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<https://www.collins-connect.com>



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Group: Collins Connect

COLLINS CONNECT WEBSITE

Check out our new website at www.collins-connect.com

Same website address with a new modern look and feel.

YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Collins Connect acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pays its respect to the Elders past and present.

COLLINS CONNECT MUSIC & BINGO

A first-time Music and Bingo Program for Collins Connect was held on the 11 February 2024. This event was open to Collins Connect members, their families, and friends.

Organising this event was a lot of fun but hard work. The format to the day was inviting guests to participate as an individual or as a group. We commenced preparations in December, and although a slow start, in typical Anglo-Indian style the rush was on in the days leading to the event.

It seemed like a struggle at first to coordinate performers but closer to time the momentum picked up, the interest grew quickly, and we found ourselves with an overflow of willing performers. The day finally dawned with a great buzz and enthusiasm by all who attended, musicians and guests. It was a first time sold out Collins Connect event and even had to decline late requests.

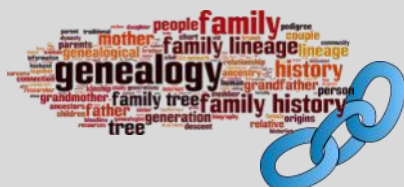
The Music and Bingo program was a hit and very successful. We had many first-time local attendees, including Ian Collins who was visiting from Canada. Whether the individual musicians or the bands, the energy from the performances and interaction with the audience, drew the guests on the dance floor, singing along and enjoying the music. The day saw different genres of music appreciated by the audience – some standards and jazz, to country music, rock & roll and maybe even some reggae. Karaoke and Bingo were an added bonus that broke up the day's program.

Performances included:

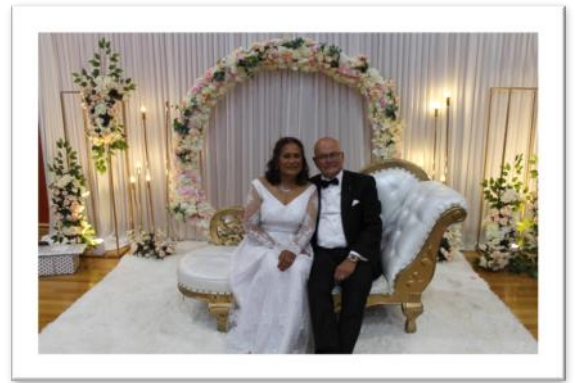
- ♦ Tommy Smith on stage together with Ian Collins, Barry Collins and Glenn Blanche.
- ♦ Harold Lynch drew a crowd on the dance floor with his toe tapping solo performance.
- ♦ The band Fusion led by Ralph Rodrigues and musicians played some good old fashioned music.
- ♦ Mystique led by Michelle Beck and her band comprising mostly of family members was joined by Gerard Wood from Sydney.
- ♦ A nostalgic performance by some of the members of the once famous band 'The Avengers' with the Peters brothers (Theo, Hugh and Stan) and their bassist Ian Collins brought back familiar memories.

All the artists or performers gave their time freely and so willingly and for this we say a warm and heartfelt '**thank you**'. Thank you also to the Collins Connect team members, their hard work paid off !!

Since the event, the team has been approached to host a similar event again but in keeping with the Collins Connect mission, this is a social not-for-profit family group that is very mindful of not making it commercialised and therefore Collins Connect politely declined all invitations.



Congratulations



Congratulations to our former team member and Collins Connect supporter **DAVID SELVEY** and **MARIA TEOFILO** on their wedding held on the 26th January 2024. David is the grandson of Mabel Fernandez and the great grandson of Adelaide Collins. A memorable day of blending two cultures; it was a true testimony that when two people have faith and love, two families become one and what better way to blend than with an Anglo Indian and Samoan BIG celebration.

The dashing groom with his well polished shoes and tux was on top of the world. The talented and beautiful bride Maria, was well organised with all plans executed with precision.

