



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

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

EthniGram

MMC Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

July 2021

MMC President's Message

Warmest greetings to everyone!

First of all, we would like to welcome our new Office Administrator Hannah Nguyen. Hannah is passionate about MMC's vision, and she values living in the most diverse city in Aotearoa. Welcome, Hannah! We hope you will enjoy working for the MMC, and with your skills and experiences both in New Zealand and overseas, I am sure you will be able to make a great contribution to our diverse city

On behalf of the Manawatu Multicultural Council, I had the great pleasure and privilege to attend the launch of the Ministry of Ethnic Communities early this month, attended by more than one hundred members and representatives of various communities from throughout New Zealand. The new Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, Priyanca Radhakrishnan, said "This is the first time in its history that New Zealand has had a Ministry and Chief Executive solely focused on improving outcomes for our ethnic communities, which make up nearly 20 percent of our population. Our Government wants to ensure that New Zealand is a place where everyone feels safe, valued, heard and has a sense of belonging".

We are looking forward to being able to work closely with the Ministry in future. It holds the promise of achieving great new outcomes for our ethnic communities, and we want to play our part in achieving that promise to its fullest.

Another event I would like to mention is the success of MMC's event "World on Stage", which was held at the Regent on Broadway on 9 July with an audience of over 700, 196 performers from 17 performance groups and very diverse cultural backgrounds. This was also part of Palmerston North's 150-year celebration. A huge 'thank you' to the sub-committee that organised the event, the Artistic Director Tania Kopytko and her crew, and everyone who was involved and contributed to the success of this event.

This month we held our second MMC Members' meeting allowing us to share what we have been doing at the MMC over the last few months. Everyone is welcome to these events and it was a great catchup and networking opportunity.

And last but not least, I would like to welcome our new members and our volunteers who help out at the centre. Your support and help are valuable to us and the community. Thank you!

Nina Kirschbaum - President MMC

Upcoming Events

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC)

You are warmly invited to the MMC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021. **The AGM will be held on Friday 27 August at the Distinction Hotel, 175 Cuba St, Palmerston North, 5:30 pm.**

The AGM will be followed by light refreshments. It will be a great opportunity to meet some staff from the new Ministry of Ethnic Communities.

MMC is looking for new members to join the Executive Committee to contribute to the exciting and important work of the MMC. New members with skills, vision, board and organisational knowledge, particularly in the New Zealand context and environment would be desirable.

MMC is embarking on some exciting projects and new areas of community work. It's a great time to get involved! Executive meetings are monthly and we expect members to make useful contributions and attend at least 90% of meetings across the year. There are also subcommittees for particular focus work.

MMC particularly needs people who have secretarial, financial or strategic planning skills.

If you want to put your name forward, please make sure you are one of the appointed delegates of a financial member. You need to be a member of the MMC to go on the Executive.

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 6 358 1572.

Send your Nomination form, explaining why you want to join the Executive Committee and what skills you will bring to the organisation, on or before Friday 20th August, 2021, through email to info@mmcnz.org.nz or deliver to MMC (77-85 King Street, Palmerston North).

A short PowerPoint of all candidates for the AGM will be displayed before the election so people can see who is standing. So, please send us a recent photo of yourself as well.

For any questions and more information on the AGM process please contact Christine Mukabalinda, MMC Manager. Phone: +64 6 358 1572 / Email: info@mmcnz.org.nz

Navigation project

MMC is running a year-long project called the MMC Navigation 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 to help with the project.

The members are Nina Kirschbaum and Angel Kwan from the MMC executive; Netra Ghimire from the MMC executive and Bhutanese Society; Raza Naeel from Manawatu Afghan Society Inc; Kanchana Seneviratne from the Sri Lankan Community; Abdul Rashid from Manawatu Myanmar Muslim Community; Akbar Shah Bin Mohd Sharif from Manawatu Rohingya Association Incorporated; Zakey Boli from Burmese Muslim Community; and MMC staff member Hannah Nguyen.

The Translation Service part of the project is ready to fill the ethnic communities' translation needs. Languages currently available from the translation service are: Burmese, Cantonese, Dari, Farsi, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Rohingya, Russian, Sinhalese, Thai, Urdu, 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.

Our upcoming community talk: Community Safety on Monday 9 August 2021, 5.30-7.00 pm at Hancock Community House, 77 - 85 King Street, Palmerston North.

