



A TEN YEAR HISTORY  
OF THE  
NEW ZEALAND  
FEDERATION  
OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.

1989 - 1999



**NEW ZEALAND  
FEDERATION  
OF  
ETHNIC  
COUNCILS  
INCORPORATED**

**10 year history  
(1989-1999)**

*Compiled by  
Derek Jones  
Executive Officer*

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION  
OF  
ETHNIC COUNCILS  
INCORPORATED**



First published in 2000

by

**New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils**

PO Box 8453

Riccarton

Christchurch

**Printers**

Print House Ltd

P.O. Box 5544

Frankton

Hamilton

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**FORWORD**

The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils Inc. was established in 1989 to create a thousand hopes for the ethnic communities of New Zealand. It portrays the aspirations and ambitions of the ethnic and migrant communities. To achieve such aspirations, an organisation faces many challenges and perseverance is required to overcome any constraints.

An organisation must have clear plans to achieve its goals and objectives. The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils and its wider membership have been facing challenges together towards reaching a common destiny. This destiny encompasses social participation and integration, economic prosperity, democratic participation, and creating harmonious society and a tranquil cultural environment.

During the ten years of its existence, the Federation has gone through its formative stages with the constituent regional councils having increased to thirteen covering the whole country and representing 12-15 percent of New Zealand population. I am delighted that this 10-year history book depicts the initial formative years of the Federation and describes the many initiatives, trials and triumphs, and the pioneering efforts of the people involved.

The book highlights the mounting enthusiasm of the membership. The role of the Federation is now well recognised by the many arms of the government, civic organisations, and many facets of the wider society. It is pleasing to acknowledge that the current coalition government having thoroughly recognised the special needs of the migrant and ethnic communities, has for the first time appointed a Minister of Ethnic Affairs within the cabinet. This development has certainly fulfilled one of the needs of the ethnic communities, and it is hoped that programmes would be put in place to assist the communities in their settlement needs and aspirations to become full citizens of New Zealand.

The book is an easy reading and contains many rare pictures of the people involved and the activities undertaken. I thoroughly recommend this book for reading by the ethnic people and wider community of New Zealand.

**Associate Professor Ashraf Choudhary JP  
National President  
NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils**

January 2000

# NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



MINISTERS RECEPTION AT PARLIAMENT  
JUNE 1999

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of all the Regional Ethnic Councils who have made a contribution to the ten-year history of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils.

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# NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INCORPORATED

## ETHNIC

*"Ethnic" means pertaining to or relating to any segment of the population within New Zealand society sharing fundamental cultural values, customs, beliefs, languages, traditions and characteristics, that are different from those of the larger society.*

## TEN YEAR HISTORY

The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils at its meeting on 13 February 1999 decided to put together a short history of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils as it celebrates ten years since its inception in Christchurch in July 1989.

The history of the Federation is best summarised by the annual reports of the Presidents in which they reported the highlights and achievements of the years when they were in office.

In the 10 years six Presidents have served the Federation  
1989 - 1990 Dr. Kuan M. Goh (Christchurch), 1990 - 1991 Kamila Skapa (Wellington), 1991- 1993 Grace Hollander (Christchurch), 1993-1995 Philip Khouri (Auckland), 1995 - 1998 Dr. N. Rasalingam (Auckland), 1998 - 2000 Dr. Ashraf Choudhary (Manawatu).

A list of all the Federation Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers, with meetings dates and host councils since its inception can be found in the supplement at the end of the book.

April 1992 saw the pilot launch of the Department of Internal Affairs, Ethnic Affairs Service with Lalita Kasanji as the Senior Advisory Officer. In October 1994 the staff was increased with Anne Beaglehole joining the Service as a Policy Officer and in 1996. Thomas Banda replaced Lalita Kasanji.

In 1995 after three years of being a pilot scheme the Ethnic Affairs Service became permanent. The service has been of great value to the Federation and the ethnic community in New Zealand.

The Department of Internal Affairs restructuring in 1998 unfortunately saw the demise of the dedicated Ethnic Affairs Service. The Federation now receives Government support through the Community Development Group of Internal Affairs.

At the end of the decade we see a change in Government and an election promise of a Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

As significant new needs arise, the Federation has to develop fresh approaches to meet its goals. In particular there are compelling reasons to debate relevant issues with the new ministry so that they can make good their commitment to provide a better and more equitable lifestyle for all New Zealanders.



October 1999 Executive Meeting at Palmerston North

## THE ETHNIC COUNCILS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Inaugural Meeting of Ethnic Councils to form a Federation was held in Wellington on 4th March 1989. Representatives from Auckland, Wellington, Lower Hutt and Christchurch Ethnic Councils and representatives from the Auckland and Wellington Race Relations Office were present. The meeting appointed Grace Hollander from Christchurch as Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

**The agenda included :**

- Concepts for the Federation
- Finance
- Federation Objectives
- Federation Constitution
- National Conference

**The advantages of having a Federation :**

- Ability to speak with one voice
- Ability to keep in touch
- Make funding from Government easier
- Make the process of consultation more feasible
- Sharing of ideas among groups through the Federation.

### Membership

The New Zealand Federation membership is formulated from Ethnic Councils in New Zealand. Application for membership should be sent to the executive committee accompanied by a copy of the ethnic council constitution.

Delegates from each Ethnic Council will be represented at the Federation meetings.

It was resolved that the first Federation meeting of the Ethnic Councils would be held in Christchurch, and the Race Relations Office would help with the funding.

## THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS

The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils was formed at a meeting in Christchurch on 15 July 1989 attended by representatives of the Ethnic Councils in Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton, Lower Hutt and Wellington.

The address given by Professor Kuan M. Goh to the First National Meeting of New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils in Christchurch :

Kia Ora, Good Morning  
Your Worship, Sir Hamish Hay, Mayor of Christchurch City.  
Delegates of Ethnic Councils from across the Cook's Strait, the North Island.  
Officials of the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator.  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Christchurch Ethnic Council, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all to the first National meeting of the New Zealand Ethnic Councils. We are very delighted to have you here this morning.

We regard this meeting as a very important meeting not only for the fact that it is the first time that such a meeting is being held in this beautiful garden city of Christchurch or the South Island, but also because it is a meeting which we are confident that the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils will be finally brought into existence. This meeting reminds me very much of the hui of all the Maori tribes in New Zealand held in the North Island a few weeks ago. For this reason I would like to designate today's meeting as a tribal or Iwi gathering of representatives of Ethnic communities from almost all the main centres in New Zealand. We have here today representatives of Ethnic Councils from Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Lower Hutt and, of course, Christchurch.

I view the establishment of the Federation of New Zealand Ethnic Councils as a great milestone in the New Zealand society. The Federation will provide a forum for the various ethnic groups to give and receive support and co-operation and also to provide a joint approach to issues of common concern affecting ethnic communities in New Zealand. Furthermore, the Federation will greatly facilitate our contact as well as stimulating an active promotion of the awareness of multiculturalism in the wider New Zealand community.

It is often being said that the ethnic minority in New Zealand is a silent majority. Perhaps there is some truth in the statement. We hear very little about ethnic groups or their activities in the news media. This is probably because ethnic communities are law-abiding and good citizens and thus are unlikely to get into the news. However, a quick glance through the New Zealand Official Year Book 1988/1989 revealed that in the 1986 population census ethnic minorities account for more than 200 000 persons in New Zealand. They live mainly in the urban centres and may represent from a quarter to more than half of the urban population in some areas. Ethnic communities in New Zealand are extremely diverse. For example, in the Christchurch area alone there are more than 36 ethnic groups. The diverse nature and the vast richness of the ethnic cultures are seldom appreciated or realised. I am sure that this richness of cultures has a great potential for generating beneficial contributions to the New Zealand society.

Very little has been done for the ethnic minorities in New Zealand. The existence of the various ethnic associations or societies is largely due to the hard work and dedication of their members. Furthermore, a number of issues and decisions on ethnic affairs (e.g. immigration) have often been made by the Government or other agencies with little or no consultation or input from the ethnic communities. In fact, in recent times the Government and the business communities tend to regard ethnic immigrants as a source of investments for generating capital and employment in New Zealand. A human face has not been put to these immigrant investments. The cultural and other needs of the immigrants are often ignored. It is almost as if that once the immigrants have brought their millions of dollars into the country, their integration into the New Zealand ways of life will automatically happen.

Race relations is an important issue in New Zealand at present and in the future. It is a delicate and sensitive issue. In order to promote racial harmony, equality and equity in the New Zealand Society, the relevance and the meaning of the Treaty of Waitangi need to be understood. Furthermore, we would need to show tolerance, understanding, appreciation and acceptance not only of our cultures but also of those of other cultures in a multicultural society.

I must say that the Christchurch City Council has shown us that it is a Council which reaches out and works for its ethnic minorities. The Christchurch Ethnic Council's existence is due largely to the support it has received from the Christchurch City Council.

The Ethnic Council was formed under the auspices of the Christchurch City Council in August 1988. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor of Christchurch City and its Councillors for the support they have given to the Christchurch Ethnic Council. We are extremely fortunate to have here today His Worship, Sir Hamish Hay, Mayor of Christchurch City and Patron of the Christchurch Ethnic Council to welcome delegates to this meeting. It is indeed a great privilege for me to call upon Sir Hamish Hay to say a few words of welcome to the delegates and to declare this meeting open. Sir Hamish.

**Elected Executive Committee :**

**President:** Dr. Kuan Goh  
(Christchurch Ethnic Council)

**Vice President:** Ms Kamila Skapa  
(Wellington Ethnic Council)

**Secretary:** Mrs Grace Hollander  
(Christchurch Ethnic Council)

**Treasurer:** Mr John Bhula  
(Lower Hutt Ethnic Council)

**Under Secretaries:**

Mr Philip Khouri  
(Auckland Ethnic Council)

Mr Derek Jones  
(Christchurch Ethnic Council)

Dr. N. Rasalingam  
(Auckland Ethnic Council)

Mr Saia Mafileo  
(Waikato Ethnic Council)

It was reported that the National Conference will be held in Auckland on 29th June - 1st July 1990 under the title "Multi-Ethnic New Zealand- A commitment for the future".

## PRESS REPORT

### Following the first Federation meeting

#### GROUP VOICE FOR ETHNICS

The Federation of New Zealand Ethnic Councils, formed at a conference in Christchurch at the weekend represented more than 20,000 people, said its president Dr. Kuan Goh.

Ethnic council representatives from Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch signed an agreement and an executive committee was elected. "We want people to be aware of the ethnic minorities in their community and that very little is being done for them," said Dr. Goh a Lincoln College lecturer.

"The Government and the business community see ethnic Immigrants as a source of investment for generating capital and employment in New Zealand. "But a human face is not put to these investments and the cultural and other needs of the immigrants are often ignored.

"It is taken for granted that once immigrants have brought their millions of dollars into the country, their integration into the New Zealand way of life will automatically follow." but this was not the case and immigrants needed assistance in adapting to New Zealand life, said Dr. Goh.

More than 36 ethnic groups lived in Christchurch, but the diversity and richness of their cultures was seldom appreciated. The range of people included Indians, Chinese, Cook Islanders, Samoans, Filipinos and Welsh.

Ethnic groups had often been described as the silent minority, but this was because they did not attract much news media attention.

But New Zealand had more than 200,000 of them and they lived mainly in urban areas, in some cases representing up to half of the local population.

Government decisions affecting these people - for example, immigration - were mostly made without any consultation, said Dr. Goh.

The new federation would support local ethnic councils in promoting cultural and social activities, but would also appeal to the Government for financial assistance in setting up councils in places such as Dunedin.

It would provide a forum for ethnic groups to give and receive support and enable a joint approach to issues of common concern affecting ethnic communities.

Contact with central and local government would be stronger and easier, and the multi-cultural nature of New Zealand promoted.

Dr. Goh, who was born in Malaysia, has lived in New Zealand for 25 years. He was elected president of the federation's executive committee, which will meet four times a year.

The Mayor of Christchurch, Sir Hamish Hay, spoke at the conference and Dr. Goh thanked him for the support the City Council had given to the Christchurch Ethnic Council.

#### Incorporated Society

The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils was incorporated under the Incorporated Society Act 1908. Registered at Auckland on 4th September 1989.



*The Objectives of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils,  
The principles for the future of multi-ethnic New Zealand and  
the Federation activities were discussed at the Inaugural meeting.*

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.**

1. To promote joint action and co-operation among ethnic councils on issues of common concern.
2. To promote and preserve ethnic customs, languages, religions and cultures throughout New Zealand.
3. To support the rights of ethnic individuals and groups to enjoy equal opportunities and have equitable access to, and an equitable share of, the resources which the Government manages on behalf of the communities.
4. To raise consciousness among ethnic communities of the needs, aspirations and status of the Tangata Whenua.
5. To monitor legislation and other measures including by-laws affecting the interests of the ethnic communities throughout New Zealand and to take appropriate action.
6. To promote the recognition of New Zealand as a multi-ethnic society in order to remove the monocultural philosophies and structures that exist within New Zealand society.
7. To do any other act which supports the objectives of the Federation.

## **PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE OF MULTI-ETHNIC NEW ZEALAND**

1. All New Zealanders should have commitment to New Zealand and share responsibility for furthering our national interests.
2. All New Zealanders should be able to enjoy the basic right of freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, or disability.
3. All New Zealanders should enjoy equal life chances and have equitable access to and an equitable share of the resources which the Government manages on behalf of the community.
4. All New Zealanders should have the opportunity to fully participate in society and in decisions which directly affect them.
5. All New Zealanders should be able to develop and make use of their potential for New Zealand's economic and social development.
6. All New Zealanders should have the opportunity to acquire and develop proficiency in English and languages other than English and develop cross-cultural understanding.
7. All New Zealanders should be able to develop and share their cultural heritage.
8. All New Zealanders institutions which provide services to the public should acknowledge, reflect and respond to the cultural diversity of New Zealand society.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.

