

FIJI INDIAN ASSOCIATION

WELLINGTON INC

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CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE MAYORAL APPEAL FUND

The President of FIA Mr Vinod Kumar has sent a letter to the Mayor of Christchurch Mr Bob Parker expressing grief and dismay for what has happened to Christchurch.

To help with the Mayoral Fund FIA has organised a sausage sizzle for

25th September outside the Mad Butcher Store in Lower Hutt from 9am to 4pm

Sausages have been donated by Mad Butcher store and a bag of onion and 10 loaves of bread has been donated by Mr and Mrs Rajeshwar Prasad of Moera. We are very grateful for these donations.

If you wish to help with the sausage sizzle please come to FIA Hall on Friday 24 September at 7pm for us to finalise arrangements and roster individuals etc.

If you wish to donate to the Mayoral Funds you are welcome to deposit your donations to ANZ FIA Account 01-1823-0013819-02. Please let us know if you do deposit any money so we can send you a receipt. All money donated will be added to the Mayoral Fund

Other initiatives are also being planned and details will be conveyed to you shortly.

PLEASE DO DONATE GENEROUSLY

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In this first newsletter, we wish to share with you a number of interesting happenings of the Association, with some of the key items being:

- The AGM of the Association on 8 August
- Former President, Mr. Salim Ashwin Singh's activity report
- Names of your new committee members
- The new President, Mr. Vinod Kumar's vision for the FIA
- Two young Fiji Indian Kiwi highflyers.

I am sure you are thirsting to find out more, so here we go.

Annual General meeting

The AGM was held on 8 August at the FIA Hall. The President of the Fiji Indian Association, Mr. Salim Ashwin Singh, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance, and their ongoing interest in the welfare of the Association.

A hard copy of both the Secretary's and Financial Reports were available at the meeting.

Amendments to FIA's Constitution

As agreed at the last AGM (2009), the Constitution was revised and a number of amendments were incorporated into a final draft. This was presented at the AGM by Prabodh Mishra, Chair of the Review Committee. A number of suggestions from the floor have been incorporated in the draft amendments, and the final amended Constitution will be sent in due course to the FIA members who were at the AGM. The revised Constitution will be filed with the Charities Commission.

Former President's Activity Report

Mr. Salim Ashwin Singh gave an overview of the activities undertaken by the FIA in 2009-2010 financial year. The highlights included:

- Girit Diwas function attended by some 250 people. For the second year in a row, the function was organised with the help of sponsors at no cost to FIA.
- A successful dinner night, with excellent profit largely due to the high level of sponsorship the Association managed to attract.
- A kirtan night last October attracted a number of mandalis.
- The installation of a heat pump in our Hall at Halford Place, Petone was made possible with a \$2,000 grant from the Hutt Mana Charitable Trust with assistance from Trust Chairman, Mr. John Burke and Trust Member, John Terris. The total cost of the project was \$3,600, and the balance came from the FIA's own resources.
- The use of the FIA Hall by members of the community for various functions including poojas, social gatherings, cultural and linguistic activities, and funeral services.

Mr. Salim Ashwin Singh thanked his Committee members for their hard work and for their diligence and commitment. He also thanked FIA's Board of Trustees for the role it has played.

Office Bearers

The following were elected Office Bearers for the year 2010-11.

President	Vinod Kumar
Vice President	Paripurna Nand Verma
Secretary	Naren Lal
Treasurer	Paresh Hari
Committee	Krishna Gounder.

The Committee has now co-opted the following new members:

Kunnal Singh

Dev Narayan

Pradeep Chand

Alphonse Giborees (Assistant Treasurer)

Prabodh Mishra: to serve as Communication Advisor on an interim basis until a full complement of Committee members are co-opted.

Balram as support person until the end of 2010.

A number of other individuals have been approached to join the Committee. We will provide you with details as they come to hand.

New President:

In his inaugural speech, the President Elect Mr. Vinod Kumar, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the past President and his Committee. He commented that Mr. Singh has given his unflinching support to various organisations associated with our Association, and his untiring efforts for the enhancement of our Association. This was deeply appreciated by one and all.

