

CHRISTCHURCH MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL (Inc.)

(a member of the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils - Multicultural New Zealand Inc.)

Report for 2020-2021

Fostering Multiculturalism to enrich New Zealand

28 May 2021

Tēnā koutou katoa !

It gives me great pleasure to present the report on the activities of the Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC) for 2020-21 at the 32nd Annual General Meeting. I would like to sincerely acknowledge the contributions made by the fellow members, the past members, ethnic community groups, and agencies/offices (local and central governments and NGOs) working for the migrants and refugees. I would like to congratulate the CMC for significant contributions made for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), communities in Christchurch and neighbouring Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts. Our unity in diversity was witnessed throughout NZ as the people of diverse cultures and faiths showed their solidarity, love and support to the victims families and the Muslim community after the 15 March 2019 terror attacks. We continue to strengthen our unity in diversity as witnessed after the 15th March terror attacks.

1. Tribute to Tini de Winter (CMC President 1990-2000)

Former President of Christchurch Multicultural Council, Tini de Winter, passed away in October last year at the age of 84. She was CMC's second President from 1990 to 2000, after late Professor Kuan Goh who served for the first year of CMC's establishment and incorporation. Tini made a significant contribution to CMC and ethnic communities for the settlement of new migrants and for fostering unity in diversity. She loved organising social-cultural events to showcase our cultural diversity. She worked tirelessly for CMC and Netherlands Society. She was always joined and supported by her husband Wim de Winter. Tini was awarded Netherlands Royal Service Medal.

I, Weng Kei Chen and Nancy Goh, attended Tini's memorial service at Netherlands Society Hall, Everglade Golf Club, Marshland Road, Christchurch. Heartfelt condolences and appreciation of her notable community service were expressed.



2. Remembrance Services for 15 March 2019 Mosque Attacks

- The National Remembrance Service was held at Christchurch Arena to mark the second anniversary of the 15 March 2019 mosque attacks, which was a very special, touching and full of solidarity, respect, hope and Aroha - Love.
- Remembrance Service was also held at Christchurch World Peace Bell. Tributes to the victims of the heinous, inhumane attacks were paid. Messages and prayers of solidarity, harmony, hope, love and peace were shared by several speakers including the organisers New Zealand World Peace Bell Roy Sinclair and David Bolam-Smith, Councillor Jimmy Chen, Dean Rev Lawrence Kimberley, Former Linwood Imam Ibrahim Abdelhalim, and myself representing Christchurch Multicultural Council. The peace bell was rung by everyone present.

3. CMC Service recognised by CCC

It is always a privilege and pleasure for Christchurch Multicultural Council to attend and support the citizenship ceremonies organised by Christchurch City Council and Department of Internal Affairs to meet and greet new citizens and welcome them to a multicultural NZ which is proud of its unity in diversity. At 3rd November Citizenship Ceremony Function, Hon Mayor Lianne Dalziel presented a **Thank You - Certificate of Appreciation** to CMC, Police, Navy and MC Robin for their service to support CCC at citizenship ceremonies over so many years for welcoming new citizens to a multicultural NZ. Thank you, CCC.



4. Historic Visit to the Treaty of Waitangi Grounds (16-17 April)

Visits to Whangarei Marae and Waitangi Treaty Grounds were made by representatives of CMC and other Regional Multicultural Councils (RMCs) and Multicultural NZ (MNZ) Executives to commemorate our commitment to: Te Reo version of the Treaty. Te Tiriti O Waitangi. Treaty-based Multiculturalism. and strengthening our relationship with the Tengata Whenua - the first people of the land; and to plant a native young Kauri tree (Mokopuna) on the Treaty Grounds on behalf of multicultural communities. It was a unique experiences for

everyone attending as they felt a deep sense of belonging to NZ.

5. Covid-19 Pandemic

- Supporting ethnic communities with information updates from various Government offices: Office of Ethnic Communities, Immigration NZ, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, NZ Police, Multicultural NZ etc.
- I was pleased to attend an ethnic leaders Zoom meeting called by the Ethnic Communities Minister Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan on Covid-19 related matters. Very good interactive meeting. OEC, MoH, MSD and other Government offices have been responding to the needs and queries of CALD communities.
- Active participation in several other Zoom meetings with the above for addressing the concerns and needs of ethnic communities and permanent and temporary residents (international students, visitors, workers and their partners).
- Providing support (food and essential supplies relief) funded by MSD to the people identified by CMC members of different ethnic communities.
- Ongoing work for fostering strong intercultural and interfaith relations during Covid-19.

