

MISSION STATEMENT

TO CELEBRATE, SUPPORT AND CONNECT MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF MANAWATU

ETHNIGRAM NEWSLETTER



President 's Report

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
President's Report	1/2
MMC Exec Profile	3/4
Hon. Judith Collin's visit & Baby Shower	5
Ethnic Songs report	6
Arts & Craft & English Corner Notices	7
Health Notices	8
Chinese & First Voice Exhibition poster	9
UCOL Multi-Cultural & Enviro Fest Poster	10
Centre activities and events	11

Spring is a picture of renewed life, so when the blossoms from the trees, the shoots and flowers from the ground start to come out , the same is happening to our organisation.

We had Autumn, where we did our routine activities but this year we saw a new group, The Global Children, presenting their new ideas with their engaging information and interesting activities for children. This helped strength the connections among young migrant families.

The Network of Skilled Migrants also invigorated our employment facilitation project, by strengthening the connection among migrants who are looking for employment and it has empower them to facilitate meetings as well as giving them confidence to meet potential employers.

Last September 14, I had the privileged of listening to the testimonial of the owner of the Chada Thai Restaurant , through the networking of the skilled migrant workshop. It was enlightening when she said that a balanced lifestyle is better than earning lots of money and working in a high position, but you must love what you do.

We have several new groups, The Bhutanese Community and the Karen Community have recently joined us and shown us their enthusiasm in preserving their culture and helping their people into employment.

In our AGM on August 30, we have new members who joined in our Executive Committee Hussein from Alliance Francaise as our Secretary Kheng Lim from the Malaysian Community and Manmit Singh from International Group as committee members.



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



MMC Executive 2017 from left—Manmit, Angela, Kheng, Meriam, Aidan, Hussein and Mayette

Mayette Maling—Cope is now the Vice president and Aidan Wong remains our Treasurer.

President's Report Continues

The Pamanlahi group continues to impart the richness of Filipino Culture to the young people. Most of our established communities do very well in connecting with new migrants to preserve their own cultures.

On September 2, the Philippines Central Association held its Late Winter Social Ball at The Coachman Hotel, where they introduced new families that have joined the association. These included some new Filipinos who came and joined but are not yet members.

Last weekend the Chinese community also celebrated their Moon Festival.

Among the executives, we are thrilled for Aidan Wong (our Treasurer) and his wife Rebecca, who were blessed with a baby girl on September 13, a baby sister for their son Caleb.

Truly the Multicultural Centre has become a home away from home for new migrants with no immediate families here in Palmerston North.

On August 26, we were invited to the wedding of our former English Conversation student from Mexico who is now working as a nurse in Cromwell

On September 8, we had a baby shower for Yoko, from Japan and Mehri, from Iran who are both expecting their babies later this year. It was a good time for catching up with some other women who have now settled well in our city.

The planning for the Festival of Cultures is now underway and the newly appointed event coordinator, Renee Barbour from the City Council, is asking for ideas on how we can successfully deliver a vibrant festival next year.

Our Festival will last for a week from 17th to the 24th of March, concluding with the global market and our Fashion Show in the Square on March the 24th, so if you have any ideas please give her a ring.

It will be a momentous event for us because we will be celebrating our 25th year of having this event and it is considered as one of the longest running festivals in New Zealand so let us continue to unite to keep this going.

Meriam Findlay
President



Meet— Isabella Jayne Wong



Meriam and her Filipino friends



New Filipino arrivals to our city.



John and Serena on their wedding day.

Nirmala Nand (QSM): Past Secretary, President and Executive Committee Member from 2005-2017.

'Some journeys don't have endings, they lead to new beginnings. These are the journeys that lead to great adventures.....'

In 2003 I arrived in New Zealand from Fiji under the skilled migrant category.

I lived in Auckland with my daughter and worked part time in a research company for about 6 months. In 2004, I followed my son who enrolled as a PhD student at Massey University in Palmerston North.

