



# THE RAINBOW QUILL

## MARCH 2010



SOUTHLAND MULTI-NATIONS COUNCIL INC

Southland Multi-Nations Council  
46 Kelvin Street Invercargill  
(03) 2149296  
E-mail: [multinations@woosh.co.nz](mailto:multinations@woosh.co.nz)

Curry Samosa  
Teryaki Chicken  
Hangi Crepes  
Sushi  
Black Forest Cake  
Kebabs Satay  
Spring Rolls Quark  
and much more...



# Multicultural Food Festival

Saturday March 20, 2010, 10.00am to 4.00pm  
SIT Hansen Hall, Tay Street, Invercargill

**FREE Entry**

- Food Stalls**
- Bombay Palace
  - Bonsai Restaurant
  - Craig's Kitchen
  - EuropeanZ lunchbar & bakery
  - Curry Guru
  - Fair Trade Coffee
  - Hong Kong Restaurant
  - Mevlana Kebabs
  - Pacifica Women
  - Waihopai Runaka/ Murihiku Marae
- Food Festival organised by Southland Multi-Nations Council Inc celebrating Race Relations Day 2010.  
Special thanks to Southland Settlement Support & Community Trust of Southland for financial support of this event.

- 10 ethnic food stalls
- Food court or takeaway
- Multicultural Entertainment

*Come and enjoy a diversity of ethnic food*

**NO EFTPOS — cash only for food stalls**

**Family event — No alcohol**

Southland Multi-Nations Council Inc. is supported by Community Trust of Southland, COGS, SIT, ILT Foundation, Invercargill City Council, Lottery Grants Board, N Z Post, Southland Settlement Support

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Thanks to the International school at SIT for the printing of this publication

**SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
TE WHARE WANANGA O MURIHIKU

**DISCLAIMER—**

The information disclosed in this publication does not necessarily reflect the view of the Southland Multi-Nations Council Inc.

## Photo Gallery Stewart Island



(above) Halfmoon Bay the day the cruise ship visited



## From President Brian

*(Please note that Brian has a new cellphone number 022 6360256)*

Kia ora koutou katoa, Greetings

Now that we have all settled back in to the business of 2010, isn't the weather wonderful? If only we could have had some of it in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Nevertheless, we must enjoy it while we can. I hope you are all taking the opportunity to visit our parks and walking tracks. We are fortunate to have so many of these great places on our doorstep, so to speak.

I have just returned from a visit to Nelson, where I attended a regional meeting of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils. The weather was lovely there also, and I was pleased to be able to meet up with old friends and new from around the country. For those who would like to see my full report of that meeting, it will be available on request from Violet at the office.

Unfortunately I was not able to be at the first pot-luck meeting of the year, because of being out of town at the time, but feedback tells me it was a small but very pleasant gathering. I do encourage you all to attend these functions if you are able, as they provide an excellent forum for meeting and making new friends.

Our next undertaking coming up is Race Relations Day in March, advertised elsewhere in this newsletter. This year for the first time it will take shape as a Food Festival, and promises to be a great occasion for all of us who like to eat (who doesn't, after all?). A great deal of planning has gone into this event, so please spread the word among your friends, and come along with as many people as you can bring.

Kind regards

**Brian Bellett**



### Wanted—Sewing Machines to Fix

We have a Multi-Nations member volunteering to service and repair domestic or industrial sewing machines on a volunteer basis at no charge for labour. He has a trade certificate in machine repair and while working in another field wants to keep up his work experience with sewing machines.

Contact details from Southland Multi-Nations, tel 214 9296



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

If you'd like to share a story with readers of this newsletter— something that has helped you to settle into New Zealand, a good news story, a recipe, something else of interest and appropriate for the newsletter — you can email it to me at [multinations@woosh.co.nz](mailto:multinations@woosh.co.nz) and I will include it as space permits. Thanks. Violet

## Tax Rebate for Donations



Southland Multi-Nations Council Inc. is an incorporated society and is registered under the Charities Act 2005.

Donations of \$5 or more are eligible for a donations rebate from the Inland Revenue Department. A GST receipt will be issued so you can claim the rebate.

**The purpose of Southland Multi-Nations is to promote and protect the interests of ethnic people in Southland**



## From the Coordinator Greetings to everyone

This month's photo gallery are some photos of Stewart Island, a lovely place to visit which is close to Invercargill. This is because I couldn't get the office camera to work properly at the potluck after I tried to alter a setting! Thanks to a very helpful person in a camera shop for adjusting the settings for me and showing me what to do.

Coming up this month there is a Multicultural Food Festival celebrating Race Relations Day (see page 1). If you enjoy food this will be the place to visit on March 20, but remember to bring cash for food as there won't be eftpos there. There's also quite a few seminars advertised to help with aspects of living in New Zealand —note that some are in March and some aren't until April.

I am writing this the day after the Chilean earthquake. Our thoughts are with our Chilean members who have family, relatives and friends affected by this disaster.

*Violet Stewart*



## The Year of the Tiger

I was born in the Year of the Tiger. Yes, 2010 is also the Year of the Tiger, and no prize for guessing my age!

