



What happened last year, a summary

1. Governance:

- **Changes within the Governance Committee;** Since our last AGM there has been a rotation of members of the Governance Committee. This changes included the resignation of two Chairpersons. Early in 2016, after our AGM, Priyani de Silva-Currie had to resign as Chair, because she had to move out of Nelson. She remained as Past President Adviser up to the date.

In late May 2016, Barbara Bedeschi was elected as Chair by the Committee and stood in office until January 2017. She resigned because her work took her overseas.

The Committee wants to express their gratitude towards both Priyani and Barbara, for their leadership, their work and contribution to the work performance of NMC during 2016, that it is now being reported.

The Committee decided to adopt a new approach to the Committee's finance responsible role and opted to designate a paid Financial Officer instead of having a Treasurer from the Committee. The Financial Officer is both our bookkeeper and takes the responsibility to oversee the compliance with the Charities Commission reporting standards.

Two new Committee members, who were co-opted during last year are now to be confirmed on their positions on this AGM. The Governance Committee currently has 5 members.

From January 2017 up to this AGM, the Committee decided to appoint an Interim Chair, until the first meeting of the Committee elected today, where a new Chair and executive Committee will be elected.

- **Nelson Multicultural Council Strategy and Action Plan.**

2016 was a year of definitions of both a strategy and the corresponding action plan for the next couple of years.

The Strategy and Action Plan got inputs and work of both our past Chairs, Priyani De Silva-Currie and Barbara Bedeschi. The strategy and plan were elaborated further during a series of three workshop sessions, where Governance Committee, NMC members, friends and advisers discussed what should be the way for NMC within the next couple of years. The Workshops, that were known as "Our Future" sessions, were facilitated by Jon Lewando, a professional Consultant and Civil Engineer, who shared his knowledge and experience with project management to help NMC to fine tune the strategy and design a plan.

The strategy defined:

“Vision - The change we hope to effect

Migrants, newcomers and locals celebrate their diversity in a welcoming and safe environment so that all may enrich and integrate into the local community.

Mission - what we believe

To represent, support and empower ethnic, migrant and former refugee communities through leadership, partnership, capacity building and service delivery. *'Our motto': to promote unity in diversity*

Purpose - what we are here to do

To support and advocate for equal rights of ethnic migrants and former refugees living in the region

- To help new migrants settle in to the community
- To promote positive race relations through community awareness and strive unity amongst cultures.
- To encourage and guide people of all ethnicities feel empowered to actively and positively contribute to society.
- To help people of all ethnicities gain confidence to speak out and be achievers at all levels in the community.

NMC's Strategy document is and will continue being revised by the Committee, as goals are achieved and new challenges are presented.

• **Changes in the position of Coordinator**

In 2016, NMC went through a new Coordinator's recruitment process, after Sole Ighani finalized his fixed term contract in September 2016. Bridget Thompson, who was our Coordinator for two months in 2015, took the position, again temporarily, in September 2016, for 3 weeks. In the meant time, the Committee worked in a new job description for the Coordinator, including the conclusions regarding NMC's strategy and action plan. By decision of the Committee, Jessica Díaz, who was until then the Treasurer of the Governance Committee stepped down as such and assumed the position of Coordinator with the mission of setting up the position (workwise), report to the Committee of advances and produce an efficient handover to the new appointed Coordinator. The application and selection process of the Coordinator received also direct input from partner organizations within the Community. We want to thank Penny Molar and Kindra Douglas, from our partner organization Victory Community, for being part of the Coordinator's position interviewing Committee. The Interim Coordinator managed NMC until the 16th of January 2017, when the induction/handover of the Coordinators position was completed.

The re-organizing of the Coordinators position work included:

- Projects and programmes: Re-ignite and follow up programmes and projects timelines:
SONT, Interpreter's List.
- Re-taking networking and liaison work with partner organizations (LBMF; Community Law Services and Police-SONT; Nelson Regional Hospital-Interpreter's list, among others)
- Matching Projects and programmes with founding opportunities:

Race Unity Day-NRDA;

Night Noodle market-Mainland Foundation/previous partial founding by TDC;

Intercultural Awareness Programmes – Ministry of Ethnic Communities
Communities development fund;

Developing of relevant programmes-Lotteries Community Research programme.

