

Kia Ora – *wishes you good health* – Te Reo
As-salaamu Alaikum – *wishes peace to be upon you* - Arabic
Grüss Dich – *greet the God in you* – Bavarian
Shalom – *peace* - Hebrew
Anyong haseyo – *wishes you inner peace and stability* – Korean
Namaskar – *acknowledges the divine in you* - Hindi

Tēna Kotou Tēna Kotou Tēna Kotou katoa

MNT welcomes and acknowledges all of you, members, leaders from our multicultural communities, partners from like-minded community organisations, government representatives and friends for coming today to our Annual General Meeting. It warms my heart to know that each and every one of you do so much in your own way to support and uplift your family, your neighbour, your friends, and people in our rich and diverse community.

Did you know that New Zealand is home to more than 200 ethnic groups speaking 160 languages? Nelson is the 3rd ethnically diverse city in NZ. Within the bicultural context set out in the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi, our nation is becoming increasingly multicultural. Ensuring that New Zealand embraces and values the diversity of its population can help to build the sense of belonging and participation that we need for all immigrants. Through inclusion, understanding and compassion, our team of 5 million will flourish as a socially cohesive nation.

MNT's vision is for people from all cultural backgrounds to live in harmony in our beautiful Nelson/Tasman region. The main question we focus on a daily basis is: how can we, as an 'wee' NGO, support and empower immigrants to live as fulfilling a life as possible?

Maria, our manager, gave you a great summary of all the incredible work that she has done throughout the year to achieve our goals through these unprecedented times. Covid 19 reached historic proportions in 2020 and hence, the world as we know it, has changed dramatically and this mutating pandemic continues to consume lives globally. What I respect so much in Maria is her ability to network, collaborate and establish meaningful and relevant relationships with so many people in our community and with representatives from so many agencies. She always sees the big picture. Her brilliant management of our successful events is a testament of her professionalism and dedication to our multicultural community. What amazes me at every Multicultural Festival, is that despite the celebration of our regions' rich cultural diversity, it is our similarities, our common values of laughter, love, music, dance and savouring delicious food that come to light. It is indeed our common humanity binds us all. What you may not be aware of is what happens behind the scenes. We do our best with our limited resources to provide independent advice and advocacy to our local and

national government for the voiceless volunteers who work hard to achieve better settlement outcomes for immigrants. It is important that our elected officials are aware of the concerns of our immigrant population when considering policy initiatives. Multicultural New Zealand, the Federation of Multicultural Councils established an 8-point proviso - some of them included:

- To establish an independent Ministry for Ethnic Communities as part of the composition of government. Sure enough, it happened this year. In fact, the new minister of Ethnic Communities came to Nelson last week and met with ethnic leaders of our communities and MYNTies to hear their concerns, hopes and dreams. This is a huge step to support immigrants' concerns.
- To change legislation to prevent hate speech and crimes.
- To change immigration policy (we are working hard to allow separated families, due to covid, to reunite)
- To change education policy
- To have an equitable health system for all

30 years in the making, MNZ and regional multicultural councils had a historic hikoi (*journey or pilgrimage*) to Waitangi recently on 17 April 2021 to commemorate our commitment to the reo Maori version of the Treaty of Waitangi. We were immersed in 2 days of learning about the history of te tiriti and te whenua and were welcomed onto the Treaty Grounds to ceremoniously plant a kauri tree to symbolise our multicultural communities' commitment to this kaupapa (*principals*). We hope to create opportunities for immigrants to learn and appreciate Maori in their role as tangata whenua and of the te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of this nation.

MNT will continue our work with multicultural events, educational workshops for our ethnic communities, cultural korero from our ethnic communities, cross cultural awareness workshops, environmental projects, collaborations with like-minded agencies, SONT, guest lecture series, Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman council, to name a few.

None of our work would be possible without the countless number of volunteers, members, friends, partners, community organizations and government agencies' representatives. In addition, we must thank our funders, DIA, NCC, TDC, ECDF, Rata Foundation, Lotteries, Pub Charity. For without their financial support, we could not exist. Please note that Maria, our manager, wrote all the grant applications by herself and as a result, we are in a very decent financial position. Many thanks go to Maria.

