



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF CHRISTCHURCH MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL (INC.)

Thursday, 7:00 PM, 21 August 2025
Meeting Room 3, Upper Riccarton Library,
71 Main South Road, Sockburn, Christchurch.
&
Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting commenced with Karakia by Surinder. He welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. Attendees

In Person: Surinder Tandon, Audrey Davies, Jennifer Hsiao, Kogi So, Samanthi Bandara, Sam Yau
Online: Archana Tandon, Hero Modares, Emmie King, Dilmini Perera, Gini Geng (CCC)

3. Apologies

Farah Khosravi, Irinka Britnell, Bishnu Pokhrel, Gopal Poudyel
Motion to accept: Audrey. Seconded by: Jennifer.

4. Last Meeting Minutes

Surinder presented the minutes from the last meeting held on 24 July 2025.
Motion to accept: Audrey. Seconded by: Jennifer.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

6. Correspondence, New membership Applications:

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a. Correspondence with the Chairperson and Secretary has been shared with our members via email.
- b. New Membership Applications: Nil

7. Guest Speaker: Gini Geng (CCC Welcoming Communities Coordinator)

Gini spoke about the Welcoming Week Programme for 6-15 September and sought CMC support for participation and promotion. CMC extended its full support and expressed its interest for being a strategic collaboration partner for the future CCC multicultural events.

9. Financial Report:

The Treasurer (Samanthi) presented the financial report. Application for making changes to bank signatories is in progress with our bank.

Balance as at: 31 July 2025

Cheque account: \$11,537.72. Women's Committee account: \$1,272.19. Term Investment account: \$7,201.58

Membership fees received from:

Souzan Amin, Dr Samuel Laly and Farah Khosravi

10. Meetings, Activities and Events

- CCC to present the results for of the civil defense emergency preparedness survey
- Mental Health Seminar Planning: Bishnu Pokhrel will organize a seminar on mental health for migrants and refugees, focusing on raising awareness of mental health and support available. Also work with

Mental Health Education & Resource Centre (MHERC).

- Bullying and racism in schools, especially targeting Asian youth, were highlighted, with 45–50% of migrant students reportedly facing bullying and depression. We need to talk to MNZ, Ministry of Education, Race Relations and schools. Educate children on cultural diversity.
- Writers Meeting Proposal: Gopal Poudyel suggested we organize a writers meeting aimed at promoting native languages and connecting writers from various communities. Gopal to share his proposal with CMC.
- CMC website: chchmc.org.nz

Members need to register to be able to login to access documents. Please register for log in.

Naomi Peters is helping to administer and update the website.

Google drive has been created to share photos etc. for use on the website.

Upcoming

- Selwyn CultureFest - Multicultural Festival Planning: To be held on Sunday 14th September at Lincoln Event Center. Archana: Performance forms are being sent out, and there is a call for ethnic activities and games.
- CCC Welcoming Week 5-14 September across Christchurch. Passport to Otahutahi.
- Spring Festival by Kia ora Academy – Saturday 13 September, 11am-3pm, Multicultural Centre.
- Christchurch citizenship ceremonies – Tuesday 2 September, Monday 22 September. Town Hall.
- Multicultural NZ AGM – Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September, Wellington.
- Local Elections 2025 – promote voters' enrollment and voting, organise candidates' election forum.
- Culture Galore 2026 – 21 March 2025, at Multiculture Centre. Planning.
- Japan Fiesta – Saturday 4 October. 10am – 6pm. Riccarton Function Centre. Free for outdoor activities – performances, food stalls etc. Tickets for indoor activities.
- Other projects/activities: Sports Day with Netball Centre and Sports Canterbury. Planning.

11. Women Council Projects

- Health and Well-being Initiatives: Health seminars for both men and women are to be organised with service providers and agency members.
- Domestic Violence Cases: The need to address domestic violence cases more seriously was emphasized, with many cases being managed through word-of-mouth referrals.
- Dance fitness classes are currently on hold due to the instructor's injury and winter weather.

12. Members' reports.

Hero: Upcoming Webinars and Events: A spring festival in September. Welcoming week will feature multiple events, including a potluck and cultural celebrations.

Archana: First Hindu Women Conference to be held in Wellington on Saturday 20 September.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.