



MULTICULTURAL NEW ZEALAND

2025

Impact Stories & Performance Report



Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Foreword from our Patron | 3 |
| President's Foreword | 4 |
| Achievements | 6 |
| Measuring Outputs | 13 |
| MNZ Art Exhibition | 18 |
| Noho Marae Report | 20 |
| MNZ office report | 22 |
| Intern Report | 23 |
| Women's Council | 24 |
| Whangarei | 26 |
| Wellington | 30 |
| Waikato | 34 |
| Upper Hutt | 38 |
| Te Tai Poutini - West Coast | 42 |
| Tauranga | 46 |
| Taupo | 49 |
| Taranaki | 50 |
| Tairāwhiti | 54 |
| Rotorua | 58 |
| Rangitikei_Whanganui | 61 |
| Porirua | 65 |
| Nelson Tasman | 69 |
| Murihuku | 73 |
| Marlborough | 77 |
| Manawatu | 81 |
| Hutt | 85 |
| Hakatere | 89 |
| Christchurch | 93 |
| Aoraki | 97 |
| Annual Financials | 99 |
| Auditor's Report | 123 |

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- Ministry for Ethnic Communities
- Ministry of Justice
- New Zealand Police
- English Language Partners
- Hui E! Community Aotearoa
- Migrants Action Trust
- Network Waitangi Ōtautahi
- Pacific Media Centre
- Victoria University Wellington
- Waitangi National Trust Board

Foreword from our Patron



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Over the past year, Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) has continued to demonstrate the strength of its vision and the depth of its commitment to a more inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand. Building on the foundations of Huarahi Hou, the noho marae project and other events, 2024–25 has been marked by both celebration and reflection.

The year has seen MNZ broaden its reach, with local multicultural councils delivering initiatives that speak directly to the challenges faced by our communities in a rapidly changing environment. The spirit of manaakitanga was on full display at the Multicultural Day held at Parliament in August 2025, where communities from across the motu came together in a shared celebration of culture, identity, and belonging. The event was a visible reminder of the richness of our diversity, but also of the responsibility we carry to nurture it with care.

Equally significant were the continued milestones of the MNZ Noho Marae project, which has now become a cornerstone of our collective journey. These marae-based experiences have provided space for honest conversations about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, decolonisation, and the pathways towards a future where tangata whenua and tangata tiriti walk together in true partnership. It is encouraging to see younger generations, alongside elders and leaders, engaging with these kaupapa in ways that are both grounded in tikanga and alive to the realities of today.

In a year where global tensions and local uncertainties have reminded us of how fragile cohesion can be, MNZ's work has stood as an antidote to division. The organisation's continued emphasis on dialogue, mutual respect, and practical collaboration has reinforced the idea that our strength lies not only in diversity itself, but in the ways, we choose to live it out together.

Looking ahead, I believe MNZ is well placed to carry this momentum forward. The past year has shown us what is possible when communities stand shoulder to shoulder, and when cultural difference is seen not as a barrier, but as a gift. I commend MNZ for its leadership and extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who, through their dedication and aroha, continue to weave the fabric of a more inclusive and hopeful Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tā Mark Solomon (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kuri)

President's Foreword

2024-2025

**Everyone in New Zealand has at least one ethnicity.
Ethnicity is not just about darker skinned people nor is it bound by religion**



Ethnicity shapes our identity, while culture gives it expression; together they form the living heritage that enriches and unites Aotearoa New Zealand

Tēnā koutou katoa, warm greetings, and salutations to all communities of Aotearoa New Zealand

I wish to acknowledge with deep respect the many cultural communities across our motu, whose commitment and contributions strengthen the fabric of our nation. By preserving languages and traditions, fostering dialogue, and promoting social cohesion, these efforts uphold the vision of a truly Te Tiriti-based Multicultural New Zealand. Multicultural New Zealand deeply values the work of our member Regional Multicultural Councils and community groups, whose daily efforts locally and nationally build understanding, belonging, and unity for all who call Aotearoa home.

This year, we proudly celebrate 36 years of MNZ, a journey grounded in service – walking alongside communities, easing settlement, fostering belonging, and building enduring connections across cultures.

Through Huarahi Hou – Pathway to a Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa – we continue to demonstrate what true community leadership looks like. More than an initiative, Huarahi Hou is a living example of how partnerships, dialogue, and shared values create a stronger, more connected society. Its success lies in the people who carry it forward. Our volunteers are the heart of this journey, working with dedication and humility to bring communities together, strengthen cultural understanding, and create safe spaces for belonging. Whether through local events, settlement support, advocacy, or cross-cultural collaboration, they show that lasting social cohesion is built one relationship at a time.

This year has not been without challenges. While our volunteers remain focused on community wellbeing, we have navigated foreign interference and digital risks, responding with resilience to ensure MNZ stays both safe and visible online, while remaining true to our values. MNZ has also remained steadfast in advocating for greater equity in New Zealand's social and economic life. With the cost-of-living placing pressure on families, we speak firmly for fairness, dignity, and opportunity to be a reality for all communities.

None of these achievements would be possible without the collective effort of many. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our patron, Sir Mark Solomon, our volunteers, and the member Regional Multicultural Councils. Special acknowledgment goes to Māori elders and iwi partners, whose

guidance continues to inspire us, and to our funders and supporters, whose commitment sustains this mahi. Finally, I recognise our Executive Council, MNZ Executive, and office team – your leadership, vision, and determination drive us forward together.

Ngā mihi aroha
Pancha Narayanan
President

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.

Achievements 2024 – 2025

1. Relationships with Tangata Whenua

Over the past year, the Noho Marae programme has become much more than a series of hui. It has provided MNZ with the opportunity to sit, listen, and learn alongside iwi and hapū leaders in different parts of the motu. Each gathering has opened new pathways of trust, allowing conversations to move beyond formalities into genuine whanaungatanga. In these spaces, we are reminded that our role is not only to connect but also to uphold our responsibility as tangata tiriti — to walk respectfully and purposefully alongside tangata whenua. The insights shared at various maraes have broadened our understanding of Te Ao Māori, offering guidance that continues to shape our work and helping us to imagine a future Aotearoa enriched by mutual respect, cultural depth, and enduring partnership.

2. Serving and uniting the regions

Unity has remained at the heart of MNZ's kaupapa throughout the year. The executive team, supported by the national office, has worked closely with member councils across the motu to provide not only resources and practical guidance but also a sense of shared direction. In many ways, the national office has grown into a backbone for regional activity; a place where challenges can be discussed, solutions shaped, and successes celebrated collectively. What has emerged is more than administrative support; it is a spirit of collaboration that binds our regions together. The relationships built and strengthened this year are proof of what can be achieved when local leadership and national coordination move in step. Together, MNZ and its member councils are weaving a network that is both resilient and responsive, capable of carrying forward the aspirations of diverse communities through a unified voice and a coordinated approach.

3. New Regional Multicultural Councils

While no new councils formally joined the Federation this year, the spirit of growth and outreach has remained strong. Efforts are underway in a number of regions with promising conversations taking place in Kāpiti, the Southern Lakes area, and upper Northland. These developments remind us that the Federation is not only defined by the councils already at the table, but also by the energy invested in supporting emerging communities and helping them find their footing. The work in these areas may be gradual, yet it signals the steady expansion of the MNZ whānau and our commitment to ensuring that multicultural voices are supported wherever they are found across the motu.

4. Working Relationships and Arrangements

MNZ continues to contribute its expertise through representation on a range of advisory boards and working groups. These forums provide important opportunities to ensure that the perspectives of multicultural communities are heard in decision-making spaces. Over the past year, MNZ's involvement has been recognised as constructive and impactful, with its input helping to shape policies and initiatives in meaningful ways. This steady presence reflects the organisation's commitment to collaboration and the excellent work carried out on behalf of communities across the motu.

MNZ has forged a constructive relationship with the new Race Relations Commissioner, Dr Melissa Derby. Early engagement has focused on building mutual understanding and exploring opportunities to collaborate on shared priorities around equity, inclusion, and social cohesion.

MNZ has supported Police Open Days across the motu, encouraging participation from ethnic communities and promoting recruitment pathways. These events have provided opportunities to strengthen trust, showcase careers in policing, and highlight the value of diversity within the Police.

5. Matariki

MNZ continues to embrace Aotearoa's Matariki holiday with warmth and purpose. In 2025, the celebrations were led by the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council at Whirinaki Whare Taonga on Friday, 4 July. The event brought together communities to share in the spirit of Matariki through music, cultural performances, dance, and kai. The setting of Whirinaki Whare Taonga added a special dimension, reminding us that Matariki is not only a time of reflection and renewal but also an opportunity to strengthen bonds across cultures. The evening stood as a testament to how multicultural communities and local councils can come together to honour tradition while fostering unity in a contemporary Aotearoa.

6. Noho Marae

The MNZ noho marae programme has continued to flourish, building on the strong foundation of previous years. In 2025, a major highlight was the wānanga held at Waipapa Marae, University of Auckland, Tāmaki Makaurau, on Saturday, 9 August. This gathering was a resounding success, bringing together community leaders and whānau for a day of kōrero, learning, and connection. The wānanga not only deepened relationships with tangata whenua in the region but also offered a powerful reminder of the value of collective reflection and shared vision. Each noho and wānanga creates a ripple effect that strengthens bonds across the motu, and this year's

gathering at Waipapa Marae will be remembered as a significant milestone in MNZ's ongoing journey of engagement and partnership.

7. Huarahi Hou in Schools

MNZ, with the strong support of Upper Hutt Multicultural Council, once again marked Huarahi Hou as part of Multicultural Day. In 2025 the programme was hosted at Maidstone School on Friday, 29 August, filling the kura with colour, music, and celebration. More than 500 tamariki took part, proudly sharing their cultural heritage through song, dance, and storytelling. The day was anchored by a shared kai, where tables of food from across the world became a meeting point for friendship and discovery. What stood out most was the atmosphere of inclusion where students not only celebrated their own identities but also embraced the richness of their classmates' backgrounds. As a lasting reminder of the occasion, the children have also worked together on a mural that will be unveiled in collaboration with Upper Hutt City Council, adding a creative and enduring touch to this year's Multicultural Day.

8. Rainbow Council

MNZ has continued to make steady progress in strengthening its engagement with ethnic LGBTQI+ communities. Ongoing kōrero with stakeholders and other community leaders have provided valuable insights into the safety, wellbeing, and inclusion of Rainbow individuals within ethnic communities. These conversations highlight both the challenges that remain and the opportunities to work together in building safer, more supportive spaces. While the journey is ongoing, the steps taken so far demonstrate MNZ's commitment to ensuring that the voices of LGBTQI+ communities are heard and that meaningful progress continues to be made.

9. Seniors' Council

The MNZ Seniors' Council has continued its work over the past year to highlight the needs and aspirations of older members within our ethnic communities. Through ongoing dialogue, the Council has kept attention on issues such as health and wellbeing, housing, safety, intergenerational connection, and financial security. Progress in these areas has been steady, with constructive discussions taking place between community leaders, government agencies, and service providers. While challenges remain, the commitment to advancing the dignity and wellbeing of seniors across the motu has been clearly reinforced, and the groundwork laid this year will continue to guide MNZ's efforts in the months ahead.

10. Women's Wellbeing Framework and Strategic Plan

Over the past year, the Women's Council has made significant strides in advancing its kaupapa. With steady facilitation and dedicated effort, the Women's Wellbeing Framework has been

further developed and refined. This work has involved strengthening structures, broadening engagement, and ensuring that women's voices from across the motu are reflected in the framework. The progress achieved this year builds on earlier commitments and has created strong foundations for the Council's long-term vision of empowerment, leadership, and wellbeing. The momentum now established will continue to guide the next stages of work, ensuring that the framework remains both practical and responsive to the evolving needs of women in ethnic communities throughout Aotearoa.

11. Race Unity Speech Awards 2025

As a National Partner of the Race Unity Speech Awards, Multicultural New Zealand is proud to support a kaupapa that provides rangatahi with a national stage to share their stories and inspire unity. The 2025 finals were held on Sunday, 4 May 2025 at Ngā Kete Wānanga Marae in Ōtara, Auckland, bringing together outstanding young speakers from across the motu. Among the award recipients was Zara Oliyath, a Year 12 student from Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland, who received the Tohu Ahurea Rau – Multicultural New Zealand Award for Diversity. Her speech was recognised for its creativity, delivery, and powerful message, exemplifying the leadership and vision that the Awards are designed to celebrate.

12. Vaccination Clinic

On Saturday, 12 July, MNZ partnered with health providers to host a community vaccination clinic at Johnsonville Community Centre, with a strong focus on measles and outreach to hard-to-reach communities. Alongside measles vaccinations, health staff offered a wide range of checks and services, including screening for hepatitis, bowel cancer awareness, mental wellbeing support, diabetes management, healthy homes advice, and access to booster shots and other vaccinations. The clinic created a welcoming, one-stop space where people could seek trusted advice, receive essential care, and strengthen their confidence in engaging with health services. The success of the day reinforced the importance of culturally responsive health initiatives that meet communities where they are and address their needs in a holistic way.

13. Multicultural Art Exhibition

Multicultural New Zealand, in partnership with Multicultural Whangārei, proudly supported the Multicultural Art Exhibition at Reyburn House Art Gallery in Whangārei from 8 July to 3 August 2025. The exhibition brought together artists from diverse backgrounds to share works that explored themes of identity, heritage, and belonging. Art pieces reflected the richness of New Zealand's multicultural communities, each artwork telling a story of connection across cultures. Visitors were invited not only to view but also to engage with the narratives behind the art, gaining

insights into how culture and creativity intersect in everyday life. By providing a platform for emerging and established artists alike, the exhibition demonstrated the power of art to foster dialogue, break down barriers, and celebrate the shared humanity that unites us all. It stood as a testament to the role of creativity in strengthening social cohesion and building pride in Aotearoa's diversity.

14. Community Resilience

In mid-winter 2025, MNZ delivered its Strategic Leadership and Risk Preparedness Workshops, designed to strengthen community resilience across the motu. Two gatherings were held — one in Wellington on the weekend of 26–27 July for North Island participants, and another in Christchurch on 2–3 August for the South Island.

The programme was anchored by three substantive sessions. Ganesh Nana provided a thought-provoking exploration of socioeconomics, asking what equity in Aotearoa really looks like when measured against community wellbeing. His session challenged participants to examine structural barriers and consider how to address socioeconomic disadvantage in a fair and sustainable way.

The Ministry for Ethnic Communities led a timely session on foreign interference, highlighting the potential risks it poses to our diverse communities. Participants worked through strategies for recognising, managing, and mitigating these risks in practical ways.

A final session by Fraser Carson focused on the demands of leadership in a fast-changing digital environment. The discussion centred on how communities can face the challenges of misinformation, rebuild meaningful connections, and regain agency in an online world that too often dictates the narrative. Together, these workshops provided valuable insights and tools to help community leaders respond with confidence to the complex realities of today's environment.

15. Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day

MNZ remains firmly at the forefront of promoting social cohesion and continues to uphold the last Friday of August as Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day. Each year, communities around the motu mark the occasion in their own ways, reflecting the diverse expressions of culture and unity that enrich Aotearoa. In 2025, the national celebration took place at Parliament on Wednesday,

20 August, once again hosted by Paulo Garcia, MP for New Lynn. The keynote address was delivered by Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Ethnic Communities, underscoring the importance of building bridges across communities and affirming the role of Multicultural Day as a platform for connection, respect, and shared belonging.

16. Advocacy

MNZ's engagement with the Government this year has been shaped by a sharper focus on context; ensuring decision-makers gain a better understanding of the socioeconomic realities faced by our communities. At the same time, MNZ has worked to strengthen its own channels of communication, moving beyond reliance on social media by investing in digital ownership and direct networks. This shift has allowed us not only to amplify voices more effectively but also to challenge misinformation and disinformation that too often cloud public debate. Our statements and advocacy have ranged from calling for stronger measures to protect communities especially from foreign interference, to reminding the nation of the unifying spirit behind commemorations, to celebrating the achievements of multicultural leaders. In each case, the goal has been consistent: to make visible the contributions, concerns, and aspirations of iwi taketake and multicultural communities, while building a more informed and cohesive Aotearoa.



Measuring our Successes

During 2024-2025, MNZ continued to measure its progress against the values of E Tū Whānau, a process first introduced in 2022 on the advice of tangata whenua. Regional multicultural councils were again invited to reflect on their projects and initiatives, tagging them to one or more of our collective strategic priorities and assessing how well the values were embodied in practice. This approach has provided fresh insights into where MNZ is making strong headway and where further investment of time and effort is needed. By tracking progress in this way, MNZ is ensuring that its mahi remains firmly aligned with its values while strengthening the Federation’s capacity to plan for the future with clarity and purpose.

Strategic Priorities

A Safety for communities and their families

B Improved inclusion

C Sustainment and Modernisation

D NZ as a Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Society

E Participation in NZ Socioeconomics

F Diversity in Volunteering



E Tū Whānau Values

Aroha

Giving with no expectation of return

Whanaungatanga

It's about being connected

Whakapapa

Knowing who you are and where you belong

Mana manaaki

Building the mana of others through nurturing, growing and challenging

Kōrero Awhi

Positive communication and actions

Tikanga

Doing things the right way, according to our values

E Tū Whānau Values

As an organisation committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and Tiriti-based Multiculturalism, MNZ wants to measure our success using kaupapa Māori. MNZ has advocated for E Tū Whānau values in Aotearoa New Zealand’s multicultural communities since their conception in 2009.

The six strategic objectives were devised in consultation with community leadership from around the country as part of MNZ’s Strategic Plan. They reflect the most pressing areas of need and growth among New Zealand’s migrant and former refugee communities.

To assist with consistent measurement, we gave the following affirmations against each of the E Tū Whānau Values:

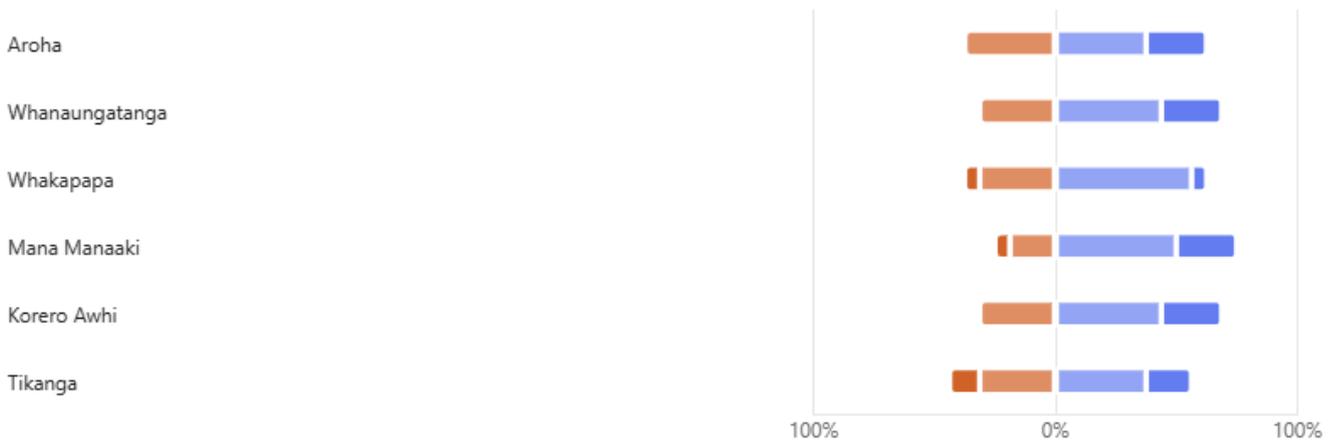
- **Aroha:** We shared as many resources, funds, time (listening or guiding), and connections as we could with those who needed it
- **Whanaungatanga:** Our community networks were grown and enhanced by this work, our RMC has grown and strengthened its membership.
- **Whakapapa:** People were able to improve their sense of belonging and identity through this work, we know the history of our group and local communities well.
- **Mana Manaaki:** We have extended our support to communities in trouble every time there was an opportunity. We have actively stood up for people or communities who were treated or viewed unjustly.
- **Kōrero Awhi:** We centred and represented marginalized voices, we navigated any conflicts and differences with compassion and clarity, we communicated with our partners and each other effectively and respectfully.
- **Tikanga:** We practice governance with awareness and integrity and have found ways to improve this year. We have done a great job of helping communities learn about E Tū Whānau values and other New Zealand ways of doing things.

| Legend | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Under Developed | Developing | Well Developed | Fully Developed |
| "We have not thought or spoken about this yet" | "We have done some discussion and planning around this" | "We have practiced these things at least once this year" | "We practice these things on a regular basis." |
| | | | |

A). Safety for communities and their families

1. RMCs and their communities have easy access to information and services in as many languages as possible
2. MNZ understanding and communicating to the public of New Zealand cultural context associated with safety to the public of New Zealand
3. Understand the needs of the vulnerable in the communities that RMCs work with
4. Understand the needs of the vulnerable in the communities that RMCs work with

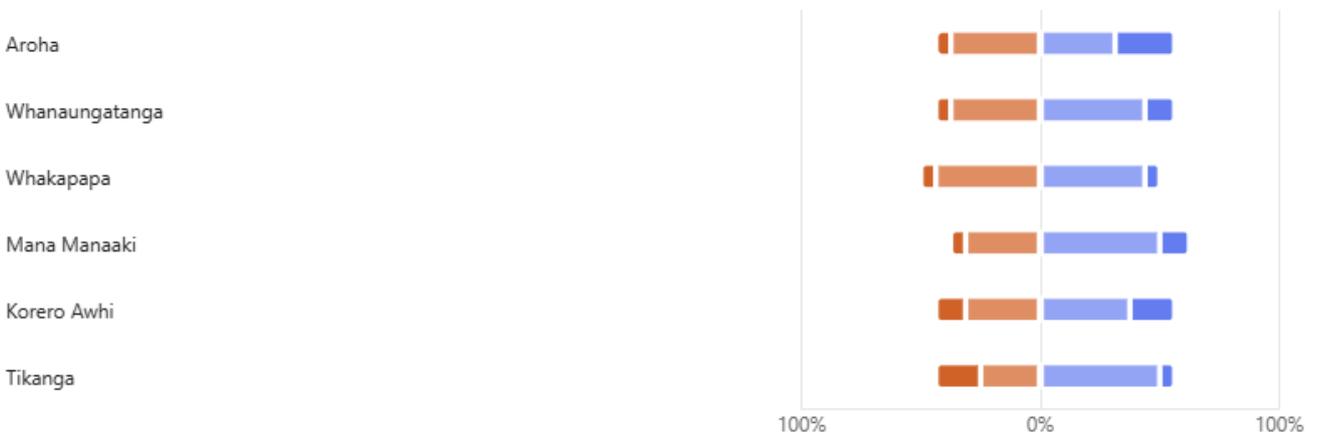
● Under-developed ● Developing ● Well Developed ● Fully Developed



