



president's thank you



I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. The younger members must all be ready for the school holidays and I'm sure everyone is preparing for the holiday season. This is CDIA's final newsletter for 2019. One would reflect back and just say where this year has gone. The festive season is almost here and it is a busy period for us all.

2019 has been an extremely difficult year for me and my family with the passing away of my Bapuji. Bapuji has left a huge gap in our lives and it has taken me some time to get back into doing community work. We miss Bapuji but he will always remain in our thoughts and remain close to us.

CDIA has had another extremely busy year. All our functions once again were successful and were enjoyed by everyone in the community. Navratri is an event that is growing bigger every year and the participation by the wider community is overwhelming. In 2020 we look forward to once again celebrating Janmastami, Nand Utsav, Radha Ashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi Navratri, Govardhan Pooja and Jalaram Jayanti.

This year CDIA along with other Indian communities and PNCC for the first time celebrated Diwali together and had 'Diwali in the Square'. This event was very successful and with great pride we showcased our culture. PNCC is already planning Diwali in the Square 2020 and we look forward to working with them once again.

2020 will be an extremely busy year for CDIA. We are hosting NZICA 94th Annual Conference/AGM in April and further details about this are in this newsletter.

I would like to say thank you to the CDIA committee and our members for all your help during the year. The time and effort some members have contributed is admirable. A special thanks to the younger members of our community as well. Your participation at our functions and your commitment hasn't gone unnoticed at all.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2020. Enjoy your time with friends and family and remember those who are not with us.

Be kind to each other and stay safe.
Many thanks, Anita Naran

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



diwali in the square

Diwali in the Square was an extremely successful event. The weather unfortunately wasn't the best initially but as the evening progressed the weather improved.

The items were amazing and majority of the performances proceeded without a glitch. The performers worked well with the organising committee. Community participation from all the organisation was good. This year at Diwali our culture was showcased to the general public in the Square for the very first time and it definitely felt like Diwali.

PNCC is already planning Diwali in the Square 2020 and CDIA will definitely support them.



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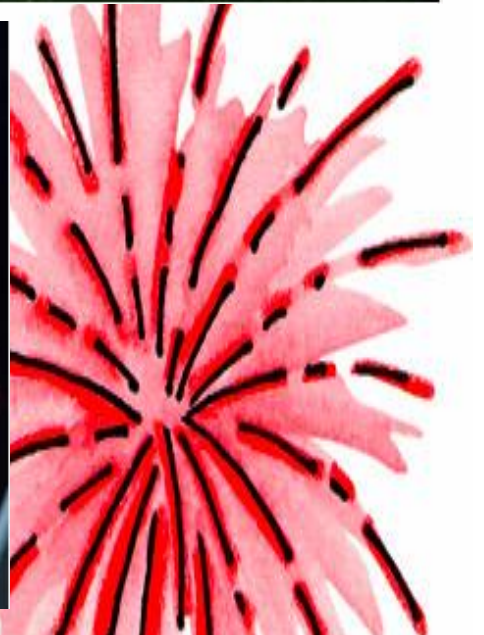
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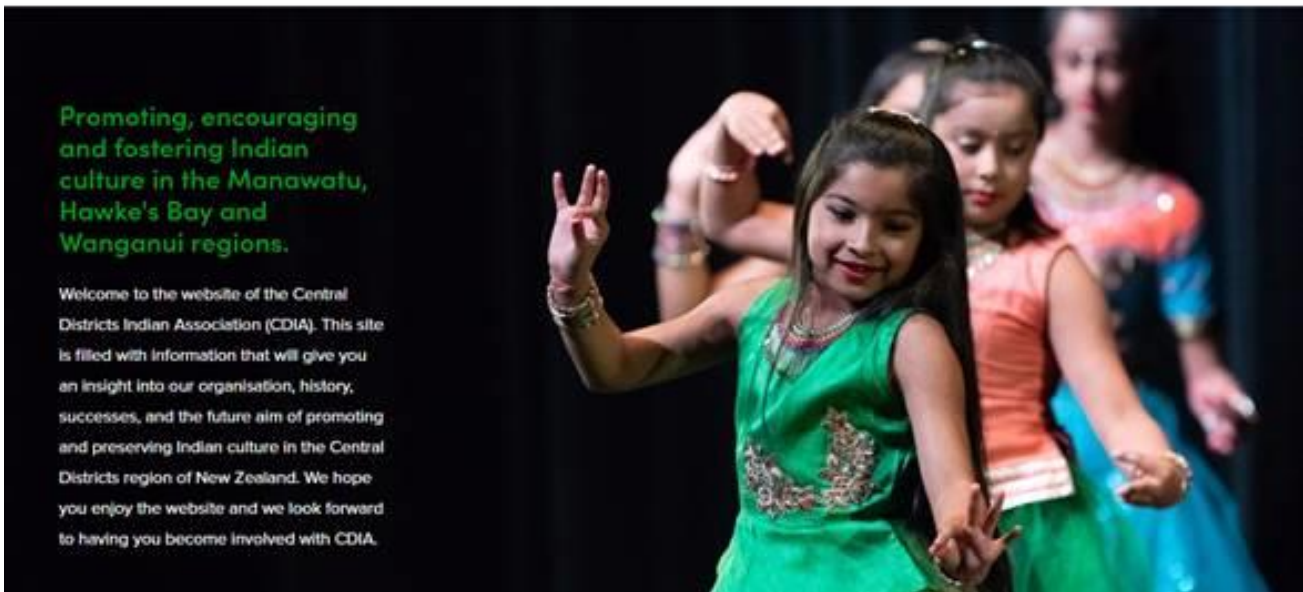
diwali in the square



