

MISSION STATEMENT

TO CELEBRATE,
SUPPORT AND
CONNECT
MULTICULTURAL
COMMUNITIES OF
MANAWATU



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

**Multicultural
Centre**



**Manawatu
Newcomers Network**
Connecting People

ETHNIGRAM NEWSLETTER

President's Report

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October is a busy month for everyone as Christmas is coming. Some people are preparing for their holidays, others are busy buying their presents for Christmas. The local election has come and gone, such a shame that only a small percentage of our population cast their votes.



It was such a privilege to assist a refugee family to cast their special votes at the election, as their names were not listed on the register. We seem to take it for granted. In many countries it is something that has been taken away from the people.

Congratulations to Mayor Grant Smith, and a big bouquet to Councillor Tangi Utikere for being appointed as our Deputy Mayor, the first non European to take this position. It shows that our city is truly embracing multiculturalism.

It was also a delight to read in the annual report of the CCS Disability Action group of the significant contribution of the MMC to Palmerston North. The trip to Parliament on October 12, that was arranged by the MMC, was such an educationally rewarding experience to all of us who went. Such a pity that the weather stopped us from taking a group photo outside the Beehive. It would have been a good memento for a once in a lifetime experience for some. I would like to thank all the staff who welcomed us and to our two local MPs Ian Less Galloway and Jono Naylor, who took time to talk to our people.

On Saturday October 23 I went to Wellington to witness the annual celebration of Filipinos around New Zealand.

This event takes a year to prepare as it includes sporting competitions, and a beauty pageant as well as food and displays of cultural significance. I was amazed at how professionally it was done by the volunteers and am proud to say that this year's winner of the Beauty Pageant is from Palmerston North. Part of the prize she received was a trip for two to the Philippines.



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

**Hancock
Community House**
77-85 King Street
Phone #
(06) 358 1572
ask@mmcnz.org.nz

President's Report Continues

Our annual dinner next month, November 4, at Chinatown is fast approaching I hope you have bought your tickets to be a part of this night of networking and recognition of our volunteers.

The preparation for the Festival of cultures and Ethkick is underway and I am grateful to all volunteers who are involved. To avoid missing out please register your group to join these annual activities, as it promotes diversity in our city. Please ring Christine and Noorangi on 3581572, before you go away for your holiday.

Always see the good in people, instead of focusing on negativity, and then in this way we can promote unity.

Mabuhay,

Meriam Findlay

Multi this, that and the other

This coming year at the City Library, after the Festival of Cultures in March 2017, we plan to have our own equivalent of the world wide Wearable Art Show.

This show was first shown in Nelson in the South Island and now attracts participants from all over the world.

We will be calling our show

MULTICLOTHES FOR MULTIPLEOPLE.

We have taken some of our ideas from this unique show but it will be purely OURS!

It will be in three categories:

- Ethnic, National or Cultural Costumes
- Clothes made from Native Fibres and Recycled Materials
- Fun Clothes made from any material i.e. card board, paper metal etc and in any shape or design.

We have some very talented designers in the Art and Craft Group; in fact one of the group is a professional designer in her own country.

We also have three sewing machines at our disposal in the Centre, and lots of ideas.

We know that you are a very enthusiastic person and we would love to have you as part of our project!

At present we meet on Friday afternoons between 1- 3 pm at the Centre. If you are interested but not sure how much time you have, please phone Noorangi on 3581572.

You may remember that last year we made the Ethnic Quilt.

Although many of the women had experience in sewing, many did not, so were helped and advised by others in the group.

So please don't be put off if you think it will be too complicated for you.

We want to have fun and produce another piece of ART but this time something that you and your family and children can enjoy.

Angela Joblin



Booranee is wearing something old that she has changed into something new.

Farewell Marcos

On the 23rd of September we said farewell to a special student and friend of the MMC who had been attending conversation classes at the centre for a year.

Marcos, from Brazil, came to New Zealand in September of 2015 and as he says he was very nervous, frightened and lonely. In fact he nearly went back to Brazil but had agreed to stay for a year, and that is what he did.