B). Improved Inclusion

1. MNZ will support all efforts to eradicate institutional racism and discrimination
2. Put in place action plans for the major metropolitan cities
3. Invest in a digital hub to bring together all communities in New Zealand
4. Develop objectives and reportable metrics for public presentation of our volunteering effectiveness
5. Modernising attitudes of host communities toward migrants

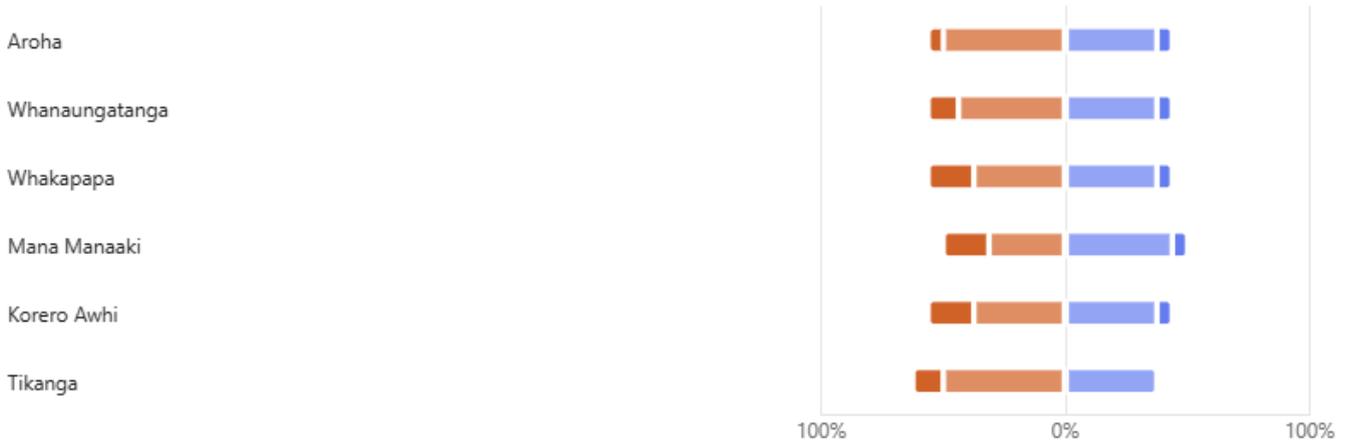
● Under-developed ● Developing ● Well Developed ● Fully Developed



C). Sustainment and Modernisation

1. Continue to grow MNZ profile across all channels, notably digital, so we become a household name
2. Secure long-term funding
3. MNZ operating as a social enterprise
4. Establish 5 new Regional Multicultural Councils
5. Build new collaborative relationships
6. Bringing MNZ and NZNN networks

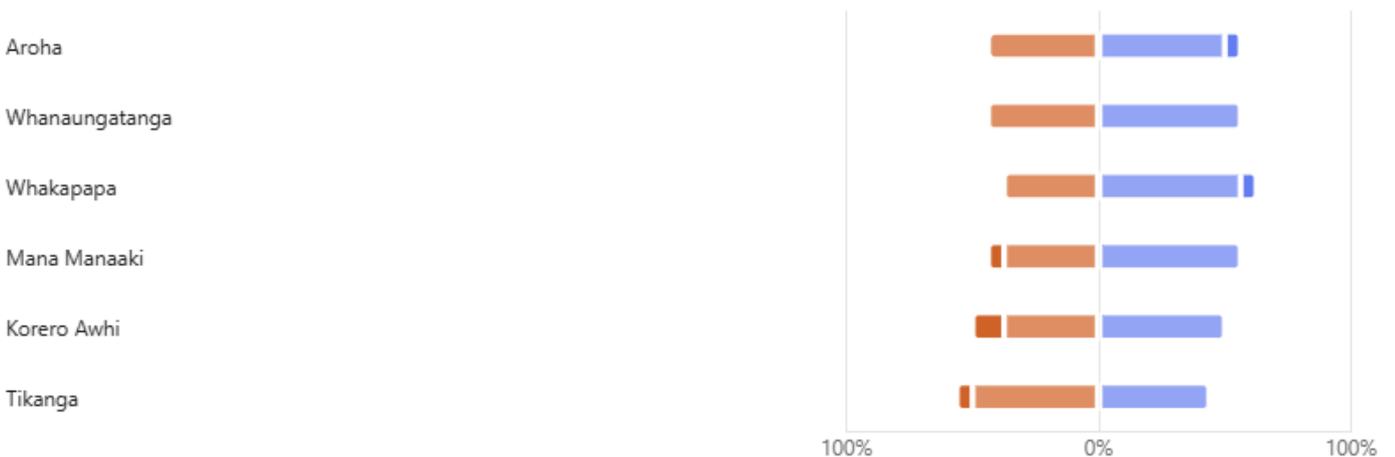
● Under-developed ● Developing ● Well Developed ● Fully Developed



D). NZ as a Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Society

1. Ensure governance and management practices within MNZ to acknowledge Tikanga Māori
2. Ensure legislation, regulations and policies in New Zealand demonstrate cultural sensitivity
3. MNZ to have a strategic long-term relationship with tangata whenua
4. Support RMCs and communities to adopt E Tū Whānau values as their basis for community safety
5. Improve relationship with tangata whenua

● Under-developed ● Developing ● Well Developed ● Fully Developed



E). Participation in NZ Socioeconomics

1. *Ensuring the success of migrant businesses*
2. *Equitable policy for health, education, social services, justice and employment*

● Under-developed ● Developing ● Well Developed ● Fully Developed



F). Diversity in Volunteering

1. *Strengthening and resourcing RMC NZNN volunteer networks*
2. *Developing resources to equip volunteers professionally*
3. *Improving cultural fit of volunteering to expand diversity among volunteers*

● Under-developed ● Developing ● Well Developed ● Fully Developed



Multicultural Art Exhibition Report

Planning and Preparation

In March 2025, planning began for the first Multicultural New Zealand Art Exhibition, a celebration of cross-cultural artistic expression at Reyburn House Art Gallery in Whangārei. Spearheaded by Pancha Narayanan, President of MNZ, and supported by Multicultural Whangārei, the project quickly gained momentum. Sandeep Diwan, Vice Chair of Multicultural Whangārei oversaw logistics, finances, artist engagement, and publicity, ensuring that preparations ran smoothly. By July, 83 artworks from 49 artists were confirmed, ranging from painting and sculpture to textiles and mixed media. Entry fees generated \$1,245, reinvested into awards and event costs.

Exhibition Launch and Public Response

The exhibition opened on 8 July with a traditional karakia and remarks from the Mayor of Whangārei. Over 90 people attended, including artists, community leaders, and dignitaries. The event featured cultural performances, while Reyburn House extended the exhibition's reach with a 3D virtual gallery that made the collection accessible nationwide. The exhibition gave voice to both established and first-time artists, fostering dialogue and celebrating the richness of diversity through art.



Awards, Recognition, and Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony on 30 July honoured the creativity on display with three art prizes and certificates for all participants. Marion Kerepeti-Edwards, Chairperson of Multicultural Whangārei, opened with a karakia and warm acknowledgment of the kaupapa. Pancha Narayanan congratulated the artists and organisers for their exemplary efforts, while Sandeep Diwan coordinated the certificates and final arrangements. The event ended with refreshments and networking, strengthening connections across communities.



Impact and Legacy

Beyond the gallery walls, the exhibition created lasting impact by inspiring cross-cultural collaboration and encouraging new voices in the arts. It brought visibility to underrepresented talent, challenged stereotypes, and provided a meaningful contribution to Whangārei's cultural calendar. The success of the project has laid strong foundations for future multicultural art initiatives around the motu, showing how creativity can be a powerful bridge for unity in diversity.



Noho Marae Report

Over the past two years, we have taken deliberate steps to ensure that this initiative is not only about participation but also about fostering relationships that are meaningful and enduring. Noho Marae has served as a bridge between communities, strengthening our ties to tangata whenua and deepening our collective commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Noho Marae has been a space for ongoing dialogue, learning, and reflection. It has provided many with their first opportunity to stay on a marae, to engage in tikanga, and to experience manaakitanga in its purest form. These experiences have been transformative, reinforcing the importance of continuing this journey together.

Looking ahead, we must build upon these foundations. Our commitment must go beyond symbolic engagement—Noho Marae should continue to be a platform for real, tangible change. This means:

- **Strengthening our understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi** – not just as a document but as a living commitment to partnership, protection, and participation. For many recent migrants and multicultural communities, understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi can be a complex journey. Often, they arrive in Aotearoa with limited knowledge of the historical and cultural foundations of this land. Noho Marae provides an accessible and immersive way to engage with the principles of Te Tiriti, offering a firsthand experience of Māori culture, values, and aspirations. Through whakawhanaungatanga—building relationships—migrants and diverse communities can better appreciate their role in upholding Te Tiriti and fostering a more inclusive society. When new arrivals develop a stronger understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, they can actively contribute to its ongoing realisation by advocating for equitable opportunities, respecting the status of te reo Māori, and engaging in collaborative decision-making processes that honour the principles of partnership, protection, and participation.
- **Creating more spaces for honest and open dialogue** – where challenging conversations can take place in a spirit of mutual respect. Open and meaningful dialogue is essential in multicultural societies, where different worldviews, traditions, and histories intersect. Noho Marae provides a safe and supportive environment for these discussions, allowing people from diverse backgrounds to engage in korero about the complexities of identity, belonging, and reconciliation. For recent migrants, the opportunity to listen to and share experiences within a marae setting fosters empathy and deeper cultural understanding. It helps to break down barriers, dispel misconceptions, and create a foundation for genuine connection. These spaces are vital in addressing issues of systemic inequity, social cohesion, and cultural responsiveness. By ensuring that everyone has a voice, we create a society where all individuals—regardless of their background—feel seen, heard, and valued. In doing so, we honour the principle of kotahitanga, unity in diversity, and build a future grounded in mutual respect and cooperation.
- **Ensuring sustainability** – so that Noho Marae is not just a moment in time but an enduring movement that continues to uplift and empower our communities. Sustainability in this context is not just about the longevity of the programme but also about the ongoing relevance and adaptability of Noho Marae to changing societal

needs. For multicultural communities, sustainability means creating long-term pathways for engagement, learning, and contribution. It involves integrating Noho Marae into local and national strategies that support social cohesion, ensuring that these initiatives are well-resourced and accessible to all. This also means actively involving recent migrants in the leadership and stewardship of such programmes, allowing them to take ownership of their learning and cultural integration journeys. By embedding Noho Marae into broader frameworks of inclusion, education, and community development, we can ensure that it remains a transformative force for generations to come. Sustainability is about making Noho Marae not just an event but a fundamental part of how we nurture relationships, uphold Te Tiriti, and empower communities to thrive together.

We must also acknowledge that the current landscape in Aotearoa presents challenges. There are pressures on our communities, concerns about the direction of policies, and ongoing struggles for recognition and equity. However, through initiatives like Noho Marae, we have an opportunity to build resilience, understanding, and collective strength.

Multicultural New Zealand strongly believes in taking Noho Marae to a national level as a policy initiative, recognising the immense value it holds in fostering inclusion, understanding, and cultural connection. However, in today's political climate, advocacy for such initiatives faces considerable challenges, particularly in an environment influenced by populist narratives. These challenges include resistance to policies that promote cultural integration, a lack of political will to support grassroots-led initiatives, and a limited understanding of the benefits Noho Marae offers in strengthening social cohesion across diverse communities.

One of the key barriers is the absence of public funding for advocacy efforts. While many community-driven programmes receive support for cultural events and engagement, there is no financial assistance available for the strategic advocacy required to push Noho Marae onto the national policy agenda. This is where organisations like J R McKenzie Trust and Tindall Foundation became a lifeline for multicultural communities. By providing resources, networks, and a platform for advocacy, organisations like J R McKenzie Trust and Tindall Foundation enable these communities to continue their fight for systemic change, ensuring that cultural education and engagement are not merely token gestures but integral parts of Aotearoa's national identity.

Advocacy in this space requires resilience and innovation. It involves building partnerships, mobilising grassroots support and fostering alliances with tangata whenua to highlight the shared benefits of Noho Marae at a national level. It also means countering misinformation and educating policymakers about the role of Noho Marae in fostering intercultural understanding, combating social isolation, and empowering communities to actively participate in the civic and social fabric of Aotearoa.

The need for long-term, sustainable advocacy has never been greater. As we move forward, it is imperative that we support and strengthen the voices advocating for Noho Marae's national adoption. By doing so, we ensure that it remains an enduring movement that continues to uplift and empower all communities, rather than just a moment in time.

MNZ Office Report

Over the past year, our small office has continued to be the heart of the organisation, quietly holding together many strands of work that keep everything running. From operations and accounting through to IT support and event coordination, the team has managed a wide range of responsibilities with dedication and care. The strength of a non-profit often lies in its ability to do a lot with a little, and our office has once again shown that with commitment and teamwork, we can deliver well beyond our size.

We have also placed importance on continuous improvement, taking steady steps to strengthen how we work. Simple but effective changes in our systems, financial processes, and use of technology have not only made our work more efficient but also created greater confidence and transparency. These improvements mean that the energy of our staff and volunteers can be focused where it matters most, supporting communities and growing connections across the motu.

Our office is more than an operational hub; it is a place where planning, collaboration, and community spirit come together. The support provided here enables events to flourish, projects to take shape, and relationships to grow. By linking strong internal systems with our outward-facing work, we ensure that every gathering, every programme, and every initiative is backed by a foundation of care and professionalism. Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on this progress, preparing for the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, and ensuring that our small office continues to play a big role in helping the organisation thrive.

During the year, MNZ saw some changes within its team. Aaron Baker and Annabelle Batchelor moved on from their roles, and we acknowledge their contributions with gratitude. At the same time, we were pleased to welcome Joanne Sheffield and Patsy Ranchod to the organisation. Their skills and experience bring fresh energy and perspectives, strengthening MNZ's capacity to deliver on its kaupapa and support communities across the motu.



Intern Report

Suryadeep Diwan



During the final year of my degree, I completed a 150-hour placement with Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ), a national organisation committed to advancing cultural diversity, inclusion, and social harmony. The internship, from May to October 2024, allowed me to apply criminology and criminal justice theories to real-world research in the context of New Zealand's ethnically diverse communities.

My main responsibility was the Crime and Ethnicity Data Project, where I gathered national crime statistics from police reports, government databases, and research sources. Using Excel, I categorised offences by year, region, type, and ethnicity, employing pivot tables and comparative summaries to highlight trends. Ensuring cultural sensitivity in the analysis and presentation was a central part of the work, as findings had to be communicated responsibly and without misrepresentation.

The placement gave me hands-on experience in linking statistical analysis with broader social questions. I learned how patterns in data reflect not only crime trends but also underlying socio-economic factors and systemic challenges. This helped me to approach the research with critical awareness, ensuring the findings could support constructive dialogue rather than reinforce stereotypes.

The experience strengthened my technical skills in data analysis, research, and presentation, as well as my ability to summarise complex findings for non-specialist audiences. It also deepened my understanding of how crime statistics can inform policy and advocacy when combined with cultural awareness and systemic context.

Overall, this internship provided a valuable bridge between academic study and practical application, equipping me with transferable skills in research, analysis, and communication. I consider my time with MNZ an important step in my academic and professional journey, reinforcing the role of evidence-based research in advancing social justice and equity.



Multicultural NZ Women's Council

Governance Group Formation

The Women's Council has initiated a **governance arrangement**, forming a group consisting of Marion (vice-president MNZ), Maria (secretary MNZ), Lonie, (president Women's Council), Thelma, (treasurer Women's Council), Jeanie (secretary Women's Council), Ligi (North Island representative), and Socorro (South Island representative). The group has met and kept in touch for regular feedback, updates and decision making to steer forward our work.

Strategic Plan Implementation

The Women's Council is in its second year of strategic plan implementation. We progressed a fresh project proposal from conceptual stage to get it approved with MNZ to the go ahead.

Women's Wellbeing Framework Project Proposal Overview

An overview of the project is provided below.

1. **Proposal Development** – Began Nov 2024 and completed Feb 2025

From guidance by Vanisa Dhiru and Fatima Junaid, the proposal was developed to a standard ready for approval from MNZ. Next came a process of devising a **Terms of Reference** (ToR) to provide to a variety of external evaluation consultants so that they could respond with a **Statement of Work** (SoW) to allow MNZ to choose a suitable evaluator for the next phase. Many thanks to Fatima for her further contribution to the ToR. We used an iterative approach to assess the SoW, budget and this resulted in detailed plans and our engagement with Versus research.

2. **Evaluation** – Current Jul 2025 to around Sep 2025 for AGM reporting

After lengthy and careful enquiries with multiple independent evaluators to gauge their suitability, MNZ engaged with Versus for this phase of the project. The current evaluation phase involves a regional needs assessment (survey), regional case studies, development of a logic model and appropriate indicators.

The independent external evaluator Versus, led by Natalie Richards, is conducting the following research to: -

- Understand regional differences in readiness, delivery capacity, and the need for the Women's framework.
- Capture learnings from successful programme implementation in key regions.
- Develop a logic model that aligns with Te Whare Tapa Wha to guide future design.
- Recommend practical and scalable evaluation indicators to support long-term tracking.
- Ensure all insights align with MNZ's strategic direction and resource context.

3. **Project Planning and Funding** – Next phase

We are excited about developing robust plans and funding applications, which will occur toward the end of 2025. The three remaining phases are (4.) Content Revision, (5.) Present and Trial the revised Programme, and (6.) Sustain and Maintain Programme across RMCs.

Jeanie Holland has stepped away temporarily from her governance role as secretary with MNZ, to carry out the responsibility of Project Coordinator (contractor) for the duration of the project. Ligivmamilli Pakieto-Johnstone has taken on the role of cultural advisor (contractor) to incorporate Te Whare Tapa Wha to the evaluation stage.

We Want to Hear from You

Please share any initiatives as part of the work your RMC is doing for women. Regional Multicultural council members interested in learning about our work are welcome to contact us at women@mnz.org.nz for more information, such as the strategic plan or a copy of the project proposal. We are keen to receive expressions of interest from RMC members to contribute to our project and are grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and enhance the wellbeing of multicultural women in New Zealand.

Lonie Martin

President

Women's Council



Multicultural Whangārei

Multicultural Whangārei, celebrating and supporting our diverse community. We are proud to share the highlights from our 2025 events and initiatives.

Community Events: Bringing people together to celebrate the cultures that make our city so vibrant.



Multicultural Day 2024 was a vibrant celebration of our community's rich cultural tapestry. Dressed in traditional attire, participants proudly showcased their heritage through performances, music, and food, fostering a strong sense of unity and cultural appreciation.

Latin American Fiesta 2024 showcasing the rich traditions of Latin America. Attendees enjoyed authentic food, energetic live music, and captivating dance performances, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Latin American cultures thriving in Whangārei.



Ethnic Football Festival 2024:

In collaboration with Tikipunga Football Club, NZ Police, former Rotary Whangarei City, and Rotary Auckland Airport, we hosted a festival dedicated to the beautiful game. The event brought our ethnic communities together on the field, celebrating sport and connection.



Art on Boxes:

Multicultural Whangārei had the honour of participating in the Art on Boxes project, a fantastic collaboration between Creative Northland and Whangārei District Council! This initiative is all about bringing more beauty to our city by transforming ordinary utility boxes into vibrant pieces of art.

Our incredibly talented artist, Sandeep Diwan, created a stunning and colourful artwork located at the corner of Water and Bank Streets, here in Whangārei. His piece adds a wonderful splash of culture and creativity right in the heart of our city centre.

Race Relations Day 2025:

To mark Race Relations Day 2025, we partnered with Whangārei District Council, Welcoming Communities Whangārei, WINGS (Women’s International Newcomers Group Social) and English Language Partners Whangārei. Together, we created a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere at the Taste Whangārei Multicultural Fair on Cameron St Mall, which was a fantastic showcase of our city’s cultural diversity.

Te Puangarua Matariki Ceremony 2025:

Multicultural Whangārei was proud to participate in this year’s Ceremony and celebration at St Stephen Hall. We extend our gratitude to the Onerahi community for their continued warm hospitality towards our multicultural whānau.



Multicultural Art Exhibition 2025:

In an exciting new collaboration with Multicultural New Zealand, we proudly launched the inaugural Multicultural Art Exhibition at the Reyburn House Art Gallery. This exhibition is a vibrant celebration of culture, identity, and creative connection, showcased beautifully through visual art.

Programs and Services:

We continue to provide services that empower and support migrants and newcomers. Classes, programs and workshops: Thanks to the continued support of our funders, we are able to offer a variety of free classes, programs, and workshops. These include language classes (Arabic, English, Spanish, and Te Reo Māori) alongside Creative Writing, Art, craft and wellbeing workshops.





Soteria Self Defence Workshop for Women:

Now in its third year, this workshop focuses on empowering women by teaching them practical skills and building their confidence in decision-making

Acknowledgment: We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our incredible governance committee, staff, and volunteers. Your commitment and hard work are crucial to our success. It is your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm that allows Multicultural Whangarei to keep growing and developing.





Multicultural Council of Wellington

This year, we continued to advance our mission of fostering unity, celebrating diversity, and promoting social well-being across the region. Our work was grounded in collaboration—through cultural festivals, sporting events, and community forums—that strengthened connections and amplified the voices of our multicultural communities. Our hybrid monthly meetings have enhanced leadership development and ensured inclusive participation.

We deepened our engagement with government agencies and local councils, reinforcing our role as advocates for equity and cohesion. Celebrations of cultural milestones further enriched community ties and highlighted Wellington’s vibrant diversity.

Multicultural Festival – Chinese New Year Gala

On 1 February, MCW hosted a vibrant Multicultural Festival at Te Marae, Te Papa, attracting nearly 1,000 attendees. Featuring 16 performance groups, the event celebrated Chinese New Year while showcasing Wellington’s rich cultural diversity. We thank the Wellington City Council, China Cultural Centre, diplomatic representatives, Mayor of Wellington, performers, and especially our volunteers for making this event a success.



By bringing communities together, we continue to strengthen Wellington’s commitment to an inclusive, respectful, and harmonious society.

MCW Annual General Meeting 2024

Held in Johnsonville, the AGM was a powerful reflection of our community’s strength and unity. We celebrated a year of achievements in advocacy, inclusion, and cultural celebration, reaffirming our commitment to positive change across Wellington and Aotearoa.



End-of-year reception 2024 at the Embassy of Ireland



In partnership with our Patron, Her Excellency Ms. Jane Connolly, Ambassador of Ireland, we co-hosted our year-end reception at the Irish Embassy. The evening brought together community leaders and cultural representatives to reflect on shared achievements and the importance of multicultural understanding.



These events fostered mutual understanding and honored the contributions from the Chinese heritage to our collective identity

International Women’s Day Celebration

MCW was honored to attend the inaugural International Women’s Day Progress and Impact Evening at Parliament. Hosted by UN Women Aotearoa and the Women Leaders Institute, the event celebrated the achievements of wāhine and reaffirmed our shared commitment to gender equity.

