



Nelson Multicultural Council, Inc.

Annual Report

Period of Reporting

June 2010 – April 2011

The reporting period 2010 /2011 has been another very successful year for the Nelson Multicultural Council (NMC). This report is based mainly on six Sector Groups:

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Healthy Lifestyles:

Multicultural Fitness Sessions – An average of 12 people from 7 different ethnicities attend these sessions which have been held twice a week. They consist of gym exercises and stretches aimed at general fitness, improving muscle tone and preventing injuries. The aim of these sessions is migrant participation for all ages in physical activity and decreasing social isolation.

Global Family Fun Day – Another successful fun day was held on 13th November at Tahunanui playing field and was attended by over 140 people from 21 different cultures.

Global Games – The first event of this kind was held on 4th December at Pioneer Park. More than 50 people from over 18 countries participated, it involved teams made up of many cultures, competing in games to test their skills with hula hoops, Swiss balls and skipping ropes. This event was successful in terms of encouraging social connections. The Kodama Japanese drummers from Palmerston North was a wonderful and energetic start to the event followed by a Zumba warm-up with Marcio.

The third edition of “**New to the Nelson/Tasman region – Useful Tips for Migrants**” brochure was published in Feb/2011; it’s available in hard copy and can be viewed on our website.

2. Vibrant and Optimistic Youth:

The two youth rep from our Management Committee attended the “**Diversity Youth Forum**” in Christchurch in August; they were funded by the former Nelson Mayor, Kerry Marshall.

Multicultural Youth Day –

This very successful event took place on 8th October at the New Hub. There were 16 youth from Myanmar, Malaysia, Taiwan, USA, UK, Belgium, Holland, Hong Kong, China, India, the Philippines and NZ. The day began with a fun “Amazing Race” activity which helped orientate newcomers to Nelson: participants had to find out information that was of interest to young people. The youth were organized into teams of different cultures.



At the end, the group was introduced to the “*Speak Out Nelson Tasman*” reporting system for racist incidents.

3. Economic Wellbeing

NMC made a short and concise submission to the NCC Draft Annual Plan. The draft plan referred a simple statement that NCC hosts the DoL Settlement Support Co-ordinator. It was made clear to the NCC that there are several agencies providing services to migrants and rather than naming one it would be more correct to say “NCC supports services to migrants”. To support newcomers has economic benefits as well as social benefits and that it is good investment to do so.

4. Appreciation of Diversity

There was a representation of 9 different countries/cultures from the 14 members of the past Management Committee, they were: India, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil, El Salvador, British, Maori and European/NZ.

Multicultural Women’s Council Forum: “A look at the Social needs of Women in order to build safer Communities in New Zealand”– Jyoti Sandhu, member of the Management Committee attended this Forum.

The Labour Party had its Caucus meeting in Nelson in May 2010, our coordinator organised a meeting with of ethnic community leaders to meet with Labour MPs Hon. Ashraf Choudrey and Hon. Rajen Prasad.

Intercultural Couples Winter Gathering – 16 couples attended, it was organized by our Field Worker, Cristy Aydon.

NMC Co-ordinator, Chairwoman and Secretary attended the **birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi** in June 2010.

NZ Federation of Multicultural Council's AGM in Rotorua, June 2010 – It was attended by Chairwoman, Dayanira R. Bakhshi and treasurer, Cindy Domanico.

NZ Federation of Multicultural Council's Quarterly Meetings – These were held in October 2010 and February 2011, they were attended by committee members Francey Kara and Vice-chair Priyani de Silva-Currie respectively.

“Breaking the Silence”, documentary – There were 3 screening of this film. NMC helped to promote the first screening organized by UnionAid which has a project in the Thai-Burma border area. The documentary is about the Burmese resistance movement, it was made secretly in 2009 inside Burma by French Canadians. There was so much interest in it that UnionAid left a copy to NMC and gave us permission to have another screening, we raised \$2,000 which was donated to the Adult ESOL class at Victory Primary School and on the third screening we raised \$730 for the NMC general expenses.

8-8-88 Burmese Uprising Commemoration – Several committee members attended this event at Victory Community Centre.

World Language Collection at Elma Turner Library



On 18th August 2010 Chairwoman, Dayanira Bakhshi was invited to do the cutting of the ribbon to open the new book section in different languages. There were other people representing the different languages of the books offered by the Library.

