

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



**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
REPORT**



**62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
held at  
PUKEKOHE WAR MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
Saturday 2 April 1988**

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Please Note:

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# THE NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

INC

**President:**

SANTOKH SINGH BHULLAR (Country Section)

**Vice President:**

AMRIT L. VASAN (Wellington)

**General Secretary:**

UKA CHHIBA (PUKEKOHE)

**Assistant Secretary:**

ISHVAR RAMBHAI (PUKEKOHE)

**Executive Committee:**

CHHOTUBHAI SIMA (Auckland)  
PRAVIN PUNA (Waikato)  
GULAB MORAR (Taranaki)  
JIVAN BAVA (Rotorua)

GANGES B. SINGH (Pukekohe)  
SARDOOL SINGH (Country Section)  
NANU C. PATEL (Manawatu)  
NAGIN G. PATEL (Wellington)

**Life Members:**

J. K. NATALI (Auckland)  
KARAM SINGH BASI (Country Section)  
RAMESHBHAI PATEL (Auckland)  
NARSINHBHAI VALLABH (Wellington)  
DAYALBHAI KESRY (Auckland)  
SHIVLAL B. MASTERS (Rotorua)  
PIARA SINGH (Country Section)  
KHUSHALBHAI MADHAV (Auckland)

CHHIBABHAI LALA PATEL (Taranaki)  
RAVJIBHAI C. HARI (Pukekohe)  
PARBHUBHAI BHIKHA (Pukekohe)  
PARAGBHAI KANJI (Pukekohe)  
THAKORBHAI PARBHU (Auckland)  
HARBANS SINGH RANDHAWA (Country  
Section)  
PARBHUBHAI KANJI (Auckland)

**DELEGATES PRESENT****CONFERENCE DELEGATES 1988****Auckland**

1. Chhotubhai Sima
2. Ashokbhai B. Darji
3. Dineshbhai S. Tailor
4. Kantibhai C. Patel
5. Rambhai R. Patel
6. Dineshbhai D. Patel
7. Arunbhai R. Patel
8. Shantilal Prema
9. Dhirubhai Bhawan
10. Shantilal Govan

**Pukekohe**

1. Ganges B. Singh
2. Ramon Wallabh
3. Suresh H. Parsot
4. Magan Ranchhod
5. Ishvar Rambhai
6. Bhuldas Bhakta
7. Mohan Parsot
8. Uka Chhiba
9. Ranchhod Kana
10. Sarge L. Singh

**Rotorua**

1. Jivan Bava
2. Chhagan C. Nathoo
3. Adya P. Singh
4. Jeram Bhana

**Waikato**

1. Narotam Puna
2. Pravin N. Puna
3. Ashwin Gulab

**Christchurch**

Apologies

**Attending Life Members**

1. Shivilal B. Masters
2. Parbhubhai Kanji
3. Rameshbhai N. Patel
4. Paragbhai Kanji
5. Khushalbai Madhu
6. Ravjibhai C. Hari (Part of Conference)
7. Narsinhbhai Vallabh

**15 or More Conferences**

- Haribhai Jagu  
Harbans Singh Randhawa  
Sarwan Singh  
Bhanubhai Patel

**Country Section**

1. Onkar Singh Bindra
2. Sarbjeet Singh Deo
3. Santokh Singh Thani

**Wellington**

1. Naginbhai G. Patel
2. Nanubhai Ranchhod
3. Ashok Bhasin
4. Manubhai C. Parag
5. Amritbhai L. Vasan
6. Babubhai D. Parbhu
7. Shantihal Parag
8. Kirinbhai Nathu Patel
9. Kanjibhai Bhula
10. Varshaben S. Bavishi

**Country Section**

1. Daulat Singh
2. Sardool Singh
3. Harkrishen Singh Kung
4. Hardial Singh
5. Surjeet Singh
6. Ravinder Singh Powar
7. Tilak Chandra
8. Harbans Singh Randhawa
9. Sarwan Singh
10. Mohan Singh Ark

**Taranaki**

1. Girish Bhana
2. Gulab Morar
3. Raman Sukha
4. Parbhu Pema
5. Gowardhan Lal Mehta

**Manawatu**

1. Haribhai Naran
2. Nanu C. Patel

**Youth Delegates****Pukekohe**

1. Suresh Wallabh
2. Anil Daya
3. Umesh Patel
4. Jagnish Morar
5. Bupin N. Masters

**Youth Delegates****Auckland**

1. Naresh M. Panchia
2. Balvat Dullabh
3. Janti Dullabh
4. Hansa Daya
5. Shelia Bhana

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Namaste, Sat-Shri-Akal and welcome Life Members, Delegates and honoured guests.