Wellington Indian Association – 100th Anniversary



We proudly celebrated the centenary of the Wellington Indian Association, a valued MCW member. This milestone honors a century of cultural heritage, community service, and enduring contributions to Wellington’s multicultural landscape.

Commonwealth Day 2025

It was an honor to represent the Multicultural Council of Wellington at the Commonwealth Day celebration in Parliament. The theme, "Together We Thrive", powerfully reflects our own mission—uniting diverse communities through shared values of respect, cooperation, and mutual growth.



This gathering reinforced the importance of collaboration across cultures, and I returned inspired to further strengthen Wellington’s multicultural ties, both locally and within our Commonwealth whānau.

ANZAC Day 2025 ‘Lest we forget’ Anzac Day commemorates all New Zealanders killed in war and honors our returned servicemen and women. The Multicultural Council of Wellington team participated in the Wellington City Council Anzac Day Citizen’s Wreath Laying Service on 25 April.

Wellington Phoenix Football for all Programme

It is truly an honour to be invited to the Wellington Phoenix games at Sky Stadium and celebration of the incredible impact of Wellington Phoenix's 'Football For All programme'. —an initiative that empowers over 100 young people from refugee and low socio-economic backgrounds through football, futsal, refereeing, and coaching. This programme goes beyond sport; it fosters belonging, builds confidence, and helps integrate these talented young individuals into our wider football family. We are immensely proud of this initiative and deeply grateful to the coaches, mentors, and partners who make it possible.

Most importantly, we thank the Wellington Phoenix for their unwavering support in creating opportunities that change lives.



Ministry for Ethnic Communities Ethnic Advantage Conference

The Ethnic Advantage 2025 conference brought the theme, "United Against Headwinds," to life on 28 June at the Aotea Centre in Auckland — highlighting a shared vision of social cohesion, resilience, and unity. More than 300 attendees from diverse backgrounds came together to celebrate leadership, collaboration, and the contributions of Ethnic Communities. The Multicultural Council of Wellington team is honored to be part of this conference. The one-day event reflected a shared commitment to resilience and unity in the face of global tensions, economic pressures, and social challenges. The programme included four panel sessions and three breakout sessions, showing the power of collective action in shaping a stronger, more inclusive future.

Matariki celebration 2025 - Mānawatia a Matariki

Wellington celebrated Matariki Ahi Kā at Wellington Waterfront with large-scale projections, live performances, burning fires and kai. It is an opportunity for all people of New Zealand to come together ā kia hoki mahara atu ki te tau kua hipa, and reflect on the year that has passed, celebrate the present, and plan. We enjoyed celebrating Matariki with wider communities. The celebration highlighted how cultural heritage enriches us all, fostering mutual respect and a collective vision for an inclusive future.

Wellington Pacific/Ethnic Community Volunteer Patrollers

The Pacific/Ethnic Volunteer Patrol was established to help reduce the number of our Pacific and Ethnic people coming to the attention of Police. They are here to promote good behaviour and look out for 'at risk' and 'vulnerable' people with a view to offering support and guidance and encouraging good behaviour, especially to our young people. This is volunteer work and is all about the community taking ownership and providing whatever time they have available to make our City a safer place.



We are proud that our members: Prem Singh, Lonie Martin, Sue Lata and Channa Ranasinghe are part of this wonderful team.

Citizenship Ceremony

The Multicultural Council of Wellington is delighted to participate in Wellington City Council's Citizenship Ceremonies at Te Papa's Soundings Theatre. This is an opportunity to celebrate Aotearoa's newest citizens. As part of the official delegation, our team had the privilege of sharing this meaningful milestone with individuals and families embarking on their journey as New Zealanders. This ceremony was more than a legal formality—it was a celebration of identity, belonging, and the rich diversity that strengthens our city. For our Council, it was also a valuable opportunity to connect with new migrants, offering support as they plant roots in Wellington's vibrant multicultural community.

Ethnic Communities Forum 2025 – Your City. Your Voice

This was a community-led forum designed by and for Wellington's ethnic communities on Saturday 23 August at Wellington Indian Association. The special event brought people together to kōrero about the issues that matter most in our neighborhoods—and to discuss how we can shape the future of our city, together.

Ngā mihi nui,

Rachel Zi

President, Multicultural Council of Wellington



Waikato Multicultural Council

I am pleased to present this Impact Report on behalf of the Executive Committee of Waikato Multicultural Council Inc. (WMC). This reflects a wide variety of activities and achievements over the past year to support meeting WMC's vision and objectives. WMC has continued to work enthusiastically and positively to enhance the cultural and socio-economic welfare of migrant and ethnic communities in the Waikato. This was achieved through communication and liaison with various organisations followed by many events held within the region over the past year.

A brief outline of some of our activities over the past year

- A Strategic planning session on WMC's strategic plan for the next 5 years; this took place under the guidance of Community Services Adviser Roseanne Murray.
- WMC Constitution review committee, along with Jeevan Mathews, Anil Gupta, and the late Rob Patchett, was set up to bring WMC's constitution in line with the latest New Zealand Charities Commission guidelines.
- WMC was represented in Wellington at a New Zealand Police Seminar, which considered ways to encourage more recruitment to the force from ethnically diverse communities.

WMC held the following events: - Waikato Multicultural Evening, Lunar New Year, Multicultural Mother's Day and celebrated 30 events alongside our affiliated organisations: - Diwali, Matariki Multicultural Day combined with Tree planting, New Years Mela, Independence Day celebrations of various countries and Multicultural Christmas celebrations.



Anzac Day commemoration service

WMC remembered the Anzac spirit at the annual Anzac Day commemoration service, where prayers, gratitude and respect celebrated and honored the fallen heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The service also recognised the men and women that are currently serving in peace keeping missions around the world.

Earth Diverse, Waikato Interfaith Council and Hamilton City Council



WMC partnered with charitable organizations and volunteers in the annual "Matariki Multicultural Tree Planting" event. Thousands of saplings provided by the Hamilton City Council were planted on Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Reserve in this annual environmental initiative.



Tenth Annual Indian NewsLink Sports, Community, Arts and Culture Awards 2024 held at Swaminarayan Complex, Auckland. Indian Cultural Society Waikato was the recipient of the Dr Robert Khan Memorial Award for services to the Indian community in Waikato.

Chinese Golden Age Society's Dragon Boat Festival. The festival honours Qu Yuan, a famous Chinese patriotic poet who devoted his life to China. An exquisite display of art and culture portrayed this auspicious occasion. The organisers were highly commended for this most educational and enjoyable event.



Multicultural Mother's Day



A credit to WMC committee members for their dedication and teamwork in producing this well attended event. Chief guest Elizabeth Bang, ([Hamilton Branch of National Council of Women of New Zealand](#)) talked about motherhood in New Zealand. Tuyen Nguyen shared her experience of motherhood as a Vietnamese migrant to New Zealand, followed by her group who sang the very moving and emotional “Diary of Mother”.

New Zealand Citizenship Ceremonies

WMC was represented at 16 Citizenship Ceremonies throughout the year where new citizens of all nationalities from around the globe were welcomed as New Zealand citizens.

Sri Lanka Friendship Society Waikato Celebrated “Nawa Mini” - a cultural Journey through the generations. Superb performances were showcased portraying colourful culture and art. The precision and grace from artists of all age groups was astounding and displayed the dedication and discipline involved in the highly skilled performances.



Waikato Senior Indian Citizens Association Held their AGM on 26 May 2024, in Hamilton. It was a privilege to be called to oversee the election process along with fellow scrutineers, Manjit

Singh and Dr Manilal Jogia. WSICA is a very committed organization, providing programs for the health and wellbeing of its senior citizen members

The 2024 Global Youth Leadership Forum welcomed a delegation of visiting Chinese students to Hamilton. The Chinese delegation provided insightful presentations about their cities and cultural traditions back home in China. WMC was privileged to be invited to speak on its objectives and visions and preparing youth for future leadership roles.

The Indonesian Society of Hamilton

The 79th Indonesian Independence Day was celebrated. This was held at The University of Waikato. The ceremony started with the raising of the Indonesian national flag followed by patriotic songs and stories. The event was extremely interesting and educational.



Malaysian Independence Day

Every year on 31 August, Malaysia chooses a theme to commemorate this very significant event. For 2024 it was “Malaysia Madani: Jiwa Merdeka”, symbolizing the unity and diversity of the Malaysian people. Many thanks to Dr Alim and his team for the kind invitation to join in to mark this very special occasion.

Turangawaewae Marae Ngaruawahia. Multicultural New Zealand President Pancha Narayanan and members of Waikato Multicultural Council paid their respects to the late Kiingi Tuheitia who passed away on 30 August 2024. A great leader who will be sadly missed



Tenth Annual Indian NewsLink Sports, Community, Arts and Culture Awards 2024 held at Swaminarayan Complex, Auckland. Indian Cultural Society Waikato was the recipient of the Dr Robert Khan Memorial Award for services to the Indian community in Waikato.

Chinese Golden Age Society's Dragon Boat Festival.

The festival honours Qu Yuan, a famous Chinese patriotic poet who devoted his life to China. An exquisite display of art and culture portrayed this auspicious occasion. The organisers were highly commended for this most educational and enjoyable event.



Welcoming Manaaki Village Held at Claudelands Events Centre, this event showcased Hamilton’s diversity, through dance, performances, food, and cultural items with Tangata

Whenua showcasing Kapa Haka and other performances. We closed with Poroporoaki, Powhiri, Wananga and kai.

Diwali at Hamilton Lake, featured beautiful and powerful performances celebrating our shared cultural heritage. The fireworks display was a spectacular conclusion to a memorable evening.



WIFCO Executive Meeting at Temple View

Waikato Interfaith Council's (WIFCO's) final executive committee meeting for 2024 was graciously hosted by its member, Todd Miller at The Church of the Latter-Day Saints at Temple View. The meeting was followed by a performance by the Latter-Day Saints Choir, and we were privilege to witness the opening ceremony of the Temple view 2024 Christmas lights.

Waikato Senior Indian Citizens Association Christmas and New Year celebrations. The occasion was graced by the presence of Wellington-based Multicultural New Zealand President Pancha Narayanan and Dinesh Khadka from the Nepalese Consulate. The audience joined in with the cultural song and dance performances to mark this joyous and festive occasion.



Holi Celebration 2025 This vibrant festival of colours in Hamilton was graced by special guests Cr Anna Cox, Hamilton Council, MP Ryan Hamilton. A special day to celebrate the Indian festival of Holi, the event highlighted the significance of colours, music and the importance of unity. The festivities opened with a live band, followed by dance performances.

Race Unity speech competition 2025

MNZ, Waikato Multicultural Council and the New Zealand Police, was held at the Baha'i Centre Hamilton. This topic was " The Great Ocean of Diversity ". Five students from various schools were judged by four independent judges. Mano Manoharan represented Waikato Multicultural Council and was on the panel of judges. The winner was from Morrinsville College and the runner-up from Rototuna High School, Hamilton. The venue was overflowing, the audience captivated by the participant's talent. Waikato Community Radio covered the competition and notably In 1997 and 1998, Jacinda Ardern participated in the UNA NZ speech competitions whilst she was at Morrinsville College and previously won the trophy.

Ravinder Powar JP

**President
Waikato Multicultural Council Inc.**



WAITAKI
MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL INC

Waitaki Multicultural Council Annual Report

Introduction Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is with a sense of pride and gratitude that we present our Annual Report for the past year. Our organisation has continued to thrive in its mission of building capability, connection, and community for migrants in our region. This report combines the insights and achievements highlighted by our former Chairperson and Coordinator, providing a comprehensive overview of our activities and impact.

Key Initiatives and Achievements

Empowering Migrants One of our key focus areas this year has been empowering migrants through employment workshops. These initiatives have equipped many with the tools, confidence, and knowledge needed to navigate the job market in Aotearoa.

Family Connect and Active Movement Programmes Our Family Connect and Active Movement programmes have also grown stronger, providing a safe and inclusive space where parents and children can play, learn, and connect. These programmes have not only strengthened families but have helped build trust and lasting friendships among people from different cultures.

A major milestone was achieved when we moved into our new office on the ground floor of the Community House: a long-held dream that finally came true. This move has significantly improved access for our community and created a welcoming hub for all. We celebrated this achievement on Multicultural Day, the last Friday of August, with our first Open Day in the new space. As part of this special event, we unveiled two stunning artworks that now symbolise the heart of our organisation – the Diversity Tree painted by Natalia Lopez and the Kiwiana Table by Sarka Onionova. Two talented artists from our multicultural community.

Child Safety and Community Engagement One of the most important topics we continue to prioritise is keeping our children safe. In collaboration with Shama Women's Trust and our trained facilitator Justyna Miller, we delivered cross-cultural parenting workshops and Keeping Our Children Safe sessions. These were enhanced through collaboration with the Ethnic Liaison Police Officer, ensuring that families receive culturally appropriate support and education in a safe environment.



We also engaged with the wider community by participating in expos organised by Stronger Waitaki and Waitaki Girls' High School, helping raise awareness and celebrate the value of our multicultural community.

Another innovative platform that helped amplify our voice this year was the Migrant Musings podcast series, beautifully hosted by Maddy Maxwell. With the support of Otago Access Radio - OAR FM and Arina Aizal, Waitaki Multicultural was given valuable air time to share our stories, activities, and community events. We are also grateful to the Oamaru Mail for publishing the podcast episodes, further helping our messages reach a wider audience.



Family Connect Group The WM Family Connect Group, previously known as the Multicultural Playgroup, has seen significant success in community support for migrant families in Waitaki. Between May 2024 and the present, we have attracted 250 parents, along with their children, to our weekly sessions.

Each Tuesday, during term times, the Family Connect Group met at the North Otago Plunket Rooms from 10:30am to 1:00pm, with a focus on creating a safe space for families to connect and socialise. We hold great appreciation for the dedication and support of our volunteers, Sashi and Sheila, who helped with 37 sessions over the past year.

Our core purpose was to provide migrant families with ongoing peer support and a welcoming environment for their kids as well, fostering connections with the local community. This group has been crucial for parents in establishing relationships with their new community, and for some, it has offered a secure and accessible space to grow their social network.



To enhance this experience, we have established a monthly Guest speaker programme, facilitating opportunities for parents to learn about local community services and take advantage of many free offerings. This collaboration with local groups has been invaluable in empowering our families with the knowledge they need to thrive. Examples of this would be our guest speakers from Plunket, Oamaru Library, Waitaki Neighbourhood Support, and St. John.

We champion cultural awareness by celebrating international events and cultural traditions, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation through shared learning and celebration experiences. Some examples of this would be cultural festivals like Eid, Diwali, Matariki, and Sri Lankan New Year.

The WM Family Connect group builds a sense of community – our kids' birthdays are celebrated at our group, and there is a regular toy swap between parents and their kids. Importantly, the group donated toys to the local community for Toyorama and books to Bookorama and also fundraised for 'Dunk it for Plunket'.

We are grateful for the success of our group and appreciate the dedication of our volunteers in helping us achieve our objectives. We also want to thank all parents for coming and joining us every week.

Active Movement Programme I'm pleased to report that the Active Movement Programme, a Latin Dance Workout, has achieved remarkable success last year. Our programme, held at the Waitaki Recreation Centre, has offered convenient crèche facilities for families with children. Initially launched on Thursday mornings from July 25th, the programme expanded to two sessions in September, with an additional evening session on Wednesday. From this collaborative effort, we successfully had a total of 50 sessions in the year 2024 with an average of 25 participants attending each week. The programme has been really well-received, with a total of 750 participants for the year, led by our enthusiastic instructor, Diane Talanoa.

On behalf of everybody involved, we extend our sincerest thanks to Diane for her dedication and infectious energy that attracted so many participants. We would also like to express our appreciation for the contribution made by Sarah Liu, who led the healthy Qigong sessions throughout Term 2 and Term 3.



Conclusion and Acknowledgements Last year ended with our traditional Festive Feast, bringing the community together with food, entertainment, prizes, and music. It was a truly special occasion, and we thank Enya Fisher from Stronger Waitaki for her wonderful help planning and coordinating.

I would like to acknowledge Ana Tangaroa, Welcoming Communities coordinator. We have proudly supported this programme's vision of creating an inclusive community where newcomers feel seen, valued, and safe.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the contribution of our coordinator over the past year. While transitions can come with their challenges, they also offer opportunities for reflection and growth. Each coordinator has added to our journey, and we are grateful for the learning and momentum their time with us has helped create.

To the rest of our staff team – our administrator officer, event coordinator, and new community connector – thank you for your tireless work, warm presence, and contribution to making our mahi run smoothly and with heart.

Our volunteers – from the Newcomers coffee group and English conversation sessions to those setting up and cleaning after events and monthly meetings – you are the soul of this organisation. Your time and generosity are deeply appreciated.

To our Mayor Gary Kircher, thank you for your continued support and participation in our events. To all the organisations we've worked with – your collaboration and openness have made our work more impactful.

To our funders – thank you. Your support is what makes all this possible. Every programme, event, and initiative we run is thanks to your trust in us.

As I step down from the Chair role, I do so knowing that our organisation is in a healthy and vibrant place. I am incredibly proud of what we have built together and confident in what lies ahead. I remain committed to supporting the kaupapa and will continue to be part of the Waitaki Multicultural whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,

Maria Buldain





Upper Hutt Multicultural Council

Where the hiko towards Te Tiriti based multicultural New Zealand / Aotearoa began

Over the past 12 months, the Te Kaunihera Ahurei o Te Heretaunga | Upper Hutt Multicultural Council (UHMCC) has continued to foster strong partnerships with local government, schools, marae, and community organisations, alongside vibrant cultural celebrations and community initiatives that highlight the richness of Upper Hutt's diversity. From the Santa Parade to Diwali, from Huarahi Hou in schools to our growing relationship with Orongomai Marae, our mahi has created spaces where cultures are visible, respected, and celebrated.

We are humbled by the energy, and commitment of our communities, partners, and volunteers who make these achievements possible. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, Yuko Kondo and Sarah Habib, who bring strength, creativity, and aroha into every initiative. Their commitment ensures that UHMCC remains a trusted connector and advocate for our migrant, refugee, and ethnic communities across Upper Hutt. Together, we continue to build a Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa where everyone feels a sense of belonging and connection.

Below is a summary of the key impacts of our work over the past year.

1. Continued Partnership with Orongomai Marae

This year marked a significant milestone in our relationship Orongomai Marae. Key highlights include:

- Active support from the Orongomai Marae team, led by Linda Pahi, at UHMCC events. This includes Waitangi Day, Matariki, and Multicultural Festival.
- Commitment to future shared initiatives, cultural engagement, and ongoing dialogue grounded in tikanga Māori and partnership with mana whenua.

This partnership reflects UHMCC's kaupapa of Mana Ōrite – equality for all, and ensures our mahi remains anchored in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



2. Partnership with Upper Hutt City Council

The Upper Hutt Multicultural Council (UHMCC) has continued its strong and enduring partnership with Upper Hutt City Council. This year, collaboration deepened through:

- Ongoing support from Mayor Wayne Guppy and councillors in community initiatives.

- Strong partnership with the new Welcoming Communities Coordinator, Barry Gall, including developing a community profile, a new settler guide, and preparing for the Hutt Valley Refugee & Migrant Stakeholder Forum.
- Initiatives to increase refugee and migrant participation in local elections, including exploring pathways to council representation.
- Joint delivery of community projects, including the Santa Parade, Citizenship Ceremonies, Bike Recycling Project, and the Mural Project with Lagans Pharmacy.

These partnerships have strengthened UHMCC’s ability to create inclusive spaces and ensure ethnic voices are represented at local decision-making levels.



3. Collaboration with Local Schools

UHMCC has re-established and strengthened ties with local schools, recognising tamariki and rangatahi as central to Upper Hutt’s future.

Highlights include:

- Delivery of Huarahi Hou initiatives, including the cultural calendar representing 95% of students in Aotearoa.
- Hosting Huarahi Hou Multicultural Day at Maidstone Intermediate, which featured cultural performances, workshops, and kōrero celebrating global traditions.
- Active partnerships with schools such as Maidstone Intermediate, Silverstream School, Saint Joseph’s, Tōtara Park, and Fergusson Intermediate.

These collaborations have provided opportunities for students and their whānau to feel connected, valued, and celebrated within the wider community.



4. Annual Cultural Festivals

UHMCC continues to deliver another vibrant calendar of cultural celebrations, strengthening the community spirit of belonging and visibility of diverse communities:

- **Multicultural Festival 2024** at Whirinaki Whare Taonga featured performances from Vietnam, Latin America, Japan, Korea, China, and more, alongside a cultural costume exhibition and community awards.
- **Diwali Festival 2024** at Maidstone Intermediate – themed “*Come and take a trip around the world*”, showed performances from Malaysia, Japan, India, and a local kapa haka ropu.
- **Santa Parade 2024** – showcasing South Sudanese, Luo, Chinese, Thai, Lao, and Cambodian communities, giving cultural groups a sense of pride and visibility in a Kiwi tradition.
- **Lunar New Year Festival 2025** – celebrating Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Korean cultures, with special recognition of community leader Ester Fung.
- Promotion of **Tiriti-based Multicultural Day** through libraries, Parliament events, and cultural dress initiatives.



Through these festivals, UHMCC created safe and celebratory spaces for communities to share culture, build confidence, and strengthen connections.

1. Wallaceville Community Open Day

The Wallaceville Estate houses over 1,400 new families and individuals settling into Upper Hutt, seeing a prominent migrant and former refugee population. UHMCC organised an outdoor event to welcome them into the community and make sure they are connected to available services and community. This one was bigger than the last - having around 300 people show up. With a large amalgamation of local services and stalls, the community appreciated the opportunity to meet one another and connect.



Matariki

In July, we had the honour of hosting Matariki at Whirinaki Whare Taonga. The event brought together whānau, cultural groups, and local leaders in a spirit of unity and aroha.

Highlights included:

- Opening with karakia and waiata, grounding the celebration in tikanga Māori.
- A reflection station to remember loved ones who have gone before us, acknowledge the present, and envision hope for the future.
- Cultural performances from local communities, showcasing the diversity of Upper Hutt while honouring the mātauranga Māori at the heart of Matariki.
- Shared kai and community gathering, providing space for people to connect and strengthen relationships across cultures.

The event was warmly received and reflected UHMCC's commitment to walking alongside mana whenua, ensuring that Matariki is recognised not only as a public holiday but also as a meaningful opportunity for cultural exchange, reflection, and community building.



Our Executive Committee for the year

President: Pancha Narayanan

Vice president: Kannan Alagappan

Secretary: Sanket Palshikar

Treasurer: Paul Owaci

Executive Committee: Anthony Tebbutt, Summer Jiang, Margaret John, Bex Cahrlton-Weedy



**A big thank you to the UHMCC whanau, the wider community whanau,
and our other supporters.**



Te Tai Poutini West Coast Multicultural Council

The West Coast MC has grown as an organisation during the last 12 months. To achieve our goals and support our mahi, we have focussed on administrative tasks including submitting fund applications, reporting results at the end of the term for grants, preparing for the AGM, and working on our Constitution. As well as managing our records and keeping up to date, we are also building systems and workflows to allow us to communicate on time and work efficiently.