Volunteer Week and Refugee Day

20 June is World Refugee Day- an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. MMC works with other social organisations and communities to support refugees to build their lives and make the new land their homes. On 21 June, MMC joined with RIMA and other organisations at Te Manawa to honour and acknowledge refugees' strength, courage & resilience.

The week of 20 to 26 June is the National Volunteer Week. We have amazing volunteers at MMC and we appreciate all their hard work. Volunteers are essential to the services that we provide, from providing English tutoring or computer lessons to art skills for migrants, refugees and newcomers, and supporting us in all events. Your wonderful volunteer work has made a remarkable and significant impact on many people's lives! A massive thank you to all of our fabulous MMC volunteers.

SMALL ACTIONS,

thank you so
much

VOLUNTEER WEEK 2021



Governance workshop

The June 9 governance workshop for community leaders held at MMC was very well attended and inspiring. The 1.5-hour workshop covered valuable topics of basic governance and committee/ board management and operations, focusing on governance terms and definitions, board roles, strategic planning and succession planning.

A big thank you to Brooke Carter, Community Advisor at the Department of Internal Affairs and Daniel Gamboa, Senior Diversity and Engagement Advisor at the Office of Ethnic Communities, for running the workshop.



Potluck Dinner of June – “Hong Kong flavours”

“Hong Kong flavours” was the theme for MMC’s June potluck dinner on Friday 25 June at Youth Space. We had a great time tasting yummy food from Hong Kong and other places and getting to know more about the uniqueness of Hong Kong through games and videos. We would like to thank Youth Space and Hong Kong Student Society for their amazing hospitality and wonderful contribution.

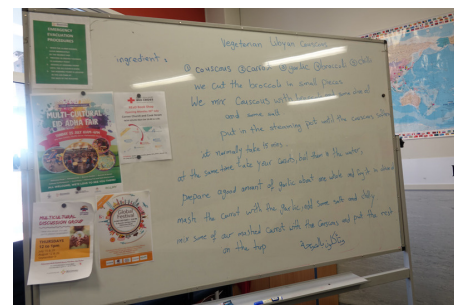
Youth Space is an inviting hub for teens to find inspiration, be creative, socialise and equip themselves with the tools and skills to help them live life to the full. It’s a welcoming, safe, alcohol and drug-free space young people aged 13-19 can call their own. All activities and events are free of charge. Check out Youth Space's Fanpage to find out about their activities and events: <https://www.facebook.com/pnyouthspace/>



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 people 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 Libya! A sincere thank you and appreciation to Atika for your time on 16 July and for the delicious Libyan vegetarian couscous. We had a great turnout at the event and we look forward to trying your delicious recipe at home.



Do you want to present and share a dish from your culture? Please contact MMC on 63581572 or email: info@mmcnz.org.nz or ask@mmcnz.org.nz

Potluck Dinner of July – “Latino flavours”



MMC’s July potluck dinner - "Latino flavours" was held on the evening of Friday 30 July at the City Central Library Mezzanine area. It was a big, successful event. We welcomed about 200 people and everyone had a great time sharing and trying a variety of food from Latino communities and others from all over the world. Thanks to HOLA (Latin Community) and Central Library (especially Genny Vella) for bringing the multicultural communities together.



Palmerston North City Library - The Living Room of the City is a wonderful and exciting space for everyone to explore the pathways of the world. It offers amazing collections of books, materials, programmes and activities for all needs and they have dedicated, friendly and helpful staff who always come with a smile to assist you to find things.

Library website: <https://citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz/>



MMC Members Meeting

The MMC members meeting was held on Wednesday 28 July, where President Nina Kirschbaum presented an update of past and upcoming MMC activities. Members were reminded to renew their membership subscriptions. Renewals need to be completed before the AGM on August 27 in order to vote and be part of the nomination process. The new Navigation project was introduced by Angel Kwan (MMC Treasurer). Please see page 10 for detailed information on the Navigation Project and upcoming events. It was also a great opportunity for members to meet each other and learn what different groups do in their communities.



World on Stage 2021

World on Stage 2021, held on 9 July, is MMC's Flagship performance project showcasing our wonderful cultural diversity on a concert stage at the grand Regent Theatre. Through dance, music, song and storytelling we celebrated the beauty of our diverse cultures. "Covid didn't get the better of us," said MC Mona Williams, "instead, last year's cancelled show gave performers and organisers time to do even better".