- Events: Pre-production/organization of Race Unity Day and Richmond Night Noodle Market
- Administration: Office organization including change of premises
New Coordinator's handover.

2. Work agenda for NMC

NMC's Committee organized the organization's work in five areas:

1. Networking, Communication and Collaboration

• Networks:

NTSF. NMC has strengthened its participation within the Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum (former Looking Back Moving Forward network). One of NMC's Committee members and NMC's Coordinator attend to the six weekly meetings of this forum, and contributed to the work of the network.

The forum unites representatives from local organizations and government agencies who are directly involved with refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities and aim to improve their integration.

Community and Whanau Meetings

NMC's Coordinator, traditionally attends to meetings mainly in Nelson. For time and budget constraints, attendance to Motueka Community and Whanau meetings are still occasional. At the Community and Whanau Meetings, NMC liaises with local organizations and agencies who work directly with the public within the social, health and education sectors. NMC promotes and collaborates with them on matters of a multiculturalism and integration agenda, within a Treaty of Waitangi framework.

Te rito Network against violence

NMC is part of the network and attends Te rito network meetings.

• Collaboration

In 2016-17, NMC has strengthened relationships with:

Nelson City Council-Programmes and events

Tasman District Council: Programmes and events

Citizens Advice Bureau: Programmes (research) and events

New Zealand Police (SONT)

Community Law Services: Programme (SONT)

Health Services: Programme (Interpreter's list)

Victory Community Centre (Joint funding application – the Hub)

NMC has developed new partnerships/relationships with:

Youth Council-TDC: Event project (Colour Craze)

Women Angel Loan Fund: Event project (Women Summit project)

- **Communication**

With NMC's with Members and general Community:

- NMC actively participate in sector reports at our networks meetings.
- We promote and keep our community informed of our programmes and activities advertising them on social networks and the media.
- NMC also keeps an active presence in media coverage of our work and events.
- Members are periodically kept updated with NMC information through email campaigns.

2. Programmes and projects

- Development of Interpreter's List. During 2016, NMC is re-defining the Interpreters List service, following a process to make it more efficient and improve the service we provide to agencies, people and organizations. NMC has an offer of training opportunity for interpreters, offered by the District Health Board and another from Red Cross to take advantage of one of their courses, and has included in the Interpreters application form, an item asking for the candidate to commit to participate in training to comply with the interpreter's standards required by the agencies that might use their services.

The list is also being updated, including police checks, by our Coordinator.

- SONT. The system is functioning, with the coordinated work of NMC's Coordinator, Community Law and the Police. Ways to communicate to the community the findings and conclusions of the cases reported had been discussed with Community Law.

- English Speaking for Migrants course.
NMC delivered one course, facilitated by a Speech New Zealand approved teacher in Nelson. The attendance was not satisfactory, so the Committee decided to put further courses on hold until we can identify enough people interested in taking them.

- Intercultural Awareness Workshops

With the aim to deliver NMC strategy towards mutual understanding and harmonious relations, the Committee decided to develop and deliver Intercultural Awareness Workshops, following a model established by the New Zealand Office of Ethnic Communities. The present project is thought to provide training within a welcoming and fun social event, where relevant conversations and sharing of experiences are facilitated and nurtured.

NMC's plan is to hold at least three of this workshops a year.

- The Hub project.
The Hub agenda was initiated by Nelson Multicultural Council in early 2016, where our Chair, and Coordinator approached local government representatives to propose the idea of having a place where migrant and ethnic local communities could meet, organize, held events and find opportunities to network and even do business with each other. The idea was pitched to Victory Community Centre and they decided to partner with us in a joint funding application for that purpose, which obtained partial funds, not sufficient to go ahead with the whole project, but enough to give a first step. We have decided to use the funds for a multicultural community leaders hui to discuss not only that initiative, but other forms to collaborate and create unity among our communities.

