

ETHNIGRAM

Newsletter



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

MANAWATU MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL (MMC)

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu



FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Winner of LG Award for Palmy

It has been a year of recognitions and distinctive achievements for Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC). At a gala dinner in Wellington on Monday July 8, Palmerston North City Council's Festival of Cultures clinched Excellence Award for Social Well-being at 2019 Local Government New Zealand Excellence Awards.

MMC president, Rana Naser took to Facebook to thank volunteers and ethnic communities for their hard work. "Thanks and gratitude go to every single person who contributed in any way to the success of this event. Without our communities this festival wouldn't have recorded such a huge success," says Rana.



Thanks to volunteers, partners and funders who have contributed to our various achievements this year. Central to the Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) is the provision of a range of events and sessions that suit everyone and are free to the multicultural communities. Our upcoming events include Multi-Cultural Eid Adha Festival and Fair. We invite the wider community to attend this free event which will be held at the Fly Palmy Arena on Pascal St, Palmerston North, Saturday 17th August 2019 from 10am to 5pm. You are also invited to our Celebration of Ethnic Songs and Praises 2019 at St Mary's Church on Sunday 18th August at 2pm.

The event will feature Brazilian, Indian, African, Egyptian, French, Chinese, Appalachian and Scottish Gospel Medley, local Waiata group, Stream Gathering (Fiji) and Karen Youth Choir. Afternoon tea will be provided too. Come along with friends and family to enjoy beautiful ethnic music and outfits. MMC is very happy to invite you all to its Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held on Friday 30th August 2019 at the centre, starting from 5:30pm. We have regular programmes in our schedule such as women's only activities, which include:

- Zumba classes every Thursday from 6-7pm at Carncot School, 263 Broadway Ave Palmerston North.

Check page 4 for complete highlights of our regular events

From the Office

PRESIDENT'S REMARK

I am delighted to introduce this version of Ethnigram in its new look. The world around us is changing rapidly and so do we. Within the last few months members of the executive committee have spent long hours reviewing needs of our members and the wider community. We compare the current status with what the future holds for our organisation; investigating people's demands to cope with the constant changes we are going through.

So far, 2019 has been a very busy year full of exciting developments and real growth. Right now, we are gearing up for some fantastic events ranging from the Eid Adha multicultural festival, celebration of Ethnic Songs and Praises, Diwali and some yet to be confirmed cultural events. The signature event earlier this year was the Festival of Cultures; an iconic event for the city, which is now firmly on our annual calendar. We have already started planning for that of 2020, so if your community needs support or hasn't been part of the festival in previous years but would like to participate and you don't know how, please contact us and we will surely help you. For our new readers and members, we are still running our regular sessions and classes - English classes for beginners, Exercise fitness classes for women, Zumba Classes for women, Potluck monthly gatherings and much more. Every month we have a new or special occasion happening that we celebrate, so watch the space. Our Facebook page is becoming more effective than before and it's our new way of communicating to the wider community, in addition to emails, newsletter and other services through our office at Hancock Community Centre. Our next AGM will be held on August 30, so pencil that in your calendars. We will celebrate performance and great works the organisation has done; listen to success stories and achievements of MMC and plans for the advancement of the organisation's strategic goals.



Rana Naser

I am grateful to be living in a City that supports diversity and creates constant multicultural initiatives. We are surrounded by communities that care about each other and have the passion to grow and develop further. We truly believe that MMC will become the strong voice of our multicultural communities if we all work together. So, let's make it happen!

STAYING WARM THIS WINTER

Our migrant community got loads of health tips during the "Stay warm and well this winter" workshops held on two different dates and locations. The first was held at Te Manawa on the first day of July while the second was held at English Language Partners (ELP) Palmerston North office on July 4th 2019. Dr Nelson Lebo, Environmental Health team from Palmerston North City Council and the Police presented all the nitty-gritty of efficient home heating, waste recycling and security at home. Over hundred migrants from Afghanistan, Burma, Butan, Syria, and Congo attended the workshop.

A cross section of participants at the workshop



Executive Member's Profile

-Aidan Wong-



Hi, my name is Aidan Wong and I am currently the treasurer of the Manawatu Multicultural Council. I am a Chartered accountant living here in Palmerston North and am also on the committee for the New Zealand Chinese Association – Manawatu Branch. I am married to Rebecca and we have three children, Caleb (4 years), Isabella (2 years old in September) and Madeleine who was born in June. I have been part of the Manawatu Multicultural Council executive committee for almost 3 years. I have enjoyed being a part of this wonderful organization and have loved watching it grow.

I am excited in the new strategic plan which we have developed and the vision for this organization going forward. I am always amazed at the number of activities and projects that we are able to run and the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by our volunteers and executive. Without the help of volunteers, we would struggle to do as well as we do. Outside of work, you can find me with a paint brush in hand as we are renovating our house which is a challenge especially with young children. I also like spending time catching up with family & friends.



Council members visit Kauwhata Marae

LEARNING CULTURE AT MARAE

The tour of Kauwhata Marae on May 2nd was a remarkable one. Members of the Manawatu Multicultural Council who joined us on the visit were excited. There were moments of learning networking and eating; all was fun, especially for those who have not tasted Hangi in a long while or those who had a first time bite of it.



Kids Learn Cultures at Newbury School

Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) volunteers were invited by Newbury School to demonstrate our regional diversity to the school children and participate in their morning assembly. They were very excited to learn about a wide range of different cultures and shared stories. MMC volunteers; Rana, Flavia, Maria, Christine, Flora, Meriam, Esther and Nina did outstanding job in presenting different cultures in a simple and entertaining manner.

KENYAN NIGHT OF COLOURS

The night was awesome at the City Library. There were onscreen Kenyan videos and music. Guests were treated with some luscious traditional Kenyan food.



Regular Events

SESSIONS & CLASSES

English conversation classes

Beginners: Tues, Thursday and Friday 10am-12noon
Advanced: Monday to Thursday from 1pm-3pm

Women only fitness and sports

Saturdays from 10am-12noon at Cornerstone School, 119 Mihaere Dr. Kelvine Grove

Women's only Zumba class

Thursdays from 6pm-7pm at Carncot School, 263 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North.

Basic cooking classes

Every second Friday of the month, from 12-1pm at the Centre.

Potluck dinner

Last Friday of the month, 6pm-8pm at the Centre

Basic sewing classes

First Friday of the month, 12:30pm-2pm at the Centre

Thanks to our Supporters

- Palmerston North City Council
- Palmerston North Community Services Council
- Ministry of Social Development
- Lottery Grants
- Ethnic Community Development Fund
- COGS
- The Lion Foundation
- Thomas MacArthy Trust
- Mainland Foundation
- Olive Tree Trust
- East & Central Community Trust
- NZ Federation of Multicultural Council
- United Way & Pub Charity