

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
President's Report	1/3
MMC Exec Profile & Community Group meeting	4/5
NZFCM-Senior's Workshop	6
Youth Workshop	7
Newcomer's Network Hui	8
Thai Managers visit	9
Healthy Drinks & Skilled Migrants	10
Month of June Events	11
Centre Coming Events	12
Topp Twins Poster	13
Centre activities and events	14

If I have to sum up this month, it would be a month of networking and collaboration. Christine and I met with Andy Lowe from Te Manawa to see how we could help each other, as a result, we are able to schedule activities that we can work on together. James Etuale from the Pacifica Community has also offered us the use of the Pacifica building in Bill Brown Park, for all the Ethnic Communities. At the moment it is being refurbished and once it is finished it is available for gatherings and celebrations and the City Council can be contacted for hirage rates.



As a host for the movie Theatre of Life, organised by the Environmental Trust, we were so pleased to see that the Downtown Cinema was full. I was not able to stay for the discussion as I had another prior commitment. I asked one of the audience after the show about her views on the movie. She thought it was really good.



Meriam Findlay and Julia Panfylova

Acknowledgement

- Palmerston North City Council
- PN. Community Service Council Small Grant
- Lion Foundation
- 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
www.mmcnz.org.nz

The visit by the students from Songcal University of Thailand which was arranged by Massey University, was a good way of showcasing Palmerston North and what it can offer to International students. During their visit, I talked about the generosity of New Zealander volunteers and the amount of agencies being run by volunteers and how the Multicultural Center started by volunteers and run by volunteers. Jeremie, from the Library, talked about Palmerston North and the number of Ethnic Communities present in our city. Andy Lowe talked about the opportunities that art lovers can have in our city. He emphasised that apart from the many Exhibitions and shows, the facilities are available for gatherings such as on Waitangi Day.

Angela Joblin, Noorangi and Booranee talked about the different activities we have at the Centre and I talked about the generosity of New Zealanders and the opportunities that are open if you are committed to making things happen.

Booranee, being Thai invited the students to her home to taste some of her amazing Thai dishes.



Jeremie, Andy, Meriam, Ruriko and Christine

President Report continues

This month, the Chinese Community, performed the Quintessence of Chinese Culture. A selection of classical Peking Opera at the Speir's Centre. Palmerston North is one of the two cities in New Zealand that hosted this show, so they attracted audiences from Levin, Wanganui and Taihape and resultingly the Centre was full. It was also good to meet the Director of the China Cultural Center.

The Philippine Central Association celebrated Mother's Day on May 13th, it was so good to see mothers being honoured on this occasion. I met a group of Filipino Massey Post graduate students. It was good to see them interacting with us and feeling included in the community.

Here in Palmerston North we also have a Filipino Christian Fellowship, that celebrated their first anniversary on May 14. Most of its members are dairy farmers and nurses who came here to work. They do not have immediate families but have this group to look after their pastoral needs.

On the same weekend the Sri Lankan community had their Vesak celebration in the Square, they had a pop up temple and served food to their community. as there was a lot of food prepared. It became available to everyone who was at the Square that night with people lining up till 8:30 at night, to have a taste of hot potato curry, papadom and fried rice. It was interesting to watch. Thank you so much to the Sri Lankan Community for being so generous in sharing your culture. I really admire your craftsmanship in building an altar made of paper.

At this month's Citizenship Ceremony there were 126 people from different nationalities who now consider New Zealand their second home and have the right to vote. This month I was also invited to the opening of the new office of Futurisk Insurance, owned by Joe Singh, an Indian immigrant, who decided to make Palmerston North his home. It was good to meet people from different nationalities working in this business, including my two Filipina friends Carmela and Grashella.

On May 18, I was invited to the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award presentation and one of the recipients was a Bhutanese student from St Peters. After the ceremony I had a good catch up with his parents, we recalled how they arrived here as refugees nine years ago, it was good to know that as a family they are active in the community, the father now begins a Justice of the Peace.

On Friday May 19, The Egyptian Community and many others gathered to participate in a cultural presentation at the City Library. More than 200 people attended. We watched a very interesting documentary on how the Pyramids were built. The food was varied and very satisfying and the entertainment was super and the audience was encouraged to participate in some of the Egyptian dances.

Lamiaa and her family must have spent a lot of time preparing the food for everyone to enjoy.