6. Supporting Christchurch City Council (CCC)

- Since the launch of the Christchurch Multicultural Strategy in May 2017, we have been supporting the CCC for the implementation of the strategy. We regularly present our views to the CCC Multicultural Committee (formerly Sub-Committee) (Chair Cr Jimmy Chen). CMC has proposed to NZFMC and Office of Ethnic Communities to campaign for all the city and district councils to have their multicultural strategies.
- Regular attendance at citizenship ceremonies to meet and greet new citizens from diverse communities and also to introduce the role of CMC to them.
- CMC desires that the new strategy also fosters diversity and gives more opportunities to promote and celebrate the rich and vibrant arts and creativity of Christchurch's diverse cultures.
- CMC actively participated in INFoRM (Inter-Agency Network for Refugees and Migrants) and other community meetings, and events such as Culture Galore.
CMC worked with CCC to raise awareness of the local body election process for ethnic communities. Our objective is to encourage ethnic communities for civic participation and to have greater representation of them on the Community Boards and the Council.

7. Supporting the Office of Ethnic Communities (OEC)

- InCommon campaign launched to promote social cohesion and social inclusion.
<https://incommon.org.nz/>
I was pleased to attend the launch of InCommon campaign by the Office of Ethnic Communities at Christchurch Riverside Market to promote social inclusion, respect differences and celebrate things in common between people of different ethnicities and faiths. Hon Mayor [Lianne Dalziel](#) spoke about the need and values of this campaign. Christchurch Multicultural Council is working with OEC to promote this InCommon campaign over the next several months. We are One. Ko Tātou, Tātou
- Zoom meetings of Southern Region Community Leaders Group Meetings.
- Community feedback on Royal Commission Report on investigation into 15 March terror attacks. 19 February.
- Feedback on the new Ministry role.

8. Ethnic Cookery Project

Rata Foundation- funded project "I will not return your dish empty" involved cookery demonstrations and food exchange. Six sessions conducted over a nine month period included ethnic cookery demonstrations from 11 different ethnic groups. Cooked ethnic delicacies were sampled by those who attended. This was combined with other ethnic delicacies brought by members from home. Members and guests enjoyed the cultural presentations in addition to the ethnic food delicacies to learn diverse cultures. Congratulations to Bridget Allen and team for a successful project.

9. Supporting Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts

• Selwyn District Council Strategy Day

I was invited by the Selwyn District Council to speak to their staff of 40 each on the two days of their Strategy Days for their Environment and Regulatory Services team, which includes functions such as planning and building consents, planning policy, compliance, animal control and Council's biodiversity staff who serve people of diverse ethnic backgrounds in the fast growing Selwyn District. The strategy days focused around two of the SDC wider organisations values – Better Together and Be Brave, Think Differently to achieve Tangible Outcomes.

I spoke on the role and significance of Christchurch Multicultural Council Inc, and how we all RMCs and Multicultural New Zealand add value to the unity in ethnic (cultural and religious) diversity, to fostering multiculturalism and its values such as equality, harmony, social cohesion, social inclusion, civic participation and so on. I also acknowledged the role and support of Rotary Club of Lincoln, NZ and Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, other organisations and communities towards fostering diversity. Thanks to Jocelyn Lewes from SDC for the kind invitation. We are one. Ko Tatou, Tatou.

- **FACES OF SELWYN - Celebrating Selwyn's growing diversity.**

This SDC project began last year and the idea behind it was to capture the changing face of Selwyn, reflecting our diversity. A mix of long term residents, newcomers from outside the region and migrants were interviewed capturing the stories of long term residents who have successfully moved to and settled in Selwyn and what has contributed to them settling in well. The second Faces of Selwyn exhibition was formally opened by Selwyn Mayor Hon Sam Broughton on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at Selwyn District Council, Council Chambers.

