

From the President

Welcome to the New Year and our first Newsletter of 2014.

It has been a busy and productive period for our Association and the Management Committee.

We held a high profile networking event in collaboration with Swinburne University in September at which Will Irving, Group Managing Director, Telstra Business presented a lecture on innovative opportunities created by the National Broadband Network. The successful networking event held in December was our first involving a site visit to a company, Eco Pacific.

We held an informal networking event for our members in November. That proved to be a good initiative and we plan to hold these regularly. The next opportunity to meet is on Wednesday, 19 February. We are also planning for an event in April.

Thank you for the positive feedback we received on our Diwali event in November. We look forward to welcoming you and family at our Holi event on Saturday, 15 March. It promises to be a fun event with good food, entertainment and networking opportunities.

In addition to our social and networking events, our strengthening relationships with universities, companies and other organisations are resulting in our members being invited to their events through IITAV. We have commenced constructive discussions on mutually beneficial cooperation with Engineers Australia (EA) and other organisations. Indeed, our December Management Committee meeting was held at EA's office and attended by their senior representatives, John McIntosh, Victoria Division President and Glenda Graham, Executive Director, Victoria.

We have been working with IITs in India to help them grow their collaborations with organisations in Victoria. We recently facilitated visits and discussions between universities in Victoria and IITs. An example is the discussions facilitated between senior IIT Gandhinagar staff and Deakin, Swinburne and RMIT Universities.

I am delighted that Mrs Rachana Kaudinya kindly accepted the Management Committee's invitation and joined as a member of the Committee during its current term following Pandu Maruti's departure to Singapore in October.

Our financial membership year runs from January to December. We request members to renew your membership for 2014 so that you can maximise the benefits over the full year.

Thank you to our members for your strong interest and support. The success and profile of our Association rely on your ideas and active participation. We are continuing our effort to increase our membership. We closed 2013 with an encouraging growth in membership which is good news for our young organisation. On behalf of the Committee, I request all members to encourage IIT alumni in Victoria to join in the journey with us. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any Committee member.

I take this opportunity to thank my Management Committee colleagues for their strong commitment and constructive effort. With monthly Committee meetings, attendance at various events and the work involved in developing and implementing a growing number of events, your efforts are indeed remarkable and much appreciated.

Happy reading and best wishes,

Raj Rajakumar
raj.rajkumar43@gmail.com

IITAV Celebrates Diwali 2013

The much loved Festival of Lights was celebrated in style on 9 November 2013 at the comfortable and centrally located Café ModOz. IITAV members and their family were treated to some fabulous festivities and food.

Members were welcomed by the young ladies in their beautiful finery, with the traditional lamps in the finely decorated thalis glimmering on the table nearby.



Traditional Indian music in the background added to the atmosphere.

Rashmi Kapoor and Sangeeta Singh were comperes par excellence. They started the festivities with some poems about Diwali. Radhey Shyam Gupta, Raman Singh and Amarnath Anumarlapudi enchanted the audience with their melodious songs. Nalin Sharda demonstrated his excellent acting skills. With the help of a humble aloo (potato), he delightfully depicted the nine rasas (moods) that we experience. Sunny Chandra entertained with his favourite jokes.

Not to be outdone, the youngsters were represented by Nishka Kesarwani who showed a glimpse of her excellent dance skills.

The Dandiya dance choreographed by Tara Rajkumar was performed enthusiastically by several members and their spouses. This encouraged a large number of people to the dance floor and learn and perform the Dandiya Ras themselves.

Earlier, Raj Rajakumar and Arun Kumar, present and past Presidents, spoke briefly. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ravi Singh, Vice President.



The dining and networking continued late into the night. It was another well-organised and attended event and the guests enjoyed the festive mood.

Many favourable comments were received. As one member put it, "An awesome event that provided a great celebratory atmosphere for Diwali to members and their families. Many thanks to the Committee."

