



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

**Multicultural
Centre**



**Manawatu
Newcomers Network**
Connecting People

Inside this Issue

The President's Message	1-2
MMC Annual Dinner	3
Farewell to MP Ashraf Choudhary	4
Multicultural Women's Group update	5
From Clare Scott	6
MMC English Conversation Volunteer	
Multicultural Centre programmes & Events	7

Acknowledgment

- * Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)
- * Palmerston North Community Services Council (PNSCS)
- * Lotteries Grant
- * Community Organization Grant Scheme (COGS)
- * MSD, Community Response
- * MSD, Family and Community Services
- * United Way
- * Central Energy Trust

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 !

Amazingly another month has just passed by with Rugby being the highlight for most of us. Even those who had no interest in the game, were inclined to watch it on telly and get the hang of it and surprisingly learnt some rugby jargon too besides enjoying the Cup win by the AB's. Aren't we all proud to be New Zealanders !!



The Festival of Lights was the highlight for Hindus around the world. Diwali sends out a strong message of truth over untruth, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil to humanity and particularly for Hindus. Several celebrations were put up by different groups and opened the door to the wider community to enjoy the food, fun and gaiety. The social and cultural aspect of Diwali opens up to the wider communities while the religious and spiritual aspect remains private for families. A lot of multi-ethnic people and non Hindus attended the two concerts held at the Queen Elizabeth College Hall in Palmerston North last month.

MMC's annual dinner is coming up on the 25 November at the Chinatown restaurant. A promotional poster is included in this newsletter. I would urge and encourage every council member to show their support to the MMC by selling tickets in your communities and also participating in the dinner. Special efforts are being made to accommodate cultural preferences by providing vegetarian meals and halal meats for our members. However, if you need any of these special meals then you are required to give us your names a week before to make the special arrangement.

I am very pleased to acknowledge the level of funding support we are getting for the MMC, for the newcomers network and various other projects. Many thanks to all the funding agencies for their on going support which is enabling us to provide some great services to the ethnic communities in the Manawatu. The Council is growing and I am proud to say that we are progressing according to our adopted Annual Strategic Plan for 2012.

I am also pleased to inform that very soon we will have a youth group established. Many youths have indicated their interest and the youth leader will soon be in touch with the all these youths and call a meeting. Thanks to all those who responded.

The newcomer's network will begin the summer walks and everyone is encouraged to contact the Centre while the regular coffee morning and pot-luck dinners are on going.

I had the rare opportunity to get together with five other religious leaders and present a discourse on spirituality and peace at the World Peace Inter-faith event organized at the Holy Cathedral on Broadway, attended by more than 100 people of different faiths.



We welcome articles to the Ethnigram so if you have any events you would like to publicise, please feel free to send them in. 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 for the newcomers newsletter.

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday 30 November and I look forward to seeing you all then.

Nirmala Nand

31 October 2011

Dear Nirmala:

On behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations, I would like to thank you for your eloquent and dignified contribution to the 25th commemoration of the Assisi Multifaith Prayer for World Peace.

I would also like to wish you a Happy Diwali, festival of light. I realise that you chose to be with us at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, praying with other religious leaders in the community for world peace, rather than being with your own community celebrating Diwali. For this we thank you. Your witness spoke volumes of the possibility for peace between people from different faith traditions in the world. For it is people who bring about peace and justice – people of faith, people of peace, people committed to truth.

I look forward to working with you to further promote inter-faith dialogue in Palmerston North, New Zealand and ultimately the world.

Namaste,

Mary Eastham



Manawatu
Multicultural Council

**Multicultural
Centre**



*Manawatu
Newcomers Network*
Connecting People

Cordially invites you to their
Annual Dinner

Venue: Chinatown Restaurant
150 Cuba St Palmerston North
Date: Friday 25th November 2011
Time: 6-9pm

Cost: \$20.00 per head



Theme: Black & Gold— *world cup*
Dress: National costume
Drink: BYO

**The evening includes entertainments
raffles and auction**



Presentation of certificates for MCC volunteers

Tickets available from the MM Centre 77-85 King Street Palmerston North
Contact Vicki , Noorangi & Christine on 358 1572

Email: ask@ecmpn.org.nz or info@ecmpn.org.nz

Farewell to MP Ashraf Choudhary



The Pakistan NZ Friendship Association together with the Massey Muslim Students Association in Palmerston North hosted a farewell afternoon tea to Dr Ashraf on Sunday 9 October at the Community Leisure Centre in Palmerston North, attended by more than 100 prominent members of various communities and organizations. Local MP Iain Lees Galloway and the Pakistan High Commissioner were in attendance and spoke highly of Dr Ashraf and his achievements.



