

SONI SANDESH

www.sonisamaj.co.nz

✉ nzsonisamaj@gmail.com

Soni Sandesh Diwali 2017 Edition

A Publication of Soni Samaj NZ Inc

President's Message

Jai Shree Ram

Dipavali or Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights. One of our most popular festivals, it spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair.

The celebrations around the world signify by lighting on house-tops, outdoors windows in the temple. The festival preparations and rituals extend over 5 days, but the main festival night of Diwali coincides with the darkest, new moon night of the Hindu Lunisor month Kartika in Bikram Sambat calender.

Before Diwali night, people clean, renovate and decorate their homes and offices. On Diwali night, people dress up in new clothes or their best outfit, light up diyas (lamps and candles) inside and outside their home, participate in family puja typically to Laxhmi – the goddess of wealth and properrity. After puja, fireworks follow then, a family feast including sweets and an exchange of gifts between family members and close friends. Diwali also marks a major shopping period in India and around the world where Indians live. Let us all do the same clean our surroundings and share love with one and all in our loved ones, our Samaj and above all the universe.

The rituals of Diwali starts with Dhanteras, Kaali Chaudas, Diwali, Nutan Varsh (New Year) and & Bhai Dooj (Beej), dedicated to sister –brother bond on the fifth day. Please find attached to this Soni Sandesh the timings over the Diwali period with kind assistance of Acharya Shree Vasant Kumar Shukla.

On this occasion of Diwali, on behalf of your executive committee and our board of trustees, we wish you all a Happy Diwali, and Nutan Varshabhinandan.

Join us in celebrating Diwali, Nutan Varshabhinandan and Bhai Beej on 21 October 2017.

Jai Shree Krishna.





Upcoming Events:

SONI SAMAJ
NZ INC

PRESENTS
Grand Diwali, Nutan Varshabhinandan and Bhai Beej Celebrations

Saturday 21 October 2017
Please be seated by 7pm for formal function
Mix and mingle from 6 to 7pm
Freemans Bay Community Centre, 52 Hepburn Street, Ponsonby, Auckland 1011

Happy
Diwali

Performances by Soni youth and professional entertainers
followed by sumptuous dinner
Professional photographer will also be present
Entry fee is \$10 (12 years and over)

RSVP: nzsonisamaj@gmail.com by 19 October for cooking purposes PLEASE

Dress code: Indian

New Zealand
International Soni
Sneh Milan
28 March - 4 April 2018
Auckland, New Zealand
www.sonisamaj.co.nz
Celebrating Soni Culture, Values & Traditions

Message from Soni Sahelis

Diwali greetings and Nutan Varsh Abhinandan from the Sahelis.

Also Bhai beej ki Shubh kamnaya to all brothers and sisters.

The Sahelis have been having a rocking time lately with increased enthusiasm for the monthly get togethers. Our participation has grown from about 10 regulars to up to 40 at times.

We welcome all new members whole-heartedly.

Our recent gathering was also at a first timers place, Meena Ben Rana 's place.

The upcoming Samelan has added to the excitement in the air. Sahelis are keen to participate in new ventures for the Soni Samelan 2018

There is a lot happening behind the scenes thanks to our dedicated instructors.

The purpose of our gatherings is to stay connected and involve all members of our Samaj, young and old. We are mindful that these Samaj events provide the much-needed social connection for our members.

And since we have a fairly relaxed agenda, there is time for fun, jokes, story sharing, and wisdom discussion together with our Bha-jans. The presence of our elders gives us a sense of pride in continuing with our satsangs.

A few of our members led by Saras Raniga also visit a Rest Home to provide much needed company and some entertainment.

We have raised a small amount from Saheli contributions to provide long shelf life foodstuff for the Ronald McDonald House Auckland that supports families of children in Starship Hospital. The deed is yet to be done.

We look forward to the warmer months for our Sahelis' picnic and Christmas events. These joyful outings give us all an opportunity to be natural, child like happy and enthusiastic.

The Sahelis as all women in their families, provide the soft and yet powerful touch to the Samaj events namely being active on the committee and providing the 'womanpower' at the cooking ventures for our events. There are some very brightly shining stars in this category.

We wish everyone good family time together during Diwali and the upcoming holiday season.

The Saheli event coordinators are
Saras Raniga, Ranjana Gauri, Chandrika Meghji and Uma Chopra

With a sense of love and belongingness

Yours , Uma



Message from Soni All Whites

Jai shree Krishna , Firstly, a very happy diwali to you all.

