

## Foreword from the High Commissioner



This is my first foreword for Kia ora! and it brings me great pleasure in reaching out to you through this column. I have been here for little more than two months but in this short period I have already experienced more than my fair share of the warmth

and generosity this region and its people are renowned for. Attending an Indian wedding and celebrating Holi, my first major Indian festival in India, have been clear highlights. On the professional front, I visited Sri Lanka last month to accompany the business mission that our Minister, Hon David Bennett, was leading. It gave me the opportunity to see first-hand the progress Sri Lanka and New Zealand have been making together on a range of issues, especially trade.

I presented my credentials in New Delhi on March 29 and now look forward to doing so in the three other capitals to which I am accredited – Colombo, Dhaka and Kathmandu. Being a representative of a country that was the first to give women the right to vote in 1893, I am especially proud to head the High Commission here because the heads of all our New Zealand agencies (INZ, NZTE, ENZ and MFAT) are women, a testament to the progress New Zealand is making on gender equality. In recognition of the many great strides Indian women have achieved, I and my team members celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 with some very inspiring women from one of New Delhi's lesser privileged communities. It was a powerful exchange of stories that showed how they and we have been bold in demanding greater rights for women.

I am joined in New Delhi by my husband Tim Markwell and children Frederik, Beatrice and Matilda, all of whom are excited to be in this fascinating part of the world. I hope to meet and get to know as many of you as possible. Besides thanking you for all the good work you have done to support New Zealand's presence in this region, I would like to hear your suggestions on how we can work more effectively to further enhance ties between our respective countries. Happy reading!

### Joanna Kempkers

New Zealand High Commissioner to India, High Commissioner-designate to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and Ambassador-designate to Nepal

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*Joanna Kempkers presenting her credentials to Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee*

## In This Edition

- New Zealand ranked as least corrupt, again --
- NZ Minister leads business delegation to Sri Lanka --
- Innovative minds lured to New Zealand --
- High Commission hosts Indo-Kiwi fashion show --
- New Zealand universities excel in global rankings --
- ENZ launches initiative to support education agents --
- High Commission celebrates #IWD2017 --
- Kiwi U-17 footballers book ticket to India --
- Meet our new Second Secretary

## Upcoming Events

- Education New Zealand (ENZ)-supported agent fairs in Mumbai (April 22), Vadodara (April 23), Kochi (April 28) and Visakhapatnam (April 30) --
- ANZAC Day commemoration at Delhi War Cemetery on April 25 --
- A New Zealand Trade and Enterprise delegation to visit India from April 16-21 to develop business and trade ties --
- CEO of Niti Aayog, Mr Amitabh Kant, to visit New Zealand as a Sir Edmund Hillary Fellow from May 1-5 --
- New Zealand Honorary Consuls from our accredited countries to meet in New Delhi from June 12-13

## NZ ranked as least corrupt, again



Having topped the Transparency International index for eight consecutive years until 2013, New Zealand was selected again as the least corrupt country in the world by the international anti-corruption agency in its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2016. Released in January this year, the international survey gave New Zealand a score of 90 points out of 100, placing it first-equal with Denmark. The index covers 176 countries and relies on 13 surveys "covering expert assessments and views of businesspeople" to compile its rankings. Among the criteria used to determine rankings are levels of corruption, press freedom, public access to official information and protection of fundamental rights. Transparency International NZ chair Suzanne Snively said New Zealand public sector agencies have successfully worked on "developing processes that prevent corruption". This has contributed to the country's stand-out reputation for a trusted public sector, she added. The lack of corruption in New Zealand helps ensure high levels of business confidence. It also topped the World Bank's annual ease of doing business ranking in October last year.

