

+ MERRY +
CHRISTMAS



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

*"We celebrate, support & connect
multicultural communities in the
Manawatu"*

ETHNIGRAM

Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

December 2019



Performance Galore at Diwali Festival

The Square was lit with colourful lights accompanied with lots of dance and other entertainments during the 2019 Diwali Festival. The event which was held on October 24 brought the whole City together to enjoy a flurry of performances by amazing talents in our community. The President of Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) took to Facebook to express her gratitude on the success of the event. "Thanks to the communities and groups who participated to deliver this outstanding event... We had an awesome time," said Rana.

Upcoming Event

From the Centre



Saturday 29 February to Saturday 7 March 2020

Festival of Cultures



Rana Naser

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this year ends, I want to use this medium to thank our many loyal members, stakeholders and partners who enabled us to do what we love. Though it has been a difficult year for some members of our communities, especially families shattered by the unfortunate event of mid-March, our communities have grown to be closer and stronger regardless of faith or culture. The year has also been a very busy year for us in the committee. I have been privileged to be supported by a passionate and loyal team who have worked tirelessly to deliver outstanding results over the year.

We have established ourselves as a strategic partner to key stakeholders by taking pro-active steps to create systemic change.

One of the highpoints for me this year, was attending the International Conference on Cohesive Societies” in Singapore, during which I learned how other countries who have diverse communities have successfully managed to create cohesive societies. Since then I have provided a good number of presentations here in New Zealand, which had enabled more organisations to develop greater understanding of the values and benefits of inclusion and diversity with regards to decision-making for communities and organisations. I hope to double my efforts in future drive for inclusion in our communities. I would like to mention some of MMC’s achievements in 2019 as follows:

- Successful contributions to Festival of Cultures and Ethkick
- Organised the support of people in the wider community in response to the attacks on civilians in Christchurch and Sri Lanka.
- Women and Girls in Sport and Recreational Sports Forum and Refugee Settlement Forum
- This year marked 25th Anniversary of First Voice Programme with PN Intermediate Normal School students, and MMC Annual Dinner
- Kauwhata Marae and Parliament visits were highly attended
- Women weekly fitness in partnership with Sport Manawatu
- Multicultural Eid Celebration and Diwali in The Square
- Successful Ethnic Songs and Praises celebration

We would’ve never been able to deliver any of the above events and many more unlisted ones without the incredible support of our volunteers and so many people within the wider communities. Thank you for your commitment, trust and partnership. We look forward to continuing to make a difference with you in 2020. There will be new initiatives, more workshops and programmes. Follow us on Facebook. I can assure you that there will be something for everyone. Until then, I would love to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas. Have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020!



A cross section of IPU students, lecturers and MMC officials pose for photo during the visit

IPU Students Hosted at the Centre

MMC Centre recently hosted students and lecturers from International Pacific University (IPU). They had a great time and got to know more about MMC’s mission and how we support and connect our multicultural communities. It was heart-warming to listen to Kenny Giovanni’s speech on behalf of IPU. Kenny used to attend our Conversation classes, later on he volunteered teaching one of our classes; a success story for one of our own.



Our Annual Dinner

Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) held its annual dinner on November 8, which was also a celebration of its 25th anniversary. It was a lovely evening and an occasion to mingle and get to know each other. It was a good opportunity to say thank you to our volunteers who have supported and helped our people to settle in and develop the necessary skills for their new life in New Zealand. Thanks to everyone who shared that lovely evening with us. Special thanks to our Mayor Grant Smith, Hon Iain Lees-Galloway, PNCC Councillors, our talented performers, MMC former executives and our Manawatu wider community. We could've never done it without you.



From left: Rana Naser, Iain Lees-Galloway and Tangi Utikere cutting the Anniversary Cake

The evening in photos





Executive Member's Profile

My name is Kheng Lim, I am currently a member of the Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) Executive Committee. I came to New Zealand from Malaysia in 1988 as a New Zealand government sponsored international student. I attended Form 7 (Year 13) in Christchurch before completing my Chemical Engineering degree at the University of Canterbury. After graduating I went back to Malaysia and Singapore before returning to NZ in 2002 with my wife and two children. We have lived in Palmerston North since then. Currently I work as an engineer at the City Council.

I have been involved with MMC since 2009 and I look forward to getting more involved with the different activities and projects of MMC. Besides enjoying multicultural activities in Palmerston North and meeting people from different cultural backgrounds, I am also passionate about environmental sustainability and I was involved with the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and Environment Network Manawatu in the past. I was one of the founding members of the Manawatu Malaysian Society and currently the president of the Society. During my spare times I enjoy doing short walks, admiring the beautiful nature and tending to my water lilies pond.

