

135th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
2 October 2004
Elizabeth Room, Royal Automobile Club



The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia's second celebration of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi was held at Elizabeth Room, Royal Automobile Club on Saturday 2 October 2004 with a limited number of invited VIPs. Australia India Business Council joined in the celebrations.

A list of significant guests are :

Ms. D. V. Judge M.P.	Australian Labor Party , Rep NSW Premier Bob Carr
Laurie Ferguson MP	Australian Labour Party - Fedral
Ms. A. D'Amore M.P.	Australian Labor Party - State
Ms L. Rhiannon M.L.C.	The Greens
Mayor Nick Berman and Mrs Berman	Hornsby Shire Council
Mayor Jim Angel and partner	Blue Mountains City Council
Mayor George Campbell	Auburn Council
Mayor David Weiley and partner	Burwood Council
Mr M Ganapathi, and Mrs Ganapathi	Consul General of India
Mr Georgy D Toloraya	Consul General of the Russian Federation
Mr Nihat Ersen	Consul General of the Republic of Turkey
Keysar Trad and Mrs Trad	President, Lebanese Moslem Association
Ms Jackie Menzies	Art Gallery of NSW, Head Curator Asian Gallery

Gambhir Watts, President, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia in his welcome address said that 'on this day we are reminded of Mahatma Gandhi's unique and eternally relevant non-violent resistance movement against social injustice anywhere in the world.

'Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan an International Institute of Indian culture was established with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi 66 years ago. The aim of Bhavan world wide is to foster closer ties among individuals, governments and institutions.



Bhavan Australia's mission is to enhance the understanding and appreciation of all cultures that exist within our rich and diverse Australian society. It plays a significant role in the development, education

and promotion of multiculturalism through performing, and visual arts'.

The guest speakers included: Hon. Laurie Ferguson, MP, Shadow Minister for Population, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs; Ms Virginia Judge, MP representing the Premier of NSW Hon Bob Carr; Hon. M Ganapathi, Consul General of India, Sydney. These dignitaries spoke on the life of the great apostle of peace Mahatma Gandhi and the eternal relevance of his non-violent and peaceful ways and means of seeking change anywhere in the world at anytime.

Mr Neville Roach, Chairman, Australia India Business Council in his vote of thanks speech spoke on the importance of the Gandhian ethics and principles in today's business practice.



Ustad and Yamha played the Sitar and the Tabla (drums) and entertained the invitees with with traditional classical music. Pushpa Jagdish sund devotional songs dear to Mahatma Gandhi.

