



Our Multicultural Future: New Zealanders talk about multiculturalism

The report of the MNZ-UNESCO Multiculturalism project was launched at the Wellington City Council on 13 August 2015. The report was commissioned by Multicultural New Zealand assisted by a grant from the New Zealand Commission for UNESCO. It is based on the outcomes of 34 workshops involving 581 participants throughout New Zealand. These workshops took place from February – June 2015. Former Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres conducted the workshops and wrote the report. Its purpose is to provide a starting point for developing a national action plan for multiculturalism and multilingualism in dialogue with government and community organisations. You can read more about the project in Joris' reflection on Page 6.



MNZ President Alexis LewGor introducing the report at the launch.



Alexis LewGor with Her Worship Celia Wade-Brown, Mayor of Wellington.



Hon. Phil Geoff, Labour Party's Ethnic Affairs Spokesperson



Berlinda Chin representing Hon. Sam Lotu-Liga, Minister for Ethnic Communities.



Superintendent Wallace Haumaha, Deputy Chief Executive, New Zealand Police.



Christine Ammunson representing Dame Susan DeVoy, Race Relations Commissioner.



Ian McKinnon, Chair of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO.



Denis Roche MP Green Party Spokesperson for Ethnic Affairs

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Editorial



After a long hard winter we can finally celebrate the arrival of spring with the warm sun and longer days. Our Annual General Meeting took place not long ago in Upper Hutt and it was another great weekend of successful deliberations for the work we all do for a successful multicultural New Zealand. The year has gone by very quickly.

As you would have read in the Annual Report and Highlights for 2015, much has been accomplished and thanks to the efforts of all of you hard-working members and our voluntary office staff with the enthusiasm of our Executive Director. There is much more to do with the work in the communities. After a successful launch of the Our Multicultural Future report – a project funded by UNESCO – I am happy that we have the expression of interest for a second round of funding for part two of the project accepted.

The Our Multicultural Future report was launched at the inaugural national hui of all the frontline support staff, who had come from all over New Zealand to share their ideas and experiences.

Many actions have come out of that week and we look forward to growing Multicultural New Zealand in many ways. I am very grateful for all the help and support that I have received during my first year as your President and I look forward to more of the same this year. Keep up the good work!

Alexis LewGor

From the Executive Director's Desk



Kia ora koutou.

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the new look Nau Mai Piki Mai updating you of Multicultural New Zealand's activities across the country.

In the past months, we ran a national hui focusing on women leadership and family violence with the purpose of empowering women who are already leaders of their ethnic communities to speak out against family violence and to actively deal with issues of family violence in the communities. We also had our 26th Annual General Meeting in Upper Hutt at Orongomai Marae bringing together ethnic community leaders to discuss the safety of recent migrants and refugees in communities across New Zealand. We organized an inaugural national meeting of migrant centers operated by Migrant Center Trusts, Regional Multicultural Councils and New Zealand Newcomers Networks. During this hui the "Our Multicultural Future" report was launched by UNESCO Chair Ian McKinnon.

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Executive Committee 2015-2016

President - Alexis LewGor

Vice President - Arish Naresh

National Secretary - Nirmala Nand

National Treasurer - Dinesh Taylor



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First National Conference for Migrant Service Centres

Multicultural New Zealand hosted a two-day national meeting for migrant service centre providers at the Wellington City Council in August 2015. It was the first national conference for these specialists who cut across government, business and community sectors in New Zealand. Most of these professionals are frontline cultural and social support service practitioners in the ethnic migrant and refugee community groups. They provide services to new and recently arrived migrants and refugees in the country. Migrant Services Trusts, Regional Multicultural Councils and Newcomers Networks operate some of these centres. Participants at the conference expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to meet and discuss with passionate colleagues from different regions of the country. They also indicated a desire to create dialogue between the migrant service centre provider group and government agencies.

The meeting provided a great opportunity for the different managers and coordinators of migrants services centres from all over the country to meet, network and share information and experiences. Moreover the meeting created a space for potential dialog and information sharing between people working with diversity issues on a NGO/grass-root level and those dealing with diversity within government institutions. The hui was made possible through funding from Settling In.



