

THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (Inc.)



46th Annual Report

AND

Financial Statement



CONFERENCE

1st April, 1972,
Christchurch

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Please Note:

1. The Table of Contents as generated here does not exist in the original document.
2. Table of Content headings used here do not necessarily exist in the original document and at times have been inserted to make this document more easy to refer to.

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 2
DELEGATES PRESENT 4
PRESIDENT’S REPORT 4
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1972..... 7
MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING..... 8
OFFICERS ELECTED 11
REMITTS AND RESOLUTIONS..... 11
ACTIVITIES OF BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS..... 13
GENERAL BUSINESS..... 13
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT GANDHI HALL 14
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1972 17

**THE
 NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
 CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
 (Inc.)**

President
 G.. B. BHULA (Wellington)

Vice-President
 HARBANS S. RANDHAWA (Country Section)

General Secretary
 J. C. NATALI (Auckland)

Assistant General Secretary

MACAN RANHHOD (Pukekohe)

Auditor

PARBHU KANJI (Auckland)

Executive Committee

THAKOR PARBHU (Auckland)

K. L. VASANJI (Wellington)

B. D. BHAKTA (Pukekohe)

HARKISAN SINGH (Country Section)

S. MASTERS (Rotorua)

MACAN PARBHU (Waikato)

HART NARAN (Manawatu)

RAMAN GANDA (Christchurch)



DELEGATES PRESENT**CONFERENCE DELEGATES 1972****Auckland**

1. Thakorbhai Parhu
2. Chhotubhaj Chhima
3. Parbhubhai Kanji
4. Jagdishbhai Natali
5. Lalbhai Patel
6. Dayalbhai Kesry
7. Babubhai Merai
8. Parbhubhai Kasanji
9. Ramanbhai Ganda
10. Mrs Lalitaben Patel

Wellington

1. Kantibhai L. Vasan
2. Kantibhai S. Rarnji
3. Dhirubhai Ranchhod
4. Chunibhai Dahya
5. Bhanabhaj Naik
6. Govindbhaj Prema
7. Govindbhai Kanji
8. Narsinhbhaj Vallabh
9. Govindbhaj Morar
10. Miss Nemuben Soma

Pukekohe

1. Magan Ranchhod
2. Kbandu Parag
3. Keshav Prsot

Rotorua/Bay of Plenty

1. Arnbubhai Ramji
2. Bhanabhai Unka

Country Section

1. Piara Singh
2. Ajit Singh Radhawa

Waikato

Parbhubhai D. Lala

Taranaki

Parbhubhai Pema

Christchurch

1. Dayalbhai Gopal
2. Rarnanbhai Ganda
3. Govindbhai Latlu

Manawatu**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another full year has passed since we last met in Pukekohe over the Easter recess and it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this the 46th Annual Conference of our Association That this year's Conference is being held in Christchurch is a tribute to this Association when one considers the membership that they enjoy and reinforces the hope that the smaller or minor Associations will in the future strive in the same manner to keep the activities of their respective Branch at such a level as will engender and encourage further participation in the activities of that Branch If memory serves me correctly the last Annual Conference to be held in Christchurch was in 1946 and I am pleased to welcome back to this venue some of the older members who may have taken part in that particular Conference and no doubt it will bring back some fond memories of contacts and relationships made during that occasion

The activities of our Association have once again been few as in past years and it may well be said that either our common problems are less than they used to be or that the individual Branches are becoming more and more self sufficient Generally our problems with Government Departments are on the whole minor ones and those of any significance are being tackled as they arise Lest this be taken as a suggestion of complacency let me hasten to assure each and every one of you that whilst our work load appears to be getting lighter there are many spheres where a great deal remains to be done and where this Association can play a vital part.

The General Secretary will no doubt go into further detail on the various activities during the year and I look forward to the reports from the various Branches from which I am sure a lot of interesting discussion will ensue.

Shifting the emphasis on to the international scene one will remember the torture and the agony caused to the people of Bangladesh in their struggle for self determination and the valiant resistance offered by the Mukti Bahini Despite the heavy handed and double dealing tactics adopted by the United States during this war it is my opinion that India has emerged from this encounter as a truly humanitarian nation not only in the manner in which it conducted the war but in the unimaginable depth of aid which it offered to those who were destitute homeless and hungry Even whilst a large proportion of her own people were going hungry ,the Indian nation rallied and offered the hand of help and friendship in the true spirit of Dharma.

