

SONI SANDESH

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✉ nzsonisamaj@gmail.com

Soni Sandesh Diwali 2015 Edition

A Publication of Soni Samaj NZ Inc



President's Message

Jai Shree Krishna.. Greetings to all Samaj members and friends on this festive season for Diwali and Nutan Varsh Abhinandan - Gujrat Vikram Samrat 2072.

Grand Diwali, Nutan Varsh Abhinandan and Bhai Beej Celebrations

This Saturday, 14th November 2015, your committee has organised a Grand Diwali, Nutan Varsh Abhinandan and Bhai Beej Celebrations at the Mt Albert War Memorial hall. The evening promises to be a fabulous event. The entertainment segment will have a great mix of live singing, dances and will have a live DeeJay, courtesy of DJ Gerish. A professional photographer will capture the celebrations with family and groups snapped on arrival and during the evening. We have an extensive selection of sumptuous food. Members are encouraged to come, bless and be blessed on this opportune evening.

Children's Xmas Party

The last event on our calendar this year is the Children's Xmas Party. This will be held on Sunday 06 December at the Mt Albert War Memorial hall. Our resident Santa will entertain and hand over gifts to 'children of all ages'. The 'bring a dish' theme will offer a great mix of delicacies along with the ghatia, marcha which we will provide and of course the garam chai we make on site.

NZ Sneh Milan 2018 / 19

These are indeed very exciting times for NZ Soni Samaj and it's members. The announcement at the conclusion of the Fiji Sneh Milan that we will host the next Sneh Milan has enthused our entire community. Preparation and planning is at an early stage. Two factors are hugely critical, the timing and the venues. A fair bit of groundwork is essential before we are able to nail these vital elements. Dinesh Raniga is heading these efforts for Team NZ.

Harshae Raniga

It is with immense pleasure that we share with you that Harshae has represented New Zealand for the All Whites playing against Myanmar on Monday 7th September. This is a matter of great pride for our Samaj. Congratulations.

On behalf of our Committee, we wish you a Happy Diwali and Nutan Varsh Abhinandan and look forward to seeing you all on Saturday evening.

Hari Om.

Ritesh Raniga



Starship Foundation
Supporter



Upcoming Events:



Grand Diwali, Nutan Varshabhinandan and Bhai Beej Celebrations:

When: Saturday 14 November 2015 from 7PM sharp. Everyone must be seated by 7pm for formal function. Please arrive no later than 6.30pm.

Where: Mt. Albert War Memorial Hall, 773 New North Road, Mt. Albert.

Programme Details: Performances, Diya lighting ceremony, and sumptuous dinner. Professional photographer will also be present and hall will be decorated as well.

Entry fee is \$10 (13 years and older).

RSVP: nzsonisamaj@gmail.com

Dress code: Smart Casual or Indian

2015 Childrens Xmas Party

When: Sunday 6 December 2015 from 2pm to 5pm.

Where: Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, 773 New North Road, Mt. Albert.

Programme Details: Performances, Christmas carols, Santa to hand-in gifts on behalf of parents, Afternoon Masala Chai, Fun and Games for children and adults.....Entry is FREE.

Subscriptions:

Annual subscriptions are now due for the period July 1 2015 to June 30 2016. Please post cheque to NZ Soni Samaj, 142 West Coast Road, Glen Eden, Auckland or contact a committee member. Subs are \$20 per person between ages 18 to 65.

You can also pay online into the Samaj Westpac bank account: 030175 0196359 00

It is important to note that subs are a major source of income for the Samaj and helps subsidise expenses like newsletters, communications, functions etc.

Utensil Hire

The Samaj has a set of utensils (pots and pans, serving dishes, spoons etc) which can be used for cooking for up to a thousand people.

We are happy to hire this out. Please contact President Ritesh Raniga (ritesh.raniga@gmail.com or 021576381 or 095763818) if you wish to hire Samaj utensils.

Members: full hire \$200, partial hire \$100

Non members: full hire \$300, partial hire \$150

Non vegetarian cooking will not be permitted. Hirers will need to arrange own transport for pick up and return.

