



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

**Thursday, 7:00 PM, 25 September 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, who welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. Attendees

In Person: Surinder Tandon, Kogi So (Minutes), Samantha Bandara, Emmie King, Nancy Goh, Tenumi Dyer, Naomi Peters, and Moneel Pratap (Guest)

Online: Archana Tandon, Hero Modares and Dilmini Perera

3. Apologies

Farah Khosravi, Irinka Britnell, Bishnu Pokhrel, Gopal Poudyel, Audrey Davies, Jennifer Hsiao,

Motion to accept: Naomi. Seconded by: Kogi.

4. Minutes of the Last Monthly Meeting (August 2025)

Surinder presented the minutes from the last meeting held on 21 August 2025.

Motion to accept: Samantha. Seconded by: Kogi.

5. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

6. Correspondence and New Membership Applications

- Correspondence received by the Chairperson and Secretary was shared with members via email.
- New membership applications: From NZ Sri Lanka Cultural Foundation. Approved.
- Updates on community events were received from CCC and MNZ.

7. Financial Update – Treasurer’s Report (Samantha Bandara)

Samantha presented the financial report. The application to update bank signatories remains in progress.

Balances as at 31 August 2025:

Cheque account: \$11,647.72

Women’s Committee account: \$1,272.19

Term Investment account: \$7,201.58

Income: Membership renewals received from several members.

Expenditure: None during the month.

Motion to accept the report: Samantha. Seconded by Naomi.

8. Membership Renewal and Invoicing

Membership renewal notices have been sent out. Invoices will be issued to those with pending fees.

9. Meetings, Activities and Events

- Passport to Ōtautahi Expo & Spring Festival (13 September): Successfully held at the Multicultural Centre. CMC participated. Surinder was invited to speak at the opening.
CCC Welcoming Week (6–15 September): CMC supported the programme through participation and online promotion.
- 9th Selwyn CultureFest (14 September, Lincoln Event Centre): Well attended with vibrant performances. Archna coordinated CMC's participation.
- Multicultural NZ AGM (20–21 September, Wellington): Surinder, Archna, Audrey, and Hero attended. MNZ elections and awards were held. Congratulations to Hero on being elected as MNZ Secretary, and to Audrey and Shirley Wright for receiving Professor Kuan Goh Community Service Awards.
- Christchurch Citizenship Ceremonies (2 & 22 September): CMC representatives attended.
- CMC Website (chchmc.org.nz): Members are encouraged to register to access documents. Naomi Peters continues to assist with website management.

10. Upcoming Events and Activities

- Local Elections 2025: CMC is promoting voter enrollment and participation, and voting.
- Mental Health Forum: To be organised by Bishnu Pokhrel in collaboration with MHERC.
- Selwyn Diwali (1 November, Lincoln Domain): 3–9 PM, family-friendly free event.
- Sports Day: Planning in collaboration with Netball Centre and Sports Canterbury.

11. Women's Council Projects

- Women's Health and Wellbeing: Upcoming health seminars for both men and women being planned.
- Domestic Violence Awareness: Continued concern regarding rising cases; discussed the need for stronger support mechanisms and partnerships with service providers.

12. Members' Reports

- Moneel Pratap (Guest): Talked about his local council election interest and manifesto.
- Hero: Shared updates from Welcoming Week and highlighted upcoming community webinars/workshops. 8 November – visit to Ashburton Marae. Radio Toranz.
- Archna: Provided an update on Diwali event preparations and feedback from the MNZ AGM. Self Defense course – 29 November.
- Emmie: Heritage Festival at Multicultural Centre from 11-27 October. Suggested exploring youth-focused leadership workshops in collaboration with schools.
- Samanthi: The Stage – Annual Talent Show. Saturday 15 November, Aurora Centre.

13. General Matters

Discussion held on encouraging younger members' participation in CMC projects.
Share council updates and multicultural stories on CMC website.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 8:55 PM with thanks from the Chairperson.