- ✓ Encourage awareness of benefits of ethnic diversity
- ✓ Encouragement to individual ethnic cultures
- ✓ Monitor pending legislation and collate information for submissions for select committees
- ✓ Improve standards and use of professionally trained community interpreters
- ✓ Encourage greater use of language translations to disseminate information
- ✓ Participate in education programmes and community language groups
- ✓ Disseminate information regarding changes in immigration policy
- ✓ Assist in the establishment of new regional ethnic councils
- ✓ Hold conferences to discuss the concerns of New Zealand ethnic communities
- ✓ Assist government, local authorities and non - governmental organisations with their policy development
- ✓ Provide an ethnic voice to government, local authorities and non - governmental organisations.

## PRESIDENTS REPORTS

**Prof. KUAN M. GOH, ONZM, JP, PhD, FRSNZ, FNZIC, FNZSSS**

1st President of the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils



### **The Formation of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils - The Beginning**

By  
**Professor Kuan M. Goh,**

The date, Saturday 15 July 1989, holds a special significance for the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils. It was on the morning of that date that the Federation was formed publicly in Christchurch attended by representatives of Ethnic Councils from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Lower Hutt and also the news media. Delegates from Hamilton were present before the formation of the Hamilton Ethnic Council in November 1989. The Mayor of Christchurch, Sir Hamish Hay, welcomed the delegates to the meeting.

It did not take very long for the meeting to formally adopt the Federation Constitution as a great deal of the background work on the Constitution was conducted prior to 1989. In particular, I would like to mention that we owed most of the background work on the formation of the Federation to Mr Peter Tohill, Executive Director of the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator at Auckland at the time. Mr Tohill provided us not only his personal support and advice, but also that of his Office. He guided us throughout the process in the formation of the Federation and also that of Ethnic Councils in various centres in New Zealand. I have often regarded Mr Tohill as the "Father of Ethnic Councils" in New Zealand.

Delegates present at the meeting were full of enthusiasm and egos to ensure that the Federation succeeds in spite of some major obstacles, as at the time we only had a few dollars in the Federation account. Thus my immediate task, as the first President, was to seek funding from various sponsors and organisations. Mrs Grace Hollander and I met the Prime Minister on 7 April 1990, to seek his support for funding from the New Zealand Government. It was most disappointing for us when this was not forthcoming. It took almost a year before we managed to secure our first substantial grant from the Lottery Board.

As mentioned in my address to the Federation formation meeting and the news media at the time (please see copies attached), the aim of the Federation was to provide a forum and mutual support for ethnic groups in New Zealand. I believe these have been achieved. We now have thirteen Ethnic Councils in New Zealand. However, ongoing funding for the Federation from the New Zealand Government has yet to be realised.

In reflecting on the past, the ethnic population in New Zealand has increased dramatically in recent years as a result of the Government immigration policy. However, prejudice and racism towards the ethnic minority have not gone away. Cultural identity and awareness are as important now as a decade ago. We need the Federation and its Ethnic Councils to provide the ethnic minority in New Zealand the "Turangawaewae" - a place to stand. I am sure they will continue to provide that in the future.

I wish the Federation and its Ethnic Councils further achievements and successes in the new Millennium.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 10th JUNE 1990

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this first President's report of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils.

Since its formation amidst wide publicity on 15 July 1989 in Christchurch, the Federation has gained a foothold in the New Zealand community. With continued efforts and co-operation in the future, I am sure that the Federation will become an effective organisation representing ethnic communities throughout New Zealand.

The past twelve months have been a period of activities dealing mainly with the initial establishment of the Federation particularly with respect to the seeking of funds from the Government. The Government has been approached by written grant applications and direct interviews with the Prime Minister, Mr G. Palmer and also the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mrs M. Austin. Although annual ongoing funding from the Government for the Federation has so far not been successful, I am pleased to report that a grant of \$25,000 for a full time secretary/administrator has been offered by the Lottery Grants Board. Negotiations on the conditions for the acceptance of this grant are now progressing together with further approaches made to the Government for on-going funding.

Two quarterly meetings of the Federation were held at Lower Hutt under the auspices of the Lower Hutt Ethnic Council. A number of items were discussed including the 1990 Ethnic National Conference and the policy of ethnic broadcasting. I am sure that the Conference will be a great success and will remain a highlight of the Federation.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Federation Executive committee in supporting me in my role as the President. I have enjoyed working with you and would like to wish the next President every success.

**Kuan M. Goh (President)**

## KAMILA SKAPA

2nd President of the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils



Following the first National Conference in Auckland Kamila Skapa was elected to be the second President of the Federation.

During the year lobbying members of Parliament for support for Government to fund the Federation was the main priority.

The conference proceedings were published and recommendations from the conference open forum were actioned by the Federation over the year.

Due to lack of funding quarterly meetings were held in Lower Hutt and the Race Relations Office funded one fare from each centre.

Affiliation for the year was \$ 100

## GRACE S. HOLLANDER C.B.E. J.P.

3rd President of the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils



In the late nineteen eighties a New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils was a concept whose time had come. With encouragement from Peter Tohill of the Auckland Race Relation's office, the first established Ethnic Councils, of Auckland, Wellington, Hutt and Christchurch met together in Wellington and agreed to pursue the idea. The realisation that New Zealand was fast becoming a multi-ethnic nation whose diversity had yet to be acknowledged provided the impetus to ensure that more regional Councils were formed and a national body organised. At that meeting in Clyde Quay School, a multi-cultural school, I was happy to chair the groundwork of constitution, objectives and economic viability studied and future action determined.

In June 1989 in Christchurch the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils was duly set up with Professor Kuan Goh as the first President and I agreed to be Secretary. All agreed our predominant tasks were to organise regional Councils throughout New Zealand and approach Government for funding and recognition. Obtaining funding proved an ongoing, persistent and never ending task which I saw as essential in my term as secretary and later National Treasurer. In any event we were finally successful in obtaining an initial grant of \$25,000 from lottery which could be used, not only for funding an executive officer, as at first specified, but also for administration and travel.

In 1992 I was invited by Internal Affairs Minister to help select staff for the new Ethnic Affairs Service and this was set up in April of that year, albeit with inadequate staff and funding, but the first head of this Service, Lalita Kasanji, made up for this and did an outstanding job. We were subsequently invited to participate in the evaluation of this Service and despite overwhelming support from all involved, staffing and funding were never increased.

The Federation in Australia, already established ten years previous to New Zealand was well funded by the Government and with an office in the Prime Minister's Department. We were well aware of the wonderful job that F.E.C.C.A. were doing and quickly established lines of communication and an exchange of reports and advice from their helpful executive, some of whom attended our first meetings. With financial support from Lottery and the Australia-New Zealand Foundation some of us were able to attend the F.E.C.C.A. Conferences and I was thrilled to go to both the Canberra and Freemantle meetings. They were inspirational and a source of ideas and education for our fledgling Federation.

On accepting office as National President for 1991 and 1992 I instituted a monthly Newsletter which kept the increasing number of regional Councils up to date with our involvement's - submissions to pending legislation, participation in National Language and E.S.O.L. Conferences, survey of immigrants by Internal Affairs, encouragement to interpreting services and so on. One of the highlights was being able to present Certificates in Qualified Interpreting to those graduates successful in Dr. Sabine Fenton's classes. And another was participating in the setting up of Regional Councils in Dunedin and Palmerston North - a task that our Executive Officer has carried on admirably so that today we have thirteen Regional Councils.

Now with my involvement as Convenor of the National Women's Committee, I still believe we have a long way to go to have our multicultural society acknowledged before we can truly celebrate our cultural diversity in New Zealand.

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO AGM 20th JUNE 1992 AT CHRISTCHURCH**

I think you will agree with me that this has been an eventful year for the Ethnic Federation. Multiculturalism has challenged us all to think and talk about ourselves in a new way and to imagine our future in a new way. A Government which recognises that there is no social peace to be found in the failure to acknowledge the rights of ethnic minorities, is a Government which acknowledges the rights of ethnic minorities to realise their full potential socially, and recognises that each person has something of intrinsic and inherent worth which adds to the value of life in New Zealand. And to fulfill these aspirations we need more English teaching and improved interpreting and translation services, welfare services which can effectively reach those in need, surely, assistance to pass on language and culture to our children, and in brief, an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all aspects of N Z life.

We will be taking time during this annual meeting to examine all of these matters, assess how effective we have been and what measures need to be taken for the future. One important subject we must tackle is how to strengthen the work and achievements of the Regional Councils. Is your Council suffering from poor attendance and support? Does it represent only a small minority of the ethnic groups in your community? Each Regional Council finds its own strengths, but perhaps we should be looking to alternatives which will be effective. Should regional meetings be frequent, or should they be held only three or four times a year to alert members to pending legislation or problems that have arisen and need concerted efforts to redress, or should meetings be merely social occasions.

For the first time in N Z, the ethnic communities have been adequately recognised by a Government and we need to ensure that the Ethnic Advisory Service is to continue. How can we be sure of this in the present economic climate? If the E A S is truly successful, will we need Regional Councils in the future and a Federation?

I hope, with tolerance and understanding we can face some of these questions and come up with realistic answers. The success of this meeting is therefore a challenge to all of us.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of all the assistance I have received - from Regional Presidents, the National Secretary, Derek Jones, our Treasurer, from Kathy Baxter and Lalita Kasanji.

**G S Hollander CBC JP  
National President**

## **SUMMARY OF AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT 10th OCTOBER 1993 AT WELLINGTON**

National President Grace Hollander gave a brief report of a busy year's activities which included response to many requests as guest speaker, endless letters in response to requests for information regarding the Federation and its views on Immigration, Education, Statistics and the like.

Highlights of the year had been assisting in the formation of a new Ethnic Council and the application and granting of funding for a Project Officer to form new Councils. This entailed detailed information to the Lottery Board and follow up meetings with members of the Board and the Minister of Internal Affairs who had been most supportive.

Work is now progressing favourably with the setting up of new Councils and this is undoubtedly the priority for the coming months if we are to fulfil the criteria of the grant. Several articles have been written for the Ethnic Affairs Service Newsletter and a great spirit of co-operation cemented between the Federation and the Ethnic Affairs Service which augers well for the future.

**G S Hollander CBC JP**  
National President

## **PHILIP KHOURI BA LLB(HONS)**

**4th President of the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils**



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM 25th JUNE 1994 AT WELLINGTON**

There have been a number of events of great significance for the Federation during the eight months since I was elected President:

1. The New Zealand electoral system changed to MMP. For the first time in New Zealand history citizens of non-English speaking background have the potential to bring about political change for the benefit of their communities. The Federation is the voice of the ethnic communities and thoughtful politicians will listen carefully to what we say if they wish to be elected.
2. Federation representatives attended the Australian Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils Conference in Perth. We brought back to New Zealand a fresh and updated vision of the progress which the Australians are making towards a multicultural society; and knowledge of the value which their government places on the work of their Federation as reflected in the scale of funding.

3. We became aware that New Zealand is within the broadcast area of the Australian Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) and that there is no technical reason why we cannot receive their multicultural and multilingual programmes in our homes instead of the monocultural US and UK programmes which we receive at present. The media has a vital part to play in the development of attitudes in a multicultural nation and the Government would be failing in its duty to prepare New Zealand for the 21st Century if it did not provide funding for nationwide multicultural and multilingual television. I was able to have these issues and the availability of SBS discussed in a series of articles in the "Herald."
4. At the February General meeting we created a major policy statement for the Federation by putting the October National Conference outcomes into final form. The Conference Committee expects the Conference book to be printed shortly.
5. In May the Executive Committee helped me by fax and telephone to release to the Government and the media a strong statement deplored the ease with which people with racist views appear able to enter New Zealand. We proposed constructive changes to the Immigration Act. The Minister of Immigration has replied that our suggestions are being looked at.
6. Through an interview in "Vista" magazine I made it known that the Federation feels that there is an urgent need for the Government to develop a Population Policy to determine the population mix which immigration policy should be aiming for. The Federation is willing to contribute to the development of such a policy.
7. Through our Projects Officer Derek Jones the Federation has helped the ethnic communities in Palmerston North, New Plymouth and Tauranga to organise themselves into Ethnic Councils. Palmerston North and New Plymouth have been established. Tauranga will have its inaugural meeting in July. This will bring the number of Ethnic Councils in New Zealand to nine. Derek is congratulated and thanked for his excellent work.
8. Protecting our communities from racism is certain to remain a key function of the Federation. The Federation has maintained its close relationship with the Race Relations Office. In March at the invitation of the Conciliator John Clarke I was a member of a panel which interviewed and selected an Education Manager for the Auckland office. This was an honour for me and the Federation.

9. The Federation has continued its warm relationship with the Ethnic Affairs Service within the Department of Internal Affairs. The Ethnic Affairs Officer, Lalita Kasanji, is to be congratulated and thanked for her diligent work, for the publication of the "Ethnic Link" magazine, and for her friendly helpfulness. It seems absurd that the Service remains a pilot scheme. We have been told that a decision on whether it will become permanent is expected at the end of this year. I would have thought that this decision could be made now, especially after MMP.

