

**Address by H.E. Ms Neeta Bhushan, High Commissioner of India on the launch of Book
“Wellington’s Indian Story-Beyond a Century” by Jacqueline Leckie dedicated to 100th
years of Wellington Indian Association in New Zealand**

Namaste! Kia Ora!

Professor Emerita Barbara Brookes, President of Friends of the Turnbull Library;

Dr. Jacqueline Leckie, Author of the commemorative book;

Ms Manisha Morar, President of Wellington Indian Association and Members;
Distinguished Guests, Community Leaders,
Ladies & Gentleman!

It’s a real honour to be with you all this evening to celebrate the launch of the book “**Wellington’s Indian Story – Beyond a Century**” which marks 100 years of the Wellington Indian Association and with it 100 years of the Indian community’s journey in this beautiful capital city of New Zealand.

2. As we recently celebrated the 100 years of Wellington Indian Association which was not just a celebration but a story of people that reflects a proud journey of migration, resilience, cultural richness and community spirit. Since its humble beginnings in 1925, WIA has grown into a vibrant beacon of Indian identity in Wellington. From festivals like Diwali, Holi, and Navratri, to Namaste Wellington, and many community outreach initiatives, the WIA has built Indian culture into the heart of New Zealand society.

3. The association has actively fostered multicultural understanding and enriched Wellington’s cultural fabric. It has also built enduring partnerships with

institutions like **Te Papa**, the **Alexander Turnbull Library**, and the **High Commission of India**, strengthening the bridge between communities and between our two great nations.

4. I want to warmly congratulate to **Ms. Manisha Morar** for her inspiring leadership and initiatives that bring people of all backgrounds together under the WIA umbrella. This also shines a light on the evolving leadership, especially the significant contributions of **female leaders** in recent years.

5. I also want to acknowledge and warmly congratulate Dr. Jacqueline Leckie for her dedicated research and for bringing the story of Indian community in Wellington. Her book shares the challenges, achievements, and the legacy built over the past 100 years.

7. Let us continue to celebrate our heritage, build stronger partnerships, and contribute meaningfully to the multicultural story of New Zealand.