2010 Diversity Forum, Human Rights Commission, 22 & 23 August – Four committee members and the Co-ordinator attended this event in Christchurch. The Diversity Forum is a unique annual event that comprises individual forums hosted by a range of local and national organisations, reflecting the diversity in its name. There were at least 35 different forums over five or more timeslots in the programme and NMC members spread out in order to cover most of it. The travel, accommodation and registration expenses of the committee members were covered by MSD.

Fishing Guidelines in 8 languages – After a suggestion from our Coordinator to the Ministry of Fisheries, the Fishing Guidelines was developed into an easier to follow document with pictures, which explains the rules for fishing in our region and at the same time educates newcomers and will improve race relations.

Multicultural Women's Group 4th Year Anniversary –

It was celebrated with a special forum and exhibition of the women's art. Nine women from Germany, Israel, Bhutan, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Japan, Australia and Chin State, Myanmar shared their stories of settlement in New Zealand with staff from IRD, NMDHB, NZ Police, MSD, the Women's Centre and members of the public.



Week of Prayer for World Peace, 17-24 October 2010 – All faith groups were invited to participate, a calendar of special prayer meetings, meditations, etc. Was published in the local newspaper and a display of Holy Books was arranged at the Nelson Public Library.

Diwali – The November potluck dinner was focused on the celebration of Diwali, it was attended by over a hundred people. A member of the Bhutanese/Nepali community and another from the Sikh community explained the meaning of Diwali and how is celebrated in predominantly Hindu countries.

Celebration of Desi, Bhutanese celebration – NMC Co-ordinator and Committee members attended this celebration in October 2010 at Nelson Intermediate School hall.

Zomi Harvest Festival, Zomi/Burmese – NMC Co-ordinator and Committee members attended this celebration in October 2010 at Nelson Intermediate School hall.

Potluck Dinners - Ongoing monthly potluck dinners continue to bond people from different ethnic groups. There have been some theme potluck dinners, such as Russian and Latin-American food and Diwali Celebration. Although there has been a reduction of people attending them, the NMC will continue to promote them since they create an atmosphere of diversity. We thank the Victory Community Centre for their support and also for allowing us to use their meeting room for these events.

NELSON MULTI CULTURAL COUNCIL INC.

Race Unity DAY 2011

People In Harmony

VICTORY SQUARE
SUNDAY MARCH 13
11AM - 4PM

wet or fine
gold coin donation

MUSIC - DANCE
ART - ETHNIC FOOD

SUPPORTED BY

NELSON CITY COUNCIL
family & community services
Nelson City
Network Tasman Charitable Trust

Race Unity Day, "People in Harmony", 13th March 2011 – Our biggest event of the year. NMC celebrated this important day with a huge outdoor celebration at Victory Square Park, began with a welcome to international students by the Deputy Mayor of Nelson and the Mayor of Tasman and followed with many cultural performances throughout the day. It is better described by columnist Teresa O'Connor in the Nelson Mail 15th March issue "...Victory Square was decked out in carnival regalia with a large stage, tents,

gazebos and hundreds of people enjoying the autumn sunshine and the endless international entertainment on stage, from kapa haka to Zumba to three lads from the Indian state of Punjab dancing around the stage in their pure-white outfits, and everything in between. There was a fascinating variety of food, the aromas wafting around the nearby streets, surely attracting passers-by. There was a vast enough range of food to satisfy even the most picky gourmand. There were Cambodian, Thai, Sri Lankan, Malaysian and Indonesian dishes. You could have sated your appetite with a taco from Mexico, a Brazilian hot dog, a German sausage, a delicacy from Argentina, some French pastries or a brew of strong Irish tea with a slice of soda bread.”

5. Safety in the Community

Speak Out Nelson Tasman Project –An initiative of the NMC, with the support of numerous other organisations,



government agencies and the Human Rights Commission. This reporting system is user-friendly, allowing racism to be reported confidentially on the website, through the free-call number or face to face at several community centres. It is now operational through its website

<http://speakout.org.nz> and toll free number 0508-773 256 (0508 SpeakOut). The official launch was held on Monday, 29th November. Nelson band *Samba De Sol*, led the dignitaries and invited guests to the 1903 site where the launch was held. Speakers at the launch included Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres, Maryan Street, Labour List MP, Inspector Brian McGurk, Nelson Police, Richard Kempthorne, Mayor of Tasman and Aldo Miccio, Mayor of Nelson, Alistair Webber, project co-ordinator and Evey McAuliffe, NMC. The launch was closed by the Victory Primary School choir directed by choir master, John Phillips. We acknowledge the work of Debbie Kohner, a human rights lawyer from Northern Ireland, who wrote a research report in Nelson published in August 2009, this document became the basis of this project.

