



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

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

ETHNIGRAM

MMC Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to you all!

Welcome to the first edition of Ethnigram for 2022.

Over the course of the first quarter, the MMC continued going strong with many plans taking root to upgrade our services to Manawatu. While the pandemic continues to create uncertainty in our communities, MMC has found it important to keep the health and safety of our community and delay many of our classes and activities until such a time that we can come together to share and celebrate safely. With gratitude, I acknowledge the ongoing English conversation classes that our kind tutors continue to run outdoors in support of people wanting to spend time with others and improve their confidence with English.

Over the months, we have had some new staff join us. I am very pleased to introduce you to our new service manager - Nathan Ehambara who is a Business lecturer at UCOL, and to Taara Keeble our new Administrator with background in NGO work and administration. A very warm welcome to you both. We are pleased to have your smiles and skills onboard! I'd also like to acknowledge and give a big thank you to our Community Connectors staff Teisa and Indra for doing exceptional work for MSD under the COVID Response and Recovery fund, they have made MMC proud to be acknowledged by our partners in such a good light, ka pai!

On behalf of MMC, I would like to wish our Muslim communities a blessed Ramadan month. And last but not least, as always, we are incredibly grateful for the support from our community partners, stakeholders, volunteers, members and supporters. These times are not easy for all of us, however we will come out stronger together. Whiria te tangata.

Nina Kirschbaum

ALLAN YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to the Allan Young Academic Scholarship recipients 2022! All the very best in your studies and bright futures.

Khalida Nasir Ali

\$1000

Travis Kalile

\$500

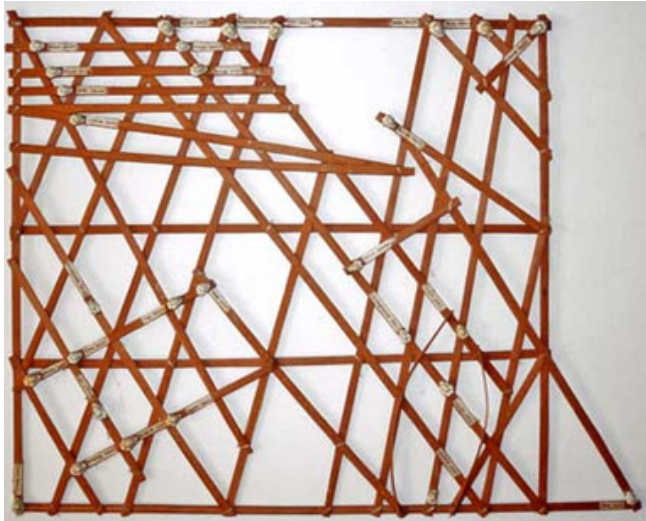


NAVIGATION PROJECT

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 info@mmcnz.org.nz or on 06 358 1572.



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

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 via the Navigation Project 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 PROFILES

Teisa is a first-generation New Zealand born Samoan. As the child of migrants, she personally knows and feels passionate about finding a sense of belonging in NZ; recognising the challenges migrants and newcomers face in finding a way to both preserve and contribute from the importance of cultural identity in Manawatū. Teisa acknowledges that migrants often must work harder, with her own parents holding 2-3 jobs to make ends meet. She has worked her way up in the business world with experience at Fujitsu and IBM Australia. As a natural people person, she cares deeply for others whether that be a casual lunch with people in the community or helping MMC from all levels to show its best. Teisa is part of a member group and stepped down from board governance to take an active role in helping our communities directly. Her role as a connector aims to guide families as they navigate government and NGO assistance to overcome any challenges migrants, refugees and newcomers may face, particularly in employment, housing, and finances. Her wealth of knowledge and skills make MMC proud.