Samelan Cup will be up for grabs and I'm certain the Australian Soccerroos (defending Pacific Cup champs) and Fiji Soni Samaj will be coming in full force to win in our backyard. Training for Soni All Whites Team will commence in January 2018, further details will be provided in due course.

Furthermore, the coming year is going to be massive for the entire New Zealand Soni Samaj and every member of the Soni All Whites will has a part to play. Please come along and help out where possible. Everyone can make a difference.

Minesh Raniga , Soni All Whites Rep





Executive Committee 2017/2018:

President

Dinesh Raniga
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Vice President

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Treasurer

Aradhana Lal
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Immediate Past President

Ritesh Raniga
Email: ritesh.raniga@gmail.com
Phone: 021 576381

Committee Members 2017/2018

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

Trustees of the Samaj:

Soni Popat Lal Bagia
Soni Harish Sundarji
Soni Ravin Ranchhod

Recognition of Service to the Samaj— Ravin Ranchhod

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

Ravin Ranchhod is currently a Samaj Trustee.

He has been involved in the Samaj right from its inception and has served in various capacities including committee member and Vice President. He is also the co-chair of the important 2018 Sneh Milan Finance Committee.

Ravin has also played a crucial role over the years in overseeing the Samaj's accounting and financial practices which for a voluntary community organization are run in exemplary fashion.

Ravin has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help in cooking and cleaning at Samaj functions!

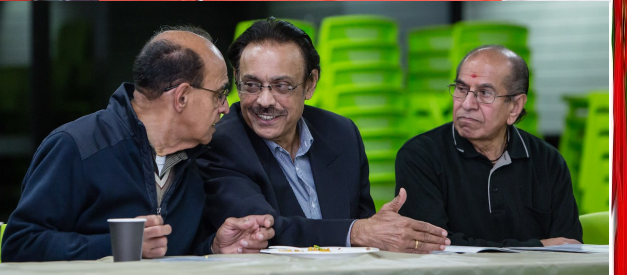
Soni Samaj NZ thanks Ravin and his family for giving his time and support to Samaj activities and events for so many years.

Thanks also to his wife Hima who is currently a committee member and daughters Shilpa (Assistant Secretary) and Sonya.





AGM 2017 Photos





MEGA Mothers' Day 2017





MEGA Mothers' Day 2017



PHOTOGRAPHY BY



CREATIVE EYE
We do Wedding, Family & Event Photography

For print requirements from this album
 please contact Naren at
 creativeeye.nz@gmail.com or 021 292 2816

Prints	Canvas
4x6 - \$5	A3 - \$60
5x7 - \$8	A2 - \$100
6x8 - \$10	A1 - \$180
8x10 - \$20	

Courier: add \$3 for prints, \$15 for canvas or pickup from Newmarket





HONOURABLE TRUSTEES OF SONI SAMAJ NZ



From left to right,
Soni Harish Sundarji
Soni Popatlal Bagia
Soni Ravin Ranchhod

SONI SAMAJ NZ INC



SONI SAMAJ NZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017/18



Executive Committee 2017/2018

President

Dinesh Raniga
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 Phone: 021 709884

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Vice President

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Executive Committee 2017/2018

Immediate Past President

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Treasurer

Aradhana Samta
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 Phone: 021 884431

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 Naina Bhindii
 Jayesh Rana
 Hima Ranchhod
 Harish Raniga
 Uma Chopra
 Reena Bagia

Trustees of the Samaj

Soni Popat Lal Bagia
 Soni Harish Sundarji
 Soni Ravin Ranchhod



“Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations”



“ A beautiful baby boy has come to fill our lives with joy and bliss. Deepa and Anish Patel and older brother Ayaan Ansh Patel are proud to announce the birth of Armaan Ansh Patel, Born on 13 August 2017 in Auckland”



Announcing the birth of Shivaay Bhindi on 22 May 2017.

Congratulations to proud parents Krishan and Sheetal Bhindi and grandparents Deshmukh and Kusum Bhindi and Shachin and Vidya Lal.

Krishan and Sheetal “are glad to have our precious son in our lives as we embark on this amazing journey all together”.



Announcing the birth of Eva Raniga, born in Sydney, May 2017.

Congratulations to parents Deven and Tina Raniga and Grandparents—Rajen & Leela Raniga and Pushpa Bir.

