

MULTICULTURAL NELSON TASMAN



Multicultural
Nelson Tasman
UNITY IN DIVERSITY
kotahitanga i roto i te kanorau.

ANNUAL REPORT



2022

JANUARY -
DECEMBER

Printing of this report was kindly sponsored by Fujifilm Business Innovation NZ



Layout and design assistance was kindly given by **Kate Garnyk**

CHAIR'S VOICE

Thank you to every person who uplifts someone else's life, whether through words, actions, or just being there. Through our struggles in life, I have seen such immense kindness, care and aroha that I cannot help but feel gratitude and joy. Though I had to step down as Chair during 2022 due to family health issues, the outpouring of support from our multicultural whānau demonstrates the goodness of humanity. Our board unanimously voted Marie Lindaya to be our acting Chair in September.

To all our board members (past and present), Anna, our Manager, Ramiesha our Admin and Projects Officer and everyone who celebrates 'Unity in Diversity', thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mary Bronsteter 4.2023



"The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord."

'Abdu'l-Baha'

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

What a whirlwind of a year, starting out with the threat of Omicron and the move to Red Alert which put a disappointing stop to our wonderful plans for our annual Tasman Asian Night Food Fair as well as Multicultural Festival. By September 2022, most restrictions were all lifted. Despite all the changes, Multicultural Nelson Tasman celebrated many wonderful multicultural activities and events.

We moved!



After months of looking, in April we finally moved to a more visible and spacious office at 3/63 Collingwood Street Nelson (behind Community Law). We invited communities to use our space when they needed somewhere to host meetings in town, or even do a bit of admin work. The first example of this was the Indonesian Embassy diplomatic staff utilising our space on a Saturday morning to process passports for Indonesians living in the region- saving many families from having to travel to Wellington.

Multicultural Football Tournament

The universal language and joy of football brought 10 teams playing fast and furious over 2 days in March representing many cultures and ethnicities. Chin Community 1 won 'the competitive' grade while the Bhutanese team took the 'social' grade award and the Spirit Award went to Botanics United.



Somali-born Ahmed Osman and MNT board member who plays for FC Nelson said that after coming to New Zealand as a young refugee, football played a huge role as he was growing up, *"it helped me integrate as a kid, make new friends and adapt to a new culture and country"*. Huge turnout enjoyed by all. This will be an annual event for sure.

Feedback to Project Kōkiri

MNT honed in on the potential of an emerging multicultural economy in its feedback to the draft Nelson Tasman Regeneration 2021-2031 (Project Kōkiri). Prepared by Maria Uhrle (MNT Board Member), it was a thoroughly and professionally researched 17-page report. Recommending the multicultural economy as 'spotlight on' area, Maria noted ways that ethnic communities could contribute to some of the 35 projects proposed in the Regeneration Plan. These included attracting visitors to the region with vibrant festivals, support to ethnic food restaurants, regional ethnic products and art and a multi-purpose multicultural hub - offering help for an increasingly ethnically diverse workforce and for multicultural business development. Recommendations also include ensuring the plan for economic regeneration aligns with aspects of the Government's Former Refugees, Recent Migrants and Ethnic Communities Employment Action Plan, and that the multicultural community is represented in the Project Kōkiri leadership team going forward.



MNT meeting with Isel Ladies Probus Club



MNT and friends enjoyed a special morning sharing stories and diverse backgrounds with members of Isel Ladies Probus club. It was a great opportunity to enhance cross-cultural dialogue and relationships, and learn more about those in our community.

Special thanks to our friends from Nelson Whakatū Muslim Association (NWMA), Aotearoa Latin American Community (ALAC) in Nelson and our Board member Maria Uhrle for sharing their stories.

Multicultural Projections for TUKU22

A stunning visual display of images from past multicultural festivals in Nelson, teamed with art work from former refugee and migrant artists were projected onto a wall near the Nelson iSite during a week in May. This was brought to our community as part of Tuku22 Whakatū Heritage Months by Multicultural Nelson Tasman in collaboration with Cultural Conversations. With thanks to Nelson City Council and the technical and creative team - Klaasz Breukel, Lee Woodman, and Tim Cuff.



