



Foreword from the High Commissioner



On “one of New Zealand’s darkest days”, as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern so aptly put it, a gunman struck at the very heart of our country, at the values of inclusiveness and diversity that New Zealand holds dear. The Christchurch terrorist

attack that left 50 men, women and children dead was condemned in the strongest terms as the nation stood together in grief and in solidarity with the victims and their loved ones. As we slowly move from darkness into the light, towards what can only be described as a new normal, I would like to thank each one of you for your support and the heartfelt messages of condolence and empathy you sent us. New Zealand remains a land of peace, and the language it speaks continues to be one of love and unity: Ko tātou, tātou—We are one.



New Zealand High Commission staff members sing a waiata in memory of the victims of the Christchurch terrorist attack

Language and its importance in our lives is something I had the opportunity to reflect on during a visit to Bangladesh recently. As the country celebrated International Mother Language Day on 21 February, I had the honour of taking part in a wreath-laying ceremony at Dhaka’s Central Shaheed Minar together with other members of the diplomatic corps. It made me think about New Zealand’s own journey with the revitalisation of our native tongue, Te Reo Māori.

I turn to Te Reo Māori to bid a fond haere rā (farewell) to our brilliant colleague First Secretary Emma King, who will head back to Wellington in May. At the end of two exciting years at the High Commission, Emma says, “One of the best parts of this role has been the people—we have such a wonderful team here and I will really miss working with you all”. We wish Emma all the very best for her future endeavours!



Joanna Kempkers

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

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- Fisher & Paykel Healthcare conference in New Delhi on 13 April
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- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise IMEA regional conference in the UAE in April
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- Commemoration of Sir Edmund Hillary’s birth centenary in May

G2G delegation on multi-state India visit



(Above) Delhi Industries Minister Satyender Jain, with High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers and Melany Tedja from G2G Know-How and (below) Karnataka Minister of Large and Medium Industries K.J. George with First Secretary Emma King



Melany Tedja, Channel Partner Manager, and Fajar Anugerah, Regional Partnership Manager, from New Zealand G2G Know-How were in India from 10-16 March to discuss cooperation on Ease of Doing Business. They met state government representatives in New Delhi, Karnataka and Gujarat.

Help at hand for Nepalese students



New Zealand Honorary Consul to Nepal, Lisa Choegy, was invited to the 9th annual general meeting of Free Educational Consultancies Organization Nepal, which guides students on studying abroad.

Food safety cooperation with Sri Lanka strengthened

The New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries and the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka have signed an arrangement to strengthen cooperation on food safety. This arrangement was signed during a visit to New Zealand by the Director General of Health Dr Anil Jasinghe in February. Both countries will exchange information on food safety systems, policy and regulations, and cooperate in international fora and on trade facilitation.



Fonterra brings Calci-Pro milk powder to Bangladesh



Love your bones! That was the catchphrase of the evening at the launch of Calci-Pro, a high-calcium milk powder launched by Fonterra and New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Ltd in Dhaka on 22 February. High

Commissioner Joanna Kempkers was the chief guest at the programme, which was attended by doctors, nutritionists, business leaders and personalities from the fields of sports, academics and the arts. The event, held in a packed hall in Pan Pacific Sonargaon, also recognized stars in Bangladesh's sporting firmament.

New Zealand is pleased to join Bangladesh in the fight against osteoporosis, to which women in South Asia are particularly susceptible, and to promote good health and nutrition among women, especially young mothers.

Anzac Day to be commemorated on 25 April

On Thursday, 25 April, the New Zealand High Commission will co-host Anzac Day with the Australian High Commission. The day will begin with the Dawn Service at the Delhi War Cemetery in Delhi Cantonment at 5.30 a.m., followed by the traditional Anzac Day gunfire breakfast at the New Zealand High Commissioner's Official Residence.



Kiwis and Australians who would like to attend the service may please email suvarna.oommen@mfat.govt.nz. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on locations and timings of Anzac Day services in other cities in India and in our countries of accreditation.

Anzac Day commemorates New Zealanders and Australians who died in war and honours returned servicemen and women. It was first marked in 1916 to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who served in the Gallipoli Campaign during the First World War.

Deepa Malik is NZ PM's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellow 2019



We are very pleased to announce that the 2019 New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship has been awarded to Indian Paralympic athlete Deepa Malik. The first Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games, Deepa has won 58 national and 23 international medals. The multi-award winning athlete has entered the *Limca Book of World Records* four times.