Announcing the birth of Radhey Raj Raniga on 31 July 2017. Congratulations to parents Pranesh and Mona Raniga, sister Krisha and Grandparents Suresh and Dhiraj Raniga, Jay Prakash and Nila Lodhiya and the entire Raniga and Lodhiya families.





“Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations”

Bhavya Pala



Bhavya Pala recently sang the famous “Laadki” song with its original singer, Kirtidan Gadhvi from Coke Studio (pictured with Bhavya). It was in front of a crowd of over 2000. And the audience was left spellbound with Bhavya’s performance.

Bhavya and her sister Ashi Vaani are regular performers and contributors at Samaj events.

We thank the two sisters and their parents Mandeep and Bhavisha Pala for their support and wish them well for the future.



Sunil Raniga— A high achiever in Cricket and Football

Congratulations to Sunil on his many achievements. Soni Samaj NZ recognises and thanks Sunil for his efforts within the Samaj and beyond.

Some of Sunil’s achievements:

- Eden Roskill Cricket Coach of the year 2013, Cornwall Cricket. Burgess Trophy. Contribution to Club Cricket. 2017. This trophy has been won by many great names in cricket. Some of them are Rex Smith (OBE for services to cricket), A Parore, Adrian Dale, Sam Anderson, T Wilson, M Greatbach, Three Kings United Football. Rees Trophy. 2016 Club member of the year.

- Auckland Cricket Titles in coaching. Year 7/8, Under 14 Prems, Under 18 Prems, B1 mens Grade,

A1 Mens grade at Eden Roskill. (the team was promoted to Prem Reserves Minor and Eden Roskill was the only club to have 2 Prem Reserves Teams.)

A1 Mens grade at Cornwall. (the team is now in Prem Reserves Minor and Cornwall also have 2 Prem Reserves teams.)

This year Sunil is coaching Prem Reserves Minor and Senior B1 at Cornwall.



Sunil is a fully qualified Level 2 NZ Cricket Coach.

- In Football Sunil has been with Three Kings United for 28 years playing at various mens level and started playing over 35 grade 19 years ago. He started playing over 40 grade in 2008 and won Division 1 in 2015. He has coached at Three Kings united for 12 years from 2002 to 2014.

And indeed Sunil was a founding member, coach, player and manager of the Aapru Football Club, a precursor to the Soni All Whites. We thank Sunil for his great work and contribution to our Samaj over all these years.



ācharya āshram New Zealand

Founder: Acharya Shree Vasant Kumar Shukla

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Acharya Ashram New Zealand
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Acharya Shree Vasant Kumar Shukla and members of Acharya Ashram New Zealand wishing you HAPPY DEEPAWALI and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2074

The auspicious times for performing pooja are:

* **DHAN TERASH** –Tuesday 17/10/2017

Time for pooja
11.30 am to 02.44 pm
04.21 pm to 05.58 pm
08.57 pm to 10.20 pm

* **KAALI CHAUDASH**-Wednesday 18/10/2017

Cooking times
06.37 am to 09.52 am
11.29 am to 01.06 pm
04.40 pm to 07.00 pm

Yam Deep
08.20 pm
Naivedya
08.25 pm

* **DEEPAWALI** –Thursday 19/10/2017

Lakshmi Pooja
06.36 am to 08.12 am
11.30 am to 04.21 pm
07.12 pm to 10.21 pm

* **NOOTAN VARSH** -New Year 2074 Friday 20/10/2017

* **BHAI BEEJ**-Saturday 21/10/2017

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

Hari Om

“Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations”



Congratulations to Raina and Jerome Solanki on the birth of their son Avaan Solanki on 19th of June 2017. Lots of love and blessings from the grand parents , mamas and masis.





UPDATE OCTOBER 2017

Greetings to our friends and well-wishers throughout New Zealand and across the world,

With great humility and folded hands, the entire New Zealand Soni Samaj invites you to join us in "Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations"



Thanks to so many of you who have already registered.

As an additional incentive, we have introduced an early bird discount for all our overseas guests.

For all overseas guests (ie Non-NZ citizens/residents) between the ages 12 to 75 years inclusive as at 29 March 2018, pay only \$150 NZD per person (saving of \$50 NZD) by registering before 31 December 2017.

(If you have already registered and are eligible for the early bird discount, we will automatically refund you the difference).

Please 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. Please email us at nzsonisamaj@gmail.com if any overseas visitors require assistance with the visa application process.

We have also updated the program as attached to include dress codes for the three main evening functions and some suggestions for accommodation bookings, specially for overseas guests.

