WOLLONGONG ILLAWARRA NEPALI COMMUNITY (WINC) INC.

Reg No. : INC2200327
ABN : INC2200327
info@winc.org.au
www.winc.org.au

Joint Report of the President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer
2024–2026 Executive Committee Term
Presented at the Annual General Meeting, 17 October 2026

1. Introduction

On behalf of the Wollongong Illawarra Nepali Community (WINC) Inc. Executive Committee, we are pleased to present this report to members at the Annual General Meeting.

The past two years have been a period of active community engagement, cultural celebrations, new initiatives, stronger partnerships and organisational development. During the term, WINC continued its cultural activities while also expanding its engagement with government representatives, multicultural organisations, Nepali community organisations and educational initiatives. The achievements outlined in this report reflect the collective contribution of Executive Committee members, volunteers, members, families, supporters, sponsors and community partners.

2. Cultural and Community Events

Cultural activities remain an important part of WINC's role in bringing the community together and promoting Nepali culture and identity. Over the past two years, WINC organised several cultural celebrations, including Holi, Asar 15, Dashain, Tihar, Nepali New Year and Lhosar.

These events successfully brought together members of the Nepali community and the wider Illawarra community. They also attracted local and federal representatives, including the Mayor of Wollongong, the NSW Minister for Planning, Members of Parliament, Ambassador of Nepal to Australia, representatives from MCCI, representatives from NRNA Australia and community leaders from other communities.

The participation of government and community leaders provided valuable opportunities for WINC to showcase Nepali culture, strengthen relationships with local representatives and multicultural organisations, and promote greater cultural understanding and community connections across the Illawarra.

3. WINC Pathashaala

One of the major new initiatives during the term was the establishment of WINC Pathashaala, a community language and cultural education program. The program was created to help younger generations maintain their connection with the Nepali language, values, culture and heritage.

Pathashaala initially commenced at the MCCI building and was later successfully relocated to Smith's Hill High School, providing access to more suitable classroom facilities and a better learning environment.

The program received strong interest and affection from participating families. It showed that there is genuine demand within the community for opportunities for children to learn Nepali language and maintain their cultural connection.

However, the program was later paused due to practical sustainability challenges, particularly the availability of sufficient volunteers to operate regular classes and the number of students available to sustain the program.
The experience has provided WINC with an important lesson. Community interest needs to be supported by a sustainable volunteer base, consistent student participation and a suitable operating model.
The Executive Committee recommends that the incoming committee consider whether Pathashaala can be reintroduced in the future through a more sustainable model. This could include stronger parent involvement, dedicated volunteers, partnerships with other Nepali organisations or a structured term-based program.

4. Strategic Partnerships and National Affiliation
During the term, WINC placed greater focus on building relationships with organisations outside the immediate Illawarra community.
FeNCAA Affiliation
A significant achievement was WINC becoming a formally recognised member of the Federation of Nepalese Community Associations in Australia (FeNCAA).
This expanded WINC's national connections and strengthened its links with the wider Australian Nepali community.
The affiliation provides opportunities to share information, collaborate on community matters, learn from other Nepali organisations and participate in broader discussions affecting the Nepali community across Australia.
WINC also maintained engagement with other Nepali community associations and networks.
The Executive Committee believes that stronger collaboration between Nepali community organisations can create opportunities for advocacy, community development, information sharing and joint initiatives.

5. Government and Community Engagement
WINC increased its engagement with government representatives and multicultural forums during the reporting period. WINC representatives participated in a community discussion forum with the Federal Minister for Home Affairs at the University of Wollongong. This provided an opportunity for representatives of the Nepali community to participate in discussions involving migration, multicultural communities and matters affecting Australia's diverse population.
WINC also participated in a community event at MCCI involving the Assistant Minister, providing another opportunity to engage with government and multicultural community representatives. These engagements helped strengthen WINC's position as a community organisation that can represent the interests and experiences of the Nepali community in broader community discussions. The Executive Committee recommends that the incoming committee continue to develop these relationships and encourage more WINC members to participate in government, council and multicultural forums.

6. Partnership with MCCI
The relationship between WINC and the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) has remained an important part of WINC's community engagement. WINC worked with MCCI on community and cultural activities and participated in the wider multicultural network. MCCI facilities also supported WINC initiatives, including the initial delivery of Pathashaala. The partnership provided opportunities for WINC representatives to participate in community forums, meet government representatives and connect with other multicultural organisations. WINC also engaged with MCCI leadership on the longer-term sustainability of volunteer community organisations.
A key issue discussed was the challenge faced by working-age volunteers who balance employment, family responsibilities and financial commitments while also contributing their time to community organisations.

