

**MISSION STATEMENT**

TO CELEBRATE,  
SUPPORT AND  
CONNECT  
MULTICULTURAL  
COMMUNITIES OF  
MANAWATU

# ETHNIGRAM



## President's Report

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Acknowledgement	
Palmerston North City Council	
PN. Community Service Council Small Grant	
Lion Foundation	
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Eastern & Central Community Trust	
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<b>Hancock Community House</b> 77-85 King Street	
<b>Phone #</b> (06) 358 1572 ask@mmcnz.org.nz www.mmcnz.org.nz	

Kung He Fat Choi, Happy New year to all our Chinese friends.  
This month's celebrations are very full. They started with the Picnic at the Ashhurst Domain organized by the NZ Arab Association on February 3rd. More than 100 members of their community enjoyed the fellowship and getting to know the new member. They played games but most of all they enjoyed eating the sumptuous dishes that everyone had brought to share.

On February 12th, we farewelled the German couple who were here for a short time and took the opportunity to join our English Conversation Group. We also celebrated Malcolm McDermott's birthday. Ethnic delicious food was enjoyed by all.

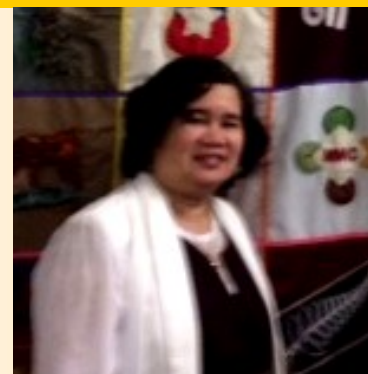
On February 14, Palmerston North became one of the 3 cities in New Zealand that enjoyed the high caliber performances from dancers, acrobats, singers from a visiting cultural group from China. We were very grateful to be invited by the Manawatu Chinese Community Trust. The Regent was packed including the visiting Councillor from Hastings and guests from different sectors of our city. This was followed by lots of performances and workshops about the Chinese Culture in our Library, as a way of celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Last Saturday 17th of February, I went to observe and participate in the Women's only Zumba at St Peter Church Hall. There were more than 15 ladies from the Arab Community enjoying the exercise led by a Zumba Teacher Joy Haddock. This is an initiative that Rana Naser started last year and was initially funded by the PNCC. Now they are funded by a different funding agency .

That evening members of the Philippine Central Association and the wider Filipino community group gathered at Terrace End School Hall. They enjoyed singing, dancing and a games night to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. An event like this is a good way to bring newcomers in our city. That night I met a Filipino couple who had just moved from Tauranga.

On Tuesday 19th, together with other agencies that cater for the needs of the students,

Christine, myself and Mayette, had the privilege to talk about the services that Manawatu Multicultural Council provides. The audience were International students here to study at Massey and a meal and networking time ended the evening. We meet 4 Filipino and Chinese students who are taking a Master's Degree in English.



## Presidents Report Continue

This weekend we had the Ethkick at the Arena with 39 teams playing football. Around 500 people from different Ethnicities gathered to play the others to cheer! A game of football is a very good way of connecting people. I met a group of 15-16 young men who made up a team of young people from different Ethnicities. they called themselves the Predators and they really showed strength in unity. Congratulations to the Karen community who won the cup this year.

On the same day the Multicultural picnic was held at the Esplanade, there were 30 people who enjoyed both the fellowship and the games.

There was also a crowd of people from different Ethnicities who participated in the Wacky water day at the Colqhoun Park. Truly it is never a boring weekend in Palmerston North, all you have to do is read the free newspapers, connect to the media.

Life is like a garden. If you sow, you reap, well that's what happens here at the Multicultural. Early this month I had a text from a former student of the English Conversational Class who wanted to talk. I found out that she is the new owner of the Pho Nem Ha Noi Home Cooking Restaurant in Church Street. I was really touched how she expressed her gratitude to her former teachers and appreciative of the existence of the Multicultural Center here in our city.