Marcos had done 2 years of his Ph.D in Plant Physiology and had gained a scholarship from the Brazilian Government to study in New Zealand for a year. When asked how he felt about NZ, after living and studying here for a year, he said he was now really happy in NZ and in fact wanted to return in 2018, if possible to do Post Doctorate study at Massey. Depending whether he could get funding.

Marcos came to NZ having only studied 4 months of English, but left a fluent speaker in fact at times we could not stop him! While attending the conversation class he happened to mention that he was interested in the Martial Arts and in fact had taught Jujitsu in Brazil. Without pausing we asked him to take a self defence session one afternoon. Which he did without hesitation.

All the women that participated in the session really enjoyed his informality, patience and sense of humour. The fact that he knew them anyway, helped.

So Marcus we hope that you will read this, as we wish you only good luck for the future. We appreciated your personality and were so glad you found the MMC for the year you were here. Hopefully you will return to Palmerston North before too long.

Written up from a conversation with Eunice Rodsjo one of the Volunteer Teachers at the Centre.



Meet Li Wei (David)

My personal information is listed as follows:

English Name: David Chinese Name: Li Wei

Gender: Male Date of Birth: 08/10/1979

Nationality: Chinese

E-mail: weiliweili2007@163.com

Education Background:

2016/06-2016/12 Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand; Visiting Scholar; Subject: Pedagogy;

2007.09-2010.06 East China Normal University, Shanghai, China; PH.D. degree; Specialty: Ecology



I clearly remember when my homestay host took me to attend my first potluck dinner party, on the last Friday of July, 2016. Since then, I have joined the classes every day at the MMC for improving my English skills. I found many learners came from all over the world. During the study period, I have got a great deal of help from both the staff and learners. We talk and communicate about cultures, education and lives from our own countries. We help each other and look like a big warm family.

I practiced and enjoyed my English every time, and made great progress at the MMC. Also, I hope that more and more new learners who come from non-English countries will join the MMC. This is because this place is free and credible. It has been an unforgettable time for me.

All the best!

Help Needed for Rohingya Family

We know that people in Palmerston North are always ready to help each other. This time we are asking whether you have any spare gardening tools, seedling or plants, hidden away in your sheds that you would like to donate to the Red Cross. They are for two families of Rohingya Refugees that are coming to settle in Palmerston North. I'm sure with the large number of members we have, we should be able to donate these items between us all. To contact the **RED CROSS** in Main Street please phone 06 3568152.

ROHINGYA.

The Rohingya have been described as the world's most persecuted minority group. They are Ethnic Muslim in a Buddhist country, which is now known as Myanmar but was previously known up to 1989, as Burma. Most Rohingya live in the North West of the country and while some of the men speak Burmese, the majority of the women speak Rohingya. The Rohingya can trace their origins in the region back to the 15 Century. In 1982 the citizen law denied the Rohingya people their citizenship. Resultingly the vast majority have no legal documentation and many have fled to neighbouring countries. There are up to 500,000 Rohingya living in Bangladesh, 10,000 in Thailand, 150,000 in Malaysia, 10,000 in Indonesia, and 1.3 million are still living in Myanmar.

(Information taken from a talk and hand out at the Red Cross)

Happy Deepavali

Well it's coming to the happiest part of the year for Hindus around the world. Celebrations have already started, by the Gujarati community with nine nights of prayers for 'Navratri', which began on 2nd October and ended on 10th culminating in *Garbha/Dandia* at the Senior citizens hall in Palmerston North, followed by 'Dusshera' celebration at the Queen Elizabeth College Hall on 11th October.

On 30th October, Hindus around the world will celebrate 'Diwali' the 'Festival of

Lights'. Diwali signifies the power of light over darkness, truth over untruth, and all good virtues over vices that one can think of. It signifies physical, environmental and spiritual cleansing. Diwali is the time to reflect on ones inner self, illuminate the soul, impart love, peace, kindness; donate, money, food, clothing, time, to others and refrain from hurting anyone. It is a time to reflect on the year gone by. It is a time to forgive and forget and 'mend bridges' where they have cracked. Diwali is a festival of peace and love, and observed with purely vegetarian food thereby avoiding killing any creature for food.

