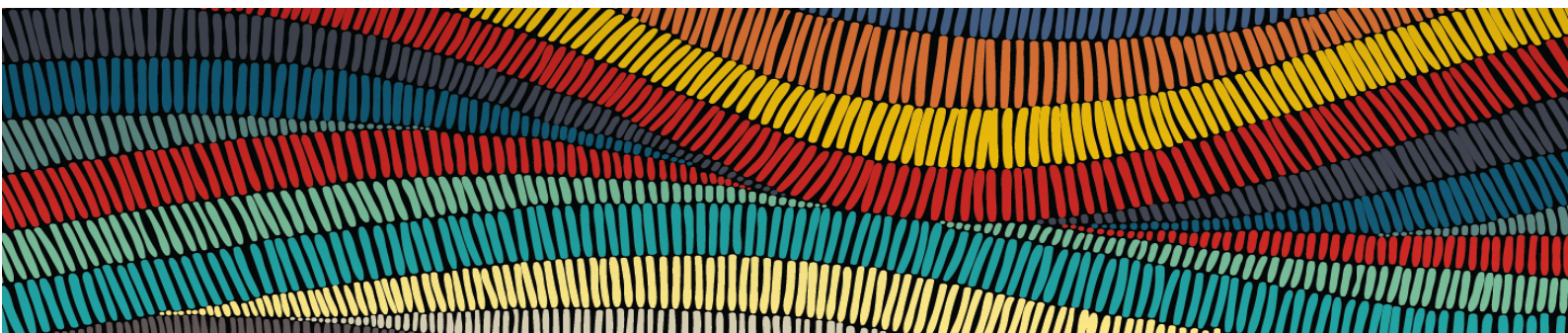


Multicultural Nelson Tasman

Annual Report

01.11.2020 to 31.12.2021





1.11.2020 to 31.12.2021 and recent projects of 2022

Crimes against humanity – Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ukraine (to name a few), climate crisis, and Covid have challenged us all as never before. In addition, digital social media has created an alarming volume of unsubstantiated news, misinformation and hate speech.

Multicultural Nelson Tasman cannot stress enough the importance of aroha (love) and manaakitanga (compassion) to all.

We are where we are today, thanks to all the members, board members, managers, coordinators, field workers and volunteers since our humble beginnings over 27 years ago.

I wish to sincerely thank our Operations Manager, Admin & Projects Officer, Board Members, our Kaumatua, Lovey Geiger, MNT Members, our Multicultural Leaders and Representatives, MYNT, supportive NGOs and various community agencies, MNZ and all the Regional Multicultural Councils, all our partners, sponsors and funders and the people of our region who do their best to make the world a better place.

Aroha nui

Mary Bronsteter, Chair



MNT owes a debt of gratitude and aroha for Maria Busching, our former manager, who has left us for new adventures in 2021. Maria had managed all the day to day work, events and community connections, whilst keeping our vision close to our hearts – Unity in Diversity.

Fortunately, Ramiesha Perera, our administration & projects officer, continues to work for MNT so efficiently and professionally, whilst her smile blesses all that come through our door.

Welcome our new Manager - Anna Fyfe – 6.2021

It was our sincere honour and privilege to warmly welcome Anna Fyfe as our new Manager of Multicultural Nelson Tasman in June. Anna has worked in the newcomer/settlement sector for almost 20 years, both in New Zealand and London, and has held a particular interest in supporting migrants and refugees around employment issues. She spent 10 years working at the non-profit Auckland Regional Migrant Services (now *Belong Aotearoa*) after moving home to NZ from London in 2005. Anna was also on the board of the Auckland Refugee Council and a volunteer with Refugees As Survivors.

Since moving to Nelson in mid- 2017, Anna worked as an employment coach for highly skilled migrants for a local Immigration firm, whilst continuing to volunteer with organisations such as the Red Cross to assist with refugee resettlement.

Anna's passion of NZ's diversity and the immense value it adds to the country, and close contact with new migrants and refugees from an array of backgrounds has given her a sound understanding of both the highs and lows of the settlement process and of the support required to ensure that newcomers thrive and feel a sense of belonging in Aotearoa.

