

South Asian Small Business & Cultural Awards 2007



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia and Navtarang Media Network with financial and moral support from Commonwealth Bank of Australia announced the inaugural South Asian and Small Business and Cultural Awards in late 2006. The awards would recognise the achievements of individuals and corporations set up by the Australian people with South Asian heritage in the various fields such as performing art, small business and community service. This activity is designed to bring various communities together. The countries of South Asian heritage origin are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. The Fijian community of Indian heritage will be included in the mix. Entries were opened in December 2006 and closed on 16 April 2007.



The entry forms were accompanied by a set of entry requirements and selection criteria. Only complete entries were considered. Those entry forms without accompanying submission documents addressing the set selection criteria and / or those not meeting the entry requirements were not considered. The staff and associates of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Navtarang and associated entities were not eligible to participate.

Selection of the finalists and winners was made by a panel of judges from Bhavan Australia and Navtarang Media group against pre set criteria and entry requirements. Some entries have been selected for a Certificate of appreciation for participating in the inaugural Awards. The program featured a sumptuous vegetarian banquet dinner and of a variety of dance and music performances by teachers and artists from Indian Dance Centre and Bhavan's institute of Indian Art and Culture.



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The winner's trophy was presented to following persons:

Best community work -Filmmaker	Anita Brar	Anita Brar is a published writer, theatre practitioner, radio broadcaster working for own community as well as for mainstream Australia.
Best singer male	Vijay Jogia	Vijay Jogia is a star performer in a large number of live musical shows and concerts in Australia, UK, USA ,new Zealand and India
Best Community work TV programs - Production	Fiji TV Australia	Promotes various aspects of South Asian culture, tradition, music, sports and people of diverse communities.
Best Fashion Shop	Nila Fashion Shops	Nila fashions is one of the larger Indian and South Asian quality fashion shops in Australia for past 7 years.
Best Community Service Organisation	Resourceful Australian Indian Network (RAINS)	Serving the needs of senior Indians from the subcontinent conducting community service information talks, health talks ,spiritual sessions and won many awards.
Best Restaurant	RDS Café	High Quality café providing exceptional quality and service. It has been officially recognised by the The Australian Gourmet Pages as "Sydney's Top 10 Restaurants of June 2006"
Best Grocery Shop	Singh Food & Spices	Apart from selling groceries it sells services supporting cultural an Sporting activities and community celebrations.
Best Community service Individual	Dr Chandrika Subra	Dr Chandrika is a multifaceted personality with enigma and social heart serving the ethnic communities for the last 10 years.
Best Dancer Male	Raghavan Nair	Raghavan Nair is the founder director of Indian Dance Centre, a renowned dancer and choreographer in folk, classical Kuchipudi, Kathakali and Contemporary dance drama styles.
Best Dancer Female	Poornima Sharma	Innovative choreographer and dancer performing for various cultural organisations and communities and large Australian corporations. She has appeared in community TVs and, SBS TV and radio.
Best Classical and Folk dance school	Indian Dance centre	Indian Dance centre is a nonprofit cultural organisation to promoting Indian dances in Australia
Best Staged Group Performance	Indian Dance centre	
Best Singer Female	Rucha Lange	Sydney's talented young singer having extensive training from well known singers in India since the age of 13 and has won several awards in India including National youth festivals.

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The finalists (runner-ups) trophies were presented to following persons:

Best community work -Filmmaker	Raivision Films	Satish Rai proprietor of Raivision films has produced 2 feature films and 5 documentary films since 1998
Best Singer Male	Mohit Kumar	Self taught by trial and error; has performed in SAAZ, Legend nights, and various community festivals.
Best Community Service Organisation	Goan Overseas Association of NSW	Community organisation serving the needs of the people of Goa (India) by running various programs throughout the year for young, seniors and general community members.
Best Community service Individual	Ninha Sinha	Actively involved with Indian Community for over 30 years anchoring discussion programmes on community radio and television.
Best Community service Individual	Ben Bhann Sharma	President of Sydney Sanatan Sports Association of NSW actively involved in community services.
Best dancer Female	Shwetambra Barar	Shwetambra is the director/choreographer of Contemporary Dance Academy And is trained in Classical Ballet, contemporary and Jazz dance styles.
Best Dance School	Contemporary Dance Academy	Unique choreography which has fusion of folk dances of India with western folk dance steps and Indian semi-classical dance steps
Best Staged Group Performance	Contemporary Dance Academy	

Bhavan Australia also presented the Certificate of Appreciation to all those performers, stage managers, MCs, volunteers who have made the Bhavan's various prestigious events happen during past 12 months. More than 200 certificates of appreciation were presented.

Nearly 300 people from diverse South Asian communities graced the event.

The evening was entertained by four ecstatic performances by Shri Raghavan Nair's Indian Dance Centre, Karaoke singing performance by Rucha Langhe, Vidya Locke, Vijay Jogia, and Mohit Kumar. The MC's for the evening were Chandi Perera and Kedarnath Pagaddinnimath