



# FIJI INDIAN ASSOCIATION

*Bringing Fiji Indian communities together*

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2009

*Namaste, Assalam Alaikum,  
Satsriakal, Bula, Kia Ora,  
Namaskaram, Masih ke Jai,  
Greetings*

### WELCOME

The Association has successfully held a Ye Shaam Mastaani night and a Kirtan night. We would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way to make both these events successful. Feedback was very positive from those that attended.

Our recent annual dinner night on 28th November at the Horticultural Hall was a resounding success. We look forward to our next dinner night. Our heartfelt thanks to you all and our generous sponsors (listed later on) for the night.

The Association sends you warm greetings for a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year and looks forward to your continued support in the coming year.

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### PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

*Salim Ashwin Singh*

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Fiji Indian Association, Wellington to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Christmas is a very significant festival for all Christians and we take this opportunity to wish you and all our Christian brothers and sisters the best.

The Fiji Indian Association is a secular organisation and while we respect all religions, the Association does not have a religious agenda. Our main aim has been to act as the voice of Fiji Indians in Wellington and to organise functions and events for our community.

The year 2009 has been a tough and arduous one for people throughout the world and New Zealand is no exception, but our people have borne the trials and tribulations of this recession year with fortitude and strength, the same qualities that saw our forebears through the horrendous years of Girit.

The Association has had a very successful year, with two well-received dinner nights, a Kirtan evening, Ye Shaam Mastaani evening and we also commemorated the 130th anniversary of the arrival of our forebears in Fiji, with a Girit Diwas function in May.

The first Fiji Indian member of the New Zealand Parliament, Dr Rajendra Prasad was the keynote speaker, and this was a matter of immense pride for our people and it is a fitting tribute to the legacy of the Giritiyas that New Zealand has a Fiji Indian MP and that the Governor-General, Sir Anand Satyanand is of Fiji Indian descent.

Fiji Indians, as a community have done very well in this country and are highly respected for their diligence, integrity and commitment to family values, culture and traditions.

I would like you all to continue with these traditions, without losing sight of the fact that we should also be proud New Zealanders and show loyalty and commitment to our adoptive country, without compromising our cultural and linguistic values.

Once again, a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year to you all.

God Bless.

## ANNUAL DINNER NIGHT

Approximately 300 people attended the dinner night organised by the Association, held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 at the Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall. This function was enjoyed by all those attending and, thanks to your ticket purchases and various sponsorships, a reasonable profit was made by your Association.

Our Chief Guest for the evening was Mr John Terris, former mayor of Lower Hutt and a board member of Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, who have kindly provided us with a grant of \$2,000 towards the installation of a heat pump in our Hall at Halford Place, Petone.

The cultural items presented on the night were well received, but the highlight of the night will have to be the melodious rendition of popular Hindi songs by Auckland, Kiranjit Singh, who was our guest performer. Originally from India, Mr Singh has befriended many Fiji Indians, including our committee member, Mr Jai Chand. It was at the insistence of Mr Chand that Mr Singh agreed to perform at this function. He had everyone (old and young) dancing to his lilting voice with many asking for encore. Alas, time was not on our side!

In between the entertainment, a sumptuous buffet dinner was served. This was complimented by those present and who heartily partook in the meal. It was pleasing to note that everyone ate to their heart's content and very little wastage was reported. This emphasises the quality of food that the Association has maintained in all its functions. You should be rest assured that such quality will always be maintained at our functions.

The Association would like to record its appreciation to the sponsors and everyone who purchased the tickets to make this night not only successful, but a memorable one. Your hard working committee is planning other functions in the coming months and we look forward to your continued support.

## KIRTAN NIGHT

In October, the Association organised a Kirtan Samelan at the FIA hall. This night was well supported by 6 Mandalis who willingly performed and displayed the culture in style. Around 100 people attended this annual event. Proceeds from this Kirtan night goes to the Association and used widely in assisting our people.



Participants from the Society for Hindu Religion and Culture

The association would like to thank our principal sponsor Capital Foods. The Director of Capital Foods, Mr Jainendra Kumar has committed himself behind the success and pledged his support to become an annual event and the Association is very thankful to Mr Kumar and his families.

The dinner was cooked by Mr Abhai Chand of Stagecoach Kilbirnie and was described as "Spiced & Delicious". A big thank you and well done Mr Chand.

The Association would like to thank the following participating Mandalis:

- Society for Hindu Religion & Culture
- Capital City Ramayan Mandli
- Om Kaar Ramayan Mandli
- Shree Satsang Ramayan Mandli Hutt Valley
- Airport Ramayan Mandli
- Hilltop Musical group

The Kirtan Samelan was a huge success with the contribution of the committee members, and members of the public as well.

The Association is proud to say that this is the only one of its kind organised in Wellington and well received by the public.