Indra Dulal is a warm and highly skilled community connector who MMC have the privilege to employ. Indra's story is inspiring, he continues to be tireless in his effort to give back to the community with MMC and at the local hospital. Naturally, Indra developed skills as a multi-linguist when his world changed forever during the political unrest of a government bent on the abhorrent idea of ethnic cleansing. He was forced to leave his hometown Salami in the Chirang province of Bhutan, with nothing except that which he could carry on his back. Indra along with over 100,000 refugees between 1990-1993 made a 2-day journey on foot and through forest fleeing Bhutan to India, then catching a bus to eastern Nepal. Indra spent much of his young adulthood in a refugee camp which didn't stop him from shining and helping others. He spent 12 years teaching in the camp without electricity, using manual equipment and ink provided by CARITAS an organisation which he still donates to today. In 2009, many forms and efforts later, Indra finally arrived in New Zealand. With the help of resettlement organisations, his own hard work and determination Indra began to build a new life. Working in NZ as an interpreter, volunteering at the PNCC library, providing language assistance at schools in Palmerston North right up to the great achievement of being made a Justice of the Peace all so he can continue to help others, and role model to his cultural community. Indra credits his wife with his success as she is the ground from which he is able to bear fruit for others.



AFGHAN NAVIGATOR

Asmatullah holds a master's degree in commerce along with experience in the fields of banking, business and social activities. He is a goal-oriented person, focused on completing specific tasks to achieve a planned outcome.

As an Afghan navigator he aims to educate Afghan families to analyse their strengths and opportunities, set personal and vocational goals to build their self-esteem, confidence and motivation to support their community.



ONE TOGETHER RESEARCH

MMC have undertaken research for the Navigation Team Project with Justin Ngai as the research lead. In the One Together Research Report a series of interviews were conducted to better understand the needs of migrants and newcomers to Manawatū who reside in NZ without their families.

The results of the research found that the level of satisfaction and wellbeing among participants was not significantly different in NZ as it was in their home countries. This does not mean that newcomers do not struggle adjusting to life in NZ, though the participants had very different experiences with immigrating all of them had experienced struggles settling in. The main areas for improvement in support being finances, employment, boredom, isolation, homesickness and language. Recommendations from the report encouraged organisations to provide access to employment and financial services, host more activities, create social events and projects and further promote services for Migrants/Newcomers.

~ Ngai, J. (2021) MMC One Together Research

With the research being largely successful in pinpointing the areas of focus where organisations can provide support to newcomers, we hope to see the level of services and wellbeing improve among our newcomers and migrant communities.

POLICE STRATEGIC PLAN

On the 16th of March Sergeant Q along with the National Police Ethnic department held a zoom session to meet and discuss a refresh to their Ethnic Strategy with community leaders. Sergeant Q on behalf of the Police would like to acknowledge and send thanks to all of those who participated in the event.

As a result of the session, the 2022 Police Ethnic Strategy draft has been created and shared with community leaders. The draft will be refined further after consultation with community leaders nationwide. Police are aiming to have a full and confirmed version of the strategy available by July 2022. The final version will be shared with community leaders and service providers in the region.

MMC would like to thank Sergeant Q and the Police for their continued dedication and efforts to connect with ethnic communities. It is important that we all feel heard and safe in our communities.



FUNDING FORUM

On the 4th of April guest speakers from Department of Internal Affairs Hāpai Hapori, Ministry for Ethnic Communities and Palmerston North City Council presented at a Funding Forum hosted by MMC. There are a range of funds available:

Hāpai Hapori and Ministry for Ethnic Communities

communitymatters.govt.nz

Lottery Community grants for:

- ongoing operating costs for existing or expanded services and activities
- projects beyond an organisation's day-to-day operations
- helping to top-up an organisation's existing funding
- minor capital works projects valued at \$30,000 or less

Community Organisation Grants Scheme for:

- ongoing operational costs
- community projects or events

Ethnic Communities Development fund for:

- projects that support ethnic communities in New Zealand to stay socially connected.
- projects that promote community resilience and recovery

Ethnic Communities COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Fund for:

- supporting community groups and organisations to get ethnic communities vaccinated

Ethnic Communities Digital Inclusion Fund for:

- projects, initiatives, or services that support ethnic communities to use digital technology to take part in New Zealand society

Palmerston North City Council

pncc.govt.nz

Community-Led Initiatives Fund for:

- small-scale events and projects that contribute to a creative, exciting, connected and safe Eco-city.