Her work is invaluable. Due to her professionalism, experience, her warmth and compassion and excellent communication skills with all, MNT's vision and purpose has grown in leaps and bounds. Thank you, Anna.



And some goodbyes...

Unfortunately, we had to bid farewell and offer a very big 'thank you for the mahi' to our long-serving board member and Secretary, Melanie McColgan last year. She brought much wisdom and pulled us through some hard times. From her own Māori cultural roots and perspective, she kindly taught the board Tikanga Māori and basic phrases in Te Reo and our mihi/pepeha. She will be missed and we wish her all the very best.



(Mel with Sir Mark Solomon at MNZ AGM 2020)

Last year we also warmly welcomed our board members: Bill and Monique Dyson, Carol Morgan, Sandrine Savarit, and Mahafrin Variava. They have all contributed greatly to our vision during 2021.

MULTICULTURAL NELSON TASMAN (MNT) HIGHLIGHTS

Cross Cultural Awareness Workshops - Ongoing

CROSS - CULTURAL AWARENESS WORKSHOPS 2021

Develop your intercultural awareness and communication skills for successful interactions and conversations with people from different cultures



In collaboration with our Cross-Cultural Awareness expert and workshop facilitator, Birte Becker-Steele, MNT delivered ten workshops in 2021. These 1-day workshops provided a great opportunity to understand the relationships between culture, cultural values, communication, relationships, and effective workplace interactions.

Tasman Asian Night Food Fair - 2.2021

Over 2k people enjoyed our annual amazing evening of Asian kai and performances.



Multicultural Festival 3.2021

Over 3k people celebrated our region's rich cultural diversity. This is what a harmonious society looks like, acceptance, enjoyment and participation.



Microforest Tree Planting - 4.2021

MNT supported the Nelson Whakatu Muslim Association (NWMA) with their Microforest in conjunction with Nelson City Council. So many people from all walks of life put their shovels to good use and planted hundreds of native trees and bushes.

Follow <https://www.facebook.com/MicroforestNelson> for info.



Hikoi with MNZ & Regional Multicultural Councils - 4.2021

MNZ & RMC met in Paihia to learn about Te Ao Māori and the history of Aotearoa from a Māori perspective. The hui included a visit to the grounds of the Waitangi Treaty grounds in Paihia where members of MNZ together with Tangata whenua gathered to commemorate NZ's multicultural communities' commitment to the Reo Māori version of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We planted a kauri tree named 'Mokopuna' to the first peoples of this land as a gesture of goodwill. May our dedication and commitment to Te Tiriti grow as strong and graceful as this Mokopuna. MNT wishes to express much gratitude to MNZ for all the work behind the scenes for the betterment of life for all the migrants of NZ, for the 8 excellent provisos for NZ government and for this incredible Hikoi – pilgrimage to Waitangi.



Myanmar Community Fundraiser to support democracy - 5.2021

Despite the rain, hundreds of people from Nelson/Tasman came to support the Myanmar struggle for justice, democracy and peace at their fundraiser. Approximately \$8,000 was raised, which went directly to feed and support families in their time of need. The Burmese community organised a lovely lunch as a token of appreciation for all the volunteers of the day and noted huge support from Marie Lindaya, a founding and current MNT board member.



MNT at Nelson Connects Volunteer Expo - 6.2021



We had our little stall at the Nelson Connects Volunteer Expo. Volunteering NZ reports that more than 1m people across Aotearoa volunteer for an organisation, contributing some \$4 billion to the economy. We take this as an opportunity to say a big thanks to everyone who volunteers for their community - in whatever form that takes.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal". - Albert Pike.

Multicultural Community Tree Planting – 7.2021

MNT collaborated with Nelson City Council and Friends of the Maitai to host a tree planting day at the Mahitahi Wetlands. Despite the hard and frosty ground in places (which made digging pretty challenging at times), it was great to see people from different cultures joining and making an effort to participate in this lovely event. More trees will continue to be planted in this special 'multicultural corner' and its location will be marked with a special seat and plaque in the future.



