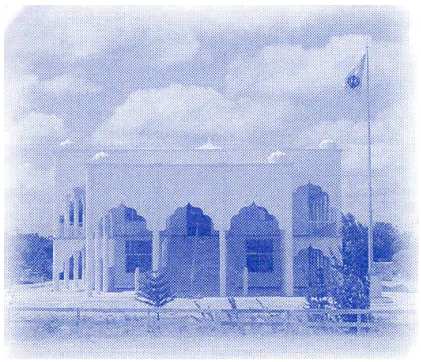
JUNE, 2015 NEWSLETTER



SIKH ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (SAWA)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sadh Sangat Ji- Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

The executive committee (Exco) of SAWA, has been in office for nearly 7 months. With all your overwhelming support some of the accomplishments for the Guru Ghar are briefly explained below.

- Amendments to the Constitution empowering the Sadh Sangat, stands approved and has been effective since the 30th of April, 2015.
- After S Amarjit Singh Pabla resigned from the position of Secretary SAWA, there have been a few changes in the Exco. S Daljit Singh Dhillon has since taken over as Secretary. S Pushpinderpal Singh has taken over as Assistant Secretary and S Minder Singh Dhillon has been co-opted as a member of the Exco.
- The set up of the Library is nearly to the point where it can be effectively used in the future. Many thanks to Pushpinderpal Singh and his Punjabi Sath Team for putting in enormous efforts towards the reorganisation of the library.
- Glazing of the Gurdwara Sahib foyer which was approved at the last AGM regarding wet-weather protection was investigated in detail and was considered not appropriate from a safety point of view for the Guru Ghar users. As such this project will not be pursued any further by the Exco.
- We have added a few kitchen equipment items over the past few months and have also rearranged a few items to make them user friendly and enhance its efficiency. Thanks to PS Nagra for his services in this regard.
- Ongoing general upkeep of Guru Ghar premises is of great importance. Those volunteers who have helped in the maintenance of various facilities such as: maintenance of the lawns, lighting systems etc. SAWA thanks all volunteers involved in this sewa, particularly PS Nagra, Bahadhur Singh Mann, Lakhbir Singh Sidhu.
- Cleanliness of Kitchen, Langar hall and kitchen sewa after every Sunday diwan and other special events, is another significant area requiring enormous efforts. SAWA thanks all involved and particularly Minder Singh Dhillon, AS Hansra, S Gurdev Singh Tur & family, Mrs Hardial Kaur Dhillon, Mrs Paramjit Kaur Gill & Bhai Sahib's Mrs and as well Mr Gurjant Singh & his team members.
- The Durbar Hall requires regular maintenance and organisation of many undefined tasks. SAWA thanks all sewadars involved, particularly Mrs Surinder Kaur Mala & her team members.

Some important works being undertaken are mentioned under the heading "IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN THE GURU GHAR COMPLEX"

DS Cheema, President SAWA

Sikh Calendar Events

June 2015

Gurgadi Divas Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji--11th June

Sangrand--15th June

July 2015

Parkash Guru Har Gobind Singh ji –5th July

Parkash Guru Har Krishan Sahib Ji –23rd July

August 2015

Parkash Sri Gur Granth Sahib Ji – 30th August

September 2015

Parkash Dawis Guru Granth Sahib—1st September

October 2015

Parkarsh Dawis Guru Ramdas ji—9th October

November 2015

Bandhi Chhor Diwas—11th November

Parkarsh Dawis Guru Nanak Dev ji- 15th November

2. IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN THE GURGHAR COMPEX

A Number of improvement works that are being under taken in the complex are listed below.

- **Weather Protection:**
  As an alternative to the glazing of the foyer, such problems in critical areas have been addressed by the installation of manually operated shutters. The wind- facing side of the foyer has been protected against wet weather with the installation of motorised shutters. The areas where shutters have been installed will be monitored for some time. If successful more may be installed in the future.

