

7 October 2020

A message from Auckland Mayor Phil Goff

Ni sa bula vinaka and namaste!

My warmest congratulations and greetings to Fijians around the world, and to Auckland's Fijian communities, on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and Fiji.

New Zealand and Fiji share strong cultural, sporting and economic ties, reflecting our common Pacific identity, and the relationship between our two countries continues to grow.

As the largest Pacific city in the world, Auckland is justifiably proud of the important role our Fijian communities play in its economic success and cultural vibrancy. The Fijian Village at Auckland's Pasifika Festival is well-known for its hospitality, music, art, dance, craft and cuisine, and is always a highlight of this important annual festival.

I want to thank all of those who have come from Fiji to make our city your home and for the huge contribution you make to Auckland.

Although we are experiencing many challenges this year as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, I look forward to the resumption of travel and tourism between our countries.

Once again, my warm regards for the 50^{th} anniversary of New Zealand / Fijian diplomatic relations and my best wishes for the rest of the year.

Phil Goff

MAYOR OF AUCKLAND