Free interpreting services pilot for NGOs

Multicultural Nelson Tasman and Interpreting New Zealand worked together to successfully acquire a pot of funding from DIA that enabled non-profit organisations to access free interpreters and break down some of the barriers to access to services for non-English speakers.

Celebrating World Refugee Day 2022



On World Refugee Day (20 June), Ramiesha and Anna went around some local primary schools to gift them a copy of a lovely picture book called “The Voyage” by Robert Vescio. Told only with one word per page, it is the story of a family fleeing war and making a dangerous trip across the ocean to a new life in a new land. Here they are with Brenda Black at Nelson Central School. Brenda is already a big fan of this lovely book and was happy to receive a copy for the school

Collaborative work for “Shared Communities”

In August the report on the Shared Communities project was released. The aim of this initial engagement was to find out about the ways that migrant and former refugee communities would like to celebrate their arts, culture and heritage in Whakatū Nelson, and what some of the barriers are that may be preventing them from doing this. The report was initiated by MakeShift Spaces, MNT, NCC (and libraries) and Nelson Arts Council with seed funding from the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage. The Consortium hopes that leadership will be secured from the migrant and former refugee communities to make some the ideas a reality moving forward and an Advisory Group was formed late 2022.



Parenting Workshop for former refugees – Aug & Oct



We had an excellent turn out for our first topic-based information workshop for former refugees, when more than 50 people turned up to Victory Community Centre to hear from a range of guest speakers and service providers about parenting/family-related issues. After hearing from two presenters as a whole group, those in attendance formed four language-specific groups and went with their relevant interpreter around 'stations' set up in the hall to hear in detail from each service provider present.

These included Brain Wave Trust, Banardos, Big Brothers Big Sisters, NZ Police, Community Action on Youth and Drugs (CAYAD) and AOD Clinicians Sabien Blazek and Jay Blazek. We had another wonderful parenting workshop in October and these were able to be held thanks to funding from the Community Capability and Resilience Fund from MSD. Additionally, nothing would also be possible without the hard work of Migrant and Refugee Community Navigator Norma Sequera, and valuable input from community leaders and our guest speakers.

Cross cultural Awareness Workshops

MNT continues to work in this space, seeking funding for, and coordinating the delivery of cross-cultural workshops, which are then delivered by Birte Becker-Steel from Vis a Vis. Throughout 2022 we held 5 of these workshops across the region. Participants included Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, NMIT and three workshops open to the public including one offered at Motueka. The one-day workshop helps people reflect on their own cultural identity and the impact of beliefs and values, increases knowledge about culturally related behaviour and gain insight into cultural traits beyond confining stereotypes. It provides models and tools to compare and understand cultures better and presents appropriate ways to communicate in different settings and minimise misunderstandings.



Kai and Korero



In 2022 we held three more well-attended "Kai and Korero" sessions at The Food Factory. These events give participants the chance to learn how to cook a special dish from the host chef's home country, and also to learn more about their culture at the same time.

We enjoyed food from Indonesia with Mini and Feni, Middle Eastern cuisine with Mona, and Moroccan delights from Latifa.

Diverse Women's Walk



MNT together with Nelson Women's Centre offered a "Diverse Women's Walk" through beautiful Isel Park, as part of the month-long "Step into Spring" Walking festival that ran across the region in October 2022.

Welcome to new Police Staff + Hate Crime Programme Workshop



In November an event was held with Police to welcome the new Tasman District Commander, Superintendent Tracey Thompson and the new Ethnic Liaison Officer for Tasman, Constable David Cogger. Community representatives and stakeholders had a chance to meet the new post holders before hearing from the national Police team representatives working on Te Raranga - The Weave, Hate Crime Programme. MNT also organised two earlier meetings with Police in April and August, to look at the refresh of the NZ Police Ethnic Strategy.

"Tauwi Tautoko"

Tackling racialised online hate was the focus as Multicultural Nelson Tasman joined the successful anti-racism project Tauwi Tautoko. In early April MNT started the 10-week programme off with a full-day hui - commencing the training of a cohort of volunteers keen to learn how to challenge online hate. Funded by InternetNZ, the programme aimed to help people challenge and reverse negative racial stereotypes by supporting people to listen for understanding, find common ground and offer an alternative narrative. Volunteers from Nelson joined with others from around Aotearoa to attend weekly 1.5-hour workshops, to hone their skills of intervening in often very toxic spaces (usually the comments section) online.