Creative Communities Scheme for:

- communities to engage with and participate in arts activities
- supporting diverse arts and cultural traditions
- encouraging under-18s to engage with the arts

For a copy of the presentations, information sheets and presenter contact details email admin@mmcnz.org.nz or for information, application dates and criteria please visit the websites listed.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Community Funding Forum

WHEN: APRIL 4 2022, 6PM
WHERE: ONLINE
RSVP: admin@mmcnz.org.nz

Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

Ministry for
Ethnic
Communities
Te Tari Mātāwaka

Manawatu
Multicultural Council
Te Kaitiaki Takekōwhiri o Te Manawatu

PALMY
PAPAKŌA
PALMERSTON
CITY

LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAMME

As a result of the MMC navigation research identifying community needs, MMC have teamed up with the Karen community to pilot a swimming lesson programme over a duration of 10 weeks.

The first weekend in April was the opening day for the pilot programme where a swimming instructor assessed the group's swimming abilities. Over the course of the programme we aim to help individuals build knowledge about water safety in Aotearoa and to build confidence within themselves.

A big thank you to the Lido Aquatic Centre and all those who made this happen as we address the importance of water safety for our migrants and newcomers in Manawatū.



GLOBAL PARENTS SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL YOUTH VOLUNTEER TRAINING

In December 2021, Angel Kwan from Global Parents Support with youth leaders Krista McJarrow-Keller and Frank Wong, successfully hosted two sessions of International Youth Volunteer Training for 20 young people.

The youth group are full of passion and kindness, working for people in the community during their summer break. In the community garden they worked all morning cleaning out the weeds, harvesting vegetables and tidying compost. They mentored at Junior Leadership Training to share their cultures and languages. There is more volunteer work to be done and hopefully we will be back on track when the Covid-19 situation gets better.

Thank you, Manawatu Food Action Network @Environment Network Manawatu and City Centre Play @Palmerston North City Council for being guest speakers and sharing these amazing projects.



PALMERSTON NORTH MULTICULTURAL YOUTH COUNCIL AROUND THE WORLD

PN Multicultural Youth Council started off the year with their very first event 'Around the World' on the 26th February at Caccia Birch House.

After the news confirming that the annual Festival of Cultures was cancelled due to Covid-19, PNMYS wanted to host a smaller scale event of something similar so that youth in our community could still celebrate!

Our event name 'Around the World' came from our 'Airport' theme! This came to our mind since an airport is where all the cultures mix as various people walk in and out of the big building, ready to set off to some place new. Upon entry, people were given a passport which they then took with them to different activity stalls and would get a stamp once the activity was completed. Activities included Henna, Guess the Language quiz, Guess the flags quiz, Pin on the Map, Put up the Bindi, Origami, Calligraphy, Ludo and 123 Dragon. Once 5 activities were completed, people could exchange the passport for a discount at our food stalls which included dumplings, sushi, bubble tea, Want Want, Gari Puffs, Shish, Wontons etc. We also hosted 4 cultural performances, 2 dances from Northern India and Vietnam along with 2 solo singers! People were encouraged to wear their traditional clothes.

We have a lot to learn from our busy day but it's safe to say that everyone had lots of fun. A memorable event to start the year off!



PAKISTAN NEW ZEALAND FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PAKISTAN ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

At the end of March Pakistan NZ friendship association held an arts and crafts exhibition which MMC president Nina Kirschbaum attended and enjoyed. The exhibition showcased Pakistan's diverse heritage, scenic landscape, world-famous truck art, and beautiful and vibrant handicrafts. Pakistan NZ friendship association were happy that the exhibition gave an opportunity to make stronger connections with the wider community.



ELP REOPENING

English Language Partners are reopening face-to-face and online English classes. For the full schedule visit www.englishlanguage.org.nz

COUNCIL MEETING

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27th of April, time to be announced.

WHATS ON AT MMC

Due to the continued high risk of indoor activities with Covid-19 in the community. MMC advises that all indoor classes and use of the community meeting room are delayed until further notice. If you are a member and would like to host an indoor event or activity there are rooms available in Hancock Community House. MMC also offer zoom sessions for participants to safely come together at home. Please contact admin@mmcnz.org.nz for room booking queries.

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

Manawatu Multicultural Council

Hancock Community House

77-85 King Street

Palmerston North 4410

+64 6 358 1572

info@mmcnz.org.nz

facebook.com/mmcnzpn/



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