It can be seen from these activities that the Federation is consolidating its position as the peak organisation representing the interests of the ethnic communities in New Zealand. This position is very important because New Zealanders of non-English speaking background have a key role to play in building our New Zealand nation.

The diversity of our languages, our experience and our connections with the rest of the world are a national resource whose value the Government is only recently beginning to acknowledge.

Much still needs to be done to enable the Federation to perform its role effectively. At present too much depends on the efforts of a few and the goodwill of many.

Foremost is the need for guaranteed long term funding to enable the Federation to employ an Executive Officer to establish and administer the Federation and Ethnic Council networks which are planned for the coming year.

I have enjoyed the last eight months as President. I am grateful for the help and support which I have received from all members of the Executive Committee. I give special thanks to our accomplished and indefatigable Secretary and friend, Derek Jones.

**Philip Khouri, BA, LLB (Hons)**  
**National President**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION AGM 24th JUNE 1995 AT CHRISTCHURCH**

The Federation has continued to be the Peak national organisation representing the interests of New Zealanders of non-English Speaking Background. Formed in 1989, its members are now the Ethnic Councils which local ethnic communities have established in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Hutt, Christchurch and Dunedin.

The Federation's Executive Committee has held three meetings during the past year: AGM in Wellington in June 1994, and meetings in Dunedin in October 1994 and Auckland in February 1995.

We have achieved the following successes during this past year.

1. Continued the project of helping local ethnic communities to form their own Ethnic Councils. The latest Council is in Hawkes Bay. This work has been carried out by the Federation Secretary Derek Jones with the help of a special project grant from the Government.
2. Finalised the By-Laws which govern the Federation's internal procedures.
3. Established the framework for Federation and Ethnic Council standing committee policy networks.
4. Successfully applied for a Lottery Welfare Committee grant. The grant is for \$25,000.00: \$7,000.00 for Federation travel to meetings, \$6,000.00 for Federation administration expenses, and \$12,000.00 for the salary of an Executive Officer.

This grant is a milestone achievement for the Federation and a special thank you is given to Derek Jones the Federation Secretary and Weng Kei Chen the Treasurer, whose efforts made the grant possible.

5. Decided to employ an Executive Officer. Attached is a copy of the job description. We expect to be able to employ the Executive Officer within the next few months.
6. Helped the Primary school principals to highlight the lack of adequate funding for English language teaching in schools and persuade the Government to provide emergency funding and promise to deal with this in the June Budget.

7. Helped persuade the Government to take effective steps to protect New Zealand against the entry of racist immigrants. Attached is a copy of the Media Release which we issued last year and a copy of the Supplementary Application form for Residence Visas and Permits which the New Zealand Immigration Service issued shortly afterwards. The form indicates that the Immigration Service has taken up the suggestion in our media release.
8. Continued the Federation's close association with the Ethnic Affairs Service (EAS) in Wellington. This has continued to be a valuable and much appreciated link between the ethnic communities and Government. We hope that the EAS will be made permanent and possibly even expanded following its review by the Government this month.

We give a special thanks to the EAS officers Lalita Kasanji and Ann Beaglehole for the help and support which they have given us during this past year.

We also sent representatives to the Annual Conference of our counterpart organisation in Australia, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, held in Hobart Tasmania in December 1994.

I have summed up the current position as I see it in the attached article Multi-Ethnic New Zealand: Principles for the Future.

This AGM brings to an end my second term as National President. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet other representatives of ethnic communities throughout New Zealand, to make new friends, and to work with them in building our multi-ethnic nation.

I am grateful for the help and support which I have received from the Executive Committee. And, just as I did in my report to the AGM last year, I give special thanks to our Federation Secretary Derek Jones for his excellent and untiring work.

Thank you. I wish you happiness, good health and success.

**Philip Khouri BA. LLB (Hons)  
National President**

## **Dr. N. RASALINGAM**

**5th President of the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils**



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION 7th AGM 15th JUNE 1996 AT PALMERSTON NORTH**

I am delighted to present this report at this seventh annual general meeting being held in Palmerston North. We have had a very eventful period since our last annual general meeting. The Federation's profile has been recognised and it has grown in strength throughout the country. Government action as a result of successful lobbying has been rewarding and many initiatives have been mooted. The Ethnic Affairs Service, which was established in April 1992 as a 12 month pilot service after the representations from our council and then extended on a yearly review, has now been confirmed the provision of policy advice on ethnic affairs as a function of the Department of Internal Affairs. I thank all the regions who responded to our unanimous decision to address the government in order to achieve the above objective. We also met with the former Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Warren Cooper in August 1995 the details of our concerns and his response were posted and discussed at the executive meeting held in New Plymouth.

We also had the opportunity to meet the newly appointed Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Peter Dunne on 4th of April 1996. A letter was presented and discussed. The Minister was very positive and showed interest to address our concerns and has responded. These letters are attached for your information.

### **Meetings with Ethnic Affairs Service**

These meetings have been very productive and I must thank the service for the excellent co-operation and help they have given us to further our activities. My sincere gratitude to Lalita Kasanji, senior analyst and Ann Beaglehole, senior policy analyst. They have been a source of strength to me and the input by EAS team leaders Tina Reid and Donald Riezebos at all the meetings has been of enormous value. Their draft copy of the Ethnic Affairs Service Strategic Plan 1996-2000 which was discussed with all interested groups will have an enormous impact when finally drawn to successfully enhance our activities. We must promote the continuation of these meetings, as working in partnership is essential to achieve our objectives.

### **Executive Officer**

Mr Derek Jones was appointed to the above position and confirmed at the executive meeting held on October 1995. A strategic plan was presented subsequently and discussed for further action. A draft work plan for 1996/1997 has been circulated and I hope the Regional Councils will earnestly comply with the set goals as the success of our councils activities rest on their responsibility. The Executive Officer needs all our support and I urge all of you to have a close link of communication with him.

We had the honour of being addressed by Hon. Minister of Immigration at one of our executive meetings. The lack of consultation regarding axing of community points and the introduction of English language testing was raised and our disappointment was reinforced. The submission for Family reunification policy has been finalised by the council and needs approval to be sent to the minister. The humanitarian policy is under review along with the refugee policy and the council will welcome submissions from the regional councils. Immigration has been a centre of focus for public debate and in order to address polices affecting ethnic people the Federation has decided to have a "Political Forum" meeting with the leaders of parties contesting the forthcoming general election. The Auckland Ethnic council will host this meeting on the 6th of July 1996.

## Interpreters

The competency of English language has been a longstanding barrier in accessing government departments and an establishment of Interpreters and Translators national body was mooted by the Federation and the Minister has responded towards it. This will need further discussions and I hope we will see the emergence of such a body before the end of this year. In this same vein the Federation has helped the Statistics Department in their Census survey this year and also in correspondence with the Registrar of Electors to establish a network of interpreters for the forthcoming general elections.

We are also involved in the community languages projects being organised by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. The Federation is also represented on the career industry advisory group of NQA and is a member of the sub committee for qualification in careers. This is an area, which is challenging and growing as it involves all New Zealanders.

## Federation Of Ethnic Community Councils Of Australia (FECCA)

We were represented at their 16th National conference held at Melbourne in November 1995. A report was presented to the regions. I hope that in the future we may play a more active role at these conferences, for example by presenting papers at the workshops. We have to build a more proactive approach and also be treated as important participants and not as mere observers. I enclose a copy of the speech of the keynote speaker Prof. Mary Kalantzis who highlights a new dimension of diversity and a nation building exercise, which she terms Civic Pluralism.

## Race Relations Office

The Federation will continue to strengthen our relationship with the office. The newly appointed conciliator Dr. Rajan Prasad who is our guest speaker today has already shown great enthusiasm to work with us. He has decided to send representatives to our executive meetings. I have also been in the panel of the advisory committee to write support materials for the new social studies curriculum, culture and heritage strand to be submitted to the Ministry of Education under the auspices of the race relations' education advisor Mr Peter O'Connor.

## Asia 2000

I have had a discussion with the newly appointed Executive Director of Asia 2000 Mr Phillip Gibson and briefed him about the Federation and its activities. He found our discussion to be very useful and looked forward to making contact with all regional councils. I stressed our interests in one of their objectives, which was to encourage informed public discussions about issues relating to New Zealand's economic, social, cultural and other links with Asian countries and people. One of their proposals, to have a "Festival of Asia" next year, was mentioned and our role of support was discussed. I was given an opportunity to appear on a panel discussion on a programme screened on television. The topic was immigration in particular the Asian influx into New Zealand. This was an Asia Vision production and appeared in the ASIA DYNAMIC programme.

## New Zealand on Air

A written submission was initially submitted on Regional/Community television and I later had the opportunity to discuss this topic further with the New Zealand On Air board in Wellington. Further consultations are being scheduled and I would like input from the regions. A copy of my submissions is available for circulation.

## Conclusion

The Federation has a significant role to play and is more than just a lobby group. We have to be proactive and participate in policy networking with the government and other non-government organisations. Regional councils input is very essential. A collective action is vital for success and I appeal to all of you to enthusiastically work towards achieving these goals. Finally I wish to thank the executive committee members for their invaluable support given to me especially Derek, our executive officer who has also been acting as secretary for the Federation.

**Dr. N. Rasalingam  
National President**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION 8th AGM 14th JUNE 1997 AT ROTORUA**

I am pleased to present this report at this Eighth Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils being held in Rotorua. The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils has been recognised as a high profile organisation and we have widened our activities from that of a lobby group to that of a policy making unit. This has been amply demonstrated by both government and non-governmental agencies, who have readily consulted us on policies affecting Ethnic Communities.

### **Population - Immigration Conference**

This conference has been scheduled to be held in October this year. Inter Departmental meetings have been held and discussions are still in the drawing board stage. NZ Immigration Service will be the key organisers and the Federation input is welcomed. The outcome of discussions at this meeting can be included in their format.

### **Fourth National Congress - Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia 5 -7 December 1996.**

Delegates from the Federation attended this conference in Adelaide, Australia. The Congress had four major focus areas.

The changing dimensions of Immigration and Settlement Services, aged Care, Employment and Training, Communications.

There were no workshops, Keynote speeches and plenary sessions were the notable features. There was a function organised for the Farewell of Mr. Victor Rebicoff who retired after four years of being the President of F.E.C.C.A. and I was given the honour of saying a few words on behalf of the Federation. I also had the chance to speak at their Gala Multicultural Dinner, at which I took the opportunity to highlight the activities of our Federation and also publicise our forthcoming National Conference to be held in November 1997 at Palmerston North.

### **The 3rd Federation National Conference - Unity in Diversity**

The 1997 National Conference is well on the way to being a great success. A big thank you to Rolf Panny the convenor and his team for the excellent work done to date. After the involvement of Telecom at our last AGM we have successfully negotiated with them to be one of our sponsors for the conference.

### **Minister of Internal Affairs - Honourable Jack Elder**

Our meeting with the Minister, his officials and the Ethnic Affairs Service team was positive and the Minister recognised and welcomed our work. Funding was one of the main topics discussed.

He promised to look into this matter and further reinforced that he will pursue other avenues with his officials to meet our demands specially for expenses involved in delegates attending Quarterly meetings and the Annual General meeting. My letters to him have also been circulated to all Regional Councils.

### **Citizens Advice Bureaux**

I have had discussions with the New Zealand Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux on Immigrant issues on behalf of the Federation and we have identified common issues and are ready to work together. A few details have been outlined in their May Newsletter. Immigrant Centres to be established have been mooted to both the ministers of immigration and Internal Affairs and we should discuss this topic at our meeting today for further details.

### **Ethnic Affairs Service**

We have built a very strong relationship with the Service and all our meetings with them have been very productive and informative. The Team has been very helpful and their STRATEGIC PLAN 1996 - 2000 identifying four strategic policy areas having an impact on Ethnic Communities. All regional councils and the Federation will have to vigorously participate in order to play an active role in their policy submissions.

Another major project has been the initiation of meetings with key Government and non-governmental agencies involved with interpreting, the aim has been to provide a safe and ethical service throughout New Zealand. The Federation requested this action and I am happy to say that there has been a positive outcome and in the near future the Ethnic Affairs Service will forward a submission to the government for implementation.

## **Minister of Immigration - Honourable Max Bradford**

Two meetings have been held with the Minister and officials of the New Zealand Immigration Services. The points of discussion were outlined in my letters which have been circulated and there have been positive outcomes from these meetings. As alluded to earlier, we have moved towards active participation in policies and regular meetings will be held with Policy teams of the Immigration Services and the Federation hereafter. The Federation initiated meetings with the Regional Councils and Mr Chris Hampton. Manager of the N.Z.I.S. late last year to discuss policies on humanitarian and family reunification grounds, I must thank the regions for their submissions.

Mr Peter Leniston, Manager of the Policy and Evaluation team of N.Z.I.S. has confirmed the constructive developments from our meetings with the Minister in his letter which appeared in our last newsletter to all regions.

I shall highlight a few important issues, which need ongoing dialogue in order to achieve our goals. The Federation had to meet the ministers of the new Coalition Government and brief them on our activities. This was not an easy task as they clearly had their own priorities.

I have enjoyed this term as president, my participation in initiating and planning proposals, my role in the media publicising our goals and the initial steps we have taken to further our role as we enter this new era of MMP. My sincere thanks to the Executive Committee for the invaluable help and advice and I look forward to more success for the Federation in the coming years.

**Dr. N Rasalingam**  
**National President**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION 9th AGM 13th JUNE 1998 AT AUCKLAND**

It gives me great pleasure to present this report at this Ninth Annual General meeting of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils being held in Auckland. My experience in working as the President of the Auckland Ethnic Council in the early 1990's has been an asset to me in accomplishing most of the tasks undertaken as the Federation President in the last three years.