Numerous meanings can be drawn from this auspicious festival which has been celebrated for thousands of years by Hindus. Hope this year again brings peace, prosperity, health, wealth and happiness in everyone.

Happy Diwali and May God's blessings always be upon us.

(By Nirmala Nand)



Bhutanese Society Cultural Events

On behalf of the Bhutanese Society of Palmerston North and Fielding I would like to thank you for your very generous fund raising for the "Bhutanese Women's Health and Well-Being Forum". The program was organised by "Bhutanese Youth of Palmerston North and Feilding" which was held at 102 Rangiora Avenue on the 8th of October 2016. It has really sent a buzz through the entire team and everyone connected with the Bhutanese Society. The Bhutanese youth, the Global Bhutanese Literary Organisation and the Women's Forum. We received huge encouragement to conduct such a program for the community. Further, we celebrated Pre Dasara and Deepawali. A lot of parents and others connected with the community put in a lot of hard work. The fundraising has been attracting numbers of local kids with respected personalities from different organisations. It was a grand success for an organiser which I think makes our program extra special.

Thank you once more for your generous sponsorship (Bhutanese society of Palmerston North [BSNZ], Global Bhutanese Literary Organisation [GBLO] Thank you Manawatu Refugee Voice [MRV] for helping us at this time. Without your help we wouldn't be able to do such a celebration. Your support is not something we take lightly and is very much appreciated by everyone connected with the Forum. Huge thanks to Countdown, Main Street and those who helped us with the fund raising. Special thanks to Access Manawatu 999am for the sound system and technical support. We hope that we will live up to our achievements from previous years. We promise to keep you updated of our progress. With very best regards

Anjan Muna



Citizenship Officer

Citizenship Case Officers will be in Palmerston North on: 26th - 27th October 2016

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.

Citizens Advice Bureau Flyer



EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND – HELPING NEW MIGRANTS

Free Information Session

Migrant Connect



TOPICS: Employment issues including:

- writing a CV
- interviews
- employment contracts

WHEN: Thursday 17 November 2016 9.45a.m. - 11a.m.

WHERE: Hancock Community House, 77 King Street, Palmerston North.

CONTACT: Please register your interest by telephoning Wendy on (06) 3579273 before Monday 14 November 2016.

Citizens Advice Bureau Palmerston North offers free, face to face support to new migrants.
Hancock Community House, 77 King Street, Palmerston North. Phone 06 357 0647.
0800 FOR CAB (0800 367 222)
www.cab.org.nz



Funded by Immigration New Zealand

MMC Dinner Poster

Manawatu Multicultural Council

Cordially invites you to its **Annual Dinner 2016**

Friday 4 November, Chinatown Restaurant, 156 Cuba Street, PN, from 6.30 to 9.30pm

A night of ethnic food and fun, to acknowledge MMC volunteers, community members, strategic partners and sponsors.

Speaker : Mayor Grant Smith
Guest Performers : Burmese Dance Group, AZIZA Belly Dance

Ticket price: \$25 per person
BYO: corkage fee: \$3
Dinner tickets are on sale at MMC, please contact the Centre for further details



To book your preferred tables please call the Multicultural Centre on 3581572 or e-mail ask@mmcnz.org.nz by the 28 October



Multicultural Centre Activities & Events

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 Conversation Group

Monday , Tuesday, Wednesday

and Thursday from 1– 3pm

Beginners Conversation Group

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10–12.noon

Multicultural Arts & Crafts Group

Friday 1-3pm

Shared lunch at the Centre:

Friday 12-1pm

Multicultural Women 's Group

2nd Friday of the month 1-3pm

Newcomers Coffee Morning

3rd Wednesday of the month 10-12noon

Newcomer's Potluck Dinner

Last Friday of the month at 6pm