

**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**

**President's Message**

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Ethnic Greetings everyone,  
Life can be full of ups and downs, as an organisation we have to carry on in spite of all odds, serving our own fellow migrants and refugees that come to Palmerston North.  
Last month, we lost one of our ethnic members, Leader David Puleosi, husband of one of our staff Noorangi. As part of bereavement, we gave Noorangi time to grieve which meant that existing staff, volunteers and executive have to carry the extra load. I am very grateful to those who pull their weight to help this organisation keep going.



Activities to keep our organisation alive kept going, our potluck dinner at Te Manawa last month was great. It was attended by our two local MP's and representatives of various agencies along with more Than 50 peoplee from different ethnicities. The Te Manawa staff are great hosts and it was a delight to see the Top 50 National Geographic Photographs exhibited together with the Boots, Balls and Bullets exhibition

**Acknowledgement**

- Ministry of Social Development
- PN City Council
- PN Community Services Council
- United Way
- Lottery Grant
- COGS
- Eastern & Central Community Trust
- DIA- - Settling In
- Pub Charity
- MMC is located at Hancock Community House, 77-85 King Street.
- Phone# 06 3581572

The planning of the Festival of Cultures has started, Our mayor is very enthusiastic to make it bigger and better next year as we have the Destination Manawatu taking over the management of the event. The festival has been moved to the first week of March - March 4-6. It was good to see the variety of community groups involved in the planning stage. Hope our men will also kick-start the planning of Ethkick

The Government House & Te Papa Tour was well supported. Our regular activities like English Classes are still well attended. We have a Marae visit coming up next month as well as the Quilt Exhibition at the library .Our annual dinner at ChinaTown is on November 21<sup>st</sup>. It is a great opportunity to network with other agencies , get together with friends or meet new people from different ethnic groups, so mark this on your calendar

It is such a delight to be involved in some of our refugees' lives. In 2007, I was a member for welcoming refugees from Congo and Burma that settled here in Palmerston North.

To see some of them now owning their own homes and holding permanent jobs makes volunteering worthwhile. I met one of my former students in cooking classes at one of the functions in Wellington and to know that she too has learnt the value of volunteering, by giving time in serving the community makes serving worthwhile

Meriam Findlay, President

## Hon Peseta Sam Lotu\_liga, Minister of Ethnic Communities Visit to the Multicultural Centre

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October, The Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-Liga, Minister for Corrections and Ethnic Communities visited the MMC Centre.



Mayette Maling-Cope, the MMC Treasurer, welcomed the Minister on behalf of the MMC Executive Council and our members.

The Minister was happy to visit us as there are over 200 ethnic groups in New Zealand and there are about 130 groups in Palmerston North city. About 50 people came to hear the Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-Liga. The Minister spoke briefly about Corrections and Ethnic Communities and then took questions from the floor as he wished to find out the needs of ethnic communities as they vary across New Zealand. He also wanted to find out how the Government can better help ethnic families and communities.

Some of the following questions came up: Racial discrimination, Family reunification, Refugee resettlement.

Those attending praised the Multicultural Centre for helping people to meet others as at our monthly Potluck Dinners, Coffee Mornings, Arts and Crafts sessions, women's sessions and our free lessons in Beginners' English and Advanced English conversation classes.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Deborah Lam for organising this forum.



## MMC Visits Government House and Te Papa

Early on Friday morning the 16<sup>th</sup> of October the MMC group set out on their visit to Wellington.

The group was split in two so the group visiting Te Papa was dropped off first. We split up in various groups and went exploring. The Bush City is very interesting as it has the plants and trees that existed in Wellington 200 years ago and we saw what the glow worms look like. After exploring the bush we re-entered Te Papa on the second floor so saw the various examples of Marine life including the massive squid that was caught in the Antarctic. Everyone enjoyed seeing the Maori canoe and the Meeting House and also wetting our hands and rubbing the raw greenstone.

At 11.30am the Te Papa group were picked up and taken to Government House to join the others for lunch. The Government House guides, Heather and Owen, were so impressed with all our different nationalities that they asked the official photographer to take our photo in front of Government House so it could go on the Governor-General's Facebook page. If you wish to see this go to [www.facebook.com/GovernorGeneral/NewZealand](http://www.facebook.com/GovernorGeneral/NewZealand)

Then one group was taken to Te Papa whilst the other group were introduced to Government House. It was very interesting and we discovered that Caccia Birch House on Te Awe Awe Street had served as Government House for 2 years 1910-1912 as there had been a fire in the Wellington Government House. We then toured the Government House with our guide and also walked in the gardens.

Both groups enjoyed their Government House tour and the time at Te Papa.

It was a very visual way of learning some New Zealand history.