7. Nepal Disaster Support and Solidarity
During the period of flooding and disaster in Nepal, WINC supported community awareness and solidarity initiatives. WINC shared relevant information with community members and supported opportunities for the Australian Nepali community to respond to the situation in Nepal.

WINC also participated in community solidarity initiatives, including the raising of the Nepalese flag in Wollongong. These activities reflected the continuing connection between the Nepali community in the Illawarra and the people and communities of Nepal.

8. Government Volunteer Grant

WINC successfully secured a $2,000 government volunteer grant during the reporting period.
The grant recognised the contribution of volunteers and provided financial support to strengthen WINC's capacity as a volunteer-led organisation.
Securing external funding also provided an opportunity to reduce the reliance on individual volunteers to personally meet some of the costs associated with community activities.
The Executive Committee recommends that future committees continue to identify and apply for suitable government grants, community funding programs and other funding opportunities.

9. Membership and Community Engagement

WINC continued to maintain and develop its membership base and communicate with members about community activities, membership matters and organisational processes.
Email and social media, particularly Facebook, remained important communication channels.
The Executive Committee also reviewed membership processes, including membership renewal and expiry arrangements, with the aim of making the process clearer and easier to administer.
Continued membership growth should remain a priority for the incoming committee, particularly by encouraging participation from younger families, newly arrived community members and people who may not currently be actively involved in WINC.

10. Governance, Compliance and Organisational Development

Good governance and regulatory compliance were important areas of focus during the term.
WINC worked to align its operational procedures with applicable NSW Fair Trading requirements for incorporated associations. As part of this work, the organisation reviewed its governance calendar and adopted an annual July AGM cycle for future years. This provides WINC with a clearer annual reporting and governance cycle and supports better alignment between internal governance processes and statutory obligations.
The Executive Committee also worked on membership administration, communication, EOI processes, AGM preparation and the transition to the next Executive Committee. The 2026 transition included multiple communications to members through email and Facebook regarding the EOI and AGM processes.
The committee also responded to member enquiries regarding membership eligibility, EOI deadlines, voting rights and the transition process. The objective has been to conduct these processes transparently, consistently and in accordance with WINC's governing requirements. The experience of this term has reinforced the importance of accurate records, clear procedures, timely member notices and proper handover arrangements.

11. Communication and Transparency

The Executive Committee recognises that clear communication is important to maintaining members' confidence in WINC. During the term, WINC continued to communicate important organisational information through email and social media. The committee also responded to individual member enquiries and concerns regarding organisational processes. The current transition has highlighted the importance of establishing a clear annual communication calendar covering membership renewal, AGM notices, committee nominations and EOIs, major community activities, financial reporting and important community announcements.

12. Volunteer Contribution

WINC continues to rely heavily on volunteers. The Executive Committee acknowledges the considerable personal time contributed by members who assisted with planning, administration, communication, event preparation, community engagement, Pathashaala and other activities. The experience of Pathashaala demonstrated both the value of volunteers and the difficulty of sustaining regular programs when there are insufficient volunteers. The successful delivery of large events such as Holi also required significant volunteer commitment. WINC's volunteers are one of its greatest strengths. At the same time, volunteer capacity remains one of the organisation's main challenges. Future activities should therefore be planned around realistic volunteer capacity, with responsibilities shared across a wider group of members.

13. Financial Management

The Executive Committee maintained financial oversight of WINC throughout the reporting period.
The Treasurer maintained the organisation's financial records and monitored income and expenditure associated with WINC activities.
WINC also secured external government funding during the term, including the $2,000 volunteer grant.
A separate Treasurer's Financial Report will be presented to the Annual General Meeting. This will provide members with the relevant details of WINC's income, expenditure, bank balance and overall financial position.
The Executive Committee recognises the importance of maintaining accurate financial records, appropriate financial controls and transparency and accountability to members.

14. Key Challenges

Like many volunteer-led community organisations, WINC faced several challenges during the reporting period. These included:

- Limited availability of volunteers due to employment and family responsibilities.
- Reliance on a relatively small number of active volunteers.
- The time and financial commitment required to organise community activities.
- Difficulty sustaining programs requiring regular volunteer commitment, as experienced with Pathashaala.
- The need to increase membership participation.
- Maintaining consistent communication across a growing community.
- Ensuring governance processes remain clear and compliant.
- Developing sustainable sponsorship and fundraising arrangements.
- Balancing cultural activities with broader community development objectives.

