



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

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

EthniGram

MMC Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

December 2021

MMC President's Message

Warmest greetings to you all.

It has been a challenging month for us all in regards to the sudden lockdown in August due to the Delta outbreak, just when the country thought we are doing great! The pandemic left us with uncertainty. It meant that we had to postpone our AGM in August as well as other activities, including a farewell party for our long-serving Manager Christine who retired at the end of August. Instead, we had to farewell her via a surprise Zoom meeting.

We wish you happy retirement days in Christchurch, Christine, and we thank you for the hard work you did for our organisation. Your dedication, commitment and passion working at MMC has made a great difference to many people's lives. They feel like having a second home, and are welcomed. We miss you!

The MMC finally managed to hold the AGM in October and with the election of a new Committee, we now have five new Executive members and two re-standing Executive members. Welcome on board to Judy Zhu, Mary Jones Gaddam, Pooja Jayan, Ali Muhammad and Febry Suharto. Thank you to Angel Kwan for continuing to be MMC treasurer 2021-2022.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our previous Executive members who were a loyal and tireless team. Your cooperation is highly appreciated, and I feel privileged to have been part of the team during 2020-2021. May we continue to collaborate and work together for the MMC.

As re-elected President, I look forward to future opportunities to inform and raise the profile of the multicultural diversity of our community.

Now we're delighted to welcome Jessica Law who started as our Manager this month, and we are also delighted to introduce you to our Community Connector staff Teisa Kurene and Indra Dula, who joined us in October. We hope you will enjoy working for the MMC!

On sad news, the MMC will not be holding our usual Annual Dinner event this month, nor will we be participating in the Christmas parade in December due to COVID 19 restriction, but we have forged ahead with optimism in planning for the Festival of Cultures in February 2022. The registration for FOC is now open until 18 December.

And last but not least, as we are approaching the end of the year, I would like to say thank you to our stakeholders, funders, volunteers and Council's members for their great contribution, commitment and support throughout the year. Without these dedicated contributors, this Council would not have achieved as much as it did.

Nina Kirschbaum - President MMC

NAVIGATION PROJECT

MMC Navigation Project is a year-long project, funded by Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Fund. We are very grateful to have an MMC Navigation Team comprised of leaders and active members from various MMC ethnic groups and community partners, Sergeant Qian Yang from Police, Sara Kian from Ministry of Education and Hina Cheema from City Library to help with the project.

The Language Assistance Service is filling the ethnic communities' translation needs. Our current available languages are: Burmese, Cantonese, Dari, Farsi, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Portuguese, Rohingya, Russian, Samoan, Sinhalese, Spanish, Thai,

Tongan, Urdu and Vietnamese. If you know someone who may need translation services or if you are available to provide translation in other languages, please email or talk to our manager at info@mmcnz.org.nz or on 06 358 1572.



NAVIGATION PROJECT 1- COMMUNITY SAFETY TALK



The August 9 community safety talk held at MMC was well attended and informative. Sergeant Qian Yang conducted the talk and introduced the New Zealand Police "Be Safe, Feel Safe" booklet to our community members. He guided us through essential safety issues, including Safer Communities, Disasters and Emergencies, Properties and Belongings, Family and Personal Safety, Online and Identity Safety.

A big thank you to Sergeant Qian Yang for running the talk.



NAVIGATION PROJECT 2- FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY

Families enjoyed the photo taking by professional photographer in MMC on 20 November. There were laughs and fun during the free photo taking. Some families told us that this is their first family photo in New Zealand. Families appreciated MMC offering the family portrait. The aim of the activity is for the family to share their photo overseas by saying that they are safe and sound in New Zealand during this pandemic.



NAVIGATION PROJECT 3- TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM INFORMATION SESSION

MMC held the information session for Navigation Project translators and ethnic group leaders on 2 December. Right before the Traffic Light System (new Covid 19 Protection Framework) went live, MMC shared the latest information and options to register vaccine pass with the participants. There was fruitful sharing facilitating the translators to support their communities under the Traffic Light System.



Community Connector

MMC and the Ministry of Social Development have partnered under the Government's COVID Response and Recovery Fund to provide the Community Connection which is focused on supporting community wellbeing and sustainability. Community Connectors support former refugees, migrants and newcomers to connect to housing, health, employment, volunteer, income and other social services.

