



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

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

ETHNIGRAM

MMC Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

December 2022

Teas and Coffees of the world

Applications are still open for communities, individuals, or groups to participate for the Teas and Coffees of the World 2023.

As usual, it is going to be part of a week-long activity of the Festival of Cultures 2023. It will be held at Caccia Birch on Thursday 23rd February 4 to 8pm.

We invite you to register to participate by using this link, <https://forms.office.com/r/gAzUPeszga> or contact our office at 06 358 1572.

Festival of Cultures

The City Council and Manawatu Multicultural Council will bring to you this free community festival held annually each February in Palmerston North. This 2-day iconic event is all about celebrating the diversity in our community through the sharing of cultural cuisine, art, song, dance, rhythm, games, and more.

It will commence with a lantern parade on 24th February, followed by a World Food, Craft & Music Fair on Saturday 25th February.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teas and Coffees of the World



23rd February 2023
Thursday | 4-8pm

CACCIA BIRCH HOUSE
130 Te Awe Awe, Palmerston North



06 358 1572

@ admin@mmcnz.org.nz



06 356 8199 PNEvents@pncc.govt.nz

06 358 1572 info@mmcnz.org.nz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nina Kirschbaum

Warmest greetings to you all!

I can't believe it is almost the end of the year and a few months since our last newsletter! There is a lot happening but one thing for sure is that MMC continues on its mission of leading, supporting, and celebrating multiculturalism through participation and advocacy.

Since MMC's classes and activities resumed, our staff and the Board have also been busy attending or helping to organise community events. When we attend these events and see our communities celebrating and retaining their cultural traditions and festivals with such energy and pure enjoyment, it brings about the enormous sense of well-being that comes through social connectedness, which we have surely missed during the pandemic.

As the pandemic continues to impact our lives, we have continued to innovate and become increasingly comfortable with some of the changes. We have continued to work with community leaders, members, partners, clients, funders, and volunteers to offer services that benefit ethnic and wider communities.

As I look back on the past months, I want to take the opportunity to share and highlight some accomplishments. MMC has been granted a provisional level 3 Social Service Accreditation, and MMC has received a "Better Outcomes Award" Te Tohu mō ngā Hua E Pai Ake Ana from the Public Service Commissioner for the works our Community Connectors and Navigators are doing; providing outreach support, and expanding to help meet basic needs to our communities.

We reflect and understand the communities and cultures we serve and recognize that outreach and collaboration build trust in multicultural societies.

I'm filled with pride as I look forward to the continued accomplishments of our member organisations. On behalf of the MMC, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the work, dedication, and commitment of the MMC Board, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. And we thank our funders, whose continued support through MMC has ensured we saw minimal disruptions in delivering programs and services.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Some members of the organising team for Songs and Praises 2022



MEET OUR EXECUTIVES AND STAFF



Febry Suharto

Secretary

My name is Febry Suharto, and yes that name was given to me because I was born on February. I was born in Indonesia and I grew up in Palmerston North. I tied the knot early this year with my beautiful kind soul husband, Imran and am loving every moment as a wife.

On the other side, I've been working with the RIMA (former refugees & multicultural communities) for just a little over a decade in NZ and overseas and I am a social worker by trait. Currently I am the Connecting Community Lead for the RIMA community at THINK Hauora. I am passionate in bridging, supporting, navigating and innovating ways to support the RIMA community to have better access to health services.

This is my second year in MMC, and this term I am the secretary. I love creative powerpoints, google drive, cloudfiles and paperless documents, in short I am sort of a tech nerd, sometimes. I am enjoying this journey with MMC, meeting amazing people, sharing knowledge and experience, and celebrating cultures of the world.

