



2nd New Zealand Hindu Conference

Organised by
Hindu Council of New Zealand Inc.

Comments by conference participants

Kia ora mai. I just want to say how delightful and joyous it was for me to join you all again in the realms of friendship and warmth at the start of your conference. It was pleasure too for King Tuheitia to officiate at such an auspicious occasion.

I believe that what you're doing is bringing together closer links between the Indian Hindu Community and Maoritanga in a wholeness of spirit, mind and body. Your success need to be extolled as having the calming effect of closer intercultural understanding. This in turn will, I believe strengthen our level of awareness and acceptance of our cultural differences and similarities.

You are all to be commended for the positive steps you are putting in place to instil greater awareness and participation between our cultures in weaving the threads which make up a mosaic a two rich cultures.

Haare Williams
Kaumatua (Maori Elder), Manukau City Council

Thank you for the kind note. Keep up with the good work. Regards.

Hon. Pansy Wong
National List MP, who represented
Hon. John Key (Leader, National Party)

Dear Guna and Hindu Council family, Namaskar.

I came from Australia to attend the conference with Karin Baragwanath. It was a great boon to participate in such a conference. The organization and seva that has gone into such an event was epic. The generous spirit, enthusiasm and care of each participant was most uplifting. The calibre of speakers was broad and inspirational. Of course for each individual some speakers and content resonated more than others, however, it was full and such wisdom imparted.

I must say the food was wonderful. What prasad. My husband and four children are lucky not to have attended or it would be disappointing on returning home!

We came without expectation and left with full hearts and realigned with our mission of bringing Ayurveda into the lives of all people of New Zealand (and Australia) to create sustaining energy and vitality.

Again, heartfelt congratulations. With warm regards and gratitude.

Dipika Delmenico
Amrita Ayurveda, Australia

Dear Guna

I enjoyed the opening ceremony and the two interesting lectures that followed it. I would be grateful if you would send me 5 copies of the souvenirs and copies of the speeches of the Key note speakers namely Dr Nagendra and Swami Sridharanand. I wish to distribute them to my National Lottery Committee. I am certain that your conference was a success.

Dr N Rasalingam
Chairperson, National Lottery Committee

Thank you very much for a great conference. I enjoyed the delicious food and the topics presented were nicely diversified. Except for two presenters, I could relate to the information and found it spoke to my need of knowledge in those areas. What I found relaxing was the friendliness and easy going, comfortable atmosphere. I felt very much at ease, something that is quite rare at other conferences. The entertainment programme with the dances and especially the live musicians were a great end to a stimulating day. I also find the CD's and booklet I received a very helpful gift and want to thank you for your generosity.

I know that a lot of work went into organising this conference and I went away feeling very satisfied. I am looking forward to the photos and the conference report and would appreciate receiving information on forthcoming events at the Hindu Council. With warm regards and best wishes for the next conference.

Denise Hufer, North Shore

It was nice meeting you at the conference and I enjoyed it immensely. I found the conference very educational, motivating and inspiring. It's really nice to see that people are making effort for the community to make it a better living place. In future when you need any volunteers, my sister and I would like to participate. Thank you once again. Your Conference was a success!!

Kalpa Patel

Travel Manager, Travel 2000 Ltd, Auckland

Congratulations on hosting a successful conference this weekend. The interaction, quality of subjects and presenters were great. It was an honour to attend a well organised conference. The comments during the breaks were all positive. People felt welcomed and enjoyed the hospitality extended to them. Please pass on my Thanks to all those involved, including Swamiji. He is a very humble person who really got involved and did not hesitate to undertake any manual tasks.

It was a pleasure for me to be able to assist. Please do not hesitate to involve me in any future help that you may require. Keep up the good work.

Suresh Gobindlal

Pranic Healing Teacher, Auckland

Dear Dr. Magesan

On behalf of ACC, please accept our thanks for the opportunity to speak and reinforce the ACC message to the Indian community. We enjoyed participating at the conference. The talk on Ayurveda which I attended was new and thought provoking for me. Please keep ACC in mind when there are future activities we can work together on.

Michael Lim

Senior Business Analyst - Maori & Community Relations
Accident Compensation Corporation, Auckland

Congratulations on yet another great conference. I'm sorry I was unable to attend the entire event this year but thoroughly enjoyed the little bit we were able to see and to talk with some of the delegates on Saturday evening. Very impressive. I am looking forward to next year's events. Please keep me informed of future events,

Todd Nachowitz

Dept. of Political Science and Public Policy
The University of Waikato, Hamilton

To all concerned,

On behalf of myself, Raju and Todd, please accept my thanks for being invited to play sitar for you again this year. It was a well organised, friendly and well attended event and showed that the wisdom of the Hindu culture appeals to a wide variety of people here in NZ. Thanks again,

Lester Silver

Programme was good, people were made to feel welcome, good food and very generous, very warm hearted and it felt like a big family.