Meriam and the Dalal family at the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award



Egyptian Night– Lamiaa (far right) and friends



Philippine's Post Graduate Students

President Report continues

On the 23rd of May was the First Voice workshop, it was so good to see a lot of children from different countries willing to participate in writing stories on their mother tongue. I can still remember how this initiative started 21 years ago.

This Friday 26th of May we celebrated the 7th anniversary of our Newcomers Network potluck dinner. This dinner has been a conduit for people from different nationalities and careers, to mingle and get to know each other we also encourage locals to come so they can meet the new arrivals in our city.

By getting to know each other we can encourage friendship and support each other. We also celebrated Sophia Mc Dermott's birthday. It was good to see seventy people from different nationalities including Ian the South African man, that Booranee met at the Citizenship Ceremony. There was lots of food to share including the yummy pork spring rolls that Veit, from the Good Morning Vietnam Restaurant brought to share. I admire Christine and Noorangi who tirelessly help to keep this dinner going from setting up to tidying up after the dinner, they have mastered the skill of hosting.

As an organisation I am pleased to announce that the members of Networks of Skilled Migrants and the Global Parents Society have now joined us as part of our umbrella organization.

On August 20, we will have Ethnic Songs from Ethnic people and I encourage our ethnic group members to participate in this event. This is one way of expressing yourself and showing appreciation of your own language.

"Take one step at a time, Our journey in life needs an active response of taking one step at a time not just sitting around and waiting for things to happen"

Meriam. Findlay
President



Meriam (red top) with Futurisk Insurance staff



Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School—First Voice Writing Workshop May 23rd 2017

MMC Executive Member's Profile

Priyani de Silva-Currie's parents came from Sri Lanka to New Zealand 42 years ago, seeking a better life, a safer life, freedom from persecution, all those things that New Zealanders have in abundance and take for granted.

Priyani was just 4 when she moved to Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island with her father an Senior Accountant and mother, a Nursing Principal. Her experience in New Zealand has been a happy one strongly influenced by parents who also were very community minded and gave a lot to this country in their own areas of interest.

Two older brothers followed to New Zealand after their completed studies, Gazzali who is an Engineer and Reza an Accountant who now resides in England. Grateful for the opportunities afforded her, Priyani has a strong desire to give something back to this country, which she achieves through the many leadership positions she holds.



Priyani moved from Nelson to Palmerston North in 2013 when she was appointed branch manager of Opus International Consultants and achieving recognition as the 7th female partner in this global organisation. This achievement was in addition to an already lengthy CV within professional consultancy and local government asset management spanning some 25 years. Two years ago Priyani accepted a role as National Asset Management Leader for Calibre Consulting and has chosen to make Palmerston North her home.

Priyani admits that Netball is her passion, and was Chairwoman and Senior Coach for the Nelson Netball Centre. Priyani is also heavily involved with local and representative Netball here in the Manawatu coaching the Manukura Black Premier Team and the Manawatu U17, Priyani is also on the Netball New Zealand performance coach programme and was for a number of years Tasman U19 Coach and Tasman NPC Senior Coach.

Having a strong desire to support migrants and multiculturalism in New Zealand, Priyani volunteers in the sector, holding the role of President of the Nelson Multicultural Council and then President of the Manawatu Multicultural Council. Priyani was also National President and now immediate past president of Multicultural New Zealand, a Federation of 22 Regional Multicultural Councils around NZ. This role allowed Priyani to work with communities and migrants both at a strategic and grass root level to improve their lives and connections here in New Zealand.

A passion of Priyani's is her ongoing interest in Energy Management in New Zealand, last year receiving life membership to the Energy Management Association of New Zealand after serving 20 years as a member, ten years on the National Executive and 7 years as Chairperson. She supports NZ Public Works and chairs the Training and Development Working Group for the Institute of Public Works Engineers of Australasia (IPWEA) and is one of only two national assessors in the New Zealand Diploma in Infrastructure Asset Management.

MMC Executive Member's Profile

Asked where she finds time for all her roles and activities, the mother of two boys (Yohann 13 and Dilhan 9) laughs and admits that all this occurs with a great level of imbalance, she is grateful to a support circle of family and friends and an encouraging employer who let her loose to save the world.

Priyani is lucky to have great working teams around her and says "really all they need from me is the a bit of strategic thinking, perspective and judgement, they rest I hope they fell empowered to do themselves and know that I have their back..." Will she ever rest? "For me personally I would like to relax one day soon knowing we are heading along in the right direction and good people have taken up the good fight so I can have a wee rest!"