Information sharing with the Regional Councils and all other recognised Non Governmental agencies has been made possible by Nine Newsletters which were published by the Federation during 1997-98, with updated news of the activities of the Federation. I must congratulate Derek Jones, our executive secretary whose untiring efforts as editor resulted in these newsletters being published. We also had the opportunity to publish articles relevant to the activities of the Federation in the Ethnic Link the ministry of Internal Affairs newsletter.

### **Population Conference - 13 /14 November 1997**

Six delegates from the Federation attended this historic conference where a platform was created for informed discussions and deliberations. People Communities and growth were three focal points addressed by various experts and the post conference papers, which were compiled, have all the details of the presentations. I strongly urge every regional council to purchase them for future reference. I presented resource materials for a panel discussion on relevant factors for settlement of migrants and setting of immigration targets and participated as a panel commentator in this workshop.

### **New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Council's -3rd National Conference**

More than 200 delegates from Ethnic organisations and ethnic Communities in New Zealand attended the above Conference held on November 15-16, 1997 at Palmerston North. A detailed report of this conference was circulated to all regions and Resolutions passed at the conclusion of the conference were also subsequently discussed at the quarterly meeting. I hope further input will prioritise these resolutions for urgent action and implementation.

A book launch People People People publishing the proceedings, comments and essays of the above conference took place in the foyer of the National library of New Zealand, in Wellington 22 April 1998.

**Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia - Annual Conference - March 1998**

I must thank the Federation for funding me to attend the above conference. The theme of the Conference was Multiculturalism and Democracy in Australia. It was held at the Gazebo Hotel in Parramatta, New South Wales. The Premier of New South Wales, through the Ethnic Affairs Commission, donated \$50,000 towards the expenses of the conference. The other sponsors were The Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Quantas Airways limited, The National Roads and Motorist Association and the NSW Department of Education and Training. 350 delegates attended the conference from all states of Australia. Six plenary Sessions with concurrent sessions were held over three days and various topics were discussed including Health and disabilities, the aged, women's affairs and youth welfare involving people from non English speaking background.

We have had ongoing meetings with the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Immigration on funding and resettlement issues. I am happy to inform you that considerable progress has been made and the Minister of Internal Affairs has agreed that the Department of Internal Affairs will provide the Federation with consultancy assistance for scoping funding options.

We have also formed a Women's Forum and I must thank Grace Hollander, one of our past presidents, who has kindly agreed to be the chair person of that body. Her report will provide details on this and will need ongoing support from the Federation.

Having completed 3 years as president I am confident that the Federation will continue to grow under the newly elected Executive Committee. My services will always be available to strengthen the activities of the Federation.

The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils has now been recognised as a leading umbrella organisation and I wish to put forward a plan of action for the incoming executive to further enhance its activities. A forum to be formed for multicultural and ethno specific community based organisations which will assist in highlighting, responding and formulating strategies to address issues of concern to the community. This forum will be a vital step towards opening up dialogue, debating issues and agreeing on future strategies at a national level.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all regional council members and the executive for their invaluable support given to me during my period as the president of the Federation.

**Dr. N. Rasalingam  
National President**

**Dr. ASHRAF CHOUDHARY**

**6th President of the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils**



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION 10th AGM  
12 / 13th JUNE 1999 AT WELLINGTON**

My first year as President has been challenging and exciting one. With the co-operation of the very talented and dedicated members of the Executive Committee we have been able to achieve a number of Federation's objectives. This report summarises key achievements, developments, events, and activities for the year 1998-99.

**1. Key Document preparation**

Following the last AGM in Auckland, we undertook a number of initiatives to promote the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils as a key proponent and stakeholder for issues relating to ethnic communities in New Zealand. As a first step, we prepared a number of documents to highlight key issues. A number of these have been presented to appropriate government departments for possible action.

- (a) Settlement in New Zealand - Needs and Issues: This document highlights explicitly the major needs and concerns, which face our ethnic communities. These include issues such as unemployment, English language and training, qualifications and skills recognition, housing and accommodation, health, interpretation and translating, income and financial support, and cultural and social support etc.

(b) Settlement in New Zealand - Strategies and outcomes: Building upon the needs and issues Document this report focuses on likely strategies and outcomes.

(c) Migrant Resource Centre in Palmerston North: the Ethnic Council of Manawatu has prepared this document with assistance from the Federation. The document has been presented to the Departments of Immigration and Internal Affairs, and the Palmerston North City Council for funding. It is pleasing to note that the Palmerston North City Council has budgeted over \$17,000 in its 1999-2000 year draft budget for resourcing the Migrant Resource Centre. Other part of the funding is still being worked through.

(d) Ministry of Ethnic Affairs: Mr. Thakur Parbhu was commissioned to prepare this document. Unfortunately, because of his ill health, this could not be completed. Prof. Jeff Sissons, a Professor of Anthropology at Massey University has kindly agreed to help prepare such a document starting this July 1999.

2. **Ethnic Women's Committee:** The Women's Committee held its first very successful 'national' conference in March, 1999 and discussed key issues affecting ethnic women of New Zealand. Financial and logistic support for this meeting was kindly provided by the Internal Affairs and the Immigration departments. I am thankful to Mrs. Grace Hollander, Convenor of Women's Committee for taking a leading role in organising this meeting. I believe this conference was very successful.

3. **Political Forum:** A successful political forum was held in Tauranga on Saturday, 13 February 1999. The main political parties were invited to present their views on the topic How will your party policies enhance the New Zealand multiethnic society? The speakers included Messrs. Matt Robson, Alliance Party; Ken Shirley, Act Party; Winston Peters, New Zealand First; Mark Goschie, Labour Party; Ms Pansy Wong, National Party; and Dr. Aditya Prakash, United Party. The Forum provided an excellent opportunity for members to quiz the speakers about their Party policies. It was interesting to note that only two political parties i.e. the NZ Labour Party and the Alliance Party committed themselves to investigating setting up a stand-alone Ministry of Immigration, Ethnic Affairs and Settlement, a need that the Federation has identified.

4. **International Liaison:** In September 1998 during a private visit to Western Australia I visited the office of the Western Australian multiethnic Council and met the President. This meeting gave a valuable insight in the working of multiethnic organisations in Australia. Mr. Weng Kei Chen (V. President) and Dr. Rasalingam (immediate Past President) attended the FECCA conference in Brisbane, Australia.

5. **Asia Week:** The Federation and the various member ethnic councils attended many and varied Asia Week activities, which were organised by the Asia 2000 Foundation and held throughout the country.

6. **NZFEC 10 year History Booklet:** The Executive Committee has commissioned the Executive Officer to prepare a Ten-year History Booklet encapturing the main activities, events, and highlights of the Federation's history. Hopefully, the draft would be ready by the AGM in Wellington for comments and approval by the membership. The launch of the booklet is planned to coincide with the year-end millennium activities.

7. **New Constitution:** The new constitution of the Federation has been approved and is in place. Many 'loose ends', which existed in the previous constitution, have been tidied up. The new constitution is a very well written document the preparation of which has been a pains-taking undertaking and took a lot of hard work. I specifically thank and congratulate Mr Karun Lakshman, and all members of the Federation for this accomplishment. The constitution is a live document, and there would remain a need to continuously update it, if and as required.

8. **Funding:** I am sure all of you have heard the good news that the Minister of Internal Affairs has kindly approved a funding of \$75,000 for the NZFEC for the 1999-2000 financial year. This has been great news for us. On behalf of the members of the Federation I thank the Minister of Internal Affairs, and indeed the government for this support. I trust this injection of funds will certainly help us to achieve the Federation activities. Notwithstanding, we need to be cautious, as we must find ways to put the Federation on more firm financial footing. This would require continuous lobbying with the politicians and government officials, and promoting the Federation as the foremost and vigorous advocate of the ethnic communities of New Zealand.

Personally, for me this has been a very challenging year, and as always I have enjoyed such a challenge and promoted the objectives of the Federation.

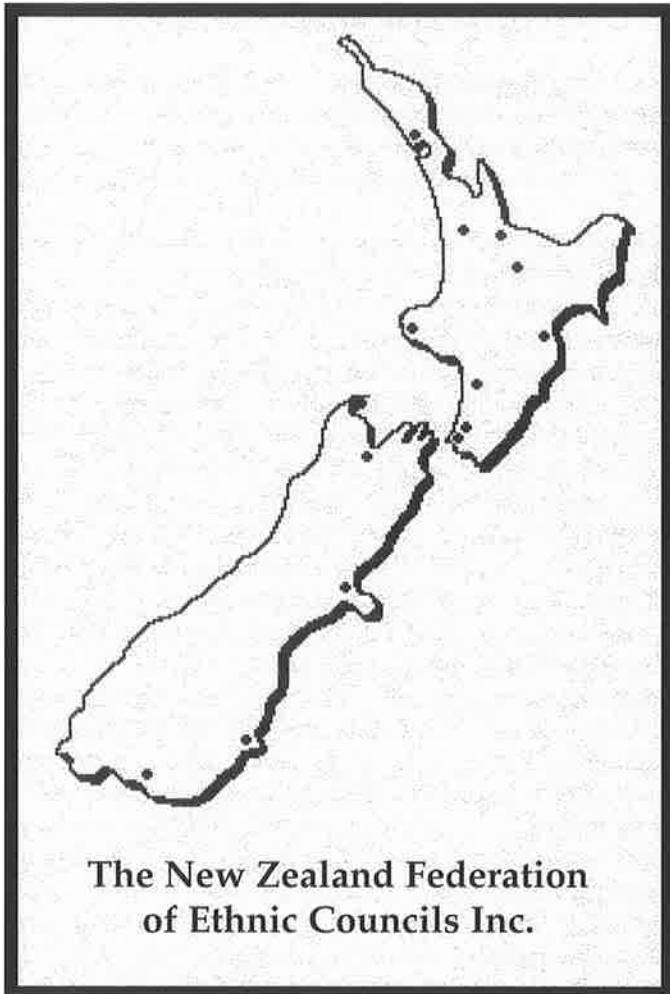
I whole-heartedly thank members of the Executive Committee of the Federation and the regional Ethnic Councils for their continuous support and co-operation. I look forward to continue working for the best interests of the Federation.

**Ashraf Choudhary JP**  
National President NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils Inc.

### **1999 - 2000 Federation Executives**



Left to Right : Dinesh Tailor (Treasurer), Alan McDonald (Secretary), Dr. Ashraf Choudhary (President), Derek Jones (Executive Officer), Weng Kei Chen (Vice President), Dr. N. Rasalingam (Past President)



**The New Zealand Federation  
of Ethnic Councils Inc.**

### **REGIONAL ETHNIC COUNCILS**

## ETHNIC COUNCIL WELLINGTON

This is a brief history of the Ethnic Council Wellington and also of the way in which the Ethnic Council movement in New Zealand started. This account is not necessarily fully accurate. It is the best, which can be pieced together from available records and memories.

The catalyst for starting the Ethnic Councils in New Zealand was the formation of the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia (FECCA). One of the people behind FECCA was Professor Zubrzycki. A Polish migrant. Eric Lepionka, then a member of the Wellington Polish Community, got the idea from him. Eric wrote a paper and presented it to the Minister of Immigration, Aussie Malcolm, in which he suggested the formation of an Ethnic Council in New Zealand. Mr Malcolm was sympathetic, but he decided to pass the paper to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Arts, Mr Hight. The latter declined the request. Eric then sat on the paper until 1985, when Chris Hawley from the Department of Education and Peter Tohill from the Race Relations Office took steps to see if an Ethnic Council could be formed in Wellington as a trial run for New Zealand. They had attended the 1984/85 FECCA meeting in Australia. On their return they wrote to some ethnic groups in Wellington and organised a meeting for February 1985. But only 6 people turned up. Eric was not aware of this meeting. That was a shame. Two months later another meeting was called. This time a letter was sent to the Polish Association Eric was then President so he attended. This time there were only 5 people present. When Eric learned that Mr Hawley and Mr Tohill had been to the Australian meeting, he suggested that the local meeting be organised on a bigger and more important scale. He suggested that the then Race Relations Conciliator, Hiwi Tauroa should be made the chief attraction for a future meeting and all the communities should be written to inform them that he was attending. So a further meeting was arranged along those lines and 58 people representing 25 ethnic groups attended.

This third meeting was held in May 1985 and it was decided that a committee should be formed and the organisation started. Thus was born the Wellington Ethnic Affairs Council. The first office holders are described as below. Wellington Ethnic Affairs Council was formed in 1985 and became an incorporated Society on 4th February 1988.

With Wellington up and running Mr Tauroa said that the same should be done in Auckland. So he organised a similar meeting in Auckland and Eric went up to Auckland and spoke at that meeting. Thus Auckland got off the ground. From there other Ethnic Councils were started.