By now it has been reported that most of the 10 to 15 million refugees who fled to India during the war have now returned to their homeland and one can but pray that the future may bold some real hope for this new and emerging nation

During this crisis, the world's attention was focussed on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and it may well be said despite our social prejudices, that thanks to a woman, India no longer looks like a flabby giant. Her handling of the situation during this period has shown once and for all the astute statesmanship which she undoubtedly possesses.

The world's second most populous nation emerged from its brief conflict with Pakistan stronger, more united, more self-confident and, it must be added, more self-righteous, than at any time in its turbulent 24-year history as an independent nation.

In two short weeks India changed the map of South Asia, served as midwife to the bloody birth of a new nation, thumbed its nose at the U.S., China, and the United Nations, and left its old enemy, Pakistan, minus one wing and with the other badly crippled.

All of which was good going for perhaps the most under-rated leader of modern times Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is being hailed by her people as a "living Joan of Arc" and the undisputed mistress of the Indian sub-continent.

"She unquestionably ranks today as the tallest among the world's statesmen, and she is the acknowledged leader of the 550,000,000 people of India."

Mrs Gandhi has given the impoverished masses something they never had before — pride in being Indians.

It used to be said of her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, leader of post-independence India, that he was like a giant banyan tree nothing grew in his shade.

Everybody overlooked his shy, retiring daughter who, when the moment came, proved to be a lot tougher, shrewder, and more decisive than her father ever was.

When the showdown with Pakistan arrived she cast off India's well-advertised tradition of non-violence and non-alignment and went to war like a modern Amazon.

While President Nixon fumed, Peking fulminated, the United Nations watched with impotence, and the U.S. Seventh Fleet sailed into the Indian Ocean, the Indian Army brickly went about mopping up the Pakistanis. It was all over in 13 days. Only four hours after Pakistani troops surrendered in the east, most of them without a fight, India proclaimed a ceasefire in the west, thereby undercutting Washington's claim that India was bent on destroying all Pakistan.

The Pakistanis gratefully accepted.

Precisely when Mrs Gandhi decided to turn the civil war in East Pakistan to India's advantage and Pakistan's destruction is not known. But it was probably in August when India signed a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union that served to protect New Delhi against either Chinese or American intervention in case of war.

Then last autumn she took India's case to Washington and Western Europe, appealing for help in taking care of nearly 10,000,000 East Bengali refugees and urging pressure on Pakistan's President Yahya Khan to exercise restraint.

When she returned to New Delhi, Mrs. Gandhi was still turning a moderate face to the growing clamour of Indian hawks. But Indian troops were making no secret of their incursions into East Pakistan. When the Pakistani Air Force raided the main Indian strategic Airbases on December 4, only then India openly invaded, and Bangladesh was born.

The question then arose how long can the Prime Minister sustain India's newly, aroused nationalistic fervour. The answer to this has just been answered in her undisputed and slashing victory at the polls where all 16 States came under Congress Party control.

All this is now history and it remains to be seen whether national pride can now be channelled into domestic achievement. Only time will tell, but if the recent past is any sort of omen, India may well have taken the road to political and economic self-sufficiency:

As I have often stated in the past, if the future is to hold any sort of promise for the generations that will follow us it will be so only if we leave a solid foundation for them to build upon. Let us in turn leave as legacies by achievement, the proud heritage and culture which we as a race were proud to bring to this country. Let each and every delegate take back to his or her Branch the ideals that will

make this country a better place to live in, for I am sure that as a community we have much to offer.

G. W. BHULA
President.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1972

The Forty-sixth Annual Conference of the N.Z. Indian Central Association (Inc.) was held in Christchurch under the auspices of the Christ-church Branch Association during the Easter recess, commencing at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 1st April, 1972.

Mr Bhanabhai Vallabh of the Christchurch Indian Association welcomed the guest speaker, Mr McFarlane (Dep. Mayor of Christchurch), and the visiting delegates and wished them every success in their deliberations.

The National President, Mr Govind Bhula, officially welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Mr McFarlane, and the assembled delegates. In his speech he stated that the last meeting held in Christchurch was about 20 years ago. It was indeed a great honour for him to be presiding at this Conference in Christchurch because his first introduction, to the N.Z.I.C~A. was as a delegate of the Christchurch Indian Association.

Mr McFarlane in his address stated that in his long association with the Indians in New Zealand he has found them to be good citizens of this country.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr McFarlane by Mr Kesry (Auckland).

Apologies were accepted from Mr H. S. Randhawa who was away in India, and from the Manawatu Branch.

Two minutes silence was observed by the assembly to show respect to those members and patriots who had passed away during the year in India and in New Zealand.