- **Construction of the Patio on Paved Area Side**
  To enhance the use of the paved area, on Shreeve Road side, under all weather conditions, a patio is going to be installed by mid July 2015 increasing the covered area capacity of the Gurdwara Sahib. All necessary Council approval formalities stand finalised for this project.

- **Interactive signboard on the corner of Nicholson Road and Shreeve road**
  Council planning approval regarding the Interactive LED illuminated sign project is in and its building licence is expected soon. This will be installed at the corner of Nicholson Road and Shreeve Road . With the programmable "wishing –well" messages to passer-bys. This will enhance the profile of the Sikh Community significantly among the wider community.

- **Levelling and grassing of area beyond car park**
  At the rear of car park, grassing of reticulated area is underway and will soon have beautiful lawn providing ample space for various sporting activities for our youth and kids.

3. 2015 VAISAKHI CELEBRATIONS

- Vaisakhi Purb was celebrated in a big way from the 14th to 19st April 2015. Bhog of Sri Akhand Paath Sahib on 19th morning was followed by the Nishan Sahib Chola Sewa, which was spectacular and very inspiring for the younger generations. A kids mini mela was held on the 18th of April, the highlight being the screening of the movie "Chaar Sahibzade", in the evening for the whole sangat.

- The celebrations continued over the next 7days with special kirtan programs. Bhai Sahib Bhai Randheer Singh Jee Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar recited manohar Gurbani Kirtan from the 20th of April to the 26th of April. Thanks to Sardar Sarbjit Sigh Jee Pannu and family who looked after the Jatha during his stay in Perth.

4. SPDC UPDATE

Mr Sarawan Singh Vagel , SPDC Chairman will provide detailed information in the coming AGM. Brief updates on SPDC related matters are below.

The Council has zoned 2/3rd area of Gurdwara Sahib Complex as a place of worship reducing the original ODP contribution from $449,262 to $180,000. This would be payable when we develop it.

However matter of not zoning our entire complex area as a Place of Worship (POWP) was appealed to State Administration Tribunal (SAT), which upheld the Council's decision. Now this matter has been appealed to WA Planning Commission. Its outcome is awaited.

- **Proposed Multi-purpose Building**

The preferred option endorsed by the Sangat at AGM of 25-Oct-2014 is being pursued. In this respect architectural services have been engaged to develop concept plans for Council planning approval. The work is in a quite advanced stage.

5. KITCHEN USE PROTOCOL

1. Kitchen used for private function, incur $ 150 fee.
2. When Kitchen is needed for private functions please get permission from the EXCO Committee. Please let Giani Jaswinder Singh Jee know beforehand about the timings. His contact number is-0449 812 5403`.
3. If you want to borrow any utensils from Guru Ghar please make sure you take permission from Giani Jaswinder Singh Jee and returned ASAP.
4. For Langar Booking please contact Bhai Jaswinder Singh Jee on-0449 812540
5. Please address any kitchen equipment related enquiries to Kitchen Coordinator Mr Paramjit Singh Nagra on 0423 966 939.

6. NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

SAWA Exco Congratulates and thanks all for contributing liberally towards this noble cause. SAWA has donated more than $10000 towards this fund. We pray for the wellbeing of victims of this catastrophic tragedy.

7. DEDICATED SEWADARS IN THE KITCHEN

The following sewadars have been performing selfless langar sewa on a regular basis:
Bhupinder S Brar; Gurjant Singh; Kuldeep Singh; Gurjeet Singh; Narinder Singh; Prince Singh; Lucky Jasbir Singh. Sincere thanks to all of them.

8. UPGRADE OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (AM) TO ORDINARY MEMBERS (OM)

To date 86 AM have been upgraded to OM status. Now these members are eligible to vote at any SAWA meeting. This is remarkable outcome for SAWA. Exco congratulates them and look forward to their full participation in the SAWA matters. Any other financial AM will be upgraded as and when they complete the minimum two years period and submit the prescribed application forms.

9. NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SIKH GAME

- This time we had the largest contingent of sportspersons participating in these games, held over Easter long weekend at Coffs Harbour Queensland.
- SAWA sponsored the various teams fielded by Virsa Club, WA Sikh Sports (Hockey), Perth Kabaddi, Soccer Club and Girls Netball team.
- SAWA approved a budget of $20000 for these games.
- Girls Netball team won bronze medal.
- Due to very unsettled weather conditions, lot of disruption was faced by various participating teams and even affected their performance as well.

- Mr Samra attended the games as an observer on behalf of SAWA.
- Although not all teams were in medal positions, except the girls netball team, the overall feedback was very positive.
- Congratulations to all the clubs and teams.

10. ANNUAL PUNJABI CULTURAL DINNER

Annual Punjabi Cultural Dinner & Social-night function celebrating VIASAKHI in co-operation with, PCSC, Virsa Club, WA Sikh Sports Club and Sikh Youth Australia was well received. Thanks to all volunteers.

Particularly SAWA thanks HARBIR & MEHAR, GURDARSHAN & BJ, MR HANSRA, PUSHPINDER SINGH, AMRITPAL SINGH & FAMILY, BAHADHUR SINGH MANN & MANVEER SINGH FOR THEIR DEDICATED SEWA TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF THIS MAGNIFICANT CULTURAL PROJECT.

SAWA ALSO THANKS ALL PERFORMERS FOR THEIR WONDERFUL PRESENTATIONS PROJECTING OUR PUNJABI CULTURE (VIPAN'S BHANGRA GROUP(SENIOR), GURKAMAL, MIT & MANVEER'S BHANGRA, BOLLYWOOD GROUP, GURPREET'S INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCE, GROUP & SONGS BY SINGERS. SAWA WISH YOU WELL FOR YOUR WONDERFUL PRESENTATIONS AND LOOKFORWARD YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

11. SIKH YOUTH PERTH

Sikh Youth Australia (Perth) group's active participation in the various activities towards the early development of the youth to keep them motivated & involved is well received.

From time to time SAWA has been sponsoring SYA various events/activities organised for the benefit of Sikh youth and Sikh community in general.

As an example, organised activities in the recent past include arranging UK-based Keertani Veer Manpreet Singh known by TUHEE TUHEE, Giani Sukhdaiv Singh of the Gurpuri Foundation for Gurbani katha, Mini Kids' Mela involving (sports and games, quiz, face painting & a bouncy castle) & outdoor religious movie (Chaar Shahibzade) show during VAISAKHI Akhand Paath Sahib, representing SAWA in WA Harmony Day Celebration, organising Dr Jaswant Singh's Gurbani seminar. All these activities were beneficial to all age groups.

SAWA thanks SYA Perth Group for their great sewa and encourage them to keep-up this sewa essential for added awareness about our religious principles & teachings for our younger generations.

Some of the highlights of these activities are as below.

Kids Mini Mela

Turban Tying at Western Australia Harmony Day With Turbaned Mayor, City Of Armadale

Dr Jaswant Singh Gurbani Seminar

Scout Australia(WA Branch) Visit to Gain Knowledge about Sikhism

Upcoming Events

SYA Perth has lined up a number of events for the rest of the year. They include a leadership camp for Sikh youth, Balak Kirtan sessions, social and charitable events and Veer Manpreet Singh's return visit to Perth. Keep tuned for more details in the near future.

13. PUNJABI SCHOOL

Punjabi school is doing excellent job in teaching PUNJABI (our mother- language) to our kids despite constrained school building facilities. As an interim arrangement, basic space needs are being complimented by using the library room and security rooms during school timings strictly.

SAWA thanks all teachers involved for this dedicated and noble sewa (Mrs Manjit Bassi- Head Teacher, Mrs Pritpal Kaur and Mrs Paramjit Kaur). Recently installed ACs however improved the school rooms' conditions to some extent.

Office of Multicultural Interest(OMI) of WA Govt is promoting community languages. This program have been launched by Dr Mike Nahan, Minister for Coitizenship & Multicultural Interest recently which was attended by our School Manager Mrs Gurcharn Kaur, Mr Cheema president of SAWA , committee member Mrs HK Dhillon along with other community members including Surinder Kaur Mala & Mrs Jaskiranjit Cheema and welcomed these government initiatives, which could benefit our Punjabi School, its teachers and enrolled kids.