Fun fact about me, I love spicy (hot) food, like a little too crazy to a point that I bring chilli flakes in my bag, in my car and basically everywhere I go :D

Chianti O'Neale

Community Connector



Kia Ora, I am Chianti O'Neale and I'm a community connector within MMC. I was born and raised here in New Zealand and have had ample opportunity to explore this beautiful country having spent the last 2 years travelling all around it before settling down in Palmerston North. Having grown up as the eldest of 5, I am a "mother hen" and I believe that where my strong passion for helping others and looking after people comes from. In my connector role I work with our multicultural community in finding a place to call home for themselves and their families and help those that are in Isolation for covid.

I love so much that I can be a part of such an amazing and diverse community and cannot wait to see what the new year brings in.

Fun fact about me: I am of Māori decent on my mother's side and a mix of European and Native American on my father's side.



CELEBRATION OF ETHNIC SONGS AND PRAISES 2022

It was a magical afternoon on the 17th of September 2022, Saturday, at the Speirs Centre as amazing choirs, dance groups and performers from our diverse ethnic communities showcased their talent at our Celebration of Ethnic Songs and Praises 2022.

Celebration of Ethnic Songs and praises is a biannual event. It showcases ethnic songs, praises, chants, spiritual traditions around the world to sing and worship.

Manawatu Peoples Radio (MPR) has supported MMC in recording this event for over a decade. Hugh Dingwall was on hand to coordinate digital recording of this year's event.



POTLUCK DINNER

MMC's Potluck dinner usually happens every last Friday of the month. It was cancelled when the pandemic started.

We were very excited to have this first Potluck Dinner after 2 years since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Different ethnic groups attended, socialized, and shared their cultural dishes. We had Miss Kanorau-Intercontinental New Zealand 2022, Rovelyn Milford, as our special guest at the dinner. We also had international students from UCOL and IPU including a representative of Massey University Students Association (MUSA), Noor Fatima. MMC's president, Nina Kirschbaum, welcomed members of our community in her speech.



Different cultures joined the MMC's Potluck Dinner.



MMC CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

MMC classes are Free to everyone. You do not have to hold a resident visa to attend our classes.

We have English Conversation/ Grammar classes, Yoga, Arts and crafts, Sewing, Computing, Beginner's Fitness and monthly cooking demonstration.

Our classes depends on MMC's volunteers. We are fortunate to have a valued volunteers like Shubangi, Kathleen, Kate and Grey who have been with MMC for a number of years now. They are a few of the volunteer teachers here at MMC.

We also offer Experimental textile designing where you could do fabric painting, ribbon embroidery Call 06 358 1572 for more information or come and see our friendly staff at the centre upstairs at 77 King Street Manawatu.

COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Sharing cultural dishes

Cooking demonstration is one of MMC's monthly activity. It happens any Friday of the month. The host showcases a dish from their own country, demonstrate the procedure and advise where to buy the ingredients here in New Zealand.



MMC's staff, students, and visitors enjoying the food



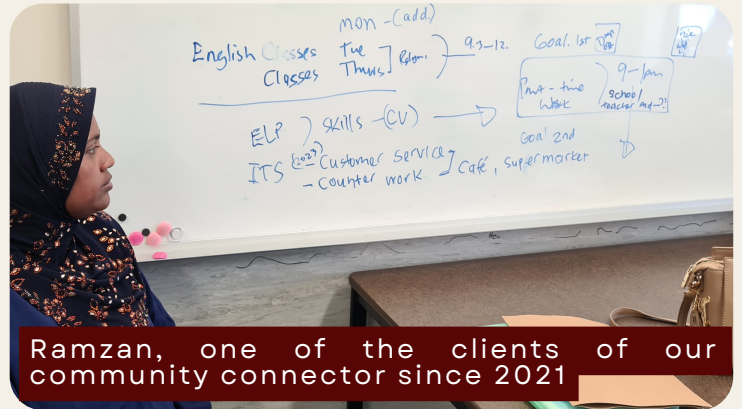
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR'S CORNER

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

As Community Connectors our focus is to identify your needs, enable you to connect with services and support networks to overcome life's challenges and to empower you with knowledge through information to develop confidence, and skills to build and achieve your goals. Part of our role as MMC's Community Connectors is to help by walking alongside our clients that may need support when working with government and non-government organisations such as Ministry of Social Development (MSD) also known as Work and Income NZ (WINZ), budgeting team at Moneywise Manawatū, or our friends at Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who also provide Migrant Connect services such as information sessions or Immigration assistance.

