

SONI SANDESH

www.sonisamaj.co.nz

✉ nzsonisamaj@gmail.com

Soni Sandesh May 2017 Edition

A Publication of Soni Samaj NZ Inc

President's Message

Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. Mother's Day is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. In New Zealand we celebrate in the month of May and is the second Sunday of the month.

In the Hindu culture, we believe that mothers are the prime pillar in a family who binds all together and holds that magic feyness and touch to see differently on each situation. As all children are not the same a mother demonstrates her abilities and qualities to handles all children in the same way. She knows the needs from the wants and is the distribution centre of a family.

A mother becomes a mother by birthing a child, adopting a child and or treating a child of another mother as her own. This trait is GOD'S gift and mothers do it with a lot of LOVE and JOY! This Joy cannot be measured in any way. Every mother is different and every child is also different, we must learn not to HURT the feelings of a MOTHER. Treat her with UTTERMOST RESPECT and have the capacity to first listen to her and then react.

"Matru Devo Bhava & Pitru Devo Bhava" Respecting Parents & Parental Responsibility.

Hindu Dharma teaches that respecting parents is a virtue that should be observed throughout one's life and that parents have a sacred duty to their children.

Ye Devi sarva bhooteshu matru roopena samsthita namastasyai namastasyai namastasyainamo namaha –
Devi mahathmyam

Meaning: Salutation to the divine mother whose art manifest in every being's existence as mother, I worship thee, over and over and over again.

In India the mother is the centre of the family and our highest ideal. She is to us the representative of God, as God is the mother of the universe. It is a female sage who first found unity of God, and laid down this doctrine of the first hymns of the Vedas. Our God is both personal and absolute is male, the personal, female. And thus it comes that we now say:

"The first manifestation of God is the hand that rocks the cradle" – Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda summarised the Indian mother hood very well and I quote: "Being a mother is a challenging role for every women. All the sleepless nights, busy days and efforts look after a growing child can make one dizzy. As children grow, schooling and extra-curricular activities take up most of your time. They take up all your attention. Your entire lifestyle takes a 360degree flip. Yet a mother loves being a mother. Mothers around the world experience a dramatic change in their lives and attitudes once a child enters their lives."

On 20th May we honour and celebrate all those moms and wishing them a Very Happy Mother's Day.

Dinesh Raniga, President.



SONI SAMAJ NEW ZEALAND

Mother's Day Function

SATURDAY 20 MAY 2017, 7PM

MT ALBERT WAR MEMORIAL HALL,
751 NEW NORTH ROAD, MT ALBERT

RSVP Essential

RSVP VIA EMAIL NZSONISAMAJ@GMAIL.COM

DRESS CODE | PARTY / EVENING WEAR/ INDIAN
\$10 PER PERSON (UNDER 12 FREE)

WE WILL ALSO CELEBRATE
THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. DAI BEN JOGIA,
WHOSE FAMILY HAS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED THE DINNER FOR THE EVENING

Upcoming Events:

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 9 September 2017

Fickling Convention Centre

546 Mt. Albert Road

Three Kings,

Auckland



Diwali, Nutan Varsh and Bhai Beej Celebrations :

Saturday 21 October 2017

Freemans Bay Community Centre

52 Hepburn Street

Ponsonby

Auckland

Subscriptions:

Annual subscriptions are now due for the period July 1 2016 to June 30 2017. 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 former 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.

Our Newsletter, Our Samaj—Your participation is the key:

If you wish to share any news -celebrations, milestones, achievement etc—with the rest of the Samaj, please email us at nzsonisamaj@gmail.com or contact the committee directly.

Please also let us know if you would like to contribute in the newsletter by way of articles etc.

If you would also like to sponsor a Samaj event, either fully or partially, or advertise in Soni Sandesh please let us know. There are various options and we will work with you.

Executive Committee 20016/2017:**President**

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Committee Members 2016/2017

- Tarun Pragji (Waikato Coordinator)
- Minesh Raniga (Soni All Whites Rep)
- Ranjana Gauri
- Rakesh Dharamsi
- Naina Bhindii
- Jayesh Rana
- Hima Ranchhod
- Harish Raniga
- Uma Chopra
- Akash (Raj) Lodhia
- Shilpa Ranchhod
- Reena Bagia

Trustees of the Samaj:

Soni Popat Lal Bagia
Soni Harish Sundarji
Soni Ravin Ranchhod

Recognition of Service to the Samaj— Harish Sundarji

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

Harish Sundarji has served the New Zealand Soni Samaj with exception from the very early days in roles of committee member and for two years as President.