Panel speakers on Maximizing Impact through Collaboration



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NAU MAI PIKI MAI

Multicultural New Zealand Newsletter - Issue 7 August 2015

Highlights from our 26th Annual General Meeting



Delegates at the AGM



Orongomara Marae Kamatua welcoming MNZ delegates to the Marae.



Dame Susan DeVoy, Race Relations Commissioner.



Ann Dysart, E Tu Whanau.

Powhiri – Maori's responsibility to migrants

The kamatua used his address at the powhiri ceremony held at Orongomai Marae in Upper Hutt to remind the audience that Aotearoa has opened its arms to welcome migrants to the country for many years. He reiterated the five aspects of the Treaty of Waitangi with special emphasis on the preamble "living in peace with justice for all," which connects to the theme of Safety for the weekend long activities at the 26th Annual General Meeting of Multicultural New Zealand.



Kara Puketapu, Chairman Waiwhetu Marae Trust



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Multicultural New Zealand Newsletter - Issue 7 August 2015

Highlights from our 26th Annual General Meeting



Volunteer Service Awards

Community volunteers were recognized at the 26th Annual General Meeting in Upper Hutt for their selfless service to the community.



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NAU MAI PIKI MAI

Multicultural New Zealand Newsletter - Issue 7 August 2015

Our Multicultural New Zealand: Reflecting on the Journey

Former Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres facilitated 34 workshops around New Zealand in February to June, which formed the basis for his report to Multicultural New Zealand on Our Multicultural Future. Here he reflects on the process:

I am very grateful to Multicultural New Zealand and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO for the opportunity to engage with such a wide range of people on the question of how we can build a successful multicultural society in New Zealand.

Workshops were organised by most of the multicultural councils, as well as by government departments, community workers, university staff and students, Maori, Pacific and ethnic groups, and even groups of school students. The thing that impressed me most was the degree to which the issues raised were the same across ethnicities, occupations and ages.

In the report, I have kept faith with what was said by people at the workshops by including a summary of the main points made at each. These summaries were sent out to participants immediately after the workshops and are now published in the report so that the diversity of voices can be heard. The first part of the report is my attempt (with help from a number of advisors) to bring together the common themes from across the workshops.

Participants' insights were brought together under five headings: the Treaty, people, communities, institutions and newcomers. One of the key messages was that there is a strong desire across a wide range of people to take forward the Treaty into the multicultural future of New Zealand and to build strong relations between tangata whenua and other ethnic groups.

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From the Executive Director's Desk

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The key consistent message from the four dialogues involving approximately 850 people nationwide is the widespread acknowledgment and support for the Treaty of Waitangi, and the desire of ethnic communities to engage and build relationships with tangata whenua. There was commitment and enthusiasm from the ethnic migrant and refugee communities to develop a strong collective voice to provide advice and influence policy for social change.

Here is a quote from one of the participants that I would like to share with you "The strength for us all I believe will come from a collective voice that will hopefully facilitate powerfully supportive dialogue, which we cannot achieve on our own". However, participants feel the settlement support programme is inadequate, too short term and under-resourced, and that community groups should be well resourced to provide ongoing support and make our community safe and vibrant. Most importantly local government and center government agencies should see community group organisations as a vehicle for collective understanding and intelligence, and be more responsive in providing sufficient resources to build their capacity and capability in their respective regions. Lastly, participants expressed concern about the challenge of how to capture their clients' journey, and results-based 'outcomes' that will ensure a robust system for settling well in an evidence-based outcomes environment.

With regard to evidence based reporting, we are keen to get your feedback on some of our publications. We want to know whether you know of these publications, and if so, how much use you make of them. We are also keen to find out how the publications might be improved and how you prefer to access them. It will be greatly appreciated if you take ten minutes of your time to complete our publications survey and give us your feedback. You can access the survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MR8BFHR>

Our Multicultural New Zealand: Reflecting on the Journey

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Clearly many people still experience racism and racial discrimination, and participants saw the education system, from early childhood through to secondary school and beyond, as having an important role to play in making upcoming generations aware of the importance of the Treaty, cultural diversity, multilingualism and intercultural understanding.