Our member Archana Tandon was pleased to share her settlement journey, being a Selwyn resident for nearly 31 years. Thank you Selwyn District Council and Hayley Tate.

- Waimakariri Migrants and Newcomers Group (Global Locals of Waimkariri) – Ongoing attendance in each other's meetings and events.

10. Race Unity Day and Festival of Colours - Holi (6 March)

Holi was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown at short notice.

CMC was pleased to be again associated with Revel Events as a strategic partner and supporter (since 2017) with a view to celebrating Holi, the Festival of Colours with the wider community of diverse cultures to promote kotahitangi (solidarity), harmony, happiness, friendship and equality and respect among diverse cultures. Holi Festival also commemorates the Race Unity Day.

11. Campaign for Christchurch Multicultural Hub Yields Result

In June 2019 Christchurch City Council voted to allocate a budget for a new multicultural centre after the successful campaign by Hagley Community College and Canterbury Refugee Service and Resource Centre made a joint presentation at a Long Term Plan hearing in May 2019. After a year, CCC agreed to acquire the Christchurch Netball Centre for community sports, recreation and multicultural activities. We look forward to working with CCC to fulfill the role and functions of previously identified Multicultural Hub, a project initiated by Hagley College and supported by several groups and agencies including CCC and CMC."

12. Multicultural Cricket Tournament

A number of sports events were supported to encourage participation of multicultural communities and promote inter-culture friendship. Christchurch Metropolitan Cricket Association and CMC ran a 4th ARA All Nations Multiethnic T20 Cricket Tournament at Hagley Park (Polo Grounds). 14 teams with players representing several different ethnicities/nationalities (including NZ, Afghani, Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Sri Lankan) who enjoyed playing together with great sportsmanship, zeal and friendship. Players feel motivated to play for Metro and higher grades.



Tournament Top Three Rankings and Prizes:

All Rounders - Winner of the ARA Tournament Trophy, Medals. Kings XI Punjab - Runner-up, Medals. All Blacks Puniab. - Third Place.

Other Trophies: Player of the Tournament: Satinder Singh (All Rounders)

Top Batsman: Hardeep Singh (Kings XI Punjab). Top Bowler: Rahul Bhakor (All Rounders)

Spark bags and Ara sunglasses were presented to all the 14 teams of different ethnic backgrounds.



Thanks to all the teams for their participation and support for making this event a success. It was pleasure to

have Sefa Faletanoai from Ara and Councillor Jimmv Chen at the prize giving. Thank you both for your support. Support of Office of Ethnic Communities, ARA Institute of Canterbury, Spark, Christchurch Metro Cricket Association, Christchurch Multicultural Council, and three umpires Cameron Harvey, Liam Morrison and Nick

I felt very honoured to have been invited by the local Nepalese hosts Amulva Nepal, Deepak Pandev, Canterbury Nepalese Society Inc. and Nepal New Zealand Friendship Society of Canterbury Inc. to inaugurate the Himalayan Cup Cricket Tournament this morning at Westlake Park, Halswell, Christchurch.

A Nepalese team from Auckland called Nepal Rhino is playing with Christchurch-based Everest Warriors in the best of 3 one-day matches (35 overs) series. I congratulated the organisers and sponsors for making this tournament happen and wished the teams a great cricket fun over the three days. The visiting team Nepal Rhino won the tournament.

13. 5th CultureFest 2020 – Selwyn Multicultural Festival (18 October)

Selwyn District Council (SDC), CMC, Rotary Club of Lincoln and Lincoln University Student Association (LUSA) helped to bring CultureFest 2021, celebrating Selwyn's growing diversity, at Lincoln Event Centre and Domain on Sunday 29th September. We witnessed record participation and attendance at this ever popular multicultural festival (40 colourful ethnic performances and a large number of food and information stalls).

CMC would like to acknowledge the support and contribution of its members, SDC, Rotary Club of Lincoln, LUSA, and all the participating groups and agencies for a very entertaining and successful CultureFest.

Karakia and Welcome by Selwyn Mayor Hon Sam Broughton and Christchurch Multicultural Council President Surinder Tandon.

A Big Thank You to all the participants, volunteers and supporters (SDC, CMC, Lincoln Rotary Club, Lincoln University, LUSA, community groups, agencies and others) for making the event very successful and entertaining. Special thanks to Lincoln Rotary for marshalling the car parking.