cdia website

CDIA has a website. The URL is:

www.cdia.org.nz



The site contains information about who we are, what we do, our history, official documents and forms, newsletters and a photo gallery.

A big thanks to Hitesh Patel for his expertise in setting up the website. Thanks also to Mahendra Naran who worked alongside Hitesh and made it possible for the website to go live.

The site will be regularly updated with upcoming events, news and photos.

As with our newsletters if you have anything that you would like to see on the website which may be of interest to all our members please email us at cdia.inc@outlook.com

If there are any members who have some experience in maintaining websites and would like to assist please contact us. Keeping the website maintained and updated is a time-consuming job so any help would be appreciated.

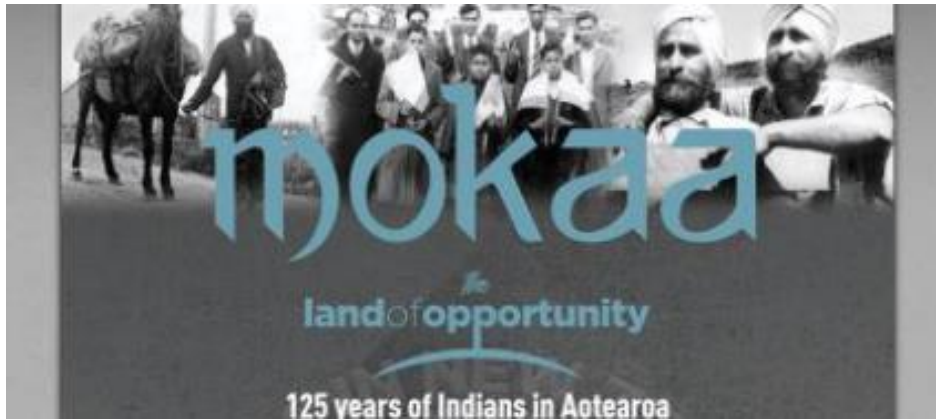
So please go and check out the new website and let us know what you think.



mokaa exhibition

The Mookaa (Land of Opportunity) exhibition was held at the Library from 20th October – 6 November. CDIA was very lucky to have this exhibition in Palmerston North and we have received some positive feedback.

CDIA would like to thank the New Zealand Indian Central Association and the Palmerston North City Council for setting up this exhibition.



A long way from home

"Mum (Shanti) lived in Dannevirke for 64 years leaving everything behind in India. She lived in a two storey house raising 9 children along with looking after other men who came to work, supporting them all while in a new country! She would manage all the laundry without a washing machine. Mum never learnt English and preferred to keep her native language Gujarati alive."

-Suresh Patel (son)

Prime Minister John Key visits Shanti Patel in 2014 at Shires Fruit & Veg Market. The 92 year old fruit and vegetable family business in Dannevirke was established by her father-in-law Chhiba Panchia who assumed the name "William (Bill) Shire" in 1919.

