



# Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT) Inc

ABN: 53 196 059 175

[www.finact.net.au](http://www.finact.net.au)

## Second Annual General Meeting 30 June 2013

### President's Report: 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

NAMASTE

It is my pleasure, as the President of FINACT for 2012-2013, to present the 2012-13 Annual report to the General Council members of the Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT) at its second Annual General Meeting being held on 30 June 2013.

I have been associated with FINACT since September 2010, when a meeting of Indian community and its representatives was held at the High Commission of India. I was nominated/elected as Co-Chair of the Interim Committee at this meeting. The Interim Committee had nine members, who spent many hours from September 2010 to April 2011, working towards the formation of the Federation. As you all know FINACT was incorporated in April 2011 and last year I was FINACT Vice President. I am proud to have been associated with FINACT's inception, finalising its Constitution, liaising with the Indian community and my roles as FINACT Vice President and FINACT President.

### A year in review

Having been associated with FINACT for almost three years, I can rightly say that FINACT is fulfilling its aim of being the peak umbrella body for the Indian community in Canberra and surrounding regions.

### Highlights of this year:

- Paid financial members from 10 last year to 18 this year
- Two new members – Canberra Jain Mandal and Indian Sports Network
- Multicultural grant for \$1000 + 100 GST & Volunteer grant 2012 for \$4946
- FINACT Constitution Amendments
- FINACT Meet and Greet MLAs function
- Multicultural festival – stall and cultural performance
- HOME project for Canberra Centenary and FINACT logo
- Talk by Mr Rajmohan Gandhi
- T 20 Cricket – from 8 teams last year to 12 teams this year
- FINACT Indian team wins the Tendulkar Akram Trophy 2013
- The first FINACT Cricket souvenir
- Advertisement in Canberra Times for Independence day – August 2012
- Talk on ACT Health Care infrastructure
- Increased on line presence - FINACT website, face book and twitter and volunteer enquiries
- Messages from VIPs for Independence Day, Diwali, Cricket tournament
- Sharing of information in real time - newsletters
- Public Liability insurance
- India Centre progress
- Hindi as a language in ACT Primary schools



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## Membership

In 2011-12, there were 10 paid members and we had a count of 22 – 23 associations who had pledged their support to FINACT. In 2012-13, one of our goals was to increase the number of paid members, so that more associations can participate in the decision making process. I am proud that this year we have 18 paid members, many of who have paid their membership dues for the previous year as well. We have the pleasure of welcoming two new members to FINACT this year – the Canberra Jain Mandal and the Indian Sports Network. We have a membership application from another group, which would be considered at the AGM.

## Meetings and Liaison

This year FINACT has continued to hold Executive Committee meetings almost once a month to transact FINACT business. We have followed the constitution and held FINACT General Council (GC) meeting three times this year. The last GC meeting in March 2013 was attended by a record number of members and delegates.

Throughout the year, FINACT has worked ceaselessly and has developed very productive relationship with the High Commission of India, with the Office of Federal Minister Kate Lundy, with FINACT patron ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ms Joy Burch MLA, with the Canberra Centenary team at the ACT Chief Minister's Department, with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and with the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs, to name just a few.

The High Commissioner of India His Excellency Mr Biren Nanda and Mrs Nanda attended the FINACT Meet and Greet MLAs function in November 2013. They also held the draw for the FINACT T-20 Cricket Tournament 2013 at the High Commission of India on 26 January 2013. On 17 February 2013, His Excellency Mr Nanda inaugurated the first FINACT cricket match of this year at Dickson oval. In March 2013, the High Commission of India and FINACT hosted a talk by Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. We have had great cooperation and support from the High Commission of India staff and are grateful for the same. First Secretary Mr Tarun Kumar represented Mr Nanda at the India Pakistan Cricket match in April 2013. His Excellency was gracious to hold a felicitation function for the Indian team that won the Tendulkar-Akram trophy this year and has proudly displayed the trophy at the High Commission of India. He also released the first ever FINACT publication – the 2013 FINACT Cricket souvenir.