As many of you may know Dr Ashraf was the first President of the then Ethnic Council of Manawatu, (ECM) some 15 years ago. A number of past presidents namely Dr Ute Walker, Gerald Wong, Meriam Findlay myself attended the function. Ute Walker who took over from Dr Ashraf as ECM president gave a moving farewell speech on behalf of the Manawatu Multicultural Council. She said that the dedication and commitment of Dr Ashraf to ethnic communities was commendable and immeasurable. He was always ready to provide any help

or assistance whenever it was needed. It was him who motivated and mentored her into the role of president.

Dr Ashraf was the first ethnic Member of Parliament, nominated by Prime Minister Helen Clark and he was happy that he had the opportunity to serve, particularly the ethnic people. Currently we have Dr Rajen Prasad, Raymond Huo and Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi as ethnic MPs, as a result of the Mixed Member Parliament voting system that we presently have in New Zealand and this is the system which allows equal participation and representation of ethnic minorities in New Zealand.

On behalf of the MMC I would like to thank Dr Ashraf for his continued support of our Council and his vision for the ethnic communities and wish him the very best for his retirement.

Shukriya and Alvida !

Nirmala Nand

MMC President

Multicultural Women's Group Update

The Women's Group meets every 1st Wednesday of the Month from 1-3pm. Women who walk through the Multicultural Centre doors come from diverse backgrounds in terms of education, family composition, socioeconomic situation, age or ethnicity. While most of them are still working on their English communication skills, others are looking for jobs and find it frustrating having to stay home. The aim of the Multicultural Women's Group is to encourage women to come forward and share their skills and culture, and at the same time, improve their English skills, learn about New Zealand systems and other cultures.



On the 5th October the women gathered to learn how to make beautiful flower arrangements from Indira Shulomati from India. With Spring flowers now in our gardens it was a good opportunity for women to learn how to make flower arrangements to decorate their homes. Those who came enjoyed the afternoon and expressed interest in having more sessions in the future.

This month more than 30 women and men gathered at La Finca Herbs Garden for a spring vegetables gardening workshop. Lisa Hyland from SuperGrans highlighted basic steps to start of a vegetable garden:



1. Location: a sunny part of your garden
2. Compost: for every plant, add a scoop of compost and sprinkle of fertiliser
3. Selection of plants: Choose strong and healthy plants. Buying seeds is the most cost effective, you can buy these from the supermarket or garden centres
4. Growing seeds: an easy option is to use seed raising mix. Fill your container with seed raising mix and carefully sprinkle seeds. The seeds should be buried the same size as the seed. Keep soil moist and in warm sunny location
5. Protecting your plants: Netting cover in summer and plastic cover in winter will protect you plants against wind, cold, heat, dogs, cats and rats.

A big thank you to Lisa for her time and insights and also to Maria for opening her home for the Multicultural Women's Group and her on going support.

Christine

From Clare Scott MMC English Conversation Volunteer



"My name is Clare Scott, and I'm a volunteer English teacher at the Manawatu Multicultural Centre. I came to New Zealand seven months ago from the Middle East, where I worked as an English teacher for several years.

I'm living here in Palmerston North now with my husband, Mike, and baby boy, Jake, who also loves the Multicultural Centre! I was happy to find the MMC because I love meeting and getting to know people from different cultures across the world.

I really enjoy spending time at the Centre--it has such a welcoming and friendly atmosphere!

Hope to see you there!"

One of the goals of the Multicultural Centre is to promote cohesion and integration of migrants into the local community. Contact with settled migrants and locals as well as migrants' involvement in organizations like MMC, are two important ways to achieve that goal. The English language however is one of the biggest barriers to integration.

The Manawatu Multicultural Centre offers informal English conversation classes to help new arrivals speak with confidence. The English Conversation Group offers small group conversation classes. Volunteer native speakers provide help with pronunciation and practising of English sounds and learning of new vocabulary.

English learners have the opportunity to converse in small groups where making friends and learning about different cultures are equally as important as the specific lessons.

English Conversation Classes are held at the Manawatu Multicultural Centre at Community House 77-85 King Street Monday to Thursday from 1-3pm. Our dedicated volunteers can also help you with other settling in questions you might have, or refer you to the appropriate service providers. At the Multicultural Centre English Conversation Classes are FREE, feel free to join !!!

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