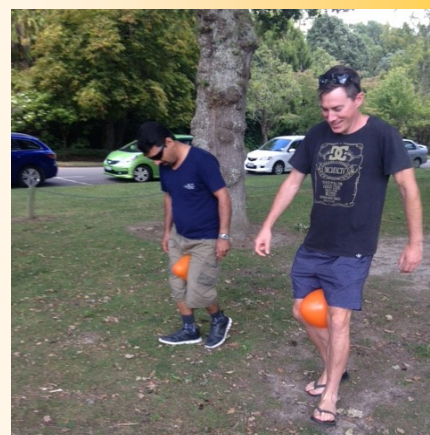
This year is a week's celebration, starting with the Lantern Parade on Saturday March 17th, the Multicultural Fashion Show in the Square on March 18th and the Potluck lunch for Refugees, Migrants and Locals at Te Manawa on March 21st. There are a lot of activities at the Library on many days.

On March 24th, is the very popular Food and Craft Festival, where 80 ethnic stalls will be selling food. We advertise for businesses in our newsletter and are able to print more copies to distribute to places where locals will have more access.

We are grateful to Stephen Parson House of Travel for his on going support.

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by seeds that you plant.  
Robert Louis Stevenson

Meriam Findlay



### **The Allan Young Scholarship**

Allan Young, one of our former Presidents would like to provide \$1,500, each year for an Academic Scholarship to a person, from a current financial member of MMC Association, studying at a tertiary institution, who needs financial assistance.

Applications are open from the 1st until the 30th of March, Send your application by email to MMC or write a letter to Allan Young and tell him why you deserve financial assistance  
Email: [allanyoung8@gmail.com](mailto:allanyoung8@gmail.com)  
Or contact 3581572

**Dr Tania Kopytko-short bio**

Tania returned to Palmerston North to live in August 2016. Born in Palmerston North, of New Zealand and Belarusian parents, Tania began learning ballet with Michelle Robinson. She majored in Social Anthropology at Massey University and this led to focus on community dance and arts with her PhD studies in Dance Anthropology at the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland (1984-1991) specialising in the role of dance in society. In Belfast she developed dance projects for the Northern Irish Arts Council and Neighbourhood Open Workshop.

While the first Community Arts Manager for Palmerston North (1986 to 96), among many projects, she established the Over 50's dance project, which continues and is the longest running community dance project in NZ. She is an active member of the NZ National Network of Community Arts Workers. Tania worked in arts and community arts/dance project development in Australia and the UK, e.g. developing projects for Ausdance, BEMAC (Multi Cult. org.) and the Migrant Resource

Centre in Brisbane (1998/99, where she was also an ESOL tutor), and the Arts Manager responsible for managing arts and dance for community building, Havant Borough, UK (1999 – 2002). Tania was the Executive Director of DANZ (the national service org. for the NZ dance industry, Wellington) from 2004-2015.

Since August 2015 Tania has worked freelance. She researches, writes and lectures in the broad area of arts, dance and community arts as well as continuing her own dance practice. In 2015 she conducted research for DANZ on the Community Dance sector framework/strategy, presented at "Moving Communities" Conference, Dunedin and advises Skills Active Industry Training Organisation in the development of New Zealand framework qualifications in teaching and health and safety best practice for performing arts. She is a Board member of Pacific Dance New Zealand, service organisation for the support and development of Pacific Islands dance cultures (Auckland) and is also on the Regent Theatre Trust Board PN.

Tania is a performer/choreographer/teacher for Crows Feet Dance Collective (Wellington based) since 2004 and has now set up a collective in Palmerston North. This is a performance group for mature dancers. Their current work is "Wading into the Manawatu" about pollution and climate change. She was the movement coach for Centrepoint theatres recent "Lord of the Flies". Tania is also teaching wellbeing focussed dance and movement e.g. for PN Arthritis Support, Dancercise and other similar community focussed dance projects.

Tania Kopytko - DanceArts (Arts Development) and Crows Feet Dance Collective

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Palmerston North 4412 <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/tania-kopytko/32/953/190>



Examples of recent community dance work: Youtube:

## Centre Volunteer— Rupa's Profile

I came into this world on a cold morning in November 1992, in Nepal. I am the daughter of two supportive parents. My father is a Government Officer and my mother takes care of everyone in the family and does her best to fulfil our needs. Both work hard to support the family. I have also two brilliant brothers, who are also very supportive as my family values loyalty and responsibility. For this reason I always try to be honest to my family.