## The List of Office Bearers is as follows : (to the best of our knowledge)

1986/86	P : Eric Lepionka S : Kamila Skapa	VP : Paul Wah T : Arnold Vilkens
1986/87	P : Eric Lepionka/Paul Wah S : Kamila Skapa	VP : Paul Wah/Eric Lepionka T : Arnold Vilkens
1987/88	P : Paul Wah S : Kamila Skapa	VP : Rama Ramanathan T : Arnold Vilkens
1988/89	P : Paul Wah S : Kamila Skapa	VP : Rama Ramanathan T : Arnold Vilkens
1989/90	P : Kamila Skapa S : Rama Ramanathan	VP : - T : Arnold Vilkens
1990/91	P : Rama Ramanathan S : Thelma Shpilevsky	VP : Esther Fung T : Arnold Vilkens
1991/92	P : Rama Ramanathan S : Chris Perinpanayagam	VP : Esther Fung T : Arnold Vilkens
1992/93	P : Rama Ramanathan S : Chris Perinpanayagam	VP : Esther Fung T : Prem Singh
1993/94	P : Chris Perinpanayagam S : Thelma Shpilevsky	VP : Esther Fung T : Prem Singh
1994/95	P : Chris Perinpanayagam S : Thelma Shpilevsky	VP : Esther Fung T : Prem Singh
1995/96	P : Rama Ramanathan S : Thelma Shpilevsky	VP : Karun Lakshman T : Prem Singh
1996/97	P : Rama Ramanathan S : Sunil Abeyratne/ Prem Singh	VP : Karun Lakshman T : Prem Singh A/S : Vivienne Varouhas
1997/98	P : Karun Lakshman S : Prem Singh A/S : Vivienne Varouhas	VP : Rosemary Jones T : Klaas Bouwman
1998/99	P : Karun Lakshman S : Prem Singh A/S : Vivienne Varouhas	VP : Rosemary Jones T : Klaas Bouwman

## AUCKLAND REGIONAL ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.

Established since 1985

The Auckland Ethnic Council (as it was previously known) actually arose from a chance remark made by an Auckland City Councillor sitting on a Licensing Authority Hearing for granting a license to an Indian Restaurant in Ponsonby. Councillor Jolyon Firth was chairing this body where he called Indians "Curry Munchers" and "Short Changers". A news reporter at that hearing reported these remarks in the local gazette, causing a real furore! Members of the community protested, complaints went back and forth to the Auckland City Council, then to the Race Relation Conciliator, and ultimately to the Human Rights Commission without reaching a satisfactory conclusion.

The support for this complaint came not only from the Indian community but also many other ethnic groups including the Jewish Council and various Pacific Island organisations that were outraged by this slur on an Ethnic community.

At this point the Race Relations Conciliator, Mr. Hiwi Tauroa and his Chief Executive, Mr. Peter Tohill approached the Chairman of the Auckland Jewish Council Mr. Ernest Markham and the President of the Auckland Multicultural Society Mr. Cecil Lochan, to find ways to address the problem. They discussed the concept of establishing a body based on the Australian concept Australian Ethnic Communities Council, and a meeting of all ethnic group representatives was held at the Race Relations Conciliator's Office in early 1985. The attendance was overwhelming with delegates overflowing into the corridors. The concept was placed before the meeting, discussed, and unanimously supported in principle. A foundation committee comprising of Mr. Markham as Chairman, Cecil Lochan as Secretary and 13 members from different community groups was formed to work on a draft constitution for this organisation.

A general meeting of ethnic community delegates was called at the Fale, Samoa House at 7:30pm on 23rd September 1985. Elections were held, and the following were installed as office bearers of the Auckland Ethnic Council (AEC):

**Honorary President :** Dr. Ranginui Walker (Maori District Council)  
**Chairperson:** Mrs Shanti Patel (New Zealand Central Indian Association)  
**Vice Chairperson:** Mr Cam Bui (Cong Dong Vietnamese Association)  
**Secretary:** Ms Wendy Ross (Jewish Council)  
**Treasurer:** Mr Phillip Khouri (Lebanese Society)  
**Auditor:** Mr Dinesh Tailor (Auckland Indian Association)  
**Legal Advisors:** Dr. Jerry Elkind (Prof. Law at Auckland University)

(The task of drawing up the Auckland Ethnic Council's first constitution was given to the legal advisors.)

The first two years were very active and exciting. The AEC made many submissions to the Bill of Rights, Education Bill and other relevant legislation. Access Radio came into being through the efforts of the AEC, Members of Parliament were lobbied, including the Minister of Broadcasting and various other government departments to achieve this service for our ethnic people.

The Auckland Ethnic Council was subsequently registered under the Incorporated Societies Act. Regular meetings were held with various government departments to bring about better understanding, to streamline procedures and to act in an advisory capacity when required. Several Ethnic Delight evenings were held with local politicians, members of parliament and interested folk to share our food, culture, and hospitality. In 1990, the AEC hosted the first National Conference for the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils with great success.

The Auckland Ethnic Council was also the first council to initiate the concept of a Migrant Service Centre and an office was opened for several years from 1993 with the help of the Citizens Advice Bureau in inner city Auckland. Funding eventually became a problem, which resulted in its closure.

The current Executive committee of the Auckland Regional Ethnic Council (Incorporated) for the year 1999 – 2000 is as follows:

<b>Patron:</b>	Sir Edmund Hillary
<b>President:</b>	Mr Ron Hoy Fong JP. (NZ Chinese Association Inc.)
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mr Ganges Singh QSM, JP (Foundation Member)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr Gul Zaman (South Auckland Muslin Assn.)
<b>Executive Officer:</b>	Mr Roger Brookes JP (Volunteer Member)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Dinesh Tailor JP (Bharatiya Mandir Temple Indian)
<b>Legal Advisor:</b>	Mr Thakor Parbhu QSM, LLB (Foundation Member)
<b>Committee:</b>	Mr Cecil Lochan JP (Auckland Ramayan Santha Trust)
	Mr Adam Bedasso (Oromo Community)
	Mr Tarun Choudhary (Bangladesh Association)
	Mr John Leah (Netherlands Association)
	Mrs Shanti Patel JP (Foundation Member)
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	Dr. N Rasalingam QSM (Individual Member)
	Dr. Lucien Gabriel (United Sri Lanka Association)
	Mr Yacoub Bhatti (Pakistan Association)
	Mr Syed Hussein (Pakistan Association)

The Auckland Regional Ethnic Council recently conducted a very informative Political Forum where representation from the six major political parties presented their ethnic policies on topics of special interest and concerns to ethnic communities as they went into the forthcoming 1999 Parliamentary General Elections.

**The Aims and Objectives of the Auckland Regional Ethnic Council are:**

- ✓ To promote the interest of the many different ethnic groups which make Auckland a multi-ethnic city.
- ✓ To provide a forum for the Ethnic groups to share experience and friendship.
- ✓ To provide Government and Local Government agencies with access to and information about Ethnic groups, and to help those agencies ensure that their services respond fairly to the ethnic diversity of New Zealand society.
- ✓ To enable the ethnic groups to give each other mutual support and strength to deal with issues which affect them all and to speak with issues which affect them all, and to speak with one voice on such issues.
- ✓ To protect the ethnic groups against racist behaviour.
- ✓ To protect the democratic right of the ethnic groups to participate in the decisions which affect them
- ✓ To enable the ethnic groups to openly express their commitments to New Zealand while protecting and sharing their ethnic heritage and identity.

**The Auckland Ethnic Council also devised principles for a Multi-Ethnic New Zealand :**

1. All New Zealanders should be committed to New Zealand and share responsibility for furthering our national interests.
2. All New Zealanders should be able to enjoy the basic right of freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, or disability.
3. All New Zealanders should enjoy equal life, chances and have equitable access and equitable share of resources managed by Government on behalf of the community.

4. All New Zealanders should have the opportunity to fully participate in society and in decisions that directly affect them.
5. All New Zealanders should be able to develop and use their personal potential for economic and social development of New Zealand.
6. All New Zealanders should have the opportunity to acquire and develop proficiency in English and other languages and to develop cross-cultural understanding.
7. All New Zealanders should be able to develop and store their cultural heritage.
8. All New Zealand institutions, which provide services to the public, should acknowledge, reflect and respond to the cultural diversity of New Zealand Society.
9. Issues arising outside New Zealand cannot be brought into the business of the council.

All these principles, aims, and objectives are enshrined in the constitution of the Auckland Regional Ethnic Council as is the Treaty of Waitangi and our respect for the Maori people as Tangata Whenua.



**Mrs Shanti Patel QSM JP  
AEC President 1985-1987**



**Mr Cam Bui  
AEC President 1987-1989**



**Dr. N. Rasalingam QSM  
AEC President 1992-1995**

### Inaugural Members 1985 - 1986

Mr Ernest Markham; Mrs Shanti Patel; Mr Cam Bui; Mr Philip Khouri; Mrs Wendy Ross; Satendra Singh; Mr Ganges Singh; Dr. Rangi Walker; Mr Dinesh Tailor; Mr Tepou; Mr I P Iosua; Mr Manea Turepu; Mr Kilifi Heimuli; Mr Anthony Culau; Miss Ani Pihema; Mr Gus de Koster; Mr Noble; Mr Jan Jaarka, Fia Toailoa-Amituanai; Mr George Mihaljevich; Mr Teariki Tuiono; Mr Jerome Elkind; Mr Thakor Parbhu; Mr Keokothavong Thogyanh; Mr Cecil Lochan;

### Foundation Members (Registered from 1992)

Gus de Koster; Jerome Elkind; Jan Jarka; Shanti Patel; Thakor Parbhu; Wendy Ross; Ganges Singh; Dinesh Tailor; Fia Toailoa-Amituanai

### Past Executive Office Bearers 1986 - 2000:

#### Patron

1986 - 1987	Dame Catherine Tizard
1987 - 1988	Dame Catherine Tizard
1997 - 1998	Sir Edmund Hillary
1998 - 1999	Sir Edmund Hillary
1999 - 2000	Sir Edmund Hillary

#### Honorary President

1985 - 1986	Dr Ranginui Walker	Maori District Council
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#### President

1985 - 1986	Mrs. Shanti Patel	NZ Central Indian Association
1986 - 1987	Mrs. Shanti Patel	NZ Central Indian Association
1987 - 1988	Mr. Cam Bui	Cong Dong Vietnamese Assn.
1988 - 1989	Mr. Cam Bui	Cong Dong Vietnamese Assn.
1989 - 1990	Mr. Phillip Khouri	Auckland Lebanese Society
1990 - 1991	Mr. Phillip Khouri	Auckland Lebanese Society
1991 - 1992	Mr. Phillip Khouri	Auckland Lebanese Society
1992 - 1993	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1993 - 1994	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1994 - 1995	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1995 - 1996	Mrs. Philomino Pinto	Goan Society
1996 - 1997	Mr. Ron Hoy Fong	NZ Chinese Association
1997 - 1998	Mr. Ron Hoy Fong	NZ Chinese Association
1998 - 1999	Mr. Ron Hoy Fong	NZ Chinese Association
1999 - 2000	Mr. Ron Hoy Fong	NZ Chinese Association



Mr Phillip Khouri BA LLB (Hons)  
AEC President 1989-1992



Mrs Philomino Pinto  
AEC President 1995-1996

#### Vice President

1985 - 1986	Mr. Cam Bui	Cong Dong Vietnamese Assn.
1986 - 1987	Mr. Cam Bui	Cong Dong Vietnamese Assn.
1987 - 1988	Mr. G Mihaljevich	Yugoslavian Society
1988 - 1989	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1989 - 1990	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1990 - 1991	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1991 - 1992	Dr. N Rasalingam	NZ Tamil Society
1992 - 1993	Mr. Cecil Lochan	Auckland Ramayan Santha Trust
1993 - 1994	Mrs. Philomino Pinto	Goan Society
1994 - 1995	Mrs. Philomino Pinto	Goan Society
1995 - 1996	Mr. Ron Hoy Fong	NZ Chinese Association
1996 - 1997	Mr. SK Thuraisundaram	NZ Tamil Society
1997 - 1998	Mr. SK Thuraisundaram	NZ Tamil Society
1998 - 1999	Mr. Ganges Singh	NZ Indian Association
1999 - 2000	Mr. Ganges Singh	NZ Indian Association

**Secretary**

1985 – 1987	Ms Wendy Ross	NZ Jewish Council
1987 – 1993	Mr. Guus De Koster	NZ Futures Trust
1993 – 1996	Mr. George Ah Chan	NZ Chinese Association
1996 – 1997	Mr. Guus De Koster	NZ Futures Trust
1997 – 1998	Mr Ganges Singh	NZ Indian Association
1998 – 2000	Mr. Gul Zaman	South Auckland Muslin Assn.

**Treasurer**

1985 – 1989	Mr. Phillip Khouri	Auckland Lebanese Society
1989 – 2000	Dinesh Tailor	Auckland Indian Assn.
		Bhartiya Mandir Temple

**Legal Advisors**

1985 – 1997	Dr. Jerome B Elkind	(Foundation Member)
1987 – 1997	Mr. Thakor Parbhoo	(Foundation Member)
1997 – 2000	Mr. Thakor Parbhoo	(Foundation Member)

**9th Annual General Meeting  
13th June 1998 at Auckland**

**Mr Ron Hoy Fong JP**  
**AREC President 1996-2000**



## HUTT ETHNIC COUNCIL (Inc)

In September 1982, Hiwi Tauroa, Race Relations Conciliator visited the Lower Hutt City Council to discuss the publication 'Race Against Time'. As a result, an 'Ethnic Awareness Task Force' was formed to look into establishing a Lower Hutt Ethnic Council. During this time a Council Training Course to 'raise Cultural Awareness' was held over a weekend at the Waiwhetu Marae attended by 28 Council staff, 4 Councillors and members from the Race Relations Office.

### 1985 - 1987

The Ethnic Awareness Task Force was expanded and charged with setting up an Ethnic Council, with the aim of bringing together Ethnic minority groups to foster friendship and understanding of each other's culture and together, to have a stronger voice in the community.