It was moved that a letter of condolence be written to the bereaved families of Messrs Inder Singh Randhawa and Unkabhai Dhanji. These gentlemen had rendered long and invaluable service to the Central Association and the Indian community.

D. Kesry I K. Soma

Although Taranaki Branch had submitted the name of a delegate to attend the Conference, in actual fact there was no representation.

It was moved that Taranaki and Manawatu be asked to provide reason for them not being represented at the Conference.

Kesry / VasANJI

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

MINUTES

Minutes of the 1971 Conference held in Nehru Hall Pukekohe on 25th March, 1971, were read and confirmed.

Matters arising out of minutes and action taken on last year's resolutions were as follows:—

1. Re Speech of Mrs. Gandhi

As every endeavour to obtain the transcript of Mrs Gandhi's speech was unsuccessful it was agreed unanimously that the matter be closed

2 Re School Certificate Results

It was pointed out that English was a compulsory subject in obtaining school certificate. However the Education Department has now changed its policy whereby any four subjects are considered to gain a pass in School Certificate Exam It was moved that we should adopt the same policy when awarding prizes for 1972

The prizes for 1971 results awarded are as follows — 1st Prize: Santi P Lala (Waikato)
2nd Prize: Anil Rama (Wellington)
3rd Prize: Naresh Unka Patel (Auckland)

3. Re P. Form

The General Secretary pointed out that two registered letters had been written to the Reserve Bank of India enquiring into formalities of P Form, but so far there was neither any acknowledgment nor any form of reply

Copies of these letters were sent to the Indian High Commission's Office in Wellington, but there was no communication of any sort on the matter from the Embassy

The Conference was concerned at the lack of response from either party

After a long discussion on this matter it was resolved "That this Conference views seriously the lack of response to our letters and that we should write to both parties again making reference to our previous correspondence and also a letter be written to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in India seeking information re P Form and that copies of previous correspondence to Reserve Bank be attached to this letter.

4 Re Affiliation Fees

It was moved that those Branches who are in arrears re their affiliation fees be asked to update this
The General Secretary was requested to inform the Branch Associations accordingly.

5. Re Government Life Policies

After a brief discussion on the matter it was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of the General Secretary to pursue it further as he thinks fit.

6. Re Financial Report

At the Conference held in Pukekohe Mr VasANJI was appointed to examine the statement of account for the year 1969/70 with a view of clarifying the discrepancy of \$58.59.

Having examined the account, a letter explaining the situation was received from Mr VasANJI. Mr Bhula took exception to his name being mentioned in the letter and requested that this be deleted.

After a brief discussion on the matter it was moved: "That the letter from Mr VasANJI be received, and the explanation given that the item of \$9.50 was deposited by the then Assistant Secretary and the queries raised by Mr VasANJI that it was not the mistake of the General Secretary, but the money was received by the then Assistant Secretary with no explanation of where it came from.
Lalbhai Patel / D. Kesry

7. Re Letter of Complaints from Members of the Wellington Branch

It was pointed out that the resolution passed at the Annual Conference held in Pukekohe, to clear names of five complainants of allegations made against them was not carried out by the Wellington Branch.

Mr. VasANJI pointed out that the Wellington Branch is not bound to carry out resolutions passed by the Central Association.

Mr. Kesry stated that if a resolution passed by Central Association must be fulfilled by all Branches. Failure to do so implies that the Central Body has no recognition.

Mr. Patel pointed out that as Wellington Branch is an Incorporated Body it is not legally affiliated, but because it pays the affiliation fees it is morally bounded.

After a lengthy discussion it was moved that the matter be closed, which was agreed upon by the majority.

8. Re Immigration Policy of N.Z. Govt. Affecting Indians

Mr Ganda, who was appointed to prepare a case to be presented to the Minister, read his report to the

Conference delegates.

Various members expressed their views on this matter and after a long discussion it was resolved: "That the proposed deputation is to make representations on immigration policy affecting Indians with a view to making relaxations."

9. Re Land Deed

As there was no communication received to a letter written to the Indian High Commission's Office, it was suggested that the matter be again, referred, to the Embassy for clarification.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement was duly approved and adopted.

INWARD AND OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Inward correspondence received and outward endorsed.

Business arising out of correspondence:

1. Relief Fund.

A great concern was expressed at lack of co-operation from some branches when the Refugees Relief Fund was set up last year.

After a long discussion on the matter, an assurance was given by every branch, that they will give full co-operation in future, whenever an appeal is lodged by the Central Body to set up a fund.