Back to my childhood. I started my schooling at the age of 4 years. I was enrolled at the Siddhasthali English Boarding Higher Secondary School, in the Kindergarten, and left the same school after completing my higher secondary level. I spent the first 15 years of my student life under the proper guidance of the Siddhasthali family. The days in between these years were truly awesome. The teachers were caring, loving and diligent. They put all their efforts into making a simple child into a real human being. Truly praiseworthy I love them all. The person I adore most in my life is my Principal, Mr Ohm Pradhman. He is a man of letters. He is kind, brave, generous and strong even in the most difficult of circumstances.

I was really inspired by the simplicity of his life. Talking about my profession. I was an English teacher for 5 years at the Siddhasthali English Boarding School and was privileged to be a part of the staff where I had spent my school days. With my helpful and friendly staff and loving students, time passed like the blinking of one's eyes. The days were glorious and I miss everyone.

Apart from my teaching I was still a student of the Bachelor Degree in the Sindhuli Multiple Campus. A renown campus in my home town with amazing teachers. After I had completed my Bachelor Degree I went to our capital, Kathmandu, for further study at the Ratna Rajya Campus, where I did a Master's Degree in Humanities.

After I completed my study my parents arranged my marriage to Mr Hari Prasad Adhikari. He had been in New Zealand for about 3 years, and came back to Nepal to get married. We got married on the 11th of December 2016. Lucky me, I got an amazing husband. I came to New Zealand 3 months later. I was happy and sad at the same time. Happy in the sense that I had the chance to come to this beautiful country and also that I had met my husband. I was also sad because I missed my parents, relatives and friends in Nepal. I was also distressed because of a new culture and way of life, that was totally new to me.

One day I went to the MMC because I knew they helped new migrants, refugees and students cope with the New Zealand culture and language. I learned about New Zealand and the Kiwi culture and accent and much more. The MMC even organised dance classes and art and creative classes, so that I had a different taste apart from studying. My life became somewhat easier. I am grateful to Noorangi, Christine and Meriam for their cooperation, love and help for new people like us.

I am also thankful to Angela and Eunice and the other tutors for sharing their knowledge and showing me a new way of life. I started doing voluntary work in different places such as the Brightwater Home. I am also teaching English to older Refugees through the English Language Partners, and I am doing tutoring (Basic English Language) for a Refugee from Burma. I am also a volunteer Brownie Leader for the Girl Guides. I really love doing voluntary work. Recently however I have started to work at the Brightwater Home. I enjoy my job but in my spare time I still do my voluntary work.

In a nutshell I would like to tell all the new migrants, refugees and students that the Manawatu Multicultural Centre is the best place for you to flourish and learn much more about Palmerston North and New Zealand. Please don't pass the MMC without coming in. It helps everyone. The people are fantastic and now I am part of the MMC, I am inviting you to join as well!

*Rupa Koilara*



Rupa and her husband Hari Prasad

## Newcomers Coffee Morning

If you are new to Palmerston North from overseas or just from other parts of New Zealand, the Newcomers Network at the Manawatu Multicultural Centre would like to extend a warm welcome by inviting you to join us for a coffee and information morning every third Wednesday of the month from 10am, at the Multicultural Centre.

It's a fun morning and great way to meet other newcomers and locals. It's a wonderful opportunity to find out a little more about life in Palmerston North and get to know more about the range of free events and activities offered by the Multicultural centre and the wider community. Come along, and invite newcomers in your networks.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, the coffee morning was attended by newcomers from Vietnam, Germany, Uruguay and the Philippines. Shiva, a 3 month old whose parents came from Iran. Shiva's mom attended most of the MMC activities and events while expecting her and we were so happy to meet and cuddle Shiva at the coffee morning.

