



# Impact Report

**Jan - Dec 2023**



Multicultural  
Nelson Tasman  
**UNITY IN DIVERSITY**  
kotahitanga i roto i te kanorau

## OUR MISSION

"We promote, celebrate and strengthen our multicultural communities."

## OUR VISION

"Te Tiriti-based multicultural communities live happily and in harmony."

## OUR VALUES

Aroha - We respect and acknowledge everyone's unique culture

Manaakitanga - We embrace and include all people

Whakawhanaungatanga - We build strong relationships

We promote a safe Te Tiriti Multicultural New Zealand

Tupuna Pono - We honour our ancestors

# Chair's Report



For me, one of the greatest joys of being involved in Multicultural Nelson Tasman is seeing firsthand how we touch the lives of individuals and families in our community. Whether it's breaking bread with people of all ages and backgrounds at a Multicultural Potluck Dinner

in Motueka Memorial Hall; watching a young player delight in scoring a goal at the Multicultural Football Tournament at Neale Park; or experiencing "aha" moments in the Anti-Racism and Te Tiriti educational workshops we sponsor – I find it both humbling and inspiring to witness the day-to-day impact of our work.

There are so many individuals and groups to thank for our success this past year. I'm very grateful for the time and effort our volunteers contribute throughout the year, be it helping to set up and ensuring the smooth running of our events, or serving on our board to provide strategic direction to our organisation.

The leaders and members of the diverse ethnic communities of our region also deserve a special thanks. You are the reason for our mission and you contribute not only to MNT's success but to the success, vibrancy and strength of our community.

Our work wouldn't be possible without the generous financial support we receive from foundations, local and central governments, and corporate funders. Thanks, also, to the individuals who support us, whether it be with a gold coin koha at our Multicultural Festival, a monthly recurring gift, or your membership subscription. It all adds up to make sure Multicultural Nelson Tasman can keep fulfilling our mission every day.

We owe enormous gratitude to our dedicated staff members who ensure the smooth running of every aspect of our work, making sure we have the resources, capacity and skills to dream big and achieve even bigger! Anna, Ramiesha, Sez and Karolina, your excitement and passion for Multicultural Nelson Tasman is infectious, and inspires and motivates me to redouble my own efforts for our cause.

I also want to pay tribute to Marie Lindaya, who served as acting chair in the first half of 2023, and to Mary Bronsteter, our chair in 2022. Thank you for your trust in me. I am inspired by the proverb Marie often cites – "whiria te tāngata" – to "weave the people together." We truly are stronger together.

While we celebrate the achievements of 2023 in this Impact Report, we also have exciting ambitions for the future. I invite you to join MNT in our efforts to ensure that our multicultural community is recognised and appreciated as an asset to our region in 2024 and beyond.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Felicity Palmer

# How we're making an impact...

Our 2023 started on a high note, with MNT winning the **Bowater Hyundai Community Impact Award** at the **Nelson Pine Industries Chamber of Commerce Business Awards** in February. Our founding and long-time board member Marie Lindaya and board member Carol Morgan were on-hand to receive the award from Chris Bowater.



After a hiatus due to Covid in 2022, both the **Tasman Asian Night Food Fair** and the **Multicultural Festival** returned to the region with record numbers of attendees and participants. More than **2500** attended TANFF and around **5000** at Multicultural Festival, which was held at Founders Park for the first time.



via v Anna Stanley

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To the organisers and vendors at last nights Asian Food Market-wow! What a night! The setting was beautiful, Washbourne gardens, the red lanterns strung between the trees. The children dancing on the stage, the families dancing to zumba, the wonderful dances by the different cultures. The food was amazing, the atmosphere was amazing. The wash station where people rinsed and stacked the dirty dishes they used. The lady at the recycling bins helping people put things in the right place. They even had a box for wooden forks and skewers! The best thing of all was in these times of such horrible global news everyday there were families everywhere, laughing, dancing, talking, just enjoying some long time missing human togetherness. Well done again and thank you to the organisers and vendors. Bloody awesome night.

👍❤️ You and 156 others

22 comments



*"The vibe was joyous, celebratory, and magic! The stage performances were excellent and entertaining and the food stalls were exceptional!"*



# We're connecting communities through Sport...



In 2023, we collaborated with Welcoming Communities (Nelson City Council) and FC Nelson to hold the 2nd annual Multicultural Football Tournament, with **16 teams** registered in 2023 (an **increase of 6 teams** from 2022). The finals of the tournament ran simultaneously with the Multicultural Festival, and the prize-giving was held on stage.



We joined forces with Nelson Cricket Association to hold the **first ever Multicultural Cricket Festival** in March at Victory Square. Due to an international team (Bangladesh) playing a ODI against the Black Caps, a second exciting Multicultural Cricket Festival was held at Greenmeadows on December 17.



# We're now reaching Motueka and surrounds...

MNT secured a long-sought after presence on the ground in Tasman in 2023, with the employment of a part-time Community Coordinator (Sez Fyfe) in Motueka. During the first 5 months in the community, we held **three youth events**, **one multicultural pot-luck** dinner and **two Migration Stories** events. We appreciated the collaborative support of Tasman District Council staff (Te Noninga - Motueka Public Library and Welcoming Communities).