Website—Our website is now up and running. Please go to www.sonisamaj.co.nz where you will find details of events, photos, directory and much more. To access the online directory, please contact a committee member for the password.



In Memoriam—Mrs. Lalita Ben Sundarji Kalidas

Mrs. Lalita Ben Sundarji Kalidas passed away on 2 September 2015. She was born in Jethpur, Gujarat in 1932 to Odhavji Parshottam Lodhia and Samkur Ben.

She grew up in Veraval with her three sisters and a brother. At age 19, she married Mister Sundarji Kalidas in 1951 and moved to Fiji in 1952. She lived a fulfilling life both in Fiji and New Zealand. She was a strong-willed, organized and hard working person with a pure heart. Her giving nature and unconditional love was felt by one and all and she ensured no one left the house hungry. She was a pillar of strength for her entire family and will be greatly missed.



Executive Committee 2015/2016:

President

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Treasurer

Gigesh Pala

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Committee Members 2015/2016

- Tarun Pragji (Waikato Coordinator)
- Minesh Raniga (Soni All Whites Rep)
- Ranjana Gauri
- Jitesh Raniga
- Naina Bhindii
- Jayesh Rana
- Pramesh Sundarjee
- Vishal Parekh
- Uma Chopra

Trustees of the Samaj:

Soni Popat Lal Bagia

Soni Harish Sundarji

Soni Ravin Ranchhod

Recognition of Service to the Samaj— Volunteer Cooking Brigade

(We will be recognising a long-serving member in every newsletter— suggestions welcome)

A thriving and successful community organisation requires a solid volunteer base. The NZSS is no exception. We are blessed to have a Volunteer Cooking Brigade that over the course of two plus decades has saved the Samaj tens of thousands of dollars and cooked the most beautiful and sumptuous meals.

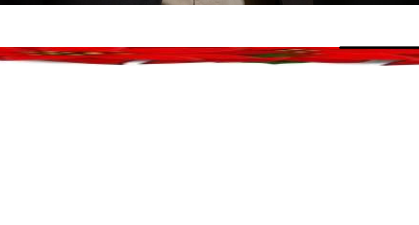
Along the way, as you can see in the pictures, they have fun and have built everlasting friendships.

The volunteer cooking brigade is led by Vice President Mrs. Chandrika Meghji and one of the best Soni cooks in the world - Mrs. Radha Ben Raniga. Over the years, they have been assisted by Leela Kaki, Naina Bhindi, Ranjana Gauri, Mira Jogia, Joshna Sundarji, Vimla Ben Sundarji, Hima Ranchhod, Kanta Ben Raniga, Savita Ben Lodhia, Maya Ben Pala, Prabha Ben Raniga, Chandrika Ben Jogia, Vina Ben Jogia, Madhu Ben Soni, Minal Lodhia, Damyanti Ben Morarji, Saras Ben Raniga, Veena Ben Raniga, Narabda Ben Jagjiwan, Asha Ben Hemraj, Asha Ben Pala, Tina Meghji, Chandrika Meghji, Shobha Advani and Anjana Raniga. Our special gratitude to Savita Masi, Ayunita and Eesha Ranchhod for hosting and assisting with all the Samaj cooking for the past seven years, serving all volunteers a sumptuous breakfast and also looking after the Samaj utensils during this period. This is a great service to the samaj for which the Samaj and it's members are most appreciative.

We sincerely apologise if a name has been omitted. On behalf of the NZ Soni Samaj, we salute and thank the Volunteer Cooking Brigade on behalf of the entire Samaj for their efforts over the years and look forward to their continued support.



MEGA Mothers' Day 2015



**Magic moments Fiji Sneh Milan 2015 (courtesy Jagdish Punja)**

SONI ALL WHITES - PACIFIC CUP CHAMPS THREE IN A ROW



The Soni All Whites have done it again - three in a row!

This time in the smelting and dry heat of Fiji. They beat Soniroos (Australia) 1-0 in the final to win the Sneh Milan 2015 Fiji Trophy and retain the Pacific Challenge Cup. This result meant our Soni All Whites have now won the Pacific Challenge Cup three times and in three different countries. That is a sterling effort from our men and boys in white. Taking a team abroad to compete is never easy. Besides the cost of travel, other personal commitments prevented us from fielding our strongest team this year. We were short on numbers and were far from favourites even though we were the defending champions. Fiji, as hosts and with significant no. of players at their disposal were early favourites and seemed the greatest threat.

