



Manawatū
Multicultural Council Inc.

**“WE CELEBRATE, SUPPORT &
CONNECT MULTICULTURAL
COMMUNITIES IN MANAWATU”**

ETHNIGRAM

MMC Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

MARCH – JUNE 2024

SONGS AND PRAISES

CULTURAL FAITH PERFORMANCES

Sat, 21 Sept
2pm - 5 pm

 *location*
Speirs Centre,
PNBHS



Register NOW!

 **Manawatū**
Multicultural Council Inc.

Welcome to the Manawatu Multicultural Council Ethnigram, your gateway to staying informed and engaged with our vibrant community! We're excited to share updates, highlights, and opportunities that reflect the diversity and unity of our community. Whether you're a long-standing member, a new participant, or a valued stakeholder, we invite you to join us in celebrating culture, fostering connections, and promoting inclusivity. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, more harmonious community where everyone feels welcomed and valued here in Palmerston North.

Join Songs & Praises 2024 event celebrating global cultures with music, praises, and customs on September 21, 2024, at Speirs Centre, Palmerston North Boys' High School from 2 pm to 5 pm. Experience diverse music, rhythms, and unity. Register your performance via QR code or visit the MMC Facebook page.



UPCOMING EVENTS



 *July* 

- 8 – 12** Poipoi Te Pitomata
- 11** Pop – Up Play
- 21** Kids' Market
- 26** Potluck Dinner (Korean)
- 31** UCOL Community Connect

August

30 Annual General Meeting



 *September*

- 6** Potluck Dinner
- 21** Songs and Praises



MMC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora!

Wishing you all health and happiness!

A warm welcome to all of you to another instalment of Ethnigram for the year 2024. I am thrilled to report to you that the last couple of months have been extremely successful and happening (as the youngsters say) and we at MMC continue to be amazed by your active participation in making all the events that we arrange for you, always successful. We love you for your support!

We happily stepped into March with the "Happy Woman Workshop" which was fully packed and all the attendees left well informed, happy and dancing on their feet. We saw Heritage month display and "An Open Book" event with conversations with our ethnic communities and multicultural playgroup, being a monthly event and always a fun occasion. Talking of fun, we got to celebrate Festival of Colours when Palmy Square came alive with colour and music, celebrating Holi. We had our first member's meeting of the year and got to celebrate UCOL International day. March came to a delicious close with mouth-watering delights at our potluck dinner, starring Indian cuisine.

The highlight of the month of April has been the visit of the Indian High Commissioner where Her Excellency Ms Neeta Bhushan interacted with community members. It was my privilege to be part of ANZAC day service this year and laid a wreath, commemorating our brave and fearless veterans. April's multicultural potluck event brought Thai flavours to enrich our taste-buds and enticing performances by Thai dancers. The month came to an end with the monthly playgroup and Kids' market, a great learning experience for our future entrepreneurs and industrialists.



We marched into May with a visit from the students from Kindai School in Japan, on an exchange programme with Massey followed by an ETU workshop (Employment) which we hope helped all the attendees. We focussed on Youth in the month of May and the monthly potluck dinner was indeed a very youthful event with a great turnout and our young members being presented with certificates and encouragement organised by the Global Parents Support Group. We also had a very musical Youth Harmonies event at the Plaza and we feel encouraged to have more such events in the future.

Talking of future, we had the Te Manawa Science Programme which was informative and encouraging for our future scientists and bright young minds. We had our member's meeting mid-June and were happy to see a good turn-out, especially as we had excellent speakers. We were once again proud to have hosted another successful Happy Woman Conference at Te Manawa and were kept busy at the Riverdale Cultural Day. June came to a delicious close with mouth-watering delights at our potluck dinner, starring Japanese cuisine.

We look forward to very busy and happening months ahead, with several events planned for our extensive communities, which we will be reporting to you in the next newsletter.

I would like to thank all our sponsors, funding agencies and donors for your generous contributions and continued support.

Best regards,

Ranjita Sengupta

MMC President

MMC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



RANJITA SENGUPTA

President



MOHAMMAD ALI KARIMI

Vice - President



TANIMA HOSSAIN

Secretary



ANIL KAUSHIK

Treasurer



FATIMA JUNAID

Board Member



IZZA ATIF

Board Member

Kia ora everyone,

MMC MANAGER'S MESSAGE

As we move forward in 2024, we are excited to share some updates and upcoming events designed to celebrate our vibrant community and promote cultural understanding.

