



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

Thursday, 7:00 PM, 24 July 2025
Meeting Room 2, 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 Bhandara,
Online: Archna Tandon, Sonakshi Garg (guest), Hero Modares, Bishnu Pokhrel, Gopal Poudyel

3. Apologies

Dilmini Perera, Farah Khosravi, Naomi Peters, Yoko Matsumoto, Emmie King

4. Introduction of Committee Members

Surinder introduced the newly elected committee.

5. Last Meeting Minutes

Surinder presented the minutes from the last meeting held on 22 May 2025.

Motion to accept: Hero. Seconded by: Jennifer.

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

7. Correspondence, New membership Applications:

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a. Correspondence with the Chairperson and Secretary has been shared via email.
- b. Membership Application: An application was submitted by Samanthi Bandara for individual membership.
Proposed by: Surinder, Seconded by: Audrey.
- c. CMC annual report has been submitted to Multicultural New Zealand.
- d. A special strategy meeting is scheduled for August 2-3, 2025, with one meeting in the North Island and another in South Island (Christchurch). The Chairperson and Vice-President, Hero, will attend.

8. Financial Report:

The Treasurer presented the financial report, including meeting minutes and bank transactions. Discussion ensued regarding sharing meeting minutes with the bank and the requirement of two signatories for online transactions.

Balance as at: 30 June 2025

Cheque account: \$11,507.72. Women's Committee account: \$1,522.19. Term Investment account: \$7,201.58

Income:

Credit interest \$0.47

Expenses:

Christchurch Capacity Accounting for Annual CMC Financial Report \$277.15

Printing for AGM papers – Audrey \$53.27

Printing for AGM papers – Surinder \$14.50

AGM cakes – Irinka \$76.80

Have sent membership renewal invoices.

9. Meetings, Activities and Events

- 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.

Copycat – guidelines and username etc. Google drive has been created to share photos etc. for use on the website.

- Citizenship ceremonies – Christchurch. 11 August 2025. Surinder, Hero and Naomi attended.
- 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.
- Bullying and Racism Report: Surinder talked about the media report on bullying and racism among Asian youth in schools, warranting the need for awareness and education on diversity in schools and colleges.
- Writers Meeting Proposal: Gopal suggested we organize a writers meeting aimed at promoting native languages and connecting writers from various communities. Gopal to share his proposal with CMC.
- Selwyn CultureFest - Multicultural Festival Planning: To be held on Sunday 14th September at Lincoln Event Center. Archna: Performance forms are being sent out, and there is a call for ethnic activities and games.

Upcoming

- CCC INFORM Meeting – Tuesday 26 August, 10am-12pm. Multicultural Centre.
- 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.
- Other projects/activities: Sports Day with Netball Centre and Sports Canterbury. Planning.

10. 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.

11. Members' reports.

Hero: Upcoming Webinars and Events: Two webinars are scheduled for July 29 and September. A spring festival in September will feature multiple events, including a potluck and cultural celebrations.

Webinar and Workshop: Planning a webinar on AI and a workshop at the Multicultural Centre. Details and invites will be shared with interested participants.

12. General matters – Meeting Duration and Logistics: It was noted that the previous meeting exceeded the scheduled time. Future meetings should aim to conclude by 8:45 PM in order to leave the Committee Room by 9:00 PM.

Meeting closes at 8:45 pm.