These challenges have also provided useful lessons for the future direction of WINC.

15. Key Lessons from the Term

The experience of the past two years has highlighted several important lessons. Community interest needs sustainable participation The strong response to Pathashaala demonstrated community interest in programs beyond major cultural celebrations. However, programs need sufficient volunteers, students and resources to operate consistently.

- Partnerships create opportunities

WINC's engagement with MCCI, government representatives, FeNCAA and other Nepali community organisations has shown the value of collaboration.

- Volunteer capacity must be considered in planning

Volunteers are central to WINC's activities. Future programs should be designed around realistic volunteer capacity and shared responsibilities.

- WINC can continue expanding its community role

WINC has an opportunity to further develop its role in cultural, educational, multicultural, community development and advocacy activities.

- Good governance provides a strong foundation

The work undertaken to improve governance, compliance, membership processes, communication and AGM arrangements provides a stronger foundation for future Executive Committees.

16. Priorities for the Incoming Executive Committee

The outgoing Executive Committee recommends that the 2026–2028 Executive Committee consider the following priorities:

1. Membership growth
   Develop a practical membership campaign and encourage greater participation from families, young people and newly arrived community members.
2. Sponsorship and financial sustainability
   Develop structured sponsorship packages and build stronger relationships with local businesses and professional organisations.
3. Government and community partnerships
   Continue strengthening relationships with Wollongong City Council, MCCI, MPs, councillors, FeNCAA and other Nepali community organisations.
4. Cultural programs
   Continue major Nepali cultural celebrations while exploring smaller, regular community activities throughout the year.
5. Pathashaala and Nepali education
   Explore whether Pathashaala can be reintroduced under a more sustainable operating model.
6. Family and youth engagement
   Develop activities that encourage children, young families and younger members to participate in WINC.
7. Volunteer sustainability
   Build a larger volunteer pool and establish clearer roles for event and project volunteers.
8. Government grants and funding
   Continue identifying and applying for suitable government grants and community funding opportunities.
9. National Nepali community collaboration
   Make effective use of WINC's FeNCAA affiliation and build constructive relationships with Nepali community organisations across Australia.
10. Governance and administration
    Maintain accurate records, timely member communication, proper meeting documentation and compliance with WINC's constitution and applicable requirements.
11. Digital communication
    Improve WINC's social media and digital communication so members can easily access information about events, membership and community opportunities.
12. Strategic planning
    Develop a two-year operational plan with measurable objectives, responsible committee members and realistic timelines.

17. Appreciation

The Executive Committee sincerely thanks all WINC members, participants, families, sponsors, supporters and community partners for their contribution during the term. We particularly acknowledge the volunteers who contributed their personal time to community events and activities while managing employment and family responsibilities.

We thank MCCI, Wollongong City Council, government representatives, FeNCAA and other Nepali and multicultural community organisations for their continued engagement and support. We also acknowledge everyone who contributed in WINC’s event and activities during the term. WINC is stronger when the wider community participates, contributes ideas and shares responsibility.

18. Handover to the Incoming Executive Committee

The Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity to report on the previous term and begin the next chapter of WINC. The outgoing Executive Committee is committed to supporting an orderly and constructive handover to the incoming Executive Committee. We encourage the incoming committee to build on the foundations established during this term while introducing new ideas and approaches that reflect the changing needs of the Nepali community in the Illawarra.

The experience of the past two years provides a strong foundation for the next committee to further develop WINC's cultural, educational, community and advocacy roles. We wish the incoming Executive Committee every success for the 2026–2028 term and encourage all members to support them in continuing the work of WINC.

19. Conclusion

The past two years have been an active period for WINC. From the successful Holi Festival and Asar 15 celebration to the establishment of Pathashaala, WINC has continued to create opportunities for the community to come together and maintain its cultural identity. WINC has also strengthened its relationships with MCCI, Wollongong City Council, government representatives, FeNCAA and other Nepali community organisations. Participation in government and community forums, the Nepal disaster solidarity initiatives and securing a $2,000 government volunteer grant further expanded WINC's community engagement and organisational capacity. The term has also provided valuable lessons about volunteer capacity, sustainable programs, membership participation, funding and good governance. With continued member involvement, stronger partnerships, sustainable funding and shared volunteer responsibility, WINC has a strong opportunity to continue developing as a respected and sustainable community organisation.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee Team, we thank everyone who has contributed to WINC during this term.