Priyani de Silva-Currie

Community Groups Managers Meeting

Thursday 11 May. Representatives of the community organisations under the umbrella of PN Community Services Council (PNCSC) met at the Family Works Office from 10-11.30am. The meeting was organised by Michelle Thompson, Manager - Community Services Council. The Community services that were represented were Manline, Parent-line, Prisoner's Aid, Across, Te Manawa, Office of the MP Iain Lees-Galloway and the Manawatu Multicultural Council.

After the welcome and introduction, Michelle Thompson, gave a briefing on the Managers' Retreat at the Herb farms which was on Thursday 30 March, from 9am to 5pm. The highlight was the strengths- based leadership workshop by Karen Shepherd and Chris Thomas.

The objectives of the workshop included a review of the principles of strengths-based practice and consideration of these on our leadership within our organisations. Discussions covered how to lead with hope and possibility, and to consider strategies and skills that would assist in leading in a strengths-based way. Also how to utilise our skills and strengths in our leadership.

The workshop was attended by 20 representatives of local community services and it was also a good opportunity to network, relax and unwind.

The community groups' representatives are keen to have the manager's retreat as a regular event and there were discussions about when and where to hold the retreat as well as key note speakers that might be invited.

Another matter that arose from the meeting was the Inland Revenue expectation that tax should be paid through the IRD online services, which require the use of payroll and accounting software. Ray Jermyn, Manager- Manline recommended the use of THANK YOU PAYROLL which is a free payroll software.

MMC is considering this free software to meet IRD requirements.

Christine.

NZFMC Insight– Senior’s Workshop

As the representative of the MMC, I had the privilege of attending this workshop hosted by the NZFMC Seniors Council at the Filipino Community Centre, Lower Hutt on 11th March 2017.

Approximately 20 senior representatives of the regional Multicultural Councils including the speakers were from MSD, Age Concern and Grey Power attended.

The keynote address was given by the Mayor of Hutt Council. Presentations and discussion focused around Strengthening relationship and Building our future, Ministry of Health’s Healthy Aging Policy; Health Promotion for elderly, Positively Aging Strategies for seniors; and superannuation.



The day concluded with a workshop session facilitated by Joris de Bres, former Race Relations Commissioner. A number of key issues were identified and passionately discussed by the participants. A few important points to note were that MNZ and RMC be encouraged for further engagement with the Ministry of Health on the implementation plan for its Healthy Aging Strategy; that the Seniors Council will support an ongoing engagement between MNZ and Age Concern at the national level and encourage RMCs to engage with local branches and promote their services to seniors from ethnic communities.

It was also suggested that RMCs should reach out to seniors in their communities, especially those who experience isolation and organize activities for them such as health workshops, social gathering and volunteer opportunities. The RMCs need to develop a policy on this and advocate to engage with Red Cross branches and to reach out to seniors in refugee communities

The meeting also urged MNZ to develop a national policy and advocate on key issues affecting seniors in ethnic communities, including: Health, housing, immigration, isolation, and elder abuse.

Other Discussions focused around: Gold Card access to public transport to be extended to include peak hours; Extension of Superannuation portability to senior migrants irrespective of national origin; Financial recognition of all seniors who do not qualify for Superannuation but contribute their time to family and community; Resources for organizations that provide services and activities for seniors; Proposed changes to Superannuation and Diverse cultural perspectives on euthanasia. The issue of isolation and loneliness and ill treatment experienced by some of the elderly in migrant communities was extensively discussed.

MNZ has been advised to address these and other issues and actively encourage RMCs to raise them in their meetings at local level, while MNZ will take it up at national level.

By Nirmala Nand - Seniors Rep, MMC

Youth Engagement Workshop

Attending this workshop was a very nice experience for me. It was full of group activities and I enjoyed my time there. We did many activities to try and help make changes to the community. My group and I listed the good and bad things we found in our lives over a period of time.

We also explained and came up with the how to make and improve these bad things. We had 3 groups and each group had 4-5 people. We shared our ideas with the other groups. I found it helpful because we all came up with different useful ideas to improve the problems we found in the community.

Next, we did a fun game of drawing something random on A3 paper. We drew a scribble and made it meaningful. I felt this was the best activity because we got to be creative and had to think outside of the box.