It gives me much pleasure to present the Annual Report of the New Zealand Central Indian Association.

This has been another active year for our members throughout New Zealand. The coups in Fiji came as a major shock to us all. I felt very sad for the Indians in Fiji, who know no other home to be subjected to this unjust, harsh, cruel treatment. Democracy was struck a hard blow by the military in Fiji, but the tragedy of it all is that the rest of the world just looked on!

Once again India suffered a drought, causing much distress to the local people in many areas.

The floods in Gisborne and the surrounding districts devastated farmlands and caused havoc and untold damage. The Government and the people throughout New Zealand rallied together to offer assistance in many different ways.

One of the most enlightened appointments by this Government was the 'Royal Commission on Social Policy'. This Commission's brief is to define and structure a 'Fair and Just Society' with equal opportunity for us all regardless of race, creed, religion and sex. Our Association made verbal and written submissions to this Commission. My thanks to Thakor Parbhu who made verbal submissions in Auckland and especially to Ganges Singh who co-ordinated the written Submission on our behalf. Ganges Singh was also invited to give verbal submissions again so our efforts have been appreciated by the Commission. Access Radio had a summer broadcast, which gave many people the chance to hear their own language and music on Radio. We hope to make 'Access Radio' a permanent feature of our Air Waves in the near future.

Some of us were privileged to hear Dr Nissim Ezekehiel a foremost Indian Scholar of English Literature and world renowned poet tell the New Zealand Jewish Council that there was 'No discrimination whatsoever' against the Jewish Community in India. Dr Nissim a learned, cultured gentleman is Professor of English at Bombay University. Comments like these make me really proud to be an Indian.

The decision of the International Rugby Board to allow individual players to tour South Africa I find appalling. 'Apartheid' is a scourge which must be decimated and this soft attitude taken by the International Rugby Board fills me with great misgivings.

Recently Auckland hosted three world class events, all in one weekend. The World Cross country running championships — which was decisively won by the Kenyans; the 'Round the Bays' which is the largest event of this type in the world, and the launching of 'New Zealand'. I can't imagine such a large or more excited crowd again until we win the Americas Cup. Heartiest congratulations to Ramesh Patel for being awarded the Queens Service Medal for his contribution to New Zealand hockey.

Certainly a very worthy recipient, I am very pleased to see his service recognised. In recent times we seem to hear a great deal about Mono Culture, Bi-Culture, and Multi-Culture, which I feel does not apply to us. Indians with our inbred tolerance and natural graciousness are 'Intercultural'. We are very happy to share our food customs and religion. We move among cultures. With this in mind and a deep conscious pride in our Indian identity, I see a bright future for us in New Zealand.

My sincere thanks to my Vice President Santokh Bhullar, whose calm professional manner has been an inspiration to me, to my very able Secretary Jagdish Natali for his helpful advice and constant care. To Maganbhai Ranchhod for his painstaking work and attention to detail in compiling the New Zealand telephone directory. To the Country Section for hosting my first Annual Conference and a Committee meeting. To Taranaki for the last Conference; Pukekohe for this Conference, to Wellington and Auckland for Committee meetings and most of all to all the ladies who have worked so hard for these functions.

It is to them we owe our success.

To all my Committee members and delegates a special appreciation for your support and courtesy shown the chair during my term of office. As I retire from this position I pledge my service to the New Zealand Central Indian Association, and to any cause that may better life for Indians in New Zealand.

Shanti Patel  
PRESIDENT

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### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 62nd Annual Conference of the New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc was held in the Pukekohe Town Hall, Pukekohe on Easter Saturday the 2nd April 1988.

