

Priyani de Silva-Currie's parents came from Sri Lanka to New Zealand 42 years ago, seeking a better life, a safer life, freedom from persecution, all those things that New Zealanders have in abundance and take for granted.

Priyani was just 4 when she moved to Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island with her father an Senior Accountant and mother, a Nursing Principal. Her experience in New Zealand has been a happy one strongly influenced by parents who also were very community minded and gave a lot to this country in their own areas of interest. Two older brothers followed to New Zealand after their completed studies, Gazzali who is an Engineer and Reza an Accountant who now resides in England.

Grateful for the opportunities afforded her, Priyani has a strong desire to give something back to this country, which she achieves through the many leadership positions she holds.

Priyani moved from Nelson to Palmerston North in 2013 when she was appointed branch manager of Opus International Consultants and achieving recognition as the 7th female partner in this global organisation. This achievement was in addition to an already lengthy CV within professional consultancy and local government asset management spanning some 25 years. Two years ago Priyani accepted a role as National Asset Management Leader for Calibre Consulting and has chosen to make Palmerston North her home.



Priyani admits that Netball is her passion, and was Chairwoman and Senior Coach for the Nelson Netball Centre. Priyani is also heavily involved with local and representative Netball here in the Manawatu coaching the Manukura Black Premier Team and the Manawatu U17, Priyani is also on the Netball New Zealand performance coach programme and was for a number of years Tasman U19 Coach and Tasman NPC Senior Coach.

Having a strong desire to support migrants and multiculturalism in New Zealand, Priyani volunteers in the sector, holding the role of President of the Nelson Multicultural Council and then President of the Manawatu Multicultural Council. Priyani was also National President and now immediate past president of Multicultural New Zealand, a Federation of 22 Regional Multicultural Councils around NZ. This role allowed Priyani to work with communities and migrants both at a strategic and grass root level to improve their lives and connections here in New Zealand.

A passion of Priyani's is her ongoing interest in Energy Management in New Zealand, last year receiving life membership to the Energy Management Association of New Zealand after serving 20 years as a member, ten years on the National Executive and 7 years as Chairperson. She supports NZ Public Works and chairs the Training and Development Working Group for the Institute of Public Works Engineers of Australasia (IPWEA) and is one of only two national assessors in the New Zealand Diploma in Infrastructure Asset Management.

Asked where she finds time for all her roles and activities, the mother of two boys (Yohann 13 and Dilhan 9) laughs and admits that all this this occurs with a great level of imbalance, she is grateful to a support circle of family and friends and an encouraging employer who let her loose to save the world. Priyani is lucky to have great working teams around her and says "really all they need from me is the a bit of strategic thinking, perspective and judgement, they rest I hope they fell empowered to do themselves and know that I have their back..."

Will she ever rest? "For me personally I would like to relax one day soon know we are heading along in the right direction and good people have taken up the good fight so I can have a wee rest!"