Stephanie Velvin, Welcoming Communities Coordinator from PNCC also came and introduced the programme to the new comers. Welcoming communities is a two-year pilot programme which brings together the Council and the community to roll out the welcome mat to newcomers, including migrants, former refugees and international students, as well as New Zealanders relocating to Palmerston North. Welcoming Communities aims to involve existing residents in activities to welcome newcomers, and increase awareness of the positive social, economic and cultural benefits of diversity. It's about making newcomers feel at home here, that we accept their culture and identity, and that there are opportunities for them to succeed. Having a sense of belonging helps people to settle more quickly, and enhances social cohesion.

Jeremie Corroenne, Multicultural Services Officer at the City Library gave an overview of what is on offer at the City Library and distributed new pamphlets of upcoming activities and events.

Booranee Roskruge, one of MMC much valued volunteers demonstrated how to weave a finger massager craft.

Next Coffee morning is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Please join us and invite newcomers in your networks.

Christine Mukabalinda  
MMC Centre Manager



## Visitor's comment

*Life is a journey, and the end of one part, is always the beginning of another.*

Many thanks for the good time we had in Palmerston North in the Manawatu Multicultural Centre. We appreciated the warm-heartedness of all the staff members and the teachers as well as the students from many countries and nationalities.

The people from the Multicultural Centre were so helpful at all times and kind in all their dealings in helping newcomers such as to my wife and I. They made us really feel at home in "Palmy". Many, many thanks.

*Uta & Bernd Gottschalk (from Germany)*



From left Jeremie, The, Uta & Bernd  
and Daniela

# Multicultural Women's Group

Our Place – a dance and arts project for the Multicultural Women's group 3rd Friday of the month.

**Friday 16 March 1- 3p 2018.**

Join us to dance, create, have fun, meet new friends, explore our beautiful cultures!

Dance/arts tutor Tania Kopytko.

Meet at the Multicultural Centre.

Wear comfortable clothing.

You can join at any time.



For more information phone

Centre: 351572, Email: [ask@mmcnz.org.nz](mailto:ask@mmcnz.org.nz)

Kindly funded by



For the next six months Tania Kopytko a Dance/Art Tutor will be teaching the ladies the art of dancing having fun creating and exploring their beautiful cultures.

**The following dates are for you to pencil in your own calendar and to invite your own family and friends to join us.**

1. Friday April 6th 1— 3pm — Exploring our cultures dance and poetry our cultures
2. Friday May 18th 1— 3pm— Exploring our cultures dance and craft/art
3. Friday June 22nd 1— 3pm — Exploring our cultures dance and craft/art
4. Friday July 27th 1— 3pm Exploring our cultures dance and craft/art
5. Friday August 10th 1— 3pm Rehearsal and arts completion
6. Friday August 17th Exhibition and Showing of Dances



## JUST A REMINDER

**The Festival of Cultures starts on Saturday March the 17th with the Lantern Parade spectacular and finishes on Saturday 24th with the Ethnic Fair Concerts and Food from over 80 stalls.**

**We invite you all to the MMCs Ethnic Fashion Parade on Sunday 18th March from 1—3pm in the Square in front of the Library. We have 60 models wearing their vibrant and beautiful ethnic costumes .**

## International Women's Day

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY – Learn to ride a Bike

Thursday 8 March 2018

Palmerston North Esplanade cycle training circuit



Ladies from refugee background and migrant community, do you want to learn to ride a bike or just have some fun trying?

Come along to the Esplanade's cycle training track on 8 March 2018 between 10am and 1pm. Bring some lunch and a drink bottle.

Bikes, helmets and expert female cycle trainers will be provided.

Free bus transport

- Departs from the Square i site at 9.45am
- Departs from the Esplanade at 1.15pm.

revolve  
don't go back to riding with the women.

NEW ZEALAND  
RED CROSS  
TE Kaitiaki Takekōwhiri

tranzit  
coachlines



Greens bike  
Hire

SPORT  
MANAWATU  
Mani Ora! Active lives.



## Newcomers Potluck Dinner

## Newcomers Potluck Dinner

Multicultural Centre 77– 85 King Street

Friday 23rd March 2018 @ 6pm

We are celebrating our first  
Ethnic Potluck Dinner for the year 2018

Meet & Greet New Arrival to Our City  
Enjoy Shared Meal and Interact with Other Migrants  
Great Company and Lots of Fun  
Bring your family and friends  
Bring a plate of food to share

MMC Manawatu  
Multicultural Council Inc.



