



TE KAUNIHERA AHUMAHI MANAWATŪ

ETHNIGRAM

NEWSLETTER | JAN - FEB 2024



Welcome to the Manawatu Multicultural Council Newsletter, 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lunar New Year
- Ethkick
- World Food, Craft & Music Fair
- Teas & Coffees Around the World
- Lantern Parade



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Multicultural Playgroup
- Potluck Dinner
- Kids Market
- Multicultural Lifetalks



Greetings

MMC IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kia Ora!

I'm writing today as my last message in our newsletter, Ethnigram

In January of this year, I resigned from my role as president of the MMC. This comes after a big change in my personal life since November last year. I have thoroughly considered the decision and after much reflection, I believe it is the right time for me to step down from my responsibilities.

As per our constitution I am still a member of the MMC Board as Immediate Past President, to ensure the transition and handover of my responsibilities are seamless.

The MMC Board held a special meeting in February following the resignation of two other MMC Executives, Noor Fatima and Vikram Govindasamy, and unanimously appointed Ranjita Sengupta as our new President and Mohammad Karimi as Vice President. We are still looking for someone to fulfill the role of Treasurer.

I would like to give thanks to Noor Fatima, who was acting President during my absence, and Vikram Govindasamy, MMC Treasurer, for all the hardwork you've put into the MMC during your time with us. I wish you both success in all your future endeavors.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve the MMC board as President from October 2020. It has been an incredible learning experience, and I am honored to have been part of such a dynamic and impactful organization.

Thank you once again for the trust you have placed in me and the support that the Board and MMC whanau have given me throughout my tenure. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated individuals, and together as a team we have accomplished great things over the years.

Best regards,

Nina Kirschbaum

MMC Immediate Past President

Greetings

MMC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora!

Wishing you all health and happiness!

A warm welcome to all of you to the first instalment of Ethnigram for the year 2024. I humbly present myself and take on the responsibility of serving you all as the President of Manawatu Multicultural Council (MMC) and I am ever so grateful for the guidance and support of my predecessor Nina Kirschbaum and our wonderful whanau at MMC, comprising of our Board members, invaluable staff, community connectors, volunteers, support teams and each one of you, whose commitment and dedication to this organisation are what drew me to MMC in the first place. I am sure that together we will achieve new heights in building a healthier, happier and safer global community, where everyone can feel included, work hard and strive to build a better tomorrow.

We have started this year off with a busy two months of fantastic activities. In January, we had the UCOL Cap visit, saw the Summer Reading programme take off and we got to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

February kicked off with Ethkick, always a huge crowd-pleaser, an amazing weekend of celebrating our cultural diversity with Festival of Cultures, starting with the Lantern Parade, followed by the World Fair with performances, music, food, arts and crafts from all over the world and ending with Teas and Coffees of the world which drew hundreds of people to our city's famous Caccia Birch House.



Palmy is a student city and end of February had us enjoying Massey Campus Carnival and UCOL Orientation Day. We are looking forward to a 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. My heart-felt gratitude to the various communities, our MMC staff, volunteers and members, each one of you is what makes us better people, we strive together to make a better world. I look forward to my tenure as President of MMC and will do my very best to serve you to the best of my ability, thank you all so much for your support.

Ranjita Sengupta

President, MMC.

RECENT MMC BOARD MEMBERS' MESSAGES

Dear MMC Members,

I'd like to announce that I have stepped down as Treasurer for this wonderful organisation, with my formal resignation coming into effect in February's Executive Committee meeting. It is with disappointment that I have come to this decision as I do not have the necessary time to contribute to the organisation and fulfil my duties while being able to focus on the final year of my studies and also my work commitments. I'd like to extend a warm thank you to our wonderful staff, volunteers and executive committee for all of their support. It's been a pleasure to meet our wonderful community members and be part of the events to celebrate our communities. All the best to you all!

Sincerely,

Vikram

MMC's former Treasurer

Kia ora MMC Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I wish to inform you of my decision to step down from the position of Vice President for our esteemed organisation. My resignation became effective following February's Executive Committee meeting. This decision has been prompted by a change in my circumstances, necessitating a relocation to Wellington. I am immensely thankful to our outstanding staff, volunteers, and executive committee for their support. It has been an absolute privilege to interact with our incredible community members and participate in the celebrations that showcase our communities. I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all involved.

Ngā mihi,

Noor

MMC's former Vice-President

***Please note this is a voluntary position and not a paid role**

***MMC is now looking for a treasurer position and community board members!**

ALLAN YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to all the Allan Young Academic Scholarship recipients!

ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR STUDIES AND BRIGHT FUTURES!



IQRA ZULFIQAR

\$500

MAIMOONA FAWAD

\$1000

January

SUMMER READING PROGRAMME



Children participating in activities at the MMC stall

MMC had the privilege of participating in the Summer Reading Programme organised by the Palmerston North City Library. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the children who actively engaged in the programme, making it a highly productive day filled with literacy and fun for the whole family. Our stall featured various activities and games, thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers. Let's continue promoting a love for reading in our community together!

LUNAR NEW YEAR



We are delighted to share the joyous memories from our Lunar New Year Celebration, held on January 27th! It was a vibrant and culturally enriching event that brought together our community in a spirit of unity and celebration.

Our festivities featured an array of delightful experiences, from savouring mouthwatering Asian cuisine including pork buns, noodles, and other delectable dishes, to being mesmerised by talented performers showcasing their traditional arts.