The host president Ganges B. Singh welcomed the honoured guests, delegates, and life members and advised the conference that due to unforeseen circumstances the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister Mr David Lange was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr Singh then introduced Deputy Mayor of Pukekohe, Mr Peter Aitken, who addressed the conference. Mr Aitken stated that Indians have formed an integral part of the community and have worked hard and earned the respect of all. He was very intrigued to see the close family unit. He was also pleased to note that the Indians have retained their cultural heritage. He wished the conference and delegates every success.

Mr Singh then introduced the second speaker, Honourable Mr Bill Birch MP for Maramarua. Mr Birch in his address to the conference stated that he had many friends in the Indian community in Pukekohe and was indeed pleased to see the community work hard to maintain their respect and integrity. He wished the conference every success and that the delegates enjoy their short stay in Pukekohe.

Mr Singh at this stage expressed his disappointment at the Prime Minister Mr Lange not being present at the conference and read the telegram from the Prime Minister and declared the meeting open on his behalf.

Mr Santokh Singh Bhullar (Vice President) thanked the host association for organising the venue and also thanked Mr Aitken and Honourable Mr Birch for coming along to the conference and highlighting the contributions and progress made by Indians in Pukekohe.

Before the meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.15 am the Honourable Mr Birch presented the 1987 Pukekohe Indian Association Award for School Certificate to Miss Sujata Patel and the Deputy Mayor Mr Aitken presented the Chhiba Bala Memorial Bursary Prize to Miss Vanita Ranchhod.

The main conference commenced at 11.15 am. Two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for those members who had passed away during the past 12 months. A particular tribute was paid to Chain Singh a strong supporter of Indian Association, and Motiramabhai Wallabh life member of Pukekohe.

The following apologies were received:

Life members: Messrs J.K. Natali, Parbhubhai Bhikha, Karam Singh Basi, Piara Singh Bains, and Chhibabhai Lala.

Manubhai Kalidas (Rotorua), Hardev Singh Kung (Country Section), Kantibhai Vasan and Govindbhai Bhula (attended 15 or more conferences).

Moved and carried that apologies be accepted. Ashok Darji (Auckland)/Nagin Patel (Wellington).

### **Annual Report**

Moved and carried that the report as circulated be received. Amrit Vasan (Wellington)/Gulab Moral (Taranaki).

It was drawn to the attention of the conference that there were many errors in the Annual Report and the obituary of Ramabhai Unka had been missed out. After a lengthy discussion on the matter it was moved “That because of the inaccuracy in printing of the report, the payment for printing of the report be negotiated with the printer, and that the negotiation be done by the current office bearers”.

Moved Amrit Vasan (Wellington)/Rambhai Patel (Auckland). — Carried by majority with two against, Gowordhan Mehta (Taranaki) and Pravin Puna (Waikato).

## **MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES**

### **Matter Arising out of Minutes**

The 1987 School Certificate Prizes were awarded as follows:

1st Prize	Rajesh Chhana	(Wellington)	364 marks
2nd Prize	Sujata Patel	(Pukekohe)	328 marks
3rd Prize	Sadesh Natali	(Auckland)	317 marks

**15 or more Conferences Attended**

Merit Certificates were issued for attending 15 or more Conferences to:  
Chhotubhai Mistry (Auckland), Amrit Vasan (Wellington).

**INWARDS AND OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE****Inwards and Outwards Correspondence**

The following inward and outward letters were read by the secretary.

Christchurch Association had indicated in their letter that they only collect \$2.50 membership from their members and to pay \$2.00 affiliation fees will not be financially viable.

The Conference suggested that the Christchurch Association be asked to increase their membership fees to a reasonable amount (say \$5.00 per member) and that they should pay affiliation fee in accordance with the resolution passed at the conference held in Taranaki in 1987.

Moved Gulab Moral (Taranaki)/Santokh Singh Bhullar (Country Section). — Carried.

A letter from T. Gordhan (Tom's Motel) Rotorua stating that he wishes to donate money each year to be awarded for School Certificate prizes. With the letter was enclosed a cheque for \$80 which was to be distributed for School Certificate prizes.

After a lengthy discussion on the letter the following resolutions were passed:

1. "That the cheque of \$80 be accepted and the money be divided and award as follows: 1st prize \$40, 2nd prize \$25, and 3rd prize \$15".

Moved S. Masters (Auckland)/M. Ranchhod (Pukekohe).