Migrant and Former Refugee Community Navigator (Norma Sequera)

MNT is proud to continue to co-govern this important role with Victory Community Centre and English Language Partners. Norma's work is invaluable and we are grateful for her incredibly heart for communities and her professionalism.

First one-day Anti-racism and Allyship workshop



Around 25 people turned up on a stormy Saturday in August to attend a full-day workshop looking at practical aspects of anti-racism and allyship. It was facilitated by Jen Bennett from Kind Mind Kai and organised by MNT with funding from Nelson City Council. It was heartening to see so many diverse people from our community willing to step forward and learn new ways of doing things, particularly around staying calm and being able to challenge the casual racism that can often take us by surprise when friends, family, colleagues or strangers come out with unexpected comments.

'Top of the South Working Group Against Racism'

This group, which arose organically from the Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono hui in Oct 2021, continues to meet regularly, to keep a focus on activities and actions, share resources and provide feedback. Coordinated by MNT, current members include: NZ Police, Welcoming Communities Coordinators (Nelson and Tasman), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Community Law, and the Refugee and Migrant Community Navigator.

Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum Secretariat

MNT continues to provide coordination and secretariat support to the Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum, a group of between 30-40 agencies which meets six weekly. The Forum works collaboratively to ensure that (former) refugees, migrants and newcomers are made welcome, are cared for, and are supported in the region. The Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum does so by sharing information and issues and progressing strategic goals through advocacy and action.

Refugee Alliance in Nelson



Steering Group members from The Refugee Alliance [Dr. Zhiyan Basharati (Chair of Refugee Research Centre), Dr. Khurram Malik (Director of HOPE Worldwide-Pakistan), Gatluak Chuol (Settlement Services Manager at Asylum Seekers Support Trust), Rahmat Azimi (CEO of NZ National Refugee Youth Council)] visited Nelson to talk to former refugees about their views on how the government could improve settlement outcomes for refugees. The role of the Refugee Alliance is to strengthen the collaboration between NGOs, community groups and their allies to collectively advocate for high level policy and strategy changes at a government level.

Meeting with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner

We were all very honoured to meet with the EEO Commissioner Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo, and Human Rights Advisor Nid Satjipanon from New Zealand Human Rights Commission in April. It was a great kōrero and we were happy to give some input into the policies for the betterment of all people in the workforce: Work for Equal Employment Opportunities, Women's rights, and work exploitation/slavery, to name a few.



Music Mix



This was an opportunity for Nelsonians who enjoy music but have never had an opportunity to give it a go, to do just that. Our diverse community enjoyed the 3x one-hour eclectic music encounters which were held at Victory Community Centre and the project was a collaboration between NCC, NCMA, and MNT.



MYNTies meet fortnightly at the Multicultural Nelson Tasman office to talk about plans for projects and events.

"That's MYNT" Radio show

'That's MYNT!' is a radio show by the Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman. They started this show in October 2020 and since, want to entertain the community with a fun mix of interviews, music and chat. The show is broadcast every Sunday between 7 pm and 8 pm on Fresh FM- 104.8 (Nelson-Tasman)/ 107.2 (Nelson CBD)/ 88.9 (Blenheim)/ 95.0 (Eastern Golden Bay) or visit freshfm.net to listen to their Multicultural show.



Outdoor Paddle Boarding session

MYNTies were super excited to join the paddle boarding session by Moana Paddle Nelson in March 2022 as part of a group bonding activity.



Volunteering for Multicultural Football Tournament

The youth group volunteered at the Multicultural Football Tournament (March 2022), which went ahead, despite the Tasman Asian Night Food Fair and the Multicultural Festival being cancelled due to Omicron.

Recruitment video by MYNT

One of the main projects of the MYNTies for the year was to recruit more members to the group. The planning, script, recording and even editing of the video were all done by the members. Here is the link to the MYNT Recruitment video: https://fb.watch/j0V_qsghy/

Multicultural Youth Movie Night for "Youth Week"

A Movie Night was organised by MYNTies for Youth Week 2022 in May. There was a great turnout with some 60 young people coming together to watch Spider-Man: Homecoming. Intermission provided an opportunity for activities, games and conversation.



