



MISSION STATEMENT

TO CELEBRATE, SUPPORT AND CONNECT MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF MANAWATU

ETHNIGRAM

President's Report

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We released our newsletter, in the middle of October, to give more time to publicise our annual dinner in November. Now it is done and dusted. I am grateful to all the executive and committee members who lent a hand and made the occasion a great success.

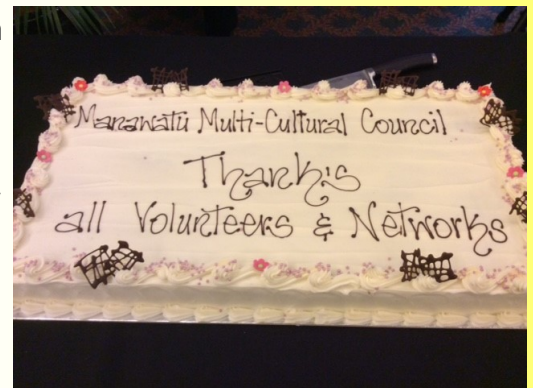
Also thank you to our Mayor, Grant Smith and our Minister of Immigration and our own fourth term local M P, Iain Lees- Galloway. Also our grateful thanks go to our Emcee Carla Lim, members of our networking groups, volunteers and people in our community who came .



At the dinner not only did we acknowledge the contribution of our volunteers but also the different agencies that willingly partnered with us in delivering our services to migrants and refugees. This month we welcomed Stephanie Velven from Palmerston North city council, who is the coordinator of the Welcoming New Zealand.



Our committee were fortunate to be invited to the IPU business plan presentation at the Coachman Hotel on November 16. It was a chance also to network with other organisations. Manmit , Kheng and myself learnt a lot from the presentations about the talented young students from Vietnam, China and many more nationalities. The winner received \$10,000 to start the proposed project.



With the holidays coming up, the Library has already started their long running Reading Programme, this time including books in 4 other languages . it is so good to have this started and to have volunteers from these languages willing to do the assessments for the willing learners.

The Festival of Cultures steering committee is busy with planning for next year. This year it is a week's event from the 17th -24th of March and we are grateful to have Bronwyn Meads taking charge of and organising the whole event.

For our Fashion Show ,which will be held in the Square this time, weather permitting, Angela and Noorangi are very busy taking names of people who are interested of joining. Ladies this is your time to show off your nice costumes that are maybe hidden in your wardrobes. This time we also have the Potluck lunch for Refugees and migrants and we extend an invitation to the general public to join, but with limited space we require people to register at Te Manawa. It will be on March 21.

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
- Mainland Foundation
- Pub Charity
- Hancock Community House 77-85 King Street
- Phone # (06) 358 1572 ask@mmcnz.org.nz www.mmcnz.org.nz

President's Report Continues

One of the benefits of being a wife of a city councillor, with an assistant portfolio for the Multicultural Council, is having to represent the Mayor on some events. This year I was able to accompany my husband to the Spanish and United Arab Emirates celebration in Wellington and to meet people and tell them about our city.

At the latest function, we were seated with a group from the Ministry of Foreign affairs and found out that one of them is from Palmerston North.



You may notice that we have business adverts in this issue and I am grateful to Stephen Parsons Travel and Travelex for contributing to our newsletter. For sometime, we have relied on emails to be able to send this newsletter because of increasing costs in printing . With their contributions we are now able to print copies for those who do not have time to access our website and those who are not in our mailing list . Please support their business as they support us.

We are happy for the Karen group being able to represent Palmerston North at the recent Football tournament in , following their win in the football tournament last year. Their team's travel to Auckland was made possible by the **Give a Little Page**. The Ethkick Committee are busy organising for next year's tournament at the Arena Manawatu on February 24 2018. Thank you Bal for keeping us updated .

The Network of Skilled migrants were successful at there recent workshop Thank you Arinua and team for what you do for jobseekers in our city.

Last Friday The Christmas themed potluck dinner was such a duper with many friends and visitors enjoying the food and fun and games . Thank you Noorangi and Angela for helping and to everyone who joined in. On December the 15th is our Christmas Lunch and party at the Centre. We hope you can come and join us with your families and friends it starts at 12noon.

In a few more weeks it is Christmas, lots of parties to go and followed by a long break from work. Hopefully you all get time to relax and enjoy the Palmerston North sunshine.