I also want to sincerely thank all our committee members, Marie, Mel, David, Emma, Maru, Dmitry, and Anju for volunteering their time and energy in keeping us focused and goal orientated while expanding our vision to new horizons and sticking together. Traditionally in Korea for New Years, we eat a kind of sticky rice cake soup. Also, it was the only time where we ate a kind of sweet barley taffy. The reason for all this sticky eating was so that everything would stick together in the New Year. So I want to thank all the dedicated committee members with their collective wisdom for sticking together.

I also wish to thank Rameisha, our smart and warm-hearted communications marketing admin assistant. If you are depressed, just come to the office and her smile alone will

brighten your day. She is also quite strong. You should have seen her planting native trees at a micro-forest working bee.

Lastly and importantly, on behalf of MNT and all the ethnic communities in Nelson, I wish to say thank you to our amazing manager, Maria Busching. We cannot express our gratitude enough for all her dedicated work towards the ethos of this organisation. She worked tirelessly above and beyond anyone's expectations. So, it is with sadness that I must announce that she will be moving on in her life. We wish her the very best in all her future endeavours.

Not all is lost, however. I am excited to acknowledge and welcome our new manager, Anna Fyfe. Anna has worked as a volunteer coordinator for Refugees as Survivors at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre. She also volunteered at NZ Red Cross and was an executive committee member for the Auckland Asylum Seeker Support Trust. Some of Anna's work experience includes being the Employment Programme Manager for the Auckland Regional Migrant Services now known as Belong Aotearoa. She also was the Manager for Education Action - an International/Refugee Education & Training Advisory Service. Anna was Press Officer for the British Refugee Council. MNT is fortunate to have Anna join our team.

I would like to end with words from our former Chairperson, Luz Zuniga, "Multicultural Nelson Tasman stands in a place of confluence of many cultural streams of people living together. We are a living collective of minds and souls. We are active. We are relevant. We do not fear knowing that we have many needs because we also have many hands to solve them. We do not fear change, we embrace it because it makes us move forward, reflecting on the past from the present. The cycle continues moving with the energy of our souls."

Ha aha te mea nui o te ao? *What is the most important thing?*

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. *It is the people, the people, the people.*

Ngā mannakitanga

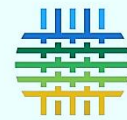


Mary Bronsteter, Kia hauora, kia kaha / Stay healthy and strong
Chairperson, Multicultural Nelson Tasman
Kotahitanga i roto i te Kanorau / Unity in Diversity

MULTICULTURAL NELSON TASMAN – IMPACT STORY

1.4.2020 to 31.3.2021

We live in unpredictable times with total lockdown from March to May 2020. Though we have cause to celebrate NZ as one of the first countries in the world to be Covid free due to our joint efforts, resilience and compassion, we find ourselves once again in total lockdown in Aug 2021.



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

Unity in Diversity - kotahitanga i roto i te kanorau - remains of foremost importance if we - the humans of this world - want to ensure that our future generations can live in peace and harmony on this planet. We realize that we must not only serve and act as the voice of the unheard and promote equality, justice and mutual respect for all, but we must also actively engage in the health of this planet and our commitment to Te Tiriti based multicultural communities. *Kia kaha - Kia atawhai. Be strong – Be kind.*



This is Maria, our manager for the year (who has left for new adventures) and Ramiesha, our marketing officer, who is still with us. Due to Maria's amazing management skills, MNT is stronger than ever. MNT owes a debt of gratitude and aroha for these two who have managed all the day to day work, events and community connections, whilst keeping our vision close to their hearts – Unity in Diversity.

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH NELSON TASMAN (MYNT) HIGHLIGHTS



- X-Mas BBQ and Sand sculpture Competition @ Tahuna Beach with Top of the South Neighbourhood Support (TSNS), Newcomers Network & MYNT. MNT won partner of the year award from TSNS due to many collaborative works throughout the year.
- **That's MYNT @ Fresh FM – new multicultural youth radio show every second Tuesday between 5-6pm** - MYNT interviewed Anusha Guler, the Executive Director of the Office of Ethnic Communities (OEC). Anusha was supportive throughout the recording and provided great information and suggestions for the young leaders of tomorrow.
- Collaboration with Refinery Artspace to paint a Peace sign during holidays.
- **Aroha – give a little** - in Anzac Park.
- MYNT involvement in the coordination in TANFF and Multicultural Festival & MC College Festivals.
- PM Jacinda Ardern Meeting - Nikita, Priya, Resika, Ruby, Victoria and Gulliver had the pleasure to meet New Zealand's PM Jacinda Ardern as well as (our newly elected MP) Rachel Boyack in an informal meeting and discuss with them about their needs and visions to make Nelson and New Zealand a better place for young people. As no media was present, the youth representatives that attended the event could be completely honest and upfront without the media reporting on every word.