2. "That we write to T. Gordhan and thank him for his offer and advise him that his yearly donation for awarding School Certificate prizes will be in addition to prizes already being awarded by the Association".

Moved and carried Gowardhan Mehta (Taranaki)/Pravin Puna (Waikato).

**Submission to the Royal Commission on Social Policy**

The submission to the Royal Commission on Social Policy was tabled at the conference by Ganges Singh. He stated that the submission is now in the hand of the Royal Commission and our views will be considered together with submissions from other groups.

Moved and carried the inward correspondence be received and outward endorsed Gulab Moral (Taranaki)/Arun Patel (Auckland).

**Nominations for Life Membership**

The nomination of Harbans Singh Randhawa for life membership was received and his resume was read by Santokh Singh Bhullar.

Before the nomination was discussed Mr Harbans Singh Randhawa who was present at the conference was politely asked to leave the room. Various members spoke on Mr Randhawa's nomination, and

those who spoke were highly appreciative of his valuable service to the community and to the association. There was a unanimous voice that Mr Randhawa be honoured with life membership. The honour was given to Shivlal B. Masters (Life Member) to present the Life Member Badge to Mr Randhawa.

### **Youth Forum**

At this stage the Chairperson Mrs Shantiben, with the leave of the conference asked the newly elected Chairperson of the Youth Group Suresh Wallabh of Pukekohe to present a brief report on the Forum.

He informed the conference that the newly elected secretary was Miss Hansa Mohan Daya of Auckland. Suresh gave a report on the Forum and advised that he hopes to see greater participation from the branch associations in the next 12 months and that branches should encourage youth of their associations to become more active and revive the Youth Groups.

The Presidents Trophy was presented to the Auckland Youth Group for being the most active.

### **Telephone Directory**

The President informed the members that the telephone and address directory was ready. She thanked Maganbhai Ranchhod for his effort in having the directory compiled and printed. She told branch secretaries to contact Maganbhai for delivery of the directories.

### **Queen's Award/Honour**

The General Secretary advised that the nomination of Narshihbhai Vallabh for the Queen's Honour/Award was forwarded in August 1987 to the Prime Minister of New Zealand for consideration in the New Year's Honours List.

That of Shivlalbhai Master's nomination was forwarded in February 1988 for consideration in June (Queens Birthday) Honours List, and Rameshbhai Patel's nomination was forwarded in April 1988 for consideration in New Year 1989 Honours List.

## **REMITTS**

### **Auckland**

1. This conference consider the drought conditions in India with a view to taking appropriate action.  
Moved Chhotubhai Sima/Gowandhan Mehta                      Carried
  
2. That the large centre should be given more delegates and that the number of delegates should be increased from 10 to 15.  
Moved Arun Patel/Shantilal Pema                                      Lost
  
3. That the Central Association write to the Minister of Broadcasting and

Director General of Radio NZ to show our support to the community based Access Radio and request them to consider subsidising the Access Radio.

Moved Ashok Darji/Dhiru Bhawan Carried

4. Central report should be posted out to all branches within the six months after the conference.

Moved Dinesh Tailor/Shantilal Pema Carried

### **Pukekohe**

1. That the branch Associations be able to nominate members of their own branch for Queen's Award/Honours and to inform New Zealand Indian Central Association of their name.

Moved Uka Chhiba/Bhuladas Bhakta Lost

2. That no officer of NZCIA hold the same office for more than two years consecutively.

Moved Ganges Singh/Suresh Parsot Lost

3. That the New Zealand Indian Central Association may confer Life Membership upon any member in recognition of outstanding service to the Indian community and the Association, and such members shall be proposed by the Association six months prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Moved Ganges Singh/Uka Chhiba Carried

A constitutional change is required. The change to be considered at next conference by giving notice of change.

### **Wellington**

Wellington remits were handed out at the meeting and because they had not been circulated prior to the conference it was suggested that they be discussed in General Business.

### **President's Report**

The President's report was read and accepted by acclamation. A vote of thanks was accorded to outgoing officers.

Moved G. Moral (Taranaki)/Nagin Patel (Wellington).