Multicultural New Zealand presents - Te Tiriti-based Multicultural day – 8.2021

Multicultural New Zealand continued to further positive community relations with the launch of a new **Multicultural Day** on the last Friday of August. MNZ, backed by Rangatira (regional multicultural leaders) launched this annual celebration as part of a continued effort to normalise and celebrate diversity in New Zealand within a Tiriti-based framework. This was a day where people were invited to bring their cultural heritage into their work and family life. This included wearing traditional attire, sharing traditional food and music, speaking in their native language, sharing stories from their home or kāinga tipu (ancestral homeland).

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Partner Award – 9.2021

Multicultural Nelson Tasman won the Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) Partner 2021 National Award, and special thanks to our MYNT. We would like to thank Neighbourhood Support New Zealand and also Top of the South Neighbourhood Support for your wonderful mahi and appreciation. We look forward to more future collaboration. Everything starts with a 'Hello' to your neighbour.



Multicultural Kai Class and Korero - 9 to 11.2021'

We introduced our "Multicultural Kai Class & Korero" project, and teamed up with the folks at Pics Peanut Butter and the Food Factory Trust to get foodies in Nelson Tasman excited about learning some new ethnic dishes - and having a chat about the culture behind the chef at the same time. Kai and Korero launched with Luisa Diaz who whipped up Afro-Latino cuisine and Colombian Korero, Latifa Daoui presenting delicious Moroccan food, and Merouane Rahal taught us some classic French dishes, with a twist.



Nelson Tasman Newcomers Network - Ongoing

Last year MNT took on responsibility for coordination of the "Newcomers Network" for the Nelson Tasman region. Sitting with Volunteer Nelson until recently, the national network comes under the wider umbrella of Multicultural New Zealand. The New Zealand Newcomers Network is a network of groups throughout the country that are involved in welcoming newcomers to a region. It's open to anyone, whether newly arrived from overseas or recently moved within New Zealand. Joining your local Newcomers group is a great way to meet people and make friends in your new community. With borders opening again we expect to see this network getting busy soon.

The Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum (NTSF) - Ongoing

NTSF continues to meet 6-weekly at Victory Community Centre, and Multicultural Nelson Tasman has now taken on a secretariat role for the Group. Most recently, the forum (which is comprised primarily of stakeholders from central and local government, education and NGOs), has been reviewing the Top of the South Cross Sector Action Plan, to see what has been accomplished over the past 2 years. This action plan arose from a piece of research that MNT commissioned in 2018, to look into the needs. It was encouraging to see some of the outcomes achieved and gaps that have been filled over the past couple of years. Reviewing the plan also enabled the forum members to see what is still outstanding and what priorities may have changed across the settlement sector, particularly in light of Covid19.

Migrant and Former Refugee Community Navigator -Co-governance role - Ongoing

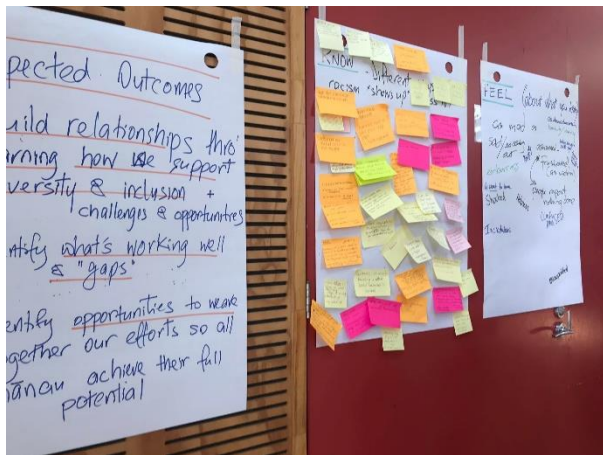
In collaboration with Victory Community Centre and English Language Partners, funding has been secured to continue the essential support currently provided by Norma Seguera, Migrant and Former Refugee Community Navigator. Thank you, Norma.