Collage of photos from Westland's Multicultural Festival

We have now established computer systems, and our branding is up to date and available for our committee members. This will always be a work in progress and a learning curve, because

although each one of us brings expertise, knowledge, and lived experience to this group, we needed to clarify our member responsibilities, and the part each one plays in this team. Other tasks that illustrate this core work are file management (membership forms, contacts, form applications, email signatures and photo management). Setting up new Microsoft email accounts, synchronising and consolidating contacts from multiple mobile phones and email accounts, printing and distributing event posters using Canva as a design tool, are some of the tasks we are coming to terms with as a new Multicultural Council.

Marketing and Communications

We have improved our Communication Strategy. The Chair and Coordinator roles have access to our Facebook account. We decided to post not only information about coming events but any information relevant to the public about different topics such as, Emergency Services, health and wellbeing, family violence, elder abuse, and legal services available in the West Coast. We know that newcomers read our Facebook posts but may not always want to engage on a personal level to address their information needs. Our goal is to support newcomers in the way that best suits them. We communicate via calls, text messages, Messenger, WhatsApp, Facebook, as well as through local newspaper campaigns. We coordinate with local community members to organise and identify people in photos and in preparing information for events. We also run an advertising campaign with the local newspapers in Greymouth and Hokitika. We need to improve old-fashioned communication, through leaflets and posters displayed in shop windows and local community noticeboards.

Membership

We keep track of our members using a Microsoft Form and with paper registration forms and are pleased to report that our membership continues to increase.

Events between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025

A total of 29 events included: -

- **Newcomer's coffee mornings:** Twenty-two (22) coffee mornings or Café Connect every month except November. This monthly event is held in Greymouth and Hokitika on the second or third Thursday and Friday of each month at 10:30 am. We choose a different coffee shop every time. In Greymouth we supported the Regent Theatre fundraising campaign. In Hokitika we supported the Stone Oven Bakery (a shop run by newcomers which supports other newcomers needing a job) during the Pink Ribbon campaign. An average of 3 to 10 people join us each month. Normally, attendance is from New Zealand newcomers and locals. The expectation is to support recent immigrants in town and share information and stories about life in the West Coast. This is a relevant social gathering for people who attend regularly. We have had special guests join, including the West Coast Maori Wardens and a nurse practitioner who shared information about cervical screening
- **Diwali:** The Diwali celebration took place in September 2024. 150 people joined us and enjoyed food and performances organised by the local Indian and Fiji-Indian communities of Greymouth and Hokitika. We had great feedback from people who came along. They appreciated learning about the significance of Diwali and what it symbolizes. They loved our young MCs from John Paul High School, as well as the children's performance and the dances, food, colourful dress and cultural costumes were breath-taking.
- **Mawhera Ethnic Fair:** Held in Greymouth's Townsquare in November 2024, an estimated 150 people enjoyed the day. We had three craft stalls, eleven food stalls, and eight performances for different ethnic communities, including locals and New Zealanders,

Chinese, Filipino, Brazilian, Indian, Fiji-Indian and South Africans, among others. The West Coast Maori Wardens joined and supported us during the day.

- **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea:** On May 10, 2025, 15 ladies attended the Regent Theatre. We were joined by the nurse practitioner Nyoli Waghorn-Rogatski from Te Whato Ora, who came along to talk about cervical screening.
- **Hokitika Multicultural Festival:** An estimated 80 people enjoyed this event. The festival took place on Saturday May 31, 2025, during the King's Birthday long weekend. Colorful performances from Indian classical dancers, Scottish dancers, and the fascinating Tribal Belly Dancers showcased the richness of the cultures now part of our community. The Filipino children captivated everyone with their joyful energy, drawing smiles and applause from the public. Each act offered a brief but meaningful glimpse into the cultural roots and significance behind each performance, creating an atmosphere of curiosity, connection, and respect. The Tribal Belly Dancers joined the Filipino children for their final dance. Visitors enjoyed a culinary tour of the world, with food stalls offering Irish stews, Brazilian treats, German desserts, South African and other flavors, and including crowd favorites' from the Filipino and Chinese communities.



Local culturally relevant celebrations. We have supported a range of celebrations for different ethnic groups throughout the year: These include: -

- South African Heritage Day celebration in September 2024 was organised by our local South African community. We also supported two smaller gatherings where

the South African community came together to share and celebrate their food, music, language, and culture. The last one, the South African Hobo Sökkie took place on Saturday May 24, 2025, at Cameron Hall.

- Chinese Lunar New Year involved a traditional dinner at the East Eats restaurant in Hokitika. A vegetarian menu was available upon request, and twenty locals and newcomers enjoyed the event.
- Supporting local business, we enjoyed connecting with Lions Club of Hokitika, Boatshed Café, and local Councilors.
- Filipino Information Day (May, 2025).
- For Children's Day, we held a Picnic at Dixon Park. Although it was a small event, it was a great day for members of our committee to connect in a relaxing manner. The barbecue was great and an opportunity to reflect on our mahi, achievements and opportunities.

We planned for an International Food section at the Cool Little Market on Easter Saturday 19/04/2025. However, due to an unfriendly weather forecast we had to cancel and plan to reschedule for September 2025.

Networking and Future Plans

During this last year we have grown our connections within our local community. Cooperation with Family Start West Coast/Buller has been essential for this. In Westport we engaged with Homebuilders and the Kawatiri Family Harm Violence Prevention network to explore mutual support and coordinate efforts in supporting the migrant communities in Westport. In Greymouth we have established a reciprocally supportive relationship with the Te Rito Family Harm Violence network.

We met with the Health and Disability Advocacy group and brainstormed future support to the West Coast Multicultural Council. This includes considering opportunities for organising informative talks as we did in the past, covering health-related topics, wellbeing, legal rights within the health system, emergency services and training for natural disasters. We also discussed organising one event with several speakers. We attended the Ahaura Health Day with Family Start on September 25, 2024, which allowed us to share information about what we do and explore future collaboration opportunities.

We are currently working on a common agenda with the Community Engagement Team from the Electoral Commission, who are keen to coordinate meetings with newcomers, especially immigrants, in Greymouth and Hokitika. The aim is to talk about voting right in New Zealand, general and local elections, enrolment, general and Māori electoral rolls. This includes how to represent the local community, the importance of unpublished electoral rolls (which can help protect people whose safety is at risk, for example, through family violence). We attend important community organisations forums in the region such as the Active West Coast forum, Safer Westland and the Te Tai o Poutini Food Security Network.

Other groups where we continue building existing connections include Women's Institute, the Tu Kaha komiti supporting the Waitangi and Matariki celebrations, Lion's Club of Hokitika, Cool Little Market in Hokitika and its members, WestReap to strengthen our collaboration and support of ESOL students by funding enrolment and Westland Highschool to share what we do and our event calendar.

We are especially grateful for the support of Kate Dumitri, Events Coordinator at Grey District Council, who has promoted our events and connected us with council networks. Through the Welcoming Communities programme and Community Services Manager Markus Watters, Westland District Council has also played a vital role in supporting our events and strengthening ties with locals, newcomers, and community groups in Hokitika.



Tauranga Regional Multicultural Council

Celebrating 30 Years of Connection, Advocacy, and Empowerment

This report reflects the collective efforts of our volunteers, community leaders, iwi partners, and supporters across the Western Bay of Plenty. United by a shared vision of diversity and belonging, we've deepened partnerships, strengthened outreach, and advanced the wellbeing of our migrant communities. Our mahi aligns with four key pillars: Community Celebrations & Engagement, Information & Advocacy, Partnership & Collaboration, and Migrant Empowerment.

1. Community Celebrations & Engagement

Multicultural Gala Dinner

To mark 30 years of service, we hosted a Gala Dinner on 30 August 2024 at Classic Flyers, coinciding with Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day. The event brought together current and former members, community leaders, local MPs, and council representatives to honor our journey of cultural connection and collective achievement.



Multicultural Gala Dinner

26th Multicultural Festival

Held at The Historic Village (22 March 2025), the festival drew over 5,000 attendees. With 35 cultural performances, 32 food stalls, 15 craft vendors, and 12 service providers, it was a powerful display of diversity. The Parade of Nations, Fabric of Discovery exhibition and a live music workshop at The Jam Factory were key highlights.

Multicultural Picnic

Celebrated during Welcoming Week, this event welcomed over 250 attendees. Supported by Filipino, Czech, and Latin communities, it offered family-friendly fun and helped foster new connections among recent migrant families.

3rd Migrant Pōwhiri

In partnership with Ngāi Te Rangi, we welcomed over 350 migrants at Opopoti Marae. The day featured kapa haka, weaving, poi making, and performances by migrant groups showcasing their heritage through song, dance, and native language speeches.



3rd Migrant Powhiri

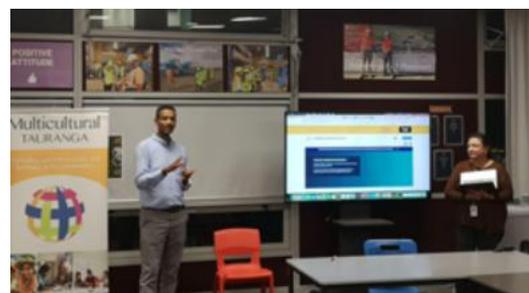
2. Information & Advocacy

Meet the Mayoral Candidates

In June 2024, we co-hosted a forum at the University of Waikato with the Pacific Island Communities Trust. Ten candidates presented their vision for Tauranga to a migrant-focused audience. Youth ambassadors led engaging discussions, with community input from the NZ China Friendship Society and Filipino Society.

Community Learning Hub

In collaboration with Pāpāmoa College and the Ministry of Education, we launched a 6-part workshop series for migrant parents. These sessions provide guidance on navigating the NZ education system and helped to foster parental confidence and school engagement.



Community Learning Hub

3. Partnership & Collaboration

Migrant Workplace Communication Training

Partnering with Speech NZ, we launched a speaking and workplace communication course for migrants. Tutors Pieter de Zwart and Niall Baker have been delivering high-quality, in-person and online sessions. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants reporting improved confidence and communication skills.

Women's Wellbeing Programme

Led by Prathima Rao and Melissa Hayes, this programme empowered migrant women through guided sessions focused on navigating life in Aotearoa and accessing local services. Participants are now co-creating a Multicultural Storybook, showcasing children's stories from around the world.

4. Empowerment of Migrants

Through all our events and initiatives, we continue to centre the voice of migrants -providing opportunities to lead, share culture, access resources, and build meaningful connections in their new home. Our journey forward is one of unity through diversity, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and championing inclusion across all our mahi.



Taupo Multicultural Community Council

The past year seems to have “flown by” so quickly. We are slowly establishing our presence in our community.

Through a grant received from The Taupo District Council we have been able to purchase office equipment and supplies, so we now have the means to keep our data in one space. We are seeking a small office space to operate from, which will be run by volunteers with the support of our committee.



Working alongside Neighbourhood Support and Age Concern Taupo we are gathering information of the where-abouts of older migrants in our community – we will then work towards setting-up opportunities for them to connect socially and be part of activities targeted for their age group.

We have also arranged with Central Plateau REAP to provide English language lessons and are in the process of contacting Social Service Groups in our area to inform them of our existence.

Our committee has spent a lot of time organising social events during the past year and we were pleased to see attendee numbers increase at every event. Going forward, we will also support different events being celebrated by other groups in our community.



Me te whakaaro nui – With kind thoughts

Valarie Hoogerbrugge QSM JP (retired)
Chairperson



Taranaki Multiethnic Council Inc.

Haere mai! and Welcome,

We held about 15 general meetings including many extravaganza meetings. Many thanks to the Vice President Natty, who stepped in to do the secretarial duties after the secretary stepped down. Also, for organising stage performances and all who assisted her on and off the stage, on the day.

Thanks to David Ban, executives and members who helped with the Chamber Concert which was held at the St Joseph's church hall. It was well received by the attendees and many suggested that we should make it a yearly function.

One of the Past Presidents had made a commitment to help with the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Ethnic Business Owners' Forum to understand their issues and possibly find solutions. Though this is not TMEC's mission or area of operations we agreed to honor it this time. As Chamber is better equipped to provide advice on business practices, also aligning more closely with its mission, our executives Olena and Gordon were keen to get involved in this forum. Hopefully there was some tangible outcome from their involvement in this forum.

The highlight of the year was a very successful Cultural Multiethnic Extravaganza held on the 8 March 2025. I wish to thank all those members, stakeholders & associated friends who helped & are too numerous to mention.

Specifically, I wish to mention the organising committee & coordinators Hiran Fernando, Ian Jackson (Parade), Bevinda Dias (Treasurer) and Natalie Fernandes (event coordinators, & entertainment), Geetha Kutty (Arts & Crafts), Olena and Ali



for media, Gordon for waste management, Carol for liaising with Racing club, June for manning the information desk and other volunteers.



We did not have anyone to do Food Stalls, so I stepped in and took up that role. Our huge appreciation and thanks to our service providers, the Maori Wardens, Rotary Club, JRI Insurance and others.

TMEC and NP Raceway hit a roadblock as the Raceway had to bring forward a Raceday which fell on the planned Extravaganza Day. In the end both agreed to do a combined Extravaganza and named the Race as the Multiethnic Race which took place at the same time and TMEC collaborated with Raceway staff to make both a grand success. TMEC was given the privilege to name the races and the event was advertised in the race books as well. Approximately more than 7000 people attended the combined event.

The Street Parade was a vibrant centerpiece of the event, showcasing a colourful celebration of global cultures. Participants donned traditional attire from their countries of origin, proudly carried national flags, and enlivened the atmosphere with their unique ethnic music, creating a joyful and inclusive display of heritage. The Raceway event offered a vibrant celebration of culture, featuring stage performances showcasing diverse dance and music traditions. Families

enjoyed a festive atmosphere with art and craft stalls, henna designs, flax weaving, a magic show, and a lively bouncy castle, making it a hit for all ages.

The Vibrant Street Parade



Despite limited grants, modest membership contributions, and event-day collections, TMEC managed to cover the extravaganza expenses through a reasonable reserve and sponsor support - though funding fell short of expectations.

We attended Eid function on invitation from New Plymouth Pakistan Association and wished them well.

Thanks to Natalie Fernandes for dealing with all the tasks of funding applications and chasing up status of the applications even during her difficult health issues.

We have booked the NP Raceway for Extravaganza on 7 March 2026. With changes to the NP Raceway grandstand and the field layout we will be engaging with them after July to start planning for next year.

The membership is again rebuilding & the Society has again active members prepared to help & assist. Let us Build Bridges of Friendship & keep going forward together.

Finally, I would like to thank our Sponsors, TOI Foundation, Lottery Grants, We Care Trust, NZCT and NPDC for their grants. I would like to thank the Art & craft stall holders, food stall holders, Children's entertainment providers, NP Raceway staff and people of Taranaki who attended the event which made it a success.





Tairāwhiti Multicultural Council

“Kua tawhiti kē to haerenga mai, kia kore e haere tonu. He nui rawa o mahi, kia kore e mahi tonu.”*We have come too far not to go further, and we have done too much not to do more.”*

The past year has been an extraordinary period of growth, engagement, and community-building for the Tairawhiti Multicultural Council (TMC) and its flagship "Opportunities Without Discrimination" (OWD) projects. Through a diverse array of initiatives, events, and community services, the Council has solidified its role as a pivotal organization fostering inclusivity, cultural understanding, and social cohesion within the Tairawhiti region. This report highlights the key achievements and contributions of TMC and OWD projects over the year, emphasizing their extensive reach, collaborative efforts, and the profound positive impact they have had on the community. Through the efforts of many volunteers, we have delivered the following. One of the highlights was launching a book about migrants which is still being complimented by people we meet due to its popularity. <https://indd.adobe.com/view/0f27d34f-0795-451b-b96e-ad1cb1df2be7>



A Year of Vibrant Cultural Celebrations and Community Engagement

One of the most notable aspects of this year was the successful organization of numerous cultural events that brought thousands of community members together. The annual Colour Run, a vibrant and inclusive event, attracted over 1000 participants from diverse backgrounds. It not only promoted health and wellness but also celebrated unity through a splash of colour and joy, exemplifying the spirit of multiculturalism.

The multicultural Women's Day celebrations and Teej festival for Punjabi women further showcased the richness of diversity within Tairawhiti. These events provided platforms for women from different cultural backgrounds to connect, share experiences, and celebrate their

heritage. The Palaro Sa Gisborne, a Filipino traditional games festival, introduced local residents to Filipino culture and fostered intercultural understanding, while the Fiji Day celebrations highlighted Pacific Islander heritage and fostered pride among community members.

Participation in the Pasifika Festival, a major regional event, was also a highlight, with the Council actively engaging with broader Pacific communities and showcasing Pacific cultures through performances, food stalls, and cultural displays.



The Opening of the Multicultural Hub: A Landmark Achievement

A significant milestone for the Tairāwhiti Multicultural Council was the opening of the Multicultural Hub, a dedicated community space that has quickly become the heart of multicultural activity in the region. The Hub offers free access to community yoga classes, Tai Chi sessions, educational workshops, meetings, and various support services. Its establishment has provided a vital venue for community connection, learning, and empowerment.

The Hub's versatile facilities have enabled a wide range of activities, including language classes, cultural celebrations, and support groups, thereby strengthening community bonds. Its accessibility and inclusive environment have made it a popular destination for people of all ages and backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual respect. We have committed to keeping the venue free for all community groups for two years which means that the executive work tirelessly behind the scenes to secure funding for project to be sustainable.

Leadership in Social Issues: Addressing Family Violence

This year also marked the successful leadership of the Council and OWD projects in tackling sensitive social issues, notably a 12-month family violence prevention initiative. This project aimed to raise awareness, provide support services, and promote healthier family dynamics within multicultural families. Through engaging workshops, community outreach, and collaborations with local agencies, the initiative has contributed to reducing stigma and fostering safer family environments.

Collaborative Efforts and Partnerships

The Council's collaborative approach has been central to its success. Over the year, it partnered with various community organizations, government agencies, and cultural groups to deliver impactful programs. These collaborations have amplified the reach and effectiveness of initiatives such as the Colour Run, multicultural festivals, and family violence prevention programs.

Some of the groups we work closely with are:

- Sikh Sangat Gisborne
- Gisborne Harriers Club
- Sargam Musical Group
- Gisborne Fiji Indian Collective
- Gisborne Muslim Association
- Pacific Islands Community Trust
- Gisborne Filipino Society Inc.
- Gisborne Japanese Community
- Tairawhiti Emergency Management
- Gisborne District Council
- Gisborne Volunteer Centre
- Te Poho O Rawiri Marae
- Gisborne Boys High School
- Lytton High School
- Race Unity Speech Awards – Baha'i Community
- Health New Zealand Tairawhiti Health Promotion Unit
- Gisborne Cancer Society
- Sunrise Foundation Gisborne





Humanitarian Support and International Outreach

Beyond regional activities, the Council has demonstrated a strong commitment to humanitarian efforts. The Council's has played a role in facilitating charitable initiatives that benefit communities in India, Palestine, Fiji, Indonesia, and the Solomon Islands. These efforts include fundraising, awareness campaigns, and direct support aimed at improving living conditions and promoting peace and stability in these regions.

The Impact of the Multicultural Hub

The Multicultural Hub stands out as the crowning achievement of the year. Its opening has transformed community engagement in Tairawhiti, providing a permanent, welcoming space that nurtures cultural expression and social support. The Hub's diverse programming has attracted hundreds of community members weekly, creating a vibrant tapestry of cultural exchange and mutual support.

Community yoga and Tai Chi classes have been particularly popular, promoting physical and mental well-being, especially among vulnerable populations. Education sessions on cultural awareness, language, and social services have further empowered community members, fostering resilience and self-reliance.

Conclusion: A Year of Growth, Impact, and Hope

The Tairawhiti Multicultural Council and its OWD projects have experienced a truly productive year, marked by a series of successful events, the establishment of a vital community resource, and meaningful social initiatives. Their efforts have not only celebrated the region's rich cultural diversity but also strengthened social cohesion, promoted inclusion, and supported vulnerable groups.





Rotorua Multicultural Council

Objectives and culture

- Support migrant settlement.
- Promote cultural preservation and sharing.
- Strengthen Māori–migrant relationships.
- Highlight migrant contributions.
- We work collaboratively with community and ethnic organisations to deliver a range of programmes and services.

Monthly Multicultural Lunches

Held at Rotorua Library, these lunches attract 70–120 attendees from 10–15 ethnic groups. Each month highlights a country through food, performances, and talks. The Japanese lunch with origami was especially popular.



Pink Breakfast, a fund raiser for the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, held in the Gandhi Hall of the Rotorua Indian Association. The Indian Ethnic Champion for the family violence prevention programme of the Rotorua Multicultural Council gave a talk about support available to victims.

Women's Wellbeing Programme

Since 2019 (paused during COVID-19), participants have visited key community sites such as the Police Station, Rotorua Hospital, CAB, marae, Whakarewarewa forest, and the Arts Village.

Professional Speaking for Migrants

Funded by Mokoia Community Association, this course has run for 13 years. Participants gain confidence and a Speech NZ Certificate. In 2024–25, students came from nine countries.

Family & Community Events

- Family trips, including to Paradise Valley Springs.
- Citizenship ceremonies where RMC represents the community.
- Choir workshops with Te Arawa elders and the Rotorua District Choir.
- In the Tamatekapua meeting house in Ohinemutu, Emeritus Professor Ngahua Te Awekotuko gave a talk about the carvings which portray her ancestors. Her presentation was followed by a choir singing workshop led by Jenna Nanako.



Employment & Settlement Support

Seminars cover CV writing, job interviews, tenants' rights, childcare, and emergency planning. Partners include Rotorua Lakes Council, CAB, English Language Partners, Police, and others.

Festivals & Celebrations

- **Latin American Fiesta** (Jan 2025) at the Night Market showcased crafts, music, and food.
- **Waitangi Day 2025** at Wai Ariki Spa featured ethnic stalls, cooking demos, and the Parade of Nations.



Sri Lankan Food at Waitangi Day

Sports Engagement

Events included the Police Multicultural Tennis Tournament, football and badminton leagues, and Falcons volleyball teams. A family bowling night was a highlight.



Rotorua Falcons men and women's volleyball teams showing the Rotorua Multicultural Council logo on their sleeves





Youth & Student Support

- Rotorua Museum Youth Group’s “Connecting Cultures” event featured RMC performers.
- Workshops with Family Focus and Police addressed migrant barriers in seeking help.
- Orientation and cultural support for international students at Toi Ohomai, including mentoring and assessments.

Promotion & Community Presence



RMC reaches 4,700+ followers via Facebook and email. We also present at Rotary Clubs, community conferences, and service provider workshops.

Our Culture Our Pride booklets at the RMCC stall at the Connecting Youth Cultures event in the Rotorua Library Te Aka Mauri.