### **Election of Officers**

The following were nominated and elected:

#### **President**

Santokh Singh Bhullar Moved Amrit Vasan/Nagin Patel

Magan Ranchhod Moved Ganges Singh/Uka Chhiba

On a secret ballot vote 35/28 Santokh Singh Bhullar was elected as President.

#### **Vice President**

Amrit Vasan Moved Sardool Singh/Nagin Patel

Jagdish Natali Moved Uka Chhiba/Chhotu Sima

On a secret ballot vote 34/30 Amrit Vasan was elected Vice President.

**General Secretary**

Dinesh Tailor Moved Dhiru Bhawan/G. Masters

Uka Chhiba Moved Raman Sukha/Jivan Bawa

On a secret ballot vote 34/29 Uka Chhiba was elected General Secretary

**Assistant Secretary**

Nagin Patel Moved Ravinder Powar/Nanu Ranchhod

Chhotu Mistry Moved Ashok Darji/Chhotu Sima

Ishvar Rambhai Moved Magan Ranchhod/Ganges Singh

On a secret ballot vote 18/21/24 respectively Ishvar Rambhai was elected Assistant Secretary.

**Auditor**

Dinesh Patel

**Executive Committee**

Chhotubhai Sima Auckland

Ganges B. Singh Pukekohe

Sardool Singh Bains Country Section

Jivan Bava Rotorua

Nanubhai C. Patel Manawatu

Gulabbhai Moral Taranaki

Pravin Puna Waikato

Nagin Patel Wellington

**Sub-Committee on Social Policy and Immigration**

Thakor Parbhu Auckland

Amrit Vasan Wellington

Shantiben Thakor Auckland

Jagdish Natali Auckland

Ganges Singh Pukekohe

Santokh Singh Bhullar Country Section

**BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

Each branch gave a report of the activities carried out since the last conference. The activities were more or less similar with associations involved in charity fund raising, festival celebrations, socials, and cultural activities with Gita class meeting every Sunday as well as the Mahila Samaj, and providing video films to members. Rotorua branch highlight was the opening of their Gandhi Hall.

**GENERAL BUSINESS****Wellington**

1. That the Central Association have international contact. After some discussion it was left to Naginbhai Patel to report to the executive meeting.

2. To promote religion among branch activities. Conference accepted that most associations have their own religious activities.

### **Cyclone Bola Flood Appeal**

Associations to send their funds to the General Secretary by 31 May 1988 with their donations to India Drought Relief Fund.

### **Restamping of Visa by NZ Passport Holders**

After discussion on the restamping of Entry Visas by NZ Passport holders visiting India, it was decided to get more clarification from the Indian High Commission Office in Wellington.

Moved Ashok Darji. Seconded Uka Chhiba.

### **Constitutional Change**

That Clauses 1 3A and 1 5A have been amended as passed at the Annual meeting on 18 April 1987.

Moved Thakor Parbhu. Seconded Dinesh Tailor.

### **Conference 1989**

Wellington and Auckland Associations on behalf of the other associations thanked the host association for their kind hospitality. Subject to confirmation Manawatu Indian Association will host the next conference, with the venue to be advised later. Rotorua will host the next executive meeting.

The President thanked the host association and everyone else involved in hosting the Conference and wished all delegates a safe journey home.

The Conference concluded at 8.30 pm with the national anthem “Jan Gan Man”.

Uka Chhiba  
General Secretary

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## **YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

This year the Youth Conference was represented by delegates from Auckland, Country Section and Pukekohe. To establish acquaintance all delegates gave brief introductions of themselves as some were new to their own groups and to the conference. Firstly it was decided that a new chairperson and secretary be elected. Nominations were put forward and elected for those positions were:

Suresh Wallabh — Chairperson

Hansa Daya — Secretary

During the conference delegates expressed a common opinion for enthusiasm towards their groups being quite minimal. Due to this, some of the areas had been in recess and events to report were minimal. To improve the situation it was agreed that after the conference delegates report back to their respective regions and restore interest. Publicity through local newsletters, personal invitations to community members to attend meetings and definite aims being discussed by members would help the

cause considerably.

After the close of the Youth Conference, Chairperson Suresh Wallabh from Pukekohe addressed delegates of the main conference. Renewed confidence in re-establishing inactive youth groups and encouraging greater participation in all regions was expressed. However mention was also made to delegates from those centres who had failed to send their youth delegates to the conference. Their attendance would certainly have made the conference more successful, as a wider range of ideas could have been exchanged. Hence providing greater encouragement towards the progress of centres who made efforts to attend.

