

## Shiv Darshan programs in New Zealand: Wellington 8-9 Feb and Auckland 15-16 Feb 2014

### Wellington, 8-9 Feb

The BK centre in Wellington, New Zealand, held a Shiv Darshan programme over the weekend Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 Feb 2014. 'Shiva's birthday' was celebrated as a public programme in the Petone Indian Cultural Hall with 300 people attending the Grand Opening on Saturday evening.



His Excellency Mr Ravi Thapar, High Commissioner for India, attended as chief guest and there were many other VIPs and IPs. The evening's programme was entertaining and inspiring. It included two beautiful dances, a speech by Sister Bhavana explaining the significance of Shiv Jayanti followed by a short meditation for everyone. Both Mr Ravi Thapar and Mr Dhirubhai Patel, President of the Indian Association, praised the Brahma Kumaris as an organisation and for their work in the community. After the speeches 75 VIP guests took part in a candle lighting ceremony which was followed by a dinner for all those attending.







On Sunday 9 Feb BKs started the day by enjoying a cake cutting and flag hoisting ceremony after morning class. Everyone made promises to glorify Baba in the world and to remain constantly happy in their life. Many BKs spent the rest of Sunday at the Petone Indian Hall assisting at the main public program.



Many devotees especially came to have darshan of the 8 foot tall red and white rose decorated Shiv Lingam.





Other activities included a well- positioned Virtue Wheel stand in a room at the exit side of the stage. Many people (both young and not so young) enjoyed spinning the wheel to see what special virtue was selected for them. The Virtue Wheel is a simple and fun way to introduce people to the value of strengths and specialities in daily life. Other BKs helped by explaining the BK posters, which had been placed around the hall, to groups of people. Overall it was a wonderful experience celebrating Shiv Jayanti together at the same time as serving the wider community.

### **Auckland, 15-16 Feb**

There was also a very successful Shiv Darshan program in Auckland the following weekend. On Saturday there was the grand opening attended by 175 people. Mr Bakshi (Member of Parliament) and his wife Mrs Bakshi attended the program as special guests. He praised Brahma Kumaris in his speech. Little children performed dances and there was a candle lighting ceremony, cake cutting ceremony and flag hoisting ceremony.

Here is a link to a youtube slideshow of the Auckland program:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC6VdxVTO3w&feature=youtu.be>

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