# We're getting funding out to small communities...



In 2023, we distributed more than **26 \$500 community grants** on behalf of both **Nelson City Council** (Neighbourhood Grants) and **NBS** (Multicultural Project Grants); ensuring that even the smallest and less well-connected communities could receive a little more support for their events or projects.



# We're educating our wider community...

With funding secured from MSD's Te Korowai Whētū Social Cohesion Fund, we held **Tangata Tiriti** (Treaty People) workshops, which are specifically aimed at educating migrants and former refugees about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

They were held in English, Spanish and Zomi and facilitated by Jen Bennett from Third Space Projects Aotearoa, with interpreting support from Norma Sequera and Theresa Deih.



In 2023, we also held 3 x cross-cultural awareness workshops and 2 x day-long **Anti-racism and Allyship** workshops.

We coordinated a working group with other agencies to focus on racism in Te Tau Ihu and as a result, worked with **NZ Police** and **Nelson Bays Community Law** to deliver **hate crime prevention sessions** in local high schools.



We had two multicultural **Kai and Korero** events during the last quarter of 2023.

Attendees learned about **Korean cuisine** from Jeong Ae Seo and then we had our own MNT Board member Monique Dyson showcasing **Southern Thai Cuisine**.

Participants are always keen to learn and sample new ethnic dishes, but hearing about peoples' culture and backgrounds and sharing kai together is a key part of this event.



We worked closely with Victory Community Centre and English Language Partners to continue what has now been **a successful five-year co-governance of the Migrant and Refugee Community Navigator** role. We also worked closely with the Navigator to coordinate delivery of a cultural competence workshop for Work and Income staff.



- MNT reps attended **16 Citizenship Ceremonies** across both Nelson City Council & Tasman District
- We attended **monthly meetings for international students** at Te Pūkenga- NMIT
- We attended meetings of the **Refugee Alliance** + the **National Refugee Resettlement Forum**
- We supported the work of **Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono** in our region
- We collaborated with Citizen's Advice Bureau and Welcoming Communities Coordinators to support the first **Positive Settlement Expo** in March.
- We provided **'fund-holding' support** for at least three community events, to enable them to access funds.

# We're helping youth make their impact...



Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman won the **second best Community group prize** at the Masked Parade organised by the Nelson's Arts Festival 2023. Thanks to Community Art Works for all the support they gave to MYNTies to create these amazing masks for the theme "REWILD. REGENERATE".



Our MYNTies membership **more than doubled during the year** through connecting with new youth via events and projects.

We held at least **24 MYNT meetings** during 2023 to plan projects, plus two less serious 'group bonding' events to encourage everyone to get to know each other better.



We **volunteered at 10+ events** as we are passionate about making change in the community

We recorded **12 radio shows on Fresh FM**, where we had the chance to freely express ourselves and develop original content.

We made relationships with other youth groups in the region and **3 of our MYNTies were selected to represent the Nelson Youth Council for 2024.**



We joined the first youth event with Tasman MYNTies in Motueka

We hosted around **70** diverse youth during a **special movie night** held during 'Youth Week 2023' in May.

We completed our **"Random Acts of Kindness"** project with disabled adults at Community Art Works.

We **worked with tamariki** at Victory Primary School as a part of the Matariki event.



# We're making an impact through collaboration...

In June 2023, after more than 1.5 years of planning, the **Shared Communities** consortium (made up of **MNT, Nelson City Council, Make/Shift Spaces** and **Nelson Arts Council**) was successfully funded by Manutū Taonga - Ministry of Culture and Heritage. This funding enabled delivery of recommendations from the 2022 engagement document, which looked at barriers to participation in arts, culture and heritage sector activities for migrants and former refugees.

Shared Communities aims to improve sustainability and resilience of the arts, culture and heritage sectors, improve access and participation in the arts culture and heritage sectors, increase the use of arts, culture and heritage as a tool for wellbeing.

A main recommendation undertaken was the **employment of a Cultural Navigator** (Karolina Serrano) to help communities access funding, plan their projects, make connections to other stakeholders - whatever help was required. The Cultural Navigator role sits within the MNT office, but the role is co-governed by the Consortium. The Consortium is then advised by an Advisory Group made up of community members from migrant and former refugee communities.

Though the project runs until mid-2024, from October - December 2023, more than 10 projects and events had already been held or supported.



With the New Zealand Police working proactively to increase the diversity of their staff, MNT was only too happy to assist in jointly holding a **well-attended and interactive recruitment event** in June in the Nayland College Hall.



Throughout 2023 we coordinated and provided secretariat support to **9 Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum** meetings, an important 6-weekly platform for agencies and organisations to consider their services through the newcomer lens.

In October and December 2023 we signed a **'Statement of Commitment'** for the Welcoming Communities initiative, with both Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council respectively. We worked closely with **Welcoming Communities Coordinators** from both Councils over the entire year and we value their work and support hugely.



We wholeheartedly thank our key funders, supporters, partners and volunteers - without you, our work and impact would not be possible.



## Thank you local sponsors of the Multicultural Festival 2023

NZ King Salmon - Creative Communities Nelson - NBS - Master Valet - HeartLand Fruit  
Nelson Coachlines - FreshChoice Nelson - NZ Immigration Concepts - Alaron - Tealogy  
FujiFilm Business Innovation - Mitre 10 - Community Art Works - Rubbasoul Studio - Can Plan