Like all other newcomers my son and I found ourselves very isolated and lonely for three months as we did not know anyone here. Luckily we met someone from Fiji who introduced us to our Fiji Indian community leader and other members of the group.

From then on we became active members of this religious group and made lots of friends.

Due to my qualifications and strong health background, I easily found an appropriate job as a Health Promotion Advisor with MidCentral Health, and decided to settle down here. Meanwhile my son moved to University of Western Australia to complete his PhD and my husband moved from Fiji to join me here. We loved living in Palmerston North ever since and made our home here.

In 2005, I joined the Manawatu Ethnic Council (now known as Manawatu Multicultural Council or MMC) as a member of the Indian group, the Satsang Mandali. In 2008, I was nominated to the position of Secretary and remained as such for next 4 years.

In 2012, I was nominated to the position of the President and remained in that position for the next three years. From 2015 -2017 I served as the Immediate Past President and as an Executive member of the Council respectively.

Over this period I also served on several other Boards and Committees. I was nominated to the Palmerston North City Council Creative Communities Funding Committee for 6 years; as a member of the Manawatu Access Radio Board for 1 year; as the Secretary of the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils national women's council for 1 year; as National Secretary for the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils for 1 year and re-elected unopposed for the second term, but resigned due to my personal circumstances.

I chaired and led the MMC Newcomers Network group for a number of years, during which we started the annual Parliament trip for newcomers, a project that is still going strong and enjoyed by newcomers.



MMC Executive Member's Profiles

Simultaneously, I served as the Secretary of our religious group, the Satsang Mandali and still remain as an active member. I also established the Indian Cultural and Social Club in Palmerston North.

Working for MMC in various roles I have found it very meaningful, stimulating, humbling, and satisfying. This experience has not only enriched me in many ways but has been especially rewarding and gratifying

I became a **Justice of the Peace (JP)** in 2012 and was awarded the **Queen's Service Medal (QSM)** during her Diamond Jubilee Birthday Celebrations in June 2013, for my volunteer community service to the ethnic migrants and newcomers to Palmerston North.

In 2003, I was also awarded the **Outstanding International Alumni Award** by the University of the Philippines, Los Banos, for providing excellent community service in Fiji. And of course I was awarded the **Community Service** and **Merit Awards** by the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils in recognition of all my voluntary contribution to the ethnic and migrant communities in New Zealand. My family is very proud of, and I am very humbled by these achievements.

I am extremely grateful for the community support that I received and wish to thank everyone, who helped me in my journey towards achieving these special milestones in my life. Serving in various roles at MMC was a huge learning curve for me. Working with people from many different cultures was extremely rewarding, satisfying, enriching and enjoyable, and I thank them all for their invaluable love and continued support over the years.

After serving the MMC for so many years I decided to take a step down from any executive role and give a chance to some new people to step up and serve the Council.

I am changing my focus and wish to spend more quality time with my children and grandchildren. I love travelling, sightseeing and connecting with nature and I intend to do more of that in my free time.

I wish all the very best to MMC for continuing to do the wonderful work they are doing in supporting, connecting and celebrating with the ethnic communities and migrants and helping them achieve their dreams and aspirations to settle well in their new homeland.

I look forward to seeing new people take MMC even further, and hope they will get as much growth and enjoyment as I have received from my work at MMC.

I would like to end by saying that:

This life is an enduring and a complex journey, and finally I have reached the point in my story where I am appreciative of where I've been, proud of where I am, and excited about where I have yet to go.....'

Thank you

Nirmala Nand.

Hon Judith Collin's visit

The Manawatu Multicultural Council was visited by the Honourable Judith Collins. The Minister for Revenue, Energy & Resources and Ethnic Communities in September. Minister Collins was accompanied by Adrienne Pierce, the local National party candidate for Palmerston North.



Our minister talked engagingly about the work that she does particularly in support of migrant communities. She willingly exchanged views with the audience afterwards in an open forum on topics such as promoting and supporting small businesses owned by migrants, overcoming the language and cultural barriers within the community and dealing with education issues for local migrant families.