Meriam Findlay



MMC Executive Member's Profiles

It was a delightful and remarkable experience in my life, when the honourable members of the Manawatu Multicultural Council elected me as an Executive Committee Member of this prestigious organisation. New Zealand is a God gifted with breath taking natural beauty, friendly communities which have warm and welcoming attitudes towards different cultures and communities.

The country is known for its diverse cultures and often represented as a nation of migrants.

The communities living here encourage immigrants from around the world and as a gesture of hospitality they put out the red welcoming mat for those people.

All those statements about New Zealand become true when a migrant Indian like myself, becomes part of the local community with such ease.



I migrated from northern India's state of Punjab and I follow Sikhism as a religion and its teachings. As a practicing Sikh, I wear a turban everyday which makes me more identifiable walking around the city but the locals show respect towards my identity. It has always been part of my life to be socially active, cooperative and humble towards the humanity and communities around me.

In this context, I have a long history of my association with several NGOs to whom I served as President, General Secretary and Patron from time to time. In my homeland, there are plenty of NGOs who are continuously working for the improvement of the general public, healthcare facilities, social and economic reforms, environmental deterioration as well as religious aspects. The members involved in these NGO's are generally volunteers and help the local communities to make them aware about the evils which exist in our society.

I retired 4 years ago from a managerial position and was employed by a state government organisation. I was blessed to be honoured as a result for hardworking and honest manager by my department. As per the teaching of Sikhism I always ask God to bless me with tolerance, a humble attitude and kindness for humanity.

I was astounded by the Manawatu Multicultural Council's outlook towards the new members of the society and how they welcome migrants with an open heart as their own family members. More or less newly migrated individuals come across the language barriers but the members of this prestigious organisations make it an easy transition for those individuals. In additions, MMC helps new immigrants to learn English, offer them opportunities to understand the New Zealand culture and heritage.

Art and craft groups at the MMC offer dedicated women equality and empowerment. New members feel the whole experience very homely and the transition becomes much easier for them.

India is known for its rich social and religious culture where traditions are important and are an integral part of our society. We Indians carry the similar aspects of our culture wherever we live in the world. Even Indian communities living here in Palmerston north are observed as hard working and dedicated towards their employers and businesses.

Moreover, Indians living within New Zealand contribute towards the nation's social and economic growth, as well as the cultural development within the country. More than a few individuals from Indian origin has been successful in gaining political presence as well management positions within some corporate firms.

It is my pleasure to become a member of Multicultural council in Manawatu. I look forward to working relentlessly to reach the organisational goals of the MMC. My gratitude goes to its members as well as to the local community for accepting me as their own.

Kind Regards,
Manmit Singh

Social Justice Strategic Focus

I attended a Hui on Social Justice Strategic Focus in Wellington on Friday the 24 November. This came up following an invitation to MMC from Reverend Dr Paul Reynolds, Social Justice Coordinator, 3-Tikanga Anglican. The MMC was invited as advisor in the area of Refugee portfolio group alongside key people from around the country.

The aim of this ongoing project is to bring together small groups with expertise and experience alongside an identified strategic social justice portfolio, to monitor developments and identify how, and when, the church should engage, and to identify key areas for short-term and long-term policy development and intervention, resulting in educational resourcing.



The current portfolios are:

- Refugees (support and services, refugee sponsorship, unaccompanied minors)
- Crime & Punishment (imprisonment, recidivism & reform, mental illness)
- Youth / Rangatahi (suicide, mental illness, addictions, homelessness)
- Women & Children (Violence, trauma, poverty, state care)
- Environment (Climate change, waterways, commodification of water)
- Employment (labour supply, migrant workers, living wage)
- Housing (homelessness, social housing, affordable housing)

After welcome by Bishop Ellie, Diocese of Wellington, and speech by Don Tamihere, we divide into portfolio groups and started a conversation around a worksheet provided as a guide around the Hui's outcomes.

The aim was for the group to come up with the best way to coordinate the work the Refugee portfolio group does and keep the momentum going, how the group like to communicate, share and meet as a group, what are the opportunity within our portfolio group for contributing to the development of government policy and what are the opportunities within the portfolio group for contributing to educational resource development, and raising awareness within the church and wider society.

The Refugee portfolio group was coordinated by Rev. Stephen King, Diocese of Wellington involved with refugee resettlement. Members included priests involved with families and support of refugees, law students from Victoria university passionate about helping people access to justice and human rights, a Victoria University researcher about social justice, former refugees involved with new refugee resettlement.

