

Nelson Multicultural Council

Annual Report April 2014 – May 2015

2014-15 offered a mix of achievements, challenges, changes and re-birth for the Nelson Multicultural Council (NMC), a return to core services and of focus to the organisation.

The dedicated NMC team of Volunteer Committee Members, Employed Staff and Contractors continue to explore every avenue for growing the effectiveness of the organisation and supporting members while keeping a close eye on finances. We stay in collaboration / partnership with local authorities and agencies to help identify the needs of ethnic migrants and former refugees in our community and aim to meet those needs within our limited resources.

Acknowledgements:

- My sincere gratitude to the 2014-15 Committee Members who have given their valuable contribution and those who continue to share their skills in the governance of NMC: Jyoti Sandhu, Xueyan Yang, Karolina Gorton, Claire Nicholls, Steve Gray, Baki Bakshi; and Diane Homer, Barbara Bedeschi, Kim Chi, Jessica Diaz.
- Our special thanks to our former Coordinator, Evey McAuliffe whose zeal and resourcefulness, have been vital in capturing opportunities for promotion and NMC funding.
- Welcome and thanks to our new Coordinator, Bridget Thompson, for stepping into the role and carrying out the important work of NMC and rebuilding network relations.
- Our Project contractors for SONT (Lillian), Newcomers Network (Jettie) and Fieldworker Megan who continue to deliver significant NMC initiatives and build relations at coal face.
- Our Funding providers: COGS, Nelson City Council, Lotteries, Canterbury Community Trust, Office of Ethnic Affairs Settling In, Tasman District Council; our community partners and loyal members who continue to believe and support NMC.

Achievements Highlights – Appreciation of Diversity:

- Participation in Ministry of Womens Affairs hui, “Emerging Issues for NZ Women” (June 2014)
- Celebration World Refugee Day in collaboration with Red Cross Refugee Services’ fund-raiser
- “Memories of Bhutan” film-showing & DVD sale.
- NMC represented at a meeting on the future of the sister city relationship with Eureka, USA.
- Close relationship and support to The New Zealand Chinese Association Nelson Branch on its First Year celebration.
- Celebration with Ethnic communities’ festivals, e.g. Dasain (Bhutanese Nepali), Diwali (India)
- Nelson Communities Football Tournament on 18th & 19th October, the winning team competed in NZ Multicultural Federation hosted National Tournament in Wellington.
- Week of Prayer for World Peace, 12th – 19th October 2014

Fundraising, NMC promotion, Volunteer engagement:-

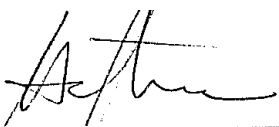
- Trash ‘n Treasure Sale at Stoke Memorial Hall,
- Nelson Parent & Child Expo at Annesbrook Church
- Intercultural Awareness & Communication training in Motueka, 19th November.
- Tangata Tiriti education workshop, Hearing House, 29th November.
- Representation by NMC Committee members to Citizenship Ceremonies held in both NCC & TDC, providing an opportunity to capture new membership.
- NMC & World Cup Cricket 2015 partnership: Bat for Race Unity (March 2015), a huge success

Challenges:

- Funding – retaining current providers at current level of funding or higher, whilst continuing to source new funding streams.
- Capturing opportunities to grow membership / volunteers, collaborative projects / initiatives proactive to community needs.
- Transforming to professional business approach to service delivery rather than social service.
- Review of current services, activities, policies and processes to streamline cost and maintain a sustainable future for the organisation.

NMC training and education services have continued despite the significant financial challenges involved in providing these services through difficult economic times. We worked with Multicultural NZ (NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils) to train and support other multicultural councils around the country, a testimonial to NMC's effectiveness and influence that goes beyond our local community.

My personal heartfelt gratitude to everyone's significant contribution and support in helping build the Nelson Multicultural Council to what it is today. I encourage feedback, innovative, creative ideas and active involvement in moving NMC forward through unity in diversity. Kia kaha.


Marie Johnstone
Chairperson (2014-15)

