

# Tangasseri community anniversary

One of Victoria's most unique Indian communities celebrated its 20th anniversary at a function held at 90 Reception Centre, Oakleigh. Representing migrants from a tiny town by the Arabian Sea in South India, the Tangasseri-Australian Association of Melbourne comprises an ethnic background that reflects the confluence of Portuguese, Dutch, French and British settlers who colonised the area.

Welcoming the members and dignitaries, president of the association Herwin Allen said, "Twenty years ago, 11 Tangasseri residents living in Melbourne decided to form an association to celebrate their culture and reunite their community, many of whom had migrated to Australia. Today the association has more than 200 members spread out across Melbourne, including long-time residents, new migrants and second-generation Australians. Our inherent qualities are the result of the confluence and influence of diverse cultures in India over hundreds of years. We are characterised by our ability to assimilate, integrate, participate,

tolerate and importantly respect other cultures."

The anniversary celebrations held last weekend reflected the eclectic culture of Tangasseri: combining a Catholic thanksgiving service with a public function and a cultural program consisting of a Bollywood dance performance, country music song, a violin solo and a pageant depicting the history of Tangasseri before and after Indian Independence.

Consul General of India in Melbourne Manika Jain who was the guest of honour congratulated the members for their fundraising efforts to support cancer research and help people affected by disasters in Australia and India. She urged the association to

extend its activities and interact with other Victorian communities as well. Victorian Multicultural Commission Abeslam Nega, also a guest of honour, acknowledged the community's rich Indian and European cultural heritage and the social and cultural activities of the Association over the two decades.

The Founder members and members with 20 years membership were presented with mementos by the guests of honour.

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