Our first game was against Fiji and the team fought hard to get a draw in its first game. Soni All Whites went up early by a superb goal through Rahul Raniga. Fiji stepped up its efforts and drew in the dying minutes from a goal from Aditya Raniga. After an hours break the Soni All White's took the field again, this time against the Soniroos. Again our boys started well and went up 1-0 via a goal from Rahul Raniga. And again a late equaliser by Soniroos from a free kick meant we finished the game 1-1 and settled for another drawn match. At this point it seemed unlikely we were going to the final. This final pool play game was between Fiji and Soniroos. Surprisingly the Soniroos created an upset beating Fiji. This meant Soniroos finished top of the pool play table, Soni All Whites finished second and Fiji last. So the final was set between the traditional trans-tasman rivals; Soniroos vs. Soni All Whites.

The final was a great match. Both teams were evenly matched and in the second half a carefully crafted move by Soni All Whites led to the lone goal scored by none other than Vishal Raniga - who came out of retirement to play for us in the final. Special mention to our two (2) young lads Yash Raniga and Mahir Chand - both of them showed tremendous courage and surely punched above their weight for Soni All Whites in this tournament. These 14 year old Jawans held their own and in instances showed classes of brilliance against seasoned soccer players.

All in all a great tournament. Thanks to all our supporters who came, backed and cheered us on. These little tournaments are great not only for our youth to excel in sports but also to make new lifelong friends from other countries. Thank you to Team Fiji for being such great hosts, now we look forward to defend the Pacific Challenge Cup again in Australia in 2017.



CONGRATULATIONS—HARSHAE RANIGA - NZ ALL WHITES DEBUT

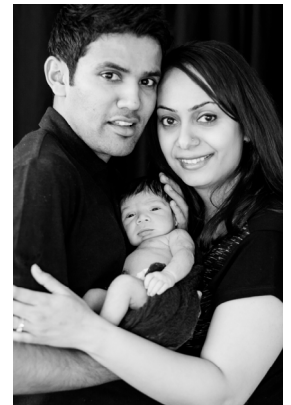
Harshae Raniga, son of Jaynend and Shubha Raniga, created history when he got selected to represent the NZ All Whites in the last International Friendly in Myanmar.

Harshae plays his regular football for Whitakere United and through his brilliant performances and hard work got selected to represent the NZ All Whites, just before his 21st Birthday. A massive achievement from this young lad and his family for their dedication and persistence. Unfortunately, Harshae's debut was cut short through injury but this is surely a beginning with plenty more accolades to follow. Our well wishes are with Harshae for his quick recovery and all the best for his future endeavours.



Congratulations to Anish Patel and Deepa Bhindi Patel

"Filling our arms with Love and our hearts with joy. We proudly announce the birth of our boy, Ayaan Ansh Patel , Born on 06/08/2015 "



Congratulations to Jitesh and Dimple Raniga on the arrival of Shyam Kishan Raniga, born on 12 May 2015 , youngest brother to Sahil, Khushi and Devakee.



Congratulations to Ajay and Renuma Vasram on the birth of their baby Riaan Vasram, born on 1st February, 2015

Diwali Messages from Sonis of the World:

Queensland Soni Samaj Inc

Hello and Jai Shree Krishna,

The QSSI team would like to wish the New Zealand Soni Samaj a Happy Diwali and Nutan Varshabhinandan. May this auspicious occasion enrich your lives with happiness and bright cheer and bring to you and your family joy and prosperity for the year ahead.



Our young and vibrant new committee is very proud to lead the Soni community at such a defining point in our history. We look forward strengthening our relationship into the future, especially at your upcoming Sneh-Milan.

Regards, Your 2015/2016 QSSI Team.

Back: Devisha Raniga, Trisha Jogia, Vrinda Raniga, Simran Madhoji.