Currently, he is an honourable trustee of the Samaj and Chairman of the important Finance Committee of the 2018 Sneh Milan. He is also a great family man and does wonderful service work for The Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre.

The entire Sundarji Family are great servants of the Samaj. Their dedication and enthusiasm for Samaj duties is remarkable and exemplary.

On behalf of the NZ Soni Samaj, we thank Harish Bhai and the entire Sundarji Family for their service and look forward to their participation and leadership in the 2018 Sneh Milan.



DIWALI 2016



DIWALI 2016



Indiagate Fundraising Dinner, 16 Dec 2016





SONI SAMAJ NZ INC 001

FUND RAISING DINNER

In support of Soni Samaj Sneh Milan

Friday 16 December @ 7.00pm
India Gate Restaurant, 380 Manukau Road, Epsom

DRESS CODE
Smart Casual

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

BRING ON YOUR DANCING SHOES.
A NIGHT FILLED WITH FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT....

\$50 PER PERSON





Vyom Paida born on Monday 09 Jan 2017.

Congratulations to proud parents

Yogesh and Hetal Paida
and sister Pia.



Engagement Announcement—Congratulations

Bhawick Rahul Raniga, Grand Son of Late Soni Makanji Harjiwan & SMT Narabda Makanji Raniga, Late Bachulal and Kamla Ben Bhindi, Son of Lata & Dinesh Raniga. To Perna Sinha daughter of Mrs Anju & Dr Surya Narayan Sinha of Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh, India.



Congratulations to
Pranil Ranchhod for
winning a Silver
Medal in the 2017
World Masters
Games Mixed
Doubles Tennis.



In Memoriam—Yogesh Bhai Sundarjee



Soni Yogesh Bhai Sundarjee passed away at the Auckland hospital, Thursday 20 April 2017.

He was the husband of late Mrs Sharda Ben Sundarjee, father of Umesh based Fiji and Pramesh Sundarjee (former president, NZ Soni Samaj), father in law of Megna, grandfather of Anish and Kriya. He was the son of Late Soni Jethalal Bhai Sundarjee, Late Mrs Chatur Ben Sundarjee and Mrs Dhanbai Jethalal Sundarjee. He was the brother of Late Uma Ben, Sushila Ben, Has Mukh Bhai, Vibha Ben, Usha Ben.

NZ Soni Samaj expresses deepest of sympathies to the entire extended family of Mr. Yogesh Bhai Sundarjee.

Messages from Sonis of the World: Canada

Happy Mother's Day!

Greetings and Congratulations from Vancouver to all the readers of Soni Sandesh! May we all celebrate this Mother's Day with the humble realization of her.



Bravo! The Soni presence at this event was remarkable considering the Field Doctor was none other than our own Parth Lodhia. A proud moment for Veeral, the Lodhias, as well as the Sundarjis. Missing was the spectacular Haka finale by the All Blacks who had won gloriously in 2016.



World Rugby Seven Series

A week prior to Spring Sonis across Vancouver gathered to witness the World Rugby Sevens-Series. England won the cup by scoring 19-7 against South Africa as a staggering 76,116 fans watched 45 rugby matches at BC Place.

The Fijian players were mesmerized by the local support, as the masses who had banked on their win, watched the cup slipped out of Fiji's hands. Canada made all of us proud with

Soni Outreach Events

Our community has been actively involved and engaged in reaching out to those in need with our Outreach Program. We currently serve hot and delicious meals to more than 175 locals, on the first Sunday of every Month.

Looking Forward

We Wish You Every Success With Organizing the Soni Sneh Milan in Auckland!

Sincerely, *Umesh Raniga,*

Soni Cultural Society of British Columbia

Continued—Diwali Messages from Sonis of the World: Queensland Soni Samaj



Dear New Zealand Soni Samaj Members!

G'Day from your brothers and sisters across the pond!

