

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

HON CHRIS CARTER'S UPDATE

2009 has been a busy year for Labour's Ethnic Affairs team. Between Ashraf Choudhary, Rajen Prasad, Raymond Huo and I, we managed to attend over 400 community meetings, cultural celebrations, national days and religious ceremonies throughout the whole country.

Labour Party Leader Phil Goff and other Labour Party colleagues from Parliament have often been with us and we have all enjoyed talking to and listening to the people we have met.

The team have tried to assist migrant communities with a range of issues, from immigration problems to supporting work being carried out by the many volunteers and NGO groups working to support the migrant sector.

In 2010 the Labour team will continue to work hard to help build a New Zealand where every Kiwi, regardless of ethnicity or religion, is valued and respected.

If you have any issue that you think we could assist with please don't hesitate to contact us.

I hope you and your family enjoy the summer holidays and have a prosperous 2010.

DR ASHRAF CHOUDHARY'S UPDATE

Another year is ending and the holiday season is upon us. This is time for holiday and enjoyment, and at the same time for humility and charity.

Today's New Zealand duly reflects our society and it shows that we are a multicultural society. It is a powerful riposte to those who seek to promote discord between different sections of the community. There is a need for tolerance and understanding between cultural and religious groups in New Zealand's diverse society. Diversity is strength not a threat.

I urge everyone to join me in highlighting the importance of greater understanding and integration between different cultural and religious groups. Immigrants' values are compatible with a very diverse range of cultures - but they may all have to adapt a little to allow those underlying New Zealand values to be sustained.

As the holiday season and another year approach, let us take time to consider what is really important - family and friends. We tend to hold our families a little closer, realising that what we take for granted can change in an instant. We need to remember our friends who have endured great sacrifices or those who have suffered great loss in Asia and the Pacific region.

DR RAJEN PRASAD'S UPDATE

This year has been both challenging and rewarding. Being in Opposition is a challenge as it requires significant adjustment to our role in Parliament. It has been a rewarding year because I have been able to consult different groups in our various ethnic communities about their views on the challenges they

face and what they would like to see in our next generation ethnic policy. Our members and the wider ethnic communities have been generous with their time and thoughts and I thank them for giving us time out of their busy schedules. Over the next few months I hope to complete this processes.

As you begin the holiday season I wish you compliments of the season and hope you have a safe holiday. This is a time when many families will be getting together. It is also a time when we should consider those who have less than we have and ask you to be generous in your support for them. I also ask you to do all you can to keep your children and families safe. There are far too many needless accidents in our homes at this time of the year, and especially with an increase on alcohol consumption, unnecessary pressure also goes on vulnerable members of our families. I ask you to consider their needs and focus on those aspects of relationships that builds strong families.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. I thank you for all your support this year and wish you and your families a relaxing holiday.

RAYMOND HUO'S UPDATE

As the New Year approaches I look back on 2009 with a sense of pride as to what Labour has achieved in Parliament and at a community level.

Throughout the latter part of the year, I strongly advocated for an ethnic voice on Auckland's new 'supercity' through my proposals for an Asian Advisory Board or Committee and was justified when the government bowed to the pressure by initiating an Ethnic Advisory Panel on the new council. I will continue to hold the government to account on every platform and will not waver in my quest to ensure an ethnic voice at all levels of government.

On October 24, I was proud to open the Botany Chinese Labour Branch. With 119 foundation members on hand to witness an inspired speech from Hon Phil Goff, the Branch could not have had a better start. Away from the chest-thumping and interjections of the House, the most satisfying part of the position is the relationships I have formed with the many different cultural and ethnic groups I have met while representing the labour Ethnic Caucus.

In the New Year I hope to continue to meet with members of our ethnic society at a community level and learn about the issues they face and what we can do in Parliament to help. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ETHNIC CAUCUS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

- 10th Anniversary of Bulgarian Society and 3rd Anniversary of the Bulgarian Roses Cultural Group, Mt Albert War Memorial Hall.
- Rotorua Deepawali Festival, Energy Events Centre, Rotorua.
- NZ Police Palmerston North Host Ethnic Communities Football final.
- NZ Young Chinese Piano and Violin talent concert, Auckland Town Hall.
- Tsunami memorial, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland.
- New Zealand Chinese Cultural & Book Festival.
- East Auckland Chinese Association's 9th anniversary.
- Eastern Stars Concert Band Gold Award Celebration Concert.

- Eid Cup Muslim Soccer finals.
- NZ Telugu Association Deepvali.
- Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards dinner.
- Social and Community Wellbeing Conference, Harbour Function Centre, North Harbour Stadium
- Meeting with Indiana Association, Invercargill.
- 10th Anniversary of the Tang Ming Group.
- AGM of the Pakistan New Zealand Friendship Association.
- 15th Anniversary Celebration Dinner for the Manawatu Multicultural Council Inc.
- Global Organization of People of Indian Origin New Zealand first anniversary dinner.
- Reception for to mark the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and the 20th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, Wellington.
- Xinjiang Dance Troupe Performance, ASB Theatre.
- Farwell function for Kefeng Chu, Police Strategic Ethnic Adviser, Royal NZ Police College.
- Opening ceremony of the 14th General Assembly of Regional Islamic Da'wah Council for South East Asia and the Pacific.
- Chinese language Foundation Showcase Concert, Kristin School, North Shore.
- China National Tourism Organisation Gala Dinner, Auckland.
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at NZ Inc. Annual Convention.
- Hyderabad Urdu Cultural Association Of NZ Inc. inaugural function and Eid-UI-Azha celebration.
- Pakuranga Chinese Association's Christmas party, Pakuranga Youth Centre/
- Christmas celebration marking the start up of Federation of Henan Tertiary Institutions of New Zealand.
- Tamil Society 25th anniversary, Dorothy Winstone Centre, Auckland.
- Launch of the Mt Albert Chinese Labour Branch, Mt Albert, Auckland.

C Labour Ethnic Affairs Caucus 2009.

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