### 1987

The Lower Hutt Ethnic Council was formerly established with a membership of 26 ethnic groups and held their first meeting on 23rd May 1987. At this meeting a 'Constitution Committee' and a 'Multicultural Festival Committee' were formed and in November, a Multicultural Research Officer was appointed by the L.H.C.C. on a 6 month contract to assist the Council. (Chairman Rev. T Ropati. Secretary Govind Bhula. Treasurer Ramani De Zoysa.)

### 1988

On 12th March, a Multicultural Festival Day was held in the City with static displays, ethnic food stalls, song and dance, arts and crafts stalls etc in closed streets, and in the nearby Methodist Church Hall. In the evening, a Cultural Concert was held at the Hutt Valley High School Hall with ethnic supper provided. This was part of The International Festival of the Arts and celebrated the launching of the 'Lower Hutt Ethnic Council'.

On 23rd April, a repeat performance of the Multicultural Concert was held at the Lower Hutt town hall in aid of Cyclone Bola Relief Fund at which \$2385 was raised and donated.

Mayor Glen Evans hosted delegations from different ethnic communities throughout the year to afternoon tea and to learn from staff about the workings of the City Council.

In August, Ngapere Moeahu was appointed as Multicultural Development Officer for 12 months.

### 1989 - 1992

John Bhula - President.

Two Garage Sales held to raise funds in aid of Cyclone Relief for Pacific Islands

Hosted N.Z. Federation Executive meeting at Hutt City Pavilion.

Supported Rally to oppose closure of Hutt Hospital.

### 1992 - 1996

Shirley Payes -President

Hosted Federation Executive Meetings at Te Awa Kairangi twice Co-hosted with Wellington Ethnic Council - the 2nd Federation Conference on 8-10th. October 1993 at the Airport Motel conference rooms.

Met with Race Relations Officers to discuss Maori Sovereignty and other matters.

Name changed to Hutt Ethnic Council and registered as Incorporated Society

### 1996 - 1998



10th Anniversary celebrated 14th July 1997.  
Shirley Payes and John Bhula cutting the birthday cake

## 1996 - 1998

Ashish Maharaj - President  
Mayoral Reception for Ethnic Council members.

The 10th Anniversary of the Hutt Ethnic Council was celebrated on 14th July 1997 at the Town Hall Supper Room.

A sad point in the history of the Hutt Ethnic Council was reached when a vote of no confidence was passed in the President and Shirley Payes was asked to step in to re-establish a strong and committed Ethnic Council.

## 1998 - 1999

Shirley Payes - President.

Our President, together with the Wellington Ethnic Council President, joined the President of the Federation to meet with Helen Clark, leader of the Opposition to discuss Immigration and the formation of an Ethnic Ministry. They also met with the Immigration Service, and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Jack Elder.

A Brochure was produced to distribute at the City Council Citizenship Ceremonies and to raise the profile of the Hutt Ethnic Council.

A Special General Meeting was held to ratify an updated Constitution.

Members ran a food and tea stall at the Wellington Ethnic Festival to raise funds.

Race Unity Day was held 21st March 1999 - an All-day continuous concert - foodstalls, music, arts and crafts etc. organised in conjunction with the Hutt City Council.

On 6th May, members attended Launch of "Agenda N.Z" to discuss race relations strategy for the future - and also the follow-up public meeting on 14th June.

Members attended a Reception at Parliament Buildings on 11th June to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Federation of Ethnic Councils.

## 12 - 13 June 1999

Hutt Ethnic Council and Wellington Ethnic Council co-hosted the 10th AGM of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils.

## 1999 - 2000

Batul Shaida - President

Over the years the Hutt Ethnic Council have held monthly executive meetings open to all members, and have Representation on Hutt Valley Polytech ESOL Advisory Committee; Hutt Valley Polytech Women's Advisory Committee, Hutt City SCAN and Race Unity Day 2000.

Representatives have also attended Federation Executive meetings and Hutt Valley Citizenship Ceremonies at which they speak on Ethnic Council matters. Member Ethnic Groups have also visited each other's Cultural Centres to share experiences.

## CHRISTCHURCH ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.

The formation of the Christchurch Ethnic Council was initiated by the Christchurch City Council. On 29th June 1988 at the James Hay Theatre, all ethnic groups and organisations in the city were invited to formalise an Ethnic Council.

On 17th August 1988 at the Christchurch City Council Chambers a final meeting was held. At the meeting the following executive were elected :

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Dr. Kuan Goh
<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b>	Mr B. Szentivanyi
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs M. Uzan-Greer
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mrs G. Hollander
<b>Eight Members:</b>	Mr T. Te Hae Mr W. Peddie Mr D. Jones Mr N. Rama Mrs J. Sturrock Mrs J. Muller Mrs T. de Winter Mr N. Setu

Christchurch City Council representation : Councillor Alister James was the first representative councillor on the Ethnic Council

Christchurch Ethnic Council was registered as an incorporated society on 3rd April 1989.

The first newsletter was published in April 1989 following a logo competition.

The Christchurch Ethnic Council hosted the first New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils meeting on 15th July 1989.

**1990 World Youth Festival**  
**29th August - 22nd September 1990 at Christchurch**

Ethnic Day held on 9th September at the Christchurch Town Hall  
Programme comprised of Static Displays of individual groups' histories,  
handicraft and other art forms and two performances of the cultural concert  
performed by members of the Christchurch Ethnic Council.

A total of 203 performers took part in the presence of an audience of 1200. Grants from the 1990 Commission and the New Zealand Youth Lottery Board for \$10 000 made the Ethnic Day possible.

In 1991 the Ethnic Council employed Kashira Mehta as a Promotions Officer for three months to promote the work of the ethnic council to the ethnic communities.

A special meeting was held for all ethnic leaders to discuss issues that are of concern and affecting their ethnic communities.



**NZFEC 2ND Annual General Meeting**  
**16th June 1991 at Christchurch**

Left to right Back row : C Tan, Dr. Rasalingam (Auckland) D Jones, K Goh, E Lepionka (Wellington), W Chen, N Rama, J Bulha (Lower Hutt) P Khouri (Auckland) P Tohill (Race Relations)

Front row : R Oberg, J Grocifsky, K. Skapa (Wellington) (Outgoing President) T. de Winter, G Hollander (New President) R Keeley, P Keeley G Singh (Auckland) not in picture.

## Presidents of Christchurch Ethnic Council

1988 - 1993	Dr. Kuan Goh
1993 - 2000	Mrs T. de Winter

## Some of the Ethnic Council involvements:

- ✓ Monthly meetings
- ✓ Quarterly newsletter
- ✓ Issues involving Race Relations, Immigration and ESOL
- ✓ An annual mid-winter festival and end of year social
- ✓ Attendance at Federation meetings
- ✓ Attendance at Citizenship Ceremonies
- ✓ Representation at conferences and meetings involving ethnic communities.
- ✓ Hosting a number of Federation meetings

## Present Office Bearers :

<b>Chairperson:</b>	T. de Winter
<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b>	R. Keeley
<b>Secretary:</b>	I. Korunic
<b>Treasurer:</b>	G. Hollander
<b>Past President:</b>	K. M. Goh
<b>Members:</b>	L. Wilson
	P. Menendez
	T. Fleck
	W.K. Chen
	E. Sekeris
	W. de Winter
	B. Kelly
	J. Keller
<b>Representatives:</b>	J. Jeffery (ChCh Polytech)
	P. O'Connor (PEETO)
	D. Jones (NZFEC)
	Councillor I. Ganda (C.C.C.)

## WAIKATO ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.

On the 15th of May 1989, the first public meeting was organised by a Tongan representative, Mr Saia Mafilo and the race relations Officer, Mr Tohill, to discuss the formation of an ethnic council in Hamilton. This was attended by an overwhelming 60 different ethnic groups, Pacific Island groups, local Maori associations, local service welfare groups, and representatives of the Hamilton City Council. The valuable input of the International Association's Mr N. Colyer was appreciated and many groups gave support for the formation of the Ethnic Council. The Council was incorporated in September 1990, with the first AGM being held on the 18th of September. Later, funds from the recessed International Association were credited to the new Council and this was greatly appreciated. In 1991, the Director General of Social Welfare made a grant of five hundred dollars for our project, which was most welcome, as we had begun with no working capital. Also a few years later, the community development advisor Daphne Bell was able to find us two hundred dollars. A steering committee was set up at the inaugural meeting, but the prolonged time taken over making amendments to the draft rules, as presented by Mr Tohill at the Public meeting, unfortunately had an effect on interested parties. Most dropped by the wayside. The AGM in 1991 witnessed only a handful of participants attending representing some 5 ethnic groups. Mr Saia Mafilo's departure from Hamilton was a great loss to the proposed Council.

The Council then struggled for many years to build up its membership and it is only in later years that membership has grown to represent some 60% of ethnic groups in the Waikato area. With no confirmed funds for administrative purposes as well as the time consuming demand on executive officers to execute such extra voluntary duties as public relations networking, attendance at numerous local meetings has meant that the Council has had to inch its way at a snail's pace for years. Being faced with continually having to apply for funds, illustrates the ongoing difficulties the Council faces.

In 1992, a social services division of the Council was set-up, offering assistance to new ethnic settlers. This service was initially offered in the evenings at a local community house and served good purpose. Mr Sam Sako of the Iraqi Friendship in 1994 started Road Code Classes, and from such initiatives, Basic English Classes, and other skills acquisition programmes were also instigated gradually over the years. Ethnic groups were encouraged to set up cultural identity programmes. These took in language and other needs programmes to facilitate resettlement of the immigrants.

These programmes have been of great benefit to refugees and immigrants. Unfortunately the quantitative aspects have been limited by the amount of funds that have been obtained by the painstaking efforts of the Presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries of the changing committees. Also this Council has been able to address many of the local issues such as unemployment, training programmes leading to employment, advocacy and some of the negative aspects of immigration policies on asylum seekers and advocacy for ethnic persons in police custody, awaiting trials etc. While credit can be given for what has been achieved, large areas have not been attended to, simply through lack of manpower resource input from local member groups.

The Council in 1999 consists of eighteen different ethnic groups and runs a variety of programmes to assist those ethnic groups in need. The Waikato Ethnic Council is progressing well, due to a combination of good management skills by the committee members, excellent work from volunteers and adequate funding. Recently due to President, Mr N. Manoharan's excellent negotiation skills, we have been able to occupy a small office on the ground floor of the Hamilton City Council's Community Building.

Since 1998 for the first time in the history of the Waikato Ethnic Council, there were vast achievements in various directions. Due to successful negotiations by the President with the Library officials, 21 different ethnic communities and the submission to the Hamilton City Council Annual Plan, a foreign language corner was established on the second floor of the Hamilton Central Library. At present there are fifteen different language books on shelves. At the end of 1998, the Waikato Ethnic Council, which did not have an office space before, moved into the ground floor of the Caro Street Community Building, adjoining the Hamilton City Council. For the first time the English Language Classes were conducted continuously throughout the year from 1998. The classes were expanded from one centre in Hamilton, to three centres in different directions.

In 1998/99 we provided funds to various ethnic groups who are members of the Council, for their cultural and living skill projects. The general public and all funding organisations, that were able to see our good work in the community, came forward with various grants and funds to assist us. This enabled us to buy a new computer, printer, photocopier etc. for the new office space occupied by us. We also received assistance from two organisations to print a multi-colour brochure, which is available in most of the public centres for the benefit of the community.

The Hamilton City Council invited the Ethnic Council to most of the public functions and it gave the Council full support for its activities. The Council also received the support of the local members of Parliament.

A historical review of progress shows that adopting an isolated position in the community might not have been of advantage to the Council over the years. Being continually competitive for resources has meant that assistance for resettlement is dependent on the goodwill of a few voluntary workers being prepared and successful in obtaining funding. Such fluctuations are not conducive to progress. The issues that have to be addressed such as unemployment, are formidable. This calls for a closer working relationship with other Councils, if the next ten years is to see ethnic minority groups become contributory, participants of this society. This calls for a vigorous collective stance by all Councils.



**Waikato Representatives at the Federations 3rd National Conference**

Left to Right : Mr N. Manoharan President Waikato Ethnic Council, Dr.S.S.S. Rajan Vice President Waikato Ethnic Council, His Excellency Sir Michael Hardy Boys Governor General of New Zealand, His Worship Mr Paul Rieger, Mayor of Palmerston North, Dr N. Rasalingam President of the Federation of Ethnic Councils.

## Committee members 1990 - 1999 (incomplete)

**1999 - 2000** President: Mr. N. Manoharan,  
Vice Presidents: Mr. A.A Abdi and Ms J. Franks.  
Treasurer: Mr. S Mudaliar.  
Secretaries: Mr. N. Suppiah and Mr. A. Rahuman Sikder.  
Committee members: Mrs R. Neave, Mrs Fee Chin Tan,  
Mr. S. Wong.

**1998 - 1999** President: Mr N. Manoharan.  
Vice Presidents: Dr. S.S.S Rajan and Ms J. Franks.  
Treasurer: Mr N. Suppiah.  
Secretaries: Mr. A.A Abdi and Dr. K. Karki.  
Committee members: Mrs. R. Neave, Mrs. Fee Chin Tan,  
Mr. T Moore.

**1997 - 1998** President: Dr. S.S.S Rajan.  
Vice Presidents : Mr A. Karki and ?  
Treasurer : Mr N. Suppiah.  
Secretary : Ms J. Franks.  
Committee members: Mr. G. Sudamiano.

**1996 - 1997** President (part of year): Mr. S. Baksh.  
Vice Presidents: Dr. S.S.S Rajan and Mr A Karki.  
Treasurer: Mr Y. H. Lee.  
Secretary: Ms J. Franks.  
Committee members: Mr Samaru Dass, Ms H. Aktari,  
Mr N. Manoharan.