Last few months were very busy to MMC. We had amazing get-together with our MMC Volunteers and also had increased enrolment of our youth volunteers. We encourage if any of you would like to be a part of our volunteers, please do come, and see us. There will be trainings, advocacy, and lots of opportunities to serve back to our multicultural communities. Apart from all the events we had last few months, we also had really good numbers of visitors and inquires at the centre. As you all know our English classes, arts and craft classes, Tai chi classes are kept continue to grow. We recently finished our 1st session of computer lessons for this year with Digits. That was huge success and looking forward to starting new sessions soon. Our amazing Yoga instructor Rita is currently out of the country until August. So, we will not be able to conduct our Yoga classes till then.

Both our community connector programme and welcoming school programmes have seen increasement of demand from our communities.

We try our best to provide quality service and support to all of them. But this means sometimes you need to make an appointment in advance. Specially if you need to see our community connectors, please make an appointment so you can avoid any inconvenience.

We would like to express our gratitude for everyone who supported our Multi Cultural Hub project in PNCC long term plan submission.

Lastly, we want to thank to each of you for your continued support and active participation. Our centre thrives because of the passion and dedication of our community members. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and continuing our journey of cultural celebration and mutual respect.

Best regards,

Kanchana Seneviratne

MMC Manager



HAPPY WOMAN WORKSHOP



Workshop attendees

In the past few months, we hosted two Happy Woman Workshops. A big thank you to all who participated. This inclusive event focused on women's well-being, offering valuable insights, resources, and support from various organizations. From discussions on family support to exploring personal growth opportunities, it was a day devoted to self-care and community. We appreciate everyone who joined us for this empowering event. Special gratitude to Te Manawa Museum for providing a wonderful venue for our gathering, and a massive Thank you to all the supportive agencies that made this event a success!

ETU WORKSHOP



Dean Hyde (speaker) and the workshop attendees

In this engaging workshop, participants explored the rights afforded to them as employees. Through lively discussions, attendees gained valuable insights into what to expect when we start work, health & safety matters, leave entitlements as well as help and support that are available in the area. Dean, from the E Tu union provided practical tips for navigating workplace challenges and advocating for one's rights effectively. We would like to thank Dean Hyde for delivering his materials and sharing his knowledge, as well as all the attendees. We hope you discovered plenty of information that will assist you in your job and employment journey.

UCOL INTERNATIONAL DAY

Congratulations to UCOL Manawatū for a successful International Day! We had a lot of fun meeting their students and community. We were treated with some amazing cultural performances. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



Students at UCOL during International day

NEPALI SCHOOL VISIT

We had an incredible time visiting the Nepali School on March. It was an enriching experience immersing ourselves in Nepali culture, language, and traditions. A big thank you to the Nepali School for welcoming us with open arms and for providing such a warm and inclusive learning environment. Your commitment to preserving and promoting Nepali heritage is truly commendable. We extend our gratitude to all the students, teachers, and staff for their hospitality and for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us. This visit was not only educational but also a celebration of cultural diversity and unity.



MMC staff giving MMC merchandise to the students

MULTICULTURAL

POTLUCK DINNER

For the past months, we have had hosted many fantastic Potluck Dinner with an Indian, Thai and Youth themes.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and shared their dishes. Thank you to all who performed. The event was filled with a delightful variety of multicultural cuisines, making it truly special. Special thanks to all attendees, volunteers, and MMC staff for contributing to the success of this event!



Potluck Dinner with Indian Flavours



Potluck Dinner with Thai Flavours



Potluck Dinner with Japanese Flavours

KIDS MARKET



One of the stall holders at the kids market

MMC, in partnership with Global Parent Support, is thrilled to announce another successful Kids Market! Both organizations express sincere gratitude to the parents and children for their enthusiastic involvement. Witnessing all the smiling faces and vibrant creativity throughout the day was truly heartwarming. A big thank you to everyone who joined us and explored our market - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and discovered some amazing treasures crafted by the talented kids. We look forward to welcoming you back to the next Kids Market during the upcoming school holidays! Lastly, special thanks to Te Manawa Museum for their hospitality, collaboration, and assistance.

See you on the 21st of July for the next Kids Market!

COOKING DEMONSTRATION



Cooking demonstration attendees together with the hosts

We are always excited to offer unique opportunities for cultural exchange and appreciation through the universal language of food. In recent months, we showcased a variety of dishes from Bengali and Chinese cuisines. Attendees enjoyed the live demonstration and tasting session, with many leaving with recipes and expanded taste buds. Thank you to Maitreyee and Hunter for facilitating the session and sharing their knowledge and skills with all of us. Thank you everyone who attended - we look forward to seeing you all at the next cooking demonstration.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY



During the ceremony

In May, we celebrated the incredible journey of our newest citizens. Congratulations to these individuals as they begin this exciting new chapter. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who played a part – from PNCC, MMC board members, and staff to volunteers, officials, and community members. The next ceremony will be on August.