They saw a need for better support for community organisations working in the multicultural space, for public agencies to be more responsive to the needs of diverse communities, and for people of all ethnicities to be better represented in central and local government, school boards of trustees, and business boards.

They called for further improvements to settlement support, especially in removing barriers to migrants finding work appropriate to their qualifications.

Finally, in response to the findings from these dialogues Multicultural New Zealand will in the next few months focus on "Mainstreaming Cultural Diversity" project, which will have four interlinked streams:

1

Cultural diversity in education: Implementing the cultural diversity principle of Te Whariki and the NZ Curriculum – a facilitated dialogue between ECE centres, schools and communities to identify best practice and new initiatives

2

Cultural diversity in decision making: Promoting greater representation of ethnic communities on school boards of trustees, councils and area health boards – stories of existing members, expressions of interest, publicity, facilitated engagement with BOT's, councils, health boards and communities prior to the 2016 BOT and local government elections

3

Cultural diversity in public services: Promoting responsiveness of public agencies to ethnic communities – meetings, identifying best practice, and facilitated workshops

4

Develop a national plan in response to "Our Multicultural Future", through engagement with those who can facilitate change and further public consultation.

We've also started planning for the 2016 New Zealand Community Football Cup event and I'm glad to announce that UNICEF is partnering with us to run their Push Play festival day along the national tournament. New Zealand Football Federation along with New Zealand Police are supporting in organizing the event as well.

Tayo Agunlejika

Multicultural New Zealand is committed to taking forward the issues raised by the workshops, and has already put forward a proposal to the New Zealand Commission for UNESCO for a Cultural Diversity Project including cultural diversity in education, ethnic representation on school boards of trustees, local councils and district health boards in the 2016 elections, addressing structural discrimination in government agencies and developing a multicultural strategy for New Zealand.

I want to thank all those who contributed their views, shared their insights and told their stories for this project.

I have indicated to Multicultural New Zealand and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO that I would be happy to contribute to these follow-up projects, thus taking forward the issues raised in the workshops. It will be a further pleasure to work with a diverse range of people on making these things happen in 2016 and beyond.

Joris de Bres



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The New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Inc. was established in July 1989 as an incorporated, non-government body, which acts as an umbrella organisation for the ethnic communities of New Zealand.

The Federation's primary role is to promote, support and share information among the Regional Multicultural Councils and New Zealand's Ethnic Communities.

The challenge for NZFMC is to provide an opportunity for people from all segments of New Zealand's diverse society to address the challenges facing our multicultural communities on the threshold of the 21st century

Media Releases

Launching of "Our Multicultural Future" Report

"Our Multicultural Future" is a report commissioned by Multicultural New Zealand with funding support from the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO.

Call for greater diversity on school boards

Multicultural New Zealand has called for action to make school boards of trustees more representative of the communities they serve

Women's Council elects officers for 2015-16

Multicultural New Zealand's Women's Council re-elected Lonie Martin of Wellington as President and elected a new Secretary and Treasurer for 2015-16.

World Refugee Day 2015 in New Zealand

World Refugee Day is marked internationally on 20 June each year, but some events in New Zealand are starting earlier this year because organisers want to have the celebrations before the start of Ramadan on 18 June.

Submissions

- ❁ Submission on New Zealand's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- ❁ Submission on New Zealand's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ❁ Submission on the Ministry of Education's revised Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students.
- ❁ Submission to the Ministry of Justice on the discussion about New Zealand's family violence laws to review the current laws and plot an improved direction.

Upcoming Events

Three regional cluster meetings to be held in:

- ❁ Upper North Island in Gisborne
- ❁ Lower North Island in Otaki
- ❁ South Island in Invercargill

We want to hear from you



We know many of you have exciting ideas or milestones from your very own RMC to share!

If you want your ideas to be featured in our next issue, please send us your stories and photos and we are very much delighted to put them in our next issue.

Please send your articles and photos to info@mnz.org.nz. Our next issue will be in December 2015



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