We thank our Minister for taking time to visit us here in Palmerston North.

Mayette Mailing-Cope

Baby Shower Celebration

One of our favourite pastimes is to find a warm approach to connecting with new arrivals to our city and to welcome, and offer them our support, and invite them to participate in our centre activities.

We have had many celebrations over shared meals such as Potluck Dinner, Birthdays, Achievements, and granting of Citizenships and many more.

On Friday 8th September and for the very first time, we (MMC) became surrogate mother's, aunties and sisters, and held a Baby Shower Party for Mehri and Yoko.



Mehri on the left and Yoko on the right.

Mehri comes from Iran and attending our English Conversation Classes and other centre activities. Yoko comes from Japan and was attending our English Conversation Class, plus Tutor our Friday morning Beginners Class till she found employment.

Both mothers to be, are expecting their first child away from their own families and friends. But there's more, they both having a girl due next month.

What a coincidence.

Well! Congratulations to both parents and looking forward for the arrival of the newest additional members of MMC.

Noorangi Puleosi.

Report on Celebration of Ethnic Songs and Praises

On Sunday 20th August, we presented the 5th Ethnic Songs and Praises Concert at Saint Mary's Church Palmerston North. A welcoming speech was given by Father Manoj Mathew. Hannah Fang, a very talented violinist, played Halleluiah. Meriam Findlay, the MMC President then welcomed everyone to this event.

Councillor Lew Findlay, the Mayor's Representative, said many places envied Palmerston North multicultural festivals. We have 120 different language groups, and many participate in numerous activities.

Fraser Greig was our MC and Hugh Dingwall was the technician both from Access Manawatu. Our celebration of Ethnic Songs and Praises is available on Demand at the following link:

<http://www.accessmanawatu.co.nz/show/specials>

The programme commenced with the Indonesian Students' Association performing the Tari Saman dance which celebrated birth of Prophet Muhammad. The costumes worn by the students were provided by the Indonesian Embassy. The second item was called Angklung being played on bamboo instrument followed by Pokarekare Ana. A little 2 year old boy was the centre of attention with his attempt to sing along with his brothers and sisters.

The Kapatiran Prayer Fellowship Youth Choir from the Philippines followed and sung three songs, later the Kapatiran Prayer Fellowship Music Ministry sang a further two songs.

The Little Palmy Chinese Choir and the Global Children Choir of 15 children sang a couple of Chinese song, to the delight of the audience. Our thanks go to Angel and the parents of the children for encouraging and supporting the Choir. The Burmese Muslim Community sang Tabawa Yeh Yeinthue — the celebration of the innocent beauty of nature.

Ester Lee and Ellie Cho did a piano duet which was lovely to hear. The two pieces were classical duets for the piano, both students are from South Korea and attend Palmerston North Girls High School.

The programme concluded with the For Folks Sake Band with an Appalachian Gospel Medley of songs sung every Sunday in the Appalachian Mountains in the USA. They commenced with Amazing Grace and went on to other well-known songs.

As the Event Convenor I would like to thank Father Manoj Mathew for the provision of such a lovely venue and Fraser Greig and Hugh Dingwall for their part in the programme.

We would like to thank all the participants for all their dedication to this event, and many thanks to the audience for their support. I would also like to thank the Ethnic Songs and Praises Committee and especially Noorangi Puleosi who put so much work into doing the posters, programmes, preparing lists of participants, etc. but was unfortunately unable to be there on the day.

All in all I think it was a very successful event and look forward to the next one.

Anne Odoguw

Event Convener

Arts and Craft Sewing Group

We plan to have a Christmas Stall at the Christmas "Fair in the Square" in December to publicize the Manawatu Multicultural Council as well as raised a little money.

If you have anything that you would like to donate such as home made cakes, ethnic breads and biscuits or jams and pickles etc. please contact Noorangi on 358 1572.

The Arts & Craft Group which meets the first and the second Friday of the month at 1-3pm is always looking for interested people to join them.

