SOUTHLAND MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL INC
Whai awhio
Unity in Diversity

November
NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter of Southland Multicultural Council

46 Kelvin St Invercargill (03)2149296 or 027-214-9296 office@southlandmulticultural.co.nz www.southlandmulticultural.co.nz

Upcoming Events

Women's Self Defence Course

25 November
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Southland Community House
46 Kelvin Street
(See page 6 for more details)

IELTS: Tips and Techniques

Sessions 3 & 4
7 & 21 November
Southland Community House
46 Kelvin Street
(See page 6 for more details)

A million thanks to all our amazing volunteers!!!

Thank you for your active participation in our mission to promote and protect the interests of ethnic communities in Southland. Words cannot express our appreciation towards the contribution you have made to the success of all the activities and events throughout the whole month, especially the Diwali night 2017.

We wish you every success and joy as you help those who are in need.

THANK YOU FUNDERS!

ILT FOUNDATION
COGS Community Organisation Grants Scheme
Invercargill City Council
Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua Lotto funds for your community
Community Trust of Southland Te Pou Arotoki Pounamu o Murihiku
The Office of ethnic communities Te Tari Matawaka
Southern Institute of Technology

DISCLAIMER
The information disclosed in this publication does not necessarily reflect the view of the Southland Multicultural Council Inc.
Southland Multicultural Council Inc does not support any particular political party

President's Message

Meggy Bartlett-McBride

Kia Ora, Malo e lelei, Fa'afetai te Whanau
Greetings to our Multicultural family and friends

As I write, the temperature outside is making me reminisce of the Philippines and the tantalising aroma coming from our neighbours sizzling barbeque is beckoning. Wow, we are now in the month of November and another year is nearly over. Some retailers in the city have even kicked started us into thinking about the festive season and are already selling Christmas decorations.

October was another busy month for SMC. Both the Youth and Women's groups had awesome sessions. The Youth group cultural presentation gave those who attended insight into similarities between cultures. The Women's group were treated to a special time of pampering with Rachael Allan. Everyone enjoyed trying the skin care products and also gained an insight and knowledge of great skincare and the secrets of radiant beauty. We also had two sessions of IELTS Tips & Techniques with Tracey ONeill. Feedback from the participants has been very positive.

Representatives of the SMC were privileged to present cultural beliefs in 'death and dying' at Hospice Southland. Thanks to Sajitha (India), Grace (Sri Lanka) and Ruwani (Buddhism). I was honoured to also present Filipino beliefs together with others who spoke from Muslim, Pasifika and Maori perspectives. More recently the SMC visited Rowena Jackson Retirement Village and entertained with song and dance. It was an overwhelmingly positive experience to see the residents actively participate and enjoy our performances.

Our Dawali - Festival of Lights celebration was again a huge success. I extend enormous thanks to all our wonderful and dedicated volunteers who continuously support SMC. Diwali is one of the most popular festivals of Hinduism. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. It is always a joy to see our community coming together again to celebrate the festival. Special thanks to our generous event sponsors - Indian at the Crescent, ANZ Bank, Daily Needs-Mini Mart, the venue sponsor – SIT and finally our core funders who undoubtedly are the backbone of SMC activities.

Our November calendar sees another busy month ahead. Our potluck dinner will celebrate the richness of Maori, Samoan and Tongan cultures. This is guaranteed to be an entertaining evening. I look forward seeing you all there.

Group sessions will be planning ahead for their respective Christmas gatherings and Sessions 3 and 4 of IELTS Tips & Techniques are to be held. Looking forward to December, SMC will again take part in the Southland Christmas Parade. This is an excellent opportunity for SMC to promote and showcase cultural diversity in Southland. Further, we are planning for the SMC Christmas picnic and have already sent an email to Santa requesting his attendance.

Take care, and remember to 'slip slop slap' (kiwi slang for putting on sunscreen) when out and about enjoying summer in Southland.