Our Community Connectors can help support and connect you and your families with the wider network of Social Services of Housing, Employment, Education, Health, Immigration and Legal.

To contact our Community Connectors team, you can ring the MMC Office on (06) 3581572 or email: careinthecommunity@mmcnz.org.nz



Here is one of our clients who has worked with the MMC's Connectors since 2021. We have supported Ramzan and her family to find long term accommodation and access childcare for the youngest child so that Ramzan can attend English classes with one of our partners, English Language Partners (ELP). Ramzan works with the Community Connectors to help create a plan that works for her and her children while looking at her short-term education which would help her to develop skills for long term employment. While this is hard work for Ramzan, she can at any time contact the Community Connectors to help support her along the way.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

My experience with MMC has always been a pleasure. Meeting people from different cultures is a gift of knowledge to understand who they are and their lifestyles. They are a lot different from New Zealand Aotearoa's culture.

There has always been a language barrier, but we seem to learn from each other; living their culture, respect for each other, style, food, etc. They are warm and kind. I always love to spend more time with them and share each other's cultures and support. Being a volunteer for MMC over the years, I love what they offer, great events they introduce, and the different cultures. Culturally, I have experienced their food, clothing, smiles, and styles. MMC offers different events like Potluck Dinner, Cooking demonstrations, Celebration of Ethnic Songs, and Praises, etc. They offer classes, learning skills, etc. MMC also brings warmth into our community.

-KATHLEEN STEPHENS

Pistang Pilipino sa Palmerston North 2022



Nigerians in Palmerston North connect to the wider community as they celebrate their cultural day and 62nd Independence Day, which was held on Saturday, October 1st, 2022. Friends of the community from within and outside the city gathered to celebrate this day. There were lots of opportunities for networking, and there was also assorted Nigerian and African cuisine for guests. Our

Nigerian Cultural Day

president, Nina Kirschbaum, attended the event with other community stakeholders. His Worship, the Mayor Grant Smith, MP for Palmerston North Tangi Utikere, Councillors Lorna Johnsons and Zulfiqar Butt were also in attendance and helped in the cutting of the independence cake.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

After a few weeks of moving from Brazil with my husband to Palmerston North, a new city and country, I realized it would be a considerable challenge. I had left all my friends in my homeland and still had to learn a new language. I used to be a math teacher in Brazil and came back to be an apprentice. Not after a long time I found MMC. I started attending classes and spending time with my classmates and staff. Gradually, in addition to learning to communicate, I felt welcomed and was able to participate in meeting events such as Potluck and Cooking Demonstration, as well as many lunches together. I have many good memories, and I am grateful for that. The people at MMC supported me and helped me adapt to a new life. Now I feel like Palmerston North is like my home, and I have a lot of MMC friends that I've made and will certainly do.

- LUCIENE DE SOUSA BRAGA BATISTA

WHATS ON AT MMC

Mondays:

Fitness for beginners - 10am
Basic English lesson - 1pm

Tuesdays:

Computing Class- 10:00am

Wednesdays:

English Conversation - 10am
Yoga - 12.30pm
English Conversation - 6:30pm

Thursdays:

Sharing Arts Culture - 10am
English Conversation - 1pm
English Conversation - 6:30pm

Fridays:

Sewing and Craft - 10:00am
English Conversation in the Park - 1pm
English Conversation - 6:30pm

Monthly:

Cooking Demonstration - any Friday of each Month
Potluck Dinner- every last Friday of each month

All our classes here at MMC depend on the availability of the Volunteer teachers

WHY JOIN MMC?

- 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

CONTACT US

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Palmerston North 4410

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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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