As advised earlier, we are still inviting all overseas based Samaj organisations to tender a brief proposal (via return email to nzsonisamaj@gmail.com) for a 15 minute item their members will be performing at the Sneh Milan.

We will need the song details etc if item is dance oriented and basic details of any other type of performance.

Our aim is to have a truly global and inclusive Sneh Milan.

Hence, we are inviting everyone to start making plans for 2018.

In the meantime, if you have any questions/comments or queries, please email us at nzsonisamaj@gmail.com



Celebrating Soni Culture Across Generations



Accommodation Suggestions:

The three main evening venues are in central city Auckland. We suggest you book online any Central CITY Auckland hotel/motel/apartment if you wish to stay close to the evening venues. Millennium Hotels and Resorts are providing a 20% discount off their "Fully Flexible Rate" on any of their properties throughout New Zealand. See www.millenniumhotels.com and use promo code STAYMCK. Some other popular recommendations are: Pullman Hotel, Stamford Plaza, Rydges, Hilton, Crowne Plaza, Skycity, Langham, Ramada, Auckland Harbour Oaks, Grand Mercure and City Life.

The above list is by no means exhaustive. Options are many and varied. However, Easter is a busy time and we suggest you book early.

PROGRAMME Updated October 2017. For more details and registration, go to www.sonisamaj.co.nz

<p>THURSDAY, 29th MARCH 2018 SPORTS DAY AT BILL MCKINLEY PARK 3 Ireland Rd, Panmure, Auckland 1060</p> <p>2.30pm to 9.30pm Soccer Matches Flood lights on artificial turf. Tea, coffee and snacks served Light meal for dinner Cash Bar at the venue</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 31st MARCH 2018 LYNFIELD RECREATION CENTRE 16-18 Griffen Park Rd, Mount Roskill, Mt Roskill 1041</p> <p>10.00am to 2.30pm Sports day Indoor Sports Karaoke Singing Final Game for Soccer Morning Tea Snacks Light Lunch will be served</p> <p>11.00am Tirat Yatra for all those interested in visiting places of worship in Auckland</p>
<p>FRIDAY 30th MARCH 2018 GOLF at MAUNGAKIEKIE GOLF CLUB 5 Anita Ave, Mt Roskill Auckland 1041 From 10.00 am onwards</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 31st MARCH 2018 Dress: Indian Traditional MAHATMA GANDHI CENTRE 145 New North Rd, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021</p> <p>6.00pm Arrive at the Venue Drinks & Nibbles served on arrival Mix & Mingle</p> <p>7.15pm Key Note Speaker Topic 1</p> <p>8.00pm New Zealand Performance</p> <p>8.30pm Dinner Served Entertainment during dinner Singers from our samaj Australia, NZ, USA, Canada, UK and India</p> <p>9.30pm 2nd Speaker</p> <p>10.00pm DJ, Everybody on the dance floor</p>
<p>FRIDAY 30th MARCH 2018 Dress: Semi formal/Smart casual WELCOME NIGHT MAHATMA GANDHI CENTRE 145 New North Rd, Eden Terrace Auckland 1021</p> <p>5.30pm to 6.30pm Registration Meet & Greet Drinks & Nibbles served on arrival</p> <p>6.45pm Formal Programme Maori Welcome Indian Dance WELCOME Singing of the New Zealand & India National Anthem</p> <p>8.00 pm Dinner Served</p> <p>From 9.15pm Intrenational Participation (Performance) 15 Minutes each Australia Fiji Canada USA UK India</p> <p>11.00pm Finish Allocated 15 to 20 Minutes for Each Country</p> <p>11.05pm DJ MUSIC Every body on the Dance Floor</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 1st APRIL 2018 Dress: Formal Evening THE CLOUD - AT THE AUCKLAND WHARF 89 Quay Street, Auckland 1010</p> <p>6.00pm Arrive at the Venue Drinks & Nibbles served on arrival Mix & Mingle</p> <p>7.15pm Formalities Dinner Served New Zealand Showcase Performance by NEW ZEALAND Various Groups Vote of Thanks Announcement for the Next Host 2022</p>

REGISTRATION FEE:

- \$150 NZ per person for NZ citizens and resident NZSS members between ages 12 to 75 years inclusive as at 29 March 2018.
 - \$200 NZ per person for all NON NZ citizens or residents between ages 12 to 75 years inclusive as at 29 March 2018.
- Ages 11 and under and 76 and over have no charge