"Our smile is our logo, our personality is our business card, how we leave others feeling after an experience with us becomes our TRADEMARK"

SAJITHA FERRY
COORDINATOR

Dear members,
Greetings!!!

The month of October was busy with our Youth and Women's group gatherings, two session of IELTS: Tips and Techniques and some community involvement activities like participation of SMC in the Spiritual and Cultural Forum at Hospice Southland and Performance at Rowena Jackson Retirement

We attended the citizenship ceremony held by the Invercargill City Council on 2 October 2017 and presented the new citizens a native plant contributed by the Southland Community Nursery as a symbolic gesture of laying down their roots in Aotearoa.

The Diwali Night 2017 held on 21 October 2017 6 pm at SIT Hansen Hall witnessed the fascinating colours and glaring performances. The celebration was opened by His Worship Mayor Gary Tong, Southland District Council by lighting the lamp followed by Rebecca Amundsen, Deputy Mayor, Invercargill City council, Garry Lay from Department of Internal affairs and Meggy Bartlett-McBride, President of Southland Multicultural Council. The event was also attended by local Labour MP Liz Craig, Lesley Soper and other distinguished guests.

The big colourful floral carpet that laid out on the floor beside the main entrance of the hall with flowers gathered from houses a day before was a visual treat for eyes. Before dinner, a presentation on Diwali: Festival of Lights, Indian food, culture and tradition has been given so as to give an awareness of Indian culture. Though it was a potluck dinner, SMC provided some of the Indian traditional dishes such as Lamp Curry, Chicken Korma, Rice, Daal, Naan, Chickpeas and Potato Curries. There were about seven performances and the performers were greatly talented and brought a unique charisma to the stage. Southland Times did a free coverage of the event. The response from the community was also so great that the event was attended by an excess of 250 people.

Thank you all for your continued support that encourages us to organise more and more events for you.

Big thanks to all our wonderful volunteers: Your willingness to help out wherever there is a need is greatly appreciated. It's that kind of flexibility and dedication that is helping SMC grow to its full potential.

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit"
~Greek proverb

STEVEN ANAND MURUGAYAH (Malaysia)

(Reporter : Kumaran)

Steven Anand Murugayah from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia shared his experience with Southland Multicultural Council. In his interview he said "I came to New Zealand 14 years ago to study medicine at the University of Otago and it was a completely different experience for me on the first day of visit and a half an hour drive after the landing changed the way that I see the world. It was green and full of sheeps, made me relaxed and feel peaceful comparing with the busy life in Kuala Lumpur.

As a migrant, I had the multicultural experience when I joined as a residential assistance where I met different people by assisting new students. The volunteering experience came from supporting the young community through the church back home and here in Invercargill is fun and was great to see the spark in the young and energetic minds. My vision is to provide the assistance to those who doubt themselves to realize and develop their potential. Steven is also involved in developing solution for the suicide prevention in Southland.

Some other skills include dancing and cooking. "I am good at cooking Roasted Lamb and it is my favorite recipe, dancing also makes me happy". Steven also mentioned that he is eager to visit Southland Multicultural Council for the future events. Delivering a message to the upcoming migrants, he said "Embrace the new culture and do not be afraid to try new things to make your life richer".

Migrant Stories

I am Ruwani De Silva, born and bred in the tropical paradise of Sri Lanka. And with dawn of 2017 me and my husband Randika Deegala added a new chapter to our lives. We migrated to the country we dreamt of, New Zealand. It is green, peaceful and uncrowded, blessed with scenic views, make it the ultimate getaway for tiring soul, such as ours.

We lead busy lives, I as a lawyer and my husband as a banker. From sun up to sun down we handled never ending responsibilities and tiring demands of family, friends and clients to fulfill our social and professional obligations. Hence, New Zealand offered us a sanctuary, a refreshing lifestyle.