“Walking our Streets ~ Let’s make it OK!” Conference - Nelson Tasman Te Rito Family Violence Network, of which NMC is a member, organized this conference in July 2010. It was the first time the rostrum was shared by the Judiciary (a Family Court Judge), the NZ Police, a Minister of the Crown and a survivor and advocate for prevention of family violence for Presbyterian Support Northern. The NMC Co-ordinator, the Field Worker and committee members Francey Kara and Tash Kara attended the forum as well as the full day conference which was informative and inspiring.

6. Families and Children

This has been mostly covered by our Field Worker, Cristy Aydon. Her report to follow.

NELSON NEWCOMERS NETWORK – As of the 1st of July 2010 the coordination of Nelson Newcomers Network became once again the responsibility of the NMC. Then in August we hired Chandra Dahal as its Co-ordinator. His report to follow.

INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION TRAINING FOR TRAINERS - The Office of Ethnic Affairs has a team of Intercultural Advisors who work with employers, managers, and business leaders to maximise the benefits of diversity in their work places. The Co-ordinator Evey McAuliffe and Denise Hartley-Wilkins committee member had just attended this training with the aim to deliver the programme in the community and to support one of our strategic goal 'Education: *To educate the community about issues relating to race, racism and the benefits of cultural diversity*'.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUNDING – NMC put an application for the Community Response Fund administered by Family and Community Services, MSD for supporting critical social services for former refugees in reduction of isolation, social connectedness, is, healthy communities, reducing family violence, parenting in a NZ content, increasing personal confidence and improving employment. We were granted \$100,000 to deliver this programme. A Project Manager has been recently hired and the hours of our Field Worker will increase to support it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the Management Committee members who are all volunteers and were elected last year at the AGM:

The members and officers of the Management Committee were:

Dayanira Rodriguez Bakhshi	Chairwoman
Priyani de Silva-Currie	Vice-chair, Privacy Officer
Cindy Domanico	Treasurer
Denise Hutterd	Secretary
Claudette Da Silva	Health and Safety Officer
Denise Hartley-Wilkins	
Francey Kara	
Jyoti Sandhu	
Soma Wettasinghe	
Dr. Siri Wettasinghe	
Esther Cooper	
Janet Batuigas	
Ludwig Batuigas	Youth rep
Natasha Kara	Youth rep

Employment Sub-Committee members:

Dayanira Rodriguez Bakhshi
Denise Hutterd

Denise Hartley-Wilkins
Francey Kara

The Management Committee met regularly once a month for the past year, with an average of 6 members present.

To our major funding contributors to our work this year and whom we are very grateful:

Lottery Grants Board

COGS

Family and Community Services (MSD)

Nelson City Council

The Canterbury Community Trust

Creative Communities Arts Council

Tasman District Council

Network Tasman Trust

The Management Committee does not want to finish this report without giving a sincere thanks to the Committee members Cindy Domanico, Janet Batuigas, Ludwig Batuigas, Claudete da Silva, Dr. Siri Wettasinghe and Soma Wettasinghe who due to work and family commitments or change of locality had to step down from the Management Committee. Their selfless service, support and contribution to the work of the Council are really appreciated.

On behalf of the Nelson Multicultural Council,

Dayanira Rodriguez Bakhshi
Chairwoman

NMC Co-ordinator's Annual Report June 2010 – April 2011

For the past 12 months the Nelson Multicultural Council has continued to achieve its mission to promote positive race relations and to support people from minority ethnicities and new migrants, including former refugees.

