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Welcome

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction that Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) has come of age and we have been able to launch our first quarterly newsletter. The launch of any new venture is never without teething troubles and our newsletter is not an exception. The credit for designing and tying up all the loose ends goes to our Administrator, Tayyaba, who has invested extra hours to make it all happen.

Waitakere Ethnic Board comprises of fourteen dedicated members who represent ten different nationalities. It has been a blessing to have the Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse on board who has never missed an opportunity to give her valuable and timely advice at every occasion. The Board had mixed feelings when His Worship the Mayor Bob Harvey and the Deputy Mayor addressed the members of the Board for the last time in our September meeting. Bob Harvey graciously blessed the meeting with his remarkable opening prayer followed by a memorable address. We wish both of them all the best in their future ventures. May God bless them.

WEB also enjoyed the privilege of having Peter Chan, Councillor for Waitakere City on board as the Council appointment to our small organization. Peter ensures that he advocates for ethnic community is-

sues diligently. WEB is also assisted by Tony Rea and Monica Sharma from Waitakere City Council who support and guide us through their very valuable contributions. The efforts of these remarkable individuals have made it possible to consolidate the WEB into its present shape. WEB is deeply indebted to the Council for providing us the support when we needed it most.



Amail Habib, President

WEB is concerned about the representation of ethnic communities in the new Auckland Council structure. We have raised this concern by dedicating our September Member's Forum to candidates standing for election in our ward. We are not only concerned about the future of Waitakere Ethnic Board but also the very existence of Ethnic Advisory Panel which will be formed by the new Mayor. Len Brown, Mayoral candidate, assured us that he envisions the Ethnic Advisory Panel will continue to exist beyond 2013.

I really appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of all the board members who give their valuable volunteer time for the uplifting and growth of our ethnic communities.

On behalf of Waitakere Ethnic Board I would like to thank all of you for supporting us since our inception. We do hope that you

will enjoy reading our newsletter. I welcome any feedback about the newsletter to make it an informative read for you.

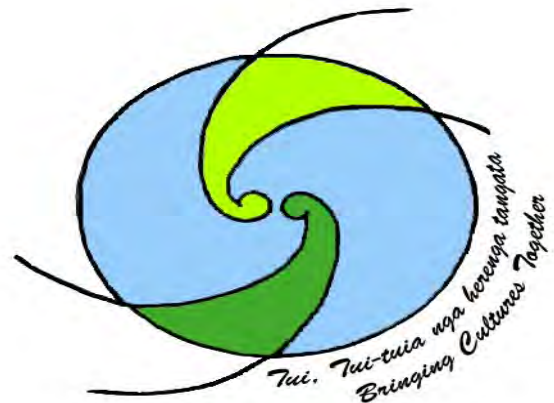
May God bless you.

Rev. Amail Habib

President, Waitakere Ethnic Board

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- WEB has hosted 2 members forum in 2010.
- Our AGM is scheduled for 27th November 2010.



Waitakere Ethnic Board

Waitakere Ethnic Board



Back row from the left:

Ernest Remi Bucumi, Neeta Chhima, Lawrence Amos, Amreena Kaur, Arvinder Vasudeva, Huihai Liu, and Sunil Kaushal

Front row from the left:

Dr Mirza Taimoori, Chul Kwon Yang, Amail Habib and Agnes Granada

Though unavailable for the photo the Board Members also consist of: Linda Chen, Ann Pala, and Camille Nakhid

Contact Details

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www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz

Taking Action To Be Safe

Taking Action To Be Safe was the first forum hosted by the new WEB Executive on 21st July 2010. The chosen theme to discuss safety issues was timely with the NZ Police releasing statements advising Asian communities of strategies to remain safe. Several other incidents in relation to safety of ethnic communities also inspired WEB to undertake hosting this forum.

The evening was attended by approximately 60 people from diverse communities including: Pakistani, Indian, Korean, Chinese, and Burundian to name a few. The forum comprised of presentation from agencies such as – Human Rights Commission; NZ Police; and Waitakere Asian Support Group.

Members in attendance found the evening to be highly informative, and WEB was able to also assist in connecting the Sikh community to NZ Police and The Aucklander community newspaper to activate further action on the crime incidents they were facing without any support.

For more information around safety in Waitakere please visit: <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/CnlSer/cr/safewaitak/index.asp>



New WEB-site

After much deliberation on improving the 'old', Waitakere Ethnic Board has decided to embrace the 'new'. We are changing our look, and aim to bring you a fresh new website that will go live on the 13th of October, 2010. The new website aims to be more accessible with relevant reports, events, and even polls on issues of importance to ethnic communities.

Many of our members provided feedback that the old website was rather impersonal. So we

The new website will go live on 13th October 2010, so please check it out.

hope you enjoy the current biographies of our Board Members, and information on the organizations that hold a membership with WEB. The new website will also be picturesque and the gallery should provide viewers with an open window to our events and ac-

tivities.