As a Hillary Fellow, Deepa will travel to New Zealand and meet with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, undertake visits to Paralympic sporting organisations, and engage with Kiwi athletes, students and the media as well as the Indian diaspora community. When she comes home, she will be a great ambassador for the India-NZ relationship.

Did you know?

In New Zealand, sign language was recognised as the third official language after English and Māori in 2006. It was a big step to promote inclusivity for the differently abled. Prime Minister Ardern leads by example, having a sign language interpreter at her weekly post-Cabinet press conference.

Unity is the message in Aaron Glasson's Delhi mural

If you're passing through New Delhi's Lodhi Art District between blocks 14 and 17, you can't miss this stunning mural by New Zealand's acclaimed multi-disciplinary artist Aaron Glasson. We collaborated with St+art India Foundation to bring Aaron to India for the street art festival Start Delhi 2019. High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers paid a visit to the site of the mural and met with Aaron. "Projects like this one are important to show the dynamic and ongoing cultural connect between New Zealand and India," she said.

Talking about the mural, Aaron said, "Before I came to Delhi, I had finalised the Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl and the earthen pot, both from the Indus Valley Civilisation that dates back to undivided India, as a unity symbol. I improvised the rest of the mural as I worked." New Zealand greenstone features in the mural, as do traditional Māori structures Aaron saw in Auckland Museum during a recent trip.

Aaron's mural found mention in publications such as *Times of India*, *Indian Express* and *Conde Nast Traveller India*.



NZ's Eden Frank in Young Chef Olympiad Top 10

Eden Frank from the New Zealand School of Food and Wine channelled his culinary energies to make it to the Top 10 of the International Young Chef Olympiad 2019 held in India. Eden (in photo, with Celia Hay, Director of the school) was one of three winners of the Best Young Chef Ambassador award. "One thing I know from my heart is that people love to go out for a meal with their friends and family and I want to be the guy who puts out that meal for them to share and bond over," Eden told *The Telegraph*, an Indian daily.



Sri Lanka develops Sinhala sign language software



New software developed in Sri Lanka will turn Sinhala text and audio into sign language to help the country's hearing impaired. The Sinhala-to-Sinhala Sign Language software created by Prof. R.G.N. Meegama of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Dr. M. Puchimudiyanse of the Open University of Sri Lanka translates Sinhala voice and writing into gestures conveyed by a virtual human on the computer screen. The innovation—the fruit of three years of research—must be music to the ears of those working with the hearing impaired in Sri Lanka.

Education, skill-building equip youth at YUVA centre



YUVA centre, run by CHETNA NGO, works with disadvantaged children and young adults to empower them through education and skill-building. Supported by the New Zealand High Commission's Head of Mission Fund, 15 underprivileged youth in the age group of 18-25 years were imparted basic English and computer training at the YUVA centre, and were able

to put their skills to use by securing jobs in hotels and offices. Part of the mission's funds also went into activities geared towards sensitising individuals so as to build an environment conducive to nurturing and cultivating the potential of underprivileged youth. High Commissioner Joanna Kempfers visited the centre in March, interacting with the young people, hearing their stories and learning more about their journeys. She also visited a foundation school for street children run by CHETNA, which provides basic education and facilitates enrolment in formal schools. YUVA centre is located in south-east Delhi.

Pledging to do our bit on International Women's Day



This Women's Day, what will you do? That's the question we asked all staffers at the New Zealand High Commission on 8 March. Post-its saying 'This Women's Day I pledge to . . .' went up on our cafeteria wall, with responses that were both powerful and heartfelt: Avoid unconscious bias; teach our sons to treat women respectfully and equally, and our daughters to speak up and stand up for themselves; make time for ourselves and our female friends and family; learn more about women's struggles; support women in science . . . The writing is on the wall, literally. So, what was your Women's Day pledge?

Beatrice Faumuina in Sports Hall of Fame

A big shout-out to Beatrice Faumuina, Senior Adviser in the Auckland Pacific Connections team of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for being inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame. When Faumuina struck gold in discus throwing at the 1997 World Athletics Championships, she shone the global spotlight on New Zealand's women's field events for the first time.



Kiwi wins lensman of the year prize



Congratulations to Kiwi photographer David Lloyd who won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year LUMIX People's Choice Award from Natural History Museum, London. Titled 'Bond of Brothers', Lloyd's photograph of two lions captures a moment of extraordinary animal behaviour. The winning image was picked from among 25 photos that made the final cut, out of 45,000 submissions.

About Us



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, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Education New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. You can email us on nzhcindia@mfat.net.