



message from anita naran



Another year is about to come to an end, and we will soon welcome in 2024. This is CDIA's final newsletter for 2023 and I hope you have all enjoyed reading our newsletters this year. We try our best to include as many articles hence in future if members have articles for the newsletter please forward them through to us.

We have again had a very busy and successful year. Some of the celebrations we have had this year are Krishna Janmashthami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratri, Jalaram Jayanti, Govardhan Pooja and our biggest function was Diwali Mela in the Square. This year the weather was not in our favour, but the attendance was still overwhelming.

To our members, I would like to say thank you for your support during the year because without you all it would not be possible to hold all these functions.

Also, thanks to the elder members of our community for your encouragement and blessings.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2024.

Enjoy your time with friends and family. Be kind to each other and stay safe.

Anita Naran

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

annual general meeting 2024

CDIA AGM will be held in March 2024. Details will be sent out in the new year.

We ask our members to please attend the AGM and take up Executive positions or as a Committee Member. Having new Committee Members will take our Association forward and it would add some new ideas and streamline the processes we go through for the events we hold through the year. Our AGM is very important as without an Executive and Committee, CDIA will be lost.

Each member on our Executive and Committee works very hard, most of which we do not see as a lot is involved 'behind the scenes' in the planning of our events and organisation of keeping CDIA on the map, not just in the Central Districts but amongst other Associations in New Zealand.

Please remember if you know of anyone who maybe interested in joining our Association and getting involved with our activities, please inform them about CDIA as we are always encouraging new members.



navratri 2023

CDIA hosted Navratri for nine 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 Citizens Hall to dance the night away. CDIA would like to thank everyone who helped in organising Navratri and those that contributed towards the hireage costs of the hall.

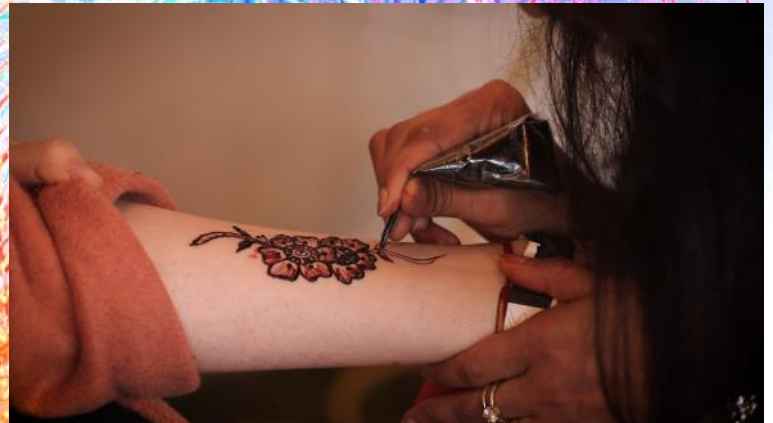
CDIA is known as a 'Minor Association' but we can proudly say CDIA celebrated Navratri exceptionally well.



diwali mela

On Saturday, 18 November 2023 Palmerstonians celebrated Diwali Mela, the Festival of Lights at Te Marae o Hine – The Square. This event was organised by the city's Indian communities and the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC). It was a chilly night but 10 of the bravest took on Diwali Mela's Curry of Fire competition. They tested their tastebuds in front of thousands of Palmerstonians at Te Marae o Hine – The Square. The festival brought people together from all over the city – even with the rain. Surrounded by colour, lights, food and performance, the city's festival shared the best of the best of Hindu culture. The stage played host to traditional dancing alongside stalls stocked with clothing, crafts, food as well as henna designs being available. There was a laser show from the stage which one could see bounce through the rain and off the council building and sparklers for the kids.

CDIA would like to thank PNCC for their continuous support and CDIA looks forward to working with them again in 2024.



awards



The Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) held its Annual Dinner on Friday 24th November 2023. At this function CDIA was awarded a Certificate of Recognition. This award was to honour CDIA for its valuable contributions to MMC and the community. Anita Naran, Paul Patel and Ranjita Sengupta attended this function.

Ranjita Sengupta is also on the MMC Board and her skills and expertise will be beneficial for the wider community. We wish MMC and the Board all the best for 2024.



On Saturday 25th November the New Zealand Indian Sports Association (NZISA) celebrated its 60th Anniversary. At this function NZISA bestowed Honoured Membership in recognition of service provided to NZISA. One of the recipients was Sandeep Patel from the Central Districts Indian Sports Club. Sandeep served NZISA for 14 years as a Delegate, Subcommittee Member and Website/Newsletter Editor.

CDIA would like to congratulate Sandeep on his achievement.

ARTICLE FROM NZICA NEWSLETTER—YOUTH CONFERENCE



The New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc. (NZICA) is delighted to announce the resounding success of its highly anticipated Youth Conference held at the Mahatma Gandhi Centre, Auckland on Saturday 25th November 2023. The conference featured distinguished speakers, prominent guests, and enthusiastic participants from all over New Zealand making it a remarkable and insightful gathering.

The Youth Conference aimed to address crucial issues related to the well-being of young individuals in the New Zealand Indian community. It provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities for the youth. Renowned speakers who graced the conference with their wisdom and insights included Simran Kaur, Jazz Thornton, IOPNZ (Arrun Soma, Ajay Chhibber, Moushumi Das). Their thought-provoking talks and engaging discussions left a profound impact on the participants, empowering them with valuable insights and knowledge.

The outstanding success of this event would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the NZICA Youth Committee Chairman Shashi Patel and his highly energetic and enthusiastic team. Their commitment to ensuring the success of the conference was evident in every aspect of the event, from planning to execution.

The presence of esteemed NZICA Life Members, Harshad K Patel and Bhikhu Bhana added prestige and significance to the occasion. Life Members' guidance and support have been instrumental in shaping the NZICA's journey, and their attendance at the conference was truly appreciated. The event was also graced by the presence of the NZICA Business Committee Chairman Dipak Bhana from Wellington and Suneel Kuncha from New Zealand Telugu Association, who showed their support for the youth and their dedication to promoting Youth well-being. NZICA would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to all the participants who attended the conference and actively contributed to the discussions.

The event's success was a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of the Youth within the New Zealand Indian community. Special thanks goes to the Auckland Indian Association for their warm hospitality and for providing the ideal venue for this significant gathering.

Last but not least, NZICA would like to express its sincere appreciation to the generous sponsors who provided crucial financial support, making the Youth Conference possible. Their commitment to the community's well-being is truly commendable, and their financial contribution is deeply valued. NZICA remains committed to fostering the well-being and growth of the New Zealand Indian community, especially its Youth and Women. The resounding success of the Youth Conference is a testament to the organisation's dedication to this noble cause.

There were six delegates from CDIA who attended this conference, Rohin Patel, Priya Patel, Kushi Patel, Dhruvi Patel, Kareena Patel. We thank NZICA for organizing this conference as this gave an opportunity for our younger members /leaders to meet youth members from other Associations and also learn how NZICA operates.

Upcoming Events for NZICA

- ◆ NZICA Women's Conference—February 2024
- ◆ NZICA AGM - April 2024