Maria took pride in sewing her own wedding dress. The ceremony commenced with



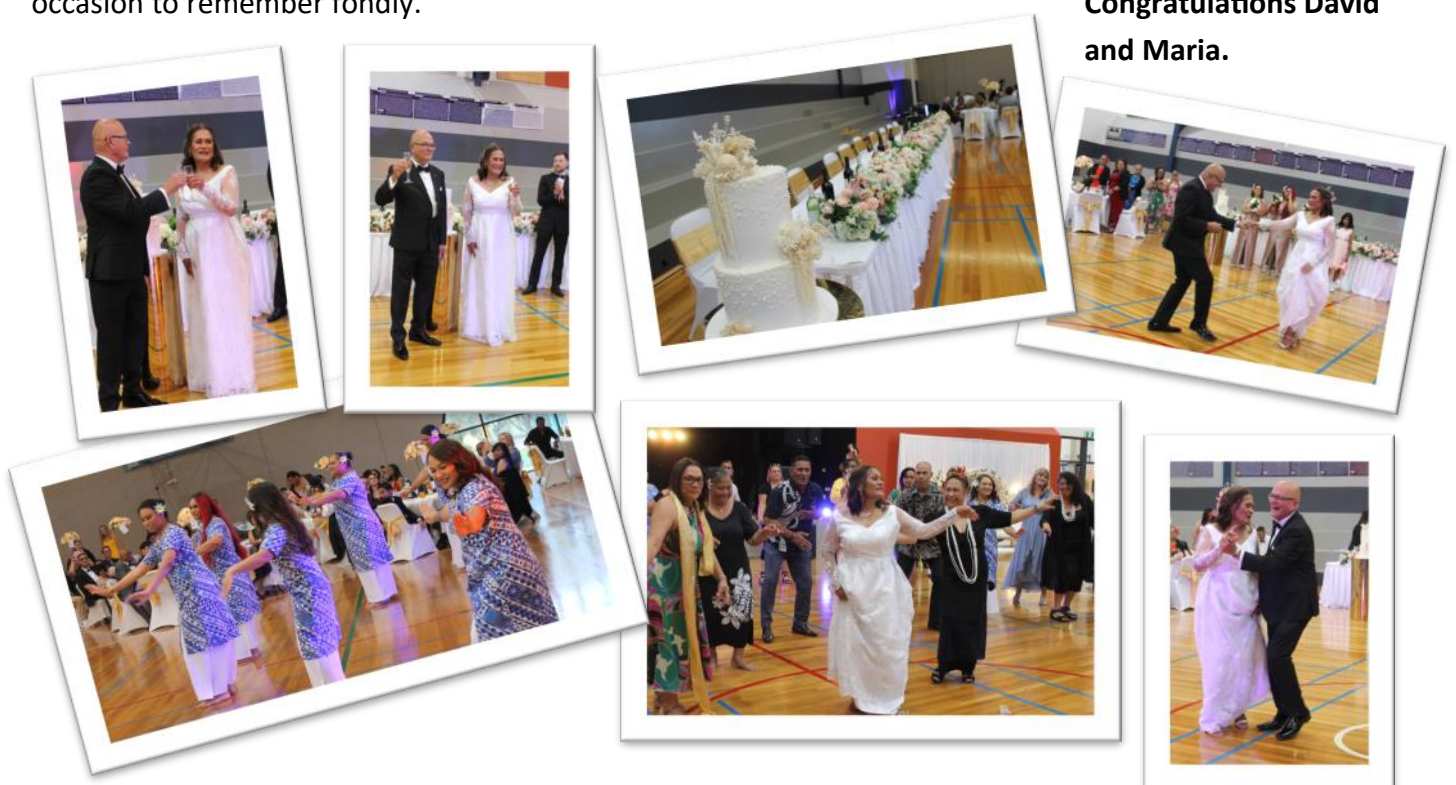
a inspiring and amazing rendition of the 'Welcome to Country' performed by Grace Vanilau, co-founder and events coordinator at Brown Roots, the acknowledgement to Country was sung rather than recited.



A Welcome to Country is a ceremony performed by a local Aboriginal person of significance (usually an Elder) to acknowledge and give consent to events taking place on their traditional lands. It is also a sign of respect and protocol which dates back to traditional times prior to colonisation.

The reception was a mix of traditional Samoan song and dance intertwined with typical Anglo-Indian music, grand march and speeches. An occasion to remember fondly.

Congratulations David and Maria.





Congratulations Mr BOND, Mr Alan D'Cruz who celebrated his 70th Birthday on the 28th February 2024, had a mission to celebrate in 007 James Bond style. Mission executed on the 2nd March 2024 where a number of agents attended. Mission control with local agents including interstate and overseas agents gathered for the big bash. A very memorable speech by brother-in-law Raymond Fernandes from New Zealand had the crowd spell bound capturing many stories of Alan's 70 years.

With good food, drinks and lots of dancing the night was enjoyed by all those present. **Congratulations Alan**, may you keep dancing enjoying your life!



INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST COLLINS CONNECT TEAM MEMBER

Karen Peter (nee Soares) lived in Fraser town, Bangalore and migrated with her family to Australia in 1993.

Karen is one of six siblings, 2 brothers and 4 sisters. Karen's mother Aster (Treasure) Soares (MacKinnon) is 88 years and her dad Johnny Soares passed away in 2004 at Melbourne.

Blanche Fernandez is her grandmother, the daughter of Adelaide Collins. Blanche and Joseph Alexander had seven children; Colin, Yola, Dawn, Dexter, Treasure and Charles, of which only Aster and Yola Dawson, aged 92 are still going strong!

Karen works with the Victorian Department of Justice, Child and Youth witness services, Melbourne. During Karen's spare time, she loves travelling, cooking, reading, music, crosswords and playing scrabble.

Welcome Karen to the Collins Connect team and we look forward to teaming up together.





Anyone celebrating a special birthday, anniversary or special occasions, and would like a special mention, please feel free to drop us a line at collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

COLLINS CONNECT MISSION

To delve further into the Collins family tree exploring the many branches to discover our ancestral origins. Introducing the younger generation to the ancestral tree, reuniting annually to socialise, share memories and acknowledge the past, present and emerging generations.

As a family group, we welcome all families to be involved whether its ideas, suggestions and most of all participation. Why not reach out to a team member or drop us a line?

EDITOR—Karen Collins

CO-EDITOR—Corrine Collins

Want to help?

If you would like to contribute to the Collins Connect newsletters, we encourage you to get in contact with any team member.