Federal Minister Kate Lundy has always spared the time to meet FINACT members. She hosted and addressed the General Council meeting in March 2013 at Parliament House, perhaps the first time that any association has had its General meeting in this august venue.

FINACT patron Minister Joy Burch has been very actively involved with FINACT's work. She always spares time to enquire about FINACT's activities and has been keen to help when required. She was one of our guests at the FINACT Meet and Greet MLAs function in November 2013. Despite her very busy schedule Minister Burch attended the FINACT Cricket final match in March 2013. She sends her best wishes for our AGM today.

Another first for FINACT this year has been the HOME Project at the Canberra Centenary in March 2013. The Indian community was offered two HOME projects as part of the centenary celebrations. FINACT and its members designed and produced an Indian tri coloured (same colours as the Indian



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flag) peacock with the message 'Unity in Diversity'. Since then the peacock has been adopted as the FINACT logo. We also put up a very good cultural performance, which was well appreciated.

FINACT is grateful for the support of Mr Nic Manikis, Director of the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs. We have used the Theo Notaras Meeting rooms and function room and this venue, where the AGM is being held, through coordination with his office. We also received the ACT Multicultural grant for 2012-13.

I am also grateful to various other people who have attended FINACT functions and cricket matches. They are Senator Ms Gai Brodtman, Senator Gary Humphries, Liberal Senate Candidate Mr Zed Seselja, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Mr Brendon Smythe MLA, Mr Steve Doszpot MLA, and Mr Andrew Wall MLA.

FINACT also developed and nurtured productive working relationship with other ethnic community organisations in the ACT.

## Information sharing

This year I have sent out several hundred emails to FINACT members about grants, functions of members, events happening in the city, visits by academics, talks organised by various government and non-government bodies, consultations and so on.

## FINACT website & Face book Page

The FINACT website was created soon after its incorporation and was launched, at the same time as FINACT, on 31 July 2011. FINACT continues to keep the Indian community informed of issues affecting them with updates through its website. You will be glad to know that during some weeks we have had more than 1500 hits on our Face book page.

## Funding & resources

FINACT, like any other community not-for profit organisation, relies on Government funding and membership fees, which are crucial to build our capacity and to ensure that FINACT goals, missions and values are upheld, and our planned outcomes are met. This year we received the ACT Multicultural Grant Program for \$1100 (Incl GST); and the Volunteer Grant 2012 for \$4946 (GST) . Our Committee has applied for Volunteer grant 2013 and Sports grant whose outcome is waited.

## FINACT Constitution Amendments

At its GC meeting in March 2013, members voted unanimously for some amendments to the FINACT constitution. A major change is to have two delegates from each member association on the FINACT GC.

## FINACT Meet and Greet MLAs function in November 2012

After the ACT election, FINACT with its members, held a Meet and Greet MLAs function. Besides many dignitaries, we had senior Indian community members attend the function which hosted a very elegant cultural performance.



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## Sub Committee- India Centre

The sub-committee tried to garner support for the project and was successful to some extent. Due to the unavailability of promised premises in Griffith, there was a certain level of disappointment.

## Sub Committee- Hindi as a language in ACT primary school

The sub committee's work has been slower than expected due to time constraints. Minister Joy Burch has given reference to the Directorate of Education and this work will continue.

## 2013 ACT Multicultural Festival

FINACT actively participated in the 2013 ACT Multicultural Festival by putting up Cultural events and organising a food stall.

## T 20 Cricket Tournament

12 teams took part in the Tournament with the major sponsor being the Commonwealth Bank.

Apart from the competitive aspect of the tournament, one of the main objectives of this tournament was to bring the community together and build the spirit of Unity and friendship amongst the community. We extend a big thank you to all the participant teams, various Indian Associations and to the wider Indian community in Canberra for all the support and help in making this tournament a mega success.

## Acknowledgements

FINACT wishes to thank all member organisations and their delegates who had contributed their expertise and time to ensure that FINACT truly represents the interests of the Indian community at the highest level of Government.

President: Jayanti Gupta, Date: 30 June 2013