Many thanks to the two great MCs and Archana Tandon JP for an excellent stage management for performances.



14. 20th Culture Galore (20 February) celebrates Cultural Diversity

We participated in this annual multicultural festival, organised by the Christchurch City Council, which provides an opportunity for ethnic groups to showcase their culture in the form of performing arts, music, food, crafts, sports and games. The event is supported by the Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood and Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Boards of Christchurch City Council. CMC is always proud to support, promote and, participate in, this popular event to celebrate cultural diversity. Several of CMC members also participated in this event by way of stage performances and/or food stalls.

Special acknowledgements and congratulations to the Convenor Lisa Gregory and team at CCC and all the participants and supporters for another a very successful Culture Galore every year.

CMC promoted unity in diversity as well as the White Ribbon Campaign for the prevention of domestic violence. We distributed White Ribbons and campaign pamphlets. Thank you all for your support. It was a great day for having lots of fun.

15. General Election Candidates Forum 2020

An election candidates forum was hosted on the Zoom platform by CMC, inviting the following Christchurch candidates:

Mark Arneil (NZ First Party), Nikki Berry (Green Party), Michael Britnell (Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party), Dale Stephens (National Party) and Duncan Webb (Labour Party).

After their general presentations they responded to the Manifesto 2020 recommendations for the political parties put together by the non-political Multicultural NZ and member Regional Multicultural Councils. They also shared their Yes/No choices for the two referendums that we are also voting on.

16. CMC Management and Administrative Work

- Several agencies/groups and individuals were approached for joining CMC.
- Various secretarial and financial tasks. New memberships. /renewals. Monthly and annual accounts.
- Accountability Reports submitted to funders, Charity Trust, Incorporated Societies.
- Information from CMC and our partners is regularly disseminated to members of our network.
- CMC Facebook page is regularly updated. New members are invited to join.
- MSD funding for a CMC new website was secured. Website work in conjunction with MNZ Digital-hub multi-website project is underway.
- CMC-Christchurch Iranian Society-MSD Workshops (3) for community groups by MSD (Thi Phan). 13-14 Feb.

17. Supporting Migrants, Ethnic Sector and their Partners

- We worked closely with the Office of Ethnic Communities (OEC), Human Rights Commission (HRC), Christchurch City Council (CCC), Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, ARA, Refugee Resource & Service Centre, Hagley College, Resettlement Services, MSD, PEETO, Network Waitangi, OVTRK, CBA, Pegasus Health, NZ Police, and several ethnic community and faith groups.
- Supported the promotion of the values of Treaty-based Multiculturalism with Ngai Tahu, Multicultural NZ, Network Waitangi, and local and central governments.
- Several meetings with MPs, and political parties' ethnic sector representatives to discuss policies and programmes for early settlement, integration of multicultural communities, and impacts of Covid-19.
- Participated in the World Peace prayers at the Peace Bell in Botanic Gardens in October organised by Canterbury Interfaith Society (CIS).
- CDHB-CMC Disability Health Forum. "What barriers are faced by people of CALD communities with disabilities in accessing health service"? Thanks to CDHB Disability Steering Group. 9 March 2021.

18. Meetings of NZFMC/Multicultural NZ (MNZ)

CMC was represented at the MNZ meetings and events held during the year:

- 26-27 September. MNZ AGM and Annual Community Awards Function. Wellington. See below.
- 27 March. CMC strategy planning workshop facilitated by MNZ President and Secretary.

- MNZ Executive Council Zoom meetings.

19. Multicultural NZ Annual General Meeting (Hui) (26-27 September)

Venue: Te Wharewaka o Pōneke, Waterfront, Wellington.

Theme - Huarahi Hou. Pathway to Treaty-based Multicultural Communities and Multiculturalism

MNZ Annual Hui was attended by the delegates of various Regional Multicultural Councils, their Koumatua guests, and senior Maori leaders. Distinguished guests also included Race Relations Commissioner Mr Meng Foon, Sir Mark Solomon (Ngai Tahu), NZ Police Deputy Commissioner - Māori, Pacific & Ethnic Services Mr Wallace Haumaha, and Principal Advisor NZ Police Rakesh Naidoo. The programme started with the traditional Pohwiri. CMC was represented by Surinder Tandon, Archana Tandon, Lorna Szentivanyi, Hero Modares and our Koumatua Sally Pitama (Ngai Tahu). Sir Mark Solomon was the keynote speaker at the MNZ Annual Awards Dinner Function.

