



MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
RANGITIKEI/WHANGANUI
HELPING NEWCOMERS FEEL AT HOME

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030



Multicultural Council of Rangitikei/Whanganui Inc

MAYOR ANDREW TRIPE

Whanganui is a community woven from many cultures, histories, and voices – a place where people from all walks of life come together, not just to live side by side, but to learn from one another.

Over time, we've become known for that spirit of unity and support, especially in moments that matter most. But we still have work to do in building genuine understanding across cultures, strengthening relationships, and ensuring that opportunity is not just promised, but accessible to all.

Our district is enriched by a wide range of communities – including Cook Islanders, Samoans, Fijians, Keralites, Punjabis, and Filipinos – each bringing their own traditions, languages, and stories. Together, they help shape a Whanganui that is vibrant, inclusive, and future-focused.

The Multicultural Council plays a crucial role in this space. Its commitment to helping newcomers feel welcome, supporting cultural identity, and building bridges between communities has a real and lasting impact. They don't just open doors—they help people feel like they belong once inside.

As Mayor, I have deep admiration for the work the Multicultural Council does—often behind the scenes—to make Whanganui stronger, kinder, and more connected. Our district is better for its cultural diversity, and it is undoubtedly better for the Multicultural Council's presence and advocacy.

Mayor Andrew Tripe



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Our district is better for its cultural diversity

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PRESIDENT PUSHPA PRASAD QSM

The Multicultural Council of Rangitikei/Whanganui Inc has been a beacon of support for many migrant communities for years. We started this organisation almost a quarter of a century ago when we saw the need in our ethnic communities for different levels of support. We have worked hard and have been a pillar of strength for those in need – from local information and advice to basic, practical necessities to help families settle in.

Our aim is to provide a “one stop shop” where our migrants and ethnic communities’ needs are being met now and into the future. Our events and activities provide forums for everyone to get together to make connections and share their skills: by the grace of funders such as Lotteries, COGS, Ministry of Ethnic Communities and of course our District Councils. We are very fortunate to be able to secure enough funds to run our programmes, and our heartfelt gratitude goes to these funders.

In order for us to keep and uphold our vision and mission of maintaining the culture and traditions in our ethnic communities our volunteers work tirelessly organising a variety of activities and events. These are thoughtfully designed to encourage ethnic community members to participate to keep their language and culture alive. We encourage people of all ages and ethnicities to share what they have with other migrants and develop an understanding of each other. Through collaboration and sharing of resources with the like-minded organisations we are closely engaged with, we build and uphold our vision and mission.

This Strategic Plan provides a guideline for us to use when planning – being mindful of the need to build capability and resilience while acknowledging the special status of Māori as Tangata Whenua and their unique contribution to our communities.

More recently we have taken on coordination for the Newcomers Network, which aligns well with our mahi.

Our event and activity planning covers connections with a wide range of communities: Pasifika - Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga; Asia - Philippines, China, India (from different states) and many more.

They each come with different cultural needs and as well as capabilities they can share – all making our Whanganui, Rangitikei and Waimarino districts interesting and vibrant places to live.

My sincere thanks go to our hardworking Executive Committee, our present and past Co-ordinators, and our Volunteers who work tirelessly to keep this organisation alive and strong.

Kia Kaha
Maururu Koe



TE TIMATA Ō TE ARA

The beginning of your journey

MISSION

Our mission is to promote cultural awareness

VISION

Our vision is to bring about cultural understanding and togetherness

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

We support E Tū Whānau as guiding principles





INTRODUCTION

The Multicultural Council of Rangitikei/Whanganui Inc celebrates over two decades of achievements as a champion of multiculturalism and harmonious race relations in our region.

From small beginnings in 2003, we have steadfastly served our communities' migrants and newcomers: seniors, women, youth and those in business.

We are grateful for funding received in current and past years from the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Creative NZ, Whanganui District Council, Rangitikei District Council, NZ Lottery Grants Board, COGS and Whanganui Community Foundation for our various projects, events and activities.

We sustain our funding by demonstrating our ability to deliver.

This Strategic Plan was first generated for the period 2022-25, and it has been a positive exercise to review the past three years, and look ahead now to 2030 with this Plan. We will continue to pursue our vision of a multicultural region where all people live together safely and in harmony. We do this by aligning our work with the following objectives .

***Unity | Equality | Collaboration | Manaakitanga/Nurturing Relationships |
Social Equity | Te Tiriti | Sustainability | Kaitiakitanga***

OBJECTIVES

Unity

To promote understanding and preserve ethnic customs, arts and crafts, languages, religions, sports, recreational activities and cultures.

To promote unity in our communities by initiating and supporting events and activities which provide space for these activities to flourish.

To seek opportunities to offer more such spaces and include more of our diverse community.

We will promote these opportunities through our newsletter, website, social media pages, and word-of-mouth through our networks.

Collaboration

To provide a forum for ethnic groups to share experiences, friendships and develop relationships.

We will develop relationships with organisations with which we share common objectives.