Even though we lost, it was fun for me to watch what other groups came up with. We drew and created our own island with its resources based upon some instructions given by the person in charge. This was also a nice activity because we got to think together as a group and came up with creative ideas to provide and build all the resources needed to be on our imaginary island.

Finally, we used all these ideas to create a program/website that discussed the problems we face and a solution for them.

It was a nice experience and I was happy that I joined this event. It was helpful and the organisers were very lovely and nice. More than about 20 people attended, which was great. I am looking forward to joining them again for any upcoming events or workshops, as it was entertaining and useful.

Lela Hassan



Youth Engagement Workshop on Saturday 11th March 2017 at the Copthorne Hotel

Lela Hassan wearing pink stripe top

NZFMC and National Newcomers Network Hui

Managers and Co-coordinators of Migrant Service Centres and Newcomers Network NZ coordinators gathered at Whakatu Marae in Nelson from 5-6 May.

The Hui started on Friday 5 May at 1.30pm with a Powhiri from the Whakatu Marae, and Luz Zuniga from Nelson Multicultural Council.

Key note speakers included Martin Quivooy General Manager, Office of Ethnic Communities, Ann Dysart- Manager ETU Whanua, Ministry of Social Development, Dr Anne-Marie Masgoret Manager, Strategy and Products/Settlement Unit, Immigration NZ and Rakesh Naidoo Strategic Advisor, Race Relations, NZ Human Rights Commission.



After acknowledgements by Alexis LewGor, the National President of Multicultural New Zealand. The participants' were introduced. Scott Miller – Chief executive, Volunteering New Zealand spoke about Volunteer Management and Heather Newell – Director, Foresee Communications Ltd spoke about fundraising for nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Saturday the 6th May was also a very busy day: President Alexis LewGor started the workshop with a presentation on community organizations and the Health and Safety & Wellbeing Act 2015, what we need to know about it, why it matters and how to apply it to our own Centre networks.

Dr Margriet Theron, President Multicultural Rotorua made a presentation about Professional Speaking for Migrants. This programme helps migrants build confidence and skills in conversation, listening and questioning, voice exercise, public and social speaking, reading aloud, and relaxing before speaking.

We also had presentations from Newcomers and Networks and Migrants Centres which included: Albany Newcomers Network, Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network, Waitaki Multicultural Council, New Coasters Newcomers Network and Aoraki Multicultural Council.

Carl Pascoe – ACE Trace - Outcomes Project Manager spoke about outcomes as a reporting tool, Tayo Agunjeijika – Executive Director, Multicultural New Zealand spoke about Capability Building: Creating strong regions, growing community leaders. The workshop ended at 5pm with a brief session with reflections and an evaluation.

The Hui was a unique opportunity to meet with other newcomers' networks and Migrant Centres to share ideas and learn from them. Bringing government officers and other service providers involved with migrants settlement was very highly appreciated by the participants.

A big thank you to Andreja Phillips - National Coordinator of the Newcomers network and Tayo Agunjeijika - Executive Director, Multicultural New Zealand for organizing the Hui. Many thanks to the Whakatu Marae for the amazing welcome and food.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to attend the hui and learn from experts and colleagues from other Multicultural Centres and Newcomers Networks.

Christine.

Visit by Professional Service Managers From Thailand

How does one cope in a small English Language class room, that suddenly swells by an additional 22 Professional Service Managers from Thailand, plus their Tutors, on a Thursday afternoon?

If one doesn't worry, one can cope!

The Managers from the Prince of Songkla University were attending a two week course at Massey University. Studying English Communication, Cultural Understanding as well as having time for their individual research. They stayed at Monginie Hall with both New Zealand and International students. Being slightly older than your average undergraduate, it might have been an interesting experience for them!

We were asked if the students could sit in one class.

Fine I thought....what could we do? In the end we had three students, one from our class and two visiting Managers, sitting together. Out came a sheet with a common questions that people ask when they come to a new country....We were off to a good start as everyone had a chance to speak to our students, as well as to the whole group. It was good for our guests, good for the MMC students and good for the Centre.

Also our thanks go to Hilde Celie from Massey University for arranging the visit.

And Andy Lowe the Director of Te Manawa and Jeremie Corroenne—Multicultural Service Officer, who briefly outlined the work they do in relation to Migrants.