20. Networking and Celebration: Attendance and Participation in Local Multicultural Activities

We continue to attend and support sports and cultural events, local and national governments, NGOs' functions and meetings in Christchurch and neighbouring areas. The number of cultural events continues to grow, which is fostering and celebrating cultural diversity. Invitations for a number of events were received, which included the following:

Indian Independence Day	Indian Teez Festival
Indian Diwali	Nepal New Year Day
Nepalese Teez and Dussehra Festivals	Chinese Heritage Show
Chinese New Year Events	Japan Day
Thai Food and Cultural Festival	Nowruz (Persian New Year)
Philippines Global Christmas	OEK Riverside Cultural Events
Indian Navratre Festival	The UN International Peace Day
Canterbury Turban Day (3 rd)	

21. Multicultural Women Council (Please refer to separate Women Council Report)

- Contribution to the MNZ women well-being framework.
- Collaborated with OEK on Women-to-Women (W2W) well-being project
- Convened the ethnic cookery project. (See above)
- White Ribbon Day was observed by CMC at its meeting on 26 November. Members took the pledge - "I will stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence towards women."
- Members supported a number of activities, reported elsewhere, during the year.

Acknowledgements

To: Members of the CMC for their support, various community groups, Christchurch City Council for their support, representation, participation, communication and promotion/networking; Ngai Tahu, Network Waitangi Otautahi, Plains FM96.9, PEETO, CAB, Shakti, Canterbury Refugee Resource & Service Centre, CRS, Christchurch Community House, Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, Canterbury Interfaith Society, Pegasus Health, CDHB, INFoRM (Inter-Agencies) Group, Office of Ethnic Communities/DIA, MSD, Immigration NZ, Human Rights Commission and Race Relations, Rotary Club of Lincoln, NZ Police, Multicultural Youth Association of Canterbury, White Ribbon, local MPs and Councillors, Revel Events and Christchurch Metro Cricket Association.

I thank you all for your support to me and Christchurch Multicultural Council during the year.



Nga mihi nui

Surinder Tandon, MNZM
President, Christchurch Multicultural Council Inc.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS for 2020-2021

President: Surinder Tandon

Vice-President: Hero Modares

Vice-President: Manish Pandey

Secretary: Farahnaz Khosravi

Treasurer: Audrey Davies



MNZ AGM 2020 September 26th - 27th
Te Wharewaka o te Pōneke

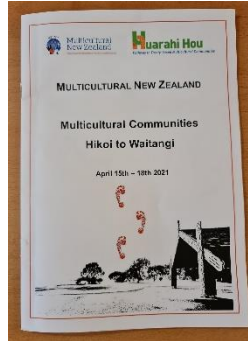


Multicultural
New Zealand
New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils



Huarahi Hou
Pathway to Treaty-based Multicultural Communities





6 | September 3 - September 9, 2020

NEWS

Top award for diversity champion Councillor Jimmy Chen

Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC), at its 31st Annual General Meeting held on Thursday August 27, presented its first-ever new top award "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD" to Christchurch City Councillor Jimmy Chen "in recognition of his significant contribution in making visible and valuable difference to the multicultural community and in fostering diversity of Christchurch".

Jimmy Chen has been the backbone and central pillar of the multicultural community. Over nearly twenty years he has worked passionately, tirelessly and selflessly for strengthening wider, multicultural community by promoting multiculturalism and unity

in diversity. He, as Chair of Multicultural Committee of the Christchurch City Council, has played a major role in the development of its Multicultural Strategy launched in 2017. CMC continues to work with Jimmy and his Council team to implement the various goals of this strategy to celebrate, strengthen and foster diversity, and to promote social inclusion, harmony and equality.

Big thank you Jimmy for your exemplary service. Heartiest congratulations to you for your well deserved award.
-from Surinder Tandon, President of Christchurch Multicultural Council