Acknowledgements

Expenses rose 50% in 2023/24 due to MSD family violence funding. We thank Rotorua Lakes Council, BayTrust, Lottery Grants, Mokoia Community Association, and other funders. Special thanks to staff: Yumiko Kawano, Leidy Monsalves, and Valeria Liaskovskaia, and our Executive Committee:

- President: Dr Margriet Theron ONZM (South Africa)
- Vice-President: Hari Chhagan (India)
- Treasurer: Ashley Perera (Sri Lanka)
- Secretary: Emire Khan Malak (Te Arawa)

Dr Margriet Theron ONZM

President, Rotorua Multicultural Council



Multicultural Council of Rangitikei-Whanganui Inc

The past year has moved quickly, and with it has come another opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved in our communities. None of this work would be possible without the support of our funders and partners such as Lotteries, COGS, the Community Foundation, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, our District Councils, and Creative Communities whose backing enables us to serve and respond to the needs around us.

Our calendar has been full of public events and, equally importantly, with the quiet work of helping new migrants settle into life in Aotearoa. This spirit of care and solidarity continues to define who we are and what we stand for.

Feast and Festival 2024

This was a beautiful evening with a range of ethnic food stalls where every one of them ran out of food. Once again, we had a great turnout in Rangitikei, a country town of Marton. Our community loves the feasting and multicultural entertainment that follows. At the end of the show people enjoy open-floor dancing and the hilarity that goes with it.



Christmas Potluck

Get together just before Christmas holidays give us a great opportunity to thank the community for their hard work. For this event we invited newcomers who had a great time and getting to know other people and our committee. We take advantage of this occasion to hand out Community Services Awards that we get from MNZ. This gives incentives to the onlookers and interested volunteers to get involved. It is nice to get together and farewell the year hoping for prosperity for all and acknowledging the contribution by newcomers.

Picnic in the Park

Another yearly event that provides sausage sizzle and games for everyone. This event encourages the community to get together and have a happy start of the new year. Every year more people join in for kai and fun activities.



Beach Clean-up

This is one of our events as the guardians of the environment. This year we collected almost 700kg of rubbish, most of it recyclable (beer bottles and cans). Recycling centre provides us with recycling bins to store the items collected and later taken up the centre. There was a competition for the highest collectors. We also provided the collectors with sausages sizzles and drinks for lunch. This year also got some ice blocks which everyone enjoyed. We would like to thank Suzuki for their generosity which covers the cost of the whole event the recycling centre for their input which is helpful.



Race Unity Week Workshops over 5 days from Monday to Friday with demonstration of Culture, Art and Craft.

This is the star of all our events where about a hundred (100) people participate. That included making fascinator, guard painting, artwork by the museum on Maori printing from nature, dancing with Chiro, drumming with Whanganui drummers. This time all our activities were to do with environmentally safe like eco dyeing and using plant-based dyeing for all the activities.



Puanga/Matariki

We had a very nice get together for Puanga as it is known in Whanganui or Matariki in other parts of Aotearoa. It wasn't the greatest of the evening as it was wet, cold and miserable evening so we took it inside and had a great korero from the Whanganui Museum staff giving us an insight of what Matariki is all about. We had a lovely, shared Kai as potluck though.

Seniors

We meet every week where we have series of games, storytelling, jokes, simple exercises and visiting new places. We have other visits like going to cafes or take a long drive to Bulls/Sanson for Cream Horns (unique to this country) visited the Parliament, ski fields and many more. Our next plan is a visit to Rotorua and the mud pools. All the seniors look forward to Thursday's get together.



Newcomers Network

We meet regularly with newcomers for informal chats and get together which helps us understand their needs how we can support or help them.

Youth

We have a group of young girls (mainly new migrants) who would like to get together to share their stories and I am making it a bit more formal so that they can develop leadership skills which their parents want to encourage. These young ladies are also a part of Zine Fest where young people share their stories in pictorial form. Some of them are great artists. I also took an opportunity to take some young people to Race Unity Speech competition in Auckland. They were really inspired by the speakers and the national level championship.

Events that we supported or are a part of for collaboration

Welcoming Communities, District councils - Rangitikei & Whanganui, La Fiestas & Winter Fest with Women's network, Korean community & Games Day club, Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness and fire services, Sri Lankan Cricket & new year's club, Whanganui Drummers, Lotus Indian group, Chinese culture club, Filipino cultural club for activities, Festival of Cultural Unity, Heritage Food Crop Research Trust, Zine Fest (Youth event), Cancer society & Relay for life and Adult learners' week, to name some of the organisation we work with and support each other.



It doesn't stop there. I spend hours working with individuals, counselling, working/collecting necessities for migrant families, supporting family violence cases, teaching English, driving test and many more. I also provide transport to pick up and drop where they need to go and any other support which migrants request for.

There are uncountable number hours put in volunteer work that we provide on our own accord as it's very important and difficult to say no for example hospital visits, working with schools, translation services, providing transport and so on.



Adult learners Week activity: Demonstrating how to make samosas



Porirua Multicultural Council

The Porirua Multicultural Council (PMC) experienced a period of growth and strategic evolution from 2024 to 2025, marked by significant operational adjustments, continued community engagement, and the initiation of new projects aimed at fostering inclusion and celebrating diversity in Porirua.

Overview

Founded in 2018, PMC operates as a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting migrants, former refugees, and newcomers settling in the Porirua region. PMC prides itself on the city's growing diversity and is committed to ensuring that individuals from all ethnicities feel welcomed and can actively participate in the community. The organisation's core values include unity, anti-racism, empowerment, and peace.

PMC is a Te Tiriti-based kaupapa that aims to support, amplify, and advocate for multiculturalism in Porirua by creating connections and opportunities for diverse communities. Despite challenges in the post-COVID environment, PMC has demonstrated resilience, effectively representing and supporting its diverse communities by maximising its resources.

Summary of Events

Annual General Meeting



In 2024, PMC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and welcomed a brand-new executive team. A Special General Meeting in December saw the election of a new President and Vice President. The newly elected Board brings together a wealth of skills and experiences, and we are excited to see the continued growth and impact of PMC under their leadership.

Learn to Code with FUNCODE

Thank you to the FUNCODE team, six local children took part in our coding workshop. With one-on-one guidance, they explored key programming concepts such as variables and loops, using interactive videos and beginner-friendly steps. The fun, engaging format sparked curiosity and confidence in our young coders and two students proudly received certificates recognising their efforts!



Block Printing Workshop

PMC hosted a vibrant block printing workshop with Darapureddy Sneha of The Native Loom. Participants explored the traditional printing processes of Southern India, learning about natural fibres, dyes, paints, and techniques. Everyone had the chance to try out block printing and took home beautiful handmade tote bags, napkins, and greeting cards. Special thanks to Sneha for generously sharing her knowledge and passion.



Ombudsman Visit

PMC hosted a community hui with the Ombudsman to better understand their role and how they support our communities. The Ombudsman investigates complaints and ensures government agencies are held accountable. Call 0800 802 602 if you need their support.

Race Unity Speech Awards

Earlier this year, PMC President Rowena was honoured to serve as a judge for the 2025 Race Unity Speech Awards.

It is a platform amplifying the voices of rangatahi speaking out on race relations, unity, and social justice. These young speakers are the future of positive change in Aotearoa.



Multicultural Playdates

In January 2025, we had an amazing time hosting the Multicultural Playdates event as part of the *Imagine This!* Festival.

The event was a great success and a wonderful way to start the year, bringing together local Porirua community groups, the Porirua Library team, and the Welcoming Communities team.



Together, we created a warm and inclusive space for families to connect, play, and celebrate our community's rich cultural diversity.

Lunar New Year celebrations



In partnership with Porirua City Council, PMC helped deliver Lunar New Year celebrations at the Kai Tahu waterfront venue.

The event featured diverse performances, delicious food, and family-friendly activities, showcasing Porirua's vibrant multiculturalism.

Community Safety Partnership

PMC is proud to partner with Porirua Pasifika Community Patrol to enhance neighbourhood safety across the region. This collaboration strengthens relationships with ethnic communities and fosters safer, more welcoming spaces for everyone.

Outward Bound: Monica's Story

PMC, alongside PNHK Community Navigator Andrea Buckland, supported Monica (Lang) Par, a young Chin (Burmese) woman, to attend Outward Bound. Her journey was one of growth, courage, and self-discovery. Here's what Monica had to say:



"I enjoyed Outward Bound. Not everything was easy. I had to push myself, especially with sailing as I got seasick and had blisters from rowing. But I loved the solo night in the bush and the high ropes course.

I never thought I could wake up at 5:30 AM! Before, I'd give up when things got hard, but now I push through. If anyone's thinking about going, I'd say go for it! Thank you to PMC for helping people like me get this opportunity."

Well done Monica, you are an inspiration to many! Thank you to Andrea and PNHK for your continued partnership in empowering young people.

Matariki 2025 Celebrations

To honour Matariki, PMC hosted a free weaving workshop on June 19 at the City Hub, led by Ōtari Raranga Weavers. Attendees learned to make putiputi (flax flowers), shared stories, and enjoyed kai. Many thanks to Porirua City Council and Mayor Anita Baker.



PMC also joined the community on June 21 at Te Rauparaha Arena for the Porirua Matariki Festival, an uplifting celebration of unity, reflection, storytelling, performances, and whānau.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the incredible contributions of past PMC Presidents and committee members, who's leadership has shaped who we are today.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, community partners, and funders whose support and aroha make our work possible!



Nelson Tasman Multicultural Council



Felicity Palmer
Chair, Multicultural Nelson Tasman

2024 marked 30 years of Multicultural Nelson Tasman serving and empowering people of diverse ethnic backgrounds, making MNT one of the longest-standing multicultural organisations in Aotearoa. One of the year's highlights was the move to the new Multicultural Centre at 544 Waimea Road, a long-held community dream made possible through the generous support of Nick and Linley Smith.

Since its opening, the Centre has been warmly embraced as a place for connection, celebration, and learning, providing a fitting venue for MNT's 30th birthday celebration.

MNT's impact in Motueka also grew this year, with more volunteers and participation in workshops, events, and free English classes. These gatherings built friendships and strengthened understanding of the diverse stories and backgrounds that enrich Te Tai o Aorere. Special thanks to Sez Fyfe for shepherding this growing presence in the region.

The Shared Communities Initiative, delivered in partnership with Make/Shift Spaces, Arts Council Nelson, and Nelson City Council, was another highlight of 2024. This initiative empowered local communities to lead arts, culture, and heritage projects that mattered most to them, including festivals, films, workshops, exhibitions, and performances. Thanks to Karolina Serrano for providing dedicated support to community leaders and helping bring these projects to life.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of MNT's staff, including Anna Fyfe, Ramiesha Perera, and Norma Sequera (who is based at Victory Community Centre), and the commitment of MNT's volunteers. Gratitude also goes to the many funders, partners, and community members whose support enables this important work to continue.

Highlights and Reach

- In 2024, with funding from Health NZ – Te Whatu Ora, we partnered with Victory Community Centre and the Primary AOD Service to create 15 short videos in five languages. Based on community insights, the videos addressed alcohol-related harm, including family impact, legal issues, and addiction, using gentle illustrations and accessible messaging.



Our Kai and Kōrero sessions brought people together to share food, stories, and connection. Over the year, we explored the rich culinary traditions of **Peru, Malaysia, and Palestine**, with local community members generously offering not only their dishes, but also their personal stories of migration, identity, and belonging. These gatherings fostered intercultural understanding and celebrated the depth and diversity of our communities—one plate at a time.

- We joined forces with Nelson Tasman Pasifika Community Trust to organise a free information session with the NZ Ombudsman’s Office. The session helped demystify the role of the Ombudsman and how the office supports fairness and accountability in government services—an important step in empowering our communities.

In November, we piloted a **“Starting Your Own Business”** workshop to support migrants and former refugees in exploring self-employment. The session provided inspiration, practical insights, and real-life success stories—empowering participants to take confident first steps toward their business dreams.



Our activities in Motueka:

- Our four Migration Stories series at Te Noninga Kumu – Motueka Library gave migrants a platform to share their journeys with others.
- Over the year, we hosted **four multicultural potluck events**, where people of all backgrounds came together to share food and culture. These gatherings fostered connection and mutual understanding in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere, bringing neighbours and newer community members together around a shared table.
- We also celebrated Chinese Language Week and Diwali with inclusive events at Te Noninga Kumu Motueka Library that explored language, food, and culture.
- In December, we welcomed Noraini Milne and her powerful project 51 Threads to Motueka. Created in response to the Christchurch Mosque attacks, the project uses hand embroidery to support healing and reflection. Noraini, who lost her son Sayyad in the tragedy, stitched her own prayer garment with a verse from the Quran—an act that inspired others to share words like hope, peace, and kindness through thread.



In August, we launched **free Conversational/Social English** classes for migrants ineligible for other funded ESOL services. Held weekly on Saturdays out of the St Thomas Parish venue, the classes quickly became a supportive space for language learning, confidence-building, and connection—thanks to the dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

Other activities:

MNT representatives and staff actively strengthened multicultural inclusion and Te Tiriti-based communities throughout the year:

- **14 Citizenship Ceremonies** attended across Nelson City Council and Tasman District.
- Participated in **monthly international student meetings** at Te Pūkenga–NMIT.
- Engaged in **Refugee Alliance** meetings and the **National Refugee Resettlement Forum**.
- Co-governed the **Migrant and Former Refugee Community Navigator** role in partnership with Victory Community Centre and English Language Partners.
- Collaborated with the Police and Community Law to deliver **hate crime prevention workshops** in local high schools.
- Served as secretariat and coordinator for seven **Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum** meetings.
- Provided **fund-holding and capacity building for eight refugee and migrant community projects**, enabling access to external funding.
- Contributed to the **Wellby Steering Group** to strengthen social connection initiatives.
- Advocated for community needs through **ongoing submissions and advocacy** during regional Long Term Plan consultations.

Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman (MYNT) is a youth-led collective that empowers young people from migrant, former refugee, and multicultural backgrounds to thrive, lead, and contribute to their communities. We provide a safe, inclusive space where young people can connect, develop leadership skills, and celebrate their cultural identities while strengthening their sense of belonging in Aotearoa.

Throughout the year, MYNT has delivered **youth-led events, leadership development activities, and cultural celebrations**, creating opportunities for young people to have a voice on issues that matter to them. Our members have contributed to local youth councils, led cross-cultural workshops in schools, and participated in regional and national youth hui, building confidence and connection.

MYNT is proudly supported by Multicultural Nelson Tasman, which provides governance, mentoring, and operational support to ensure youth voices continue to shape our communities positively.



Voices of the MYNTies

“I first joined MYNT when I was 15 years old. I had just moved to Nelson and was feeling very out of place and like I didn't belong. MYNT became not only a safe space, but also a place where all of my closest friendships formed, and an opportunity for me to show leadership and to help make Nelson better and more welcoming than I found it. I am now one of the co-chairs of our youth group and I honestly couldn't be prouder of the work we've done for our community.” (Avalon Myer)

“Being part of MYNT has honestly changed my life. It’s given me the chance to connect with people from all over, from different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences right here in Whakatū. Every event has been a chance to learn, listen, and try something new, whether it’s food, music, dance, or just hearing someone’s story. What makes it so special is seeing everyone proudly share where they come from. Being part of this has shown me how powerful it is to celebrate our roots and keep our cultures alive, not just for ourselves, but for the generations to come. We’re building something meaningful, one small step at a time, for a more inclusive future.” (David Mangar)



MYNT 2024 - STATS AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>26 Group Meetings Held</p>  | <p>12 community events supported through volunteering</p>  | <p>100+ youth attended MYNT's Nelson and Richmond Movie Nights</p>  |
| <p>3 MYNT Members joined the Nelson Youth Council</p>  | <p>1 regional youth hui attended (Top of the South Youth Council)</p>  | <p>30 cultures represented in the Nelson Masked Parade</p>  |
| <p>13 youth-led radio shows aired on FreshFM</p>  | <p>4 creative projects/ events contributed to</p>  | <p>1 climate action workshop (Fresk)</p>  |
| <p>2 Group bonding sessions</p>  | <p>Ongoing: youth peer support and cultural advocacy in schools and communities</p>  | |

Shared Communities Initiative



From January to December 2024, the Shared Communities initiative — a collaboration between MNT, Nelson City Council, Make/Shift Spaces, and the Arts Council Nelson — supported **54 community-led projects**, reflecting the vibrant multicultural landscape of Whakatū Nelson.

Through performances, festivals, workshops, and more, we empowered communities to lead, share, and sustain their own cultural initiatives. Whilst the formal funding from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage ended on 30 June 2024, support from the Lotteries Community Fund and Rātā Foundation has enabled us to continue the project and the vital **Cultural Navigator** role.



Murihuku Multicultural Council

Murihuku Highlights

Another successful Noho Marae was organised by Multicultural New Zealand during the weekend of 22-23 June 2024 at Waihōpai Rūnaka - Murihuku Marae (Invercargill). MNZ President Pancha Narayanan thanked the Māori elders for their warm welcome and for being available throughout.



Invercargill Filipino Dance Group participation at Murihuku Marae during the Noho Event

The Noho Marae is a unique experience that offers participants an opportunity to immerse themselves in Māori culture, traditions, and values. It is a gathering where people from diverse backgrounds come together to live, learn, and share under the guidance of Tangata Whenua. This event is designed to foster understanding, respect, and unity among different communities.

Over the weekend, attendees participated in various activities including traditional Māori welcoming ceremonies (pōwhiri), storytelling sessions, and workshops on Māori customs and language (te reo Māori). These activities were led by esteemed elders and knowledgeable members of the Waihōpai Rūnaka, who generously shared their insights and experiences.

One of the highlights of the Noho was the in-depth discussions on the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi - The Treaty of Waitangi. This provided a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary relevance of the treaty, promoting a sense of shared history and commitment to partnership.

Racism education was a pivotal part of the sessions led by Māori elders during the Noho Marae. These sessions provided a profound understanding of the historical and ongoing impacts of racism in New Zealand. The elders shared personal stories and cultural teachings that highlighted the resilience of the Māori people in the face of discrimination. Through open discussions and guided reflections, participants learned about the importance of

acknowledging and addressing racial biases. This education aimed to inspire a commitment to social justice, encouraging everyone to actively contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

In his address, MNZ President Pancha Narayanan expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Māori elders for their unwavering support and for making the event a memorable and enriching experience. He highlighted the importance of such gatherings in promoting cultural exchange and mutual respect.

The event concluded with a moving *poroporoaki*, where participants expressed their thanks and reflected on the knowledge and experiences gained over the weekend. The bonds formed and the lessons learned at Noho Marae are expected to have a lasting impact on all who attended.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20 October 2024 at 839 North Rd, Lorneville, Invercargill 9876, New Zealand supported by the Wat Monks led by Monk Winay and ILT Board of Trustee, Vice President Angela Newell.



Meet & Greet Members Information Night & Q&A on 21st of June 2025, held at Invercargill Public Library, was a successful evening, hosted by Murihiku Southland District Multicultural Council and attended by members and supporters.



The Annual General Meeting was held on 20 October 2024 at 839 North Rd, Lorneville, Invercargill 9876, New Zealand supported by the Wat Monks led by Monk Winay and ILT Board of Trustee, Vice President Angela Newell.

Special Guests included Invercargill City Councillors Ria Bond and Alex Cracket, who shared valuable insights on local governance, community engagement, and upcoming initiatives. President Pancha Narayanan opened *karakia* and gave a Welcome Speech about Multicultural New Zealand.

The evening provided an open platform for dialogue, allowing members to ask questions, express concerns, and exchange ideas in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Community connections were strengthened, and the event highlighted the importance of collaboration between multicultural communities and local government.



Women's Council Team

Happy United Nations International Women's Day

– Equality, Empowerment, Integration & Welcoming Women in Southland

International Women's Day Celebration

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated globally on March 8th, is a United Nations-recognised day that honours the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It is also a powerful call to action for accelerating gender equity and empowering women in all spheres of life. Each year, this day unites communities around the world in recognition of women's rights and contributions—past, present, and future.

This year's event, proudly led by the President of the Murihiku Southland District Multicultural Council, Shelly Ballantine, served as a vibrant platform to honour the strength and resilience of women across all cultures. A special highlight of the event was the formal introduction of the newly appointed Women's Council representative, Nadesha, who was warmly welcomed by the community.

The occasion brought together women from all walks of life, reaffirming the shared commitment to equity, leadership, and support for one another. The event not only celebrated achievements but also reignited conversations around the ongoing work required to uplift every woman, everywhere.

Business Council Team Report - Fundraising



Business Council Formation and Fundraising Initiatives

Business Council was formally established under the leadership of President Shelly Ballantine. The Council was formed to foster community driven enterprise, promote collaborative leadership, and support sustainable development initiatives across Murihiku.

As part of its inaugural action plan, Mr. Nalaka Wingsenghe was officially appointed by the President Shelly Ballantine, to lead the Barbecue Food Fundraising Project. This initiative is actively supported by all current Council members, including newly inducted individuals who bring fresh energy and commitment to the team.

The ongoing fundraising project aims to generate resources to support Murihiku's sustainable development projects. These include environmental sustainability efforts, community engagement programs, and initiatives focused on long-term regional growth.

The Business Council remains committed to its vision of strengthening community led business initiatives and will continue to provide leadership, collaboration, and practical support for projects that contribute to a resilient and inclusive Murihiku.

Next Steps:

- Ongoing coordination and volunteer support for the fundraising campaign
- Allocation of funds toward selected sustainability projects
- Progress reporting and stakeholder engagement

YOUTH COUNCIL Report

Youth Leadership Support Achievement – 2025

This year, we proudly supported the successful candidacy of Ruby Maliao for the Invercargill City Youth Council. With the endorsement and guidance of President Shelly Ballantine and the collective backing of the Murihiku Southland District Multicultural Council Inc., Ruby was officially voted in as a Youth Council member.

This achievement reflects our ongoing commitment to empowering young leaders and ensuring diverse representation in civic spaces.

Other development Opportunities throughout 2025

Organised by the Multicultural New Zealand in Christchurch, a weekend Strategic Leadership and Risk Preparedness Training Seminar was held for the South Island from 2nd - 3rd August 2025 and attended by president, Shelly Ballantine.

On July 2nd, a meeting was arranged with the Police Ethnic Liaison Officer, President and the appointed Executive also attended a Regional Initiative for Ethnic Communities Empowerment (RIECE) MSDMCI Team all invited on 29th July 2025.



Marlborough Multicultural Centre

Looking ahead to our 20-Year Anniversary in 2026

The Marlborough Multicultural Centre continues to deepen its commitment to fostering a strong sense of social unity, cultural pride, and belonging across our region. Our work is grounded in the belief that diversity enriches our community, and that inclusive, collaborative, and visible leadership is key to positive transformation.

Over the past year, we've welcomed and supported individuals from over 35 nationalities, delivering a vibrant programme of events, workshops, advocacy services, and cultural initiatives tailored to the evolving needs of migrants, former refugees, newcomers, and tangata whenua.