**1995 - 1996** President: Mr B. Lecamwasam.  
Vice Presidents: Ms J. Franks and Mr S. Baksh.  
Treasurer: Mr Wickrama.  
Secretary: Mr H. Amoralene.  
Committee members: Mr D. Latiff.

**1994 - 1995** President: Mr Sam Sako.  
Treasurer: Mr P. Shrestha. Secretary : Ms J. Franks.  
Committee Members: Mrs. N. Nieland, Mr D. Wong,  
Mr A. Karki.

**1990 - 1993** President: Mr Ashwin Gulab  
(from September 1990 to part year 1993)  
Vice President: Mr R. Wong.  
Treasurer: Mr N. Puna.  
Secretary: Ms J. Franks.

## DUNEDIN MULTI-ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.

In October 1992, a public meeting was held and as a result of this, a small working party was formed to consider the possibility and appropriateness of forming an ethnic council in Dunedin. The working party included the then NZFEC President Grace Hollander of Christchurch, Dunedin City Councillor Sukhi Turner, Dunedin City Council Community Advisory Officer Janet McKay and several active members of the Dunedin community.

The working party met numerous times over a 4 -5 month period to consider the proposal and respond to the terms of reference provided by the people who had attended the public meeting. A questionnaire was circulated, a draft constitution was drawn up and funding sources identified.

The next step was a public meeting held for the purpose of actually forming the council. This meeting was attended by a large number of people, and the launching of the organisation was endorsed on the motion of Alan McDonald and Jaques Legros.

The first committee elected was : President: Sukhi Turner. Secretary: Jason Hood. Treasurer: David Lai. Committee. Ailsa Rayner, Bob Sammes, Alan McDonald. Maria Mendoza, George Pickering, Jacques Legros, Henry Schaffer, Maria Kydd, Vaetuaga Isoefa, Ava Tupnivao. At the first Annual General Meeting a year later the position of Vice-President was established and Alan McDonald was elected to this position.

The Dunedin Multi-ethnic Council was registered as an incorporated society on 22nd June1993.

The three presidents so far have been Sukhi Turner for the first two years then Alan McDonald for the next three years. The current President John Neilson is in his second year. Sukhi Turner served for one year (1995 - 1996) as Federation Vice-President, and Alan McDonald is currently in his third year as Federation Secretary.

In 1995 Sukhi Turner was elected as Dunedin's first woman and first non-European mayor. Alan McDonald has also been a mayoral and parliamentary candidate and John Neilson is an elected member of the Chalmers Community Board, so involvement of ethnic council people in local political and community affairs has been extensive.

### **Past Presidents of the Dunedin Multi - Ethnic Council**



**Sukhi Turner**



**Alan McDonald JP**

Many other committee members have been very active in other roles in the community and have helped to give ethnic councils credibility.

The council organised a large successful multi-cultural festival in 1995 and a variety of major events in 1997 as part of Dunedin's Annual Festival, helping the City Council convert the event to a more multi-ethnic programme than it had been previously and setting a standard for future years.

Council representatives have given talks to a variety of groups and attended a large number of 'face showing' events where there has been the opportunity to promote the council and encourage interest in our activities. Issues dealt with have been many and varied, including university funding cuts, high school cultural dispute, racist slogans harassment complaints, assisting stranded Russian Seamen, securing the release of two refugee stowaways, and other issues concerning ethnic people.

The council launched a joint interpreter project with the Dunedin Police and this still works well. We have established and maintained a good relationship with the local NZ Immigration office and other central and local government departments as well as many community agencies. Instead of a newsletter the council has been publishing "club reports" in the community newspaper as a way of reaching many more people than just the members and gives an important opportunity to comment on issues, both social and political that are of concern to the people we represent.

Dunedin has so far hosted two Federation Executive Council meetings in 1994 and 1997 providing the chance for committee members to meet with people from other ethnic councils.



**Present Committee 1999 - 2000**

Left to Right: Maureen Buchan, Helen Begbie, Harrietta Muncott, Ludmila Sakowski, Swava Pociecha.

Front: Tom Wang, Maria Kydd(Vice President), John Neilson (President), Maria Mendoza (Secretary / Treasurer), Nahid Butt,

Absent: Marlene Wallace and Alan McDonald(Past President)



ELLEN TODD

Ellen was a dedicated and energetic delegate representing The Dunedin Filipino Cultural Society on The Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council from 1994 to her untimely death in January 1999.

## ETHNIC COUNCIL OF MANAWATU INC.

At a meeting in Palmerston North on 18th November 1993 a proposal to form an Ethnic Council received overwhelming support. Fifteen of the forty people who attended formed a working party to survey the local ethnic community needs with a view to progressing towards the formal incorporation of an Ethnic Council.

The chairperson of the Community Development Committee Councillor Helen Whitten chaired the meeting and the guest speakers included the Mayor and three members of the New Zealand Federation Executive. Derek Jones the Projects Officer for creating new Regional Councils, the Immediate Past President Grace Hollander and the Vice President Chris Perinpanayagam. The Mayor, Mr Paul Rieger stated that the formation of an Ethnic Council is the next step to take as most of the elements that have been proposed are already in place in Palmerston North.

With the help from Sandra Irving of the Palmerston North City Council Development Office 48 groups of Ethnic Communities and Representatives in the Manawatu area were identified.

On 15th March 1994 a meeting of representatives from different ethnic groups ratified the constitution of the Ethnic Council of Manawatu which created the seventh Regional Ethnic Council in New Zealand and the following were elected to the Executive Council:

**President:** Rammon Herrera  
**Vice President:** Dr. Ashraf Choudhary  
**Treasurer:** Amelia Takau  
**Secretary:** Michael Shue  
**Members:** Shanti Hutuae  
Dr. Harish Handa

The Council thanked Councillor Helen Whitten, Sandra Irving, Marilyn Brown, Rolf Panny and a few other people including the Projects officer for their efforts towards the formation of the Council.

The Ethnic Council of Manawatu has now become a very active and visible organisation in Palmerston North and the Manawatu District and gets involved in many activities promoting the interests of ethnic communities. The council has also established a Migrant Resource Centre in the city with funding from the Palmerston North City Council and the New Zealand Lotteries Board.

**New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils  
3rd National Conference**

The Ethnic Council of Manawatu hosted the Conference 15 -16 November 1997 at Massey University Palmerston North.

**Presidents of Ethnic Council of Manawatu**

1994 - 1996	Rammon Herrera
1996 - 1998	Dr. Ashraf Choudhary
1998 - 2000	Ute Walker

**Ceremony of Lights at the 1998 Annual Dinner**



Left to Right :  
Steve Maharey (MP) Ute Walker (ECM President) Paul Riger (Former Mayor) Dr. Ashraf Choudhary (Immediate Past President) Wibha Desai (Committee Member) Jill White (Mayor of Palmerston North).

**International Festival Day 1997**



Left to Right : Executive members Tuan Truong with son, Helen Whitten, Raewyn & Dave Hardman, Tai Williams.

**Adult Learning Project 1998**



Mrs Lee Yo reading a Korean Story as a contribution to the adult learning project. (1998).

## TARANAKI MULTI ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.

A meeting was held on Thursday, 27th January 1994 at the Community Centre in New Plymouth. The proposal to form an Ethnic Council received unanimous support from the thirtyfive people from the Ethnic Communities who attended the meeting.

Fifteen representatives volunteered to form a working party to survey local ethnic community needs with a view to progressing towards the formal incorporation of an Ethnic Council.

After an introduction by the Mayor, Mrs Claire Stewart the Federation Project Officer Derek Jones chaired the meeting. The guest speakers were Chris Perinpanayagam, Vice President of the Federation and Shirley Payes, President of the Hutt Ethnic Council.

The Mayor of New Plymouth supports the formation of an Ethnic Council with a steady increase in numbers at citizenship ceremonies indicates the culture diversity present in the District. The time is right to investigate the level of interest from the region's ethnic communities with regards the formation of a Taranaki Ethnic Council.

With help from David Younger, the New Plymouth District Council Development officer and Janice Herbert from the Department of Internal Affairs, Link Centre over 30 groups from Ethnic Communities and Representatives have been identified in the Taranaki area.

The probable name for the Council will be the  
"Taranaki Multi-Ethnic Council "

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on 10th February 1994, Dr. Fernando was elected Chairperson and Theresa Ansell, Minute Secretary. More representation and input has been called for from all ethnic groups in the District to try to ensure that everyone is involved in the project.

The Inauguration of the Taranaki Multi - Ethnic Council was held at the Town Hall, New Plymouth on Friday 3rd June 1994. More than 200 people attended which created the eighth regional Ethnic Council in New Zealand and the following were elected to the Executive Council:

<b>President:</b>	Dr. Hiran Fernando
<b>Vice President:</b>	Tony Karageorge
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dama Black
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Devi Patel
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Ten (10)

The Taranaki Multi-Ethnic Council was Incorporated on 8th September 1994..

### Presidents of TMEC

1994 - 1995	Dr. Hiran Fernando
1995 - 1996	Jim Paxie
1996 - 1997	Arnost Wratislav
1997 - 1998	John Konijn
1998 - 1999	Maria Bushell
1999 - 2000	Les Prentice

### The Achievements of the TMEC

The Taranaki Multi-Ethnic council works closely with other community programmes combining resources to assist Immigrant families as well as the local communities of the Province.

Of the numerous social and cultural events undertaken by the Council each year, The Annual " Extravaganza" has become the most spectacular event. Many Ethnic Groups participate in the Street Parade followed by cultural entertainment which adds flavour to the numerous Food Stalls and Craft Stalls at the New Plymouth Racecourse Complex. The children enjoy the outdoor activities throughout the day. Entrance to the event is by donation, thanks to the sponsorship by local businesses and organisations. The proceeds are often donated to worthy charities within the Province.

The 5th Anniversary of the Council was celebrated in July with an extremely well attended dinner where the fellowship was warm and the music and dancing were diverse.

The Fiesta held each September, the picnics in the summer and the End of Year celebrations are some of the regular events that members look forward to participating.

The membership has now grown to over 300, representing over 30 Ethnic Groups. Many exciting events are being planned for the future.



Setting up the Taranaki Multi-Ethnic Council from left Derek Jones Federation Projects Officer, David Younger New Plymouth City Council, Shirley Payes President Lower Hutt Ethnic Council, Janice Herbert Internal Affairs Department, Link Centre and Chris Perinpanayagam Wellington Ethnic Affairs Council President



Taranaki first executive committee members at Inaugural Meeting

From Left : Tony Karageorge (Vice President), Devi Patel (Treasurer), Dama Black (Secretary), and Hiran Fernando (President)

## BAY OF PLENTY ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.

Twenty two Ethnic Organisations in the region were contacted and informed of the public meeting which was held on 15th February 1994 at the Bay Court Theatre, Tauranga. This was the beginning of the Bay of Plenty Ethnic Council Inc.

Speakers at the meeting were the Mayor, Mr Keith Clarke, Lalita Kasanji from the Ethnic Affairs Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Philip Khouri (President of the Federation), Dr. Rasalingam (President of the Auckland Ethnic Council) and Derek Jones (Projects Officer)

The Inauguration of the Bay of Plenty Ethnic Council was held at the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Willow Street, Tauranga on Wednesday 27th July 1994. More than 100 people attended which created the ninth regional Ethnic Council in New Zealand

Five years on, the Bay of Plenty Ethnic Council has been very active in so many projects mostly community orientated. We organise activities such as first Aid Courses, Health Seminars, we hold social gatherings like pot luck dinners, ten pin bowling, picnic in the park and Race Unity Day. We also provide on site interpreters for non-English speakers. Through these many activities we enjoy and share our different cultures, music and our delicious food. Promoting our culture could only help enhance relationships and friendships.



Left to Right: Nina Payne (Philippine Society) Derek Jones (Federation Projects Officer) Laurie Le Marquand( Tauranga District Council) Lalita Kasanji (Ethnic Affairs) at the Inauguration of the Bay of Plenty Ethnic Council Inc. at Tauranga 27th July 1994.

The BOP Ethnic Council participates in the New Zealand Citizenship Ceremony organised by the Tauranga District Council.

The Executive and Committee Members of the BOP Ethnic Council have worked so hard to keep the organisation and the many community activities going.

#### **Past Presidents of the Bay of Plenty Ethnic Council:**

1994 - 1996 Carmen Johnston  
1996 - 1997 Deepal Lecamwasam  
1997 - 1999 Shev Thammila

#### **1999 - 2000 BOP Ethnic Council Executive Committee:**

**President:** Rosa Rakoia  
**Vice President:** Lolita Libeau  
**Secretary:** Nina Payne  
**Treasurer:** Shriram Shevade  
**Committee Members:** Dr. Satvir Singh  
Lee Cole  
Brad Burch  
Raja Mukherjee  
Bobby Aranas  
Jeanette Thomas  
Luis Gonzales

## **ROTORUA ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.**

Inaugurated: 30 May 1996  
Incorporated: 19 May 1998

#### **First President and Committee:**

**President:** Thiru Ramakrishnan  
**Vice President:** Eric Chuah  
**Secretary:** Cherry Andrews  
**Treasurer:** Shirley Herewini  
**Committee:** Nieva Buhay  
Koringo Marsters  
Teadikitaia Tuaine  
Ria Van der Wel  
Pieter Van Etten  
Ake Nooana  
Michael Hong

#### **Present Office Bearers:**

**President:** Pieter Van Etten  
**Vice President:** Krishnalal Pragji  
**Secretary:** Ria Van der Wel  
**Treasurer:** Pauline Hale  
**Committee:** Govind Makan  
Shahnaz Sabetian  
Hakrae Lee  
John Chan Wong  
Frank Huang  
Charles Lee  
**Patron:** Mayor Grahame Hall  
**Co-opted Member:** Mayoress Sandy Hall

#### **Main Achievements:**

- ✓ International Festivals
- ✓ Involving schools
- ✓ More awareness of different cultures in the community
- ✓ Different cultures socialising and working together.