We had very good discussion and share of experiences around refugees' resettlement, and looked at how the church and the community can improve on the way we can help refugees feel welcomed, integrate and have a sense of belonging in the new community.

It was a very good opportunity for me to share what MMC does to help refugees resettle in the community and I look forward for further meetings to learn more from members of our group and hopefully improve on what the MMC does to help refugees integrate and feel included in our community.

Christine

MMC Council Members Notice

Urgent! If you represent your Ethnic Group on Council—Can you please make sure you send all your members the monthly Ethnigram.

We have unfortunately been having some problems with the mail outs.



Volunteer's profile

I was born in Japan, but lived in New York from age 1-5 and in Hong Kong from age 12-15. I developed empathy for anyone struggling to settle in new countries, because I experienced the challenges associated with living in foreign countries myself early in life.

After completing a Ph.D. in Education specializing in multilingualism and language policy in immigrant communities, I returned to Japan to work for an international relief and development NGO. During my 12 year tenure, I planned and managed community development projects in 18 countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

In 2016, my wife and I decided to move to New Zealand out of concerns for our sons' health after Fukushima nuclear disaster. Although I spent years studying about migrants' situations in the United States, I'd never expected that I would be a migrant myself raising children in a new country. So, I was totally at a loss when we arrived in Palmy, but I wanted to get involved in the services for new migrants and refugees locally.

At the very first newcomers coffee I joined, I learned that there are English language classes at MMC and that I could volunteer to teach as a tutor. So, I signed up as a volunteer and started to teach the following week. I still continue to teach as a volunteer tutor to this day.

Throughout my life, I lived and worked amongst people from many different countries, but I had never been a part of such a widely diverse group at MMC.

I feel privileged and thoroughly enjoyed having such a diverse groups of students and colleagues to work with, and I learned so much from them.

My family and I plan to move to Auckland next month. Although I already miss our friends and colleagues in Palmy immensely, I also look forward to opportunities to be involved in helping migrant communities in some way.

Shinichi Nishikawa



Thank you Shinichi for your time given to help migrants and refugees.

ALL your friends and colleagues at the Multicultural Centre wish you, and your family the very best for your future endeavours

UCOL Flavour of Cultures Festival

The Pamanlahi Cultural Group performed for the first time at the Flavour of Cultures Festival held Thursday, November 2 at UCOL representing the Manawatu Multicultural Council. The Pamanlahi Cultural Group is a Filipino group which came into being late 2013. The objective of the group is to transfer and keep alive the historical and cultural traditions of the Philippines especially to the younger generation that were born and are now living overseas.

IDAW

The younger set of dancers from ages 5-15 first performed the dance called "Idaw". The Idaw (from a word meaning bird) is a Bontoc (a province in the northern part of the Philippines) dance that portrays a war ceremony done by fighters from rival tribes. The dance is named after the bird which was believed to bring the omen of war. This dance depicts the hunting ritual performed before a tribal war. The tribes men would go out and search for the scared Idaw bird which they believe would lead the tribe to victory.



TINIKLING

Next on stage were the young ladies of the group who performed the Tinikling. Tinikling is a traditional Philippine folk dance which originated from Leyte, a province in the southern part of the Philippines. The dance involves two people beating, tapping, and sliding bamboo poles on the ground and against each other in coordination with one or more dancers who step over and in between the poles in a dance.

The name "tinikling" is a reference to birds locally known as the tikling. The dance imitates the movement of the tikling birds as they walk between grass stems, run over tree branches, or dodge bamboo traps set by rice farmers. Dancers imitate the tikling bird's legendary grace and speed by skilfully maneuvering between large bamboo poles.



Even though the dancers found the stage too small for their performance, they managed to deliver a very fine performance. Truly they have exemplified the saying, "the show must go on!"

The emcee wondered how many instances the dancers' feet must have been caught in between the bamboo poles and the crowd must have been impressed because the group received a resounding applause even before the performance was completed.

It was a privilege to represent MMC and showcase Filipino traditional dances to the Palmerston North community. We will be happy to accommodate requests for special performances in other events. Feel free to contact Mayette Maling-Cope, Administrator of PCG @ mayettemc@gmail.com.



MMC Final Fun Raising Stall Notice

On Saturday the 16th of December, yes, it is not all that long to Christmas, we are lucky to have at the CHRISTMAS IN THE SQUARE FAIR, a stall.

Now all we need are people to give up some time, to sell all those things that **you** will all be donating! An hour on the stall would be really good, and it can be great fun.