They will be making hand made fabric brooches, crochet hats and scarf, headbands, fabric bags, placemats, crocheted scarf etc.

All donated goods must be new or in really good condition.

Thank you to those who have already donated to our stall.

Angela Joblin



English Corner Notices

English Corner—Want to help others practice their English

Do you sometimes have a spare hour and a half on a Saturday morning from 11—12.30pm. The English Corner would love to hear from you.

The English Corner is on the **Second floor of the ETC Building, Corner of Rangitikei and Broadway Ave**

It is a place where English second students can meet and talk in English. Practice your English conversation with native English speakers.

Meet people of all ages from all over the world and enjoy yourself!

So why not drop in?

Email: englishcorner.pn@gmail.com

Additional Help With Learning English

Do you need help to learn English (TESOL) Tutor is available for one on one or small group session

Contact Angela on 354 1404



I wanted to let you know that the Breast Cancer Foundation Pink Caravan will be at: Palmerston North at Highbury Shopping Centre on Friday 20th October from 9am to 4pm.

About the Pink Caravan: is a community education project with the aim of reaching women to engage with them about breast health, health and life-style factors, and to give information on the signs to watch out for, importance of mammograms, family risk etc.

You can see a short video and more info here: <https://www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/what-we-do/awareness-and-education/pink-caravan>

Be Wise Immunise

INFLUENZA FACTS also known as THE FLU

Influenza is not a cold , it can be a very serious illness and can kill.

Many people in NZ ,who are healthy get annual vaccines as the viruses can change every year. Being young or old and fit or healthy will not stop you getting Influenza.

Immunisation is the best form of protection.

It helps your body's defence against Influenza.

The Immunisation does not give you the Flu and is recommended for Pregnant Women.

The Immunisation does not contain a live vaccine.

It is important that people with ill health of all ages, people over 65 years and pregnant women contact their clinics to speak to the Nurse about getting an Immunisation. Some people qualify for free Immunisations.

Also check your Health policies if you have Medical Insurance coverage.

More info can be obtained from: Phone 0800 466 863

www.FIGHTFLU.CO.NZ

(Information obtained from the National Influenza Specialist Group)



新西蘭華聯會面那威滔支會

MANAWATU CHINESE ASSOCIATION



Celebrate Mid-Autumn Moon Cake Fundraising dinner

慶祝中秋籌款晚宴

假座; 中國城酒家 CHINATOWN RESTAURANT. PN.

二零一七年, 十月, 十五日, 星期日, 下午六時正

On 15th October 2017 Sunday at 6 pm

For tickets: Aidan or Gerald Wong Ph. 356 2214

Allan Young Ph. 358 5356 mobile: 021 2222 622

First Voice Exhibition Poster

First Voice
2017 exhibition opening

FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2017
5:30PM @ CENTRAL LIBRARY
(FIRST FLOOR)

Kia ora koutou,

Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School, the Manawatu Multicultural Centre, and Palmerston North City Libraries and Community Services would like to invite you to First Voice 2017 Exhibition Opening and launch of the digital version.

Join the students, parents and community mentors to acknowledge and celebrate the cultures, languages and life stories students bring with them.

Ngā manaakitanga



Manawatu
Multicultural Council





GET INVOLVED IN OUR EXCITING MULTI-CULTURAL EVENT!

UCOL is proud to be hosting Flavour of Cultures, a celebration of food, art, creativity and culture. We would love for you to be involved!

THURS 2ND NOV 2017
5:30PM – 8PM

For more details information email: c.cacho@ucol.ac.nz before 6th October 2017

Enviro Fest Poster



WWW.PNCET.ORG.NZ

ENVIRO FEST

OCT
2-23

Te Pūngao, Te Kai me Te Wai
Energy, Food and Water

WITOLEGRAIN ORGANICS

Hands-On Food



Multicultural Centre Activities & Events

Manawatu Multicultural Centre

Opening Hours: Monday—Friday 9.30am—4.pm

- 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