Source: Paul Pelt

Arrival in a Strange Land

These years were never easy, the winters were unbearable, everyone experienced the financial hardships, accommodation problems and the discrimination against Indians was evident. Some slept under the open skies, whilst they travelled on horse, tram and bicycles to various towns to search of employment. Work was not easy to obtain, as knowledge of the English language was limited. Despite all these difficulties, life went on and these men tried as best they could to assimilate amidst the people of New Zealand.

Chain Migration

A sense of Family

Many Indians were recruited by British. Their passage restricted by New Zealand's limited resources in what has been known as "white" immigration. For others, their traditional rural heritage within the Punjab and Gujarat regions was a sufficient bond. Such kinship helped them to settle in and provided a reminder of their responsibility to family in India.

Early Pioneers

Sir and Phoolan Singh Gill
 Born in 1850, Phoolan Singh Gill, a member of the Punjab's Sikh community, worked as a clerk, supervising a team in the central North Island. He spent 10 years working as a clerk at the New Zealand Post Office. He married a woman from the Punjab and they had a family. Phoolan Singh Gill was a pioneer in the Indian community in New Zealand. He was one of the first Indian men to arrive in New Zealand and he was one of the first Indian men to be naturalised as a New Zealand citizen. Phoolan Singh Gill died in 1910.

Kashoo Daji
 Kashoo Daji was a pioneer in the Indian community in New Zealand. He was one of the first Indian men to arrive in New Zealand and he was one of the first Indian men to be naturalised as a New Zealand citizen. Kashoo Daji died in 1910.

Muhammad Kara
 Muhammad Kara was a pioneer in the Indian community in New Zealand. He was one of the first Indian men to arrive in New Zealand and he was one of the first Indian men to be naturalised as a New Zealand citizen. Muhammad Kara died in 1910.

Choosing Aotearoa

1890 - 1920

The 1890's sets the beginning of the first wave of Indian immigration.

The first Indian sojourners were mainly men chasing prosperity. Most were here temporarily, just long enough to improve their wealth, livelihood and social status back in India, which was much harder to obtain due to droughts, overpopulation and underemployment.

Emigration was easily influenced by returning family members and village men from overseas. Those returning to India spoke of green pastures and fewer immigration restrictions which made Aotearoa a prospective destination. This started chain migration.

To survive, manual labour was the most obtainable but these jobs often paid very poorly. Wealthier and educated men opened businesses according to their family trade such as shoemakers and tailors. Indians were commonly referred to as "Hindoos", although the small Indian community objected to this term.

Over the next 20 years, the Indian population fluctuated with tighter immigration laws and the outbreak of World War I. Many migrants returned home after a short stay due to illness and the cold weather. Others stayed and created family homes for future generations.

nzica 94th annual conference/agm



Central Districts Indian Association will be hosting the NZICA 94th Annual Conference/AGM in Palmerston North. This is an important event on our calendar and we hope members will be available to help with the organising of the conference.

Following are some details of the conference:

Executive Meeting

Date: Friday 3rd April 2020 at 5.00pm

Venue: Senior Citizens Hall

NZICA Conference/AGM

Date: Saturday, 4th April 2020 starting at 8.30am

Venue: Palmerston North Convention Centre

The programme for the Conference is still to be finalised and we will keep everyone informed closer to date. CDIA will work with NZICA to make this event a success.

To organise any event there is cost involved and for this conference to be successful, CDIA will be seeking donations from businesses and individuals. If anyone is willing to make a donation please contact Anita Naran or email us at cdia.inc@outlook.com. Any donations will be appreciated.

We will provide further details in the next newsletters, however if members have any questions about the conference, please feel free to contact us via phone or email.

cdia agm 2020

The CDIA Annual General Meeting will be held on 27th February 2020, at Central Normal School, Tile Room, Featherston Street.

It is important that members take this opportunity to voice their opinions and take on new roles within the Association.

We would also like to encourage our members to take on positions within the committee and even some younger members to take on the role of producing our highly commendable CDIA Newsletter.



cdia newsletters

CDIA aim to provide our members with information on upcoming events, along with what has been happening within the local community. We do rely on members to let us know if there is anything they would like to place in the newsletter that will be informative to our members.

