience of Ekal Kumbh – A Report

I returned from India two days ago full of memories and great experiences at “Ekal Kumbh” in New Delhi.

In New Delhi the program was from Oct 29th to Nov 1st. Subsequently on Nov 2nd we had informal meeting with EVFI officials and in the evening dinner at the invitation of Sri B. K. Modiji at his place “Malaviya House”.

“Ekal Kumbh” was the true reflection of our Ekal work in the villages. There were 14,000 delegates, mostly I think were Ekal schools teachers. There were also sanch & upsanch in-charges and EVFI’s Trustees and well wishers from whole of Bharat. The program was very well planned to give encouragement, inspiration, comfort, and feeling of unity and “Ekta” to all these delegates from the different parts of Bharat and instill patriotism by providing appropriate, well presented evening programs and for the Ekal trustees and foreign representatives like us, it gave exposition of Ekal’s true progress in the form of gram swaraj, gram vikas, gram shiksha and gamin health progress reports by the various village teacher speakers. One cannot but feel very proud of these delegates-speakers. They were great orators and seemed to have deep conviction in their work. They had eagerness in their eyes and joy in their hearts. Gram economic development projects were very impressive. “Swabhiman abhiyan” and empowerment goal seemed successful, as reported by many women and men speakers from different states.

There was also an exhibition presented by the different states of Bharat. It was very inspiring and competitive.

We were told how these villagers were looking forward to this event. They had collected penny by penny to come to this event. Some of them had come on the train for the first time in their lives.

Baba Ramdev, Pu. Paramanandji, Pu. Ritambharaji, and others had blessed the occasion with their wonderful talks. Baba Mauryaji gave one evening program with homage to Bharat mata, and “Hum Hai Hindustani” musical in the evening stole my heart with love and tears in the eyes.

Friends, overall, I feel that true freedom and not only geographical freedom of Bharat can only come when our villages become strong and our minds get unslaved as Pujya Mahatma Gandhiji had envisioned. Uninterrupted efforts focus and insight by the Founders of Ekal Vidyalaya Movement, seemed to have taken its shape. Only one thing I could have wished more is to have presence of some of the leaders of the nation and national media who are neutral in their outlook to see this tremendous progress and efforts. Hope in the future there will be enough of the critical mass of such thinkers, so that we get enough publicity to flow our ideas to the remaining good hearted people of Bharat. Now let us continue our work in USA with great zeal.

Meet A Sponsor

In this edition we would like you to meet our newest sponsor, Vijay and his wife Sudha Khandelwal, who have recently decided to support EKAL and sponsor a school

Which part of Australia do you live in?

Winston Hills, New South Wales.

What do you do?

We are both retired, but do some voluntary work.

How did you find out about EKAL?

Through word of mouth.

What are your interests?

Traveling, Reading, Movies.

What made you support EKAL?

Because its main aim is educating children. Also we are impressed by the transparency and governance of the organization.

Have you supported any other organisations in the past?

Yes.

Would you like to visit your sponsored school one day?

Yes definitely, if opportunity arises.

Any other comments or messages for our readers?

Education is the backbone of society and any amount of support in educating people is not enough.



Vijay and his wife Sudha Khandelwal

EVFA Youth Wing

EVF Australia volunteers are excited and impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by a number of youngsters to get involved in Ekal as Ekal Youth wing members both in Sydney and Melbourne.

Ekal Youth wing in Sydney is coordinated by Jay Tamareddy and in Melbourne it is coordinated by Nikita Singh. Both Jay and Nikita have begun their public relations through face book. Both of them are getting a very good response from youth members who have shown keen interest in joining Ekal youth wing.

Ekal Youth wing in Sydney is aiming to organise an event in 2010.

Ekal Youth wing in Melbourne had their first meeting and have decided to organise the following two events:

1. A charity cricket match between Sri Lanka and India (Youth Players).
2. A Garba/Dandiya night in honour of republic day

If anyone is interested in joining or supporting Ekal Youth wing in Sydney or Melbourne please send email to evfaust@gmail.com and you will be contacted by them.



EKAL VIDYALAYA FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

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Carlingford NSW 2118

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E-mail: evfaust@gmail.com

Education is the best gift of humanity!

[www.ekal.org.au]

If you have an idea and want to get involved more, why not drop us a line or call us. We would love to grow our EKAL Family!!

A BIG THANK YOU...

...to all EKAL sponsors

Your sponsorship goes a long way in educating the poor in tribal India. Those children have no hope otherwise of getting out of the cycle of illiteracy and poverty.

Please keep up the good work by continuing your sponsorship and spread the word among your friends and community.

Not a sponsor yet! EKAL urges you to join the family of sponsors & volunteers in Australia and enjoy the great feeling of extending a helping hand to those most in need.

EKAL Update as of December 2009

Current number of EKAL Vidyalaya (Schools) - 28,050

Number of Children - 807,165

EVF Australia apologizes for any error in name spelling or other sponsor details in information packages sent to you from EVF India. Please send corrections to us if you have already not done so and we will amend the details in our data base.

Thanks - EVF Australia Volunteers