The Kirtan night was captured on video and is available for purchase at \$10.00. Please contact Jiten Pratap for any further information on future Kirtan Samelan and the video purchase.

Our appreciation to all involved.



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Mob: 021 488 246

Email: manasi\_rataul@comp.co.nz

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Lower Hutt

PO Box 7966 Wellington South

## END OF YEAR FUNCTION AT HINDI SCHOOL

The Lower Hutt Branch of Wellington Hindi School had their end of year function on 13th December. Children brought a plate to share with each other. Parents came along and Santa was also there to give presents.

The children sang several Christmas songs, while waiting patiently for Santa.

Certificates and reports were also handed out on the day.

The Hindi School re-opens in the new year on 31st January 2010 and any parents wishing to send their children can enrol using the enrolment form which is available online:

<http://www.hindischool.wellington.net.nz/>



Waiting patiently for Santa to arrive



Prashanti Narayan receives her present

## FIJI NEWS

### FIJI SUSPENDED FROM COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) has fully suspended Fiji from the Commonwealth and ruled that Fiji athletes will therefore not be allowed to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010.

This follows the Commonwealth leaders' meeting in Trinidad last month which confirmed a decision to suspend Fiji over the failure of the military-led government of Commodore Frank Bainimarama to meet timelines for the restoration of democracy.

Fiji will appeal its exclusion from the 2010 Commonwealth Games, says the head of the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC), Vidya Lakhan. He said his organization would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland.

A website 'Let Fiji Play' has been developed where people can register and lend their support [www.letfijisplay.com](http://www.letfijisplay.com)

### FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Certain schools around the country will be receiving free text books from next year.

Education Minister Filipe Bole confirms this and says this initiative is part of the ministry's aim to ensure that all students receive an education.

*"To some free education policy means free school fees or free transportation... we are beginning to do is to extend this policy...where we already have free school fees-which have been around for a number of years-but that applies to all cases of both Primary and Secondary...free bus fares which was implemented in October and we have just begun another initiative...with some schools to receive free text books from next year..."*

Bole adds that this initiative also falls under the free education policy where students have benefited from free transportation and school fees.



286 Thorndon Quay  
Thorndon, Wellington  
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# NOTICES

## Death Notices

Our deepest condolence to the Sami family on their recent loss. Mr Muthu Sami was the elder brother of Latchman Sami of Eastern Food Distributors and Curry Time Ltd.

We also sadly record the death in Nausori of Mr Abhi Ram, of Vuci Rd. His two sons in Wellington, Sanjesh and Bobby Lallu are prominent in soccer circles and are involved in the management of the Sanatan and Nadroga soccer teams. The late Mr Abhi Ram was cremated in Nausori on Wednesday, December 10.

Fiji Indian Association offers its sympathies to the bereaved families.

## HINDU CONFERENCE

### Wellington Regional Hindu Conference to focus on Community Development

The Hindu Council of New Zealand Inc. (HCNZ) is organising the Wellington Regional Hindu Conference on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010, in Lower Hutt, Wellington.

The theme of the conference is **“Community Development - A Hindu Perspective”**.

For more information, please contact:  
Dr Rajiv Chaturvedi, Coordinator, Wellington Regional Hindu Conference, Joint General Secretary, Hindu Council of New Zealand Inc.  
Phone: 021 079 5036

Email: [hinduconference@gmail.com](mailto:hinduconference@gmail.com)



Enjoying a meal at the Ye Shaam Mastaani night

## Birthdays

Our hearty congratulations and warm wishes to Mr Lal Singh who turned 80 recently and to his wife, Mrs Nirmala Singh who turned 72. Mr Singh is the Chairman of the Fiji Indian Association Board of Trustees.

Their birthday was celebrated by friends and family at the Moera Community Hall.

Ryan Sahil Sharan, son of Seema & Rohit Sharan celebrated his 1st birthday at the Fiji Indian Association Hall on 6th December. Family and friends turned up to wish Ryan very best wishes and the children were entertained by Harry the clown.

## Weddings

We are pleased to report that Maimuna Ali-Singh, of Porirua was married in Auckland on October 3, 2009 to Maulana Abubakar Patel, of Surat India at a reception attended by more than 500 people. The civil marriage was in Porirua and was officiated by Independent Marriage Celebrant, Mr Prabodh Mishra. Maimuna is a daughter of Nazrin and Salim Singh and FIA wishes the newly-weds the best in their married life.

## JOKES

Teacher: What is the chemical formula for water?

Student: H I J K L M N O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it's H to O

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. Take care and all the best! Enjoy yourselves and please don't drink and drive! Catch a cab.*

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## WELLINGTON SANGAM

The Wellington Sangam organisation has launched a new initiative to boost its membership and raise awareness of the activities and role of the organisation. Sangam Wellington is open for membership to all South Indians, irrespective of religion and has been active in Wellington for the last 13 years.