Middle: Vishesh Lodhia, Veejal Kumar (secretary), Shraddha Nandha (Vice President), Prahlad Payda (President), Roma Patel (Treasurer), Jitesh Raniga

Front: Darshan Payda, Ravi Kumar. Absent: Yashna Harilal

Please copy and paste below link into browser to view a video featuring a traditional poem especially prepared by Shraddha Nandha.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8fFKeBUK3o&feature=youtu.be>

Fiji Soni Samaj

Jai Shri Krishna

On behalf of Fiji Soni Samaj I would like to wish everyone a Happy Diwali and a Happy New Year.

Four months have passed away since we hosted our Sneh Milan in Fiji. The Sneh Milan has revitalised the Soni communities in Fiji and abroad.

I hope everyone had a complete blast and it was good to see a big turnout from New Zealand for the Sneh Milan. I wish all the best to NZ Soni Samaj for hosting the next Sneh Milan and we all look forward to the dates.

Kind Regards,

Romit Meghji, President

Continued—Diwali Messages from Sonis of the World:

Message from Canada

We at Soni Cultural Society of BC take immense pleasure in conveying our well wishes as we mutually celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Light, with families, relatives and friends in New Zealand, and World via Soni Sandesh. Our sincere prayers of happiness, health, peace, prosperity and wisdom precipitate amongst all of you and the entire globe!

We invoke the sacred prayer of the supreme MahaLakshmi for mutual success:

Om Sarvabaadhaa Vinirmukto, Dhan Dhaanyah Sutaanvitah |

Manushyo Matprasaaden Bhavishyati Na Sanshayah Om ||

From the outer space, the Festival of Light may appear to have the reminiscence of domino effect knowing that Fiji will celebrate Diwali first, followed by New Zealand, Australia and the entire Oceania as the celebration moves westward. Then it should reach its primordial place of origin in India and Asia, and thereafter to East Africa and the African Continent, gradually moving further west to Europe and the United Kingdom. Finally it reaches the Americas and Canada where we ritualize this ancient celebration in Vancouver, almost a day later!

Congratulations to Soni Samaj of New Zealand for undertaking the hosting of the next Sneh Milan in Auckland. We understand that the success of the Sneh Milan will require tireless planning, mega effort and mass communication to orchestrate it for the benefit of all. Knowing the strength is in the unity of your membership, we envision much success in this endeavour.

The news brief from our side of the world is that we celebrated the most amazing Navratri Festival 2015, at a new and larger venue in Surrey, BC. Thankfully, our Garba enthusiasts joyfully kept the Award Winning Music Director Maulik Mehta and Band performing till the wee hours of the morning! The finale of our celebrations culminated in an equally successful Diwali Dinner & Bollywood Dhamaka event at the Michael J. Fox Theatre at Burnaby, on Sunday November 1, 2015. Our success is squarely rooted in the unconditional support of many members, friends and sponsors. They truly deserve the salute of our appreciation!

Sincerely,

Umesh Raniga,

President

AACHARYA ASHRAM NEW ZEALAND

P O Box 16 285 • SANDRINGHAM • AUCKLAND • NEW ZEALAND

Phone-Fax: +64 9 846 0766

Dear Devotees.
Hari Om.

Aacharya Shree Vasant Kumar Shukla and members of Aacharya Ashram New Zealand wishing you HAPPY DEEPAWALI and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2072.

The auspicious times for performing pooja are:

* DHAN TERASH -Monday 09/11/2015

Time for pooja

06.13 am to 07.56 am

09.39 am to 11.22 am

02.48 pm to 09.40 pm

* KAALI CHAUDASH -Tuesday 10/11/2015

Cooking times

11.22 am to 02.48 pm

04.32 pm to 06.15 pm

Yam Deep

07.57 pm

Naivedya

08.11 pm

* DEEPAWALI -Wednesday 11/11/2015

Lakshmi Pooja

06.11 am to 09.38 am

11.22 am to 01.05 pm

04.33 pm to 07.59 pm

09.16 pm to 11.48 pm

* NOOTAN VARSH -New Year 2072 Thursday 12/11/2015

* BHAI BEEJ -Friday 13/11/2015

*The times given are adjusted for daylight saving time in New Zealand and for New Zealand's geographic location.

Hari Om