



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

**Multicultural
Centre**



*Manawatu
Newcomers Network*
Connecting People

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Acknowledgment

- * Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)
- * Palmerston North Community Services Council (PNCS)
- * Lotteries Grant
- * Community Organization Grant Scheme (COGS)
- * MSD, Community Response
- * MSD, Family and Community Ser-

MMC is at Community House

77- 85 King Street (1st Floor)

Phone/Fax : 06 358 1572

Website: www.mmcnz.org.nz

E-mail: info@mmcnz.org.nz

The President's Message

Ethnic Greetings Everyone!

Well finally we are almost at the end of the year and what a fantastic year it was!

I am sure everyone will have many good memories that we will love to treasure while some not so good ones which we would rather not remember. Remember sun and rain both are essential for growth!

With December many of us get very excited. We swing into wind-down and holiday mode. We start making plans of escaping from daily chores to some other place, flying off to foreign places, visiting or entertaining visitors, shopping spree, Christmas preparations etc. At the same time let us not forget the less fortunate ones amongst us but extend our arms to those who need our love, care, support and understanding and make them happy and comfortable.



What a fantastic Annual Dinner we all enjoyed with so many friends and supporters! All the tickets were sold out with demands for more tickets on the last day. I am proud to say that

our Annual Dinner is getting better and bigger every year and people are on the lookout for this event every year.

Thanks to everyone who attended and also to all the supporters and well wishers. The three hour program was very much enjoyed and appreciated. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal, entertainment and had some fun with the auctions and the raffle. We also took advantage of the **White Ribbon Day** to promote this social message on family violence. The Families Commissioner presented a very passionate speech on ***standing against violence to women***

The Executives made a courtesy visit to our City Mayor Jono Naylor and discussed some exciting and important plans for next year. Watch this space for more information on this!

Much interest has been received from our youths to form a group and we will very soon formalize this as a Youth Council. I am sure with our guidance and support this youth group will excel and achieve much in time to come.



I take this opportunity to once again thank all our funders for the funds which have enormously assisted MMC to achieve its objectives. The agencies are: Palmerston North City Council, Palmerston North Community Services Council, Lotteries Commission, Community Organization Grant Scheme (COGS), Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Community Response, Family and Community Services, United Way and Central Energy Trust. Business houses Davis

Trading and Pioneer New World have been our traditional sponsors for a number of years for the annual dinner function. Earnest Adams, Bank of New Zealand, MidCentral Health and MSD supported the Women's Forum. Rotary Club helped us during the Rainbow Praise.

My sincere thanks to all these agencies and organizations for their great financial assistance. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped us throughout the year: conducting English language classes, art and craft classes, women's group activities, newcomers network program, providing technical and IT assistance and for supporting and working with the MMC in anyway. Thanks to the office of Mr Iain Lees Galloway for assisting us in arranging the visit to the Parliament for our Newcomers Network early in the year. Finally thanks to the Centre staff who are the face of MMC and keep the heart ticking.

I would like to invite more ethnic community groups to join the MMC and I assure you it will be very rewarding and worthwhile. Please contact the Centre regarding this.

E-copies of this newsletter and more information about the Centre programmes are available on our websites: www.mmcnz.org.nz and www.newcomers.co.nz

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday 22 February 2012 and I look forward to seeing you all then. In the meantime enjoy the holiday season, eat healthy, drink responsibly and drive safely!

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season and a prosperous and fulfilling New Year.

"Those who lead give sight to those who follow; those who follow give life to those who lead" ...Anonymous

Nirmala Nand



Many best wishes for the festive season from the Manawatu Multicultural Centre



Volunteers Needed

Are you Native English speaker who would like to help migrants/refugees improve their English skills?

Are you someone who has travelled abroad and would like to stay connected with internationals?

Are you someone who would like to be exposed to people from other countries, share global perspectives on world events, and learn first hand about other cultures?



The Multicultural Centre is looking for volunteers for Tuesday and Wednesday English Conversation classes. The programme includes English pronunciation, vocabulary, informal conversation. Classes start from 1-3pm.

If you feel this volunteer opportunity suits you, please give us a call on 358 1572 or e-mail info@mmcnz.org.nz. We would love to hear from you.

THE MMC Annual Dinner Update

On Friday evening, 25th November, 2011, the MMC Annual Dinner was held at Chinatown where 150 people enjoyed the evening and the meal. It made a break from the election campaign for everyone, especially Iain Lees-Galloway.

Jean Thompson-Church, President of the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu, was the MC and took us through the evening in good style and kept us on time. Jean complimented our President, Nirmala Nand at the end for achieving the end of the function one minute before the planned time of finishing.

Iain Lees-Galloway was our first speaker and said he did find it a bit difficult switching off from the election campaign but gave a very interesting speech which was enjoyed. The other Guest Speaker was Ann Dysart from the Ministry of Social Development. Ann spoke about the Newcomers Network which has been successfully established in Palmerston North.

As it was White Ribbon Day against violence to women and families Gregory Fortuin, Family Commissioner, was invited to speak to us. Gregory is a very dynamic speaker and pointed out the fact that the colours in the rainbow always stay together and one doesn't go somewhere else or even change its position. Naturally, he also covered the topic of violence to women and families saying that NO RELIGION advocates violence in such circumstances.

Akaansha Kumar led us in the singing of the National Anthem in Maori and English. Ying Zhang was a fantastic singer and was enjoyed by all. Aarti Neupane entertained us with a Nepalese dance and Jean thought there wouldn't be a need for Jenny Craig if we did Nepalese dancing. Three Kerala girls did a dance also.