Raising Public Awareness of our region's ethnic diversity

- Annually NMC organise a significant number of events e.g. Race Unity Day, Global Family Fun Day, Global Games, MC Youth Day, Week of Prayer for World peace, Multicultural Women's Group Forum, Rainbow Praise and the launch of Speak Out Nelson Tasman these have all contributed toward educating the general public with regard to ethnic and cultural diversity in our region.
- NMC has availed of every media opportunity in order to maintain public awareness, providing local radio and newspapers with stories of events and initiatives. We are grateful to the Nelson Mail and The Leader newspaper for their ongoing support.
- NMC is represented at the Nelson Citizenship ceremonies, welcoming the new citizens, encouraging them to celebrate and be proud of their heritage whilst at the same time standing tall as "new" New Zealanders.

- NMC coordinator has been involved in the cultural awareness aspect of training volunteers for Nelson Hospice, Victim Support and Life Line.
- Having recently completed the Office of Ethnic Affairs T4T (Training for trainers) in Cultural Awareness and Communication, the NMC coordinator is looking forward to delivering further training to the community along with committee member, Denise Hartley-Wilkins.

Supporting new migrants

- The increased visibility and access afforded by our office location in the CBD has meant more “drop-in” enquiries from passersby. The office is a warm and welcoming space with plenty of information about our local services.
The coordinator, who is based at the office, is often able to give basic information and provide answers to simple enquiries. In the case of more complex needs, a referral is made to the Field Worker for a more in-depth interview and follow up service.
- Referrals are also made to the Nelson Newcomers Network, English Language Partners, Nelson Bays Community Law Service and to Nelson Tasman Settlement Support.
- The third edition of the *“New to the Nelson Tasman Region? Tips for Migrants”* was published early in 2011
- Monthly pot luck dinners can often be a means of people new to the district making connections.
- To ensure the needs of migrants and former refugees are taken into account, I have had input into the Nelson City Council’s Social Well Being Policy review, LTCCP and both the Tasman District Council’s and the Nelson City Council’s Draft Annual Plans.

Safety in the Community

- **Reporting System for Racist Incidents:** Through the establishment of Speak Out Nelson Tasman (SONT), the Nelson Multicultural Council is working in partnership with other organizations to ensure the safety of ethnic minorities. Funding for SONT has come mainly from the Canterbury Community Trust to the Nelson Safer Community Council who has contracted NMC to manage the project. The Nelson City Council has also provided a community contract to NMC worth \$2,000.00 to assist with the project.
Lawyer, Alistair Webber was contracted by NMC to be the coordinator of SONT and with the support of the working team he has set up the reporting system which is a first for New Zealand. The focus now is to promote the system so that its existence and purpose becomes common knowledge to all Nelson Tasman residents.
- **Nelson Safer Community Council:** NMC coordinator is now a member of the NSCC management team. One of the five focus areas for this council is the safety of emerging communities and elimination of racism.
- **WHO Safe Cities Accreditation:** NMC has contributed to this initiative in terms of providing information on safety for ethnic minorities and emerging communities.
- **Te Rito Family Violence Network:** NMC has an MOU with the Te Rito Network and participates in their monthly meetings and public awareness initiatives e.g. *“Walking*

our Streets ~ Let's make it OK!" Conference in July 2010 and White Ribbon stand at the Nelson A & P show in November 2010.

Healthy Communities

- Thanks to Canterbury Community Trust funding, we have been able to run weekly "Multicultural Fitness" sessions. We have been fortunate indeed to have Akiko Miyamoto to run these sessions and to organise events such as the Global Family Fun Days and the Global Games.
- NMC continues to recruit people from within our community to provide interpreting for NMDHB and community services. I am hopeful the NMDHB may soon tighten up its policy and protocol in regard to these interpreters, which is long overdue.
- NMC has successfully applied for funding from the Ministry of Social Development's Community Response Fund to put programmes in place that will ensure that former refugees will have equal access services and employment opportunities. A project coordinator has just been appointed and the NMC Field Worker will extend her hours in order to assist with the project.

Conclusion

Nelson Multicultural Council can be justifiably proud of achievements made to date and is in some respects leading the way with various successful projects:

1. Palmerston North and Invercargill have followed the example and staged their own Rainbow Praise events.
2. Marlborough and the West Coast regions have developed "Tips for Migrants" booklets based on our booklet.
3. NMC is the only Multicultural Council to employ a Field Worker and this inspired the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council to make a special visit to Nelson to learn more about the service with a view to setting up their own.
4. No doubt other regions will be interested in how Speak Out Nelson Tasman meets our community's needs and may well establish their own reporting systems.