Modelling for “IndoNelson Batik Exhibition”

In June the MYNTies showed off their modelling skills at the Tuku22 IndoNelson event. They were dressed in a variety of batik clothing that was flown in from Indonesia, especially for the event.



Lantern-making workshops for Matariki

MYNTies connected with Victory Primary School to do some lantern-making sessions for tamariki in July. These lanterns were used for the hikoï at the Matariki celebration which was held at the Victory Community Centre.



MYNT Outdoor Movie in Richmond

MYNTies organised an outdoor movie night in Washbourn Gardens in partnership with Tasman District Council in October 2022. In keeping with the theme of the Colombian-based movie Encanto that was shown, there were Latin-American food carts, zumba, cumbia, games and a lot of fun activities. The turnout was huge and they were so glad it brought many in the community together.



"Random Acts of Kindness Day" by MYNT

The youth group celebrated "Random Acts of Kindness Day" with the residents of Coastal View Retirement Village and spent some quality time with them in September. They brought some food to share with the residents and also enjoyed doing some interactive games. Girls from the Nelson Malayalee Community did some lovely dance performances. MYNTies also shared some greeting cards written in their own words for the residents with beautiful messages in them.



Spirited Conversations

MYNTies were invited to give a talk in October for Spirited Conversations at Yaza Café Nelson. They talked about their mission to empower young people - sharing their passion for achieving acceptance for all, and unity in diversity. If you'd like to hear their session, you can tune into the Spirited Conversations podcast via the Fresh FM site.

Nelson Arts Festival 2022

The youth group also took part in the Nelson Arts Festival by exhibiting some painted masks which represented their countries and also by providing some information about the youth group at the Nelson Provincial Museum.

Multicultural New Zealand Youth Conference

MYNT Chair Nikita Puri got the opportunity to represent the group at Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) Youth Conference in December 2022 in Wellington. Nikita mentioned that she was honoured to visit Kāpiti Island, welcomed with a Whakatau, hosted by mana whenua Ngāti Toa Rangatira. She had the opportunity to join MNZ strategic planning sessions and educational workshops while also enjoying a bonfire and some geo-caching exercises.



Group bonding and final catch up

MYNTies went to the Action Centre in Richmond and played bowling and enjoyed some dinner together which was their final catch-up for the year. They discussed the year in review and brainstormed some project ideas for 2023 with the hope to deliver more exciting projects to make the youth group more welcoming and inclusive to all young people in Nelson



EVENTS HELD BY OUR COMMUNITIES & PARTNERS



IndoNelson and Tuku22 Heritage Months Events Celebrating Indonesia

As a part of Tuku22 Whakatū Heritage Months, the IndoNelson community successfully presented two fabulous events that showcased aspects of Indonesia's rich and diverse cultures. There was an amazing gamelan experience, batik exhibition and a traditional hands-on batik workshop during the day, as well as an evening event to "explore palate and senses" through a traditional Indonesian dining and cultural experience - "Tumpengan" with mesmerizing dances, songs and music. The event was attended by dignitaries from the Indonesian Embassy here in NZ, as well as local government and central government representatives. It was a full house with people being turned away at the door. This was a night to remember.

Ukrainian Peace Vigil

A peace vigil was held at the Nelson Cathedral and attended by many. MNT has helped the Ukrainian community form Tautoko Ukraine Charitable Trust in the effort to raise funds for humanitarian aid which became an official registered charity on 17 July 2022.

EID with Nelson Whakatū Muslim Association

Muslims all over New Zealand came together last month to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr after a whole month of fasting during the daylight hours. Nelson-Whakatū Muslim Association celebrated Eid at Saxton Oval with a gathering of whanau and friends from the wider community. Thanks to NWMA for inviting Multicultural Nelson Tasman to celebrate Eid al-Fitr with their Muslim brothers and sisters, it was such a lovely day.



Pakistan Independence Day Celebration

The growing Pakistani Community in Nelson celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day for the first time in Nelson on 5th of June. The event, organised by Sanam Mukhtar, the Regional Head of the Pakistan Association of New Zealand in Nelson, was a first for the community as they marked their presence here and moved to raise the profile of their country and culture. It also follows the celebration of 75 years of independence for Pakistan. Everyone enjoyed the food, speeches and beautiful performances. We hope to see many such events happening in Nelson as we encourage 'Unity in diversity' and we offer a warm welcome from Multicultural Nelson Tasman to our newest resettled refugees from the Ahmadiyya community.