Anonymous

Everyone was very friendly. It was obvious so much work had been done in a loving and devotional manner, to bring about this successful event.

Jean Hunter, Rotorua

I just wanted to say what a fantastic conference it was. You did such a good job. Yoga and meditation is an important part of my life and practice as a clinician too. I've missed India since returning from my latest trip and the conference brought back the Hindu spirit. Om Shanti

Brendon Sakey
A&D Clinician, CADS Central

Very much enjoyed the conference. Valuable knowledge gained in many areas.

Candace Thorton

All sessions were very interesting, motivational and the presenters really do know their profession with passion.

Lesley Ruki-Willison

We learnt a lot by attending this conference. Thanks a lot for the good exposure.

Jayanthi Balachandran
World Community Service Centre, India

I really enjoyed the conference.

Jane Thansen, Yoga teacher

Thank you to all the organizers of the conference.

The conference was very enlightening with a good mix of education and practice. Every presenter offered their knowledge or practice with a sincere heart. There is a lot of work to do to help bring peace to the individual so there can be peace in the family, society, nation and world. Let us continue with united hearts to heal this world. Blessings,

Barbara Minett
Universal Peace Federation

Keep up the excellent work going. I am always available as a volunteer.

Vimal Kumar, Auckland

Congratulations on your successful conference last weekend. Unfortunately I was called away for other matters and could not spend much time with you but Barbara told me how excellent the whole experience turned out. Thank you for your service to the wider community,

Geoff Prentice
President, Universal Peace Federation

It was indeed a spiritually rewarding experience as well enjoyable in the very nurturing way you looked after us. Thank you so much. Hari Om Tat Sat

Sarita (Sue Mitchell)

I liked most of the talks, however some were very basic and did not go into depth of any subject. Other than that I would like to encourage you to continue with the conference and educate more people about these beautiful ancient sciences. Also the collaboration opportunities with Indian institutions are great.

Sarita (Solvig Blankenburg)

I am really glad the conference went well. I really wanted to attend, but being away 3 weeks and then only the day before, I could not spare the time. Congratulations, and I would be happy to help with the next conference. Well done.

Ranjna Patel
Practice Manager for East Tamaki Healthcare Group
Director for ETHC Group

Thank you Guna ji for the conference.

The location was excellent; the value for money excellent, the hosting staff excellent, the food and resources excellent. Personally I came to gain inspiration, information and network contacts from the event. There was definitely a greater need for small groups to get together to discuss and share their vast pool of knowledge. I had a lot I could have shared about teaching yoga to children, about providing yoga to a community and deeper yogic awareness if the right opportunity arose. I am well equipped at delivering an interesting talk to diverse groups, but I would have preferred to be prepared rather than just a casual opportunity at the end of a long day.

I really admire what the Hindu council are doing. I did enjoy my time at the conference. The congratulations at the end were also long winded and though the amazing people deserved the thanks they got this could have been done at a different time or maybe made optional attendance!

Ali Hale Tilley (Anamiknand Saraswati)

Congratulations for the grand success of the New Zealand Conference. This is the result of your hard work and dedication alongwith your team. You, Swami Ji and all your team members would have been very busy to make the Conference a grand success. Take care.

Brij Pal Singh, Australia

Good to see classical music part of these events. In future we would be happy to perform for such events as well, should you have the need. We have our Harmonium Maestro Jayant Bhalodkar residing in Auckland now. So apart from Sitar we can present recitals on the Sarod as well. If you ever do have topics that cover ICM (Indian Classical Music) music and peace, ICM music and health, relationship between ICM and meditation mantras, basically anything to do with Indian classical music and our Dharm, I can work with Jayant-ji to put together a presentation or a workshop, or even a recital. Great to see ongoing works by the Council.

Satish Sharma
IT Architect, ITD, IBM NZ Ltd

Thanks for the report and photos of the conference. When time is good for me I am looking forward to be actively participating in your Organisation.

Manu Ghatikesh
Auckland

Thank you very much for the report. Many congratulations on the success of the conference. Well done, guys! I would certainly mention the conference in our June newsletter. Also, for our future issues, I am interested to have an article highlighting proven health benefits from yoga and/ or meditation and the existing DHB practice or initiatives under planning in the Auckland Region or elsewhere in the country. If your goodself or someone you know can provide the information, I will be more than happy to dedicate space in the newsletter for it.

Lucinda Li (NDSA)

My heartiest congratulations to you and your team on the very successful conference. I regret missing it.

Surinder Tandon
Senior Scientist, Christchurch

Thanks for the report and the photos Gunaji. It is wonderful to see and read about the success of this conference. The biggest accolade is to you as the driving force and energy behind the whole enterprise.

Looking forward to the next conference and if there is a space and opportunity, I would like to be fully involved from the beginning for the next one - working with Communities.

Nirmala Narasimhan