MULTICULTURAL NELSON TASMAN (MNT) HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethnic Leaders Forum Nelson - Communities meet OEC representatives.



- Tasman Asian Night Food Fair (TANFF) @ Washbourn Gardens – was a great success despite overcast weather, 16 food stalls and a dozen different performers (dance, music) from different parts of Asia, around 2,000 participants.



- Multicultural Festival 2021 @ Victory Square – annual event brought thousands of people from the top of the south to celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity through music, dance, food, arts, and the values that connects us all.



- Volunteer workshops before NFF & Multicultural Festival and thank you dinner for all the volunteers and performers after the events. They are the reason we keep going and why people love to come to these events. We cannot thank them enough.



- Project Mahitahi – commemorative tree planting in the Maitai Valley.
- Consultation with Minister Little on Royal Commission Enquiry Report on Chch Mosque shootings – Feb 2021 @ Tahuna Beach Conference Centre. We were so happy that Nissa from our very own Nelson Whakatu Muslim Association was selected to be on the Royal Commission Advisory Group.
- Nelson City Council Long Term Plan 2021-2031 consultation
- Consultation with Minister Pryianca Radhakrishnan of the new Ministry of Ethnic Affairs with MYNTies. This was a chance to hear many ethnic leaders and youths' concerns.
- Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum: participation in 4x meetings with appx 35 agencies.
- Nelson Arts Festival –MNT and MYNT were proud to co-host Cycle-In Flix movie series in Kirby Lane and 2x Puka Puka talks which included Behrouz Boochani (Kurdish refugee and author of No Friend But the Mountains), Olivia Hall (Head of Department at Te Toki Pakohe, NMIT), Chinese NZ writer Rose Lu (author of All Who Live on Islands), and MYNT-leader Resika Sapkota (a former Bhutanese/Nepali refugee) in conversation with Dana Wensley (NZSA PEN representative). Panel members explored what ethnic diversity looks like in Aotearoa, how we can find common ground, how social policy can support race unity and counter racism, how we can unpack the legacy of colonisation, what we can learn from tangata whenua—and what this all means for us on a personal, practical level.



- Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshops - for Hospice Nelson, NMIT, Nelson Library, Plunket, Cancer Society, Top of the South Neighbourhood Support, Nelson Kindergarten Asso, Nelson Regional Development Agency, MOE and individuals who participated in order to increase cultural Intelligence to be ready for life in a diverse society and make "Unity in Diversity" happen.
- Selection and appt of new Migrants and Former Refugee Community Navigator, Norma Seguera in collaboration with Victory Community Centre and English Language Partners.
- Citizenship Ceremonies –in Nelson and in Tasman.
- Red Cross informative session for newly arrived refugees.
- Facilitation of scholarship for Colombian high-school student to attend University.
- Climate Forum commitment –Micro-forest tree planting.
- Nelson Museum gallery opening of 2000 babe to 40 NZ study.
- Marie organized fundraising and march for Myanmar people for peace.
- Palestinian march for peace.
- **SONT** – Speak Out Nelson Tasman – MNT together with Nelson Police and Community Law want to ensure that all people, regardless of their ethnicity or cultural heritage, feel welcome and safe in our region and treated with dignity and respect. We encourage those who have experienced or witnessed any racist incident to stand up and speak out [on line by going to the website](#) or phone +64 508 773 256.
- Virginia Wolfe portrait opening with Meng Foon, Race Relations Commissioner.
- Nepalese, Korean Lunar Eclipse, Muslim Eid, Indian Holi celebrations (to name a few).
- MNT's New Kaumatua, Aunty Lovey and brainstorming Maori hui.
- Met with Nissa from NWMA & Dr Zainab Radhi, Support for Migrants & Refugees to Start Business ARMSS from Wgn.
- Friendships with Ethnic Reps at board meetings: Chinese new rep – Laurie; Afgan rep – Fatima; French rep - Nathalie, Colombian rep – Luisa, Myanmar rep - Mwe Mwe.



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 Maori 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.