



# What's <sup>Up</sup> BawaZ



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming up. In the spirit of giving, we urge each and every family in NZ to plant at least one tree for \$10 only, at the CUE Haven. About CUE Haven : [www.cuehaven.com](http://www.cuehaven.com)

This would serve as a donation for the Youth Congress and also contribute to our environment.

CUE Haven is an initiative run by Thomas and Mahrukh Stazyk, that is committed to the preservation of native plant and animal life.

The 60 acre farm in Araparera, an hour north of the city and overlooking the Kaipara Harbour is to be reconverted into native forest.

Our Youth will plant a tree for every individual that donates. In time, these saplings will grow into a lasting, collective and memorable contribution from our community.

<http://www.6wzyc.co.nz/cue-have.php>

TO DONATE pls Txt ZANZ to 5464

Comment : GREEN "Your name"

or

Direct transfer into

12-3233-0611957-00

Ref : GREEN "Your name"

Best Wishes

Dilshad Shroff

President

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## Young Achievers **Delnaz & Kayomi Patrawalla**

We are happy to inform ZANZ that Delnaz Patrawala has been elected as House Captain Academics at Macleans College in Year 12.

Delnaz Patrawala has also been awarded a Gold Medal at New Zealand Secondary School National Level Aerobics competition

Kayomi Patrawala has also been awarded a Bronze Medal at New Zealand Secondary School National Level Aerobics competition

We are also happy to inform ZANZ that Delnaz Patrawala and Kayomi Patrawala have contributed to three prizes in Auckland Secondary College Championships for Macleans in Aerobics

Below is the link <http://www.macleans.school.nz/events/2014/17-07-14.htm>



## **25 years Completed for Prayer Classes**

### Story of the Early days of NZ Prayer Class :

In 1989, a casual discussion amongst the first few Parsi migrants to New Zealand at a lunch at Zarine & Jimmy Medhora's house (now residing in Sydney Australia) was the conception of the idea of the prayer class. The few early migrant Parsi families felt that their kids would miss out on learning Prayers and have a sense of belonging to a community as we were so far away from our motherland India.

The prayer classes started in Oct 1989 and were run every Sunday morning for a couple of years. At that time we did not have any priests residing in New Zealand and Darius Mistry took on the responsibility to run the class because of his staunch belief in our Zarthusti prayers.

The first Prayer class was held in Dr. Noshir & Daksha Mistry's residence in Mangere. It was conducted by Darius and supported by Daksha who used to teach the kids Gujarati language, as we felt that the language will be lost amongst our kids in New Zealand.

There were 11 students who attended the first prayer class.

In 1990 the class was then held in Homi Kolah's house in Farmcove for a few months as the kids numbers grew too large.

1991 – The classes then moved to Darius & Edwina's house in Bucklands Beach

During late 1991 it was then held at Bikish Vazifdar's house for a short time

With the new Zoroastrian migrant numbers increasing in NZ the number of kids attending the prayer class increased to around 30 kids and Parents also started attending the classes and it was decided to move the classes to the Howick community centre where we ran it for almost 3 to 4 years. We also had a separate session of religious discussions for the Elders of the community.

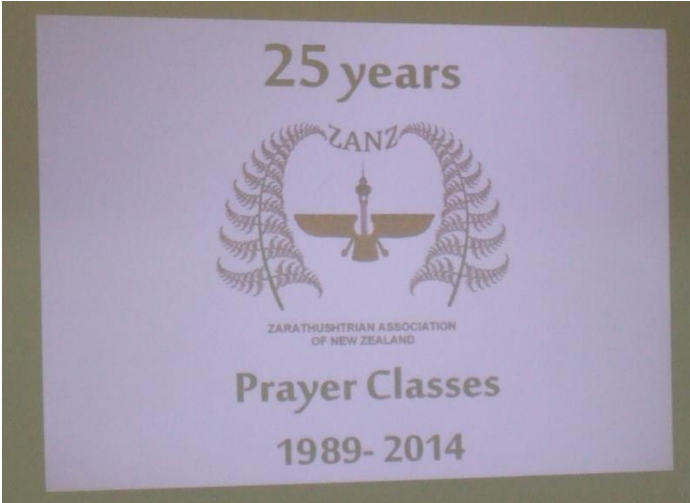
It was then moved to Anchorage park community hall for a few years before moving it to The Riverina school hall in Pakuranga where we ran it for over 5 years.

It was decided that the ZANZ Committee should take over the prayer class and due to the growth of both parents and kids attending, the ZANZ committee decided to shift it to the Pakuranga Community Centre. Quite a few Dasturji's had come in to New Zealand by then, and they started getting involved with the running of the classes, where religious studies also became a part of the class structure.

