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# PEARL OF THE ISLANDS FOUNDATION *Inc.*

Newsletter Issue Number : 11

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 newsletter!

As 2015 has come to an end, we are delighted to produce our 11th newsletter. Our Family Whanau Day was just as productive and great as previous days, our holiday school programmes were enjoyable and also educative to say the least, we were also very proud in showcasing Turkish culture and food in the local Parnell District school. We welcomed Prof. Ozalp from Australia and were very fortunate to have him talk us through some issues Islam faces today.

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

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## Family Whanau Day

Almost 100 people gathered at the Little Pearls Educare Centre to provide an opportunity for the families of children, teachers and students to mingle and interact with one another in a friendly environment.

The day expressed as 'Family Whanau Day' attracted families, relatives and friends of teachers, students and families. All attendees brought foods and drinks they prepared to put on a mutual table for all to enjoy. As usual, chicken and rice was made, now a regular meal in this day celebrated once every few months.

Director of the institution, Taner Basar welcomed everyone to the event. He emphasized the importance of togetherness in the community. People from all different backgrounds were present on the day.

We thank everyone for partaking and making the day a memorable one.





## *October Holiday School Programme*

We continued our termly fun and engaging holiday programme during the school holidays from 6 to 9 October.

The school holiday programme was designed to improve communication and interaction among young kids and to build confidence through participation. It included a number of activities. The children participated in going to the cinemas, skating, building a puzzle, crafts, laser tag among others.

Kids aged 5-13 attended the programme. They were excited and satisfied as the programme enabled them to spend their holiday times in a fun and interesting way while also enhancing their knowledge.

We thank all those who attended and would also like to pass our gratitude to volunteers at the event.



## *Prof. Ozalp Lecture at AUT*

Professor Mehmet Ozalp kindly accepted an invitation to present a brief lecture on a contemporary Islamic topic, co-organised by the Pearl of the Islands Foundation and Auckland Muslim Association (MSA)

The event which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October attracted students, academics and interested members of the public

His speech was focused on an alternative Islamic narrative to the 'radical' worldview. A concerning issue which requires further elaboration by communities to eliminate false views of Islam. Prof. Ozalp presented his views of Islam to the enthusiastic crowd.

We appreciate his time for the presentation and accepting questions and answers to enlighten those that had queries.

We thank him for visiting New Zealand and providing the valuable lecture

More about Professor Ozalp:

Professor Mehmet Ozalp is a theologian, author and academic. Mehmet received his Bachelor Degree from the University of NSW in 1991. He studied Islamic theology and religious disciplines between 1990 to 1998. He has completed Masters in Religion from the University of Sydney. Mehmet has been teaching religious and Islamic studies since 1992. He was one of the first to teach Islamic courses in English from 2000 onwards. He has developed and written material for numerous courses on Islamic theology, history and contemporary issues around Islam, including a four-year advanced course titled Theology of Qur'an. Mehmet has lectured in Islamic courses as part of Sydney University's Continuing Education Program from 2003 to 2008. He has also lectured on Islamic theology, culture and history at the University of Newcastle. Mehmet is one of the co-founders of Affinity Intercultural Foundation in 2000, an organisation fostered intercultural and interfaith harmony in Australia. In 2009, Mehmet founded ISRA Australia, an educational and research organisation focusing on providing information and educational services on Islam and Muslims. Mehmet is also the author of three books.

Mehmet has been the recipient of the following awards:

Australian Bluestar Award - Education 2011

CSU Professional Excellence Award 2012

Muslim Role Model of the Year Award 2012



PEARL OF THE ISLANDS  
FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

## *Parnell District School - Food & Cultural Festival*

Parnell District School held its food and cultural festival on Friday last week, hosting a number of stalls from a number of countries around the globe.

Pearl of the Islands Foundation was invited to represent Turkey and the cuisine it had to offer. Our stall sat next to China, Germany and Sweden, and offered the famous baklava and Turkish coffee. We were delighted that our foods attracted so much attention by the guests at the fundraising event. A portion of our sales revenue was donated to the school.

Up to 2000 guests attended the festival at the school. Also, a number of performances took place on stage with the participation of students from the school.



## 2016 Asia Pacific Study Tour

Like previous years, Pearl of the Islands Foundation is organising its annual Study Tour in April this year. Instead of Turkey, our teachers and students will explore Australia, Vietnam and Thailand in 2016.



The 12-day long trip will see participants spend time in each country equally. The trip to Australia will be highlighted by IFLC. The International Festival of Language and Culture focuses on celebrating cultures and languages from around the world. Organised and run by our sister organisation in Australia, we are honoured to also send the first ever New Zealander representative to this all-embracing annual festival.

We invited parents and students to our office to explain what the tour will entail and how we will incorporate ANZAC commemorations. Visits to the museum in Canberra and a specially organised April 25th ANZAC day will be the highlight of the tour. It is important to underline that remembering this important day is the core theme of the trip.



# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE & CULTURE

## Colours of the World

17 April 2016  
Sunday 7pm

Sydney Opera House



Organised by

www.intflc.org.au

iflcaustralia

### Upcoming Events

- International Festival of Language and Culture
- PIF 2016 Asia Pacific Tour



On behalf of the organisers, Pearl of the Islands Foundation Inc would like to invite you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Festival of Language & Culture (IFLC) on Sunday, 17 April 2016, at the Sydney Opera House.

PIF is contributing this event by helping send a student from Auckland Grammar School to represent Aotearoa New Zealand and its culture at the festival. He was also one of the participants of PIF's ANZAC Study Tour in 2014. There are also eight students and three teachers from Papatoetoe intermediate school selected to attend to the International festival of Language and Culture programme in Sydney, Australia. PIF would like to be one of the co-host organiser for future IFLC events in Aotearoa New Zealand. We believe that organising such a historical and important event not only in the other countries but here in New Zealand would give another example to the World to see that New Zealand respects cultural diversity and values every individual's contribution to making the world a better place.

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