



message from anita naran



2022 - when this year started it felt like another long year ahead but this year has been with mixed feelings. Some of us have managed to see our family and friends once the borders opened and I am sure everyone will treasure those moments. Our thoughts with those families who have lost their loved ones this year. We have all been affected by COVID and unfortunately its not over as there is another wave in the community.

As this is our final newsletter for 2022 I would like to thank CDIA Committee for all the work they have done this year and also thanks to all our members for your support.

The festive season is upon us and it is time to rejoice with family and friends but our top priority is always to keep safe.

On behalf of CDIA committee we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

annual general meeting

Date/Time: Thursday, 2nd March 2022, 7.30pm—9.00pm
Venue: Central Normal School, Tile Room (off Foyer)
Featherston Street, Palmerston North

We request that members come to the Annual General Meeting to voice their opinions and help the committee plan events for the year and also to take up positions on the Committee.

Our association can only function if we have volunteers who are keen to assist the committee.

shires turns 100

Shires Fruit and Vege Market has been part of the fabric of Dannevirke for 100 years, not just providing fresh produce, but also being part of the community. To celebrate the family held a big family reunion and dinner in October weekend at the Dannevirke Town Hall.

Current co-owners Motibhai and Sureshbhai believe the business is the longest-running fruit and vegetable shop in New Zealand and are rightly proud to celebrate its longevity.

Central Districts Indian Association Committee and members would like to congratulate Motibhai, Sureshbhai and Nayna on their 100 years and also would like to thank them for their ongoing support.



navratri 2022

Navratri is a festival on the Indian Calendar that everyone looks forward to and after 2 years of missing out, this year CDIA hosted Navratri for 9 days and concluded on Dashera with Mahaprasad. Navratri was a spin of music, dance, devotion and festivity as we all turned out to celebrate Navratri in Palmerston North. For nine days people dressed in colourful clothes, came together at 8pm in Senior Citizen Hall to dance the night away. CDIA would like to thank everyone who helped in organising Navratri and those that helped towards the hireagreg costs of the hall.

We look forward to your support in 2023.



diwali 2022

In 2019 when our the Indian Community had a Diwali Debrief Meeting with Palmerston North City Council the committee did say the next 'Diwali In the Square will be bigger and better. Unfortunately due to COVID we were not able to host it for 2 years but definitely made it up for it this year. Diwali in the Square 2022 was a huge success. The DJ, MC, Music and the performances were exceptional. The food needs no comment as the queues on the day said it all. It was a celebration of food, family and the triumph of light over darkness marked the Diwali festival in Palmerston North. Hundreds of people turned out at this event. Te Marae o Hine/The Square was filled with music from Indian singing and dancing. The stage decorations were admired by everyone and we would like to thank Danny Parmar for this who organised the shipment from India. The highlight of the evening was the 'Laser Light Show' which was absolutely stunning.

CDIA would like to thank Palmerston North City Council for their ongoing support and we look forward to organising Diwali 2023.

Photos courtesy of Ahmend Yehia and Danny Parmar



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.

We have members in our Association who have worked hard and are well deserving of this award. Each association is allowed one nomination for this award

In 2021 Central Districts Indian Association Committee nominated Bhanumati Ravji for NZICA Community Service Award the nomination was successful. Bhanuben has contributed a lot of her time for our community and is always happy to help. The Community Service Award was to be presented at the 2022 NZICA Conference/AGM which was held virtually this year. Anita Naran accepted the award on behalf of Bhanuben and at Navratri, Nanubhai presented the award to her.

nzica 2nd gala awards

The second New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc. (NZICA) Gala Awards event was held at Auckland's Mahatma Gandhi Centre on Saturday, 17 September 2022. More than 400 guests including Government Ministers, MPs, Dignitaries and citizens from all over New Zealand attended this event.

The first Gala Award was held in Palmerston North last year. The awards recognise those who have made a significant difference to New Zealand Indians and wider communities and is spread across categories of the spheres of activity such as social, educational, sporting and cultural that the awardees have contributed to.

The evening began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries and guests, followed by a stirring waiata and haka by the Wheiao Kapahaka Group and traditional Indian dances.

The highlight of this year's awards night was the Honorary Membership of the NZICA awarded to former New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clark. She was unable to attend so Chris Carter accepted the award on her behalf.