2. Constitution of Wellington Indian Assoc.

A special committee meeting was called in Auckland on 16 October, 1971, to discuss the draft constitution of the Wellington Indian Association. As there was no representative present from Wellington Branch to discuss the constitution the matter was left in abeyance

Mr . Parbhubhai Kasanji pointed out that it is very poor on the part of Wellington Branch for not sending any representative to the Special Committee.

Mr Lalbhai Patel pointed out that he has studied the draft constitution of the Wellington Branch and it appears everything is in order except for Rule 30 which states that:

"On the winding up of the Association the surplus assets after payment of the Association's liabilities and the expenses of the winding up shall be divided between the members equally."

And

There is no clause in the Rules which states that Wellington Branch will be affiliated to N.Z. Indian Central Association.

After a long discussion the Wellington Branch agreed to look into these Rules with a view of modifying it.

In conclusion on this subject, Mr Lalbhai stated that the rules of Central Body as well as the Branch Associations need to be revised.

OFFICERS ELECTED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A vote of thanks was accorded to the outgoing officers for rendering honorary services during the year..

The following officers including the Executive Committee were elected for the year 1972/73:

President: L. N. PATEL (Auckland)

Vice President: PIARA SINGH (Country Section)

General Secretary: J. C. NATALI (Auckland)

Asst. General Secretary: MAGAN RANCHHOJ (Pukekohe)

Auditor: PARBHU KANJI (Auckland)

Executive Committee:

THAKOR PARBHU (Auckland)

K. L. VASANJI (Wellington)

KESHAV PARSOT (Pukekohe)

AMBHUBHAI RAMJI (Rotorua/Bay of Plenty)

GOVIND LALLU (Christchurch)

AJIT SINGH (Country Section)

P D LALA (Waikato)

G B BHULA (Retiring President)

REMITTS AND RESOLUTIONS

From Auckland

1. That the question of travel to India be discussed on a national level and a reduction of fares for excursion rate be sought from the airlines

After a brief discussion it was resolved that a letter be written to airlines concerned requesting that they look into the matter concerning reduction in air fares from New Zealand to India. Adopted.

2. That the life membership be limited to 10 surviving members at any given time; and that they be presented with an appropriate badge. Adopted.

3. That the relationship between Auckland Indian Sports Club and the N.Z. Indian Sports Body be discussed if not already resolved.

Various members expressed their views on this matter and it was apparent from their comments 'that all were in favour of breaking the deadlock which has existed for the past two years.

Moved: "That three people be appointed, to investigate the matter with a view of bringing a solution to the deadlock"

Lalbhai Patel / G. B. Bhula

This motion was lost on voting 13/14.

From Wellington

1. "That the School Certificate results, for which prizes are given, be judged on four best subjects." Adopted.

2. "That Hindu Script be read at all funeral services."

The delegates felt that as this proposal may not be acceptable by every Indian member in New Zealand we cannot impose such proposal on any member.

3. "That a donation box be set up by every branch, whereby instead of sending the wreaths, the money be placed in the donation box, and the money so collected be donated to a charitable organisation nominated by the bereaved family." This has been the practice in Wellington area for quite some time.

The members expressed that such binding terms cannot be imposed on any family and were not in favour of the proposal.

Resolutions

"That this meeting consider giving Financial Assistance to the Coordinating Committee on Anti-Apartheid in its endeavour to stop the 1973 Springbok Tour of N.Z." Adopted.

R Ganda (Ak) / P D Lala (Waikato)

"That a letter be written to the Co-ordinating Committee of the Anti-Apartheid expressing our Association's abhorrence of the apartheid policy, in South Africa and supports any lawful actions of various groups to stop the tour of the Springboks in 1973."

Both resolutions were adopted.

The meeting agreed to donate \$100.00 which is to be used for peaceful demonstration only.

ACTIVITIES OF BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS

Each Branch reported briefly on the activities of their Association carried out during the year.

The activities of major Branches are very profound. In promoting Indian culture and better relationship with the Western society in New Zealand, they play a very important part in their area.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Life Membership

This year the life membership was accorded to Mr Parbhubhai Kasanji of Auckland for his long and outstanding services to the Indian Community in New Zealand

2. Keeping of Academic Qualification Record

It was suggested that the General Secretary keep a record of all those who have obtained University Entrance, Degrees or Diplomas

Each Branch Secretary is to forward the list of successful candidates to the General Secretary by the end of February each year.

3. New Telephone and Address Directory

It was moved that the General Secretary approach the Zodiac Printing Press in Wellington and enquire about the possibility of printing an up to date Directory of Indians in New Zealand

4. Moved that congratulatory letters be sent to the following

(a) Auckland sports club for attaining 'A' Grade status in the local Hockey competition.