We made the most southern city of New Zealand, Invercargill our home. It is a calm and quite town rich with old world charms through Victorian styled buildings, and also have gained a modern twist through contemporary hotels, restaurants and fashion boutiques. In the heart of the city lays our favorite escape of relaxation, Queens Park. It is home to array of flamboyant flowers, plants and ponds and playgrounds. On leisure days we wander around the paths of Queens Park immersing in nature.

Great walks have become our latest addition to fitness regime. Kiwis love hiking and jogging through walking trails in beaches and sublime forests and lakes. Invercargill has numerous scenic walking trails which we have witnessed during our brief stay so far. Apart from sheer beauty of wilderness New Zealand is proud of its origins, Maori culture. We were honored to experience the culture through various festivals particularly Hakka (war dance) performances.

Kiwi life experiences have been significantly distinct compared to sunny tropical South Asian life style. The longer daylight hours in summer, wide roads with a lesser amount of traffic and view of closed shops and sleeping city after six in the evening are rather astonishing to us. Even though, we are pleased with enriching calmness of Invercargill.

By being an international student at Southern Institute of Technology given me an ample opportunity to engage with diverse cultures around the world. Moreover, the Southland Multicultural Council has broadened the platform allowing immigrants to celebrate their respective cultures through various activities and events and festivals. Which gave us the feeling of closeness to home. It also reflects the delight of the experience of new culture. Yet to us, the unity and friendship among diverse nations is the most touching and motivating fact.

Life is challenging yet it is fascinating. We reckon our life in New Zealand will be challenging and fruitful. It has offered us many amazing experiences and we are pleased to welcome plenty of more remarkable experiences in the future. Finally, we would like to contribute in every possible manner to this nation and to its people, as our token of thankfulness.

RUWANI DE SILVA (Sri Lanka)

SOUTHLAND MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL INC
Whai awhio
Unity in Diversity

Southland Multicultural Council
Potluck Dinner

Please bring a plate of your favourite dish from your own culture to share

MAORI SAMOAN TONGAN *Night 2017*

Come, join us to celebrate the Maori, Samoan and Tongan cultures, enjoy the evening with some cultural performances and have an opportunity to taste some traditional Maori, Samoan and Tongan Cuisine.

Saturday

18 NOVEMBER 2017

6:00 PM
SIT Hansen Hall
133 Tay Street, Invercargill

Entry

Members : Free
Non Members : Gold Coin

Venue Sponsor

SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TE WHARE WANANGA O MURIHIKU

IELTS
TIPS & TECHNIQUES
SESSION 3 & 4

WHEN
NOV 07 & 21
6pm - 8pm

WHERE
Southland Community House
46 Kelvin Street

WWW.SOUTHLANDMULTICULTURAL.CO.NZ

~~PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHLAND~~

SOUTHLAND MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
TUTOR TRACEY
IS HOSTING
IELTS SESSIONS
(TOPIC BASED)

Tutor: Tracey ONeill
Contact Tracey 0275706344

Free to Public
Light Refreshments Provided

For further information, please contact
Tel: 03 214 9296 Mob: 027 214 9296
office@southlandmulticultural.co.nz
46 Kelvin Street Invercargill New Zealand

SOUTHLAND MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL INC
Whai awhio

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE COURSE

WHAT IS SELF DEFENCE?

FREE

Self Defence is:
Doing whatever it takes to make him stop!
Protecting ourselves
Being clear about our boundaries
Being prepared and feeling confident to act

25 Nov 2017
10 am to 5 pm
Southland Community House
46 Kelvin Street

Space is limited to 20, so please register early
To register and secure your place
please contact us at the details below
officeesouthlandmulticultural.co.nz
03 214 9296 or 027 214 9296

BAND ROTUNDA, QUEENS PARK,
INVERCARGILL
9 DECEMBER 2017
12:00 NOON TO 4:00 PM

Free sausage sizzles

Come along and celebrate the diversity of Southland with Santa

All are welcome
Bring $5 secret Santa gift for your children

Southland Multicultural
Food Festival 2018

24 MARCH
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
SOUTHLAND STADIUM

For more information, please contact
office@southlandmulticultural.co.nz or 03 214 9296 or 027 214 9296