At the same time you can tell people about the Centre and help publicise all the many things that are done there.

As you know it is not only English Classes but Pot Luck Dinners, an Art and Craft Group, an Artistic Dance Group, and such extravaganzas such as the WORLD ON STAGE held at the REGENT THEATRE, the FASHION PARADE at the Festival of Cultures, which by the way was started by the Multicultural Council, and the annual SONGS OF PRAISE for all ethnic groups.

Apart from that, at the moment we have our beautiful very large MULTICULTURAL QUILT on display in Te Manawa, having previously been in the City Library.

The fair does not start till the afternoon and at the moment we have some beautiful hand made head bands and other hand made items, made by Booranee and some very interesting hand made placemats by Noorangi.

As you know these items take a lot of time and effort to make and we have some very talented members in the MMC. Several members have already brought donations of Christmas decorations and candles and hand made sweets, so please if you think you have something suitable, give the office a ring on 358 1572.

We are also lucky to have a special attraction. One of our members who is very adapt at making animals from balloons, will also be there at our stall.

So if you have children or grandchildren do come along.

So please have a good look and see if there is anything you want to donate from your garages, sheds or even under the bed !

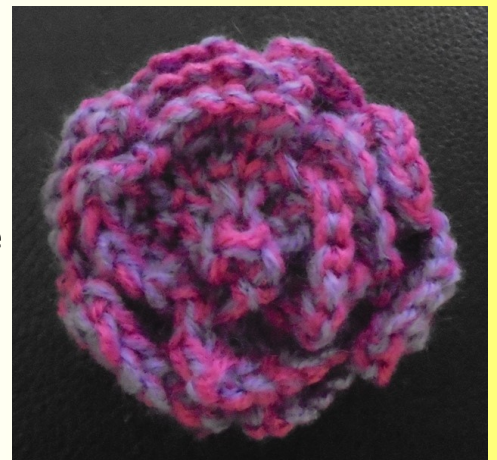
As long as it is interesting and clean, we would be interested!

We would also like any scones or muffins or different ethnic foods.

Everything must be cold however as we have no facilities to heat things.

The number again is Ph. 358.1572 so do not forget !

Ange Joblin



MMC Women's Group

The Multicultural Women's Group meets every 3rd Friday of the month at the Multicultural Centre from 1-3pm.

It provides an opportunity for ethnic women to interact with other migrants and refugees, make new friends, learn and enjoy each others company. It's an opportunity to learn and create a better understanding among the different cultural groups that belong to the very large multi-cultural community of Palmerston North.

We are very fortunate to have Tania Kopytko a professional Dance/Art Tutor, who is running a dance workshop for the Multicultural Women's group.

Unfortunately her final session for this year was Friday 17th November. However the following dates are for you to pencil in your own busy schedules for the year 2018.

Friday February 16th 1 to 3pm 2018

Exploring our cultures' dance and art/craft

Friday April 6th (20th is holidays) 1 to 3pm 2018 Exploring our cultures, dance and poetry

Friday May 18th 1 to 3pm 2018 Exploring our cultures' dance and art/craft

Friday June 8th 1 to 3pm 2018

Friday June 22nd 1 to 3pm 2018 Exploring our cultures' dance and art/craft

Friday July 27th (20th is the holidays) 1 to 3pm 2018 Exploring our cultures' dance and art/craft

Friday August 10th Rehearsal and arts completion



Women only Sport Project

The Woman only Sport project (a new project under MMC) is organising a trip to Makoura Lodge / Apiti -Manawatu (<https://www.makouralodge.co.nz/>)

Monday 18 December for women only and girls (above 13 years old)

The programme include :

Horse trekking \$50pp for 1 hour

Archery \$10pp

Clay bird shooting \$30p

Also we will be doing a group game or two , this will be a group one so we all participate

We are planning to carpooling depends on numbers because not everyone is confident to drive this way.



You can do one activity or all

We bring our own lunch and snacks

Planning to be there by 10 am

There is also glow-worm cave that we can visit at the end of the trip

If you like to join in , please let me know so I can confirm with Rana Naser who is organising the trip

Contact 358 1572

Email: info@mmcnz.org.nz



Christmas Party

At the Multicultural Centre 77—85 King Street
Friday 15 December 2017 12—2pm

You are ALL invited to join us for a
Festive Celebration

Please bring some food to share



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

Multicultural
Centre

Manawatu
Multicultural Council
Te Kaitiaki

Holiday Closure Notice

We would like to advise our valued clients and members that the
Multicultural Centre will:

Close on Friday the 15th of December at 12noon

Re-opening on Monday the 16th of January at 10am 2018.