At a function on December 12, Sangam held a President's night to honour those who have helped it in a leadership or support role. Trophies were presented to Sangam President, Krishna Gounder and its Legal Adviser, prominent lawyer, Karun Lakshman. These awards were presented by the Chief Guest, Fiji Indian Association President, Salim Singh. Shahid Khan, of Moshim's Discount House and Salim Singh were presented with Certificates of Recognition for their support of Sangam activities. These certificates were presented by Mr Lakshman. Salendra Narayan and Yogi Chetty were honoured for their activity in Sangam soccer.

Sangam President, Krishna Gounder spoke of the need for greater awareness and commitment to Sangam values, as espoused by the Founder of Fiji Sangam, Sadhu Kuppu Swamy, while Mr Lakshman stressed the need for continued education. In his keynote address, Salim Singh said Sangam Fiji has played a key role in the social, economic, political and educational achievements of Fiji and noted that two very powerful advocates of Fiji Indian interests, the late S M Koya and Mr Justice Jai Ram Reddy had both come from the folds of Sangam. He asked the present generation to emulate the example set by Sadhu Kuppu Swamy.

## WELLINGTON INTERDISTRICT SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Suva has become the second winner of the annual IDC tournament in the capital. Suva beat Nadroga in an exciting final by 2 goals to one, after defeating Tailevu in the semi-finals, 2-1.

The tournament was played over the Labour weekend and featured 10 Wellington teams and sides from Palmerston North and Christchurch. Suva won the Mishra Cup, donated by Mr Prabodh Mishra. Rarkiraki won the inaugural tournament last year. The tournament was organised by the Fiji Football Association of Wellington. President, Salim Singh said the tournament was characterised by fair play and a spirit of sportsmanship, which paid tribute to the dedication of the players and officials. Nadroga won the runner-up Cup, donated by the family of the late Mr Afzal Ali, while Tailevu won the best-dressed and best-disciplined team awards. Salim Singh says young players have really matured as a result of games organised by the FFAW and noted that a young Ba side almost defeated Suva in the quarter final. He says the whole idea behind organising tournaments like the IDC and battle of Giants is to allow our young people an opportunity to get together in tournaments similar to the ones held in Fiji.

The next major tournament in Wellington will be the Battle of the Giants in March. Suva won the inaugural BOG Tournament earlier this year. There are also plans for an under 16 tournament. For further details please contact Association Secretary: Venkat Reddy :[ykr111@hotmail.com](mailto:ykr111@hotmail.com).



**Western Hutt Rotary Club President, Prabodh Mishra, presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Fiji Indian Association President, Salim Singh, for their participation in raising funds for the Burns Unit, Hutt Hospital**

## NADI RETAINS IDC CROWN

Defending champion Nadi retained the IDC crown at Bill McKinley Park, Auckland played over the Labour weekend.

They have won the previous two tournaments. In the final of the Fiji-NZ Football Inc organized tournament, Nadi hammered Navua 3-0. The tournament was held over three days.

Earlier, they beat Rewa 2-0 in the semi-final while Navua edged out Labasa 1-0 in the other semi. The Nadi team collected a trophy and \$4000 cash.



## FESTIVALS CALENDER 2010

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Mahashivratri       | 12 February  |
| Holi                | 1 March      |
| Ram Navmi           | 24 March     |
| Hanuman Jayanti     | 30 March     |
| Baisakhi            | 13 April     |
| Guru Poornima       | 25 July      |
| Ramadan             | 11 August    |
| Raksha Bandhan      | 24 August    |
| Krishna Janamasthmi | 2 September  |
| Eid-Al-Fitr         | 10 September |
| Ganesh Chaturthi    | 11 September |
| Navratri begins     | 8 October    |
| Dussehra            | 17 October   |
| Karva Chauth        | 25 October   |
| Dhan Teras          | 3 November   |
| Diwali              | 5 November   |
| Govardhan Puja      | 6 November   |
| Bhai Dhuj           | 7 November   |
| Bakr Id             | 17 November  |
| Guru Nanak Birthday | 21 November  |

## SOCCER

Airport Rangers (Miramar) had another successful 7 a side soccer tournament at Miramar South School on Sunday 14th of December 2009.

This is a "unique" Medallion Tournament and is held every year.

About 13 teams took part and the winning team's players (Varsity) were presented with a Medal each to keep. Runner-up was the NCR boys and they were presented with a prize.

Referees Mohammed Shafiq, Talim and Saiyed, also received medals. Mohammed Safiq (Labasa) was specially thanked for his outstanding contribution for his services to the club as a referee and official.

Traditional Fiji style chicken curry and rice was sold and was a huge success.

President of Airport Rangers Soccer Club, Jitendra Pratap presented the medals and thanked all teams and people who assisted in making the tournament a success.

## ANNUAL DINNER NIGHT SPONSORS

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