



Manawatu
Multicultural Council Inc.

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

ETHNIGRAM

MMC Newsletter

Te Kaunihera Ahumahi Manawatu

April 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warm greetings to you all!

Welcome to the first edition of Ethnigram for 2023.

Over the course of the first quarter, MMC has continued working with plans to upgrade our grassroots services to Manawatu. We have had a positive and busy start to 2023 with the return of our events and activities with some new programs brought into the calendar.

Due to the absence of large events during Covid, by the start of this year people were primed and ready to celebrate our unity in diversity together, with record attendance numbers at all our events.

The much-anticipated events kicked off in February with the Festival of Cultures, beginning with Ethkick, Teas & Coffees of the World followed by the Lantern Parade and finally one of Palmy's most iconic events, Festival of Food and Cultures with a custom parade closing the event on Saturday 25th February.

This year the event is particularly special as MMC is celebrating its 30th anniversary and we were extremely privileged to have our past Presidents' attend as we acknowledged their legacy, dedication and commitment to MMC from where we started in 1993 to where we are now. A massive thanks once again to you all.

We have worked collaboratively with partners on several events these past few months, including an amazing Kids Market and global cooking organised by MMC and GPS. A welcoming group of international students from Massey University came to visit our centre to learn about MMC and our services, with many signing up to become volunteers. Our monthly potluck dinner held by the Philippines Community Association was another great event with almost a third of attendees being newcomers to the city. Race Relations Day was another successful event with a great number of visitors.

Now we are waiting to celebrate our biannual event "World on Stage", which will be held at the Regent on Broadway on the 30th June and as we are still celebrating our 30 year milestone, we bring "World on Stage" to a new level.

Over the last few months, we have had some new staff join us. I am very pleased to introduce our Event/Program coordinator, Inggita who joined MMC in February just a few weeks before the Festival of Cultures, but with her outstanding event management skills, executed the event to perfection! We also have our new Community Connector Hari Neupane who joined us in February.

Finally, in mid April we gained a new MMC service manager - Md Mahbubur Rahman who has been working with the migrant and refugee communities of Palmerston North for the last three years. I would like to give a very warm welcome to all our talented new staff members and I sincerely hope that you enjoy being part of the MMC family.

Last but not least, as always, we wholeheartedly appreciate and are incredibly grateful for the support from our community partners, stakeholders, volunteers, members, and supporters, without whom none of this would be possible.

For now, we look forward to seeing you at the "World on Stage" on the 30th June at 6.30pm.

Nina Kirschbaum



ALLAN YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to the Allan Young Academic Scholarship recipients 2023!

All the very best in your studies and bright futures.

SOMAYYEH GHAFFARI

\$1,000

FABIOLA JUNGLES

\$500

UPCOMING EVENTS

World on Stage



MANAWATU MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
PRESENTS

WORLD *on stage*

2023

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR
CULTURAL DIVERSITY!

30 JUN | THE REGENT BROADWAY | 6:30 PM

TICKETS FROM \$15
GROUP TICKETS AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TICKETEK NZ
www.ticketek.co.nz

BOOKING AND SERVICE FEES MAY APPLY

REGENT OF BROADWAY | Ethnic Communities Te Tari Mātauranga | PALMY | Pub Charity Limited

Tickets will be available for purchase from 1st June 2023

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



**Md Mahbubur Rahman
Service Manager**

Md Mahbubur Rahman has joined as a MMC Service Manager on 17 April 2023. He is originally from Bangladesh and came to New Zealand in March 2020 as an International PhD student. He has been dealing with the refugee and migrant communities of Palmerston North since April 2020 while working as a Research Assistant of CARE (Centre for Culture-Centred Approach to Research and Evaluation), Massey University. He has also been working as a Settlement Cross Cultural Worker of New Zealand Red Cross since October 2022 and dealing with the Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugee community.

Mahbub is a refugee researcher as he has been dealing with the 'Rohingya refugee crisis' since August 2017 while he worked as a News Producer of Bangladesh Television, and now he is at the last stage of his PhD study on 'refugee health.' He has visited Rohingya refugee camp of Bangladesh along with the entourage of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in July 2018. He has 35 international journal articles, and he is a Co-author of two Book Chapters. He has achieved Gold Medal (Chancellor Award) in his MBA (Master of Business Administration) degree, and he is a NOMA (Norwegian Masters) Fellowship scholar. He is also a registered Pharmacist of Bangladesh. Contact him at manager@mmcnz.org.nz



**Yuanindya Inggita
Events & Programme
Coordinator**

Kia ora!

My name is Inggita and I am the events & programme coordinator at MMC. I was born in Indonesia and grew up both in Indonesia and New Zealand. I am the proud mother of Celine (7) and Daniel (4) and a wife to my loving husband, Chris. I first came to NZ to begin my secondary education in 1999, and then continued my tertiary education at Massey University. During my studies I was lucky enough to be a part of the Indonesian Student Association where I had ample opportunity to learn and experience life within a community, participating in various cultural events around the city.