3. Events

- **Race Unity Day.** Held on Sunday, the 19th of March, Race Unity Day was a big success, with thousand attending and positive feedback from many sectors, including the Media. The concept of the big shared table, reflected in the poster and the real big table at the event was one of the most praised features this year. It is one of the ideas to be developed further in upcoming RUDs, together with the “zero waste” policy and the developing of an image/concept for each version.
- **Tasman Noodle Market.** An attendance success, the Tasman Noodle Market at Washburn Gardens in Richmond marks the starting of a new stage in NMC’s relationship with Tasman District Council. The project was conceived and delivered in collaboration with TDC, that contributed with a grant, in house resources and concept development of the event. The feedback was also encouraging, everyone asking for a second version. TDC addressed one main criticism that was the lack of space for the stalls and committed to allow some on the grass for next year.
- **Upcoming new events:**
Women Summit. Committee members attended a multicultural women’s leadership Hui in Upper Hutt and the idea of doing a similar event for the Nelson-Tasman region was discussed and approved by the Committee. Committee members started liaising with different agencies and local organizations and at the same time, NMC applied and obtained some founding towards the local women hui from TDC. One organization is advancing towards a regional hui for women who participate in local organizations, in partnership with the Nelson Angel Women’s Loan Fund.

Colour Craze.

In 2016, the Youth Council gave an award to NMC and engaged us to organize the 2017 version of the event Colour Craze, held to celebrate diversity among young people. NMC has planned the event to happen in the Spring.

4. Funding

The main founding for Nelson Multicultural Council operations and projects was granted by Lottery Community Advise and Grants. The new funding criteria established by the Charities Commission and the government took NMC to think in the Coordinator role as a project with objectives and outcomes defined for 2016-2017 and to contract the services of a contractor as a Coordinator. This means that the Coordinator is not staff, but a contractor and future roles, such as could be an outreach officer or a workshop facilitator, will also be contractors. Our Coordinator remuneration is covered for the time being, and it needs a new funding application to continue.

Other funds obtained were:

- NRDA-for RUD. We were advised that we need to find new founding sources for RUD, as NRDA-will not support such project this year.
- TDC and Mainland Foundation for Tasman Noodle Market
- Community Development Fund-Department of Internal Affairs – Intercultural Awareness Workshops
- TDC-Women’s hui/summit and Multicultural children activity
- Tindall Foundation: towards the development of a multicultural Hub.
- COGS: for projects and programmes.

Waiting for an answer: Lotteries Community Research-Multiculturalism and integration diagnosis and needs analysis within the Nelson Tasman region

Other funding opportunities:

- NMC was included in the publication “Beacon of Opportunities” of Nelson Bays Community Foundation.
- Rata Foundation will be approached to seek funds for the Women Summit.

Our founding applications had been going to a peer review process, where possible. We thank all people who has helped us with it.

What is yet to come

The Multicultural Council is an organization that has been part of the Community for more than 20 years. There are clear reasons of why our organization has kept its relevance, in favourable and not so favourable times, as it happened recently with across the board funding restrictions that affected not only us, but many other community organizations.

The roots of our Multicultural Council are deep within the Community. It is the *people* of ethnic minorities, migrant an refugee backgrounds and the wider community, who invested their efforts in making our multicultural society function within an harmonious and welcoming environment for all, the heart and lifeblood of our organization. All of our events, activities and programmes are powered by our communities and belong to them. In the same way, the organization belongs to the Community.

In the upcoming months, we are proposing a Multicultural Council who deepens even more this reciprocal sense of belonging from and to our local communities. That is why we decided to initiate a further involvement with the Tasman Community, starting with the Tasman Noodle Market event. The Committee is also proposing to reflect this broadening of our reach and the strengthening of our links with our local communities, by changing the name of our organization to Multicultural Council of Nelson Tasman, where “Nelson Tasman” states our territorial reach and the word “of” refers to the sense of belonging of the Multicultural Council to our local communities.

As we work to cement and develop our community roots, the Multicultural Council has defined as one of the goals for the starting year, to get involved in research to find out what are our communities’ needs and what is needed to improve their wellbeing. This are new times, the diversity of the region is increasing exponentially and we have to be clear about the relevance of our programmes and services and what should we been doing to comply with our mission. This research projects are thought and been developed in collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

Thank you to members, funders, partner organizations and agencies, friends and all the people who makes the Multicultural Council the long standing, grass roots organization that is making its contribution to the improving of our regional society, by giving thought, voice and actions to the promotion and celebration of diversity and harmony within each of our local communities.

Muchas Gracias!

Luz Zúñiga
Interim Chairperson
Nelson Multicultural Council