

Nelson Multicultural Council Inc. 2012/2013 Annual Report

By working collaboratively with other agencies, NMC continues to fulfil its vision to ensure that "migrants, newcomers and locals celebrate their diversity in a welcoming and safe environment so that all may enrich our community." In the previous 12 months, NMC contacts have increased significantly. With the increase in numbers of refugees and migrants to our area there is increased demand on our service.



Healthy Lifestyles

NMC collaborated with NMDHB midwifery service and Victory Health to establish ante natal classes for former refugee expectant mothers. Interpreter support was made possible with "Ignite" funding.

Forty five former refugees attended an Energy Conservation in the Home presentation given by the Nelson City Council. An iwi leadership seminar was delivered under Ignite, to former refugees.

NMC assisted with organising a Midwives Study Day which focused on cultural practices and beliefs surrounding pregnancy, child birth and the days after the birth. Women from different cultures shared their cultural perspectives with thirty of the region's midwives.



Appreciation of Diversity

Multicultural Womens Group at Whenua Iti Outdoors Centre

Race Unity Day 2013 was held in Nelson. Photos can be seen on our website:

<http://www.nelsonmulticultural.co.nz/EVENTS/Race+Unity+Day/Race+Unity+Day+2013.html>

Rainbow Praise ~ many people many songs, 22nd April at Nelson Cathedral was a wonderful celebration of cultural diversity with 12 cultural choirs.

Throughout the year, NMC committee members and staff represented NMC at 11 cultural events, including national days.

NMC was represented at the citizenship ceremonies held at Nelson City Council by the Coordinator and Committee members.

NMC has two new group members, *Indo-Nelson* and the Nelson Kayan Community Group were established. Nelson's Bhutanese Nepali Society launched a radio programme.

NMC members Luz Zuniga and Jessica Diaz have won a national award for the best foreign language radio program, *Viva Latinoamerica*, in the 2012 New Zealand Radio Awards.

On World Refugee Day the New Beginnings – Refugee Stories Nelson: A Snapshot of Success was launched at Nelson Library.

Former NMC Chair, Dayanira Bakhshi who was honoured by NZFMC with an award for community service. Priyani de Silva-Currie was elected as the new NZFMC Vice-chairperson.

NMC coordinator attended the NZ Diversity Forum in Auckland and visited the Auckland Refugee & Migrant Centre and Raeburn House.

Nelson Newcomers Network and NMC hosted a Diwali Pot luck Dinner in November.

The Settling In Refugee Settlement in Nelson report was launched in October 2012. This is a significant report which outlines the experience of approximately 750 former refugees now living in Nelson.

The NMC cook book, *Around the World in Tasty Ways*, was launched at a special event attended by about 130 people. An associated documentary was filmed for this cookbook at www.mazeaudiovisual.co.nz

NMC members participated in Powhiri held on Waitangi Day at Whakatu Marae and had information stands at the Kai Festival, Founders Park, the Sarau Festival, and at the Trafalgar St Market Day.

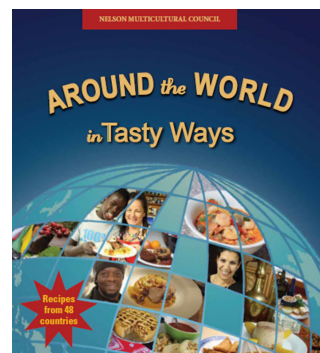
TV1 programme, Neighbourhood, filmed in NMC

members in Nelson for their series based on voice, treasure, craft and dish.

NMC participated in and promoted Census data collection.

A fourth edition of the "Useful Tips for Migrants" booklet was published.

On International Women's Day (8th March) members on NMC participated in a historic women's photo at Fairfield House to reflect a similar photo which had been taken 100 years ago.



Vibrant & Optimistic Youth

During Youth Week youth participants participated in a *New to New Zealand Quiz* focusing on information contained in the recently released "Ethnic Youth Resource Kit for migrants & refugees" developed by the Youth Council of the NZFMC.

Youth rep., Lun Tan, attended the National Youth Forum on Cultural Diversity organised by Human Rights Commission and the Nelson Youth Leadership Forum.



Publicity

NMC has availed of every media opportunity in order to maintain public awareness, providing Mainland TV, local radio and newspapers with stories of events and initiatives. 5000 information books containing NMC services were distributed throughout Nelson.

NMC and SONT both have their own Face Book pages. NMC website has had 3359 visitors in the past 12 months, 3249 of which were unique or first time visitors.

NMC coordinator delivered cultural diversity training to Hospice volunteers and High schools. Two Intercultural Awareness & Communication training workshop were delivered. NMC participated in Community Contact Week for third year Otago University medical students.



Safety in the Community

The poster, "10 Simple Ways to Eliminate Racism" was produced by NMC, and has been distributed throughout Nelson and to many parts of NZ.

Speak Out Nelson Tasman (SONT) coordinator, Lillian Li-Kurtovic has been working with English Language Partners to develop resources. Lillian has presented at local high schools and NMIT.

As part of the Ignite project,

twenty former refugees availed of a Kid Power Teen Power Full Power training day. A special "Cyber Safety" workshop was also held.



Our Staff, Contractors and Management Committee

Staff and Contractors:

NMC Coordinator – Evey McAuliffe

NMC Field Worker - Cristy Aydon and Sue Heydon

Ignite Coordinator - Jane Furkert and Dev Mehta

SONT Coordinator - Lillian Li-Kurtovic

Nelson Newcomers Network Coordinator - Chandra Dhal and Ali Morton.

NMC Management

Committee:

Dayanira Bakhshi (El Salvador), Baki Bakhshi (Iran), Denise Hutterd (NZ), Jyoti Sandhu (India), Priyani de Silva-Currie (Sri Lanka), Diane Homer (NZ), Claire Keenan (Scotland), Marie Johnstone (Philippines) Lun Tan (Malaysia) and Richard Yang (China).

We thank our members, volunteers, partners, advisors and funders for their invaluable and ongoing contribution to our organisation.

Priyani de Silva-Currie

Chairperson

May 2013

Economic Wellbeing

"NMC were successful in their application to the Community Response Fund (Round 2) which enabled the Ignite Project to continue. Ignite initiatives are designed to up skill former refugees with the focus on prevention of family violence, increasing road user safety and enabling interpreters. Some of the workshops were run in collaboration with other agencies, e.g:

- *Parenting in a NZ Context* training delivered by SKIP with interpreting, venue hire and child care costs covered by Ignite
- a series of workshops explain rights & responsibilities under NZ law were delivered by Community Law Service but organised by Ignite.
- Interpreter training
- Car & bike maintenance workshops
- Learner License preparation through ESOL classes

Families and Children Sector Group

NMC Field Worker ran a weekly get-together for seniors and a weekly Multicultural Mums & Toddlers group.

NMC and Te Rito Network organised a seminar for the Prevention of Family Violence presented by Dr. Love Chile: *Working Across Cultures in the Prevention of Family Violence. Focusing on Refugees and Migrants*. Over 120 people from the community sector attended.

Ignite supported a Parenting in a NZ Context Course Stage 1 & 2.

A "Sewing Club" for former refugee women, was set up by NMC.

