



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

**Multicultural
Centre**



**Manawatu
Newcomers Network**
Connecting People



MISSION STATEMENT

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

ETHNIGRAM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The President's Mes-
sage

1-2

Deepest Sympathy to
Paul Patel and his
Family

3

Many People Many
Songs

4

Monthly Potluck Din-
ner

5

Monthly Coffee
Morning

6

Art & Craft Group:
Flax Weaving With
Boorane Roskruge

7

English Conversation
Classes: Student Pro-
file in "Her Own
Words"

8

Programmes and Events
at MMC

9

Acknowledgement

Ministry of Social Development

PN City Council

PN Community Services Council

United Way

Lottery Grant

COGS

Eastern & Central Community
Trust

DIA - Settling In

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The President's Message

Greetings everybody,

It is my pleasure to greet you all again through
The Ethnigram. This time, I would like to start
by wishing Eid Mubarak to all our community
members, especially the Muslims.

Many of you might know that our Muslim Com-
munity recently celebrated the Eid al-Fitr, which
is one of the two main celebrations in Muslim culture. Eid al-Fitr is
the celebration of end of Ramadan, a very Holy month in the Mus-
lim calendar. Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a
month of fasting to honour the first revelation of the Quran to Mu-
hammad (according to Islamic belief) and Eid al-Fitr is the cele-
bration to mark the end of Ramadan, also called the Sweet Festi-
val and is a time of great joy. I wish the festival will bring sweet-
ness and Joy in all of our lives.

On another note, I would like
to take this opportunity to con-
gratulate Nirmala Nand, for be-
ing selected as the General
Secretary of New Zealand Mul-
ticultural Council. This is a big
achievement for MMC, to have
one of our own in the NZ Multi-
cultural Council. I hope Nirmala will bring the name of MMC to Na-
tional level.



In other news, I am very proud to let you all know that we had a very successful Special General Meeting (SGM) and council meeting last week. The majority of the attended council members voted for an Amendment of the rule 13.1 about quorum which says the quorum for council meetings shall be half or 50% attendance was reduced to 30%.

That means, the quorum for all council meetings shall be 30% of the financial members instead of 50%. I hope the implementation of general business of the council will now be more effective following this change, as we will now more easily be in a position to make decisions in our council meetings. I would like to thank all those members who attended for their time and effort to take part in such important decision making.

The reality of life is tough, we can't be happy without being sad. I was deeply saddened by the news of death of Paul Patel's Mother on the 10th July 2015. Paul Patel is a very cordial and active member of MMC. The MMC treasurer Anne Odogwu attended the funeral to express our condolences to Paul and his family. May the almighty give them strength to cope with the loss of their loved one.

The aim of the MMC is to help and support the ethnic community and to help newcomers to settle here in Palmerston north. To do this MMC didn't have much involvement with Massey Students. Our main target group always was Emigrant population. I think this was mainly because of communication gap between Massey University and MMC. This year, we have managed to establish a communication with Massey University. Both organisations now believe that there is a big need of emotional and community support for the new Students. Accordingly, Massey University is to prepare a project for leading to international students involving MMC. This should give MMC a new look and a wider target group including youth.

Lastly, I want to remind you again that the AGM is not far away, it is scheduled for 27th Aug 2015, and notification will be sent out very soon. Please renew your financial membership to participate in the AGM. I would like to encourage you to take your part in the AGM to have your say in Council's affairs and volunteer your time in serving the community.

All the best.

Rukhshana N. Akhter

**Deepest Sympathy
for Paul Patel and the Patel Family**



Shantiben Chunilal Patel

28th April 1930 - 10th July 2015

The members of the MMC Council, Executive and Staff extend their sympathy to Paul Patel and the Patel family on the sad loss of their beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and friend of all she knew.

I, Anne Odogwu and Elvira Olsen, attended the funeral and were touched by the memories of Shantiben that were given by family members and Marie Streeter, a next-door neighbour. Pandit Maheshbhai Bhatt officiated at the funeral.

A musical and visual tribute was presented with Prince Tui Teka singing "Mum" whilst we witnessed events in Shantiben's life.

We heard that Paul's Father, Chuni, travelled to India to marry Shantiben in 1951 and they then flew to Sydney and by a sea-plane to Wellington. Dannevirke must have been a surprise to Shantiben when she arrived but Dannevirke certainly came to know and love Shantiben.

The Patel fruit shop, which was the first fruit and vege market when it was opened in 1921 is well-known in Dannevirke and the surrounding area. 800 people attended the funeral in the Dannevirke Town Hall. The Maori Wardens looked after the parking, etc.

I'm sure the family will continue to share their memories of Shantiben through the years.

"A Mother's love is something that no one can explain, it is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and of pain. It is endless and unselfish and enduring what may, for nothing can destroy it or take that love away.