World on Stage 2021 brought together over 196 performers from 17 groups and they were also able to watch the show, as well as the audience. The event is a strong affirmation for the groups and the audience to see their culture presented at such a high standard and presented with so much fun. The project has a mentoring and development element to assist groups who are performing for the first time to reach their potential by providing advice on stage craft and performance skills.

Our sincere thanks to all performers, stall holders, stage helpers and all who willingly gave their time and expertise to World on Stage 2021. Also thank you to our funders, supporters and staff.

For those who could not come to this fantastic show, you can find some photos and introductions to our performers and their performances on the following pages and also on our Facebook page. Here is the wonderful review by Judith Lacy, editor of the Manawatū Guardian, in the NZ Herald:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/manawatu-guardian/news/review-manawatu-multicultural-councils-world-on-stage-hard-to-top/NKJ7JIE3XQBZFKDMPNVBXXVBKKI/?fbclid=IwAR3dYopR9951PXILGtPZZDitbc7FhWEndcQcLSz4WNvbiFhmlmRJSNa64xU#>

fbclid=IwAR3dYopR9951PXILGtPZZDitbc7FhWEndcQcLSz4WNvbiFhmlmRJSNa64xU#:



From left to right: a) Wonderful compere Mona Williams b) Kaumatua Wiremu te Awe Awe leads the waiata Te Aroha c) A big round of applause to our talented and energetic Artistic Director Tania Kopytko

Performers of World on Stage 2021

The Rosewood Morris Dancers were formed in 1980 and since then strangely clad people can be seen leaping into the air, waving handkerchiefs and sticks, with bells jingling from their shins. This traditional ritual to welcome the return of the sun and spring is called Morris dancing, and it goes back at least to the 15th century in England, but its origins are much earlier dating to pre-Christian times. Morris is still danced all year round to ensure a good crop, to provide entertainment, or to commemorate important events. Some of the dances have not changed in over a hundred years and because of this long history, Morris dancing is considered a living tradition.

The Manawatu Chinese Association Lion Dance Troupe represents a Chinese cultural tradition usually performed during the Chinese New Year and at other Chinese festivals or important occasions such as openings, celebrations, wedding ceremonies, or honour special guests.

Performers of World on Stage 2021

Igorotak NZ opened the show with a spectacular Kalinga dance performed to the unique Gangsa gongs. "Igorots" is one of 134 ethnic groups in the Philippines; they are indigenous to the six ethnic-linguistic tribes living in the Cordillera Mountain Range of northern Luzon, Philippines.



Vietnamese Dance with the soloist Cindy Nguyen performed a modern song named "Sac Moi Em Hong" (My lips are pink). The song tells a story of a girl who believes today is always beautiful than yesterday.

Palmerston North Chinese school folk dance presented "Colourful Clouds". This is a famous Cantonese tune describing how people enjoy a peaceful moonlight night and they imagine fairies are driving the clouds towards the Moon Palace.



Shree Dance Academy presented a medley of dances, a Kathak dance describing the colourful story of Radha and Krishna playing Holi – the festival of colours and Garba, a traditional folk dance also associated with Indian festivals.



The Iraq Women's Theatre Group brought their first and unique work to World on Stage. They presented Hinna Night, one of many ceremonies of an Iraqi wedding celebration. The story of the bride came with symbols, singing, dancing and the audience clapping along. The bride's feet are sunk in water and grass to symbolise a deep-rooted marriage to come and sugar is held over her head to sweeten the marriage.

Performers of World on Stage 2021

Aziza Belly Dance - Aziza in Arabic means “my dearest” or “beloved”. The group was formed in 2007; Aziza aims to provide awareness of both fusion/modern oriental and traditional Middle-Eastern dance styles and commits to providing a fun-filled and empowering environment that connect people together. The group performed a traditional and uniquely Egyptian dance using the Shamadan (Chandelier) and a modern visual dance poem.



The Rhythm of Sri Lanka performed Usaka Wannama, the Falcon Dance, one of the Sri Lankan Kandyan dances about animals and birds. The group was formed just two months ago as they wanted to perform in World on Stage. For most of the performers, it was their first time on stage and they were wonderful!

Nusina a le Pasefika Dance Academy aims to promote the arts, culture, and talent within the Pasefika community. The academy’s little dancers brought a lovely, amazing performance comprised of songs from the friendly islands of Tokelau, Cooks Islands, Tonga, Fiji and Samoa.



The Pamanlahi Cultural Ensemble presented “Tala”, a Filipino symbol that means bright star and reflects the shining brightness of the Filipino eyes, “you can see the stars in them when they shine”. The group was formed 10 years ago by Filipino performers who wanted to express their love for dancing and share their rich cultural heritage with the community.