MULTICULTURAL PLAYGROUP & LIFETALKS



Kids activity together with the facilitator

Our Multicultural Playgroup and Lifetalks Programme unites families from diverse backgrounds to engage in play, learning, and connection. This initiative offers a secure and welcoming environment for children to explore and learn, allowing parents and caregivers to interact and form bonds within the community. We appreciate Tessa for her role as our facilitator, her passion and commitment have significantly contributed to the success of the programme.

“AN OPEN BOOK” HERITAGE MONTH



Panel discussion on various life stories

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended "An Open Book," an event commemorating 31 years of service by the Manawatu Multicultural Council. The panel interview was a unique opportunity to delve into the diverse backgrounds and stories of some of our ethnic community members. Anne Odogwu from Italy, Meriam Findlay from the Philippines, Chuda Ghimire from Bhutan, and Mohammad Ali Karimee from Afghanistan shared their incredible journeys, led by Lyal Brenton.

From tales of resilience to moments of triumph, these individuals vividly portrayed their

community's rich diversity. Held at the Palmerston North City Library on March 16, the event was a mix of heartwarming anecdotes, engaging discussions, and inspiring revelations. It highlighted the importance of embracing differences and celebrating our shared humanity.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Palmerston North City Library for hosting us and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for this meaningful exchange. A special thank you to Lyal Brenton, our esteemed ethnic community members, all participants, and everyone whose invaluable support contributed to the success of this event.

FIRST VOICE



Palmerston North Intermediate School students and volunteer mentors during the workshop

First Voice is an annual event held by Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School (PNINS) for students whose first language is not English. PNINS has many students who are bilingual and even multilingual and during the First Voice event, students are given the opportunity to showcase written use of their first language. It has been proven that encouraging the active use of one's first language can have positive effects on the children's self-esteem, their relationships with their parents, their eventual proficiency in other languages, and their learning in general.

The hugely successful event, held for the 25th time took place on the 11th of June at the Palmerston North Convention Centre. Students were assisted by volunteer mentors who also spoke their first language. Students completed their writing, which will be published by the Palmerston North Central Library next term.

A total of 26 languages were represented, and 66 students participated this year. MMC is honoured to continue its collaboration with PNINS and the Palmerston North City Library to source volunteer mentors. A special thank you to all the mentors who supported the kids in writing their work in their own languages.

We look forward to the next round in 2025.

VOLUNTEER GET - TOGETHER

MMC Staff and Volunteers



In April, we honored our volunteers at the Volunteer Get Together event. We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, showcasing their dedication and hard work. The event was a fantastic celebration of your contributions and an opportunity to connect with other volunteers at MMC.

Our team provided insights into our organization, the various volunteering opportunities available in administrative roles, regular classes, events, programs, and community engagement. We sincerely thank each volunteer for their unwavering commitment to enriching our community. Your dedication is truly valued, and we are fortunate to have such exceptional individuals on our team. Let's continue fostering the spirit of volunteering and making a positive impact together! For those interested in volunteering with MMC, please reach out to us at info@mmcnz.org.nz or call us at (06) 358 1572. There are plenty of volunteering opportunities waiting for you!



Japanese students during their visit

Japanese students from Kindai University visited MMC as part of their short-course programme at Massey University. During their visit, they gained insights into our services and our contributions to the community. Special thanks to Phil for coordinating this visit and making it possible.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER VISIT

On April 24th, we had the privilege of hosting Her Excellency, Neeta Bhushan, the Indian High Commissioner, at MMC. This momentous occasion offered a unique opportunity to explore the profound cultural and diplomatic bonds between India and New Zealand.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and engaged with Her Excellency. Together, we celebrated diversity and strengthened community bonds, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our shared heritage.



ANZAC DAY SERVICE

On the solemn occasion of ANZAC Day, the President (Ranjita) and Vice-President (Karimi) of the Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) came together at The Square to pay heartfelt tribute to our fallen heroes. Amidst a backdrop of reverence and remembrance, they laid a wreath as a symbol of gratitude and respect for those who sacrificed their lives in service to our nation.

ANZAC Day holds a special significance for all Australians and New Zealanders, serving as a poignant reminder of the bravery and camaraderie displayed by our servicemen and women throughout history. It is a day when we come together as a community to honor their courage and reflect on the enduring values of mateship, sacrifice, and resilience.

The MMC remains dedicated to fostering inclusivity and unity among our diverse community, and our participation in events like ANZAC Day underscores our commitment to honoring the traditions and contributions of all who call Manawatu home. As we gather each year to commemorate ANZAC Day, let us take a moment to remember and honor the ANZAC spirit that continues to inspire us all.



Ranjita (Left) and Karimi (right) with the MMC wreath during the Anzac day service

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM MMC MEMBERS



GLOBAL MARKET

SUNDAY 21/7 | TE MANAWA MUSEUM | 1-4 PM

BRING CASH AND SUPPORT OUR STALLHOLDERS

COME ALONG TO OUR 

   Manawatu Multicultural Council Inc.