Sincere regards,

Narayan Prasad Chapagain
President
WINC Inc.
0435 414 646

Aashish Poudel
Executive Secretary
WINC Inc.
0426 939 100

Hari Poudel
Treasurer
WINC Inc.
0451 641 540

ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES
From 01 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Income Description	Amount	Expenses Description	Amount
Balance Brought Forward As of 30 June 2025	6156.73	**Administrative Expenses**	
Bond Refund from Council (Holi 2025)	379.00	Membership FENCAA	25.00
Membership: New & Renewal		A/c Transaction fee	15
Members Fee - From 1 July 2025-30 June 2026	620.00	WINC Insurance Renew	740.89
Event Collection & Sponsorship		**Web Hosting and Domain**	
WINC AGM July 2025	300.00	Web Hosting July 2025 - June 2026	106.80
WINC Teej Event 2025	3930.00	Domain Renew	14.00
WINC Tihar 2025	1386.00	**Assets**	
WINC Christmas/New year Event 2025	285.00	Shelf for storage	125.00
WINC Holi 2026	1717.00		
		Events Expenses	
		WINC AGM July 2025	577.10
		WINC Teej Event 2025	3331.57
		WINC Tihar 2025	1203.63
		WINC Christmas/New year Event 2025	802.37
		WINC Holi 2026	1876.24
Total(A)	14773.73	Total(B)	8817.60
		(A-B)	5956.13
		BANK A/C BALANCE as of 30 Jun 2026	5956.13

WINC AGM JULY 2025
FUND COLLECTION, EXPENSES AND BALANCE

COLLECTION		EXPENSES	
Hall Bond Refund	300	Hall bond	300
		Hall hire	100
		Dominos Pizza	142.00
		Village Spice Sakriya K	35.10
Total	300	Total	577.10
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL	(277.10)		

WINC TEEJ EVENT 2025
FUND COLLECTION, EXPENSES AND BALANCE

COLLECTION		EXPENSES	
ENTRY FEE	3150	Asees	2730
Everest Travel	300	Decoration Rusa K.	75.03
Lucky Draw Ticket Sales (48*10)	480	Photography	300
		Squre fee (1.90%)	10.64
		Hall Booking Deposit	150.9
		Lucky Draw	
		1st prize Cash	50
		2nd prize Gift card (Asees Gift Card $30)	0
		3rd prize- Cash	15
Total	3930	Total	3331.57
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL			598.43

WINC TIHAR EVENT 2025

FUND COLLECTION, EXPENSES AND BALANCE

COLLECTION		EXPENSES	
Entry Fee	800	Hall hire & bond	385
Bond refund	170	Catering food	680
		Office works H Poudel	7.22
Dakshina Collection		Village spice H Poudel	10.08
Basanta Koirala	130	Woolies S karki	56.76
Dipendra Oli	101	Big W S karki	3.5
Krish Basnet	30	Woolies A Poudel	10.4
Sudhir Subedi	50	Village spice M Pokhrel	25.97
Suzan Karki	55	The reject shop M Pokhrel	15.2
Pooja Thali (Individual Dakshina)	50	Smart Dollor M Pokhrel	9.5
TOTAL	1386	TOTAL	1203.63
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL			182.37

WINC CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR/LHOSAR EVENT 2025

FUND COLLECTION, EXPENSES AND BALANCE

COLLECTION		EXPENSES	
Entry Fee	285	Coles - Aashish P	91.62
		Rumi supermarket	80.27
		South coast Figtree	27.03
		Reject shop	20.45
		Office works	33
		Food catering	550
	285		802.37
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL	(517.37)		

WINC HOLI 2026
FUND COLLECTION, EXPENSES AND BALANCE

COLLECTION		EXPENSES	
Wollongong Council Bond Refund	397	Park Hire (Wollongong Council)	795
MCCI grant for music system	650	Sound System Hire - Akash Gomez	600
donation from square	100	Square Surcharge	1.9
donation cash	20	Fairy meadow spicy Corner H Poudel	14.15
Namaste mart	200	Aldi H. Poudel	17.05
Susu cleaning	100	Village spice H.Poudel	46.14
Golden auto care	250	Sel Roti (250*1.5)	375
		Office works Sunil Katuwal	27
Total	1717	Total	1876.24
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL	(159.24)		

Receivable (to be added to final balance figure)	
Everest travel	300
Nameste clothing	300
Asventure events	100

WINC A/C BALANCE as of 30 Jun 2026	5956.13
WINC Pathshala A/C Balance as of 30 Jun 2026	786.82