Kheng Lim

UAE Opens Exhibition at Te Manawa



Mayor Grant Smith speaking at the event

MMC attended the opening ceremony of "Connecting Heritage United Arab Emirates and Aotearoa Exhibition" at Te Manawa Museum, which showcased the culture of United Arab Emirates (UAE). It was a wonderful collaboration between UAE Embassy and our City. We had the honour of meeting with the UAE Consul,

Pakistan High Commissioner and Russian Ambassador; a true example of how diverse we are and how crucial our mission is, which is to bring cultures together and celebrate them. The exhibition is open daily from 10am -5pm until 31 January 2020. Don't miss out!



Our Cooking Programme Connects Communities

November brought us to the end of our journey around the world of “Ethnic Dishes.”; learning, tasting and enjoying many different foods, but most of all meeting new friends and enjoying each other’s company.

In one of our sessions, we learned from our member, Booranee, how to make a basic quick and easy “Thai Curry Puffs.” They are one of the best of finger foods and delicious every day. They are ideal for parties and picnics and can be eaten hot or cold. On Friday the 8th November we learned from Lili, how to make and taste



From left: Lili Xiao from China, Trinh Ngo from Vietnam and Booranee Roskruge from Thailand

“Lu da gun,” a traditional Chinese dessert, an exotic imperial meal for the Chinese Emperor.

No doubt, our cooking sessions at the Centre, create amazing opportunity for us to meet different people from many cultures and get to sample different ethnic foods on a regular basis.

Join, Learn to Ride a Bike

- Tuesday 17 December (Highbury Whanau Centre 10am – 2pm)
- Wednesday 18 December (Skoglund Park 10am – 2pm) Bikes and helmets provided
- Tuesday 21 January (Rose Garden Croquet Club 10am – 2pm) bikes not included
- Wednesday 22 January (Road Ride 10am – 2pm) bikes not included
- Saturday 25 January (River ride from He Ara Kotahi bridge to Memorial Park. Cost, Free!

Learn to Ride a Bike!
By Women for Women

Join the Manawatu Multicultural Council and Sport Manawatu for a women’s only programme of learning and fun activities





Ethsport 'Give it a Go' 2020

To help celebrate the Festival of Cultures month and partnering with Ethkick 2020, we invite women and children to this community activity organised by the Manawatu Multicultural Council. Come down and give Netball, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton, Futsal and Skate Boarding a go in a safe, friendly and fun environment! All activities will be staged indoors with facilities available for children under 5 years so you can watch them while you participate!

Where: B&M Centre – Central Energy Trust Arena. **When:** Saturday, 29 February from 9am - 3pm. Bring sport shoes, drinking bottles and positive attitude. Cost, Free!



Ethkick 2020 is a FREE 6-aside football tournament that celebrates cultural diversity and community involvement. The event will be held at Central Energy Trust Arena, Saturday 29th February 2020.





Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

COSTUMES PARADE 2020

Come and join our big ,colourful fun national costume parade for festival of cultures on Saturday 7 March 2020

Everyone is welcome to join in! All age groups of children, women, and men are all welcome.

We will all walk around the square and this will be the official opening of festival of cultures.

To book your spot so you can participate ,contact the Manawatu Multicultural Council 06 3581572

or email info@mmcnz.org.nz

Let us make it the biggest ,brightest ,most beautiful Parade Palmy has ever seen



This is an open invitation to all our multicultural communities to come and join our big, colourful, fun national costume parade to open Festival of Cultures on Saturday 7 March 2020.

This one will be different and very special to all of us. We will walk around the square lead by special announcement to acknowledge our entrance. All age groups of children, women, and men are all welcome to join in! Find your beautiful costumes or those of your ancestral roots.

This is our chance to stand tall and be proud of who we are Similar to the Olympic games opening ceremony, where athletes walk in the parade representing their countriesthis is how we will do it next year!

Register your interest by contacting Manawatu Multicultural Council on 0635 81572 or e-mail info@mmcnz.org.nz or visit our Centre at 77-85 King St. Palmerston North.

Allan Young Academic Scholarship 2020

The Manawatu Multicultural Council is pleased to announce that the Allan Young Scholarship 2020, is now open and applications will close on 21st February 2020.

This Academic Scholarship of \$1500 each year, is for a MMC financial member who would benefit from this scholarship for their tertiary education.

If you think you are eligible please send your application to Allan Young: allanyoung8@gmail.com



Bhutanese Cultural Diwali



Performances at the event

MMC attended another wonderful cultural Diwali celebration in October for the Bhutanese communities of Feilding and Palmerston North. It was nice to see everyone happy and sharing the joy of the season.

Regular Events

SESSIONS & CLASSES

English conversation classes

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

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


**To get updates on our activities,
visit and like our Facebook page
or email us on
info@mmcnz.org.nz to receive
notifications**

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
- Sushi MaMa Palmerston North

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