The day was brimming with excitement as attendees engaged in various games, activities, and crafts. From the intense battles of Vietnamese horse chess to the skillful maneuvers of Chinese yoyo, there was never a dull moment.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us in commemorating this auspicious occasion. Your presence contributed to the warmth and vibrancy of the event. Special thanks to Te Marae o Hine for providing the perfect venue in The Square, Palmerston North.



February

FESTIVALS OF CULTURES



Two teams among the numerous participants in the tournament.

ETHKICK

On February 17th, the Central Energy Trust Arena was transformed into a lively arena of multicultural football fever as Ethkick 2024 unfolded its thrilling 6-aside tournament! It was a day brimming with excitement, unity, and the pure joy of the beautiful game.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Palmerston North City Council for organising this remarkable event, showcasing the rich diversity and talent within our community. Special appreciation goes to the dedicated MMC staff and volunteers who manned our stall, adding to the vibrancy of the occasion.

Congratulations to the victorious team whose skill and determination earned them well-deserved recognition! Your achievements inspire us all and serve as a testament to the power of teamwork and perseverance.



TEAS AND COFFEES AROUND THE WORLD

Japanese community's traditional teas

On the 25th of February 2024, at Caccia Birch House, we had the pleasure of hosting a captivating event centred around the world's most iconic teas and coffees! It was an extraordinary opportunity for individuals from all walks of life to come together and immerse themselves in the diverse flavors and traditions of different cultures. Against the backdrop of Caccia Birch's botanical ambiance, attendees experienced a delightful journey through various tea and coffee varieties, accompanied by engaging conversations and shared moments of warmth.

The event, featuring contributions from multiple community groups sharing their traditional beverages. Special thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, as well as the Palmerston North City Council and Caccia Birch House, for their collaboration and support in making this event a memorable celebration of cultural exploration and appreciation.

February

On February 23, 2024, the Square was filled with vibrant energy as lanterns lit up the night sky, complemented by live music and a variety of engaging activities suitable for all ages. From the lively rhythms of the Brazilian Kids Carnival to the elegance of Highland Dancing, and the spirited beats of Colores Latinos and Sidequest, the stage was brimming with cultural performances. Food trucks offered delectable treats, enhancing the festive ambiance. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the Lantern parade.

LANTERN PARADE



One of the lanterns in the parade.

WORLD FOOD, CRAFT, AND MUSIC FAIR

On February 24, 2024, Palmy was transformed into a vibrant global cultural bazaar during the World Food, Craft, and Music Fair from 10 am to 5 pm. Visitors had the chance to savor a wide range of culinary delights and admire crafts from various parts of the world, creating an enriching cultural experience. The event was made even more special with a diverse selection of music and dance performances, catering to the enjoyment of all attendees. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this event a success.



Various ethnic community groups participated in the Cultural Dress Parade.



Vietnamese Community



Samoa Community



Filipino Community

February

UCOL COMMUNITY CONNECT

A heartfelt thank you to all who visited our Manawatu Multicultural Council's stall at the UCOL Community Connect event! It was truly wonderful to meet so many new faces and engage in conversations about our many communities. Let's continue to celebrate our differences and build a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all.



MMC Stall at the UCOL Community Connect

MASSEY CARNIVAL



MMC Stall at the Massey carnival

Besides our UCOL stall, we also represented MMC during Massey University's orientation day! We had the pleasure of connecting with numerous new students and introduce them to MMC's range of services to communities. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who stopped by and showed their genuine interest in learning more about the cultural diversity in Palmerston North.

MMC CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

MMC classes are open to everyone for FREE. Attendance does not require holding a resident visa. Our diverse range of classes includes English Conversation/Grammar, Yoga, Arts and Crafts, Sewing, Computing, Language Classes, and monthly cooking demonstrations. The availability of our classes relies on the dedication of MMC's volunteers. We are fortunate to have esteemed volunteers such as Shubangi, Kathleen, Rita, Kate, and Grey, who have been part of MMC for several years. They are among the valued volunteer teachers at MMC.



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR SERVICES

At the Manawatū 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 ASSISTANCE

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.



LEGAL SUPPORT

Legal counsel involves identifying the needs and concerns of community members and linking them with appropriate organizations to address those needs.



LANGUAGE SUPPORT

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.



HOUSING SUPPORT

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.



CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Familiarizing yourself with the customs, traditions, and social norms of your new community is crucial for creating a sense of belonging and fostering connections. We offer cultural orientation sessions to assist you in confidently navigating your new environment.



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.

CLIENT'S FEEDBACK:

A TESTAMENT TO MMC'S IMPACT

At the heart of MMC's mission lies a commitment to serve and empower communities, and it is through the voices of those we assist that our impact truly shines. We recently had the pleasure of receiving feedback from one of our valued clients, and we couldn't be more delighted to share their experience with you.

In a recent client's feedback, one of our valued clients shared their experience with MMC, highlighting the personalized assistance they received on their journey towards New Zealand citizenship. Guided by Asmatullah, our dedicated community connector fluent in the client's native language, DARI, they navigated bureaucratic hurdles with ease and confidence.

"Yes, Asmatullah MMC community connector helped me with all the documents required for New Zealand citizenship and also helped me to communicate with the case manager."

- Qudrat ali Rajab

This testimonial underscores MMC's commitment to bridging cultural divides and empowering individuals within our diverse community. As we continue to serve, let's draw inspiration from stories like these, reaffirming our mission to create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.



Asmat and Qudrat respectively; celebrating the achievement of attaining a citizenship

What's on at MMC?

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:

English Conversation: 1 – 2:30 pm

MONTHLY:

Potluck Dinner: every last Friday of each month

Multicultural Playgroup: once a month

CONTACT US



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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

THANK YOU 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