Rest in peace Ba"

Anne Odogwu, MMC Executive Member



MANY PEOPLE - MANY SONGS**formerly Rainbow Praise**

Please, bring your families and friends to this event at **St Mary's Church, Ruahine Street (opposite the entrance to the Public Hospital) at 2pm.**

This is a celebration of multicultural songs and praise with the Philippine orchestra, Tongan Choir, Chinese Congregation - Central Baptist, Bhutanese, Scottish, Russians and Fijians so please support them.

Admission is with a can of food for the Food Bank and a gold coin.

This is your opportunity to contribute food to those who are not so well off as well as supporting our performers.

The Choirs will join the audience for afternoon tea in the Hall next to the Church so, please, stay and meet each other

**Looking forward to a packed church
and getting to know one another at
afternoon tea.**

**Anne Odogwu
Convenor**



Newcomers Potluck Dinner

June is officially the start of winter months , people prefer to be inside and keep warm on their own little cosy corners, but last month proved that our pot luck dinner is still popular in spite of the cold weather, we had a group of Massey University students from Iran and an Indian couple who braved the cold night and joined us in our monthly dinner.



The regulars are there

too, to bring more warmth on the night, we are always grateful for the hot chilli dish that Booranee brings, the new dessert or dish that Irene tries on us and the warm smiles and conversation that everyone contributes.

Change is about to happen with Noorangi taking charge of preparing the venue before everyone arrives and with everyone's help we can start having games or other activities that makes this potluck dinner more lively and memorable to everyone who comes. Hope that everyone participates in making our guests feel welcome to our city.

Meriam



Newcomers Coffee Morning

In modern society, with the rapid development of technology, meeting face to face for a conversation is still the best way of communication and the Newcomers Coffee Morning at MMC gives that opportunity to meet new people, interact with them and hopefully socialise.

The Newcomers Coffee Morning on the 15th July welcomed Muliro who just arrived from Brazil and Murray and Christine who just moved to Palmerston North from Auckland.

Whether you have moved from other parts of New Zealand or from overseas, settling in a new place is often stressful. Migrants from other countries face bigger problems as they don't know anyone in their new environment and often don't speak English well which makes it harder for them to even find their way around and understand the NZ systems.

Employment is always a big concern for many of the newcomers who join our network. Employers are looking for a New Zealand work experience from the applicants and of course how can you have a work experience if none gives you a chance to work? A vicious circle....

Although the newcomers network can't offer employment, it gives an opportunity to meet other people and hopefully make friends. The Multicultural Centre also offers FREE English conversation classes in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Christine.



Flax weaving session with Booranee

The first Friday of June saw the women of the arts and crafts group engaged in flax weaving. Booranee, our teacher from Thailand taught the women the step-by-step process of flax weaving from start to finish.

This process includes preparing the flax leaves first by proper selection, boiling and drying. She also taught the women how to take the rib of the leaves and which side is most suitable to display on the outside.



The women became interested in the activity instantly, and paid careful attention to details to complete their bags. Booranee also inspired the women by showing examples using pictures from her own work.

It was two Friday afternoons well-spent as the women felt accomplished and proud to show off their own work.

Thank you Booranee for your willingness to teach us and exercising patience while we completed the tasks.
Well done women!!!

Mayette



In their own words...Profiles of English Conversation Students

My name is Chan Locke

Date of birth 23 June 1990

I am Chan Locke and I'm from Battambang City, Cambodia.

I have been in New Zealand for one year and four months now. I live with my husband Murray who is a Kiwi. I travelled to NZ in April 2014 when I got married and I want to live permanently in Palmerston North.

My skills include fitting wedding dresses, styling hair and applying make-up, embroidery, designing and making patterns for clothing, cutting and sewing. I also know how to prepare and cook south East Asian dishes. I have had experience selling in the market too.

My family in Cambodia are farmers and they have their own food shop. I like gardening, cooking, reading books and listening to music. What I want to achieve first in NZ is to speak good English and then find a good job. This will prepare me for a good life in NZ

Chan Locke



Chan's profile is one of series of English Conversation Classes students .

The profiles were written by the students themselves in the Wednesday Class tutored by Mayette. More to come in the next newsletters.



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 9.30am-4pm

Advanced English Group

**Monday , Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday from 1– 3pm**

Beginners Group

Tuesday & Friday 10am - 12.00pm

Multicultural Arts & Crafts Group

Friday 1-3pm

Shared lunch at the Centre:

Friday 12-1pm

Multicultural Women 's Group

2nd Friday in the month from 1-3pm

Newcomers Coffee Morning

3rd Wednesday in the month 10-12noon

Newcomers Potluck Dinner

Last Friday in the month at 6pm