As you would know, the QSSI recently held the 2017 Soni Pacific Cup, here in Brisbane. An event to bring together family friends from Fiji, New Zealand and Interstate – to grow upon and develop new relationships.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all those that attended the Pacific Cup 2017 event over the weekend. It was most definitely a successful event!

The event began on Friday, with the LCI Player's Night at Bar Pacino. Saturday morning was the big day - the following were the results: Match 1: Soniroos vs New Zealand, 2-1. Match 2: Soniroos vs Fiji, 4-2. Eliminator: New Zealand vs Fiji, 1-2. Final: Soniroos vs Fiji, 5-0.

The Gala Night took place Saturday evening - a night of great food, amazing entertainment and even better company.



We hope to foster and develop this spirit further, in particular for our youth and new players, as we head into the New Zealand Sneh Milan in 2018. The entire QSSI community is feeling ready and excited for what NZ has to offer – expect us to arrive in herds!

Finally, from a committee perspective, we would like to thank the global Soni community for their fostering and support of this young committee. Taking over in 2015 as exclusively high-school students, university students and young professionals – it was an honour and privilege to take this first step. We believe this really goes to personify the saying that “the youth are our future”.

Thanking you,

Prahlad Payda, Roma Patel, Veejal Kumar, Vishesh Lodhia,
QSSI Execs 2017

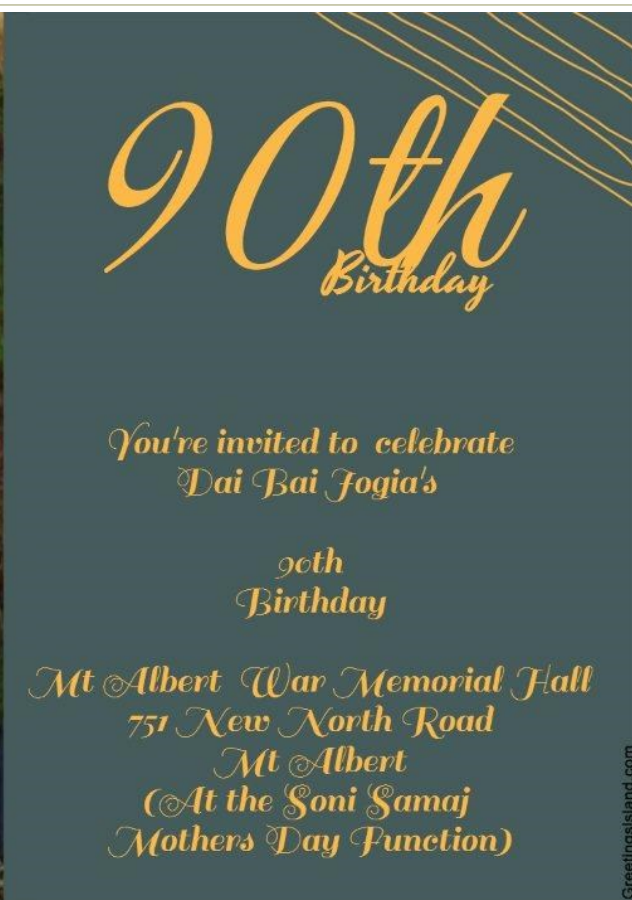
New Zealand Soni participation at 2017 Soni Pacific Challenge Cup in Brisbane



Former NZSS President Ritesh Raniga handing over the Soni Amratlal Jamnadas Soni Samaj Pacific Challenge Cup to QSSI Patron Arun Raniga. Soni Samaj NZ thanks the QSSI committee and members for their hospitality and we look forward to hosting you all at the 2018 NZ Sneh Milan.



A Special Invitation:



Continued—Messages from Sonis of the World:

Girnara Soni Samaj Fiji

It is with great pleasure , once again , that i have been asked to write a message for our sister organisation in New Zealand.

NZ Samaj , as we all know , is perhaps one of the most active in the whole world. Not a month goes by that we don't get details of some activity or the other taking place there. It is the envy of all sonis.

From what i can gather , Sneh Milan 2018 is gearing up to be a great event not to be missed by anyone. I can't believe that in less than one year we will all again congregate in NZ as one large happy family. The Sneh Milan in Fiji was only held yesterday so to speak. Our best wishes is with the hard working executives of the NZ Samaj.