Official Launch of Community Language Program

14. CONDOLENCES

SAWA expresses heart felt condolences and sympathy with families on departure of their loved ones:

- Mata Ji Parkash Devi
- S Jagjit Singh Paul
- Kaka Gurjaap Singh Dhaliwal, s/o Sadar Vikramjit Singh Dhaliwal
- S Navpreet Singh
- S Amarjeet Singh Dhaliwal
- Naujawan Kamal Preet Singh

15. CONGRATULATIONS

SAWA Congratulates:

- Mrs & Mr Rajpal Bagga on the wedding of their son Bhupinder Singh with Simran from Melbourne.
- Mrs & Mr Badev Singh Bagga on the wedding of their son Sumeet with Kamal from Malaysia.
- Mrs & Mr Ajmer Singh on the wedding of their daughter.
- Mrs & Mr Buttar on the wedding of their son Navdeep.

SAWA wish newlyweds all the best.

- Mrs & Mr Sunny Punia on the engagement of their daughter Serena Punia with Lyle from UK.

16. UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT

Recently very unfortunate incident happened when our young community member Mr Jasjit Singh Mann, father of two was attacked by a stranger while bringing his kids back from school. Mr Jasjit Singh Mann ended up in a hospital with serious injuries. Matter was brought to the attention of Minister for Multicultural Interests Dr Mike Nahan and Shaddow Minister M/S Margaret Quirk to curb such incidents where innocents become victims.

Sikh Community of WA thanks M/S Margaret Quirk for paying visit to victim in the hospital and assuring assistance to the victim.

17. HONOURING VOLUNTEERS

SAWA honoured volunteer sewadars for their dedicated and distinguished Guru Ghar sewa. SAWA appreciate the time and efforts of many sewadars for contributions in the Gurughar.

18. SENIORS TRIP TO HARVEY BAY VIRSA CLUB

The Virsa Club's second Bus Excursion for Seniors to Harvey\Brunswick region and dairy farm was well received.

Owner Tony of the dairy farm provided demo of the milking process and hosted refreshments for all bus tour participants.

SAWA thanks VIRSA club for their great initiative of community sewa and encourage them to keep it up on continued basis.

BUS EXCURSION'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Organised by VIRSA club in May 2015.

19. CANNING VALE GURDWARA SAHIB OPENING HOURS

DAILY (6:00am to 8:30pm)

Morning Nitnem starts at 6:00am and evening program starts with Rehras Sahib at 6;30pm followed by Kirtan Sohila and Sukhasan of Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji.

Sunday programs:

- Kirtan Asa di Vaar: 6:30-8:30am followed by breakfast.
- Japuji Sahib @ 9:30am followed by Gurbani Kirtan and Langar.

Regular events:

- Istri Satsang every Saturday from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. Sukhmani Sahib Paath followed by Kirtan and Bhog. Please contact Mrs Juginder Kaur (9276 3923)
- Evening Kirtan program on every month's Sangrand from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Contact Sarabjit Singh Pannu (0402 414 606) for Paath Sewa and Satinder Singh Samra (0407 472 865) for religious matters: kirtan and tabla sewa.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Langar bookings

For langar bookings contact: Giani Jaswinder Singh Ji (0449 812 540)

SAWA website calendar (www.sikhwa.org.au) will detail all gurdwara langar bookings & events shortly.
The current bookings are also displayed on notice board near the kitchen in Gurdwara Sahib.

Library Sewa:

SAWA co-ordinator is Pushpinder P Singh (0419901470) assisted by other sewadars.

Radio Program:

Every Tuesday: 6pm-7pm
Every Thursday: 7am-8am.
SAWA co-ordinator is SS Samra (0421773546) assisted by Amrit Pal, Gurdarshan Singh, Kulvinder Singh & other sewadars.