Latin America and Spain Film Festival 2022

True to their promise from their remotely-delivered speech back in 2021, the Peruvian Embassy representatives turned up in-person to the opening night of the Latin America and Spain Film Festival, with double the amount of delicious pisco sours in hand. Around 100 people came to the opening, which was held at Putangitangi Greenmeadows Centre, and watched the Peruvian film "Mataindios". The completely free film festival continued in September and October and showcased a range of contemporary cinematographic productions from Latin America and Spain. It is a non-profit event which aims to bring together Latin America, Spain and other New Zealand communities through the big screen. Multicultural Nelson Tasman together with Nelsonson Dance & Entertainment, were proud to be supporting this event again for 2022, with funding from Nelson City Council (NRDA).



China Week

Staff and some of the MNT board members met with Race Relations Commissioner Meng Foon, at the launch of China week.

Colombian Integration and Cultural Expression

Nelson Colombian Community Trust organised their "Colombian Integration and Cultural Expression" event on 24th of September at the Victory Square. There was face-painting for kids, a sneak preview of the Colombian float for the upcoming Santa Parade, catchy cumbia tunes from Transandinos, traditional dance displays and delicious empanadas and arepas.



Solita Pa' Todos - Integration Event from Latin American Community

The Aotearoa Latin American Community (ALAC) Nelson Branch organised an integration event for the Latin American community in September at the Victory Community Centre. It was a hugely fun night with music, dance and food (soup for all), and also a chance to share information about the services that ALAC offers to the community in Nelson.



Garba Dance Night for Navarati

It was a pleasure to be invited to the Garba dance night organised for the Navaratri Festival by the Indian (Gujarati) Community in Nelson. What a wonderful night of dancing, festivities and food!



Dashain 2022 with Nelson's Nepalese Community

The most important Hindu festival for those from Nepal, Dashain is a time for family reunions, the exchange of gifts and blessings, and elaborate pujas.

Our Nepalese Community in Nelson celebrated Dashain on the 8th of October, at a beautifully-organised event which was held at old St John's Hall in Hardy Street.



Diwali 2022

One of the most popular Hindu festivals, Diwali, was very well-celebrated in Nelson last year.

The Fijian-Indian community who are part of Nelson Sanatan Ramayan Mandli held their event on October 15th at the Trafalgar Hall. It was a huge success and their first time pulling together an event like this for their community.

Diwali was also celebrated with the wider Indian and local community at a public event held at Founder's Park on October 16th. There was a wide range of delicious food on offer, performances, music and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends.



Tautoko Ukraine Art Auction

An art auction was organised to raise funds for humanitarian aid in Ukraine; supported by Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, John Walker Auctions, Multicultural Nelson Tasman and Nelson City Council. The Tautoko Ukraine Group would like to express their gratitude to all volunteers and supporters and sponsors involved in the Support Ukraine Charitable Auction event which was held on October 6th at the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts. They raised nearly \$8000 for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, which was an amazing result.





Knock Film Screening

The Bhutanese community of Nelson proudly screened their new Nepali short film "Knock" in early December at the Suter Theatre.

More than 100 people turned out for the Nelson premiere of the film, which gives important messages about issues facing the community - such as pressures facing youth and trying to balance social and cultural issues. Community leader Bhoj Subba said feedback had been excellent and people were hoping more screenings would be offered in the future.



Talking about Identity and Belonging in Aotearoa...

Professor James Liu from Massey University visited Nelson in November and presented a wonderful session for Nelson City Council staff and other interested members of the public on the topic of "Navigating Identity and Belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand". If you missed his session at the Suter Theatre, you can find a recording on YouTube.

The Multicultural Nelson Tasman Board wishes to express our most sincere gratitude to our two amazing staff, Anna Fyfe and Ramiesha Perera, who go above and beyond what appears to be humanly impossible. They are both treasures and they truly have the 'pulse' on the people. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and test of our civilisation"

Mahatma Gandhi (1925)



Many thanks to our sponsors:

