



Bhartiya Samaj Queenstown

About us

Bhartiya Samaj Queenstown began its activities in 2015 and was registered as a charitable organisation in 2018. Its purpose is to empower Aotearoa's diverse communities to become strong, confident, and in control of their lives. Bhartiya Samaj is Hindi for a person who nationally identifies with India (Bhartiya) and to socialise (Samaj).

Our goal is to make our community feel connected to their culture, values, roots and feel that they have the freedom to express themselves in their new home. We encourage this sharing of knowledge with other communities so we can learn from and support each other.

Our Queenstown Lakes community

We estimate between 700 and 1000 Indian people live in our district, and we have 1,000 followers on our Facebook page.

Our events and activities

We celebrate the following events every year:

- » Lohri is a traditional winter folk festival held in northern India, celebrated in January. Our annual celebration usually attracts 300-500 people.
- » Holi, celebrated in March, is the Hindu Festival of Colours, also known as the Festival of Love or the Festival of Spring. It is considered the second biggest Hindu festival after Diwali. On this day, people play with colours, water, flowers and more. About 300-500 people take part in our yearly celebration.
- » India Independence Day, celebrated on 15 August, is the National Day of India marking the date in 1947 when India became an independent country.
- » Teej Festival or Ladies Night, celebrated in July or August, is deeply connected to marital relationships. Women pray for the well-being and longevity of their husbands, and unmarried women pray for a good husband. Women, often dressed in red, participate in traditional dances, sing folk songs, and get henna applied to their hands.
- » Diwali, celebrated in October or November, is known as the Festival of Lights or Deepavali in southern India and in other Asian countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. The celebration revolves around the triumph of good over evil, purity over impurity, light over darkness. It is one of the most important Hindu festivals and the largest of our events, attracting up to 2,000 people.



Keep connected

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