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



## The Network of Skilled Migrants Manawatu

The Network of Skilled Migrants Manawatu (NSMM) is supporting skilled migrants in Palmerston North to become both socially and economically active, and contribute to the local community.

NSMM started the year successfully. We got more volunteers in our group and our members are growing.

At one of our group meetings we had a good discussion about the employment challenges faced by skilled migrants led by Odedra Nimeesha, Ph.D student from Massey. Language challenges and cultural differences can be advantages for employers. Having a skilled migrant as an employee can mean that companies are able to better understand their clients from diverse backgrounds and serve their clients better. It was an interesting meeting and attendees exchanged their views and it also seemed that looking for a job is a challenge for everybody, even for kiwis. Nimeesha is doing her Ph.D research on skilled migrant women employment. Her study aims to explore how skilled migrant women's career experiences unfold after they move to New Zealand. If you are a skilled migrant woman and are interested to participate in her research please feel free to contact Nimeesha on [N.Odedra@massey.ac.nz](mailto:N.Odedra@massey.ac.nz) for more information.

One of our exciting news is co-hosting of the Chamber of Commerce's Business after 5 pm meeting together with the Red Crosses Pathway to Employment programme.

We had a great evening on 21 February. Many local business people, employers, and skilled migrants came together to share stories, build networks and getting support to each other. Lots of attendees shared brilliant ideas about how to get a job and settle down in this country as a skilled migrant. NSMM attendees got some good contacts.

It was a good conversation and local businesses are getting aware of skilled migrant and refugee resources in Palmerston North.

Special thanks to Kevin from Red Cross and to Amanda from Chambers of Commerce, who supported our event with hosting and giving wonderful speeches! It was fantastic to hear Marie, Loving Business, taking about a successful internship story, who piloted our Internship programme. Also, big thank you to Rebeca from Just Zilch and Reeanjou from BlockBit for signing up to take interns.





## Skilled Migrants Manawatu Continues

We are making effort to support your network building and job search support as a skilled migrant. Hope to see you at the next event in March! We will have Sina Lome from the Good Life Immigration Advice presenting about effects of recent immigration changes and how successfully plan your future in New Zealand. Watch this 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.  
 There will be a meeting with CEDA about profiling members skills. Helping with CV and cover letters (through HR professionals)  
 Participating in projects where you can use your professional skills  
 Evening English classes  
 Establishing a skilled migrant resource hub in Palmerston North (long term)

Contact us on [info@skilledmigrants.org](mailto:info@skilledmigrants.org) or on mobile 028 401 4605

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

Visit our website: [www.skilledmigrants.org](http://www.skilledmigrants.org)

## English Corner Poster

# English Corner



**Practise your English conversation  
with native English speakers.**

Free entry.  
Relaxed and informal.  
Small groups.  
Everyone welcome.

**11:00am to 12:30pm  
every Saturday  
(except public holidays)  
from March to November**



**Where: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of ETC (English Teaching College)  
Corner of Rangitikei Street and The Square (above Inspire Me)**

If you have any questions, please email us at [englishcorner.pn@gmail.com](mailto:englishcorner.pn@gmail.com).

### **Want to help others practise their English?**

If you're a native English speaker and would like to be a volunteer for English Corner, please email [englishcorner.pn@gmail.com](mailto:englishcorner.pn@gmail.com) or come and see us on a Saturday to find out more. No previous experience required. This is a great way to meet people from other countries and help them adapt to life in our community.

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**MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 8.30M - 5.30PM | SATURDAY, 9.30AM - 4PM**

*The best holidays are created together.*

**CNR MAIN ST & THE SQUARE (LIBRARY SIDE), PALMERSTON NORTH  
06 356 7051 | 0800 509 444 | STEPHENPARSONS@HOT.CO.NZ**

**HOUSE OF TRAVEL**

## Currency Exchange



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AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	NEPALESE RUPEE	PHILIPPINE PESO
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

*The best holidays are created together.*

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**HOUSE OF TRAVEL**

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**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**