Anne Odogwu



## Government House & Te Papa Tour—In Her Own Words

On Friday the 16th of October 42 of us boarded a bus bound for Wellington. The trip itself was comfortable and uneventful apart from the loo stop in Otaki, when one passenger disembarked with other intentions in mind, namely coffee. This ultimately proved to be his undoing, as he was left behind! Not intentionally I might add. On realising we were one passenger short, a Tiki Tour through the normal unchartered territory of the back streets of Otaki was conducted to retrieve him. Successfully I might add.

The confidence of youth and the thought of coffee had indeed overcome this young man!

On arrival in the Capital City, which rose to the occasion and put on a splendid day, albeit a bit windy, we split into two groups. One group being dropped off outside Te Papa and the other at Government House.

Anne escorted the majority of the Te Papa group, who wanted to see the exhibits, other than the main one, which was The Scale Of Our War. This exhibit I found truly exceptional, the sheer size of the people depicted left one feeling Lilliputian in comparison. And as for the detail. Fabulously realistic. Blood, sweat and tears seen close up like never before. Amazing. Amazing. Not to be missed if you have not already seen it.

At midday all the Te Papa visitors were collected and taken to join the others at Government House.

We were shown into a spacious room and " held " while we partook of the packed lunches which the majority had brought. Rested, replenished and much photographed (once officially, the result of which appeared on the Government House Facebook page later in the day )



The groups then swapped destinations with Christine and her husband Enoch leading the Te Papa tour.

During a fairly long stroll to Government House we were given to understand that it had recently undergone a much needed upgrade, having withstood the rigours exacted by time and many a former incumbent. When the doors were finally reached and the "open sesame" moment arrived, we entered with appetite whet and anticipation rife. For me it was a bit of a fizzer. I would best describe the interior as being somewhat dull. Even the magnificent crystal chandeliers did little to lift the gloom. I think the wooden panelling and heavy wooden furniture were to blame. The overall grandeur I felt was nevertheless befitting for the purpose it was designed for.

The saving grace was the sun lounge in all it's Victorian elegance, replete with tiled floor, rattan furniture and huge potted palms. Flooded with light and overlooking the huge front lawn. Absolutely wonderful. A setting which has undoubtedly given rise to many a pinkie!

Other positives worthy of mention was the sheer extravagance of the drapes, especially those in the ball room. Worthy of Tara Hall from *Gone With The Wind*, and guaranteed to invoke the Scarlett O'Hara in even the most staid of us! Being an artist I found a couple of pictures and one huge vessel on which the layout and other delights of the Wellington City landscape were gloriously etched and painted, of particular interest to me.



A couple of titbits gleaned along the way included the fact that the carpet in the formal drawing room was of a depth and quality designed to repel spills and able to be shaved when wear and tear became apparent.



All artefacts and pictures are on loan, and are changed regularly, but are not necessarily of the incumbents' choice. Very eclectic, I feel would best describe the selection !

All in all a very pleasant day was had by all. However there a few transgressions, maybe it was a question of Lost In Translation? Do Not Touch and Do Not Take Photos really does mean that! Next time all stay together please, having to find someone in Wellington is a bit more difficult than Otaki!

A heartfelt thank you to those whose organisation enabled the rest of us to enjoy such a great day out.

Liz Clark

## Coffee Morning—A feedback from University of Otago Students

Hi Everyone!

We are student dietitians with the University of Otago currently on placement with the Palmerston North public health team and were kindly invited by Nirmala Nand to spend time at the MMC newcomers coffee morning on Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who welcomed us and shared his or her backgrounds and experiences since coming to NZ. We really enjoyed meeting you all and as newcomers to Palmerston North ourselves, it was great to see such a supportive organization that values bringing



people together. It was wonderful to see people who have been coming along to the MMC for years and helping to make new people feel welcome, and creating such a supportive environment for everyone.

It was interesting to learn about the services that the MMC offers such as the English lessons, potluck dinners,

craft groups, coffee mornings and Government House visits – they are all great opportunities to make connections and help adapting to NZ life much easier.

Thank you again for having us, we think that what you offer to the community is invaluable and unique, and wish you all the best for the future.

Emma and Sarah

**Thank you so much Emma and Sarah for the wonderful comments about the MMC and the newcomers programme. It was nice meeting with you and we wish you all the best with your studies. We have no doubt your future work as dietitians will make a difference in the life of people you will help. Thank you Nirmala for your continuous support for MMC programmes.**

**Christine.**

## Monthly Potluck Dinner

September became a special month for our potluck dinner as we were hosted by the staff at Te Manawa. Our visitors were privileged to be shown the National Geographic Exhibition and Boots, Balls and Bullets exhibition.



Newcomers from Philippines, China, America, Thailand, Wales, Egypt, South Africa... were the ones who came and enjoyed the beautiful amount of food we shared together with the presence of our City Council-



lors and two local MP's. A lot of networking among us as we enjoyed the food and nice atmosphere of Te Manawa.

Meriam Findlay.



The Manawatu Multicultural Council  
and the Arts & Crafts Women's group  
invite you to...