Suresh Wallabh lastly thanked the host centre Pukekohe, for the kind hospitality given on behalf of all the youth delegates.

Mr Ganges Singh presented the Youth Group Cup to the Auckland delegates in recognition for the efforts, and contributions made by all members in the Auckland region.

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## MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 28 NOV 1987

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An executive committee meeting of the Association was held on the 28th November 1987 in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall, Taumarunui at 2.00 pm.

#### **Present**

Shantiben Thakor (President), Santokh Bhullar (Vice President), Jagdish Natali (General Secretary), Chhotubhai Mistry (Assistant General Secretary), Magan Ranchhod (Pukekohe), Ashok Darji (Auckland), Jivanbhai Bava (Rotorua), Dhiru Patel (Taranaki), Sardool Singh (Country Section), Ganges Singh (Sub-Committee member on Immigration and Social Welfare).

Attending Life Members: Thakor Parbhu, Chhibabhai Lala.

#### **Apologies**

Pravin Puna (Waikato), Amrit Vasani (Wellington), Haribhai Naran (Manawatu), Raman Ganda (Sub-Committee member on Immigration and Social Welfare).

#### **Apologies of Life Members**

J.K. Natali, Parbhubhai Kanji, Shivalal Masters, Rameshbhai Patel, Paragbhai Kanji, Ravjibhai C. Han, Parbhubhai Bhikha, Karam Singh Basi, Piara Singh, Narshihbhai Vallabh.

Moved that the apologies be accepted Ganges Singh. Seconded Sardool Singh.

Sardool Singh, President of Country Section Indian Association welcomed the members and wished them every success and a happy stay in Taumarunui.

Two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for those members who had passed away.

Before the meeting proceeded with its business, Mr Santosh Hanuman (a recent immigrant from South Africa), was given a brief moment to address the meeting. Mr Hanuman (a qualified teacher) briefly outlined the contribution made by Indians in South Africa, culturally, socially and economically. He also stated that Indians have gained recognition in South Africa politically, but their future is unstable due to apartheid policy being practised throughout South Africa. He said that he came to New Zealand where his family could enjoy a democratic way of life and to give his children better education and upbringing.

### **Correspondence**

Inward correspondence received and outward endorsed.

Moved Santokh Singh. Seconded Ganges Singh.

The following matters were raised and discussed:

### **Future Annual Conference**

The question of when to hold future conferences was discussed at length and the following recommendation was made:

“That future conferences be held during Easter Holidays”.

Moved Ashok Darji. Seconded Jivan Bava. Carried

### **Use of Word QSM and QSO**

It was suggested that when a nomination was made to the Government for Queen’s Honour or Award, the word QSM or QSO not be used.

### **School Certificate Exam Results**

The General Secretary informed the meeting that the letter from the Minister of Education advised that School Certificate marks are still available, therefore we should continue awarding prizes for School Certificate passes.

### **Royal Commission on Social Policy**

The President briefly outlined the research work done by the Royal Commission on Social Policy and that our submission will be made to the Commission in early January 1988. She also informed the meeting that the Commission has given a grant of \$3,150 to be used for research and other incidental expenses in preparing our submission. The President was thanked for her effort in obtaining the grant.

### **Telephone Directory**

The General Secretary advised the meeting that the Directory has been delayed through not getting all the information and advertisements in time. He said he will endeavour to have it printed as soon as possible. It was recommended by the meeting that \$1 per copy be charged to every Branch Association (for number of copies received by the Branch).

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Life Membership**

Nomination of Harbans Singh Randhawa was presented to the executive committee meeting. After a brief discussion on the matter it was suggested that as the nomination had not been received by the Association within the prescribed time (i.e. six months prior to the holding of executive committee meeting), the name and resume be received and accepted at this stage and be discussed and a recommendation be made at the next executive meeting in 1988.