**IITAV Networking event – December 2013
Site visit to Eco Pacific**

On 14 December, 2014, IITAV organised a site visit to Eco Pacific P/L, in South Dandenong, Victoria. Members had

the opportunity to get a direct glimpse of what a typical SME looks like and what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur and manufacturer in Victoria.

The Managing Director of Eco Pacific P/L, Dr Jai Kaudinya and Rachana Kaudinya, both IITAV members, hosted the event. Jai and his colleagues described the history of the business and their products. Jai has a Ph D in Heat Transfer and before coming to Australia he worked in Russia, Japan and Germany on a number of heat transfer related projects including one related to space travel. That experience gave him the lead into the innovation which helped him start this venture.



Eco Pacific uses innovative technologies in their ducted heaters, evaporative air coolers and fresh air ventilators that they manufacture for the residential market. The members saw, first hand, the assembly line for the evaporative coolers which sit in the rooftops of some of the houses in Melbourne. They were also shown a government regulatory heater trial in progress to test a new generation heater.



At the end of the factory tour, Jai and Rachana treated the visitors to delicious refreshments and snacks.

We were delighted to have Greg Woodruff, Engineers Australia representative, join us for the visit. IITAV President Dr. Raj Rajakumar welcomed the members and thanked Jai, Rachana and their Eco Pacific colleagues and Nikhil Kumar, IITAV's Coordinator-Networking events.

IITAV wishes Eco Pacific a bright and successful future.

Networking event - November 2013

Our informal networking event held on 14 November at The Sherlock Holmes Inn, Melbourne, provided members a good opportunity to meet at a venue and catch up with fellow alumni. It is planned to hold this type of informal event regularly.



Professor Achal Mehra, Dean, Strategic Planning & Special Initiatives, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn), who was visiting Melbourne for discussions on collaborations with various universities, joined us. He shared news about IIT-Gn, one of the newer IITs. Professor Mehra is a 1979 IIT-Kanpur B.Tech. graduate in Mechanical Engineering. He is also publisher of Little India magazine in the US (littleindia.com).

IITAV Feature event - September 2013: Innovation Enabled by the National Broadband Network (NBN)

On 25 September, IITAV hosted an informative presentation and discussion on the exciting opportunities provided by the advent of the National Broadband Network (NBN) in Australia. The highlight of the event, which was held in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology, featured an address by Mr. Will Irving, Group Managing Director, Telstra Business.

In an engrossing style, supported with beautiful slides, Will covered two aspects of information and communication technology:

- (i) Transformational Technologies including. Broadband, Devices & interfaces, M2M (the internet of things), Cloud and Big Data and
- (ii) Innovation opportunities to increase connectivity encompassing home, work, business, hospitals, patients and education.



Will highlighted how information technology has been transforming our lives at an ever increasing speed. Apparently, the internet data transfer speed has grown from 0.25 mbps to 100 mbps in recent years and it will hit 200 mbps in the not too distant future.

Will outlined the vast opportunities for innovations that Broadband and internet are opening up. Innovations will make your home smarter so that everything is at your finger tips, wherever you are in your home. Innovations will enable you to work and interact with colleagues from just about anywhere and anytime. Innovations will interconnect all aspects of your business from within and without. Innovations will utilise data for disaster management. Innovations will connect your local General Practitioner and your pharmacy with the main hospitals in the state. You will be able to monitor and look after your own medical needs with guidance from your computer using tele-diagnostics and a central database. Innovations will help to develop enhanced learning aids and virtual laboratories.

In short, be prepared for a smart world in which everything will connect and communicate. Of course there will be challenges along the way. Standardisation and efficiency will be required. There will be issues of trustworthiness of the data, legalities about ownership of the data and about the systemic risks and how to mitigate them.



The event was very well attended by IIT alumni, Swinburne University and company staff. Mr. Nikhil Kumar, IITAV's Co-ordinator-Networking events,

introduced Mr. Will Irving. Dr Raj Rajakumar, IITAV President, thanked Will for sharing his exciting insights and presented him IITAV's Certificate of Appreciation.