We wish you all the joys of the season

And happiness throughout the coming year



Invitation



END OF YEAR CELEBRATION WITH NSMM AND SUPPORTERS

When: Thursday, 14 December 2017 at 5.30 pm-6.30 pm
in the Hancock Community House, Palmerston North.

Key connections make the world go around. Come and celebrate NSMM's first year, connecting skilled migrants with local business and others. Share your own cultural New Year's celebration if you wish

- Hear Ipe Mathews, local entrepreneur, talk about his experience of settling in to Palmerston North and sharing some tips for the search of meaningful employment
- Networking with a mix of key people in a relaxed environment
- Win spot prizes

Nibbles provided

Please **RSVP** for catering purpose and for more information contact:
info@skilledmigrants.org | 028 401 4605

Funded by Palmerston North City Council



Manawatu
Multicultural Council



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HOUSE OF TRAVEL

Currency Exchange



ARGENTINE PESO	HONG KONG DOLLAR	PAPUA NEW GUINEA KINA
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BAHAMAS DOLLAR	HUNGARY FORINT	POLAND ZLOTY
BAHRAIN DINAR	INDIA RUPEE	QATAR RIYAL
BARBADOS DOLLAR	INDONESIA RUPIAH	RUSSIAN RUBLE
BERMUDA DOLLAR	ISRAEL SHEKEL	SAUDI ARABIA RIYAL
BRAZILIAN REAL	JAPAN YEN	SINGAPORE DOLLAR
BRUNEI DOLLAR	JORDAN DINAR	SOLOMON ISLAND DOLLAR
CAMBODIAN RIEL	KUWAIT DINAR	SOUTH AFRICA RAND
CANADA DOLLAR	MACAO PATACA	SOUTH KOREA WON
CFP FRANC	MALAYSIA RINGGIT	SRI LANKA RUPEE
CHILE PESO	MAURITIUS RUPEE	SWEDEN KRONA
CHINA YUAN	MEXICAN PESO	SWITZERLAND FRANC
COLUMBIA PESO	MOROCCO DIRHAM	THAILAND BAHT
CROATIAN KUNA	NEW TAIWAN DOLLAR	TONGA PA'ANGA
CZECHOS KORUNA	NEW TURKISH LIRA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO DOLLARS
DENMARK KRONE	NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR	UK STERLING POUND
EGYPT POUND	NORWAY KRONE	UNITED STATES DOLLARS
EURO	OMAN RIAL	VANUATU VATU
FIJI DOLLAR	PAKISTAN RUPEE	VIETNAM DONG
		WESTERN SAMOA TALA

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HOUSE OF TRAVEL

CONDITIONS: 1 - Subject to availability of currencies. 2 - Mastercard Prepaid Management Services Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 47 145 462 044, AFSL 386 837) arranges for the issue of the Traveltek Money Card in conjunction with the issuer, Heritage Bank Limited (ABN 52 057 652 504, AFSL 240 954). You should consider the Product Disclosure Statement for the relevant Traveltek Money Card available at www.traveltek.com.au before deciding to acquire the product. Any advice does not take into account your personal needs, financial circumstances or objectives and you should consider if it is appropriate for you. Mastercard® and the Mastercard Brand Mark are registered trademarks of Mastercard International Incorporated. 3 - Some ATM operators may charge their own fees or set their own limits. 4 - Will is provided by Bolego hotspots. Limited to three months from registration and when you make additional top ups. 5 - Conditions apply. Ask in store for details.

WESTERN UNION
MONEY TRANSFER

Multicultural Centre Activities & Events

Manawatu Multicultural Centre

Opening Hours: Monday–Friday 10am–4pm



- Practice your English
- Make new friends
- Share information
- Interacts with other migrants
- Use your interpersonal skills
- Work together with other community groups and organization
- Learn about New Zealand customs and culture

Weekly Activities

Advanced English Conversation Groups:

Monday morning 10am–11.30am

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 1pm–3pm

English Beginner's Conversation Groups

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

10am–11.30am

Lunchtime Conversation—Shared Lunch

Every Friday 12–1pm

Women's Sewing Group

Wednesday 12–2pm

Arts & Craft Group

1st & 2nd of the month Friday 1pm–3pm

Monthly Activities

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

