



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

ETHNIGRAM

Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

November 2020



Nina Kirschbaum

President's Message

Ethnic Greetings to everyone!

As the newly appointed MMC President, I am very excited to Introduce our MMC Executive Committee Members.

I had been blessed with so much support and encouragement from family, friends and the communities to take the opportunity to be nominated and elected at the AGM on Tuesday 13th October 2020.

The newly elected Committee Members are:

- President: Nina Kirschbaum (Global Parent Support)
- Vice President: Maria Fernanda Loureiro (Palmeirinhos)
- Secretary: Tania Kopytko (Manawatu Russian Dance Group)
- Treasurer: Angel Kwan (Global Parent Support)
- Immediate Pass President: Rana Naser (Manawatu Muslim Association)

Committee Members:

- Manmit Sing (Indian Cultural Society)
- Teisa Kurene (International Group)
- Netra Ghimire (Bhutanese Society of PN.)

As the new President, I would like to briefly introduced myself.

I am Indonesian and before coming to New Zealand I have lived in different parts of the world, such as Saudi Arabia, the USA, Germany and Australia. People are so different, yet they are also so similar.

I like to see the diversity of people as something exciting, something interesting that should enrich our interactions, but never keep us apart.

My husband and I moved to Palmerston North from Canberra Australia 2007, with our 2 children and had been living here since then. In 2010 our family extended my husband and I welcomed a new addition to the family.

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MMC Executive from left: Manmit, Nina, Maria, Tania, Netra, Teisa, Rana and Angel in the front.

I was introduced to the MMC by my husband's colleague Surinder Saggar who was one of the past President of the MMC. As part of the Indonesian Community, I have had contributed to previous ethnic and multi-cultural activities in Palmerston North and Whanganui. I especially like food and take great joy in sharing Indonesian specialties with the wider community.

Over the past four years, I have channeled most of my activities through the Global Parents Support Group. We focused on showing the value of diversity to the youngest people in the society.

The children are our future, and they will make the world that we will all live in.

In my role I see a challenging year ahead, building and maintaining a world of acceptance of diversity and understanding each other is our big goal, Palmerston North has been a place to feel safe and supported in our ethnic uniqueness. That is precious and must continue to be protected and widened to create the world that our children can enjoy and flourish in.

Congratulation! to Paul Patel for receiving the "Palmerston North Civic Awards" Paul has been known and supportive of the MMC for many years.

Unfortunately, the elected Treasurer at the AGM Manmit has resigned from his position due to health issues. Therefore, a Special meeting was held on the 13th November following the constitution.

Angel Kwan was elected as our new Treasurer that suit well with her experience through Manawatu Chinese Associations as well as Global Parents Support group

Best wishes to you all.

Hopefully we will see you at the "Annual Dinner" on Saturday 28th November.

Nina Kirschbaum

Centre Manager's Message

The Multicultural Centre has been busy with events in the past 2 months. MMC held holiday workshops where children learned how to use a sewing machine, with some learning for the first time.

It was interesting to watch them enjoy making their own face masks and hair scrunchies.

Parents also joined in, a great opportunity to meet other people and learn new skills.

The MMC held a sports focused holiday programme at the Massey Recreation Centre. Young people enjoyed playing badminton, hockey, tennis, futsal, basketball, and football. The kids had a chance to tour the Sport and Rugby Institute building and tested their speed and endurance on the athletics track. It was a successful event, please look out for MMC next Sport Holiday programme.



Face Mask Workshop



Sports Holiday Programme

The outdoor conversation group on Friday afternoons shows how people from different cultural backgrounds build good bonds and connect with each other. The group have come up with innovative ideas to socialise and have fun through regular dinners or lunches where their family's are also invited. The group also represented the MMC at the Kawau Stream Cleaning project in October. Thanks to the group's volunteer tutor - Grey Smith, who is also a conservationist. The group's recent visit to the Cross Hills Gardens was also a highlight.

MMC visited Taonui School for a cultural presentation to promote cultural awareness and sensitivity in the community. Culture presented were Ukrainian, Japanese, Indonesian, Chinese, Brazilian and Rwandan. The aim is to visit other schools next year.

The potluck dinner at St John's was very well attended with new faces joining in. We learned about the many services offered by St John.

It was nice to see some of the multicultural youth already volunteering with this organisation and we encourage our members to get involve in this amazing work for the community. Monthly cooking demonstrations have proved to be of high interest for women to get together, share recipes, socialise and network.

