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PEARL OF THE ISLANDS FOUNDATION

Inc.

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P E A R L S O F W I S D O M N E W S L E T T E R



Welcome to another edition of the Pearl of the Islands Foundation half-yearly newsletter! The Turkish community was very active this year once again. A number of high profiling individuals have joined our recent events including ex Governor-General Sir Satyanand at our ANZAC family day and Hon. Minister Sam Lotu at our educare whanau day. We present you the 9th PIF Newsletter issue, with content heavily concentrated on the 100th year ANZAC commemorations.

Please have a read through our newsletter, visit us online and connect with us on social media. We would like to hear from you!

In this issue:

- ANZAC Tour Participant's Family Day
- Family Whanau Day
- 2015 ANZAC Tour
- 2015 Auckland International Cultural Festival
- Gold in the Turkish Olympiads
- ANZAC Day 'Lest we Forget' Poetry

Pre-ANZAC Tour Participant's Family Day

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Study Tour Participant's Family Day was held by the Pearl of the Islands Foundation (PIF) in March before the group took off to Turkey. PIF organizes an annual ANZAC Study Tour to promote peace building between communities, mutual respect, increase understanding of cultures and beliefs and to strengthen respect for the ANZACs as well as the Turkish soldiers.

Those teachers and students from Papatoetoe Intermediate that were part of the touring group, along with their family members, came to the event along with other important attendees including Sir Anand Satyanand, Former Governor-General of New Zealand, Lady Susan Sharpe, Educational Advisor Mr. Orhan Cicek, and members of PIF's Advisory Board including Mr Jack Wood, Professor Paul Morris, Dr Murat Basturkmen and Pauline Cornwell.

Teachers, students and their families were invited to share their thoughts on this tour. They expressed their appreciation of the PIF to provide them with a chance to visit Turkey and experience Turkish culture.

Sir Anand Satyanand spoke highly of the successful event and said it was appreciated amongst all the participants. He stated the importance of such an event in cultural dialogues and complimented the PIF on its effort towards increasing understanding, relationships and promoting intercultural communication between people from New



Family Whanau Day - Little Pearls

Little Pearls Educare Centre organized another Family Whanau Day following the success of its previous events. On a Saturday where the children, teachers, parents and extended families attended, the Hon. Sam Lotu also kindly accepted the invitation.

Mr. Taner Basar, Managing Director of Little Pearls, had the opening speech by welcoming the guests to the event. After thanking the audience for their continued friendship and support over the year he spoke highly of the importance of education for a child, "formative years are the most important years in a child's life." Furthermore Mr. Basar remarked that, "we believe that every child is a unique individual and therefore aim to value and treasure each child whatever his or her gender, culture, race, religion, ability or social background."

In his short speech, the Minister of Ethnic communities thanked PIF Director Taner Basar for his leadership at the centre. Touching on the multiculturalism he witnessed, "You look around this yard and you see what New Zealand is. It is a diverse country with different colours, ethnicities, religions. I think the centre fully represents what Auckland, and also what New Zealand is and what it will continue to be in the future." He also thanked the crowd, stating "I would like to commend you for the Whanau you have established at Little Pearls." Expressing great pleasure for the invitation, Hon. Lotu finished his address by emphasizing on the importance of early childhood education.

Among the speakers was a parent of a 'Little Pearl'. The mother said, "as a parent I would like to extend thanks to the management and staff here. They are totally amazing, I know when my daughter comes here she is loved and cared for and that I can have complete confidence in the education she is getting."

PIF volunteers prepared Chicken kebab and rice. Parents provided additional input to table with savory and sweet treats. The gathering provided the opportunity for families to meet their child's friends and families. We hope this friendship will be sustained life-long.

Please visit littlepearls.org.nz for more information on our Educare Centre.



2015 ANZAC Study Tour

During the school holidays, PIF arranged a study tour for students and teachers from Papatoetoe Intermediate to Turkey on a 2 week long trip. The programme, organised annually by the Turkish foundation, was the most successful event to date. The generous weather in Turkey allowed the trip that included visits to Istanbul, Bursa, Izmir, and Canakkale to be even more enjoyable. In total, 8 students and 4 teachers joined 2 volunteers from PIF.

Famous landmarks, parks, art lessons, historic sites, religious monuments and street vendors were all part of the experience the group encountered. The group had a wonderful time and the school is now considering forming another bunch for next year.

We would like to thank all those involved in generating this wonderful experience of a lifetime.

emirhan park (tulip garden)



sultanahmet



hagia sophia (ayasofya)



ebru (water marbling)



sultanahmet



grand bazaar



sapphire



spice bazaar



pasiad



maras sweet vendor



uludag



roadside watermelon



ephesus



ephesus



ancient city of troy



topkapi palace



izmir lookout



troy (from movie)



topkapi palace

izmir wildlife park



great mosque (bursa)



virgin mary



maiden's tower



gallipoli



gallipoli



gallipoli



Auckland International Cultural Festival 2015

The Pearl of the Islands Foundation was present at the 2015 Mt. Roskill International Cultural Festival, which took place on the weekend. Our volunteers set up 5 main stalls: Kebab, Gozleme (filled pastry dish), Baklava, and Turkish coffee. There was an Ottoman space for people to sit down and enjoy their coffee.

While the delicious sweets and savories attracted many people to PIF's stalls, the authentic Turkish kilim mats and space proved successful with many people enjoying their traditional coffee in that corner. The Women's Platform worked well to provide gozleme to an interested public demand.

A number of high profile people such as ex-Labour leader Phil Goff, Auckland Mayor Len Brown enjoyed Turkish hospitality.

All in all, a great turnout to the Turkish stalls. We thank everyone for visiting and hope they were able to get a good taste of what the Turkish culture and cuisine has to offer.







Gold for New Zealand

We congratulate Mahmut Solak for winning 2 gold medals representing New Zealand in both the Turkish Reading Contest and Turkish Culture Contest in the 12th International Turkish Language and Culture Olympiads held in Turkey.

Pearl of the Islands Foundation is now preparing native New Zealanders for the competition.

'Lest We Forget' Poetry

The Pearl of Islands Foundation was requested to perform poetry reading as part of ANZAC day functions at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Owairaka Primary student Neva Solak, on behalf of PIF, attended the Lest We Forget Poetry Reading at on ANZAC day. She recited a poem titled "Dur Yolcu" in Turkish which describes the Gallipoli war and the response by the Turkish public.

This invitation was kindly offered by Interpretation and Events Programmer from Auckland Museum Jo Brookbanks. She read the translation of the poem in English simultaneously to the English audience. She also gave a brief description of PIF confirming the consistent effort which PIF has been putting to promote peace building as an NGO in New Zealand.

PIF staff and Advisory board members, along with volunteers, also attended the event.



Contact Us

pif.org.nz
info@pif.org.nz
+64 9 551 37 33

P. O. Box 99661,
Newmarket
Auckland 1149

Follow us on Twitter
& Facebook

Pearl Centre;
Unit B, Level 1
404-412
Kyber Pass Road
Newmarket 1023
Auckland