The launching and display of the

## MULTICULTURAL QUILT PROJECT

Come and see the country symbols and discover the story behind each one of them.

Funding provided by the Creative Communities, Palmerston North City Council.

Friday, November 6, from 5:30 pm

at the Sound and Vision Room, City Library.



Manawatu  
Multicultural Council



PALMERSTON NORTH  
CITY LIBRARY



PALMERSTON NORTH  
CITY COUNCIL

## MMC Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner is on Saturday the 21st of November at ChinaTown Restaurant, 156 Cuba Street from 6.30—9.30pm.

The cost is \$25 each and you are requested to come in your national costume.

This a fundraiser for MMC, so please come and support us by buying raffle tickets. This money helps MMC to do its annual programmes. Please, advise us if you require gluten free food or are vegetarian.

This is our opportunity to hear Mahesh Bindra, a NZ First list MP. He will tell us of his experiences as a new migrant to New Zealand and now he is an MP—showing that it is possible to rise in New Zealand.

There will be also some ethnic entertainment.

Anne Odogwu



**Manawatu**  
Multicultural Council

*Cordially invites you to its*

# Annual Dinner 2015

A Night of Food, Fun & Entertainment and Listening to our Guest Speaker Mahesh Bindra share his journey from being a migrant to an MP



Saturday the 21st of November  
Chinatown Restaurant,  
156 Cuba Street, PN  
From 6.30 to 9.30pm

To book your preferred tables please call the Multicultural Centre on 3581572 or e-mail [info@mmcnz.org.nz](mailto:info@mmcnz.org.nz) by the 20th November

**Ticket price: \$25 per person**

**BYO: corkage fee: \$3**

**Dinner tickets are on sale at MMC, please contact the Centre for further details.**

## From CAB—The Limited Service Volunteer (LSV)

### The Limited Service Volunteer Programme

The Limited Service Volunteer [LSV] programme is a fun, hands-on and challenging six week training course for young people who are needing help to get a job. The programme gives them new skills, increases confidence, and improves their chances of getting employment. They'll meet new people while they team up and take part in a whole range of indoor and outdoor activities. The LSV programme is a learning camp – not a boot camp. The range of activities is huge, like:

- Regular fitness training
- First aid training
- Interview skills and an updated CV
- Basic financial and budgeting skills
- Connecting with employers and employment opportunities.
- Taking part in the programme will help participants get job-ready by:
- Developing self-esteem and self-discipline
- Working as a team and meeting new people
- Getting fit
- Becoming confident and motivated
- Being able to confidently talk and meet with employers

To take part in a LSV programme you'll need to be:

- Registered with Work and Income
- Aged from 18 to 25 years [17 year olds can be considered]  
healthy and physically able to take part in outdoor activities.

You'll continue to receive full benefit payments while you are on the course which is free. It's a voluntary programme but once you're accepted and start, you are expected to take part in everything. To get more information ring 0800 559 009 or visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals) .

For free and confidential advice and information visit the Palmerston North Citizens Advice Bureau in Community House, 77, King Street, P.N. We are open Mon-Fri from 9 am-4.30 pm, ring 357 0647 or 0800 367 222. We have a free legal advice service by qualified lawyers most Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm, and a JP is available on Tuesdays from 12.30 noon-3 pm. No appointment is necessary for either of these services.





## **Mahesh Bindra list MP**

New Zealand First

Speaking on his experience as a new migrant to New Zealand. Hear about opportunities for new settlers here and his pathway to Parliament.

**Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**3pm**

**The Convention Centre**

Palmerston North

ALL WELCOME

PAUA Early Childhood Homebased Care Service has a good understanding of the importance of Grandparents caring for their grandchildren that many cultures have. As a licensed Ministry of Education Service we are able to offer families who provide this type of care support in a number of ways.

PAUA provides a unique and innovative home based childcare to families throughout New Zealand.

PAUA promotes an individual learning programme for each enrolled child, providing stimulating and age appropriate resources to support learning objectives as well as the support of a qualified early childhood teacher. We encourage whanau (family) care, in fact it is something we are passionate about and have many families in Palmerston North already enrolled with our service, as they often have grandparents or other family members caring for their children.

If parents are studying or working and meet the criteria for a childcare subsidy through Work and Income, or are entitled to 20 Hours ECE they are able to access these subsidies through PAUA.

Please phone 0800 728 277 if you are interested in learning more about PAUA and we will organise for a Visiting Teacher to come and chat with you and your family about our service.

**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 & Thursday 10am - 12.00pm**

**Multicultural Arts & Crafts Group**

**Friday 1-3pm**

**Shared lunch at the Centre:**

**Friday 12-1pm**

**Multicultural Women 's Group**

**2nd Friday each month 1-3pm**

**Newcomers Coffee Morning**

**3rd Wednesday each month 10-12noon**

**Newcomers Potluck Dinner**

**Last Friday each month at 6pm**