With the growth in numbers and age differences amongst the kids the classes were then structured to meet the needs of the different age groups. We ran three different sessions, which started off with a hum-bandagi which everyone started together, the pre Navjote kids had

a separate session from the post Navjote kids, and we even had a separate session with Parents where Tehmus would have a discussion panel with the adults on various topics related to the religion. The kids started being involved in more religious based projects and other activities.

Currently, we have around 11 kids attending the prayer class. We have one class on every first Saturday of the month at Te Tuhi Art Centre & one class every third Saturday of the month at the Dar-E-Mehr.



# Why SHOULD WE PRAY

## even if we can't understand a single word of our prayers ?

An old Farmer lived on a farm in the mountains with his young grandson. Each morning Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his KHORDEH-AVESTA . His grandson wanted to be just like him and tried to imitate him in every way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Grandpa! I try to read the KHORDEH-AVESTA . just like you , but I don't understand it . What good does reading the KHORDEH-AVESTA do ? "

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and replied, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring me back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, but all the water leaked out before he got back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You'll have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. Every time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You're just not trying hard enough; try again " .

The boy again dipped the basket into river and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Grandpa, it's useless ! " "So you think it is useless ? " The old man said, "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time realized that the basket was different. It had been transformed from a dirty old coal basket and was now clean, inside and out.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the KHORDEH-AVESTA .. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, you will be changed, inside and out. That is the work of Daadaar Ahuramazda in our lives."

"Celebrate Life. Care for others and share whatever you have with those less fortunate than you. Broaden your vision, for the whole world belongs to you."

FAITH CAN TAKE US PLACES.

## Charter For Co-Existence

Seldom has our small community been so riven with divisiveness and factionalism as now. Divergent opinions on almost every issue are exacerbated further by being aired in the media, not just the community press but the Internet, national newspapers and court proceedings. Very regrettably the opposing stands taken often exceed the boundaries of decent debate and discussion. These deep rooted divisions are causing great harm to the reputation of our community.

In recent times, there has been a substantial and positive focus on our community by governments, both Centre and the State, as well as society at large. There is a huge reservoir of affection and respect for the community. We require this goodwill for the resolution of problems that we as a community face today, including our diminishing numbers, our abandoned and dilapidated properties and educational and employment opportunities for our youth.

Yet the acrimony in the community, magnified by media exposure, can be hugely detrimental as it is destroying this goodwill. Such seemingly irreconcilable differences in such a small community should be a matter of deep and great concern for all of us.

Our community can only progress and grow by firstly adopting a path of Co-existence. Call it the 'Charter for Co-existence'. The answer lies in finding equilibrium with neither side imposing its ideology on the other or acting in any way that infringes on the peace of the other. Restoring harmony and goodwill between community members is the first priority as also understanding and accepting that there will be different points of view.

If we trace our cultural history from our origins in Iran to migration to Gujarat, through the British era to date we have clearly adapted ourselves by making several changes but without losing any of our core values. Change, when necessary, has to be brought in by building consensus and with due debate and deliberation along with all concerned.

This process has to be an outcome of constant interaction and exchanges of ideas and knowledge and not by in-temperateness of language and action. There will always be opposing views; the answer lies in finding equations for peaceful and ideological coexistence. We must display maturity to resolve our conflicts internally and stop airing issues in the media and the courts.

We, a small group of well intentioned and concerned individuals whose hearts beat for the community, have been deliberating on ways and means to address the contentious issues that have been creating a split in our beloved community. We request all in the community to introspect and provide us with specific and practical suggestions which will ignite our minds and help in creating solutions to the vexed issues we are contending with.

It is time that the community moves on - to Dialogue from Diatribe, to Coexistence from Confrontation and to Harmony from Hatred.

Let us all come together in a spirit of camaraderie & understanding, sans rancour, and work for our future well being, progress and prosperity.



THE ZARATHUSHTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

&

THE ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH OF NEW ZEALAND



Invites you to join in on an

Unforgettable experience

28<sup>TH</sup> DEC-2015

2<sup>ND</sup> JAN-2016

REGISTRATION OPENS  
1ST DECEMBER, 2014

EARLYBIRD PRICING: NZD\$1049.00  
VISIT [WWW.6WZYC.CO.NZ](http://WWW.6WZYC.CO.NZ) TO REGISTER

# That's us! profile

## Good thoughts, good words and good deeds

One of Ferzeen Dadabhoy's passions is her love towards organising social events and get-togethers. Because of this passion, she has volunteered to be part of organizing a major event in the coming year, the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress. This event is very special to her as this is the very first time such an event will be hosted in New Zealand and Ferzeen proud to showcase the country she calls home to her fellow Zoroastrians from all over the world.