## NZ Minister leads business delegation to Sri Lanka

The Honourable David Bennett, New Zealand Minister of Food Safety and Veterans' Affairs and Associate Minister of Immigration and Transport, led a successful business mission to Sri Lanka from March 6-7, deepening trade connectivity between Sri Lanka and New Zealand. The delegation comprised 15



businesses, but many more members as the photo shows. They represented a wide range of Kiwi firms in sectors such as information technology, infrastructure, aviation, forest products, healthcare and education. One of the highlights of the visit was the signing of an agreement between New Zealand's Tait Communications and Fenton's Group of Sri Lanka. The agreement will see Fenton support Tait with pre and post-sales service, positioning the two more favourably to win and service local contracts. Hon Bennett also met with a number of senior Sri Lankan Ministers during this visit, including the Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr Rajitha Senarathne, and the Sri Lankan Minister of Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure, the Honourable Harin Fernando. Sri Lanka is an important economic partner for New Zealand and the two countries are working hard to diversify and grow trade, which is currently worth NZ\$ 309 million per annum.

## Innovative minds lured to New Zealand



If you think you have an innovative solution to offer for one of the world's many pressing challenges, then New Zealand wants you! The Government has launched a visionary three-year fellowship programme – through a new Hillary Global Impact Visa – that seeks to bring together a community of visionary entrepreneurs, investors and startup teams to create positive global impact. New Zealand is renowned for its incubation prowess where entrepreneurs and other pioneers are pushing boundaries to create models for the rest of the world to follow. Named after one of New Zealand's most distinguished citizens, Sir Edmund Hillary, the Hillary Global Impact Visa is on the lookout for people like Sir Ed – those who can face the insurmountable and see a possible pathway, visionary entrepreneurs who have the audacity to launch bold ideas and take advantage of the unique opportunities that New Zealand offers. Up to 50 international and 10 Kiwi Fellows are being accepted into a cohort every six months, and are provided with individualised support and access to world-class mentors, retreats, and events to maximise impact. Your age, areas of expertise, education level, work experience, country of origin doesn't matter when it comes to applying for a Global Impact Visa. What really matters is your vision and ability to create lasting and sustainable solutions for the world. For more details on this transformative opportunity, log on to <https://www.ehf.org>.

## High Commission hosts Indo-Kiwi fashion show



Our High Commission Residence lawns donned the look of an avant-garde fashion ramp on January 23 to showcase outfits co-created by students from Massey University and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in New Delhi. A group of 20 students each from Massey and NIFT, comprising a mix of textile, fashion and business students, worked together to produce garments from sustainable and organic materials sourced in India. As well as modelling their collection, they presented business plans for producing and marketing them. The Massey University students were in India as recipients of the Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia (PMSA), a programme funded by the New Zealand Government and administered by Education New Zealand. It aims to strengthen New Zealand's ability to engage with key Asian trading partners, improve international skills of the New Zealand workforce and internationalise Kiwi tertiary institutions. The PMSA also helps create greater international awareness of the strength and quality of New Zealand's education system and develop New Zealanders' understanding of other cultures.

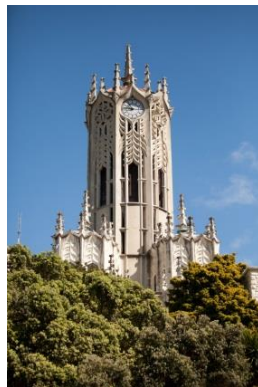


*Five New Zealanders are buried at the Delhi War Cemetery, the venue for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. They fell during World War I. Another Kiwi soldier who fell during World War I is commemorated on a plaque.*

## ANZAC Day to be commemorated on April 25

This year's ANZAC Day Dawn Service will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at the Delhi War Cemetery located in Delhi Cantonment. Organised by us and co-hosted with the Australian High Commission, the service will begin at 5:30 am and shall be followed by the traditional ANZAC Day gunfire breakfast at the Residence of the New Zealand High Commissioner. Those interested in attending should email [suvarna.oommen@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:suvarna.oommen@mfat.govt.nz) to confirm their attendance. Please do keep following our Facebook and Twitter feeds for regular updates, including on the locations and timings for ANZAC Day services in other cities in India and capitals of our countries of accreditation. ANZAC Day, originally set aside to honour members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought at Gallipoli during World War I, has grown to include commemoration of fallen soldiers from Australia and New Zealand, and other countries, in subsequent wars.