The Community Connectors use information and data gathered by individuals and communities to create pathway access to local services and support networks to connect the more vulnerable members of our community with information and support.

MMC community connectors, Teisa Kurene and Indra Dulal, are dedicated to listen, understand and walk alongside our clients to provide the support and create connections that can help provide a safety net of social support services when they need help to navigate through life's challenges as individuals, families and communities. Our connectors are available at service@mmcnz.org.nz or community@mmcnz.org.nz or give us a call at 06 358 1572.

Community Connector – Employment sessions



Serial workshop and talk were conducted to empower newcomers to get a job. MMC and Citizens Advice Bureau jointly held a CV writing session on 4 November. Participants developed their CV and covering letter to get themselves ready for their job hunting. What's more? There was an employment session held on 3 December about employment agreement and relationship with employers. A representative from Balfour, the cleaning company, presented their recruitment process.

Community Connector – Xmas Fun



MMC community connectors have joined with our friends at Manawatu Home Budgeting Services share tips and tricks over the festive season. Participants knew more about enjoying the festival season while being smart spend money and time with families and friends.



Basic Cooking



The Basic Cooking Demonstration is on the third Wednesday of every month at the Multicultural Centre. People prepare dishes from their culture and bring them to the Centre for everyone to try and share their recipes. It is a wonderful time to meet and connect with people and understand other cultures through sharing food.

This month's cooking demonstration brought us the taste of Brazilian and Turkish! A massive thank you to Luci and Aysenur for sharing the delicious, traditional Brazilian and Turkish dishes. We enjoy trying new tastes and learning the recipes of Vaca Atolada (Brazilian beef rib and cassava casserole) and Irmir Helvasi (Turkish Delight - Semolina helva).



Community News

Bal Ghimire received the Civic Honour Award

Congratulations to Bal Ghimire who received the Civic Honour Award for his leadership and contribution toward his Bhutanese community since they first arrived in New Zealand in the first intake of Bhutanese refugees in 2008, he is also involved in many volunteer works in Palmerston North. His leadership has contributed many great achievements within his community including winning the Tenzing Hillary Cup for football teams as well as opening New Zealand's first Nepali language school at Milson school. Kai pai!



Upcoming Events

Festival of Cultures 2022

MMC's award winning annual celebration is back in 2022! Festival of Cultures will be held on 25 and 26 February, 2022. We celebrate the beautifully diverse cultural identity of our community. Application close on 18 December 2021.

Apply here

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/events/events-calendar/festival-of-cultures/>



Tea and Coffee of the World 2022



Part of the Festival of Cultures to be held at the Caccia Birch House on 24 February, 2022. The display, tasting of tea/coffee present your culture. Please contact info@mmcnz.org.nz for registration.



What's on at the Manawatu Multicultural Centre?

Christmas and New Year are coming. We will take a break and see you all next year.

MMC office will close from 18 December 2021 to 16 January 2022

Our last class before Christmas will be on 17 December 2021 and resume on 31 January, 2022.



New Staff - Community Connectors

Teisa Kurene is a New Zealander of Samoan descent who has international experience in organisations and development. Contact her at service@mmcnz.org.nz

Indra Dulal was born in Bhutan. He came to New Zealand through Refugee Quota in March 2009. Worked for Refugee Services and Red Cross for 8 years in Palmerston North. Contact him at community@mmcnz.org.nz

New Staff - Service Manager

Jessica Law is a newcomer from Hong Kong who has experience in non profit organization management and social work. Jessica is an registered social worker in New Zealand and worked in Organa Tamariki before she join MMC.

Why join the Manawatu Multicultural Council

- To practice your English in a safe and friendly environment
- To interact with other people and make new friends
- To get information and build networks and connections
- To share, learn and celebrate each other's culture
- To learn about New Zealand culture and customs.
- To work together with other community groups and organisations

Thanks to our Supporters

- Palmerston North City Council
- Palmerston North Community Services Council
- Ethnic Community Development Fund
- Olive Tree Trust
- East & Central Community Trust
- NZ Federation of Multicultural Council
- United Way & Pub Charity

- Ministry of Social Development
- The Lion Foundation
- Lottery Grants
- COGS
- Thomas MacArthy Trust
- Mainland Foundation

MMC NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly newsletter published by Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC)

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