Our mahi aligns with MMC's 2024–2027 strategic plan, guided by the principles of being professional, inclusive, sustainable, collaborative, visible, and trustworthy. As we approach our 20th anniversary in 2026, we remain committed to our long-term vision of a connected, culturally cohesive Marlborough.

Vision and Mission – Huarahi Hou

Our guiding vision, Huarahi Hou, continues to inspire our journey: to create a safe, welcoming space where people from all walks of life can connect, celebrate their cultural identities, and participate fully in the life of our region.

MMC's mission is to provide leadership and advocacy in embracing cultural diversity, particularly for vulnerable and socially disadvantaged migrants. We honour and uphold the values of E Tū Whānau, including Aroha, Whakapapa, Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Kōrero Awhi, and Tikanga, which shape every aspect of our work.

Marlborough Multicultural Festival 2025

Held in March to mark Race Relations Day, the Marlborough Multicultural Festival once again brought the community together to celebrate unity in diversity. With more than 220 performers, 68 stalls featuring food, crafts, and information, and over 4,000 attendees, this event remains one of the largest cultural festivals in Marlborough.

It showcased not only the region's vibrant cultural landscape but also MMC's role in uniting communities through celebration, collaboration, and shared experiences.

Community engagement and key events

MMC's approach to community engagement focuses on building trust, visibility, and participation. Our year-round calendar of events and public celebrations created opportunities for intercultural dialogue, education, and connection.

Highlighted events included:

- Welcoming Week – a week of community-building activities promoting inclusion and belonging.

- World Refugee Day – honouring resilience and raising awareness through shared stories and experiences.
- Pride Wairau Festival - to advocate, educate and celebrate our rainbow community.



- Diwali – A luminous celebration of Indian culture and community.
- International Languages Week – promoting linguistic diversity through interactive displays and workshops.
- Latin America & Spain Film Festival (LASFF) – screening contemporary films from Latin America and Spain, strengthening cultural ties and representation.



Other vibrant community-led events included Matariki, Colombian Independence Day, Zimbabwean Day, Chinese Language Week, Christmas in Africa, Latino Market and more.

Advocacy and Social Support Services

Our advocacy services are at the heart of MMC’s support for newcomers, migrants, and former refugees. This year, our team provided direct assistance through hundreds of face-to-face meetings, video calls, and emails, offering culturally responsive support in areas such as:

- Settlement support and orientation
- Language access and translation

- Driver licensing support
- Employment guidance (CVs, cover letters, job readiness)
- Domestic violence and elder abuse support
- Tenancy and IRD support
- Support navigating education, health, and immigration systems
- Small business start-up advice

By responding to both urgent needs and long-term aspirations, MMC plays a crucial role in empowering individuals and families to thrive.

Programmes and workshops: Learning, sharing, growing

MMC delivers and supports a range of annual programmes and workshops aimed at building skills, fostering cultural pride, and enhancing overall wellbeing. Below is a summary of our involvement:

Morning Teas: connection through conversation

Our weekly morning teas remain a cornerstone of social connection at MMC. With guest speakers and informal English practice sessions, we provide a welcoming environment for relationship-building and cross-cultural exchange. In summer our morning teas are held at Pollard Park to enjoy the sun, games for children and the park like setting while newcomers and seasonal vintage workers make new friends.

Themes throughout the year included unity week, national volunteer week, International Women’s Day, Marlborough book festival, public services such as Justice of the peace and what to do in a Civil Emergency, pink t-shirt day, among others.



Other Programmes Led by MMC

Health and Fitness Programme: MMC continues to lead a series of wellbeing-focused classes including yoga, pilates, zumba, and aqua aerobics. These classes are designed to support both the mental and physical health of participants from diverse backgrounds.

Swimming Programme: this 10-week programme teaches essential water safety and swimming skills for children and adults. With consistently high demand, the programme has been delivered successfully across four terms with excellent retention.

Programmes supported or contributed to by MMC

My Voice – My Culture: A collaborative writing and cultural expression initiative involving students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. This project is led by Welcoming Communities, with support from MMC in providing essential connections to language tutors.

My Art – My Story: An evening art course designed for newcomers, culminating in a public exhibition that highlights personal stories through creative expression. This programme is a collaborative effort between Welcoming Communities, Marlborough Art Society, and MMC, with each partner contributing to its success.

Building Toward Our 20-Year Anniversary

As we look ahead to 2026, MMC will mark 20 years of service to the community — two decades of building bridges across cultures, responding to change, and strengthening social cohesion. This milestone will be an opportunity to honour the past, celebrate our collective achievements, and envision a future where cultural diversity is fully embraced across Marlborough and Aotearoa.



The 2024–2025 year was defined by connection, resilience, and shared purpose. Through our ongoing collaboration with Welcoming Communities, community leaders, volunteers, and partner organisations, MMC continues to provide a welcoming space where all cultures are respected, heard, and celebrated.

Together, we are not only shaping a more inclusive Marlborough — we are laying the foundations for the next generation of cultural leaders and community champions.

Thank you to the entities shown hereunder for their funding support to MMC



Manawatū Multicultural Council

For 32 years, the Manawatū Multicultural Council (MMC) has been a cornerstone of cultural inclusion, community resilience, as well as migrant and refugee support in Palmerston North and the wider region. Positioned at the heart of our diverse community, MMC continues to act as a trusted first point of contact for newcomers, while providing sustained support to existing ethnic communities.

We remain deeply committed to advancing social cohesion by promoting intercultural understanding, collaboration, and equitable access to services. The MMC Centre continues to serve as a vital hub where languages are preserved, traditions are honoured, and inclusive connections are made.

Our mission is to celebrate, support, and connect the multicultural communities of Manawatū. Our vision is to be a well-resourced and influential organization, known for delivering high-quality support, building strategic partnerships, and fostering a region where newcomers feel connected and empowered to thrive. Located on Level 2 of Hancock Community House, our Centre provides FREE, accessible services that promote participation and integration for migrants, former refugees, and international students. All services are open to the public regardless of visa status.

MMC Community Group Members



MMC is proud to have 66 community groups members, representing cultures and traditions from across the globe. Our membership reflects the diversity of the Manawatū and strengthens the vision of a truly multicultural community.

Together, these groups form the heart of our network, guiding our work through their leadership, cultural insight, and active participation.

They are the reason MMC is able to deliver meaningful programmes, advocate for diverse voices, and create inclusive spaces where everyone feels they belong.

The strength of these communities is reflected not only in their cultural contributions but also in their commitment to collaboration, ensuring that MMC remains a home for all.

Partnerships and Collaborations

We worked with 150 partners throughout the year—strengthening our ability to deliver high-quality, culturally responsive services.

Our collaborators include, but not limited to:

- Government Agencies: PNCC, MSD, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Palmerston North City Library, New Zealand Police,

- Education Providers: UCOL, Massey University, IPU
- Schools, including early childhood providers, primary, intermediate and high schools in the Manawatu region and tertiary education providers.
- Community Organizations: Te Pu Harakeke, Sport Manawatu, Work bridge, Volunteer Central, St. John, Women's Refuge, Red Cross, ECCT, Multicultural New Zealand and other more.

These partnerships allow us to amplify our impact and serve more people, more meaningfully.

Regular Classes and Activities

All sessions are delivered by dedicated volunteers and coordinated by centre staff. The Centre operates Monday to Friday, 10AM–4PM. Our Centre also provides free meeting room access to member groups for language classes, community meetings, workshops, and rehearsals—supporting grassroots cultural expression and leadership development.

Enquiries and Interactions

Almost 49,000 interactions this year! Whether by email, phone, face-to-face at our office, attending an event, or using our venue—this number shows how deeply MMC is woven into the daily life of our community.

This total reflects all public and client engagements we had throughout the financial year, across all touchpoints:

- Phone calls and emails for support or information
- Walk-in support at the MMC office
- Event and workshop attendance
- MMC room bookings
- Meetings with community groups, clients, and collaborators

This is a clear signal of the community’s trust in MMC as a first point of contact for support and connection.

Language Support Groups

MMC, in collaboration with the Department of Internal Affairs, has prioritised first language preservation through community-led classes.

In total, all the language classes are attended by over 200 students monthly. We are pleased to report that 91% of our clients reported being satisfied or highly satisfied with our services, and 95% of our clients indicated feeling more connected to the wider cultural communities.

Programmes and Events



Manawatū Multicultural Council is a key centre for cultural events in the city, highlighting a vibrant mix of traditions and heritage. In a year, MMC organized and supported over 180 programmes and events including cultural celebrations, educational workshops, and community-building activities.

List of Programmes and events: Lunar New Year, Festival of Cultures, Ethkick, World Fair, Teas & Coffees of the World, Celebration of Songs & Praises, Palmy Play Festival, Diwali Mela, Christmas Parade, Language Expo, Parliament Visit, Growing Together Learning Community Hub - Delivered under the Welcoming Schools Programme, and more.

We hosted culturally themed potluck dinners most last Fridays of each month, averaging 7 dinners annually. Last year we achieved a 95% satisfaction rating from our community members for this opportunity to taste different cultural food.

Programmes for Children and Youth - Holiday Programmes and Kids' Activities

We continued efforts to coordinate a range of events and programmes targeting children and youth across multicultural communities. These opportunities aim to empower our Tamariki and Rangatahi to unlock greater possibilities for their future. Activities included: Kids Market & Global Market; Te Manawa Explore the Sunlight Exhibition, Art & Printmaking Workshop; Pop Up Play (Multicultural) and Poipoia Te Pitomata (PTP)

Learning Programme Participants



Over 7,000 individuals participated in our learning-based initiatives, aimed at building skills, knowledge, and confidence within the community.

Last year, we had almost 4,000 Learning programme participants. This big jump this year is because we had more regular classes, such as English and other classes, which are run by volunteers. More newcomers coming into the city participated in our classes and workshops.

Additionally, the Community Connectors workshops increased this year, which contributed towards an increase in participants.

- Regular classes - English classes (beginners – intermediate), Yoga, Tai Chi, Sharing Arts and Culture, Computer Class in partnership with DIGITS and other more classes.
- Educational workshops on housing, health, employment, and wellbeing
- Parenting sessions, language exchange, and youth development workshops

Translation Services

At the Manawatū Multicultural Council, we have more than 60 registered translators proficient in 50 languages to support our communities. We extend translation support to various government and non-government organizations, including Palmerston North Hospital, medical centres, the Ministry of Education, Schools and other community organizations.

We provided over 600 instances of vital translation, which supported newcomers to navigate daily life in New Zealand with greater confidence. Examples Included: Providing translations during workshops; medical appointments; school meetings and translating event posters

Strengthening the Ethnic Community Network

Leading a membership network for our cultural groups. MMC currently boasts 66 member groups. Last year, we successfully held 4 members meetings 2 constitution workshops and our Annual General Meeting (AGM). In 2024, we invited speakers and officials to address our

members, empowering them to address their own community issues. Those included PNCC's officials, Workbridge etc. Additionally, we provide regular updates and engage with our community through weekly notices and social media platforms. Presently, we have 1,959 followers on our social media page.

Community Connectors

Here at MMC, we recognize that adjusting to life in a new country is both exciting and challenging. Dedicated Community Connectors offer guidance and support to newcomers, former refugees, and migrant communities. We believe everyone should feel a sense of belonging and security as they start their new journey.

Nearly 1,000 individuals and families received direct social support through MMC. Our social services team provided: Guidance on immigration processes and requirements; Language support and interpretation; Cultural orientation and community integration; Access to legal information and referrals, to name only some of our support interactions. We aim to empower newcomers with the resources and connections they need to build a strong foundation in their new home.

The Welcoming Schools Programme

The Welcoming Schools Programme (WSP) is a key initiative of the Manawatū Multicultural Council (MMC) and promotes inclusivity and community engagement across more than twenty primary, intermediate, and secondary schools across Palmerston North. This fosters inclusive, welcoming environments for learners and families. The last financial year has seen expansion of the programme's practical support for newcomer families, strengthened school partnerships, and increased cultural visibility in learning environments. WSP provided tailored language and enrolment support for families from migrant and former refugee backgrounds in twelve languages, ensuring equitable access to learning and wellbeing services. We coordinated community mentors for events such as the PNINS First Voice showcase, where forty-three students representing twenty-four languages were supported by twenty-seven mentors.

Strong partnerships and community commitment ensure WSP continues to build a more connected and vibrant Manawatū, where every learner belongs.

Closing Statement

Manawatū Multicultural Council would like to thank the Palmerston North City Council and all Stakeholders for your continued support of the Manawatū multicultural community. Your dedication and commitment play a crucial role in fostering an environment where diversity is celebrated.

Your support has enabled numerous events, workshops, and cultural exchanges, highlighting the rich tapestry of cultures. This collaboration not only strengthens our community bonds but also enriches the lives of all residents by promoting understanding, respect, and unity. Together, we are building a more inclusive and vibrant Manawatū. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.





Hutt Multicultural Council Inc.

Introduction

Hutt Multicultural Council Inc. (HMC) has been promoting ethnic diversity, inclusiveness & social cohesion in Lower Hutt since 1987. HMC's Strategic Plan includes:

Value - Respect, Service, Diversity, Collaboration and Courage

Vision - Promoting and celebrating cultural and ethnic diversity

Mission - Leadership and Advocacy of Racial Harmony

Purpose - Advocacy, Promote & Support, Celebrate, Connect & Collaborate

This performance report is structured around the actions identified under the four purposes. The HMC Executive Committee, members, whanau, friends, supporters and volunteers all contributed to achieve the results briefly described below.

Advocacy on Racial Harmony – members attended huis, making submissions and responding to racial harmony related actions from other organisations, both government and non-government organisations to present HMC views, concerns and feedback.

HMC members regularly attended stakeholder meetings eg Hutt Valley Migrants & Former Refugee Forums.

Members also attended the Race Unity Speech Awards organised by Bahai Society and New Zealand Police at the Police National H/Q 24th & 25th March 2025. We had also invited one of the contestants, Blossom and her mother, Esther, to present the speech at our April Monthly Meeting.

We celebrated the 72nd Anniversary Everest Day with the Nepalese Soc of Wellington, 4th June 2025 at Parliament hosted by Hon Simeon Brown.

We regularly attended the monthly online meetings of Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) - Regional Multicultural Councils (RMCs) and supported the initiatives taken by MNZ.

3 Promote Multicultural Events - HMC organises its own events and supports other organisations to host events targeting the multicultural communities.

HMC/Chinese Women's Multicultural Playgroup – Saturday 8th Feb 2025 War Memorial Library – **Chinese New Year for Children**. We again took over the general open area of the WML. There were craft stalls, activity stalls, performances, workshops & families, lots of families! There was food & drinks. There were over 50 student volunteers from various colleges helping at this event. We were also able to share about HMC to a lot of the families.



Our weekly **Multicultural Playgroup**, held from 9.30am to 11.30am every Tuesday morning upstairs at WML, has been going from strength to strength. It has welcomed mums/dads & bubs from different

ethnic, cultural & religious backgrounds. Migrants, former refugees, locals coming together to let their little ones learn & play together. Adults finding connections & friendship & enjoying a chat & cuppa together. The numbers have continued to increase. Out of this, we have a new **Women's Group**. They've had a few get togethers including a wonderful evening of ten pin bowling.

Through this event, we have also been fortunate to meet and collaborate with the **Pomare Taita Community Trust**. We look forward to doing more together and to support each other with our various undertakings.

HMC Ethnic Dinner, Filipino – A wonderful evening held at Te Mako, Naenae on Sat 30th November 2024, showcasing Filipino costumes, dances, songs and food. Truly enjoyed by a diverse crowd of guests.

HMC Ethnic Event, Chinese – Multi-Dimensional Chinese Culture Performance, Sun 20th April 2025 at Te Mako, Naenae. A wonderful afternoon of Chinese dance, calligraphy, history, music, costumes and songs. Guests enjoyed many different types of dances and were also able to have a go at the dancing and some of the Chinese instruments. Great event!



Spring Multifest 2024/Welcoming Week - HMC's popular annual multicultural event was on the 14th September 2024 at the new Naenae Community Hub/Te Mako, Hillary Court, Naenae in Lower Hutt. It filled up the central mall courtyard with stalls and a stage and public seating under a huge marquee. It involved cultural performances from over 20 different ethnic communities. There were information stalls and food stalls. All the retailers & the local library were also invited to be involved. Regular Saturday market stalls were also present and added to the atmosphere. We worked with HCC's Welcoming Communities to celebrate Welcoming Week too.

We partnered with Team Naenae & Team Te Mako who said it was the biggest event and the most people they've seen here! We were also climate conscious and worked with Non-Stop Solutions who saved a huge amount of waste from going to the landfill!

We are currently planning an even bigger Multifest 2025/Welcoming Week this year to happen on Sat 20th Sept 2025 at Walter Nash, Taita. Keep an eye out!

Anzac Day Commemoration – HMC was again invited by the council to lay a wreath at the Hutt Cenotaph. Five of the executive members attended at 2 different services including the Naenae memorial and a note of thanks to Anita Mansell for arranging the flowers.

Citizenship Ceremony – HMC members have been taking turns representing us at the Hutt City Citizenship ceremonies. One of HMC's representatives will go up on stage with the official party.

Feedback from the members have been wonderful experiences watching the new citizens in front and then congratulating them as they go on stage to receive their certificates. On average we welcome 180 new citizens at each ceremony.

Grow Membership – This year we have again been fortunate to meet a lot of different people involved with various community groups, NGOs and even government groups. Quite a few have been attending our meetings and helping us with various tasks. We have been fortunate to be able to speak at the English Teaching College and have recruited some volunteers from the huge numbers of international students. We are also preparing to present to more students at the English Language Partners.



Diwali/Pongal – HMC members attended various celebrations at UHMC 19th Oct 2024, at Parliament 4th November 2024, the Indian High Commission, the Wellington Mutamizh Sangam NY Puthandu dinner, 10 May 2025. This is to show our support for our Indian community.

Connect & Collaborate - HMC keeps connecting and collaborating with stakeholders (both organisations and individuals) to achieve HMC purposes. Various members involved with other community groups have been able to make new connections with fellow members. Some highlights of the year are:

Hutt City Council continues to be a funder and supporter to HMC. HMC continues collaborating with the Connecting Communities team at HCC & the Batool Arif, Welcoming Communities Coordinator. We also continue to be approached by various council groups for feedback & connection to various community groups regarding studies, city planning etc.

Diplomatic Corp – HMC maintains relationships with the Wellington Diplomatic Corps via events organized by the various embassies. One such event is attending the upcoming National Day of Peru. HMC’s president attended the Philippines Pre-Independence Festival on 7th June 2025 at Johnsonville Community Centre & met with MP Paulo Garcia. Also met Ms Neeta Bhushan, Indian HC at a Phoenix Launch of Football for All. Met the Thai ambassador at the Thai Embassy celebrating Songkran Thai New Year 21 April 2024.

New Zealand Police – John Zhu is our Ethnic Liaison Officer. We have met the rest of the Ethnic team incl Rakesh Naidoo, Yumi, Rabia & Phil. Due to budgetary constraints, John is unable to attend all our monthly meetings but is still available should any issues arise. We were fortunate to meet with Wade Jennings our busy Hutt District Commander. He listened to some of our community group’s concerns. He has agreed to allow an officer to attend HMC’s every second monthly meeting.

World Refugee Day – Members attended this event at Parliament organized by Red Cross on the morning of 24 June 2025. Good to hear from young former refugees & their experiences & then make connections with others interested in supporting former refugees.

Afrika Bazaar – we partnered & helped at this event held at Hillary Court, Naenae 8th Mar 2025.

Luo Community – We celebrated with the Luo Community on the graduation of their students from the English Learning Community Hub at Te Mako, Naenae Sat 31st May 2025. Wonderful as always, with dances from various communities who continue to support them. This is always followed by a sumptuous feast! We were also privileged to join them in their end of year celebration on 14 December 2024 at Trentham School Hall.

Persian New Year (NOWRUS) – The President & Vice President were invited to celebrate this event with the Iranian Community 22nd March 2025 at the LH Event Centre & also spoke to promote HMC. It was a wonderful night of Persian songs, food and dance. Other HMC members also supported by buying tickets to attend. We were also invited to attend the NOWRUS event at the Parliament 2nd April 2025 hosted by Dr Hero Modares. We met and hope to build on the connections we made with the Iranian whanau in Lower Hutt.



Acknowledgement

The Executive Committee of Hutt Multicultural Council Inc. listed below acknowledges the support received from the Hutt City Council & it’s various teams to various events and activities HMC organised through-out the year. Special mention of thanks to Batool Arif, Welcoming Communities Co-ordinator and the team at the War Memorial Library where HMC meets every month.

Hutt Multicultural Council also extends sincere thanks to Multicultural New Zealand, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Human Rights Commission, Hindu Council of NZ & Best NZ Football Company.

Funding agencies - COGS, Ministry of Ethnic Communities, ECDC Fund. The Mouri Ora Fund, Hutt City Events Fund & some smaller sponsors.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of our Honorary Solicitor Karun Lakshman & all Executives, Committee members & volunteers who contribute their time & talents to assist HMC. Special thanks and appreciation to our longstanding patron, John Terris who has decided to retire this year. We wish him all the very best for his future and hope he continues to lend his strong and wonderful voice to the Hutt Community Choir!

Hutt Multicultural Council Executive Committee 2024-25

Winsome Lam, President; Lesley Chu, Vice President; Wallace Enebuma, Secretary; Marcelo Esparas, Treasurer; Tribhuvan Shrestha, Immediate Past President; Executive Committee Members - Anita Mansell, (past president), Luis Perez, Julian Paton, Haiying Shi. We are happy to have added a part-time co-ordinator this year – Claire Thornton-Mills.





Hakatere Multi Cultural Council

Hakatere Multi Cultural Council, founded more than twenty years ago, is an NGO which supports new members of our community as they find their feet, and creates opportunities for connection and the creation of meaningful relationships across ethnic and cultural groups.

We connect migrants and newcomers with one another and with the local community. Our goal is to maintain and develop a culture of understanding and acceptance in Ashburton District so that people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds feel welcomed by our community as a whole and valued for the contributions they make to our overall development.

Our board currently consists of seven volunteer trustees and a paid secretary/treasurer. We also invite the Refugee Resettlement coordinator and the Welcoming Communities officer to our meetings.

We employ one, amazing, coordinator to facilitate all the activities that we squeeze into our programmes. With the tough economic times we are all currently facing we have unfortunately been forced to reduce the coordinator's hours from full time to 24 per week for the time being.

We run three main projects – a drop-in Migrants Centre operating out of an expanded Community House in Ashburton, an Ethnic Leaders Forum which acts as a direct channel of communication with migrant/ethnic communities, and the Newcomers Network. Through these programmes we have reached more than two hundred individuals or whānau looking to access our services in the last year.

HMCC has three interwoven strands that make our 'business model' particularly strong.

First, we have representation from a broad range of sectors – currently we count representatives from the business, health, education and social sectors on our board, as well as a tangata whenua appointee.