Dilip Desai
ddesai@bigpond.net.au

Next Networking event - Wednesday, 19 February

IITAV is pleased to invite you to our next informal networking event where we meet and catch up with fellow alumni. The first event for 2014 follows the

successful trial held in November last year. This is on **Wednesday, 19 February at 6:00 PM at The Red Hummingbird, 1st Floor, 246 Russell St, Melbourne** (near the corner of Russell and Lonsdale Streets).

We plan to be at the venue till about 7.30 pm but can stay as long as we need to chat informally. The Red Hummingbird also offers food for those who may be interested. Please call Nikhil on 0417 103 795 or Raj Rajakumar on 0432 474 385 when you get to the venue to locate us. RSVP to mail@iitav.org.au so that we know to look out for you there.

We look forward to meeting you at The Red Hummingbird.

Future event: Holi Hungama lunch on Saturday, 15 March 2013 at Spirit of India, Preston

IITAV's Holy Hungama event will be held on **Saturday, 15 March at Spirit of India Reception Centre, 1 Oakover Road, Preston, Vic 3072 starting at 11.30am**. It will be a lunch with entertainment and opportunity to network.



- The charges for this event are:
- Members and partners – \$25 per person
 - Non-members – \$35 per person
 - Children 4 to 15 years – \$15 per person
 - No charge for children below 4.years

Please note it is BYO (beer, wine and spirits). To book, type <http://www.trybooking.com/EI2D> in your browser

If you are not a financial member of IITaV, now is a great time to act. If you join now, you can take advantage of the member rate for the Holi lunch and other events during 2014. The Annual Membership subscription of \$50 will be valid till the end of December 2014.

We request you and your family members to contribute to the Holi entertainment through poetry, singing dance or other items. We are also keen to have children and youngsters contribute actively. Please contact Ravi Singh or Rahul Tyagi if you are interested in providing an entertainment item.

We look forward to your registration and support to make the event a success. Contact:
 Ravi Singh, Mob:0435657413, rsingh_se@hotmail.com or
 Rahul Tyagi, Mob: 0433 985 402, rahulyagiji@gmail.com

Congratulations

IITAV congratulates two of our Foundation members for the high recognition they have received:

Radhey Shyam Gupta for being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the arts through classical Indian music. The award was announced on Australia Day 2014.

Ravi Bhatia for being awarded the Honorary degree of Doctor of Technology by Swinburne University of Technology "in recognition of achievement of National and International Eminence in Industry, Management and Leadership and substantial contributions to Swinburne University of Technology".

Deakin University's growing partnerships with IITs

Through the diligent work of one its leading researchers, Professor Peter Hodgson, Deakin University has built a powerful working relationship with the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Professor Hodgson, one of his country's first Australian Laureate Fellows, has made more than 50 trips to India in the past decade.

"During that time I have been involved in developing partnerships with IIT's in Bombay, Madras, Delhi, Indore, Roorkee and Kharagpur and with BHU in Varanasi," he said.

"In addition my colleagues are also working with IITs in Kanpur and Hyderabad." Professor Hodgson said some a growing number of PhD students have come to Deakin from the IITs. "We run an intern program where MTech students undertake their projects with us," he said.



"We also have senior researchers from IIT's who have joined the staff at Deakin, including Professor Svetha Venkatesh and Dr Subrat Das.

"The Director of IIT Madras, Bhaskar Ramamurthi, visited Deakin University in September to discuss further collaboration between the two institutions.

"In addition, a workshop is planned in early 2014 with IIT Indore on surface engineering so the interactions continue apace."

In recognition of his work in developing those links the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) felicitated Professor Hodgson for his outstanding contribution to the Indian Academia and Industry. The CII is a 117-year-old not-for-profit, industry led and managed premier business association with a direct membership of over 7100 Indian companies from the private as well as public sectors.

"Our partnerships with the IITs have been crucial to Deakin building its research partnerships in India," Professor Hodgson said.

"It was a great honour for me to receive this award, but I think it was an even more important recognition for the great friendship that exists between our University and India, and especially the IITs."