**8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
14th JUNE 1997  
AT ROTORUA**



**Representatives from ten Regional Councils**

**NELSON ETHNIC COUNCIL INC.**

An informal meeting was held at Fairfield House in Nelson on Sunday 19th December 1993, to discuss a need for an Ethnic Council in Nelson.

The meeting was organised by Mrs Esther Cooper, from the Philippine Community with Helen Dockery and Paul Prestidge from the Department of Internal Affairs, Link Centre and Derek Jones, Projects Officer.

Those attending the meeting were mainly the members of the Asia 2000 Committee. The meeting proved to be quite successful and it was decided to contact a wider range of ethnic groups in the Nelson area to make up a Steering Committee which intends meeting in February.

The Mayor, the Hon. Philip Woollaston is supportive and has advised that the Nelson City Council would welcome any moves that will strengthen the already good relationship that exist between the various ethnic and immigrant communities in the City. Consideration was given by the Nelson City Council on grants to community organisations to establish an Ethnic Council.

At the NZ Federation meeting in Christchurch on 14th February 1998 Tim Brown spoke on the formation of the Nelson Ethnic Council.

Roz Batty was elected as the first President of NEC Inc.

Highlights of 1998 were the final community consultations and approval of the Positive Race Relations Project developed by NEC Inc. The vision of NEC Inc. is "Celebrating Cultural Diversity by providing Practical Support to Newcomers and Raising Public Awareness through Positive Race Relations Opportunities." The Positive Race Relations Project sets out how this vision is to be put into action through Celebrations, Education, Practical Support, Media, Communication and Networking.

NEC Inc. with Co-ordinator Tim Brown, also put together a CD of local musicians from the diverse selection of ethnic groups and individuals that live in the region. The CD called Millennium - Rua Mano was a focal point for the year too with a competition run among local schools to design a logo for NEC Inc. A number of the entries were used as covers for the CD as well. NEC Inc. also ran a number of workshops on Te Tiriti O Waitangi at Whakatu Marae and also presented workshops through the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator on "Being A New Zealander".

Monthly social gatherings were developed too by Anjali Dandekar for newcomers to NZ and the Nelson region.



Nelson Executive meeting 17th October 1998

**Dr. Ashraf Choudhary Federation President, Paul Matheson  
Mayor of Nelson and Roz Batty President of Nelson Ethnic Council**

1999 began with a new committee with Hein Kolff the elected President and the employment of a new co-ordinator, Marianne Gray. A pamphlet outlining NEC Inc. and services was printed with an endorsement from His Worship Paul Matheson, Nelson City Mayor. NEC Inc. has been fortunate that the Nelson City Council acknowledges the contributions made by NEC Inc. to the local community and displays support through housing the co-ordinator and providing NCC facilities.

March was a highlight with the Asia 2000: Festival of Asia and Race Unity Day increasing community awareness of the diversity within its fold. There was also an International Film Festival incorporated into the celebrations. The development of a Racial Harassment Awareness and Support Pack has been one of the major tasks of 1999. In liaison with the Nelson Police, the International Department of Nelson Polytechnic, ESOL and Refugee and Migrant Services as well as Nelson Safer Community Council and the NZ Federation of Ethnic Councils and the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator. NEC Inc. hope to release this Pack to the wider community following pilots locally next year - 2000.

Ongoing have been workshops on Te Tiriti O Waitangi, the Newcomers Friendship Group, a monthly newsletter and the development of practical support services. NEC Inc. is looking forward to the new Millennium and further opportunities to action its Vision.

## **SOUTHLAND MULTI- NATIONS COUNCIL INC.**

The SOUTHLAND MULTI-NATIONS COUNCIL was inaugurated at a meeting called by his Worship the Mayor to discuss the establishment of an Ethnic Council for Invercargill. The meeting was held at Invercargill Council Chambers Town Hall on Monday 30 March 1998.

Mr John Cochrane initiated the meeting with the Mayor D. F. F. Harrington and invited Alan McDonald the Secretary of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils to explain the setting up of an Ethnic Council and how it envisaged that the Invercargill model could be established.

The first public gathering & concert was held on 23 May 1998.

### **Office Bearers are:**

<b>President:</b>	John Cochrane
<b>Vice President:</b>	Peter Grandiek
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jasmine Campbell
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Andrew Skeggs
<b>Committee:</b>	Reshma Williams Jennifer Richardson Nilda Cochrane Gloria Wornall Sarah Kwok Mary Chan

The SOUTHLAND MULTI-NATIONS COUNCIL became an Incorporated Society on 11 March 1999.

The aim of the council is to provide friendship and understanding to people of all nations who would like to socialise or share with people of different ethnic backgrounds.



**Southland Festival**

## **HAWKES BAY ETHNIC COUNCIL**

Napier's Community and Development Advisor Dean Henderson identified all ethnic organisations and the names of contact person for each group in the Hawkes Bay region prior to holding a meeting.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, 1st June 1994 at the Greenmeadows East Community Hall, Napier, for ethnic community groups from the Hawkes Bay area to attend.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Ann Tolley, and the guest speakers were Lalita Kasanji Ethnic Affairs Service, Shirley Payes, President of the Hutt Ethnic Council and the Project Officer Derek Jones.

The meeting was poorly attended but those present supported the idea of forming an Ethnic Council. Four representatives volunteered to form a committee to survey local ethnic communities with a view to forming a working party progressing towards the formation of the Hawkes Bay Ethnic Council.

A Pot Luck Dinner was held on Thursday, 10th November 1994 at the Memorial Square Community Hall, Clive Square, Napier, for ethnic community groups from the Hawkes Bay area. At the conclusion of the dinner a forum meeting was held to form a Hawkes Bay Ethnic Council and an Executive Committee was formed. More than 70 people attended which created the tenth regional Ethnic Council in New Zealand.

The meeting was organised by Alyson Bullock the new Community Development Advisor for Napier City Council.

P.J.Callinicos was elected as the Founding Chairperson, and Meia Looij as Secretary

# CONFERENCES

## NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.

New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils Inc.  
FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1990

Multi-Ethnic New Zealand:  
A Commitment for the Future

Ethnic Groups and the Treaty of Waitangi



THE EARTH

## PROCEEDINGS

Multi-Ethnic Aotearoa  
New Zealand

CHALLENGE C

**People**  
**People**  
**People**

He Wero Ma Muri  
Hei te ake  
ELONGADO EDUCATION  
KONZILIERUNG  
GARANTIE  
GARANTIE

8 - 10 Oct  
Airport Hotel

(Organised by the Wellington and Hutt Ethnic Councils)

Aotearoa New Zealand  
Multicultural and Multi-Ethnic Communities

The proceedings of the three conferences are in these books  
which are available from the Federation

## 1ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE - AUCKLAND



## 2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE - WELLINGTON



Opening Ceremony



Grace Hollander (President) Hon. Roger Maxwell (Associate Minister of Immigration) Vic Rebikoff (Chairman of FECCA Australia)

## 3RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE - PALMERSTON NORTH



## "PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE"



Judge Anand Satyanand (Ombudsman)  
"You have done us Proud" (at book launch)



Alan McDonald (Secretary) Dr. N. Rasalingam (President)

## FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIA (FECCA)

New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils sent delegates to the following FECCA Conferences in Australia

Dec	1992	3rd Congress Canberra
Dec	1993	14th National Perth
Dec	1994	15th National Hobart
Nov	1995	16th National conference Melbourne
Dec	1996	4th Congress Adelaide
Mar	1998	18th National Parramatta
Nov	1998	19th National Brisbane
Sept	1999	20th National Darwin

### FECCA National Congress - Canberra 1992



Left to Right: Lalita Kasanji (Ethnic Affairs Service), Philip Khouri (Auckland), Esther Fung (Wellington), Jas Manocha (FECCA), Dr. N. Rasalingam (Auckland), Derek Jones (Christchurch), Chris Perinpanayagam (Wellington).

## FECCA National Congress - Canberra 1992



Esther Fung, Shirley Payes (Hutt), Chris Perinpanayagam, Lalita Kasanji, Grace Hollander (Christchurch).



Ministers Reception at Canberra Left to right : Dr N. Rasalingam, Lalita Kasanji, Esther Fung, Chris Perinpanayagam, Derek Jones

## FECCA Conference Melbourne 1995



Left to Right: Eric Lapionca (Wellington), Derek Jones (Christchurch), Kim Beasley (Australia Deputy Prime Minister), Dr. N. Rasalingam (Auckland), Weng Kei Chen (Christchurch), Philomena Pinto (Auckland), Prem Singh (Wellington).



Dr. N. Rasalingam addressing the FECCA Conference

Meeting at Victorian State Parliament  
Melbourne, Australia



Left to Right: Weng Kei Chen, Phil Honeywood (Parliamentary Secretary for Ethnic Affairs) Derek Jones, Dr. N. Rasalingam.

# SUPPLEMENT

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.****1989 - 1999 PRESIDENTS**

1989	Dr. Kuan M. Goh	(Christchurch)
1990	Kamila Skapa	(Wellington)
1991	Grace Hollander	(Christchurch)
1992	Grace Hollander	(Christchurch)
1993	Philip Khouri	(Auckland)
1994	Philip Khouri	(Auckland)
1995	Dr. N. Rasalingam	(Auckland)
1996	Dr. N. Rasalingam	(Auckland)
1997	Dr. N. Rasalingam	(Auckland)
1998	Dr. Ashraf Choudhary	(Manawatu)
1999	Dr. Ashraf Choudhary	(Manawatu)

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.****1989 - 1999 VICE PRESIDENTS**

1989	Kamila Skapa	(Wellington)
1990	Dr. N. Rasalingam	(Auckland)
1991	Dr. N. Rasalingam	(Auckland)
1992	Philip Khouri	(Auckland)
1993	Chris Perinpanayagam	(Wellington)
1994	Chris Perinpanayagam	(Wellington)
1995	Sukhi Turner	(Dunedin)
1996	Dr. Ashraf Choudhary	(Manawatu)
1997	Ashish Maharaj	(Hutt)
1998	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1999	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.****1989 - 1999 SECRETARY**

1989	Grace Hollander	(Christchurch)
1990	Rama Ramanathan	(Wellington)
1991	Derek Jones	(Christchurch)
1992	Derek Jones	(Christchurch)
1993	Derek Jones	(Christchurch)
1994	Derek Jones	(Christchurch)
1995	Derek Jones	(Christchurch)
1996	Guus de Koster	(Auckland)
1997	Alan McDonald	(Dunedin)
1998	Alan McDonald	(Dunedin)
1999	Alan McDonald	(Dunedin)

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.****1989 - 1999 TREASURER**

1989	John Bhula	(Lower Hutt)
1990	Grace Hollander	(Christchurch)
1991	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1992	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1993	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1994	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1995	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1996	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1997	Weng Kei Chen	(Christchurch)
1998	Dinesh Tailor	(Auckland)
1999	Dinesh Tailor	(Auckland)

## NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COUNCILS INC.

### MEETING DATES & HOST COUNCILS

Meeting Date	Host Council
Jul 1989	Christchurch
Oct 1989	Lower Hutt
Mar 1990	Lower Hutt
* Jul 1990	Auckland
Dec 1990	Conference call
Feb 1991	Wellington
* Jun 1991	Christchurch
Oct 1991	Lower Hutt
Feb 1992	Auckland
* Jun 1992	Christchurch
Oct 1992	Lower Hutt
Feb 1993	Wellington
Jun 1993	Lower Hutt
* Oct 1993	Wellington / Lower Hutt
Feb 1994	Wellington/ Lower Hutt
* Jun 1994	Wellington
Oct 1994	Dunedin
Feb 1995	Auckland
* Jun 1995	Christchurch
Oct 1995	Taranaki
Feb 1996	Waikato
* Jun 1996	Manawatu
Oct 1996	Wellington
Feb 1997	Dunedin
* Jun 1997	Rotorua
Oct 1997	Hutt
Feb 1998	Christchurch
* Jun 1998	Auckland
Oct 1998	Nelson
Feb 1999	Bay of Plenty
* Jun 1999	Wellington / Hutt
Oct 1999	Manawatu

(\* Denotes AGM)

**Derek Jones**  
**Executive Officer**



### About the compiler

The compiler first became involved with the Federation at its Inaugural meeting, as a representative of the Christchurch Ethnic Council and at that meeting he became an under secretary (executive member). Attendance at those first meetings was difficult, as there was no funding for travel.

In June 1991 he was elected as the Federation Secretary a position which he held until October 1995 when he was appointed as the Executive Officer.

In 1993 he became the Projects Officer involved with the initial setting up of new regional councils in Manawatu, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, Nelson, Hawkes Bay and later in Rotorua.

As Secretary and the Executive Officer he has been involved with many of the Federation projects. Through the years he has kept the Regional Councils informed on news and policy changes through a regular newsletter. Since 1996 he has collated all the annual Reports of the Regional Councils and the Federation Executives in booklet form for the AGM.

On behalf of the Federation he has compiled and presented a number of papers to Government mainly on Immigration issues such as - I need an Interpreter, Family Reunification, Migrant Resource Centres, Settlement Needs and Issues, and other papers on Refugee Issues, Education - Language Policy.