Performers of World on Stage 2021



IPU World Performance Group presented something different, a fusion work with Japanese drums, Vietnamese and Japanese fan dances and Indian semi-classical and folk dance all set to an Indian song. In 2020, IPU New Zealand marked the 30th anniversary of its establishment in Palmerston North. The organisation has around 25 different nationalities amongst its staff and students. The performance is a sample of cultural diversity IPU New Zealand prides itself on and shows why Palmerston North really is the City of Cultures.

The Cailin Traditional Irish Dancing School wowed the audiences with their amazing dance story “A Celtic Dream”. This year the school is celebrating 26 years of dance in Palmerston North.

Our Finale began with the **Combined Pipe Bands of Rangitikei, Manawatu, Horowhenua and Whanganui** who performed a set of tunes including Scotland the Brave, Rowan Tree, Murdo’s Wedding, Amazing Grace, Green Hills of Tyrol, and The Battle is O’er. The band comprises members from Marton, Feilding, Palmerston North, Levin, Whanganui and Dannevirke. The band has performed in all the Christmas parades in the region for the past two years and at many other events.



Following the Scottish pipers came **Palmy Punjabi Dhol**, a group of drummers representing the Punjabi community and their rich culture.

The Finale ended with **Samba ao Vento**, a percussion group. Their name means “Samba on the Wind”, a reference to Manawatu’s westerly wind. The group was formed in 2015 and its reputation and accolades continue to grow.

They were joined by **Palmeirinhos** – the Brazilian Heritage Group, which began in 2018 to promote and keep Brazilian culture and language alive. The bull (Boi Búmba) is an important figure in Brazilian folklore, song and dance and the little LED-lit bulls danced with Samba ao Vento.

For the end of the show Samba ao Vento and the little bulls went through the auditorium onto Broadway where everyone danced on the street to end the show.



Global Festival - Global Parents Support

We travelled around the world on a beautiful sunny day at Te Manawa and explored multiple cultures through traditional costumes, exciting board games and interactive activities, and of course, yummy food!!! Global Parents Support successfully organised the event with the generous support from PNCC, Te Manawa, City Library, MMC, UCOL and IPU and the participation of amazing volunteers.



The event started with a fantastic choral performance from the Unity Singers, then continued with stage presentations of cultural costumes from 9 groups - Indian, Ukrainian, Libyan, Palestinian, Korean, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Vietnamese and Japanese. It was a fantastic time for families and kids who had fun with various games and activities and a nice ending to the school holidays!



Cultural costume presentation participants



Global Parents Support committee members

Multicultural EID Festival - Manawatu Muslim Association

Manawatu Muslims Association organised a great Eid ul Adha community celebration on Sunday 25 July at the IPU Recreation Centre. The aim is to enhance cohesion, inclusion and understanding regardless of ethnicity and religion. The event had cultural performances and delicious food and was a great chance to catch up with friends. There were many activities for families and kids like a magic show, bouncy castles and games.



Some activities at EID Festival, captured by Lorna Johnson, Palmerston North city councillor

MMC Service Manager

MMC is hiring a Service Manager for 30 hours per week, who will be responsible for the operational management of the organisation.

The focus of the work is to assist the settlement and integration of migrants, ethnic minorities, former refugees and newcomers and the celebration of our diverse communities. The manager will liaise with ethnic community leaders, local bodies, government and non-government organisations that fund, support or represent migrants, ethnic minorities, newcomers, former refugees and local communities to ensure these services are relevant and accessible to the Manawatu region.

MMC has been operating in Palmerston North (Manawatu region) for over 27 years. It is a recognised and established charitable organisation which creates social and other connections to ethnic, migrant, former refugee communities and newcomers. MMC has over 50 group members from a wide range of different ethnicities and cultures (Asian, European, African, Latin American, Middle Eastern and Pacific).

Due to the significant growth of our non-profit organisation, we are on the lookout for someone passionate, skilled and professional to join our multicultural team.

Position: Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) Service Manager

Type: Permanent (30 hours per week)

Reports to: MMC Executive Chair

Remuneration: \$25 - \$30 per hour (\$39,000 - \$46,800 per annum), depending on the skills and experience of the jobholder.

Flexibility: Hours of employment can be flexible, but they must be suitable for MMC operations and be negotiated and agreed upon by the MMC Executive Committee. There will be times when the Manager will be expected to work outside core hours.