Diwali Night 2017

The Diwali Night 2017 hosted by Southland Multicultural Council on 21 October 2017 at SIT Hansen Hall witnessed the fascinating colours and glaring performances. The celebration was opened by His Worship Mayor Gary Tong, Southland District Council by lighting the lamp followed by Rebecca Amundsen, Deputy Mayor, Invercargill City Council, Garry Lay from Department of Internal affairs and Meggy Bartlett-McBride, President of Southland Multicultural Council. The event was also attended by local Labour MP Liz Craig and other councilors. The response from the community was also so great that the event was attended by an excess of 250 people. The floral carpet and the performances provided a visual treat for eyes.

Women's Group

SMC Women's group gathered on 3rd October at Rachel's home for 'Sense Spa Party'. It was a great evening with Rachael Allan in her Spa party, where all the participants had fun, had a good facial and learned some Beauty secrets.

Youth Group

The youth group had its monthly session on 10th October at Southland Community House with topic 'Culture and its importance'. We would like to thank all who presented about their cultures: Ruwani (Sri Lankan), Bijoy (Nepalese), Andi (Indonesian), Sarah (Korean), Melisa (Kiwi/Maori) and David (Chilean). It was really interesting and informative to know each cultures and how diverse each culture is from the other. Big thanks to our Youth leader Ashvin for organising the session and making it a thriving one.

IELTS: Tips and Techniques

We had the IELTS: Tips and Techniques sessions by Tutor Tracey. The sessions were interesting and useful and helped the participants realise their level of speaking skill and everyone who attended could attain at least one tip for improving their Reading, Writing, Listening or Speaking Skill. Thank you Tracey for giving the time and efforts for these sessions. See you all at the third session on 7 November with another challenging topic.

SOUTHLAND MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SMC at Rowena Jackson

The performers of SMC entertained the residents and staff of Rowena Jackson on 28th of October. Special thanks to Ashanka, Lukmal and AK (Sri Lankan band), Invercargill Filipino Dance Group, Anuruddhika, Sasanthu and Siyonia for performing on behalf of the Council. Thanks to Jessica of Rowena Jackson for the opportunity.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY AT INVERCARGILL CITY COUNCIL

We attended the citizenship ceremony held by the Invercargill City Council on 2 October 2017 and presented the new citizens a native plant contributed by the Southland Community Nursery as a symbolic gesture of laying down their roots in Aotearoa. Congratulations to all the new Citizens who have taken the oath of allegiance. Thanks to ICC for giving us opportunity to meet the new Citizen's of the region and also a big thank you to Southland Community Nursery for providing native trees and supporting us.

SMC at 'Spiritual and Cultural Forum on Death and Dying' organised by Hospice Southland

We had a great opportunity to participate in the Spiritual and Cultural Forum at Hospice Southland. Meggy, Sajitha and Grace spoke about the Christian cultural and spiritual belief in their countries, Philippine, India and Sri Lanka respectively, in relation to death and dying. It was a great opportunity to understand the belief and cultures of Buddhism presented by Ruwani and Randika Deegala and also Maori and Muslim beliefs. Big thanks to Hospice Southland for organising such a wonderful event and giving us the opportunity to participate

NOTICES

St John
Here for Life

Shuttle bookings available for non medical appointments

2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month
Leave from: Resource Centre 11 Hero Street Lumsden
9.30am and return by 4.30pm

- **Invercargill**
- **Gore**
- **Te Anau**

(please note there will be flexibility around time and dates to fit in with a specific occasion e.g. show, concert - non medical appointment)

$20 donation – Minimum of 3 people

Bookings
Call: Kim or Adele on 2487885 nscco-ord@xtra.co.nz
Facebook Northern Southland Community Resource Centre Charitable Trust
Please note these trips are not for grocery shopping but an opportunity to plan outings or events.