It was a very proud moment for Central districts Indian Association at this Gala Awards. CDIA had two nominations, and both were successful (please see attached letters from NZICA).

Central Districts Indian Association was the winner for 'Community of the Year' Shires Fruit & Vege Market, Dannevirke was awarded Wellbeing (Business) Award

Madanjeet Singh Bange (Country Section) and Ishvarbhai Rambhai (Pukekohe) were both conferred Life Membership of NZICA on the evening.

Wellington Indian Association Recipients:

- ✦ Raman Chhima received the Wellbeing (Health) award.
- ✦ Ruxmaniben V. Kasanji (WIA) was awarded the 'Hidden Gem'
- ✦ Ekta Nathu received the Young Achiever award.
- ✦ Shardaben Patel received the Women Empowerment award.

Auckland Indian Association Recipients:

- ✦ Auckland Indian Association Inc (AIAI) President Dhansukh Lal received the award for the Association's Centenary Celebration
- ✦ Harshad Patel received the Arts & Culture award

Prithipal Singh Basra from Pukekohe Indian Association received the Outstanding Leadership Award and Immigration New Zealand received the NZICA President's Award.

CDIA had a very good attendance at the Awards Night. NZICA is now planning 3rd Gala Award event which will be held in 2023 and once we receive further information on the date and venue, we will advise you all.