Warwick Hadfield

Deakin Research Communications, Deakin University

Editor's note: IITAV is delighted that a constructive meeting, initiated and facilitated by IITAV, on collaboration opportunities was held between senior staff of Deakin University and visiting staff from IIT- Gandhinagar at Deakin's Geelong Campus on 15th November 2013. Dr Raj Rajakumar attended the meeting on behalf of IITAV.

Alma Mater news

- **Professor C. N. R Rao**, a world renowned Chemist (ex-IIT Kanpur Professor) has been conferred with "Bharat Ratna", the highest Indian civilian award.
- **Professor A. J. Paulraj** (IIT Delhi Alumni) has been awarded the prestigious 2014 Marconi Prize, for his idea to use multiple-antennas at both transmitter and receiver. This is now commonly used in 4G communication systems.
<http://www.marconisociety.org/press.html>
- **New fictional novels by IIT alumni** have been published: "The Steradian Trail" by M.N. Krish (IIT-Madras), "The Female Struggle" by Arun Trivedi (IIT-Kharagpur) and "Life, Odds and Ends" by Anvita Bajpai (IIT-Madras).

Australia India Institute Oration by Nandan Nilekani

The Australia India Institute Oration on 15 October 2013 at the University of Melbourne by Nandan Nilekani, distinguished IITian (IIT-Bombay) and co-founder of Infosys, was a successful, well-attended event. Nilekani is Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India. His address was on *India's Transformation: The Role of Information Technology*.



Photo credit: Australia India Institute

It was great to have had over twenty of our members attend. Many had the opportunity to exchange views with Nilekani, Dr. Biren Nanda, the High Commissioner for India in Australia and other dignitaries before and after the Oration.

Management Committee -2013-14: Update

Following the departure of Pandu Maruti to Singapore we are delighted that Dr Rachana Kaudinya commenced as a member of the Management Committee in October 2013. Rachana completed her M.Sc. in Physics from Meerut University and M.Tech in Energy Studies from IIT Delhi in 1984. In the role of Deputy Director for the Indian



Government she was responsible for sanctioning, monitoring and evaluating projects executed by the NGOs related to the innovative technologies disseminating in rural areas and was instrumental in organising a major workshop

on Public Housing for the Prime Minister's Office. She arrived in Melbourne in 1995 after her experience in India inspired her to undertake a PhD in Australia on Public Programs and Policies with a focus to analysing their impact on eco development as an approach to sustainability. She has also been involved in Policy

development and Project Management for the Australian Government after having held the position of Senior Policy Officer in the Housing and Environmental Branch of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS), and the Department of Family and Community Services (DFaCS).

Rachana is now heavily involved in her family business Eco Pacific, an Australian company, dedicated to designing and manufacturing of energy efficient and environmental friendly heating, cooling & fresh air products.

The current Management Committee members are:

Raj Rajakumar, President, Mob: 0432 474 385
 Ravi Singh, Vice President, 0435 657 413
 Surinder Lamba – Treasurer, 0409 252 077
 Rahul Tyagi – Secretary, 0433 985 402
 Dilip Desai – Member, 0400 428 714
 Rajiv Lal- Member, 0409 528 473
 Rachana Kaudinya – Member, 0431 388 319
 Neeraj Kesarwani – Member, 0438 933 457
 Nikhil- Kumar- Member, Co-ordinator – Networking events, 0417 103 795

Brief profiles of our Committee members have been included in previous editions of the Newsletter.

Congratulations and best wishes to Neeraj and Rachna Kesarwani on the birth of their baby son Reyansh.

Contact

Please help us to develop the newsletter by sending your feedback and contributions including news, views, achievements, short articles and memories for the next edition to mail@iitav.org.au

Previous editions of the newsletter are available at the IITAV website www.iitav.org.au/newsletters.

Members are also requested to visit the IITAV website and complete their profiles www.iitav.org.au/members.

Thank you for your interest and support,

Dilip Desai, Sridhar Karuppasami, Raj Rajakumar

Happy Diwali Memories!



Photo credits: Neeraj Kesarwani and Divakar Prasad