## New Zealand universities excel in global rankings



You can never go wrong if you choose to study in one of our eight universities. All of them excelled again in the annual QS World University Rankings, being placed in the top 50 universities in the world in 22 different subjects, and in the top 100 in 39 (out of a possible 46) subjects. Of these, University of Auckland (pictured on the left) has 16 subjects that have been ranked in the top 50. "These are outstanding results for a country with eight universities being evaluated against 4,430 other universities from around the world", says Executive Director of Universities New Zealand Chris Whelan. "They reflect the high regard in which our universities' teaching and research is held across a wide range of disciplines." Released in March, the annual QS World University Rankings by Subject compares academic reputation, employer reputation, research citations, and impact.

## Kiwi U-17 footballers book ticket to India

We are thrilled that the New Zealand junior football team have qualified for the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in October in India. With two places at the World Cup on offer to the Oceania region for the first time, New Zealand will also be joined by New Caledonia in the tournament. The Kiwis defeated the New Caledonian team 7-1 in the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) final in Tahiti in February to claim the honour of being the best OFC team for the sixth consecutive time. We wish the U-17 All Whites the very best for their India campaign later this year!



## ENZ launches initiative to support education agents



Education New Zealand (ENZ) has launched a series titled 'Welcome2NewZealand' to help ensure prospective students are given all necessary information and support they need from local agents on behalf of New Zealand educational institutions. The first of these series was held in New Delhi on April 5 and was attended

by more than 20 agents from the National Capital Region. Enrolment of Indian students at our universities has risen by 53 per cent so far in 2017. Speaking at the event, High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers said, "India has played a pivotal role in developing a diverse and multicultural pool of students on our campuses. With more than 25,000 Indian students choosing New Zealand for higher education in 2016, we want to continue to welcome Indian students to our world class institutions, and to live in our safe and welcoming country."

## High Commission celebrates #IWD2017



Being the first country to grant women the right to vote in 1893, New Zealand has a long history of supporting gender equality. On March 8 some of our staff members had the privilege of spending International Women's Day with a group of inspiring women from Asha Society. In keeping with this year's theme, "Be Bold for Change", they had the opportunity to listen to inspirational stories from a number of Asha women who described their lives and how they had overcome challenges to become powerful voices of women's empowerment in their families and society. The group later painted a mural together at the Asha Community

Centre nearby. Asha Society is an NGO that works to better the lives of people from New Delhi's lesser privileged urban communities. The High Commission has supported the NGO through its Head Of Mission Fund and has also hosted interns from the organisation to give them a chance to experience a professional work environment. This year's Women's Day celebration was special for the High Commission because all heads of the different New Zealand Government departments based here are women.

## Spring comes to our compound

The New Zealand High Commission hosted a Garden Contest on March 1 to celebrate New Delhi's amazing spring blooms and the hard work of our gardeners who work to make our compound beautiful. Congratulations to the German Embassy who won the prize for the most beautiful embassy garden in Chanakyapuri!



## Meet our new Second Secretary



We welcome Emma King, who joined us in February as our Second Secretary responsible for trade and economic issues. In her current role, she also manages the Head Of Mission Fund and oversees environment-related issues. Emma comes to us from Wellington where she worked as a Policy Officer for the South East Asian region.

## About Us



**NEW ZEALAND**  
HIGH COMMISSION

The High Commission advances New Zealand's interests in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and promotes greater ties between our countries. Our representation in India includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Education New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. You can email us on [nzhcindia@mfat.net](mailto:nzhcindia@mfat.net).