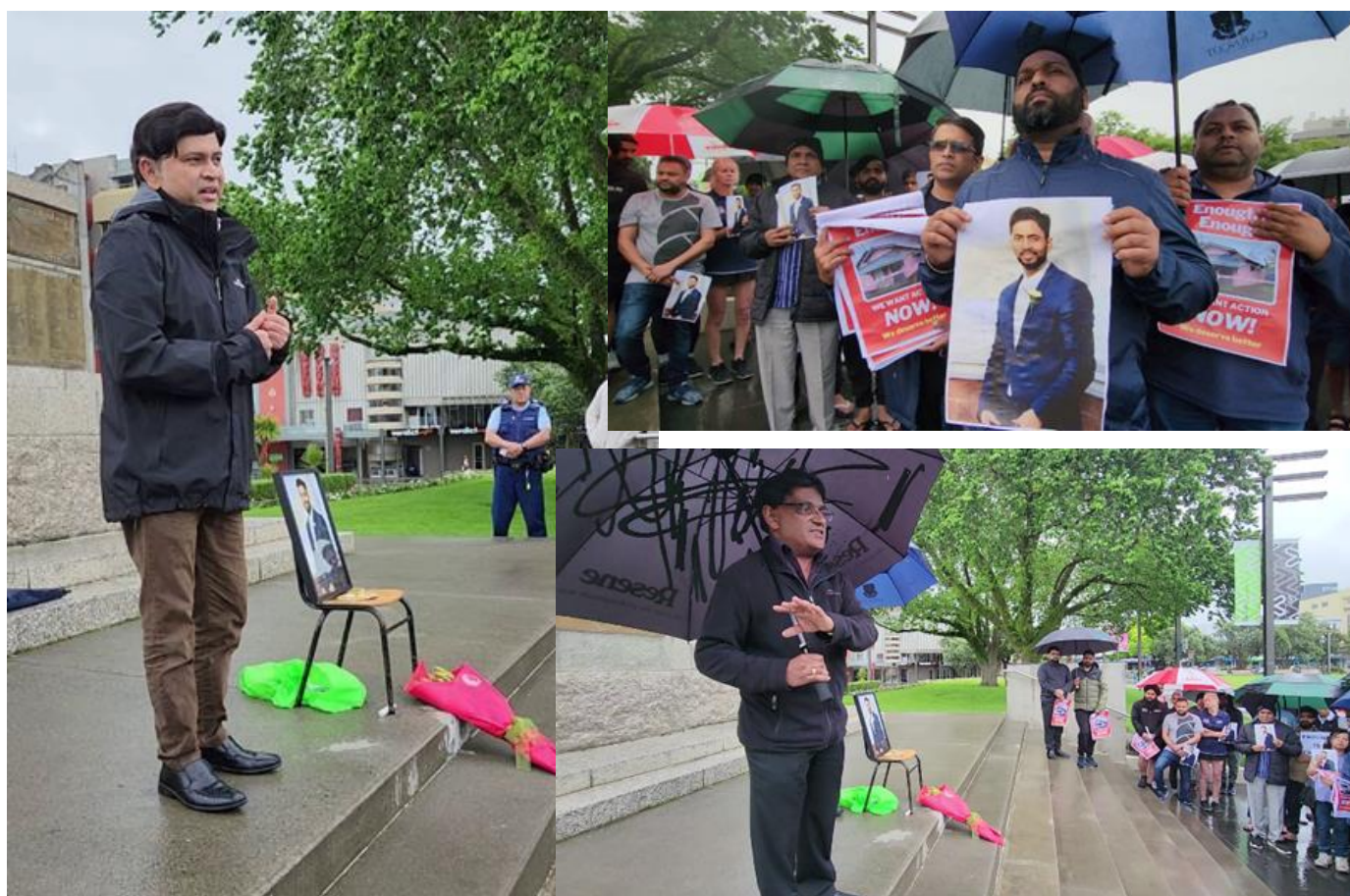


business owners close, to show solidarity

Dairy owners, liquor store owners and small supermarket owners decided to close their businesses on 27th November at 3:00pm onwards to show solidarity towards the sad loss of Janakbhai Patel of Sandringham, Auckland.

Business owners, workers, members and some public gathered in the rain in Te Marae o Hine/The Square to pay their respects to Janakbhai Patel just prior to his funeral service which was carried out at 5:00pm in Auckland.

Many of those that attended had placards making a strong statement that **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH** message to both local and central government. The gathering included candles been lit, a photo of Janakbhai been placed along with some flowers and a Diya was lit. Ladies sang and then a minutes silence was held prior to speeches. Myself, His Worship the Mayor Grant Smith, Deputy Mayor Debbie Marshall-Lobb, Vijaybhai Patel of Awapuni 4 Square, Jayeshbhai Patel of Rangiora Mini Supermarket and Chirag Ganid, all spoke on the need that government needs to step in where more engagement and recommendations are addressed by the government.



The following day Monday 28th November again about some business owners met outside the Palmerston North MP Tangi Utikere's office and made speeches which was aligned with the national organised meetings outside other Labour MP offices throughout New Zealand where business owners were asked to close their businesses between 12:30pm to 2:30pm.

Speeches were made by me where I suggested that we need to meet with the Mayor Grant Smith to discuss a wide range of issues facing our business owners within our district. I mentioned that fog cannons may not be the only answer and the idea of bollards was not always shown with enthusiasm with various Councils around New Zealand. Speeches were also given by Manoj Ranchhod of 4 Square Cloverlea, Mahendra Patel of Kaimanawa Store, Jayesh Patel of Rangiora Mini Supermarket and Sanjeeva Singamsetty of Cook Street Mini Mart where many had the same concerns.

Enough is Enough

business owners solidarity - cont'd



I organised a lunchtime meeting with the Mayor, Grant Smith on Thursday 8th December where business owners were all asked to attend and for me to take the lead role representing the concerns of the business owners.

Although the meeting was for an hour with finger food lunch provided there were many aspects of discussions raised from fog canons, street security surveillance cameras, in-situ concrete planter boxes, drivers parking on footpaths outside some dairies, neighbourhood patrol, city council staff to be more vigilant, the stupidity of having a free handle inside a business at all times even once the business stops trading for the day which is then safe for any would-be burglars to get out safely once they have broken in which leads onto those business owners that apply through the right channels to have security grilles fitted behind these fire exit doors do not get the answer they require. This obviously leads to some business owners carrying work without correct notification. The time in which obtaining information from Palmerston North City Council building consent authorities is also a main bug bear for the business owners.

Other business owners went further into some of the details and Grant did note all the points that were raised and he gave as answers to some of the points raised however he would be looking into these and see if our concerns could be looked into.

The meeting was well worth it with representatives from over 18 businesses and Grant did state that he wishes to get this group together early in the new year to see where our concerns are at. Thanks, was given to Grant for making time and for the first time listening to our concerns and we thanked him for the lunch.

I feel that these types of measures what has been carried out within Central Districts over the years is something that all associations should be doing within their own areas, especially engaging with and working alongside local councils.

Nanubhai (Paul) Patel
CDIA Vice President
NZICA Immediate Past President and Law & Order
Chairperson