PHILIPPINE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO JOIN

Midwinter PARTY

AUGUST | 10 | 6:00 PM

Marist Club Palmerston North
19 Pascal Street

DRESS CODE: SEMI-FORMAL
| FREE ENTRY |

RAFFLES: \$3 EACH OR 2 FOR \$5
BRING A PLATE: FINGER FOOD

SEE YOU THERE!

<https://philippinecentral.org.nz>




UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have any community updates to share, please forward them to admin@mmcnz.org.nz.



Midwinter Social Gathering

GAMES / PERFORMANCES / FOOD
Please RSVP by 30 June 2024

THURSDAY, 04 JULY 2024 | 5:30PM – 7:30PM
At Marist Sport



+64 28-401-4605 | info@skilledmigrants.org

  Manawatu Multicultural Council   

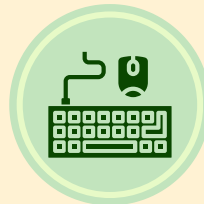
At MMC, our dedication lies in offering educational and personal development opportunities to all individuals, regardless of their background or residency status. We firmly believe in providing access to learning and self-improvement for everyone, hence our diverse range of complimentary classes. These classes cover various interests, from language skills and fitness to arts and crafts. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of healthy eating habits by hosting monthly cooking demonstrations where you can explore new recipes and techniques.

Our classes are made possible through the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, who are the cornerstone of our organization. We deeply appreciate their efforts, with long-standing volunteers like Shubangi, Kathleen, Kate, Rita, and Grey, who have been integral parts of MMC for many years. Their dedication and passion have been instrumental in our success and in making a positive impact in our community. Join us today to experience the wonders of learning and personal growth!

YOGA CLASS



COMPUTING COURSE



ENGLISH CLASS



JOIN OUR...

MMC CLASSES & ACTIVITIES



"To Lead, Support and Celebrate multicultural communities in the Manawatu"



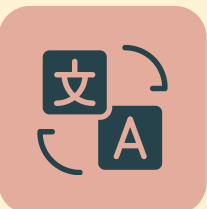
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR SERVICES

At the Manawātū Multicultural Council, we understand the challenges of adapting to a new country. That's why our Community Connectors are here to provide support and guidance to newcomers in the region, including former refugees and migrant communities. Our goal is to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and supported as they adjust to their new environment. Our team of dedicated Community Connectors offers a range of services to help newcomers integrate smoothly into their communities. Here are some of the ways we can assist:



IMMIGRATION

Navigating the visa application process and immigration system can be overwhelming. Our team provides support and guidance with completing forms, scanning documents, and communicating with immigration officials, aiming to streamline the process and alleviate your concerns.



COMMUNICATION

For those who aren't proficient in English, engaging with various agencies, healthcare providers, and organizations can pose challenges. Our team offers language support to facilitate your access to necessary services.



CULTURAL COMPETENCE

Familiarizing yourself with the new society is crucial for fostering connections and understanding deal to the culture and language differences. Our team supportd you to reach the social and public services and assists you to communicate with the service providers



EDUCATION

Accessing quality education is vital for personal growth and development. Whether you're looking to enroll in language courses, vocational training, or pursue higher education, our team can guide you through the process, from researching institutions to completing enrollment forms. We are committed to supporting you in achieving your educational aspirations..



HOUSING

If you're seeking affordable housing or struggling to navigate the rental market, our team is here to offer assistance and support, ensuring you find the ideal home that meets your needs.



HARDSHIP SUPPORT

If you have immediate and essential needs like health, food, education, employment, or any personal concerns, our team is here to help you navigate through these challenges together.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



What's on at MMC?

Visit MMC website
<https://mmcnz.org.nz/>
for more information



Manawātū Multicultural Council

Hancock Community House
77-85 King Street - Palmerston North 4410
+64 6 358 1572
info@mmcnz.org.nz
facebook.com/mmcnzpn/

CONTACT US

WEEKLY:

MONDAYS:

English Conversation: 10 – 11:30 am

English Conversation: 1 – 2:30 pm

TUESDAYS:

DIGITS Computer Class: 10 am – 12 pm

Tai Chi Class: 1 – 2 pm

WEDNESDAYS:

English Conversation: 10 – 11:30 am

Yoga: 12:30 – 1:30 pm

THURSDAYS:

Sharing Arts Culture: 10 – 11:30 am

English Conversation: 1 – 2:30 pm

FRIDAYS:

Mind & Body : 6:15– 7 pm

MONTHLY:

Potluck Dinner: every last Friday of each month

WHY JOIN MMC?

- To practise 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 NZ culture and customs
- To work together with other community groups and organisations

MMC NEWSLETTER

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

Manawātū Multicultural Council

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