### **Report on Immigration and Social Policy**

In the absence of chairman Mr Amrit Vasan of the sub-committee, Mr Ganges Singh briefly outlined the new Immigration Act introduced by the Government on 1st November 1987. The Act is a new guideline on new Immigration Policy, which became legislation on 1st November 1987. The Policy issued earlier can be amended and changed and the members present were informed that they should be aware of any changes in Policy which may affect or disadvantage our members and that they should bring this to the notice of the Association for any remedial action.

Thakorbhai Parbhu, presented a draft of guidelines on Social Policy to be submitted to the Royal Commission on Social Policy. Mr Ganges Singh was given the task of collating information from nominated people and was to present the submission to the Royal Commission early in January 1988.

The President Shantiben Thakor thanked the Country Section Indian Association for hosting the meeting and providing afternoon tea and a buffet dinner after the meeting at the residence of Mr Santokh Singh Bhullar.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.20 pm.

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## **OBITUARY RAMA UNKA**

Ramabhai Unka first arrived in New Zealand in 1929 at ten years of age. He spent his first years in the Taranaki district, attending school in Stratford for a year and then working in a fruit shop in Wanganui.

In 1939 with the pending World War II conflict, he returned to India, only to find himself facing greater challenges in the Indian Revolution which began in 1942. During his six year stay in the mother country, he helped in the activities to free India. He travelled many miles each day on foot to help in underground activities, dodging the police as much as possible. However, he was finally arrested and questioned about all the people with whom he was associated. On refusal to assist the police in their inquiries, he along with others, was handcuffed and beaten unconscious. After spending an interim period in a concentration jail he was then sent to prison for a year. Throughout this period, not only Ramabhai, but his family, suffered a great deal of hardship. His part in the fight for independence for India was recognised in 1979 when he was formally presented with a Certificate for his efforts by the New Zealand High Commission.

After arriving back in New Zealand in 1948, Ramabhai engaged himself in the fruit business in Auckland for a short period. However, he was still unsettled, and moved to Rotorua where he took an interest in the activities of the Bay of Plenty Indian Association.

In 1953, Ramabhai and his family shifted to Te Aroha In the Waikato region. He was very involved in the interest of the Waikato Indian Association and helped greatly in initiating and establishing the Waikato Indian Sports Club to which he was elected the first President.

In 1964 Ramabhai was elected President to the Waikato Indian Association. A post which he held until 1977 giving wholeheartedly his time and effort. Subsequently he again held the office of President until his ill health in August 1986 prevented him from continuing with his duties.

Ramabhai returned to India in March 1985, to open the Acharya Manibhai Smarak, which was built on land donated by Ramabhai to the village people of Karadi and surrounding areas. This is just one of the examples of Ramabhai's generosity.

Ramabhai was deeply involved in religious activities and was a keen supporter of all religious and cultural activities within the Association. He always gave his time and effort willingly for the benefit of the community and also had the ability to inspire confidence.

Everyone who was associated with Ramabhai and knew him would be saddened by his loss.

He became a life member of the New Zealand Indian Central Association in 1982 and attended 15 Conferences. Ramabhai will be sadly missed by all of us.

**June 1919 to 30 March 1987**

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### INDIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

JANA GANA MANA ADHI  
 NAYAK JAY HE  
 BHARAT BHAGYA VIDHATA,  
 PUNJAB SINDH GUJARAT MARATHA  
 DRAVID UCHKAL BANGA,  
 VINDHYA HIMACHAL YAMUNA GANGA  
 UTCHHAL JALDHI, TARANGA  
 TAV SHUBH NAME JAGE  
 TAV SHUBH ASHISH MANGE  
 GAHE TAV JAY GATHA  
 JANA GANA MANGAL DAYAK JAY HE  
 BHARAT BHAGVA VIDHATA,  
 JAYA HE, JAYA HE, JAVA HE,  
 JAYA, JAYA, JAYA, JAYA HE.

**Translation:**

Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,

Thou Dispenser of India's destiny.  
Thy name rouses the hearts  
of the Punjab, Sind, Gujarat and Maratha,  
of Dravid, Orissa and Bengal.  
It echoes in the hills of the Vindhya and Himalayas,  
mingles in the music of Jumna and Ganges,  
and is chanted by the waves of the Indian Sea.  
They pray for Thy blessing and sing Thy praise,  
Thou Dispenser of India's destiny,  
Victory, Victory, Victory to Thee.

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