First Meeting of the New Committee

Mr. Vinod Kumar outlined his **vision** during his term of Office at the first meeting on 19 August 2010. This is replicated here in full.

Immediate

1. Membership Drive – the fall in membership number from over 250 previous year to 177 last year is of concern. We need a vigorous campaign to increase the number.
2. Access to web site to be restricted to Communication's Advisor, the President and Secretary.

3. Opening hall facilities for members for social pool, table tennis, and kava on Sundays from 3pm to 7pm. This will bring in some money for running the hall expenses.

Short Term

1. Monthly updates of the Business Plan
2. Organise some form of reward for membership.
3. Assisting other charitable organizations by raising funds ...kirtan, bhajan , qawali nites.
4. To be seen in the community – have a blood donation day.

Medium Term

1. Events for members like Dinner Nite
2. Children's functions...Summer carnival
3. Functions for the elderly Provide transport to and from the FIA Hall.

Long Term

1. Reassessment of property and lease requirements.
2. Discounts on bulk purchases for our members for wedding, birthdays and funeral expenses.
3. FIA's involvement with other Fiji Communities in Wellington – we need to broaden our outlook

These are Mr. Kumar's personal objectives upon taking the Presidency. He added that some of these will overlap and will be incorporated in the FIA's Business Plan

We are all aware of the magnitude of the flood disaster in **Pakistan**. The good in all of us is crying out to reach out to Pakistan in its hour of need. We shall respond appropriately as soon as we can.

Other Items:

A revised draft of the 5 year **Business Plan** was tabled by Prabodh Mishra along with the revised **Constitution**. The Committee will review these documents over the next few weeks. Once completed, both these documents will be placed on the FIA website.

Fiji Indian Young Kiwi High Flyers (Extract from Fiji Times)

We are delighted to bring you extracts from the Fiji times on the achievements of two of our own: Sahir Daud and Nalini Singh.

Daud makes it big

He's always been a self-confessed film nut ... and now it's beginning to pay off for Shahir Daud, who spent his childhood in Suva before moving to Wellington when his family migrated from Fiji. A short film he directed, called Double Happy, has been accepted for screening at the Home of Film (HOF) International Film Festival in Germany and the Montreal International Film Festival in Canada. It's a major achievement for any upcoming filmmaker, and one that has left the 31-year-old feeling very good indeed.

While he may have a passion for film, the 31-year-old is also no stranger to success in the editing field. He won the award for best editor, news and current affairs at New

Zealand's Qantas Television Awards in 2006 - during a period when he worked for Television New Zealand (TVNZ).

Actually, he's a bit of a nerd - BA in Theatre and Film, BCA in Accounting and Commercial Law, BA (Hons) in English and then MA in Creative Writing. He wanted to be an architect but picked up on theatre and film which was an elective in his first year of architecture."

Parents Saeed and Shamshad Daud fully supported Shahir's dreams and were very proud of him and his achievements.

He has a major following online, racking up over 2.5million hits on YouTube with his other short films and music videos.

Nalini Singh

Nalini who hails from Suva arrived in NZ when she was only 12 years of age. She qualified as a Lawyer and at 18 years of age wrote her first romance fiction. She has now written 17 wildly successful novels in the last 8 years, two of which reached the top 10 of THE NEW YORK TIMES bestseller list. A full profile of hers was recently published in the Kia Ora magazine published by Air New Zealand.

Isn't it wonderful to read about our people and how well they are doing. FIA salutes our two high achievers. We hope to bring you similar stories in the future, so dear readers, let your Communications Advisor know

on prabodhkmishra@gmail.com

Now- a bit of a **laugh** - A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says, " I'll give each of you just one wish".

"Me first! Me First" says the Admin Clerk.. "I want to be in Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world..." Poof! She's gone.

"Me next Me next!" says the sales rep." I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas, and the love of my life!" Poof! He's gone.

" Ok, you're up" Genie says to the manager. The manager says," I want those two back in the office after lunch" Moral of the story:

Always let your boss have the first say!!!

Let's conclude in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

Take care and look after yourselves and your loved ones.