

Goan Overseas Association of Victoria Inc. celebrates the Feast of Sao Joao with a cultural performance and Dinner Dance

On 23rd June 2007 the G.O.A Victoria celebrated the feast of Sao Joao in Sunshine, Ardeer. The function was attended by many members and family alike. The hall was decorated with palm tree leaves which provided ambience and portrayed the sentiment of Goa. Each table was adorned with a centerpiece arrangement of a basket containing exotic fruits like pineapple and jackfruit.

Scrumptious buffet dinner was served by D & S Silver Platter and for the enjoyment of all, a slideshow presentation of scenic views of Goa was projected on the stage with traditional Konkani background music to set the mood.

The President, Andrew Mendes welcomed members and guests and gave a brief history of the Feast of Sao Joao.

Traditionally this is a time where newly wed sons-in-law celebrate at their mothers-in-law's house. On this occasion the mother presents the daughter a basket full of fruits to be taken their new home.

He also thanked his committee and both the remarkable ladies, the General Secretary Venessa Afonso and Social Secretary Aggie Da Costa for all the time and effort they put into showcasing this event.

As this was the last event for the financial year, Andrew requested his committee on the floor to acknowledge their dedication and excellent work during the year and also to achieve the one task that was still outstanding, which was to take a photograph of the entire managing committee!

The highlight of the evening was the cultural segment which started with a narration of the customary ways how the feast of Sao Joao (St John, the Baptist) is celebrated all over Goa. In true Goan style, the accomplished choir, accompanied by a talented violinist, sang the Sao Joao song in Konkani. This was preceded by a procession of youth with crowns of flowers and garlands who jumped into 'the well' with exuberance shouting "Viva Sao Joao" and hauled a bottle of Goa Feni, Jackfruit, Coconut and sweets. A shot of Feni was offered to all adults who desired a taste of the local alcohol and lolly bags were distributed among the children.



The MC Josemarie Alphonso kept the crowd engaged, entertained, and informed throughout the evening. Various prizes were presented – one to the person sitting on the chair that had a G.O.A logo sticker, a door prize, 4 raffle prizes, and two lucky couples won prizes for the novelty 'well' dance

Everyone at the dinner dance thoroughly enjoyed themselves!