We would appreciate hearing from you what your thoughts are about the new website. So if you have any feedback please email: contact@waitakereethnicboard.org.nz

Join us on facebook!



Meet our staff...

Waitakere Ethnic Board's office reopened its doors to the public on the 10th of May, 2010. With the inauguration of the office space WEB also welcomed its first staff member on board. Tayyaba Khan, WEB Administrator, runs the office for 20 hours a week.

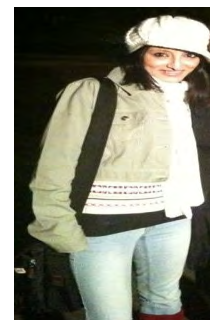
Tayyaba, previously an Ethnic Affairs Advisor for the Office of Ethnic Affairs is also currently studying law at the University of Auckland. Tayyaba has joined WEB part-time to offer her skills and services in establishing our

office space and setting the basic organizational processes in place.

As the face of our office Tayyaba's role is to provide administrative support to the Board but also provide customer service to our members. For all general enquiries Tayyaba is your first point of contact. Tayyaba is available on the following days:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 4pm.

The WEB office is currently located on 12 Railside Road, Henderson.



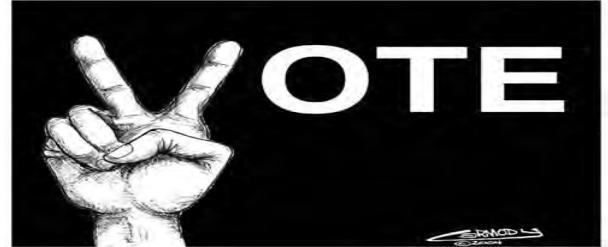
IT'S NOT TOO LATE – CAST A SPECIAL VOTE

If you haven't enrolled to vote yet, it's not too late to have your say in the local government elections. **You can do a special vote but you must enrol by Friday 8 October 2010.**

You can get voter registration forms from:

- ◆ any New Zealand Post Shop
- ◆ phone 0800 36 76 56

the [Electoral Enrolment Centre website](http://www.elections.org.nz) on www.elections.org.nz



CAN YOU VOTE IF YOU'RE NOT A NZ CITIZEN?

You can vote **IF** you:

- ◆ are 18 years of age or older **and**
- ◆ are a ***permanent resident*** or citizen **and**
- ◆ have lived in New Zealand for ***more than one year continuously at some time in your life.***

You can cast your special vote at your council office from Friday 17 September 2010 to 12 noon, Saturday 9 October 2010:

- ◆ the Electoral Office (Level 8, 92 Albert Street, Auckland)
- ◆ Franklin District Council (82 Manukau Road, Pukekohe)
- ◆ Manukau City Council (31-33 Wiri Station Road, Manukau)
- ◆ North Shore City Council (Level 3, 1 The Strand, Takapuna)
- ◆ Papakura District Council (35 Coles Crescent, Papakura)
- ◆ Rodney District Council (Centreway Road, Orewa)
- ◆ Waitakere City Council (6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson)

Your completed voting papers must be returned to the electoral office or to your council office by **12 noon on 9 October 2010.**



Citizenship Ceremonies

Waitakere City is exemplified for being the first Council in the country to place the full text of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its Council buildings. What is more significant is that the declaration that acknowledges the importance of human rights was unveiled during a citizenship ceremony by Mayor Bob Harvey.

Becoming a citizen of Aotearoa/New Zealand is something many of us aspire towards. This process that can take up a 5 year commitment is celebrated enthusiastically in Waitakere City. Waitakere Ethnic Board since its inception has had a commitment to being present at citizenship ceremonies to welcome people from all walks of life to this beautiful country.

Waitakere City conferred its last citizenship ceremony on 28th September 2010 before the Auckland Super City implementation begins. The ceremony which was attended by our Board Member Lawrence Amos, had the same welcoming enthusiasm as previous ceremonies but also an air of sadness with the big changes looming ahead.

City Councillors such as Janet Clews, Judy Lawley and Warren Flaunty were in attendance as well as Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse. WEB hopes that the spirit of these ceremonies is maintained under the new Super City structure without much disruption, and that the local board is able to pick up the ceremonies smoothly under the new transition.



Waitakere Ethnic Board Inc. was established on 20th September 2003. Established due to consistent call for an Ethnic Advisory Board by the ethnic communities in Waitakere City the Board aims to promote and represent the interest of all ethnic communities within the Waitakere City Council boundaries.

Waitakere Ethnic Board represents the views of migrants and refugees to Council and Central Government. We speak out on behalf of ethnic communities about issues that concern them, and work with Council and government departments so that they are responsive to the needs of migrants and refugees.

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*Bringing Cultures
Together*