Tuesday trips – book by Thursday afternoon
Thursday trips – book by Tuesday lunchtime.

This service is offered by NSCRCCT and St JOHN

What is a Reflection of my life?

Age Concern offers you this opportunity to share your life reflections in the form of a book

Wednesday
29 November 2017
1:00 – 3:00 pm

A workshop will be

At:

Venue:

Age Concern – 50 Forth St, Invercargill

Cost:

$10. (To cover resource costs.) Bring a memory box

Afternoon tea provided.

Pat Turnbull who is a member of NZ Society of Genealogists, Southland, will be attending. Pat has a passion for writing family history.

An opportunity to share your life- stories! Reflections of your life! Share knowledge, lessons and history.

To your family this is a gift/koha, a priceless treasure or a timeline in your own words/pictures.

Contact : Office / Jan Ph: 03 218 6351 **OR** jan@acinv.org.nz

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PARTNERS NEW ZEALAND
Working with Refugees and Migrants

Advanced level English language courses for migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds

1) Listening & Speaking
8 sessions Mondays 6 to 8 p.m. starting 30 October 2017

2) Kiwi-speak – idioms, colloquialisms & Kiwi slang
8 sessions Tuesdays 6 to 8 p.m. starting 31 October 2017

Venue: ELP Southland Centre
184 Esk Street
Invercargill

$30 per course for NZ citizens/permanent residents

For further information or to register

email southland@englishlanguage.org.nz
Or
☎ Nalini Varghese 029 771 0950/ 03 2182736

CALLING ALL MIGRANT ARTISTS

Would you like to be part of an Arts Exhibition that celebrates Murihiku/Southland's Migrant Community?

You Could be a sculptor, painter, potter or crafts person...

The Southland Multicaltural Council in association with Arts Murihiku and City Gallery are looking at hosting an exhibition in 2018
We would love to showcase your talents!
For further information please contact Lisa at Artsmurihiku@gmail.com or Sajitha at office@southlandmulticultural.co.nz

ARTS MURIHIKU PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN SOUTHLAND

New Zealand Newcomers Network
Connecting People

New to Estern Southland?
Visit : www.newcomers.co.nz

If you would like to talk to the police about anything, you can phone me on **215 0311** or Invercargill Police Station **211 0400**
Remember, if it is urgent, dial **111**
Community Constable, Anthony Hogan

indian
at the crescent

Dine-in
Take away
&
Deliveries
03 214 1555

ANZ

DAILY NEEDS MINI-MART
Shop Online at
dailyneedsminimart.co.nz
Newzealand Dairy products
International groceries
Frozen products
Certified halal meat products
Launching Soon....
16/11/2017

Info@dailyneedsminimart.co.nz
117 dee Street
Invercargill
Newzealand - 9810.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Nayabeth	: Nov 3
Lucy Nguyen	: Nov 4
Tush Dissanayake	: Nov 7
Gargi Biswas	: Nov 8
Melvin Thomas Mathew	: Nov 11
Hema Chandra	: Nov 18
Thais Cubas negro	: Nov 17
Jimson Fernandez	: Nov 29

Southland Multicultural Council

Is Looking For Volunteers!!!

Connecting to local organisations is mutually beneficial and strengthens our community.
You will be amazed how **LITTLE** can make such a **BIG DIFFERENCE** to our community.
An opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people from different cultures.

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER WITH US?
IF SO, please contact our office
P: 03 214 9296 or 027 214 9296
E: office@southlandmulticultural.co.nz
Add: 46 Kelvin Street, Invercargill
Or Meggy, the President at 021 557 527

If you are not a member of Southland Multicultural Council or your membership is due for renewal, call us **03 214 9296** or **027 214 9296** or post the application form to **46 Kelvin Street, Invercargill**. You can also email us at **office@southlandmulticultural.co.nz**.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS $15

Please return to :

Southland Multicultural Council
Southland Community House
46 Kelvin Street
Invercargill 9810

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a progress; working together is success"

-Henry Ford