Brisbane made us proud last week when they hosted a fun filled sporting weekend. Fiji , NZ and Aust was represented in Indeed there was solid participation from all quarters including Fiji. Our team suffered defeat in the finals but not without a fight i must say. Yes , we did come out bruised and tired. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful fun filled experience all round .

Brisbane hosted a great evening for the visitors and for their members and friends. I salute them for the organiding the sporting event and the socials that followed.

I take this opportunity to wish all our mothers not just happiness on mothers day but happiness everyday of the year.

Jay shree Krishna, Romit Meghji, President

SONI SAHELIS—an integral part of NZ Soni Samaj

The Sahelis kicked off the 2017 year with enjoying the great outdoors and making the most of the New Zealand summer. We have had at 3 picnics to date, at Cornwall Park, Pt. Chevalier and Western Springs. Being in nature and under beautiful trees with gorgeous views and great company is very therapeutic indeed.

However our intentions of making our get togethers more meaningful with sharing knowledge, Mantra chanting, bhajans, kirtan and having a higher purpose in life is still on the agenda.

Mantra is very powerful in harmonising the mental well being of a person. "Man" is the mind which is more subtle than the body and "tra" also means purifying or cleansing. So we do Ganesha mantras, Gayatri mantra, Mahamitrjai mantra and Hanuman chalisa regularly

We may be doing our own prayers and chants at home but the energy generated in a group chanting and prayers is magnified hundreds of times and specially so if we meditate together as well. Being in that energy space is very nourishing for our souls.

We also observe whatever parab or tithi is on. So far we have observed Mahashivratri, Holi and Ramnaumi during our gatherings.

Our sessions are 3-4 hours and the time flies. We usually finish off feeling we didn't have enough time for all we wanted to do, especially not enough of the antakshari at the end -haha. Perhaps a combined Soni Samaj function could be an antakshari night!

One of our highlights of the day of course is the afternoon chai with delicious snacks shared by all attendees.

Now with the cooler months back our get togethers are hosted at Sahelis' homes. Our April gathering was at Chandrika Jogia's place.

We look forward to the Mega- Mother's Day function on May 20th for our main May event where we get to meet those who cannot come to the day sessions.

We would like to expand on our community seva and welcome ideas and suggestions from our younger Sahelis as well.

On behalf of the wider Sahelis' group I would like to acknowledge the time and effort put into the functions by the hosts, participants, coordinators (Ranjana, Saras, Chandrika and Uma) and most importantly, those who coordinate the pick ups and drop offs.

Lets work towards realising our full potential to help improve our community.

We are born to serve!

Yours, Uma Chopra





Soni All Whites

Our Soni All Whites team participated in the Pacific Cup Challenge tournament this year in Brisbane, Queensland.

Unfortunately, the Soni All Whites team failed to retain the Pacific Cup that we had won 3-years in a row. Primary factor, was the lack of participation from the boys but the team gave a good account for themselves. A massive thanks to the Brisbane boys that played for the Soni All Whites.



Results, from the tournament:

Soni All White v Soniroos 1-2, Fiji v Soniroos 2-4, Fiji v Soni All Whites 2-1

Final: Fiji v Soniroos 0-5

The games were played in good spirits and as the tradition goes, few of our Soni All Whites boys were picked to play in the finals and they played for Soniroos and Fiji respectively. Not surprisingly, these were our standout players for the tournament:

Ayush Raniga, Mahir Chand, Yash Raniga, Rahul Pala, Milan Raniga

Our hearty thanks to the Queensland Soni Samaj (Prahlaad & his team) for hosting us and congrats to the Soniroos for their historical victory. I am sure we will give them a good run in next year at Sneh Milan 2018. Dinesh Raniga, President of NZ Soni Samaj, gave a welcome presentation to all at Gala Night and the video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/9NWuuyyg-qo>



NZ Nadi Gujarati Soccer Team

Our boys had another successful outing in the 27th NZ Gujarati Soccer tournament this year with Nadi fielding two (2) teams (i.e. Nadi A and Nadi B) with a great mixture of youth and experience.