Effective Date: As soon as possible

Summary of Key Responsibilities:

- Operational management, coordination and support for volunteers, staff and members and clients
- Financial management, accounts, funding applications
- Reporting and reporting management
- Responsible for effective MMC communications/IT systems, database
- Responsible for networking, community and partnership communication and partnership building
- Development and effective management of a wide range of events and programmes
- Compliance with health and safety and other relevant rules and regulations
- Responsible for MMC membership and membership development
- Strategic vision and review of operations and programmes

MMC Service Manager

Knowledge

- Proven organisational management skills
- Experience and ability to manage staff, contractors and volunteers, contracts and projects and programmes
- Excellent finance/accounting work duties including finance software (XERO, MYOB)
- Demonstrate capability and experience in writing strategic plans, business plans and other essential organisational documents
- Effective team management, day to day operational management and delegation of tasks and responsibilities to create an efficient workflow
- Experience in working in a Multicultural environment and knowledge of existing communities and their cultural and other needs
- Excellent level of knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite and social media

Skills and Attributes

- Excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills, both verbal and written
- Be proactive, energetic and enthusiastic in all MMC work
- Have an empathetic, loyal and trustworthy nature
- Highly organised with an attention to detail, ability to delegate, while also being able to take a strategic overview
- A high degree of initiative with the ability to work autonomously with minimal supervision
- Work effectively to time frames
- Ability to think strategically, research, review, investigate, analyse and communicate information, programmes and processes effectively and troubleshoot issues and queries.

You must have evidence that you are legally entitled to work in New Zealand in order to apply (New Zealand citizenship, residence visa or work visa). The successful candidate will need to undergo a Police check. Contact the Manawatu Multicultural Council for a Job Description

Applications: Please send the following to the Manawatu Multicultural Council by **4 pm on Monday 23 August 2021**

- Your CV focusing on skills related to this job
- A cover letter stating why you would like the position and what skills and experience you would bring to the job and organisation
- The names and full contact details of two references who can comment on your work skills and experience. Referees will be contacted. Please advise them of this.

Send to:

Manawatu Multicultural Council

PO Box 2031, Palmerston North

Physical Address: Community House, 77 - 85 King Street, Palmerston North 4410

Email: info@mmcnz.org.nz Phone: +64 6 358 1572

Website: <https://www.mmcnz.org.nz>

Disclaimer: MMC has been in existence for over 27 years. The intention of this contract is that the position is permanent. However, MMC organisation and salary funding is totally reliant on the success of annual funding grants from external organisations, over which MMC has no control. Therefore, ongoing funding for the position cannot be guaranteed.

MMC Navigation project

MMC COMMUNITY TALK

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Guest Speaker:
Sergeant Qian Yang
Ethnic Liaison Coordinator
Central District
New Zealand Police

Hancock Community House
77 - 85 King Street, Palmerston North

Monday, 9 August 2021, 5.30 - 7.00 pm

This event is FREE, no registration or membership required.
Brought to you by MMC Community Navigation Project



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

What's on at the Manawatu Multicultural Centre?

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

Regular Activities at the Centre

Activity	Day	Time	Venue
English Conversation	Monday	10.00 - 11.30 am 1.00 – 2.30 pm	MMC
Computer Class	Tuesday	9.30 – 11.30 am	MMC
English Conversation	Tuesday	1.00 – 2.30 pm	MMC
Sharing Arts and Cultures	Wednesday	10.00 – 11.30 am	MMC
English Conversation	Wednesday	1.00 – 2.30 pm	MMC
Crochet	Wednesday	3.00 – 4.00 pm	MMC
English for Beginners	Thursday	10.00 – 11.30 am	MMC
English Conversation	Thursday	1.00 – 2.30 pm	MMC
English Conversation	Friday	10.00 – 11.30 am	MMC
Outdoor English Conversation	Friday	1.00 – 2.30 pm	Esplanade
Art & Craft	1 st Friday of each month (1 – 2.00 pm)		
Basic Cooking	2 nd Friday of each month (12 – 1.00 pm)		
Coffee Morning	3 rd Wednesday of each month (10 – 11.30 am)		
Potluck Dinner	Last Friday of each month (6 – 8.00 pm) – Venue TBA		

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)

Contact us: info@mmcnz.org.nz
+64 6 358 1572

Manawatu Multicultural Council
Website: www.mmcnz.org.nz