

MISSION STATEMENT

• TO CELEBRATE, TO SUPPORT AND TO CONNECT THE MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF MANAWATU



Manawatu
Multicultural Council



ETHNIGRAM

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The President's Message

Greetings everybody.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Ethnigram again in April 2015. More importantly, all of us are very happy for another successful Festival of cultures in Palmerston North over the weekend, 20-22 March 2015.

The Festival of cultures started with a spectacular lantern parade and concert on Friday, 20th March. Next day, 21st was the most awaited celebration of ethnic diversity with a display of foods and cultures from all over the world. The Festival this year was as colourful as usual accompanied by very good weather. It was a great success again. Credit goes to everybody involved. I am very grateful to all who were involved directly or indirectly (behind the scene) in preparing, organising and managing the Festival. I also wish to acknowledge the City Council for their support, for the overall management of the event through Karen Heaphy's Event Management from start till end. The presence of Embassy dignitaries was a good inspiration for participants, I acknowledge their time too. There were numbers of curious visitors to the MMC stall for a health check-up. The credit goes to the Volunteer Nurses from Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) together with MMC Volunteers who helped to organise the service. Thank you all involved.



Acknowledgement

Ministry of Social Development

PN City Council

PN Community Services Council

United Way

Lottery Grant

COGS

Eastern & Central Community

MMC is located at Hancock Community House, 77-85 King Street.

Phone# 06 3581572

E-mail: info@mmcnz.org.nz

Website: ww.mmcnz.org.nz

The best stall trophy went to "Ukrainians in Manawatu", the most commented stall trophy to Mexico and the two runners-up trophies went to Russia and the Netherlands. Congratulations to all the winners and my warm thanks to Tangi Utikere, Susan Baty and Ipe Mathews for their difficult task of judging. I also want to appreciate the support of Paul Patel in spite of his health situation.



Lastly, I want to mention all other helpers including office staff, Volunteers, Executive Members and any others. I appreciate all big and little help. I may not include your name specifically, but you are in my heart. I acknowledge your input - Thank you very much indeed. Once again I want to thank all of authorities, organisations & groups involved in this festival and everyone who helped to make this event a success. Please see the back of this newsletter for detail information on our activities which can also be found by calling the Centre or visiting the MMC website: www.mmcnz.org.nz



In other news, I was deeply saddened by the news of Sada Nand's passing on Saturday 21st March 2015. Sada was the dearly loved husband of Nirmala Nand, who has served MMC for a few years as President. Both are involved with MMC for a long time as well. My heartfelt condolences to Nirmala and her family. Sada Nand was a fighter. He fought against Cancer for 3 years. He has found eternal rest, his soul is now at peace, May the memories of Sada's life comfort Nirmala in his death. Please allow our love to lift Nirmala in this time of grief. Sada was a great person to know, he will be sadly missed by us all.

All the best.

Rukhshana Akhter

"I do wish to thank the MMC, the staff and especially those who came to attend the funeral or sent condolences messages to me and my family on the sad loss of my dear husband"- Nirmala Nand

Monthly Coffee Morning

The coffee morning we had on Wednesday the 18th March was great. There were around 25 newcomers and local friends of MMC who came with morning tea to share. Their diverse backgrounds were remarkable and it was nice to see people putting



their names down as potential volunteers to help one another with any practical problems they may have in their new country. Aside from the opportunity to mix and mingle, we met and heard from Romuald Rudzki and Holly Howard from the NZ 1st party who have just opened an office here in Palmerston North. It is always nice when we celebrate our coffee morning members' birthdays. This time it was Mayette's and Rita's turn. Mayette is a MMC volunteer teacher and Rita attends the MMC events and activities on a regular basis. People enjoyed chatting and asking questions. Special thanks to all those who contributed to the coffee morning, especially to Sophia and Booranee for the freshly baked hot cross buns and Thai curry puffs.



The April Coffee Morning was on Wednesday the 15th April. More details will be found in the next EthniGram.

Christine.



Art and Craft Group

The Manawatu Multicultural Centre has envisaged creating a quilt that will showcase the various ethnic groups connected to the Multicultural Council. In the middle of 2014, Mayette Maling-Cope, the volunteer teacher for the Friday Arts and Crafts class, suggested that the women in this class spearhead the creation of a quilt for the Centre.

The idea is for each representative ethnic group to have the opportunity to select a suitable symbol or emblem that will identify their country of origin. The selected symbols will then be translated into a quilt using fabrics which are mostly recycled, embroidery and other craft materials such as ribbons and even paint when suitable.

The resulting quilt will be a patchwork of the symbols or emblems from each ethnic group showing the diversity of cultures we have at the Centre.

When completed, the quilt will serve as a banner for the MMC. The finished quilt will be on display either the last week of October or the first week of November when the art work from the women's arts and crafts group will hold their annual art exhibit in the City Library.

We are encouraging all ethnic groups to contribute to this endeavour because we would like each group to be represented. Feel free to contact Christine and Noorangi at the Centre, or send an e-mail to Mayette at mayette@clear.net.nz.

Here are some of the examples of the symbols that we have started to work on:

Mayette



Monthly Potluck Dinner

Celebrate the 5th Anniversary of our Newcomers Potluck Dinner this month !!

Our first potluck dinner was held on 11th April 2010 at Lew and Meriam Findlay's home, attended by around 40 people. Looking at the photo taken on that night, it is with great sadness we note that Sada Nand, (Nirmala Nand's husband) is no longer with us. Sada sadly passed away last month. Nirmala is the immediate past president of MMC; she led and coordinated the Newcomers programme right from the start and Sada often joined and supported her and the newcomers social events, especially the monthly potluck dinner.



Back then, I was relatively new to the City and I clearly remember how it feels to be in a new country, new language and no friends, I was excited about the aims and objectives of the newcomers programme. However, as Coordinator of the Newcomers Programme, I was also a bit nervous wondering if the programme would be successful. Now I can proudly say that the potluck dinner has been one of MMC's most popular social event. People who were then newcomers have now New Zealand citizenship, got jobs and settled well into the community. Some are still coming to our monthly potluck dinner; others moved on and got busy with other things.

Seeing new people coming and getting involved in our programmes is very satisfying and the Centre is very grateful to anyone who helps out in any ways.

The Centre is also very grateful to all newcomers and locals who joined the potluck dinner and assisted others in any ways over the past five years. As Centre staff, we are very fortunate and grateful for the support we have had from the Executive level.



Last month our potluck dinner was held on Friday 27th March. It was lovely to welcome newcomers who joined our dinner for the 1st time and amongst many delicious dishes brought in, was Eunice's Greek Salad which was very popular and below is her recipe.

The Celebratory Potluck Dinner is this Friday the 24th of April at 6pm at the MMC Centre. See you then.

Ingredients. (All these amounts are only approximate, you can adjust them to suit your own taste.)

- 200 grams of creamy or Danish style feta 1cup of black pitted olives.
- 100 grams of small sweet tomatoes
- 2 mini cucumbers.
- Half cup of mixed red, yellow, orange capsicums.
- Half cup or roasted pumpkin - optional. This needs to be peeled and cut into small 1cm cubes, placed in a roasting pan, sprinkled with garlic salt, and roasted at 180 degrees for about one hour then allowed to cool.



Cut feta into 1cm cubes (approx.)

Cut olives and tomatoes in half

Chop cucumber and capsicum into small pieces.

Add your pre-cooked pumpkin if you are including it.

Mix everything together in a bowl and chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Enjoy!

Eunice Rodsjo

Congratulations to Sophia McDermott!!!

On the 25th of March, my wife Sophia McDermott graduated from the Palmerston North UCOL 's Professional Cookery Programme.

Sophia arrived in NZ in May 2009 from Thailand speaking basic English. Life was lonely, the food bland, and the weather cold. We heard about the Multicultural Centre, and Sophia started attending classes and making friends from many countries. Sophia left school in Thailand when she was very young so she was not confident when she started learning English.

Sophia decided to improve her English so she could make the most of her life in NZ:

- 2009-2010 Studied at the Ethnic Centre
- 2010-2011 Studied at English Language Partners
- 2012-2013 Studied at the English Teaching College



With the support of her teachers her confidence and her English grew. She decided she was ready to study at UCOL in 2014 – 2015 to be a chef.

I am very proud of how hard Sophia has worked to make a life for herself in New Zealand. She has brought a wide circle of wonderful friends and cultures into our life. I am very blessed to be her husband.

Malcom.

Dear Sophia,

Congratulations on the completion of your Professional Cookery programme. We are very proud of your accomplishment and the amazing Chef you have become. Your hard work and determination paid off and our thoughts and best wishes go with you as you face a new chapter looking for a job in your new area of knowledge.

During your course we were very fortunate to sample your baking recipes and we can officially say that you are an excellent Chef.

May you enjoy continued success in the years that lie ahead.

MMC Staff, Tutors and friends

Happy Nepalese New Year !!!!

I am Pratima Panthee, I am 24 years old and I come from the country of Himalayas, Nepal. I have been in New Zealand for two and half months and I live in Palmerston North City.

The 14th of April was our Nepali New Year, 2072. We organized an event to celebrate our new year in a foreign land. So, on the eve of the New Year around 30 people from Nepal gathered



at Foxton Beach to praise it. On this precious occasion we wished each other a healthy/wealthy life and all words for a positive celebration.

As we all come from different parts of our country, this par-



ticular event was the best way to know each other. All of us came to New Zealand for different reasons, either study or working. We are always busy with our own stuff and don't get a chance to know each other. Sometimes we miss our home, feel isolated and get depressed. In order to prevent these feelings, we should organize various get together in particular time for refreshment.

On the day of eve, for the first time I saw live sea in front of me, I felt blessed..... as I am a girl from a landlocked country, I couldn't express my feelings in words, how much I was excited and enthusiastic to see the horizon between the sea and the sky. It was a fantastic beginning of my New Year. We all had a lot of fun there and made the day unforgettable.

Pratima



Thank you very much Pratima for sharing your New Year's Celebration with us. I like your plans to meet more often to prevent home sickness and isolation. Good on You!!! - Christine

In Her Own Words—Yoshimi

I moved to NZ with my son from Japan. So I have been in Palmerston North for nearly a year. My partner is kiwi, so we have a new life together.

Also I wanted to improve my English skill, so I have been going to MMC since July last year. Now I regularly go there to study English.

MMC staff always greet me warmly. They are good listeners and advisors.

MMC English tutors always help improve my English and I am enjoying the study and other activities. Also I have made good friends there.

Last Saturday we went to Levin for The Great Forest Event.

It was the first 10km running race for me. I finished in 54 minutes and got a nice medal. My partner is a good coach. We enjoy running together.

Anyway I would like to thank you for this opportunity to tell my story.

Yoshimi



Congratulations Yoshimi on winning the race!!!

Now we know that aside from being a very friendly and hard working person you are also a very good runner. Well done!!!



Multicultural Women's Group—Paper Making

It is so much fun learning how to make paper from recycled material.

Recycling paper is one way of reducing the amount of waste we produce. It was on this note that Yoko and her group started the workshop

They were very well prepared with all the necessary ingredients: Fibre, moulds, pressers, water containers and bottles as blenders for the pulp, towels....

This made the process much easier and quicker. Everybody enjoyed making their own paper design and the art work that came up was just amazing!!!



Thank you so much Yoko, Yasmin and Takako for sharing your skills with the women at the multicultural Centre. We all enjoyed the workshop and we felt more motivated to do better recycling at home.

Christine.

MANY PEOPLE – MANY SONGS (formerly Rainbow Praise)

Once again the MMC is getting ready to produce another programme that will take place at Saint Mary's Church (opposite the Hospital). This will be on **Sunday 23rd August** so, please, keep this date free even if you are not taking part as we wish to see our people well-supported.

Invites will be sent to all our members and we look forward to hearing that you wish to participate. There will be a preliminary meeting with Group Leaders where we will explain that this is an opportunity for you to display your musical culture to the people of Palmerston North.

The programme starts at 2pm and there is no charge for tickets so we would like to see every person attending bring a can of food for the Food Bank and a gold coin donation to show our appreciation of help received from Palmerston North people.

Each choir is to have 2 well-rehearsed songs or chants that are of 8-minutes duration including your entry and exit. We hope to receive your registrations by 29th May.

Anne Odogwu

MMC Executive

MANY PEOPLE - MANY SONGS

CELEBRATING MULTICULTURAL SONGS & PRAISE

Sunday 23 August 2015 from 2 – 4 pm

St. Mary's Church Ruahine Street (*Opposite the hospital*)

Followed by afternoon tea

ALL WELCOME

Please bring one (1) can of food for the Food Bank and a gold coin donation



Duty Lawyers —From Citizens Advice Bureau

A Duty Lawyer can help you at court for free if you have been charged with an offence and don't already have a lawyer. Ask at the court reception to see the duty lawyer, you need to get there early so that there's plenty of time to talk with him/her about your case - usually this will mean getting to the court by 8.30am. How much the duty lawyer can do for you will depend on your circumstances. If you face a minor charge and decide to plead guilty you probably won't need another lawyer. If you face serious charges he/she will deal with immediate issues at the court, but you will need your own lawyer for the next steps. The duty lawyer can:-



- explain to you what offence you are charged with and how serious it is
- tell you if you might have a defence to the charge
- tell you about the usual range of sentences the courts give for the charge
- explain what happens after you plead guilty or not guilty
- enter a guilty plea, if that's what you want
- tell the judge about your personal circumstances and your point of view about the offence [a plea in mitigation], if you are pleading guilty to a minor charge
- ask for the case to be remanded [put off] so that you can get more advice or information
- apply for bail for you in some cases

advise you if you may be eligible for criminal legal aid and help you apply for it if you have to come back to court.

The duty lawyer can't usually represent you after the first day of your case. If you can't afford a lawyer, you will need to apply for criminal legal aid for a lawyer to represent you for the rest of your case.

For more information visit the Ministry website at justice.govt.nz/legal-aid or contact the Palmerston North Citizens Advice Bureau in Community House, 77, King Street, P.N., Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm or ring 357 0647/0800 367 222.

Sanskrit Classes at City library
 Every Wednesday from 7-8.30pm
 Contact person- Wibha
 Email: massey.sarathi@gmail.com

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

Citizenship Case Officers will be in Palmerston North on:

29th - 30th April 2015

29th - 30th July 2015

28th - 29th October 2015

Case Officers will be available to look over your application and assess your eligibility before you apply, answer questions and discuss any problems you may have.

Working with our Case Officers will make the application process easier and faster for you. There is no extra charge for this service.

You don't have to visit a Justice of the Peace or post your valuable documents – they will be returned to you at your appointment. Payment must be made with your citizenship application. Payment can be made by personal cheque, bank cheque or credit card.

To make your free appointment, or for more information, phone 0800 22 51 51.



IPC's 25th Anniversary
www.ipc.ac.nz

KODAMA
FEEL THE HEARTBEATS

KODAMA Japanese Drumming Concert 2015
Saturday 2nd May 6:00-7:30pm

Location : Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North Ticket : Ticket is available at TicketDirect and Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North Price : Students \$10 / Adult \$15

Manawatu Multicultural Centre

- Practice your English
- Make new friends
- Share information
- Learn about New Zealand and other cultures
- Use your interpersonal skills

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

Advanced English Group

Monday to Thursday 1– 3pm

Beginners Group

Tuesday & Friday 10am - 12.00pm

Multicultural Arts & Crafts Group

Friday 1-3pm

Centre shared lunch:

Friday 12-1pm

Multicultural Women 's Group

1st Wednesday of the Month from 1-3pm

Newcomers Coffee Morning

3rd Wednesday of the Month 10-12noon

Newcomers Potluck Dinner

Last Friday of the Month from 6pm