The standard of football displayed by the Nadi teams have improved significantly over the past couple of years and as the coach/official of the teams, I can put hand to heart and say that we have one of the best teams in the country. Having said that, we still do not have a trophy to show for it.

Results, from 27th Easter Tournament:

Friday, 14th April: BA v Nadi B 1-2, United v Nadi A 0-0, Flamingos v Nadi B 1-3

Saturday, 15th April: Waikato v Nadi A 0-1, Fiji West v Nadi A 1-3

Sunday, 16th April: Nadro v Nadi B 2-0, Nth Strikers v Nadi A 2-1

Nadi B, managed by Ritesh Raniga and led by Ravi Raniga, had a no. of young lads who have out-performed some of the seasoned players in the tournament and these boys are gearing up for Nadi A spots in the coming years. These are:

Yash Raniga, Mahir Chand, Ayush Raniga, Harshikesh Raniga, Krishn Bagia

Looking at these young lads excel, interest is high within the community and other youngsters wanting to follow on their footsteps and represent Nadi in the future. Laying a great platform for the future of Nadi team.



Nadi A, managed by Jaynend Raniga and Captained by Kinjal Patel, were once again very unlucky not to progress further than the semi-finals stage. A freak goal, some individual errors and injuries were to blame for the poor outing in the semi-final against Northern Strikers. In addition, the ground conditions didn't suit the free-flowing style of play the team is used to but the team has massive potential and could easily be champions of NZ at any other given day.

Individuals that stood out during the tournament:

Sagar Patel (4 goals), Harshae Raniga, Shemaia Rodrigues, Tamrez Ali

Due to there being a no. of young boys involved, parents start showing lots of interest (which is great) but are left annoyed when their kids don't see game time during the tournament over 2-3 games.

My plea to these parents is to start looking into the bigger picture of the experience on offer in this team environment. The discipline, collaboration, fitness work and socialising the kids go through over the 2-3 month period is far more beneficial so try not to judge the value of your kid's involvement over the 3day tournament outing.

Participation in any team sports in NZ is at some cost and running an organisation with 50+ members is not easy so please do kindly support Team Nadi, in any way or form, so we can become a bigger better organisation.

Jai Shree Krishna to all.

Minesh Raniga

Soni All Whites Rep,

Coach/Official, Nadi Gujarati Sport & Cultural Association



2018 SNEH MILAN UPDATE

Greetings to our friends and well-wishers throughout New Zealand and across the world,
With pleasure, we reveal our theme for the 2018 Sneh Milan –

“Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations”.

This is in keeping with our theme of inclusiveness and unity across all age groups, in particular our young and senior citizens.

Once again, with great humility and folded hands, the entire New Zealand Soni Samaj invites you to join us in “Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations”.

Our aim is to enlighten, engage, entertain and celebrate our unique culture and heritage.

Registration forms and such formalities are almost finalised.

Soon, you will be able to go to our updated website www.sonisamaj.co.nz and fill out the **Easy Online Registration Form**. Please note registration is not valid until payment is made.

We have also virtually finalised the broader program. But as you can appreciate, there could be some minor changes as we go along.



Calendar of Events (subject to minor changes)

Thursday 29 March 2018—2pm to 10pm, Soccer at Bill McKinley Park.

Friday 30 March 2018—Arrive 6pm at Mahatma Gandhi Centre. Welcome and Registration, collection of registration packs. Formal opening by dignitaries and speeches. NZ Themed entertainment. Dinner, dance.

Saturday 31 March 2018

8am – Soccer, followed by indoor/outdoor sports and lunch at Lynfield Recreation Centre

11am – Tirat Yatra, visiting places of worship in Auckland, guided by Soni Sahelis.

Arrive before 7pm at Mahatma Gandhi Centre for evening function.

Performances by overseas participants. Dinner, dance.

Sunday 1 April, 2018

10am—details to be finalised.

Arrive 7pm for Grand Finale. Keynote item by NZ Soni Samaj. Dinner.





Badhai Aavjo

Welcome

**NZ INTERNATIONAL
SONI SNEH MILAN**

EASTER 30th MARCH to 1st APRIL 2018

AUCKLAND - NEW ZEALAND

www.sonisamaj.co.nz

“Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations”