

MNZ Pānui 2023

2023 has been a year of great achievement for Multicultural New Zealand, with significant milestones met on our hikoī toward an authentically Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa.

To our committed volunteers and community leaders, to our funders, partners in government, and fellow NGOs, to our executive members and support staff, we extend our thanks.

We look forward to 2024 keenly, sure in the knowledge that collectively, we have the skills and the drive to continue to realise our goal of a safe, secure, and nourishing society for our tamariki.

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei - seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

Huarahi Hou Conference: Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa towards 2040



MNZ made a great achievement in May with our first conference since 2001. Our leaders travelled to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland from every corner of Aotearoa for two days of kōrero and learning on immigration policy, Tiriti-based population strategy, cultural infrastructure, and the devastating and pervasive effects of colonialism.

Over the two days we saw four discussion panels featuring eminent community leaders, advocates, academics, and public servants, as well as an interview with then Immigration Minister Michael Wood, and a political panel with MPs for the Labour, National, and Green parties.



The first panel featured Lupematasila Misatauveve Dr Melani Anae, Tā Mark Solomon, Harry Tam, and Dr Ganesh Nana discussing immigration policy. The panel was facilitated by Professor David MacDonald.

Then Minister for Immigration Michael Wood, interviewed by Professor David MacDonald.



The second panel was facilitated by Professor James Liu and featured Butch Bradley, Dr Negar Partow, Meng Foon and Pancha Narayanan discussing cultural infrastructure.



Tina Ngata discussed the devastating and pervasive effects of colonialism ingrained in the New Zealand way of life, followed by reflections from Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt.



Sally Clarkson from the Ministry of Social Development and NZ Police Superintendent Rakesh Naidoo provided valuable perspective on the incorporation and implementation of change in government departments.



Sunday's session concluded with a political forum featuring Vanushi Walters from the Labour Party, Melissa Lee from the National Party, and Ricardo Menéndez March from the Greens.

National Action Plan Against Racism

MNZ has embarked on a mission to help guide communities to develop local action plans against racism, completing two pilot NAPAR sessions this year: Porirua in June, and Oamaru in July.



MNZ pledges continued support for these regions as they refine their community action plans and further engage with local leadership and looks forward to more NAPAR sessions throughout the motu in 2024.

Covid-19 Vaccine Booster Drive

July 2023 saw the rollout of two successful Covid-19 Vaccination uptake campaign events in the regions: Gisborne on Sunday the 2nd and Invercargill on Saturday the 29th. MNZ President Pancha Narayanan joined MNZ Treasurer and Covid-19 Campaign Coordinator Prem Singh at both events.



The MNZ Executive would like to acknowledge the work performed by Tairāwhiti Multicultural Council President Arish Naresh, and by Murihiku Southland District Multicultural Council President Shelly Ballantine in helping to organise these events.

Matariki

The MNZ whānau has embraced Matariki with open arms, with celebration events being held throughout the motu.



Upper Hutt, Wellington, Hutt, and Porirua RMCs banded together in Johnsonville on the 10th of July for one big Wellington Region Matariki event.

MNZ is proud to have partnered with the New Zealand Council of Sikh Affairs in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland to mark Matariki in a different way.

More than 550 people were served hot meals in Ōtara Town Centre under the banner of the Seva Initiative for Resilient Communities.



Seva's long-term primary objective is to develop the capability to provide food during climate-related emergencies through community-led collaboration.



Multicultural New Zealand Women's Council Hui

The MNZ Women's Council gathered in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington on the 5th of August to discuss the incorporation of E Tū Whānau values into the Women's Wellbeing Framework, and the need to futureproof the programme by making it inclusive and accessible to women in remote areas.



After the daytime forum and a workshop, the hui concluded with a shared meal and a fashion show which was enjoyed by all.

Noho Marae

August saw the fruition of a long-held goal for MNZ with two noho marae taking place. This initiative aims to provide multicultural communities with the opportunity to be welcomed onto marae by tangata whenua - to cook together, sleep together, share stories, and learn together.



This noho marae programme is a pilot scheme that MNZ intends to roll out throughout the country, and the vision is for this opportunity to be made available to all migrants and former refugees.



We thank the haukāinga of Rehua Marae in Ōtautahi Christchurch, and of Ōrongomai Marae in Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta Upper Hutt for their hospitality, and for sharing their knowledge and wisdom with us.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Multicultural Leadership Hui

August saw the third annual Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Multicultural Leadership Hui. Once again, we were hugely impressed and encouraged by the quality of the kōrero on the various challenges we face as community leaders.

The kaupapa of this year's hui was networking and skills in emergency management, women's safety and wellbeing, and safety in the community.



Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day

Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day continues to go from strength to strength, with festivities and gatherings held in regions throughout the country.



This year, MNZ held a poster competition to encourage celebration and recognition of the day in schools.

The MNZ office would like to commend students from Nga Tawa Diocesan School in Marton, and Chisnallwood Intermediate in Christchurch for their exceptional entries.

Mahi tika ana!

34th Multicultural New Zealand Annual General Meeting

The MNZ AGM again saw the Federation whānau converge in windy Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington.





The weekend began with a panel discussion on Government Working with Multicultural Communities, featuring notable public servants Mervin Singham from the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Hoani Lambert from the Department of Internal Affairs, and NZ Police Superintendent Rakesh Naidoo.



The second panel featured academics Tina Ngata and Professor David MacDonald, and LGBTIQ+ advocate Sam Malage in a discussion on Community Mobilisation.



The afternoon commenced with the AGM proper, where the incumbent Executive Committee were re-elected, and the Professor Kwan Goh Community Service Award recipients were announced.

On Saturday evening the MNZ Community Dinner and Awards 2023 began with kapa haka and cultural performances.



Exceptional volunteer work was recognised with the MNZ Merit Awards and MNZ Life Memberships, and the six Ann Dysart Community Service Awards, embodying the six E Tū Whānau values were bestowed.



The evening was also marked with the gifting of a tokotoko to the marae of NZ Police Deputy Commissioner Wally Haumaha to mark the occasion of his retirement. MNZ thanks Wally for his service and his friendship, and wishes him all the best on the next leg of his journey.



The Sunday session commenced with focus group discussions on paths forward for the MNZ Special Councils and working groups, and concluded with each of the Regional Multicultural Councils presenting a brief round-up of their work over the past year.

Taupō Multicultural Community Council



In an online meeting on the 1st of November, the MNZ Executive Council voted unanimously to accept the request for affiliation with the Federation from the newly established Taupō Multicultural Community Council. Welcome to the MNZ whānau Taupō!

As 2023 draws to a close, the Multicultural New Zealand Executive Committee thanks all of you for your dedication and commitment to the work you do on behalf of the Federation, and commends you for making your communities safer and more prosperous.

We look forward to more good work in 2024, and wish you all happy and peaceful holiday times with your friends and whānau.



President
Pancha Narayanan



Vice President
Marion Kerepeti Edwards



Secretary
María Buldain



Treasurer
Prem Singh

MNZ National Executive Committee 2023