Ferzeen in cultural dress



Performance of 'Jha Jov Ta Baira'



Zoroastrianism is an ancient religion with roots in the Persian empire. Zoroastrians are the followers of the prophet Zarathustra, who propagated a religion based on the maxim: good thoughts, good words and good deeds. Although it's not as popular as it once was, the religion is still practiced commonly in Iran, India and other parts of the world due to diaspora of its followers. New Zealand is home to one of the smallest migrant Zoroastrian communities. Ferzeen who grew up in Bombay, identifies with the Zoroastrian faith and is proud to celebrate this in connection with her adopted New Zealand culture.

Ferzeen and the fellow members of the Zoroastrian Youth of New Zealand (ZYNZ) are hosting the 6th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Auckland in December 2015, an event which is held every 4 years. The five day event will be an opportunity for Zoroastrian youth to celebrate their culture and religion with others from all over the world. A lot of organisation, effort and planning has been



invested into the event so far including booking accommodation, constructing the event plan, booking transportation as well as holding frequent fundraising activities. The congress itself will include events such as seminars on culture and religion, motivational speakers and team building activities such as an 'Amazing Race' scavenger hunt around Auckland city to allow foreigners the opportunity to experience the New Zealand culture while they are here.

As recent as August this year, Ferzeen acted in a rib-tickling play called 'Jha Jov Ta Baira', meaning 'Wherever you look, there are women', which was the first ever play in 'Parsi Gujarati' (one of many languages spoken in India) held in Auckland. The production was a great success and helped the team fundraise towards the congress. The aim of such fundraisers is to reduce the cost of the congress and make it more feasible for the youth to participate in such a global event.

Another initiative that's close to the ZYNZ hearts is the opportunity to turn this into the first ecologically conscious World Zoroastrian Youth Congress. The youth have teamed up with 'CUE-Haven' project, an initiative that aims to re-convert farm land based in Araparera back to native forest. Supporters are welcome to donate funds or sponsor a tree for \$10 and the youth group will volunteer their services and plant those trees. This particular cause is very important to the congress as not only does it support New Zealand's clean green environment, but lays emphasis on the ecologically respectful nature of the Zoroastrian religion as well.

There's still a considerable amount of fundraising and organising left for Ferzeen and her colleagues to do before the 300-400 delegates arrive but she is looking forward to it all coming together. For more information on the congress and to show your support, check out their website [www.6wzyc.co.nz](http://www.6wzyc.co.nz)

Do you know of someone at Southern Cross who deserves a That's us! profile? Have they participated in an event, done something notable or are just downright awesome?

Email your nominations to [internal.communications@southerncross.co.nz](mailto:internal.communications@southerncross.co.nz)

## Invitation for Providing Articles

Dear Friends,

This is our third edition and would like to invite one and all to send in articles for all to view :

The topics on which you can send us articles / write-ups (original please) are :-

1. Achievers - latest personal, academic, extra-curricular achievements of any Zarathushtrian (Irani and Parsi) individuals of New Zealand.
2. BawaZ Jokes / Cartoon Corner / Quizzes / Crosswords / Sudoku - Games, cartoon strips, jokes, etc. (no copyrights)
3. Kid's Corner - Kids can send their artwork or small write-ups.
4. Food Corner / BawaZ Recipes - Great idea to share recipes, all home cooks to shine and also some recipes for foods of significance e.g. sev, ravo, etc.
5. Thought of the Day / BawaZ Wisdom !! - Nice phrase or a moral based short story.
6. Local Community News - Happenings in and around other local communities. e.g. any interesting play, activity at a community centre which might interest the rest of the community.
7. Advertisements of Zarathushties owned Businesses - An A6 size advertisement can be submitted. One free advertisement per Zoroastrian person.
8. BawaZ Navjote Mubarak / Shaadi Mubarak Column - New stock/babies arrivals or additions to Parsi Clan and/or forthcoming Lagans).
9. Matrimonials Column (BawaZ Lagan.com).
10. Obituary - List of Zarathushties maran (death) and also Paidast, Sarosh nu Patru, Uthamnu, Varsi Prayers, Mukhtad/Gatha Prayers at Dadgah, etc.
11. Job Vacancy / Situation Vacant.
12. Rentals / tenancy wanted / House to sell / Business to sell

Do send in your write-ups, notices, adverts etc via email to [newsletter@zanz.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@zanz.org.nz)

Also kindly note that no religious controversies will be allowed in this Newsletter. Also the ZANZ editorial committee reserves the right as to which articles may make it to the final newsletter and which may not.