(b) The Publisher and Editor of the periodical "Chronical" the first Indian magazine ever to be published in New Zealand

The Chairman accorded his congratulations to Messrs G. B. Bhula and P. D. Lala for being elected as Councillors in Hutt Valley and Te Aroha respectively.

It was agreed that congratulatory letters be sent to them

5. N.Z. Race Relations Council

Mr Ranchhod (Puk.) briefly outlined the history of N.Z. Race Relations Council. There are 33 affiliated bodies and the aim is to meet and discuss how they can bring about better race relations in this country.

After a lengthy discussion it was moved

“That this meeting give, permission to President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary to make further enquiries about aims and objects of the Council and report to the executives.

6. History of Indian Pioneers to N.Z.

With the approval of the meeting Mr. Kesry was appointed to approach the family of late Mr. Morari Soma to obtain whatever material was available concerning early Indian settlers to New Zealand. A preliminary research had been carried out by a committee on this subject and it is possible that this is being held by the family of late Mr. Soma.

The President thanked all the delegates for attending the Conference and making it a success. He also thanked the host Association for providing excellent facilities during the Conference and expressed his view that this year's venue was by far the best in his long experience.

The various delegates then expressed their thanks to the Christchurch Association for their hospitality and cordial welcome extended to them during their stay in Christchurch.

A special thanks was accorded to Messrs Raman Ganda and Govind Lallu for giving a cocktail party to the visitors.

The Rotorua Branch of the Association extended an invitation to hold the next Annual Conference in Rotorua under their auspices. This was heartily accepted by the Association.

In conclusion the President stated that he was indeed pleased to see women and young girl's take part in the meeting by attending as spectators and hoped to see such support from all branches whenever a Conference is held in their area.

A very successful Conference concluded on Sunday, 2nd April, 1972 at 12.15 a.m. with the singing of Indian National Anthem “Jan Gan Man.”

J. C. NATALI,
Honorary Secretary.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT GANDHI HALL

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

HELD AT GANDHI HALL

on 16 October, 1971, commencing at 3 p.m.

Present

G. B. Bhula (Chairman)
J. C. Natali (Secretary)
T. Randhawa (Vice Chairman)
M. Ranchhod (Assistant Secretary)

Executives

T. Parbhu, Auckland
S. Masters, Rotorua
C. Lala, Taranaki

Delegates for Deputation

Messrs: G. B. Bhula
J. C. Natali
L. N Patel
D. Kesry
T. Parbbu
R. Ganda
H. Randhawa

A great concern was expressed at the absence of executive members from various branches

Moved that a letter be written to branch secretaries who were not represented expressing the meetings concern at their absence for this important meeting.

S. Masters / T. Parbhu

Matters for Discussion**New Draft Constitution of Wellington Branch**

The draft constitution was briefly discussed. As there was no member from Wellington present at the special meeting to discuss the constitution the matter was left in abeyance, and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved that unless Wellington Branch is prepared to acknowledge its proposed rules that it is a Branch of Central, Association, the executive meeting is not prepared to consider approval or otherwise of the Rules

T. Parbhu / S. Masters.

Australian Immigration Policy

Mr. Waishing, an Executive member of Labour Party from Pukekohe was given an opportunity to say a few words regarding his difficult experience in Australia concerning the immigration Policy of Australian Govt. applicable to Asians and people from Pacific Islands residing in New Zealand.

Mr. Waishing was to take a petition, signed by various groups to the Australian Embassy strongly opposing the Policy of the Australian Govt. and requesting that this be rectified.

The Committee meeting agreed to give every support to Mr Waishing in this matter.

Re Immigration Policy

Mr. Raman Ganda who had undertaken to prepare a draft report to be presented to the Minister of Immigration, read the report to the meeting which was discussed at length.

Matters Arising from the Report:

Mr. Kesry pointed out that the Indian immigrants to N.Z. are restricted and very little consideration is given. Majority of the Indian migrants to N.Z. are those who come to marry a N.Z. Indian. The permit issued to these migrants is conditional and we feel that an injustice is being done to the Indians.

Mr. Thakor Patel pointed out that “the issue of conditional permit only encourages the breakdown in marriage. There have been cases where the girl or parents have used threats on conditional permit to have the son-in-law deported.” Therefore the meeting felt that the deputation delegates should request the Minister to have the rules changed.

It was suggested that Mr. Carter (National Party) and Mr. Young (Labour Party) be asked to come along to introduce the delegates to the Minister of Immigration.

The meeting concluded at approximately 6.15 p.m.