This can include events, school fundraisers, student achievement, advertising etc. If you have any information for future newsletters, please contact a committee member.



pacific leaders programme

One of our youth, Kavish Desai was selected to go on the Pacific Student Leaders' Programme in the Cook Islands. It is run by Future Leaders Rangatira mō apōpō, which is a group of leadership instructors and youth mentors with extensive military and youth development backgrounds, Below is Kavish's report on his experiences.

I was lucky enough to be selected for an advanced leadership course in the Cook Islands led by Future Leaders. I went alongside 27 New Zealand students and a few Cook Island students. We started off in Auckland for our flight to Raratonga and as we approached Raratonga it was cool to see the amazing views.

We arrived with a warm introduction by the locals followed by a short trip to the college where we would be staying at. On the next day we went to church which was an enjoyable experience to see a different religion through a different culture. After that, we had a home-cooked lunch. For dinner we went to a local food market in groups. While we waited we played some fun games led by the Cook Island students.



The first day began with our first activity which was a beach clean-up. We cleaned up a local beach and sorted all the items into each category. It was good to help clean up the environment. In doing this we cleaned up over 100kgs of waste. For the afternoon we went to a small area of the beach to build a raft. We were equipped with our minds as the sharpest tools and the vegetation surrounding us. In the end we successfully built a raft which we managed to get me afloat without any assistance.



On Day three we went out to a souvenir shop to engage in a business challenge. We had to find a solution to the oyster shells that are discarded as waste after being used for making souvenirs. As a team we came up with two ideas: a phone case and a tiling system. On our next activity we went to the Cook Islands Environmental Office. After learning about the environment we had some fun by building some plates using coconut

leaves. A new day came with new activities. We learnt about first aid activities followed by a fun tramp using the local Cook Island students' knowledge, it went well. In the evening we went onto a small boat for a presentation. Then a few of us jumped into the water and did some diving to refresh ourselves after a hot day. In the evening we did some fun cultural performances; a key highlight was a Cook Island student doing a performance using fire. On our final day in Raratonga we prepared for the closing ceremony hosted at the New Zealand High Commission office. Afterwards we went back to the hostel for some reflection. At the airport we said our final goodbyes. We used what little time we had to share stories and highlights and sang some songs that we all had to learn during the week. My personal favourite was 'Standing by me'. With emotions running high and a lot of tears, we said our final goodbyes. Overall, it was an amazing experience well worth the time and cost. It taught me key leadership ideas that I look forward to putting into practice into my community.

I can't explain how much I recommend this programme for anyone interested. I encourage you to check the website, Future Leaders, find the courses and apply for one as they hold a number throughout the year each in a different part of the Pacific Islands. I want to thank my sponsors once again: my local school, PNBHS and the Central Districts Indian Association.

Kavish Desai

congratulations



On behalf of CDIA we would like to congratulate:

Jayantibhai and Damayantiben Patel on the birth of their granddaughter Anaya Nath who was born on 15th August 2019. CDIA also extend our heartiest congratulations to the proud parents Jagruti and Krish Nath.

Kantibhai and Bettyben (Wanganui) on becoming grandparents to their granddaughter Amira Parag who was born on 16th October 2019. CDIA extend congratulations to the proud parents Jayesh & Radhika Parag.

graduation

CDIA would like to congratulate Shayneal Singh on completing his Master of Engineering (Mechanical).

On behalf of CDIA we would like to wish Shayneal Singh all the very best for the future in his chosen career path.



nzica community service award



NZICA have developed the NZICA Community Service Award to give individual Indian Associations a chance to show their appreciation by nominating a person for the valuable contributions made within their own Association and community.

To be considered for this award the person must meet the following criteria:

1. Active participation and be a long standing member of an Indian Association
2. Provided service to the betterment of the Indian Community within their local branch
3. Active participation and service to other organisations within New Zealand or internationally
4. Details of other specific achievements

This year CDIA has nominated Ushaben Kubavat for NZICA Community Service Award. Ushaben's work for the community is admirable and this award will be a recognition for her contribution to CDIA and the community.

We wish Ushaben all the best for the Award.