While we may not deliver shared programmes and projects, through our affiliation with them we will support their goals.

We will continue to work with our existing strategic partners: Welcoming Communities, cultural and community societies/ organisations, Whanganui District Council, Rangitikei District Council, and NZ Police.

We will grow the number of such partnerships and relationships with organisations which share our objectives in order to maximise our impact.

We will attend other organisations' hui and conferences as appropriate to expand our networks and connections.

We will continue to strengthen the reciprocal support between the New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils, other Regional Multicultural Councils and ourselves.

Equality

To support the rights of ethnic individuals and groups to enjoy equal opportunities.

To be a recognised contact point for any migrants or newcomers seeking advocacy regarding their right to be treated fairly and enjoy equal opportunities to pursue their interests, culture and employment.

We will promote this service through our newsletter, website, social media pages, and by word-of-mouth through our networks.

We will make submissions to local and central government on policy, practice, and legislation as appropriate. We will endorse any such submissions made by the New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils.

Manaakitanga/Nurturing Relationships

To provide assistance and orientation for those who are newcomers to the Community.

We will continue to offer practical assistance: accompanying people on visits to medical centre, bank; offering tuition in technology, English language; and helping them know their rights.

Three focus areas include: women, elderly and youth.

We will learn which affiliate/partner organisations in our region have social workers who specialise in working with migrants/refugee newcomers.

We will continue to elicit feedback from our networks as to how MCRW can best help our communities.

Social Equity

We acknowledge the rangatiratanga of tangata whenua. We pursue bicultural and multicultural solutions to meet regional requirements. We are committed to ensuring inclusion of all peoples and diversity is welcome in everything we do.

We endorse principles created by Ako Aotearoa which describe a culturally-grounded and community-centred approach to guiding the ethical use and development of artificial intelligence (AI).

Te Tiriti

To raise consciousness among ethnic groups regarding the special status of Māori as Tangata Whenua (people of the land) under Te Tiriti.

We will continue to refer to and include local Iwi on matters of tikanga and ask advice of kaumatua. We include tikanga in all events and activities as appropriate.



Sustainability

To build capacity within a sustainable funding model to ensure ongoing provision of our services and activities.

Kaitiakitanga

To respect and protect our natural environment at all times, in all we do.



OUR FOCUS

We are committed to meeting the needs of our communities and offer these regular events and activities which provide opportunities for migrants and newcomers to connect and feel a sense of belonging.

- **Seniors** – providing social settings to facilitate friendships being made, and visiting places of interest
- **Youth** – offering safe spaces for creative exploration and expression
- **Race Unity week** – honouring and celebrating all ethnicities' traditions and cultures
- **Beach Clean Up** – caring for our environment, supporting community spirit
- **Picnic in the Park** – summer fun with a barbeque for families
- **Noho Marae visit** – connecting with tangata whenua and receiving a contextual understanding of tikanga
- **Feast & Festival** – cultural diversity at its most colourful and entertaining!



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between Multicultural New Zealand and New Zealand Police

Multicultural Council Whanganui/Rangitikei representatives joined with other Multicultural New Zealand delegates to provide feedback on the implementation of NZ Police's Ethnic Strategy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

MNZ leaders were asked to share their insights on which aspects of the strategy were currently working, to identify new opportunities, to voice concerns from their communities, and discuss areas in need of improvement.

This hui informed the continuation of Ethnic Liaison Officer roles – a strong and supportive development for our communities.

The hui offered a valuable opportunity for MNZ leaders to engage with Police and strengthen our existing partnership.

Our Ethnic Liaison Officer, whose office is in Palmerston North, covers the Central District.



ABOUT US

● Legal Name	Multi Cultural Council of Rangitikei/Wanganui Incorporated
● Operation Name	Multicultural Council of Rangitikei/Whanganui
● Address	137 Anzac Parade, Whanganui East, Whanganui 4500 PO Box 5040, Aramoho, Whanganui 4500
● Phone numbers	0210 254 0709
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● Website	whanganuimulticultural.co.nz
● Facebook	facebook.com/MulticulturalCouncilWhanganuiRangitikei
● Instagram	multiculturalwhanganui
● Incorporated Society Name	Multicultural Council of Rangitikei/Wanganui Incorporated
● Incorporation Number	1375043
● Incorporation Date	13-Aug-2003
● Charities Commission	CC24707
● Charity name	Multi Cultural Council of Rangitikei/Wanganui Incorporated
● Date registered	21/05/2008
● NZBN	9429043110513



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Welcoming Communities

Welcoming Communities is a programme led by Immigration New Zealand in partnership with the Ministry of Ethnic Communities and the Human Rights Commission.

Multicultural Council Rangitikei/Whanganui representatives are regular attendees at Welcoming Communities meetings at the Whanganui District Council. We are pleased our WDC is accredited as an “Established Welcoming Community”; recognising that communities are healthier, happier and more productive when newcomers are welcomed and participate fully in society and in the local economy.



PARTNERS & SPONSORS

