



NEWSLETTER / PATRIKA of WELLINGTON INDIAN ASSOCIATION INC.

48 Kemp St / Box 14-480
Kilbirnie WELLINGTON

October 2007 Issue

Ph: 387 3004

Visit us at <http://www.wia.org.nz>

*Om bhoo bhuvah swah, tat savitur varenyam,
bhargo devasya dheemahi, dhiyo yonah prachodayat*
(May the Almighty Supreme God, bless us and guide us on the right path)



NAVRATRI

Navratri begins Friday 12 October. Gita Class Committee and Social & Cultural Committee have worked together to bring you a festival with more vitality for you to enjoy this, our major religious and cultural event of the year. Come early as this event will fill our hall to capacity. Most nights will start with pujas at 6.30 pm. Garba start at 7.00 pm. Arti and prasad at 8.30 pm. Garba again at 9.00 pm from invited singers and musicians.

On Saturday 20 October, we will take our garba to the TSB Bank Arena, Queens Wharf at the invitation of the Wellington City Council. The garba will start with an arti at 8.00 pm followed by garba and Disco Dandiya so bring your dandiya. Bring all your work or school friends.

The TSB garba night will follow on from the Radio Tarana Bollywood Dance Competition which starts that afternoon. Many of our young people are dancing in this competition. Keep your Bollywood tickets for free entry to the garba evening. If you don't have Bollywood tickets you will have to pay \$3 to get into the garba evening. There will also be arti, puja and garba earlier at the Bharat Bhavan before the TSB garba night.

WCC and AsiaNZ Dewali Mela is on Sunday 21 October. They have organised a fiery event for Dasera. A huge figure of Ravana will be set alight. This coincides with the river-side veday of the matlis on the last day of Navratri. Garba will start earlier that day and hopefully we can all be back from the river to see the Ravana fireworks.

MEMBERSHIP

Pay your membership at Navratri and enjoy the discounts and benefits of membership.

WIA YOUTH DANCE

Make sure you support our young people who are taking part in the Radio Tarana Bollywood Dance Competition on Saturday 20 October. They have been practicing for months as they immerse themselves and celebrate being Indian. The Dewali Festival of Lights is promoted by Asia NZ and the Wellington City Council for Indians to share their much loved festival with other New Zealanders. The competition starts at 3.00 pm at the TSB Bank Arena, Queens Wharf. The Dewali Mela is on Sunday with stalls showcasing Indian foods and culture for Wellington.

WISC MAKE HISTORY

For the first time in the Club's history both the Primary School Prem A Boys and Prem A Girls competition has been won by the WISC Boy's and Girl's hockey teams. A milestone,

first time in the history of the club for the girls hockey. Well done. Be proud to be an Indian.

WIA YOUTH

A group of young people are planning a school breakout event in December with our Youth Committee lead by Pravina Patel. More info to come. Well done, Vanitaben Parbhu for organizing a well attended informative seminar on the Hindu Wedding in your quest to connect NZ born Youth with their Indian Heritage. More to come we hope.

GITA CLASS COMMITTEE

Khandubhai and Harsadbhai have had a busy month with Shraavan, Ganpati Choth and other festivals. Now they are full on in preparing another fantastic Navratri festival. The visa application for our new pujari is with the NZ Immigration Service and we look forward to some news soon.

HALL MANAGER

Mahendrabhai is developing the new role of Hall Manger and establishing relationships and areas of responsibilities, between Booking Officer Bhukan-bhai Parbhu and Maintenance Chunibhai Jina for hall users. Information about hall availability will be shared with the Hall Manager and it will be available at exec meetings.

Bookings can only be made with the Booking Officer. Bookings are accepted on a first come first served basis so prior planning is important. Association functions have first priority. Then paying member's private functions have equal priority with paying non-members. Non-paying users have the lowest priority.

Another change is that bookings for the hall will not be taken more than 12 months in advance. Some non-member can plan and have booked events years in advance. This places our members at a disadvantage because our members need the hall for private functions that can not be planned more than 12 months ahead. Now our members will have a more equal chance to book.

NEW VENTURES & PROJECTS

There is a Speaker Event & Professional Networking Opportunity: About the New India on Wednesday 10th October at 6:45 pm of interest to students, IT professionals and to any one who wants to look, see & learn what the New & Young India is all about. The event will provide the opportunity to network with professionals from the industry.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL

Nitinbhai Patel has been incredibly busy helping with 15 August evening, 2 October Gandhi statue unveiling, Bollywood competition teams, Navratri garba singers and the Dewali show wiifa Awards 2007. Coordinating such a wide range of artists is no easy task.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Ramanbhai Chhima and his committee held a well attended and appreciated seminar on heart disease and diet presented by Dr Sairaben Parag and Pritibaben Balu. This was followed by a question answer panel session with the above and Hemaben Chhima and Santiben Bhikha.

MAHILA SAMAJ

All members over 50 years are invited to a bhajans 2.00 pm and dinner 4.00 pm at Bharat Bhavan on Sunday 7 October. If you have not sent your RSVP then contact a Mahela Samaj Committee member now or Naenaben Chhima on 383 6388.

BOT INITIATIVES

The WIA/WISC Unit Titles have been approved by WCC and we have approached our solicitors to put them in place. The BOT also have gone through a goals and objectives setting exercise with Sunitbhai. With clearly defined priorities we can develop a plan and a budget. The other area of work is to consolidate the place and purpose of the BOT in the constitution.

NZICA INITIATIVES

NZICA is working with the Minister of Internal Affairs to celebrate Dewali @ Parliament. WIA will host a NZICA executive meeting in Wellington on October 13 in conjunction with that event.

INDIAN SETTLERS BOOK

The book 'Indian Settlers' the history of our people in NZ, by Jacqueline Leckie will be launched at the Dewali @ Parliament function. Copies of the book will be on sale at a discounted price of \$25 at our Dewali 2007 show.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

- An enchanting evening of Geet and Ghazals with the Prince of Ghazals and Bhajans, Pandit Vithal Rao, with Mohammad Sardar Khan on tabla, on 13 October at Victoria Memorial Theatre, VUW.
- Vivek Kinra will be performing Bharatam: An Inspirational Solo Journey Through dance on October 14 at Victoria University's Memorial Theatre.
- There will be two Indian Classical Music concerts in Wellington performed by artists coming over from India at the Memorial Theatre, VUW, 19 October: Sitar by Vikas Gupta, 20 October: Bamboo flute by Abhay Phagre, Tabla by Sudhir Pandey.

Javer Naran
President WIA