My main role at MMC is to assist the planning and implementation of various event & programme initiatives throughout the year. I am very lucky to be part of such an amazing and supportive team - including all the groups and communities who have been so welcoming, collaborative, and kind.

This role gives me the privileged opportunity to work with you all, and I am so excited to help bring a lot of exciting, multicultural events in the near future.

FESTIVAL OF CULTURES 2023



TEAS & COFFEES OF THE WORLD



We would like to thank all of the former MMC Presidents for being part of MMC's 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Festival of Cultures at The Square. A huge thank you to our Mayor Grant Smith, MP Tangi Utikere, Councilors, and Ambassadors who attended to witness this celebration.

We would like to thank all the Volunteers of MMC and PNCC team for making this a successful event!

Thank you to all the fantastic performers and Ethnic Community groups who participated in the Festival of Cultures and Cultural dress parade!



LANTERN PARADE

On the 24th of February, we had another fantastic night at The Square for the Lantern Parade Event. Thank you to all the volunteers, MMC, and the PNCC team for making this fantastic night possible!

And a huge thank you to all the people who came and joined us this magnificent event.

Thank you to the NSMM, UCOL, Pasifika, and Vietnamese community for participating in making the different types of lanterns from scratch and parading them, and thank you to all the fantastic performers who performed on that night.



COSTUME PARADE



RACE RELATIONS DAY



Race Relations day is an event that provides an opportunity for all communities to come together, learn from each other, share, celebrate and enjoy the richness of shared cultural experiences. It was a successful event on the 20th of March. Thank you to all who joined us and brought a dish to share. It was great to see the communities come together, learn from each other, share, celebrate, and enjoy the richness of shared cultural experiences.

We would like to thank the following:

- Thank you for the attendance of Palmy's MP Tangi Utikere, Deputy Mayor Debi Marshall-Lobb, Councilor Lorna Johnson, and Deputy Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities Arthur Chin.
- Thank you to English Language Partners Palmerston North and ETC English Teaching College for your waiata and speeches, to Todd Taiepa for doing the opening karakia, and to Karen Community for their performance.
- Thank you to Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science & Heritage for providing the venue.
- Thank you to Justin Ngai, our MC for the day.
- Also, Thank you to all our volunteers, MMC's team, and Palmerston North City Council's team
- And a big thank you to all the ethnic communities who joined us.



POTLUCK DINNER



MABUHAY!

On Friday the 31st of March, we had another successful Potluck Dinner, this time we were focusing on the Filipino theme, kindly hosted by the wonderful Philippine Central Association (PCA) in Palmerston North. To add to the merriment, PCA also showcased two performances for the night, a Tiklos Dance performed by Filipino Children and a singing performance from Ms. Ana Rivera. No potluck event is complete without an amazing array of multicultural cuisines - and this time was no exception.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED US, THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY, VOLUNTEERS, AND MMC STAFF FOR MAKING THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

ETHKICK

It was a successful event in February starting the event with the annual Ethkick Football Tournament was held at the Central Energy Trust Arena, Palmerston North on Saturday 18th of February 2023. The celebration of cultural diversity and community involvement.

The tournament was opened with the speeches from the MP Tangi Utikere, Councillor Rachel Bowen, Councillor Lorna Johnson, Councilor Orphée Mickalad, Councilor Kaydee Zabelin and from the organisers followed by the New Zealand National Anthem. Kicking off at 9a.m. We are pleased to point out that this is the biggest ethnic football tournament ever within New Zealand, and continues to increase in size each year. The teams came from different cultural diversity in Manawatu District of all ages.



MMC CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES



Computing Course



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



Arts & Crafts - Easter Cupcake Decorating



We have English Conversation/ Grammar classes, Yoga, Arts and Crafts, Sewing, Computing, and Language Classes and also Monthly cooking demonstration.



International Students from Massey University visiting MMC

Our classes depends on MMC's volunteers. We are fortunate to have 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.



Cooking Workshop with Global Parents Support



English Classes



Kids Market



English Conversation at the park - Talk & Walk

3 Steps for Life Workshop



WHATS ON AT MMC

WEEKLY:

Mondays:

Sewing and Craft - 10:00am

English Conversation - 1pm

Tuesdays:

Computing Class- 10:00am

Wednesdays:

English Conversation - 10am

Yoga - 12.30pm

English Conversation - 2 pm

Thursdays:

Sharing Arts & Culture - 10am

English Conversation - 11:30am

English Conversation - 1pm

Fridays:

English Conversation in the Park - 1pm

MONTHLY :

Cooking Demonstration - any Friday of each Month

Potluck Dinner- every last Friday of each month

St. John's 3 Steps for Life (First Aid)

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

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

CONTACT US

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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