The auction and raffles were successful raising \$841 so a help to MMC. Our sponsors - Davis Trading Ltd, Pioneer New World, Aberdeen Restaurant & Bar and the Med Lab were all thanked for their sponsorship of our evening. Davis Trading staff also had 10 people present so a great contribution.

Certificates were presented to the Volunteers at the Centre. They play a very important role in the work of the Centre.



Anne Odogwu

Anne Odogwu gave a Vote of thanks at the end thanking everyone for supporting our Annual Dinner with their attendance or through sponsorship and hoped that everyone had enjoyed the evening. Anne also thanked the MMC Social Sub-Committee for organising the evening, attending Committee meetings, designing posters, tickets, etc. Christine and the Chinatown staff were thanked for a great evening. It was also appreciated that they paid attention to people with special food needs.

FREE EMPLOYMENT COURSE 2012

24th January – 30th March

Are you a migrant or refugee?



HOW TO ENROL:

Contact
MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

Call: 06 358 1572
Or

Email: Vicki Jarvie
Centre Coordinator

coordinator@ecmpn.org.nz

Would you like help with

- Knowing your skills
- Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)
- Cover letters for job applications
- Employer application forms
- Interview Practise
- Job searching



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

What the Filipino Community in Palmerston North means to me.

January this year marked the 20th anniversary of the Filipino community here in Palmerston North. It brings back memories of taking my 16 day old daughter in a cocoon just to attend the inaugural meeting to form a Filipino society. This was followed with different activities like Easter Eggs hunt, Midwinter Social, joining in a Christmas parade and Filipino Christmas party.



Meriam & Lew Findlay with their daughter

Each member of the group was passionate to be known in the community. Everyone was so keen to participate in cultural dance group and sing in the choir...

When the children from different families were toddlers, a language nest was formed.

Over the years, there has been a constant flow of new of Filipino's with different categories: as students, through employment or as visitors and our group was generous to host new arrivals. Eager to know people from different communities, our community leader networks with others and the Multicultural Council of Manawatu was formed in 1994. The Filipino community has grown stronger, although some members have grown weary and are no longer involved in committees yet they still participate in different activities.



Filipino Singing Group

As part of the growing city our Filipino community have hosted 2 labour week-en activities. It is an occasion which gathers Filipinos around New Zealand. Some talented members formed a Rondolla group and Filipino choir. Our young ones who are keen on sports give their very best on different sports like basket ball, volley ball and bowling and for numerous times have gained recognition for their effort and brought home coveted trophies.

Looking back and watching the younger members of our community lead the next generation, I am grateful to be a part of this group. Just like a small seed sown and now grown into a big tree, I can see it giving a shade, bearing fruit and dropping more seeds to grow.

Meriam Findlay

We've the answer

What's the question?



**Community House
77-85 King Street
Palmerston North
PH 06 357 0647**

Email cab.palmn@xtra.co.nz

www.cab.org.nz

Extra services the CAB offer are:

- **Free Legal Advice: Thursday 7.30pm, no appointment required. A qualified lawyer will give you 10-15 minutes free advice.**
- **Justice of the Peace: Tuesday 12 noon -3pm, no appointment required.**
- **Language Link: This is a free phone service directly to the Language Link Bureau in Auckland where people can speak to someone in their own language. 26 languages available at rostered times. The bureau worker in Auckland will then talk to the bureau worker in PN and explain the situation/problem and tell them where/what the client should do. The Language Link is quite separate from the Language Line for Government agencies and is a free service with no waiting time for an interpreter – the only waiting time is if the interpreter is speaking to someone else.**
- **We also have little slogans that can be used in place of 'We've the Answer.....etc like :**
- **Not sure? Ask us**
- **If you know your rights, less can go wrong. Not sure? Ask us.**
- **Is that legal? Not sure? Ask us.**
- **Our advice is free. Not getting it could cost you though. Not sure? Ask us.**
- **You can talk to us about Government Departments, because we are not one. Not sure? Ask us.**
- **There must be someone who can help me. Not sure? Ask us.**
- **We helped over 670,000 people nation wide with their who's, what's and how's last year. Not sure? Ask us**

Holiday Closure Notice

We would like to advise our valued clients and members that the Multicultural Centre will:



- **close on Friday the 16th December at 12 noon**
- **reopen on Monday the 16th January at 10am.**

Our best wishes for fun holidays. We hope you all will enjoy time out with your families and friends.



WOMEN ONLY SWIMMING NIGHT



WHERE?

Freyberg Community Pool,
Thames Street, Palmerston North

WHEN?

Saturday 17th December, 6-8pm
As well as the last saturday of each month!

Entry to the December event is by giving a non-perishable food item with all proceeds donated to the local food bank.

This is a great night to meet new friends and have fun in the process with Free Tea & Coffee provided.

www.freyberg.co.nz

facebook.

Check us out on Facebook
Freyberg Community Pool

For more information please contact
Freyberg Community Pool on 06 354 3856
Female Lifeguards will be on Duty

Children Welcome however males
5+ years are not able to attend.
Parents/Caregivers must supervise children at all times



Manawatu Multicultural Centre

- Practice your English
- Make new friends
- Share information
- Learn about New Zealand and other cultures
- Use your interpersonal skills
-

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

Advanced English Group

Monday to Thursday 1- 3pm

Beginners Group

Tuesday & Friday 10.00am - 12.00pm

Former Refugees Literacy Class

Monday ,Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am –12pm

Art & Craft Group

Friday 1-3pm

Centre shared lunch:

Friday 12-1pm

Ethnic Women 's Group

1st Wednesday of the Month from 1-3pm

Newcomers Coffee Morning

3rd Wednesday of the Month 10-12noon

Newcomers Potluck Dinner

Last Friday of the Month from 6pm