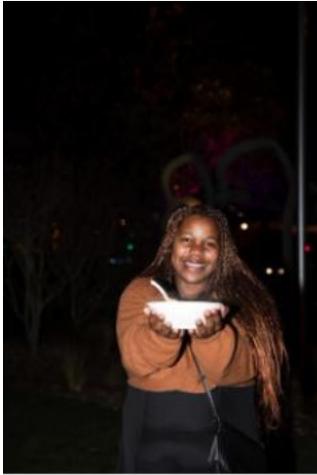
Second, all the current board members, and the four ex-officio members, have the lived experience of being either newcomers or migrants to this district, while at the same time having developed well-established connections here.

Third, our Ethnic Leaders Forum provides an efficient channel for communication between HMCC and various ethnic communities. Further, we have reached a stage where many of those leaders have gained the professional development and experience necessary to step up to exercise greater autonomy, as witnessed by individual ethnic leaders joining our board, moving into paid employment with HMCC, or establishing their own ethnic community associations.

A feature of our activities this year has been the collaborations we have undertaken with other organisations and trusts, including Timebank/Connecting Mid Canterbury, Ashburton District Welcoming Communities, Multi-Cultural Bite Ashburton, Volunteering Mid and South Canterbury, Ashburton Art Gallery, Hakatere Marae, and Tangata Atumotu Trust, Ashburton Indian Trust, among many others.

Hakaterere Noodle Festival

Ashburton's second annual noodle market was held in the first week of September, to mark both Multicultural Day and Welcoming Communities Week. It featured both food trucks from the region, covering a broad range of ethnic food, all of them with noodles on their menu.



In addition to the food vendors, the approximately five thousand visitors also enjoyed entertainment throughout the event, and the entire site was adorned with lights.

Also to mark Welcoming Communities Week we held a pot luck dinner for ESOL families at Ashburton College. There were wonderful performances by the Ashburton College kapa haka group and a beautiful tau'olunga (traditional Tongan dance).

Other one-off events

Hakatere Multi Cultural Council also organised and/or participated in the following events –

- Mid-Winter Christmas
Ashburton College Hauora Day
- Ashburton Pasifika Expo
- Ethnic Communities Fun Day at Hampstead Sports Club
- Diwali
- Ethnic Leaders recognition event
- Immigration Advice clinic
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Holi Festival
- Job Applications seminar
- Ethnic Leaders Forum Talent Show
- Matariki celebration
- Philippines Independence Day



Regular Events

Hakatere Multi Cultural Council have organised the following events (collaborating organisations in brackets) –

- “A Taste of...” monthly cooking classes (in collaboration with Timebank)
- Cultural Awareness workshops (Volunteering Mid and South Canterbury, Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum). Like the ‘Taste of...’ events the presenters have all been people resident in our community.

- Kōwhai Mums (Ashburton Art Gallery) is a monthly session of paint and play for mums and toddlers from our migrant communities.
- Newcomer/Parent Coffee mornings (Plunket)
- Salsa classes (Timebank/Connecting Mid Canterbury)
- Newcomers Newsletter (Ashburton Guardian/ Ashburton Courier)
- Ethnic Leaders Forum monthly seminars



I have no doubt that the next twelve months will be just as action-packed and impactful.

Selwyn Price,
Chair

Hakatere MultiCultural Council

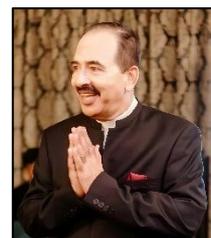


Christchurch Multicultural Council (Inc)

Fostering Social Cohesion and Multiculturalism to enrich New Zealand

Tēnā koutou katoa!

I am pleased to present the 2024–25 activity report of the Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC) at the 36th Annual General Meeting. I warmly acknowledge the efforts of current and former CMC members, ethnic community organisations, and partner agencies and offices, both local and central government, as well as NGOs that support migrants and refugees. I also commend CMC for its significant and meaningful contributions to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Christchurch, and in the neighbouring Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts, along with its valued support to government bodies and the broader ethnic sector.



1. Many Voices 2024 – We are One! CMC Multicultural Festival

To celebrate the Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) New Zealand-wide Multicultural Day (25 August), we organised a multicultural festival, called MANY VOICES on Saturday 30 November 2024 (postponed from 31 August due to unavoidable reasons) at Multicultural Recreation & Community Centre. Several ethnic groups and organisations participated in this event through music and dance performances, art and craft displays, and information stands. A large gathering enjoyed the display of cultural diversity.



2. Ethnic Safety by Community Patrol New Zealand: Christchurch Forum

We have been actively collaborating with Community Patrol New Zealand (CPNZ), particularly following the Christchurch mosque attacks and the incidents involving threatening letters sent to Hindu temples. I had the honour of speaking at the Christchurch Ethnic Safety Forum, hosted by CPNZ at Hotel Rydges Latimer on Saturday 5 October. I acknowledged and appreciated CPNZ's ongoing patrol support for cultural and faith-based events and venues across communities. The importance of partnering with CPNZ to ensure safer environments for ethnic communities was highlighted. This partnership enables communities to celebrate their cultures and observe their faiths without fear. Encouragingly, more community members are now expressing interest in joining CPNZ as patrolling volunteers.



3. Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness and Management for Ethnic Communities

CMC is actively working with Christchurch City Council (CCC) Community Resilience Coordinators to enhance Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) readiness for multicultural

communities. It is essential that emergency hubs established by Civil Defence and local communities consider cultural and faith-based needs and sensitivities during natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or tsunamis. To better understand current preparedness levels and community requirements, CCC is conducting a survey across diverse groups.

4. International Women’s Day

International Women’s Day was marked with a collaborative event organised by Christchurch Multicultural Council, Canterbury Indian Women Group, Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury, and Shama Ethnic Women's Trust. It took place on Sunday 9 March at Mohoao Hall, Te Hāpua Halswell Centre.

THEME: Accelerate Action – Challenging Stereotypes & Limiting Beliefs. The event also saw the national launch of our new "Let’s Talk" posters, introduced by keynote speaker Christchurch City Councillor Sara Templeton and Community Board Member Marie Pollisco JP. The gathering concluded with shared laughter, insights, and kai. Women from diverse ethnic communities came together for conversations centred around the “Parents as Protectors” project, particularly exploring cultural dynamics.



5. Combined International Day of Mothers, Family and Diversity



The CMC Women’s Council hosted a multicultural celebration to mark International Mother’s, Family, and Diversity Days on Saturday 17 May at Aldersgate Centre, Durham Street. The event featured a variety of lively music and dance performances representing different cultures, delighting the audience. Children enjoyed various games and arts and crafts activities. A special cake-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the occasion.

6. 8th CultureFest 2024 – Selwyn Multicultural Festival CultureFest 2024, held on Sunday 15 September at the Lincoln Event Centre and Domain, was organised by collaboration between Selwyn District Council (SDC) and Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC), celebrating Selwyn’s vibrant cultural diversity. The event opened with a Karakia and welcome by Selwyn Mayor Hon Sam Broughton. This year saw record crowds and participation at the much-loved multicultural festival. Over 20 vibrant cultural performances lit up the stage, complemented by a wide array of food and information stalls. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all participants, volunteers, and supporters—SDC, CMC, Lincoln Rotary Club, Lincoln University, LUSA, community groups, agencies, and other for making the event a resounding success. Special appreciation to Lincoln Rotary for managing car parking and to Archana Tandon JP for her outstanding coordination of stage performances and management.

Preparations are at an advanced stage for Selwyn's 9th CultureFest 2025 at Lincoln Domain on Sunday 14 September

7. Multicultural Cricket Tournaments - Fostering unity in diversity through Cricket.

Several sports events were supported to encourage the participation of multicultural communities to foster inter-culture friendship and harmony. 7th All Nations Multiethnic T20 Cricket Tournament

was organised by Christchurch Metro Cricket Association and Christchurch Multicultural Council. Supported by Christchurch City Council, MEC and valued business sponsors. Sundays 24 November, 8 and 22 December 2024. 16 teams from diverse groups participated. It was great that the final day games including the final were played at the international Hagley Oval ground. Initial games were played at Hagley Park (Polo Grounds), opposite Deans Avenue. Heartiest congratulations to: Winner - Cricket World Christchurch. Runners up – Gujarat Lions.



It was also an honour to have been invited by the organisers of several other social cricket tournaments at their prize giving functions. Heartiest congratulations to them as well as to the players from diverse groups.

8. Supporting Government, Ministries, Offices and Ethnic Sector

- Active participation in Ministry for Ethnic Communities – Ethnic Leaders Forum: MEC Reset. Christchurch. Friday 19 July.
- We worked closely with the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (MEC), Human Rights Commission (HRC), Christchurch City Council (CCC), Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, ARA, Hagley College, Resettlement Services, MSD, PEETO, Network Waitangi Ōtautahi, Pegasus Health, NZ Police, and several ethnic community and faith groups.
- Working with Christchurch Resettlement Services on Elder Abuse/Empowerment Reference Group/Network.
- Continue to represent multicultural communities on the Living Wage NZ – Canterbury Steering Group campaigning for “living wage”. The importance and need of living wage, better than the legal minimum wage, for migrants to thrive than just to survive is stressed.
- Several meetings with MPs, and political parties’ ethnic sector representatives to discuss policies and programmes for early settlement and integration of multicultural communities.

9. Supporting Christchurch City Council (CCC) and Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils

- Regular attendance at citizenship ceremonies of CCC and SDC to meet and greet new citizens from diverse communities and to introduce the role of CMC to them.
- CMC actively participated in INFoRM (Inter-Agency Network for Refugees and Migrants) and other community meetings.
- CMC works with CCC to raise awareness of the local body election process for ethnic communities. Our objective is to encourage ethnic communities for civic participation and to have greater representation of them on the Community Boards and the Council. We also promote voters’ enrolment and voting.

10. Networking and Celebration: Attendance and Participation in Local Multicultural Activities

We remain actively involved in supporting and attending sports and cultural events, as well as functions and meetings hosted by local and central governments and NGOs in Christchurch and surrounding regions. The number of cultural celebrations continues to rise, reflecting the region’s growing ethnic population and enhanced appreciation of cultural diversity.

- Sadly, 23rd Culture Galore, scheduled for Saturday 8 March at Ray Blank Park, was cancelled due to the wet weather. We are grateful to all the groups for their preparation.
- I attended the BLIA Buddha Birthday Multicultural Festival celebration and World Peace Prayer at BLIA Buddha Temple on Saturday 12 April. I was invited to say a Hindu prayer and remain impressed by the Temple’s work on multiculturalism and social cohesion.

- Race Unity Day (21 March) and Festival of Colours - Holi (26 April) - CMC was pleased to be associated with Christchurch Holi as a strategic partner and supporter (since 2017) with a view to celebrating Holi with the wider community of diverse cultures to promote kotahitangi (solidarity), harmony, happiness, friendship and equality and respect among diverse cultures. Race Unity Speech Contest. 25 and 26 March. Christchurch Baha'i Centre. Surinder Tandon and Hero Modares were invited to judge the North Canterbury speech contests. All the speeches on race unity and challenges were thoughtful and impressive. Winners from local high schools went to Auckland for the semifinal.
- CMC Attended a Nadanu Pa Cultural Evening organised by the NZ Sri Lanka Cultural Foundation on Saturday 22 March, Aurora Centre. We presented a CMC Certificate of Appreciation to thank them for their contribution to the NZ multicultural society.
- Attended Bhutanese Cultural Evening, organised by Bhutanese Society of Canterbury NZ, on Sunday 24 November at Riccarton High School.
- We participated in Newcomers Expo organised by Volunteering Canterbury. Saturday 15 February. Multicultural Recreation & Community Centre.
- Attended Tamu Dhee Lhosar New Year Function. Saturday 21 December. Templeton Community Centre.
- Attended Chinese New Year celebrations, Japan Fiesta Day, Christchurch and Selwyn Diwali events.

11. Multicultural Womens Council (Chair - Archna Tandon)

Members supported several activities, reported elsewhere, during the year.

- These include several events: Many Voices Multicultural Festival; International Women's Day; International Mother's Day combined with International Day of Families and Diversity; Selwyn CultureFest, Christchurch Culture Galore
- Contribution to Multicultural NZ Women Council
- Advocacy for domestic violence victims
- Bollywood dance fitness classes in Christchurch and Lincoln.

Acknowledgements: I sincerely thank everyone for your support to me and Christchurch Multicultural Council during the year.

To: Members of the CMC, community groups, Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council for their support, representation, participation, communication and promotion/networking; Christchurch Resettlement Services, Ngai Tahu, Network Waitangi Ōtautahi, Plains Media FM96.9, PEETO, Shakti, Shama, Canterbury Refugee Resource & Service Centre, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, Canterbury Interfaith Society, Pegasus Health, INFoRM (Inter-Agencies) Group, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Immigration NZ, Human Rights Commission and Race Relations, MSD, Office of the Ombudsman, Christchurch Metro Cricket Association, Rotary Club of Lincoln, NZ Police, Community Patrol NZ, White Ribbon, Living Wage Aotearoa NZ, local MPs and Councillors, Revel Events, and other partners.

Nga mihi nui

Surinder Tandon,

MNZM President of Christchurch Multicultural Council



Multicultural Aoraki

Multicultural Aoraki is a community-based organisation dedicated to creating a welcoming, inclusive South Canterbury where everyone feels at home and a sense of belonging. We support newcomers, migrants, and former refugees by helping them connect with local services, culture, and people. Our work includes practical support like navigating systems, and building connections through regular coffee groups, family fun days, and cultural celebrations.

We host events such as cultural festivals, language weeks, and community gatherings that bring people together and promote understanding and respect between cultures. Collaboration is at the heart of what we do — we work with other community groups, government agencies, local councils, and the private sector to ensure our communities are supported, safe, and valued. We recognise the importance of supporting the wider community and building relationships that benefit the whole region. Together, we aim to make South Canterbury the best place to live, for everyone.

Multicultural Aoraki: A Year of Connection, Celebration & Community Impact

Over the past year, Multicultural Aoraki has been at the heart of South Canterbury's vibrant and diverse community, creating spaces where people feel connected, welcomed, and empowered. From weekly coffee groups to large-scale festivals, we've worked tirelessly to ensure everyone feels at home.

We've hosted 38 coffee group sessions, transforming them into hubs for learning and connection with sessions ranging from local agency presentations and bingo to cooking lessons and karaoke. Our Family Fun Days in Timaru, Waimate, and Fairlie brought joy and connection to families across the region, while our Open Volleyball Health Tournament and Pacific Men's Health Talanoa spotlighted wellbeing and inclusion.

Cultural understanding thrived through 10 cultural workshops, and we proudly supported our community with celebrations such as Diwali, Eid al-Fitr, Samoan Independence Day, and Chinese Lunar New Year. Our commitment to showcasing diversity was front and centre with 3 mini multicultural festivals, culminating in the Multicultural Aoraki Festival, which welcomed over 4,500 attendees and featured 80+ stalls.



We delivered practical support through clinics for immigration, CVs, form filling, heating and power advice, and even cancer support. Our Learning Hub offered 10 workshops helping ethnic communities navigate the New Zealand education system.

We partnered in 8 citizenship ceremonies, hosted 3 Welcoming Communities Week events, and worked closely with the Timaru District Council, the Smithfield/Alliance Closure Response Committee, and others to uplift and support the community during challenging times.

Recognised for our efforts, we were honoured to be finalists in three categories at the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Business & Community Excellence Awards.

Our outreach stretched across the Mackenzie District, supported language weeks, helped maintain community gardens, and collaborated with organisations including Te Aitaraikihi, Family Works, Refugee Settlement Services, The Y, Cancer Society, and Arowhenua Whānau Services, to name just a few.



Through every conversation, celebration, and act of service, Multicultural Aoraki continues to foster belonging, promote understanding, and build a stronger, more connected South Canterbury.

We are proud to deliver several key contracts that directly support our communities:

- Emergency housing support for vulnerable individuals and families
- Ready to Rent workshops through MSD, equipping people with the skills and knowledge to secure sustainable housing
- A Health Navigation contract for former refugees, providing critical health access support and advocacy

We continue to collaborate with community agencies, local and national government and the private sector to ensure everyone in South Canterbury feels at home with a sense of belonging.



Performance Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Contents

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 3 | Entity Information |
| 5 | Approval of Performance Report |
| 6 | Statement of Service Performance |
| 15 | Statement of Financial Performance |
| 16 | Statement of Financial Position |
| 17 | Statement of Cash Flows |
| 18 | Statement of Accounting Policies |
| 20 | Notes to the Performance Report |
| 25 | Independent Auditor's Report |

Entity Information

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

'Who are we?', 'Why do we exist?'

Legal Name of Entity

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated "NZFMC"

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Incorporated Society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 and a registered charity under the Charities Act 2005

Registration Number

445336, CC36978

Entity's Purpose or Mission

To promote, support and share information among the Regional Councils and New Zealand's Multicultural Communities.

To work with more recent migrants and refugees achieve successful settlement outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand through adequately funded and resourced volunteering capacity to support migrants achieve successful integration into their respective communities.

Entity Structure

The New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils (NZFMC) is an umbrella organisation for the multicultural communities in New Zealand. It is governed by an Executive Committee elected for a one-year term, comprising five positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-President. Additionally, there are 24 executive members, each representing an active Regional Council.

NZFMC's operational arm oversees the implementation of the organisation's programmes and operations. This team consists of two full-time staff members, one part-time staff member, and interns who work at various times of the year. Volunteers and contractors are also engaged for specific roles and projects as needed. Operating regionally around the country allows NZFMC to connect directly with both ethnic and mainstream communities at the grassroots level, fostering a bottom-up, asset-based community development approach to their support services and leadership initiatives.

The National Office interacts with central and local government agencies, NGOs, and business leaders to build awareness and advocacy around the challenges faced by New Zealand's ethnic communities. One key initiative is the NZFMC Huarahi Hou programme, which aims to connect recent migrants, refugees, and newcomers with tangata whenua through the local marae. This programme offers new migrants the opportunity to be welcomed onto marae and to participate in a range of tikanga Māori activities led by tangata whenua around Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The NZFMC Women's Wellbeing Framework, currently under review for an update, includes learning modules designed to help women of all cultures thrive in New Zealand. This framework educates and empowers women to embrace the rights and freedoms available to them in New Zealand. More recently, NZFMC has initiated the creation of a similar programme for seniors.

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

NZFMC's income mainly comes from project-targeted contestable grants and membership fees. Over the past year, NZFMC has obtained grants from Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Lotteries Grant Board, Auckland City Council and membership fees. NZFMC relies on contestable grants and volunteers support to deliver its services.

Main Methods Used by Entity to Raise Funds

NZFMC does not engage in fundraising activities.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

NZFMC has a volunteer Executive Committee to provide the organisation's direction, advising on strategic planning, current projects, policy and risk, and monitoring financial performance. The organisation has a wide volunteer base for operating work and events held across New Zealand.

Physical Address

Level 1, 192 Tinakori Road, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

Postal Address

PO Box 1409, Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, 6140

Phone/fax number

04 9169177

Email

info@mnz.org.n

Website

www.multiculturalnz.org.nz

Facebook page

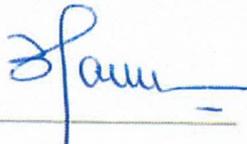
<https://www.facebook.com/MulticulturalNZ>

Approval of Performance Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Executive Committee are pleased to present the approved performance report including the historical financial statements of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2025.

APPROVED


Pancha Narayanan

25/07/25

President

Date 25/07/25



Prem Singh

Treasurer

Date 17th July 2025

Statement of Service Performance

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

'What did we do?', 'When did we do it?'

Description of Entity's Outcomes

We have made efforts to evaluate our performance as a robust and expanding network, taking into account not just our financial management but also the principles established in our constitution.

As an organisation dedicated to te Tiriti o Waitangi, NZFMC aims to gauge our success through kaupapa Māori. The six strategic objectives were developed in collaboration with community leaders from across the nation as part of NZFMC's Strategic Plan. These objectives address the most urgent areas of need and development within New Zealand's migrant and former refugee communities, ensuring that we are responsive to their challenges and aspirations.