Angela Joblin



Healthy Drinks Besides Water

Low natural sugar—No added sugar



Green Tea



Low Fat Milk



Ginger Tea



Hot Chocolate



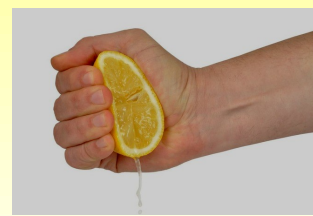
Beet Juice



Cranberry Juice



Pomegranate Juice



Lemon Juice

[Nirmala Nand Health Promoter - MDHB]

Network of Skilled Migrant

The **Network of Skilled Migrants** Manawatu.



Multicultural
Centre

Manawatu
Newcomers Network
Connecting People



(NSMM) is supports skilled migrants in Palmerston North to become both socially and economically active, and contribute to the local community.

The Network of Skilled Migrants Manawatu (NSMM) is organising Networking events with the local businesses. The organisation of these events is funded from the PNCC.

The next networking event will be late June. Watch the space.

The NSMM supports skilled migrants by providing:

- Networking opportunities with local businesses and supporting startup businesses
- Facilitating meetings where people in a similar situation can exchange their experiences
- Promoting and enhancing public awareness on challenges and opportunities of skilled migrants
- Profiling of migrant job placements in the business community
- Helping with CV and cover letters
- Participating in projects where you can use your professional skills
- Establishing a skilled migrant resource hub in Palmerston North (long term)

Come and have a chat: every Thursday from 6.30pm at the City Library Tech Area Ruahine Meeting Room

Contact us on info@skilledmigrants.org

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/skilledmigrantsnetwork/>

Newcomers Potluck Dinner Karaoke Evening



On Friday 30th June @ 6pm
At Te Manawa Museum
326 Main Street Palmerston
North
Invite your friends & families
Bring a plate of food to share
Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation



For more information contact 3581572
Email: ask@mmcnz.org.nz

Multicultural Women's Group

At the Multicultural Centre
Friday 16th June 2017 1—3pm.
Dance Dance For Fun!!

Meet dance teacher Tania Kopytko
For an hour of fun and easy dance.
Lets enjoy rhythm, music and dancing
together!

Just wear comfortable clothing



For more information contact the Centre 358 1572
Email: ask@mmcnz.org.nz

Centre Coming Events

Celebration of Songs & Praises

**The Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) invites you to join us for
The Celebration of Songs and Praises**

Sunday 20th August at 2pm

**St. Mary's Church, Ruahine Street
(opposite the main entrance to the Hospital).**



**If you wish to participate or needs more
information's**

Please contact the Centre on (06) 358 1572

Email: info@mmcnz.org.nz

RedCross Book Sale

Palmerston North's annual fundraiser and book sale is coming up soon , up to 60,000 books are sometimes on sale. Don't miss out come and get a real bargain!

What ever type of book you want from text books to novels, from language books even sheet music you will find them.

If you have any spare time over the week end of Friday 2nd to Monday 5th June 2017 the Redcross would love your help even for a couple of hours. It's great fun to meet other overseas students and know you are helping the Redcross in their work.

If you are able to help ,send by email your name and telephone number and include the days and hours you are available to help



email : pnredcrossbooksale@gmail.com

STAMPS

Unfortunately nowadays postage stamps are sometimes a thing of the past. However some charities are still collecting them for specific projects.

The LEPROSY MISSION is one of these charities that is collecting for two projects in Bangladesh. One to reduce the prevalence of Leprosy and one to establish 86 self help groups to provide help to approximately 3,375

people affected by this disease and the resulting disabilities. So if you get any stamps with your mail please can you save them for the Multicultural Centre.

If you work with other people please mention this to them .

Maybe even put an envelope in a prominent place, for people to put any stamps into.

Many thanks

Angela Joblin

The Topp Twins Exhibition



Multicultural Centre Activities & Events

Manawatu Multicultural Centre

Opening Hours: Monday—Friday 9.30am—4pm

Practice your English

Make new friends

Share information

Learn about New Zealand and other cultures

Use your interpersonal skills

Advanced English Conversation Groups:

Monday morning 10am—11.30am

Monday—Thursday afternoon 1pm—3pm

English Beginner's Conversation Groups

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am—11.30am

Lunchtime Conversation—Shared Lunch

Every Friday 12—1pm

Multicultural Arts & Craft Group

Friday 1pm—3pm

Newcomers Morning Tea

3rd Wednesday of the month

10am—12noon

Multicultural Women's Group

3rd Friday of the month 1-3pm

Newcomers Potluck Dinner

Last Friday of the month 6pm— 8.30pm