IACT Hui - Working Collaboratively to support diversity and unity in the Nelson Tasman region - 10.2021

Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tahono (IACT (IACT) partnered with Multicultural Nelson Tasman and hosted a hui focused on how individuals and organisations can work collaboratively and proactively to support diversity and unity and challenge racism and discrimination across the Nelson Tasman region.

The 31 Participants spoke openly about the ways that racism and discrimination were showing up across the region, ranging from blatant ‘in your face’ racism, through to bullying and harassment in schools, unconscious bias, as well as a general under-representation of diverse people at decision-making levels. They also spoke about steps already being taken to counter racism and support inclusion and identified what was missing, plus what further work could be carried out to bring about positive change.

Just some of the opportunities identified included: more cultural diversity training (and making such programmes part of inductions for new staff), learning how to speak out against racism and to intervene safely when it happens, building more partnerships with local iwi to support diversity and inclusion (including powhiri for newcomers), more sharing of resources, strengthening our own capacity to do the work and taking advantage of blended learning opportunities such as can be found through the Te Hurihanganui initiative.



Following the hui, a written report of the collaborative conversations was produced by IACT facilitators Graeme Storer and Atarau Hamilton and distributed to all those present. The report has provided the impetus for future action in this space.

Latin America & Spain Film Festival – 10 – 12.2021

LASFF is a cultural event dedicated to contemporary cinematographic productions from Latin America and Spain. It is also a non-profit event which aims to bring together Latin America, Spain and other New Zealand communities through the big screen. Our 2nd Latin America & Spain Film Festival (LASFF) in Nelson's opening night, included a special appearance via Zoom by Francisco Berninzon, Secretary of the Peruvian Embassy, followed by a screening of the Peruvian documentary *Pacificum*. More than 200 people enjoyed the 8 unique films. A huge thank you to Pablo Salas, *NelsonSon-Afro* and *Latin Dance*.



SPEAK OUT Nelson Tasman - Ongoing

MNT together with Community Law and Nelson Police work together to minimise racist incidents in our community. Speak Out Nelson Tasman (SONT) provides a user-friendly way to report racist incidents. Reports can be made by the victim, a witness or support person on behalf of the victim. Reporting of incidents is important whether or not the victim wants anything done about it as it provides important information to assist the police and other agencies regarding the extent of this problem and ways to address it.



Tel: 0508 (SPEAK OUT) 0508 773 256. For more info, go to our [website](#)

MNT Strategic Planning with Multicultural New Zealand -11.2021

MNT board members continue to strive to learn as much about governance as possible through LEAD webinars, MNZ initiative governance trainings, Te Reo classes to name a few. With our multicultural community leaders and representatives, we had a powerful hui to discuss MNT's Strategic Planning with the support from Pancha Narayanan, President of Multicultural New Zealand and Gurtej Singh, MNZ Community Relationship Advisor. As a result, our board listened to the sound advice and wisdom from everyone present to create our new 5-year strategic plan and goals.



(National MNZ President:
Pancha Narayanan)

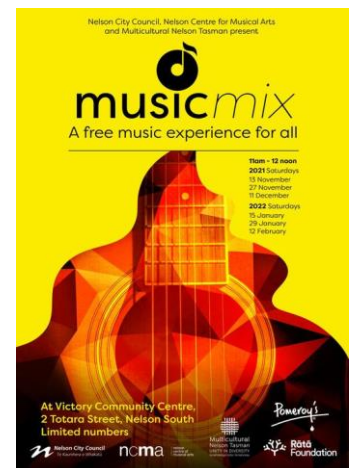
MNZ Annual Hui – 11.2021

MNZ had their annual AGM hui 2021 on 13 and 14 November. Two full days of distinguished guest speakers on Kōrero Te Tiriti, Social cohesion and Policy. MNT is very grateful to have MNZ guidance, tautoko and wisdom and all the mahi MNZ does behind the scenes to support all immigrants.