Many thanks to

- NMC Management Committee members for their selfless work in governance of the organisation and their support.
- Brigid Ryan and Claire Nichols, *Settling In* (Family & Community Services, MSD) Project Advisors, for their guidance and support.
- Cristy Aydon, Field Worker for her dedication and professionalism
- Alistair Webber for doing a splendid job as coordinator Speak Out Nelson Tasman
- Akiko Miyamoto for her encouragement and support of new migrants.
- Chandra Dahal for taking on the challenges of coordinating the Nelson Newcomers Network.
- Amy Godinez for editing and updating the third edition of *"New to Nelson Tasman? Tips for Migrants"*
- All the volunteers who enable NMC to achieve its goals.

Lastly, I am extremely thankful to all our funders for their support and faith in us to deliver services to our community.

Evey McAuliffe
Co-ordinator 4/4/2011

NMC Field Worker's Annual Report June 2010 – April 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

Activities organized: - Intercultural Couples' Dinner

- Women's Art Class
- Multicultural Women's Group – "Getting to Know Us" Forum
- Multicultural Toddler's Group- Handmade card making- Fundraising
- Badminton every Sunday

Trainings attended: - Scholarship granted to attend WSA (Women's Studies Association) at Waikato University, "Connecting Women: Respecting Differences". I attended this with two cross cultural workers from Refugee Services (Nelson) and was able to assist in their presentation and the rest of the workshops.

- Social Justice Training- self development training
- Crisis line training with Women's Refuge
- First aid Training- very useful for facilitating the Toddlers Group

Client contact: - Always a highlight when I visit client and am able to assist with their successful settlement.

- Pleased to receive referrals from other agencies and to be able to report back that I have been able to make a difference.
- Building on relationships with those other agencies so that it is easy for me to refer clients to them.
- Being a support person for a mediation session, and making sure my client was satisfied with the process and the outcome.
- Accompanying a client to a Restorative Justice session and supporting him through the process so that he felt satisfied and listened to.

Invitation to talk: - Presentation to Workstar staff explaining about NMC and my role as Field Worker.
Information sharing with volunteers from Refugee Services to give them ideas on how to assist the families they are working with in regard to social opportunities.

Total clients: - 194 as of Jan 2010 till March 31, 2011

Upcoming Project: -“Mabuhay” Filipino radio program- pilot program with the intention of extending it to all migrant communities if successful, tentative date of launch is May. Volunteers involved are all Filipinos headed by NMC member, Amy Godinez Whittington and myself.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Committee members and Evey- Thank you for the continued support for my fieldwork needs and requests. You are always supportive of my proposals for projects and activities. I acknowledge the trust that you have on me.

Cath Aronsten - Special thanks to Cath for facilitating the women’s art group and organizing the involvement of the group to the Art Festival and getting a display together on the “Arts on windows”. This is a first time for us all.

Panel of women – Thanks for making the forum a very successful event.

Genelyn Hamilton – Thanks for organizing with me the Intercultural Couples’ Dinner

Toddlers Group – Thank you for the active participation in the Race Unity Day and making handmade cards as a fundraising for the group’s upcoming field trip.

Cristy Aydon

NMC Field Worker 05/04/11

NELSON NEWCOMERS NETWORK

I am indeed very pleased to let you know that NNN is gaining popularity with increasing number of newcomers. We have team of wonderful volunteers who take initiative for organizing different activities. All the activities, updates and information are published monthly in NNN newsletter. Lois and Ritchi help me to proof read and layout of the newsletter. I took up the post of NNN coordinator in September, 2010. Since then 43 newcomers signed up for membership. These are some of the activities that we are conducting for the newcomers.

- Publishing monthly newsletter
- Formed a Social Committee for planning the forth coming events and activities. We are successful in organizing a committee meeting every month
- Claire Nichols is successful in involving the newcomers in Social Tennis for the past three consecutive months.
- Organised a guided walk in November and set up newcomers stall on Race Unity day with active initiation of Richard Wilkins
- Revived Richmond coffee mornings with Mike Greenewalt as its facilitator.
- Nelson coffee morning is gaining popularity with increasing number of newcomers
- Jan and Simon cross is setting up a book club on monthly basis starting this month. They are also organizing the newcomers quiz night next month.

Chandra Dahal

Coordinator 4/4/2011