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs

Key strategic objectives and outcomes of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils aim to achieve, influence and deliver are:

| Outcomes and Outputs | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|--|--|
| Outcome A: Safety for communities and their families | | |
| Output 1. Regional Multicultural Councils and their communities have easy access to information and services in as many languages as possible | | |
| Initiative 1: Give Nothing to Racism, COVID-19 Response. Improved through the implementation of the Digital Hub. | 1 completed 2 under progress. | 1 completed 3 under progress. |
| Output 2. NZFMC understanding and communicating to the public of NZ cultural context associated with safety to the public of NZ | | |
| Initiative 1: Waitangi Day celebrations in all regions around New Zealand. Additional safety policy improvements identified for implementation. | 20,000 6 meetings of the Crowded Places Community Advisory Group. Regular monthly updates on misinformation. | 20,000 4 meetings of the Crowded Places Community Advisory Group. 1 meeting on misinformation. |
| Initiative 2: Race Relations Day celebrations in all regions around the country. Additional safety policy improvements identified for implementation. | 30,000 - 40,000 | 30,000 - 40,000 |
| Initiative 3: Race Relations Day Speech contest jointly with the Bahai Community. | 500. Regional Multicultural Councils now involved with | 150 |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Additional safety policy improvements identified for implementation. | regional heats of speech awards. | |
| Initiative 4: Highlight issues related to New Zealand cultural context. | Not Applicable | 5 Press releases |
| | | |
| Output 3. Understand the needs of the vulnerable in the communities that Regional Multicultural Councils work with | | |
| Initiative 1: NZFMC / Regional Multicultural Council to have established demonstrable relationships with local clubs and associations including specifically with Age Concern, Lions Club, CAB and RSA. | Women's Wellbeing Framework progressed to evaluation stage. | New initiatives: 1. Age Concern session at MNZ Seniors' Council Hui held 24/02/24, setting direction of MNZ Seniors' Council work for 2024-2027 2. MNZ Women's Council Hui held 05/08/23 with focus on refresh of the Women's Wellbeing Framework. |
| Initiative 2: Implement NZFMC Women's top priorities. E Tū Whānau and launch of Safety of Women and Children (Participants). | Not Applicable | 98 participants |
| Initiative 3: Understanding the needs of the vulnerable. Women's Capacity Building Workshop. | Not Applicable | 25 participants |
| | | |
| Outcome B: Improved inclusion | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Output 1: NZFMC will support all efforts to eradicate institutional racism and discrimination | | |
| Initiative 1: Organise NAPAR (National Action Plan Against Racism) sessions. | Further work on NAPAR draft is with Ministry of Justice. | 1. NAPAR session held in Porirua on 24/06/23 2. NAPAR session held in Oamaru on 22/07/23 |
| | | |
| Output 2. Put in place action plans for the major metropolitan cities | | |
| Initiative 1: Auckland Leadership Forum needed for this metropolitan city. | MNZ Auckland office now supports outreach to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Multicultural Leaders. | Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Multicultural Leadership Hui held on 19/08/23. |
| | | |

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|---|---|---|
| Output 3: Invest in a digital hub to bring together all communities in New Zealand | | |
| Initiative 1: Model of NZFMC Digital Hub being extended to other communities. | Being developed | Currently in progress with Wellington Fiji Association |
| Output 4: Develop objectives and reportable metrics for public presentation of our volunteering effectiveness | | |
| Initiative 1: Build an extensive national associates network which we can share information, consult and cooperate on matters of common interest and concern. Communities Commission for Culture. | Awareness and training programmes being developed. | Communities Commission for Culture, Settlement and Migration, now evolved to Centre for Tiriti-based Multicultural New Zealand Aotearoa. Think tank met on 10/08/23 in Wellington. |
| Output 5. Modernising attitudes of host communities toward migrants | | |
| Initiative 1: Approach wider communities of New Zealand for a cohesive interaction with migrants. | Multicultural Day in August and Matariki events are now part of annual calendar of MNZ. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day Celebrated by all RMCs around the motu on 25/08/23 2. Multicultural Day celebrated at Ministry of Health. 3. Seva initiative, Matariki food distribution event held at Ōtara on 22/07/23. |
| Outcome C: Sustainment and Modernisation | | |
| Output 1: Continue to grow NZFMC' profile across all channels, particularly digital, so we become a household name | | |
| Initiative 1: Discuss and agree to a new organisational purpose with a new high-level operating model to support delivery. As well as build out the rest of the new operating model. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise biannual regional meetings of Regional Multicultural Councils in the Northern, Central and Southern regions (Participants) - Under review currently - Youth Engagement/App Development and leadership development (Participants) - New programmes being developed currently | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise biannual regional meetings of Regional Multicultural Councils in the Northern, Central and Southern regions (Participants) - Under review currently - Youth Engagement/App Development and leadership development (Participants) - New programmes being developed currently |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media Release, Submissions, Newsletter and Reports - 15 - New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils' Strategic Planning and Annual Hui (Participants at President's Hui) - 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media Release, Submissions, Newsletter and Reports - 8 - NZFMC' Strategic Planning and Annual Hui - (Participants at President's Hui) - 10 |
| Initiative 2: Improve internal and reporting processes, evaluation, and delivery capability to enable NZFMC to change its model of funding. | Improvements to financial reporting and project investment plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvements to data collection procedures implemented. 2. Annual Report issued ISSN and catalogued by National Library. 3. Annual Report alignment with Strategic Plan implemented. |
| Initiative 3: Take a concerted effort to examine and improve NZFMC' organisational culture, particularly the resistance to change and internal conflict. | Not Applicable | Initiative complete. |
| | | |
| Output 2. Secure long-term funding | | |
| Initiative 1: Long-term sustainable funding model being developed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi-year projects being developed with MoU partners: MSD and NZ Police. Also being developed with MEC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi-year projects being developed with MoU partners: MSD and NZ Police. Also being developed with MEC. 2. Process underway for refresh of MoU with NZ Police. 3. Input being sought from internal and external stakeholders. |
| | | |
| Output 3: NZFMC operating as a social enterprise | | |
| Initiative 1: Ensure collaborative working relationship with government agencies and businesses. Discuss with government agencies including Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights Commission, UNESCO, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Productive Commission and Ministry of Social Development the new NZFMC purpose and operating model, and the potential for core funding to deliver specific outputs and outcomes aligned with that purpose and operating model. NZFMC' Executive have established direct relationship with the Chief Executive of Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Commissioners at Human Rights Commission, Deputy CE at Ministry of Social Development, the new Commissioner of Police, with regular meetings. NZFMC Executives are invited regularly to meetings with government agencies. There are | 80 Meetings both in-person and online | 65 Meetings both in-person and online |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>memorandums of understanding with Police and Ministry of Social Development.</p> | | |
| <p>Output 4: Establish 5 new Regional Multicultural Councils</p> | | |
| <p>Initiative 1: Ensure collaborative working relationship with government agencies and businesses. To establish RMCs in unrepresented areas.</p> | <p>Work in progress on establishing a multicultural council in Kapiti</p> | <p>1. Establishment of Taupō Multicultural Community Council. Incorporated 19/09/23</p> <p>2. Establishment of Wairarapa Multicultural Council. Incorporated 19/03/24</p> |
| <p>Output 5. Build new collaborative relationships</p> | | |
| <p>Initiative 1: Develop more Memoranda of Understanding with partner organisations.</p> <p>(A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is a document that describes the broad outlines of an agreement that two or more parties have reached).</p> | <p>1. Statement of Shared Principles signed with MBIE.</p> <p>2. MoU being developed with Race Unity Speech Awards.</p> | <p>1. Meetings between NZ Police and RMCs to operationalise MoU in the regions.</p> <p>2. Engagement with Age Concern NZ for the MNZ Seniors' Council Hui on 24/02/24.</p> <p>3. Continued development of MoU with the National Iwi Chairs Forum.</p> <p>4. Continued development of MoU with the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>5. Continued development of MoU with the Ministry of Youth Development.</p> <p>6. Continued development of MoU with Inclusive Aotearoa.</p> <p>7. Engagement with Bahá'í community for the Race Unity Speech Awards 2024.</p> |
| <p>Output 6. Bringing NZFMC and NZNN networks</p> | | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Initiative 1: Evaluate the current status of Newcomers Network. | Being reviewed | 20 active branches, 5 regions with collaborating organisations in lieu of dedicated coordinator. 2 branches in the process of reinstatement as of 03/04/24 |
| Initiative 2: Develop and implement a transition work programme that acknowledges established members. | Being reviewed | Being reviewed |
| Initiative 3: New Zealand Newcomers Network initiative contributes to and enhances the work of NZFMC and affiliated Regional Multicultural Councils. | Being reviewed | Being reviewed |
| | | |
| Outcome D: NZ as a Tiriti-based multicultural society | | |
| | | |
| Output 1: Ensure governance and management practices within NZFMC to acknowledge Tikanga Māori | | |
| Initiative 1: All governance and management documents to demonstrate an appreciation of Tikanga Māori, through all our publications – they as much as possible bilingual. | <p>1. Increased use of te reo Māori in MNZ office daily correspondence.</p> <p>2. Publication of 2025 Māori language calendar on MNZ website.</p> | <p>1. Increased use of te reo Māori in MNZ office daily correspondence.</p> <p>2. Publication of 2024 Māori language calendar on MNZ website.</p> |
| Initiative 2: Develop and share widely a discussion document on what a Treaty-based Multicultural future can be for New Zealand. | Hurahi Hou publication fully operational. | Publication of the 12 page Huarahi Hou - Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa toward 200 years of Te Tiriti document in physical and digital format. |
| | | |
| Output 2. Ensure legislation, regulations and policies in New Zealand demonstrate cultural sensitivity | | |
| Initiative 1: Promote and support efforts for legislation for New Zealand's Multicultural Framework.(OIA, Open letters, support letter). | OIA – 0 Open letters – 1 Support letters – 3 | OIA – 1 Open letters – 0 Support letters – 1 |
| | | |
| Output 3: NZFMC to have a strategic long-term relationship with tangata whenua. | | |
| Initiative 1: Consult tangata whenua in how to bring Tiriti-based Multicultural values into our constitution. | Being reviewed | Insights from the hau kāinga who hosted noho marae in August 2023 and March 2024 collected. |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Initiative 2: NZFMC continue to support the regions to learn and help them to engage in a long lasting relationship with tangata whenua. | <p>1. Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae visit in Gisborne on 18 May 2024.</p> <p>2. Noho marae at Murihiku Marae - Waihōpai Rūnaka in Invercargill on 22 and 23 June 2024.</p> <p>3. Noho marae at Hakatere Marae in Ashburton on 10 and 11 August 2024.</p> | <p>1. Noho marae hosted by Rehua Marae in Ōtautahi Christchurch on 12,13/08/23</p> <p>2. Noho marae hosted by Ōrongomai Marae in Upper Hutt on 26,27/08/23</p> <p>3. Noho marae hosted by Omaka Marae in Te Waiharakeke Blenheim on 16,17/03/24.</p> |
| Output 4: Support Regional Multicultural Councils and their communities to adopt E Tū Whānau values as their basis for community safety | | |
| Initiative 1: Track our achievements against the E Tū Whānau values. | Values measure incorporated into annual report and being monitored. | Values measure incorporated into annual report and being monitored |
| Output 5. Improve relationship with tangata whenua | | |
| Initiative 1: Planned visit to Waitangi Treaty Ground on an annual basis. | Being reviewed | MNZ Executive strategy meeting at Waitangi in February with visit to the Treaty Grounds postponed due to Iwi Chairs hui on Treaty Principles Bill. |
| Outcome E: Participation in NZ socioeconomics | | |
| Output 1. Ensuring the success of migrant businesses | | |
| Initiative 1: Collect information about supporting small businesses. | MNZ Business Council restructure planned. | <p>1. Correspondence with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment regarding the distribution of fog cannons to small businesses in response to the spate of ram raid incidents and other retail crime</p> <p>2. Community and business safety focus at 2023 Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Multicultural Leadership Hui.</p> |
| Output 2. Equitable policy for health, education, social services, justice and employment | | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Initiative 1: Work with partner organisations for equity policies. | Regular contact with Age Concern and Hui E. | Contact with Age Concern NZ established at MNZ Seniors' Council hui in February, paving way for future collaboration. |
| Outcome F: Diversity in Volunteering | | |
| Output 1: Strengthening and resourcing Regional Multicultural Council and New Zealand Newcomers Network volunteer networks | | |
| Initiative 1: Digital resources. | New policy framework being developed with Flightdec. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued engagement with Flightdec, 1 new digital hubs. 2. Women's Wellbeing Framework Handbooks digitised. 3. Cultural Calendar website launched. 4. Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day resources for tamariki. 5. Continuation of Newcomers Network website refresh. |
| Output 2. Developing resources to equip volunteers professionally | | |
| Initiative 1: Ensure that member councils enhance their governance capabilities and remain informed about regulatory accountability prerequisites. | Resource kit to be updated after July-August 2025 training sessions. | Utilisation of resource kit: Porirua governance training session 09-03-24. |
| Output 3: Improving cultural fit of volunteering to expand diversity among volunteers | | |
| Initiative 1: Increased the number of collaborating partnership through projects/programmes. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboration with Sikh community on emergency food provision initiatives. 2. Collaboration with Age Concern NZ for MNZ Seniors. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboration with Sikh community on emergency food provision initiatives. 2. Collaboration with Age |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>3. Newcomers Network: Collaboration with Local and District Council.</p> <p>4. Supporting the Race Unity Speech Awards.</p> | <p>Concern NZ for MNZ Seniors' Council Hui.</p> <p>3. Newcomers Network: Collaboration with Birkdale Community House in Auckland North, Gore District Council, Kaikōura District Council.</p> <p>4. Collaboration with Bahá'í community for the Race Unity Speech Awards.</p> |
| <p>Initiative 2: Participation in the communities football to include regional football tournaments in all remaining regions(Players and Volunteers participated).</p> | <p>Being planned for the second-half of 2025.</p> | <p>Collaborated with NZ Police, Capital Football, and Wellington Phoenix towards organising a multicultural football tournament. Tournament postponed until the second half on 2024 due to unforeseen circumstances.</p> |
| | | |

Statement of Financial Performance

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

| | NOTES | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-------|------------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue | 1 | 181,122 | 433,606 |
| Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members | 1 | 3,950 | 30,512 |
| Interest, dividends and other investment revenue | 1 | 17,205 | 10,818 |
| Other revenue | 1 | 6,292 | 1,035 |
| Total Revenue | | 208,569 | 475,972 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Costs related to commercial activities | 2 | 134,624 | 213,065 |
| Volunteer and employee related costs | 2 | 166,355 | 200,810 |
| Other expenses | 2 | 8,022 | 15,633 |
| Total Expenses | | 309,002 | 429,508 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | | (100,432) | 46,464 |

Statement of Financial Position

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated

As at 31 March 2025

'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'

| | NOTES | 31 MAR 2025 | 31 MAR 2024 |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | 3 | 179,641 | 328,867 |
| Debtors and prepayments | 3 | 215 | 974 |
| Term Deposits | 3 | 350,968 | 339,030 |
| Total Current Assets | | 530,824 | 668,871 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 5 | 4,005 | 5,430 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 4,005 | 5,430 |
| Total Assets | | 534,829 | 674,300 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors and accrued expenses | 4 | 10,327 | 1,681 |
| Employee costs payable | 4 | 2,945 | 4,308 |
| Unused donations and grants with conditions | 4 | 22,800 | 69,122 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 36,072 | 75,110 |
| Total Liabilities | | 36,072 | 75,110 |
| Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets) | | 498,758 | 599,190 |
| Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Accumulated surpluses or (deficits) | 6 | 498,758 | 599,190 |
| Total Accumulated Funds | | 498,758 | 599,190 |

Statement of Cash Flows

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | |
| Cash was received from: | | |
| Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts | 134,800 | 236,723 |
| Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members | 4,610 | 26,621 |
| Cash receipts from other operating activities | 6,292 | 987 |
| Interest, dividends and other investment receipts | 17,205 | 10,817 |
| GST | 1,227 | (21,819) |
| Total Cash was received from: | 164,134 | 253,329 |
| Cash was applied to: | | |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | (299,357) | (421,225) |
| Total Cash was applied to: | (299,357) | (421,225) |
| Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities | (135,223) | (167,896) |
| Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities | | |
| Payments to Acquire property, plant and equipment | (2,065) | (2,173) |
| Cash flows from other investing and financing activities | - | - |
| Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities | (2,065) | (2,173) |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash | (137,287) | (170,069) |
| Bank Accounts and Cash | | |
| Opening cash | 667,897 | 837,965 |
| Net change in cash for period | (137,287) | (170,069) |
| Closing cash | 530,609 | 667,897 |

Statement of Accounting Policies

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

'How did we do our accounting?'

Basis of Preparation

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than \$5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Grants & Donations

Grants and donations are accounted for depending on whether they have been provided with a "use or return" condition attached or not. Where no use or return conditions are attached to the grant or donation, revenue is recorded as income when the cash is received. Where grants or donations include a use or return condition, the grant or donation is initially recorded as a liability on receipt. The donation or grant is subsequently recognised within the Statement of Financial Performance as the performance conditions are met.

Subscription Revenue

Relates to annual membership fees paid by Regional Multicultural Councils and is recognised on an accruals basis.

Interest Income

Interest Income is recognised as income on an accruals basis.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of GST except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Receivables

Accounts receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts. Individual debts are known to be uncollectible are written off in the period that they are identified.

Employee Entitlement

Employee entitlements are measured at undiscounted nominal values based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These may include salaries accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not taken at balance date.

Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Any donated assets are recorded at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Depreciation is calculated on a diminishing value method using depreciation rates:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Office Furniture and Equipment | 10% to 48% |
| Computer Equipment | 48% to 67% |

Leases

Operating lease payments, where the lessors effectively retain substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the leased items, are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Operating lease incentives are recognised as a liability when received and subsequently reduced by allocating lease payments between rental expenses and reduction of the liability.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Notes to the Performance Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Analysis of Revenue | | |
| Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue | | |
| Auckland Council Grant | 2,000 | - |
| Department of Internal Affairs - Covid 19 Project | - | 116,277 |
| Donations | - | 1,383 |
| Ethnic Communities Development Fund | - | 35,000 |
| Lottery Grants | 120,000 | 215,068 |
| New Zealand Police | - | 10,000 |
| Other Grants | 59,122 | 55,878 |
| Total Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue | 181,122 | 433,606 |
| Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members | | |
| Function and Dinner Registration | 1,719 | 5,444 |
| Membership Subscriptions | 2,435 | 3,913 |
| Other Registration Events | (203) | 21,156 |
| Total Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members | 3,950 | 30,512 |
| Interest, dividends and other investment revenue | | |
| Interest Income | 17,205 | 10,818 |
| Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue | 17,205 | 10,818 |
| Other revenue | | |
| Bad Debt Recovered | 6,327 | - |
| Depreciation Recovered | - | 48 |
| Other Income | - | 987 |
| Reimbursed Expenses | (35) | - |
| Total Other revenue | 6,292 | 1,035 |
| Total | 208,569 | 475,972 |
| | 2025 | 2024 |

2. Analysis of Expenses

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Volunteer and employee related costs | | |
| Contractor's Fee | 18,074 | - |
| Loss of Pay | 3,260 | 2,973 |
| Staff Salaries | 145,021 | 135,123 |
| Staff Secondment | - | 62,714 |
| Total Volunteer and employee related costs | 166,355 | 200,810 |
| Costs related to commercial activities | | |
| Accommodation | 4,510 | 32,003 |
| Accounting Fees | 3,544 | 5,019 |
| AGM Accommodation | 5,103 | - |
| AGM Catering | 229 | - |

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| AGM Design & Publication & Photography | 4,439 | - |
| AGM Koha/Gifts/Presenters | 569 | 4,436 |
| AGM Transportation | 4,799 | - |
| AGM Venue | 13,358 | - |
| Auckland Office | 3,623 | - |
| Bad debts | - | 6,588 |
| Bank Charges | 100 | 359 |
| Catering | 26,497 | 55,020 |
| Design & prints | - | 8,130 |
| Donation | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Executive Meeting Catering | - | 196 |
| General Expenses | 371 | 3,607 |
| General Koha/Gifts | 2,409 | 174 |
| Insurance | 2,773 | 2,643 |
| Loss on disposal of assets | 21 | - |
| Marketing & Advertising | 2,215 | 99 |
| Migra & Refug Koha/Gifts | - | 1,903 |
| Minor Assets | 919 | 271 |
| NMT- Post and Courier | - | 37 |
| Office Administration | 327 | - |
| Postage & Shipping | 106 | 142 |
| Printing & Stationery | 707 | 2,527 |
| Rebate or Waiver | 3,906 | 8,240 |
| Rent | 16,416 | 16,402 |
| Sitting fee and honorariums | 313 | - |
| Social Enterp Devel Koha/Gifts | - | 1,500 |
| Telephone, Fax, Internet | 1,152 | 1,123 |
| Training & Development | 512 | - |
| Transportation | 23,086 | 50,701 |
| Website Hosting | 2,620 | 1,945 |
| Total Costs related to commercial activities | 134,624 | 213,065 |
| Other expenses | | |
| Audit Fees | 2,200 | 2,345 |
| Depreciation | 3,489 | 4,309 |
| Subscription & Membership Fees | 2,333 | 8,980 |
| Total Other expenses | 8,022 | 15,633 |
| Total | 309,002 | 429,508 |

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 3. Analysis of Assets | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | | |
| ASB Society Cheque Account 00 | 127,557 | 277,919 |
| ASB Society Business Saver 50 | 52,034 | 50,898 |
| Petty Cash | 50 | 50 |
| Total Bank accounts and cash | 179,641 | 328,867 |
| Debtors and prepayments | | |
| Account Receivables | 515 | 8,550 |
| Bad Debt Provision | (300) | (7,576) |
| Total Debtors and prepayments | 215 | 974 |
| Other current assets | | |
| Term Deposits | 350,968 | 339,030 |
| Total Other current assets | 350,968 | 339,030 |
| | 2025 | 2024 |

4. Analysis of Liabilities

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Creditors and accrued expenses | | |
| Payables and Accruals | 14,405 | 4,449 |
| Credit Cards | 210 | 539 |
| GST | (4,289) | (3,308) |
| Total Creditors and accrued expenses | 10,326 | 1,681 |
| Employee costs payable | | |
| Accrued Annual Leave | 2,945 | 4,308 |
| Total Employee costs payable | 2,945 | 4,308 |
| Unused donations and grants with conditions | | |
| Grants in Adv - Ethnic Communities Development Fund | 22,800 | 10,000 |
| Grants in Adv - Noho Marae Project | - | 59,122 |
| Total Unused donations and grants with conditions | 22,800 | 69,122 |

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| 5. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Office Furniture | | |
| Opening Cost | 8,458 | 8,458 |
| Purchases | - | - |
| Disposals | (21) | - |
| Current year depreciation | (103) | (135) |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (7,919) | (7,784) |
| Total Office Furniture | 415 | 539 |
| Office Equipment | | |
| Opening Cost | 40,619 | 38,697 |
| Purchases | 2,085 | 2,173 |
| Disposals | - | (251) |
| Current year depreciation | (3,386) | (4,173) |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (35,728) | (31,555) |
| Total Office Equipment | 3,590 | 4,891 |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 4,005 | 5,430 |
| | 2025 | 2024 |

6. Accumulated Funds

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Opening Balance | 599,190 | 552,728 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (100,432) | 46,462 |
| Total Accumulated Funds | 498,758 | 599,190 |

7. Commitments

| Commitment | At balance date 2025 | At balance date 2024 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NZPMC entered into a lease agreement with ACE Aotearoa Focus 2017 for premises at 192 Tinakori Road, Wellington commencing 01 July 2020 and ending 30 June 2023 with a right of renewal for a further three terms of one year each. The annual rental is \$16,416.00 GST exclusive (2024: \$16,401.99) | \$16,416.00 | \$16,401.99 |

8. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at 31 March 2025 (Last year - nil).

9. Related Parties

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year. (Last year - nil).

10. Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year - nil).

11. Ability to Continue Operating

The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.



NMA Nelson Marlborough Audit Ltd

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Committee of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated

Report on the Performance report

Opinion

We have audited the performance report of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated on pages 3 to 24, which comprise the entity information, the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025, the statement of service performance, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the performance report, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the entity information for the year then ended
- the financial position of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated as at 31 March 2025 and its financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and the audit of the entity information in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised).

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in *the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Society in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) *Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)*, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Society.

Information Other Than the Performance Report and Auditor's Report

The Committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the statement of service performance on pages 6 to 14 but does not include the performance report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the performance report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the performance report, our responsibility is to read the other information, and in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the performance report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The Responsibility of the Committee for the Performance Report

The Committee are responsible on behalf of the entity for:

- (a) Identifying outcomes and outputs, and quantifying the outputs to the extent practicable, that are relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable, to report in the statement of service performance.
- (b) the preparation and fair presentation of the performance report which comprises:
 - the entity information
 - the statement of service performance
 - the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report

in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit) issued in New Zealand by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

- (c) for such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the performance report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Committee are responsible on behalf of the Society for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intend to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Performance Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could be reasonably expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of the performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Committee and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the performance report, including the disclosures, and whether the performance report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

NMA Nelson Marlborough Audit Ltd

NMA Nelson Marlborough Audit Limited
PO Box 732
Nelson 7040

25 July 2025

Kōrero awahi

Communicate positively
Act with compassion
Be courageously honest
Do what you say

Whakapapa

Identity, a sense of belonging
Living a healthy lifestyle
Commitment & responsibilities
Future focused
Know the history

Mana / manaki

Be the best, expect the best
Build the mana of others
Give generously
Hospitality, second to none



Aroha

Affection & appreciation
Loving
Nurturing
Total acceptance

Whanaungatanga

Connected at many levels
Enjoy being together
Strong relationships
Support one another
Participate in the wider community

Tikanga

Do what is right
Keep people safe & protected
Culturally & spiritually strong
Knowledge & skill acquisition

Image source: <https://etuwhanau.org.nz/our-values/>