Music Mix - A free music experience for all Nov 2021 to Feb 2022

[Nelson City Council](#) in association with [Nelson Centre of Musical Arts](#), [Multicultural Nelson Tasman](#), and Victory Community Centre presented a series of 6x fortnightly encounters with the world of music and musicians for people in our community. These free MUSIC MIX sessions allowed people to get up close with musicians. The hope was to inspire people that music is for everyone, and attainable.



MNT brief update from Jan 2022 to now ...

- *Tasman Asian Night Food Festival 2.2022 and Multicultural Festival 3.2022 cancelled due to Covid19*
- *Multicultural Football Tournament successfully took place 19/20 March*
- *Support to our Ukrainian and Russian communities*
- *New Office move to 63 Collingwood Street*
- *Welcoming Communities launched at the NTSF with Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council*
- *Supporting the national Refugee Alliance and new membership*
- *Supporting ethnic community events with their events*
- *Anti-racism work continues with the Tauwi Tautoko project - With funding support from Internet NZ, a local cohort of volunteers is working on challenging hate speech and racism via online social media*
- *Info and health workshops for former refugees and multicultural communities being planned*
- *Project Kōkiri (Nelson Tasman Regeneration Plan) - MNT feedback spearheaded by Maria Uhrle, our Board Member who spent a large amount of time researching this and developing constructive feedback. Watch this space.*

Highlights from Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman (MYNTies) 2021

- **That's MYNT @ Fresh FM**

Check it out on Tuesdays 5 to 6pm on 104.8 (Nelson-Tasman)/ 107.2 (Nelson CBD)/ 88.9 (Blenheim)/ 95.0 (Eastern Golden Bay) or visit [fresh FM net](https://www.freshfm.net) to listen to our Multicultural Youth show.

- **Youth Movie Day at Nelson Library**
- **MYNT Random Acts of Kindness project.**

In partnership with Top of The South Neighbourhood Support, the Group also designed and produced some lovely little inspirational cards with quotes and/or ideas for random acts of kindness that others can do. They also visited a rest home in The Wood, providing entertainment and activities for the resident.

- **Matariki Festival**

MYNT together with Top of the South Neighbourhood Support (TSNS) captured the reflections and future hopes of the community at the Matariki Festival held last month at Victory Community Centre.

- **MYNT Group Bonding**

The MYNTies got together in September for some fun group bonding activities. The goal was to spend some quality time with the members and share some kai. They played volleyball at Tahunanui beach and then went to Richmond Action Centre for ten-pin bowling. As many of the MYNTies were leaving school, and possibly Nelson, last year, they really wanted to make some memories together and have a break from their busy lives and studies.



- **Farewell to Krutika, one of MYNT's founding members**

The MYNTies also took their group bonding opportunity as a chance to thank and farewell Krutika Mishra, who was one of the founding members since in 2019. Krutika shared her experiences of being in the group for two years. She has been actively volunteering for many events organised by the Multicultural Nelson Tasman as well as for other Community events.



New members to the MYNT committee

Chair - Nikita Puri

Deputy Chair - Sakchi Niravia

Secretary - Om Maisuria

Social Media Coordinators - Esther Ribas and Niksha Patel

This new team is so excited to continue being a part of MYNT and to share a passion for making Nelson-Tasman a paradise of unity for all young people. Congratulations!



- Congratulations to our MYNT member Om for being selected as the Head boy for next year at Nelson College 🥳🥳 Best Wishes from Multicultural Nelson Tasman.
- Thanks to Priya for being part of the Cultural Conversations event with Om.
- Continuous work with MNT in many events and projects throughout the year. MNT is very proud and grateful of all the work that MYNT does throughout the year. Thank you MYNTies!



JOIN MNT or MYNT now. Email Ramiesha: admin@multiculturalnt.co.nz

Finally, a big thank you to our sponsors and partners whose contributions allow us to stay financially viable so MNT can continue to support our people, our cultures, our languages, *ō tātou iwi, ō tātou ahurea, ō tatou reo.*

Our Sponsors, Supporters and Partners:

