

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

Multicultural Centre



Manawatu Newcomers Network
Connecting People



ETHNIGRAM

Acknowledgement

The President's Message

- Ministry of Social Development
- Palmerston North City Council
- PN Community Services Council
- United Way
- Lottery Grant
- COGS
- Eastern & Central Community Trust

Dear all,
It is my pleasure to wish you a very happy and prosperous 2015. Hope you all had a wonderful break, had a relaxing time with your families and are enjoying sunny summer days.



This New Year has brought significant changes at our MMC. Many of you might know that the Coordinator has finished her contract with MMC in December'14 and the President "Priyani" has resigned because of personal circumstances.

Accordingly, I had to become acting President. I will try my best to deliver the duties of the President to achieve the goal. But please remember that this is not about a single person managing everything. It should be a team effort that includes the executive, office staff, volunteers, all the council members and the honourable funding organisations.

The coordinator position has been evaluated by the executive and a few advisory bodies. All agreed to make some changes to the job to fulfil requirements of the position. The job description for the new position has been finalised and will be advertised in due course.

In the meantime MMC is continuing with our usual business. Please find the upcoming activities in this EthniGram and be prepared for them, especially the coming Festival of Culture (FOC) which is scheduled on 20-22 March'2015. This can be considered as the most important showcase of Multicultural Palmerston North. Wish you all a very festive celebration of the day.

All the best.

Rukhshana Akhter

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Meeting of MMC Volunteers, Staff and Executives

Rukhshana Akhter, MMC Acting President welcomed all those present to the Meeting held on Tuesday 10th of February. People were asked to introduce themselves and volunteers talked about their various skills, they also volunteered to go on various sub-committees. The sub-committees are:



Picnic; Annual Dinner; Festival of Cultures; Rainbow Praise; and the Marae visit.

The talents were: - to take English classes; carry out youth activities; Savage Music group of 10 people; not only teaching English but taking the class out; provide health checks also at the Festival of Cultures; negotiate contracts; migrants feel at home in the MMC Centre. There is a need for a women's group to assist women who are following their husbands.



The volunteers expressed their appreciation of Christine and Noorangi's support of them.

The Centre staff then described their roles. Noorangi first visited the Centre with her friend Rita Auta to be a volunteer. However, there was a vacancy so Noorangi applied and both she and Cynthia joined Gretha as staff working for two hours a day. Both Noorangi

and Christine are ready to step in if the volunteers are unable to come.

Christine said her job overlaps Noorangi's in many ways. Both have to be ready to talk with people and listen to their problems and assist them if they are able and could do with privacy at times. Christine does the Newcomers' Programme, the Women's Group and EthniGram. Christine also attends to financial matters so cannot easily explain this role.

We broke for pizza, punch and pineapple during the meeting thus providing the opportunity to chat among ourselves. Rukhshana explained about the present situation whereby there is no Co-ordinator and that we are creating a position for a manager. All were pleased at the opportunity to meet and discuss what is happening at the MMC and their roles as volunteers and staff.

This may be a first meeting of this type but hopefully it will not be the last.

Anne Odogwu,

MMC Treasurer



Festival of Cultures 2015

LANTERN PARADE
6PM, FRI 20 MAR

FOOD & CRAFT
MUSIC FAIR
10AM - 4PM, SAT 21 MAR
THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

World Food, Craft & Music Fair, Live Performances

Now that we have a new mayor, we hope that our new mayor will be supportive of the aims and objectives of Multicultural Manawatu .

The Festival of Cultures will kick off on the 20th of March, starting with entertainment before the Lantern Parade in the Square on Friday night, this year is a year of the sheep , so check in the paper where we will have a workshop on how to make a lantern looking like a sheep.

Saturday will turn the square into a world celebration of food , dance, and entertainment .

On Sunday the library will stage a fashion parade of costumes from different nationalities.

This year children and teens will model their ethnic clothes, it would be great if 10 of our members can take part by bringing two children or teens. We are encouraging children and teenagers to participate so as to raise awareness among the MMC cultural groups of their importance. We value your participation.

We also would like to ask the participating group to bring some finger food to share after the fashion show, the success of this year's festival of cultures will truly depend on us , on how will we participate .

Meriam Findlay



English Language Classes at the Manawatu Multicultural Centre.

Amongst the very enjoyable activities that the MMC offers our students are the English Language Classes.

The beginners and more advanced conversational classes are always popular.

Being held four days a week and with a morning and afternoon session, in 2014, the centre had the equivalent of 1660 students attending the Beginners morning sessions and 1796 the Advanced afternoon session. Sometimes we can have up to 15 different nationalities attending in the Advanced sessions at the same time.

We have a variety of teachers from different countries that bring their own personalities and teaching expertise to the classes.

Students come from diverse backgrounds, some are the wives or husbands whose partners are studying at Tertiary Institutions, some are new migrants who want to improve their conversational English to hopefully get employment, some are Refugees or the older parents of migrants, and sometimes we have older migrants who may have been in New Zealand for many years but can understand very little spoken English.

The aim of the classes are to help the students feel more comfortable in their new country by understanding more of the language and customs of New Zealand.

This can include visits to places of interest such as a visit to one of the local Marae or the Parliamentary Buildings, in Wellington, shared Picnics, walks round the Square and Te Manawa and even trips to the Christmas Grotto in Te Manawa

Classroom sessions before or after the visits can give the students more of an understanding of New Zealand. The teachers use their own resources and we do not use a common Language Book.

Students are encouraged to get involved and make new friends with other students from different nationalities. A Pot Luck supper is held monthly at the centre, where students are invited, with their families, to bring along a small plate of their ethnic food.



Migrants need to know what is happening in the Community, so are encouraged to read the Free newspapers and to join the Public Library, which has very good resources, such as a Foreign Book area, talks, lectures, and programmes for pre-schoolers and school aged children to name a few, and most are free.

The English Language sessions are interactive, and we do not rely on rote learning.

We want the students to be happy when they learn, but to

also learn more about New Zealand the land and the people. So leaflets and maps are freely given out and any new activities are discussed with the students.

If you know anyone that you think might be interested in coming along to either of the classes, please ask them to contact Noorangi and Christine in the office.

People are very welcome to come along to see if it is the thing for them !

Arohanui

Angela Joblin

Multicultural Arts and Crafts Group

Migrant women of all ages are welcome to attend, either on a casual or a regular basis, to learn from each other, showcase each other's hidden talents or experience something new and inspiring.

We meet every Friday from 1-3 pm at the Multicultural Centre in the Hancock Community House. It provides an opportunity for ethnic women to meet one another, make new friends and create a better understanding, among the different cultural groups that belong to our vastly multi-cultural society of Palmerston North.



We offer a wide range of activities such as sewing, crocheting, embroidery, and painting. We also run classes on short and simple projects to enable women to gain enough suitable skills in arts & crafts that they can apply and use at home, as well as maybe enabling them to start a small enterprise in the future.

Our major project for this year is to complete an ethnic quilt, made of symbols or emblems of ethnic countries. Therefore if you are not a craft-minded person, but have the time and the willingness to learn, then we can help you acquire these simple skills. We have several highly-skilled and talented volunteers who are always willing to help you.

Noorangi

Friday 27 February 2015
@ The Multicultural Centre,
Community House
77-85 King Street
at 6pm

Potluck Dinner



Please join us for an evening of food and fun.
Bring a plate of food to share.



Manawatu
 Multicultural Council

Multicultural Women's Group

The Multicultural Women's Group is a Centre programme for all multicultural women and anyone interested to meet and encourage one another, to offer friendship and learn from each other, to inform and get informed through social activities. The aim is to help migrant women gain more confidence to participate and get involved in their new community for a better social inclusiveness.



Last year the women's group met for a variety of activities involving cooking, craft, physical exercise including music and dance and outdoor events.

In previous years the Centre brought in speakers from various government agencies to explain what they do, allowing women to ask questions. Speakers from Immigration and other service providers were invited to speak and the turn out



was quite remarkable. We are more than happy to do it again if there is interest.

On the 4th February around 12 women met to plan for this year 2015 activities.

It was great to see new women joining our group and the discussions and the variety of ideas on what sort of activities to do this year was quite remarkable, so watch this space!!!



We will kick off this year with Persian cooking on Wednesday the 4th March from 1-3pm. More details will be sent out closer to the date.

We hope to see many of you joining us then.

Thank you,

Christine.

Newcomers Coffee Morning

Great people, great food, an enjoyable morning!!!!

That's how I would describe the coffee morning group on Wednesday the 18th February 2015. This first coffee morning of the year brought us new arrivals from Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Colombia, Australia, and MMC good friends/ volunteers who enjoy to mix and mingle with new people and when possible lend a helping hand where needed.

The 18th February was also a special day for Booranee who was celebrating her wedding anniversary and Peggy whose birthday was the day before; her first birthday on New Zealand soil. Those who came took the opportunity to showcase their talent singing "Happy Birthday" and "Bonne Anniversaire", then we all enjoyed the delicious coffee morning goodies brought in.

A big thank you to all who came, you made the morning special.

if you are there, feeling lonely and wondering what to do, join our coffee morning every 3rd Wednesday of the month



here at the Multicultural Centre from 10 am.

You will enjoy the very relaxed atmosphere and friendly people who come from all over the world, often with very interesting stories to tell. They will enjoy listening to you too.

Christine.

Citizens Advice Bureau



ARE YOU NEW TO NEW ZEALAND?

Citizens Advice Bureaux throughout New Zealand are contracted to assist all newcomers to our country. We acknowledge it can be difficult moving to a new country and we are here to make that easier for you.

Following on from our first and interesting workshop, the next workshop will cover the New Zealand education system. Speakers from local schools will cover a variety of issues including zoning, school fees, examinations and any other queries which may arise.

TOPIC:	The New Zealand Education System.
WHERE:	Hancock Community House, 77 King Street, Palmerston North
WHEN:	Thursday 26 February 2015
TIME:	9.45a.m - 11.30a.m.

Please register your interest by telephoning Lynore on (06) 3579273 (between 9a.m. and 12 noon) before Tuesday 24 February 2015 giving your name and telephone no. (if possible). We look forward to seeing you there!

Morning tea will be served.

This workshop is funded by Immigration New Zealand

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