

# Kannada Rajyothsava and Makkala Dinacharane 2009

by Sri Giri Bhat/Smt Smitha Karki Hegde.

Kannada Rajyothsava is celebrated in Karnataka and by Kannadigas around the world every year on 1<sup>st</sup> of November. This was the day in 1956 when all the Kannada speaking regions of south India were merged to form the great state of Karnataka.

Sydney Kannada Sangha(SKS) organized an evening of celebrations on Saturday 7<sup>TH</sup> November 2009, to mark this day of Kannada Rajyothsava and Makkala Dinacharane(Makkala Dinacharane is celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November every year) . The gala event was held at Dundas community Hall, Telopea. Traditionally, this day is celebrated by SKS, with local artists showcasing their talents on stage and there was no shortage of enthusiastic performers performing various cultural activities like Dance, Drama, songs etc.

The cultural programme commenced at 6.45 PM, SKS secretary Mrs. Smitha Karki Hegde welcomed the audience and introduced the evening's Master of Ceremonies Smt Vidya Srinivas. The melodious invocation song "Ammaemba mathigintha" was sung by Kumari Siri Srinivas.

There were several melodious group songs by Sri D V Srinivas and group and Sri Rama Kudva and group. Sri Rama Kudva had also trained a group of children as young as seven year old to sing two group songs. There were group dances by young children, choreographed by Smt Nirupa Arolkar and mesmerizing dance by teenagers choreographed by Varsha Nagaraj attracted extended applause from the crowd. Other singers who entertained us with their melody were Smt. Bharathi Chandrashekar, Smt Shobha Ingleshwar, Sri Kedar, Sri Srinivas Rao, Chowdappa Narayan and his daughter Savitha Narayan.

SKS President Smt Geetha Gopinath welcomed the audience, new members of SKS, and highlighted the achievements of SKS in 2009. She explained the importance of Rajyothsava and the reason for its celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> of November, to the younger audience of the community. She spoke about the recent floods that affected most parts of North Karnataka and the loss of their homes and loved ones and appealed to the Kannada community to donate generously to the Chief Ministers flood relief fund . Smt Geetha Gopinath also spoke about Kannada schools in Sydney and the importance of teaching Kannada to our children.

The much awaited Drama written and directed by Smt Anu Shivaram was well received by the audience. The drama was based on the lifestyle of Indian Australians living in Australia and the predicament they find themselves in, with children growing up here with mixed culture and limited participation of parents in local community affairs.

The highlight of this Rajyothsava function was community service by community doctors. A free blood sugar and blood pressure test was organized at the venue and many Kannadigas took the opportunity to get themselves checked. This was organized by Dr Siddalingeshwar Orekondy a SKS executive committee member and Special Projects Officer and supported by Dr Prabha Chandra.

The other novel idea was the - "Open house segment" hosted by Smt Smitha Karki Hegde. SKS provided an opportunity and a platform to singers to register their interest at the gates before the commencement of the evening programme and perform on the stage. There was an overwhelming response and was enjoyed both by the singers and the audience.

Vote of thanks was delivered by SKS Vice President Sri Mahabaleshwar Giri Bhat who thanked all the participants, SKS members for their support, SKS committee members and all others who helped SKS to make Kannada Rajyothsava and Makkala Dinacharane 2009 a memorable & entertaining evening.

Delicious vegetarian dinner was served.

The photos of the program can be viewed on [www.kannada.org.au](http://www.kannada.org.au)