Indian Diaspora Council

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Commemoration of Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indentureship

TEAM AUSTRALIA

Dr. Satish Rai
Chair - Australia

Dr. Satish Rai was born in the Fiji Islands and is of Indian ancestral background. He migrated to UK in 1980 and worked as a Metropolitan Police officer, anti-racist professional and local government elected councillor. He has been living in Sydney, Australia since 1995. He completed a BA (Hons) degree in Sociology in London, MA degree in Communications and Cultural Studies and Doctor of Creative Arts degree in film production from the University of Western Sydney. He took up writing in 1993. He is a film maker, journalist and a lecturer.' He has produced/directed 4 feature films, 400 TV & online TV programs, 7 documentaries. In 2009 he was contracted by Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT) to write a course in Digital Film & TV Production. In 2011 He was contracted by Fiji National University (previously FIT) as a Visiting Lecturer to teach Acting and Screenplay Writing. During this period he also assisted students to produce 5 short films, one of which won the runner-up award at Fiji Kula Film Awards 2012 organised by Film Fiji. As the Director of Raivision Film Academy. He has written, directed and produced weekly TV segments from February 2006 till August 2008. These TV segments, were screened 3 times weekly on TVS. He also trained his TV team in TV presentation and acting. He can assist in all aspects of film production-development, pre-production, production and post-production. He owns his own production & post production equipment

Anup Kumar
Co-Chair - Australia

Anup Kumar was born in Suva, Fiji and migrated to Australia in September 1987. He is a prominent Radio Personality, Former DJ, Master of Ceremonies, Actor and TV Anchor. He has been the President of International Girmit Congress Inc. and International Girmit Association Inc. and has been instrumental in organising Girmit Divas events in Sydney since early 1990s. Anup Kumar has deep interest in Girmit issues and has anchored three girmit documentary films of Raivision Film. He has been presenting a three hour weekly Girmit Link radio program on Sydney's popular 24/7 Indian Link radio for last 12 years. This program is heard throughout the world via decoders, internet and iPhone / smartphones.

Joe Thomas
Co-Chair - Australia

Joe Thomas was born in India and grew up in central India as such fluent in Hindi. Completed an engineering degree and worked with the Aerospace Company for over twenty years in India. Migrated to Australia and worked with Boeing Australia and Department of Defence for over twenty years. Associated with film making company Raivision and acted in Raivision movie SAHARA shot in Fiji. During recent visit to San Francisco participated in a "Meet & Greet" event organized by descendants of GIRMITYAS at the KAVA BAR in San Francisco. Addressed the gathering of over 50 descendants of GIRMITYAS settled in San Francisco and suggested to make a movie of their success story in USA which was well received.

Afroz Shehzad Ali
Co-Chair - Australia

Afroz Ali was born in Lautoka city in Fiji Islands. He is a third generation descendant of indentured Indians from India. Afroz has been residing in Sydney Australia for over 30years and has the following academic qualifications: Diploma in Accounting, Diploma in Management, Bachelor of Business Management, and Bachelor of Business Economics. He is currently employed as a Business Administrator in Department of Defence in Australia. He is an active community personality and a well known radio presenter and is well known for his local soccer commentating. He is a popular events compere and a social media blog writer. A very patriotic personality with a lot of respect for his ancestors. He is very motivated to unite the community, working together with a team with the same vision. He has joined the Team Australia-Indian Diaspora Council to accomplish

TEAM AUSTRALIA

Dinesh Kumar
Co-Chair - Australia

Dinesh Kumar was born in township of Nausori in Fiji Island in 1967 and moved to Australia in 1985. He lived in Sydney, NSW with his family for 21 years before moving to Canberra, ACT in 2005. He is a descendent of Indian (Hindu) heritage from the state of Bihar. His family is the custodian of Ramayan his great grandfather brought from India. His grandfather was the first Indian tug boat operator for Colonial Sugar Refinery mill in Nausori transporting sugar cane from upper Rewa river and Rewa delta to the sugar mill. His grandfather later went on to use his tugboat to transport machinery and hardware to establish CSR mill in Ba in 1886 and Labasa in 1894. His vision is to stand proud of his ancestry and their sacrifice in the freedom we enjoy today.

Lalendra Sharma
Co-Chair - Australia

Lalendra Sharma was born in Nadi, Fiji in year 1971 and moved to Australia in 1995. He lived in Sydney for 10 years before resettling in Canberra in 2005. He is a descendant of Indian heritage (both maternally and paternally) from the state of Uttar Pradesh. Coming from a Brahmin family, he is very passionate about Indian culture, tradition, religion and language and history. After finding his family roots back in India, his aim now is to help other decedents of *Girmitiyas* who came from India to Fiji do the same. His aim is to educate present and future generations about the history of our past generations who were displaced from their roots, made sacrifices to create a lifestyle we are leading today. Lalendra Sharma is one of the prominent community leaders in Canberra including sports, religion, culture and entertainment.

Pramodh Chand Rai
Co-Chair - Australia

Pramodh Chand Rai F/N Raj Dhari Rai was born in Natabua, Lautoka, Fiji. He holds a Bachelor of Education Sydney Australia and has been a Secondary School Teacher in Fiji and in Sydney Australia. He has been involved with Arya Samaj in Fiji and Australia since 1973 and during this period severed as Treasurer, President, Vice President, Assistant Secretary and committee member. Presently Mr Rai is the Vice President and Trustee of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Australia and he is also an Arya Samaj Purohit. Mr Rai has been representing his organisation and has participated in the cultural programs organised by Girmit Associations of Sydney. He is now connected with two of his ancestral villages in Balrampur and Lakhimpur (UP) and aspires to work through the Arya Samaj, the state government & central government and other organisations to give something back to the land of his ancestors.

Rahul Krishna Raju
Co-Chair - Australia

Rahul Krishna Raju was born in Suva, Fiji. He is a 3rd generation, son of an indentured labourer from India. Rahul has degrees in double Masters of Law/Management; Graduate Diploma of Management; Graduate Diploma of International Military Operations Law; Graduate Diploma of HRM; International Diploma in Tertiary Teaching; Graduate Certificate in Strategic Military Planning; BA(History/Politics); Graduate Diploma of Media Law; United Nations Military - Train the Trainer Certification. Raju has been a former Fiji Military Operative in the Intelligence and attained the rank of an Acting Captain and has served under the UN missions in Senai, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Somalia and Bosnia. He is also the author of the book titled - The Death of Democracy in Fiji (published in 2010) and in the process of completing his second book titiled "Girmit in Fiji and it's Sufferings". Apart from extensive International Military experience, exposure and training, he is also an Encounter Intelligence Expert in the field of Military Strategic operations and Planning and has successfully enlisted with the Australian Defence Force as a National Reservist. Currently he owns and operates Media assets in radio and Newspaper business in Australia and and is actively involved in promoting Girmit related community events and programs in Sydney, Australia. He is also the current President of the International Fiji Girmit Association of Australia and successfully hosted the 2016 Girmit Celebrations in Sydney.

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Subject to change.