We hold Line Dancing Class every 3rd of the month from 1-pm. This is an opportunity for women to have fun dancing and improve their physical and mental fitness. The class is led by Patricia Yung, also a volunteer Tutor for English Conversation session every Friday from 10-11.30am.

Sharing Art Culture is a new initiative held each Wednesday morning. Be it Western Art, Chinese Painting, Japanese Sumi-2, Pacific Raranga, Calligraphy, Origami or Colouring in, whatever skill level you are at. You are welcome to join and give art a go. We have some crayons and paper, please bring your own art materials.! This group is led by Kate Lau, also a volunteer tutor for MMC, beginner's conversation session on Thursday.

The Multicultural Centre's daily English Conversation Sessions offers a good opportunity for people to meet, improve their communication skills, and ask questions in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.



Kawau Stream Cleaning



Taonui School Cultural Presentation



St. John Potluck Dinner



English Conversation Class

There have been some great culture celebrations in our City:

Congratulations to the Palmy Punjabi Community for such a great festival in the Square on Saturday the 31st October. The festival was full of energy, colours and smiles. Well done!

The Diwali Festival in the Square was very successful event. It is another reflection of the rich cultural diversity in our city. The Diwali festival in the square was organised by the Central Districts Indian Association, Manawatu Hindu Society, Shree Dance Academy, Bhutanese Society, Satsang Mandali Central, Manawatu Multicultural Council, Massey University Students Association, the IPU New Zealand Tertiary Institute and UCOL with support from Palmerston North City Council's Welcoming Communities and the City Library.

Christine Mukabalinda



Snapshot taken at the Diwali Celebrations on Saturday 7th November

MMC Upcoming events

- The MMC annual dinner is on Saturday 28 November at the Distinction Hotel, from 6-9pm. There will be fun entertainment and raffles. The cost is \$35 per person. Tickets are selling fast, to book your ticket please call the Centre on 3581572 or e-mail info@mmcnz.org.nz. We look forward to seeing you there.
- The Women's wellbeing seminar is on Tuesday 8 December at English Language Partners, 120 King Street from 10am to 12 noon. It will be a fun and uplifting morning for women to connect, be inspired and boost their health, happiness, and confidence.
- The Centre Christmas Party (Shared Lunch) is on Friday 18th December at the Multicultural Centre from 12 – 2pm. Please come, invite your family and friends, and bring a festive dish to share.

Palmy Punjabi Festival 2020

The Punjabi Community in Palmerston North celebrated their Punjabi Festival on Saturday 31st October. They showcased their cultures, social traditions, and language to the communities. The main attractions were the "Free Food & Drinks" kids games and the Bouncy Castle. There were entertainments, the Turban tying, Bhangra, Gidha and more free giveaways were given through the day. The festival was enjoyed by the MP Tangi Utikere, City Mayor Grant Smith, Zulfikar Butt and Lorna Johanson PNCC Councilors, President of the Manawatu Multicultural Council Nina Kirschbaum and MMC Executive Members.

This Festival was organised by Mr Kal Gill, Chirag Jangid, Jass Brar, ISangat of Gurdwara Guru Har Kishan Sahib .

The members of Punjabi community Inder Singh Dhillon, Bupinder Singh Dhillon and Manjit Singh Chawla. The information was given about the Turban tying to the other communities why the Punjabi, Sikh wear Turban. Punjabi Bhangra , Gidha was witnessed by the big crowd with cheers, clapping and with the audience sharing the Punjabi dance. There was a lot of fun for children during the festival. They were very excited to join in the games and get prizes.

Palmy Punjabi was very successfully with around five thousand attending the festival.

Manmit Sodhi Singh



The Punjabi children enjoying the festival



Leaders from the Punjabi Community

First Prize goes to the "Flaxy Bra"

Congratulation! to Booranee Roskruge who entered and made the winning bra in the 2020 "Bra Artz Exhibition"

Booranee's art was displayed at the Women's Lifestyle Expo on Saturday 24th and Sunday the 25th October 10am to 4pm, at the Arena 2 Pascal Street Palmerston North.

The event was a fundraiser organized by the PN Heartland Lions, and all the proceeds goes to support the local breast cancer patients in the Manawatu.



"Flaxy Bra" before the exhibition



Booranee holding the "Flaxy Bra" with Liz Brett the organiser

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

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