This is not related to the Chinese New Year (CNY) per se, but traditionally the Year of the Tiger is not favoured, and many avoid having kids during these years, so birth rates tend to be lower. I don't know why the bias, but I am quite happy with my life, and I think my parents had an easier time trying to enrol me into schools. So I like being born in the Year of the Tiger. Less competition.

The following is a real story about people born in the Year of the Tiger. When I was growing up in Singapore in a very heartlandish part of the island city, my parents and the neighbours all believed that a person born in the Tiger Year can help heal mumps by writing the Chinese character for Tiger (虎) on the swollen cheeks of those with mumps. No joke!

Thankfully I was good in Chinese writing. I wrote it a couple of times on the sore faces of the neighbours' children when they had mumps. And since I was the only one born in the Tiger Year, so you can imagine I was pretty busy calligraphying on people's faces. I believe I can write the word with my eyes closed.

Then one day I came down with mumps myself, and since I couldn't write on my own cheek (you can try if you want, but it is really quite hard), so I believe a proxy had to be used for me. Wonder if it took longer for mine to heal.

Anyway, I don't think the practice has any voodoo to it, and it may be worth a try if nothing works. Mumps anyone?

*Ally Lee*



**INTERPRETING**  
New Zealand

## Would you like to learn the skills of interpreting?

We need people who are native or highly proficient speakers of English and another language.

If selected for the course, candidates will attend a number of weekend modules and other sessions from May to July 2010 (for a token charge). Successful graduates will be employed on a casual basis at an excellent rate of pay.

Applications for our May 2010 course close on Mon 15 March 2010. For more information, you can visit [www.interpret.org.nz](http://www.interpret.org.nz) and apply online. Or please phone Interpreting Canterbury on 03 372 9311.

**Please note that training will take place in Christchurch.**

## Helped by Multinations



Arriving at the Invercargill Airport for the first time, slightly more than a year ago, my husband and I found the shops closed and the streets quiet. It was a Monday evening in November. We were hit by a wave of loneliness amidst the shock of having being on the smallest commercial airplane we had ever flown.

The next few days were a blur. But one thing stood clear - we needed groceries, so we headed out to the supermarket everyday. It was really quiet everywhere (we were told later it was the start of the Nov school holidays, and many had left for their holidays, or headed back home if they were students who lived somewhere else).

We were sensitive to the lack of fellow Asians on the streets, and whenever we saw one we really hoped to say hi. But sometimes breaking the ice was hard, especially when we were so new. And sometimes on the streets we were being taunted and called names which derogated our identities as Asians. We did not venture much out as a result.

Then, one day, while at the supermarket, a nice female Asian staff struck up a conversation with us. We were SO thankful. She also said something about the Multinations, an organisation which, like the name suggests, was a place we should check out for support as newcomers in Invercargill. We exchanged contact details. Since arriving in Invercargill, that was the first time we felt relieved, and welcomed. This nice lady even turned up a few days later at my place, unannounced, to pass me her precious stash of food she knew I had missed from home (we share similar tastebuds). I was close to tears.

A few days later, a gentleman by the name of Brian called us. He identified himself as the President of Multinations, and he met us up subsequently to bring us to tour the museums, and to have tea at his place. It was the first time we had tea in a Kiwi family. Welcomed warmly by his lovely wife Donna, we spent the afternoon in the hospitable arms of this couple who opened up their hearts and home to newcomers and strangers like us. I will never forget their hospitality.

And just when we thought we had to spend Christmas all by ourselves, we were invited to spend Christmas with another migrant family, courtesy of Brian who had made the arrangements. And even though we could not make it for the Christmas dinner in the end, we were delivered food to our doorstep by that nice family. Till today, we are still in frequent contact with that nice South African family who, like Brian and Donna, opened their hearts and home to us. They had also experienced their hospitality when they first arrived in Invercargill some five years back, and probably like us when we first arrived, were feeling lost. Friendships run deep when they have been forged through adversity, I believe.

Today, we are delighted to share this aspect of our journey in Invercargill, in the hopes that if you are a newcomer to this city, and are feeling isolated and uncertain, please do come in to Multinations for, what the locals say, "a wee look". There is a high chance that you will leave feeling much better, and you will probably come back again very soon. After all, Multinations is like family in Invercargill, and who can not return.

*Ally Lee*

## Problems at Work?

Come along **Tuesday 16 March,**  
**7.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Waikiwi, Invercargill**

for information about

- **employment rights**
- **employee and employer obligations**
- **holiday pay**
- **wage deductions**
- **parental leave**

If you want more information or have questions this is the opportunity to come along and ask them in a friendly environment. Call Sue Morison-Bailey at Southland Settlement 211 1803 to register.



**SETTLEMENT SUPPORT**  
NEW ZEALAND

**March  
2010**



**SETTLEMENT SUPPORT**  
NEW ZEALAND

**An Evening with the Labour Inspector – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March** (see advert page 4)

The New Zealand government contracts labour inspectors to provide support for employers and employees in the workplace. They provide free information about employment rights, obligations, holiday pay, wage deductions and parental leave. **7.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Waikiwi, Invercargill.**

**Career Services – Interview Skills Tue 13<sup>th</sup> April**

This session will focus on how to answer and prepare for an interview. To book phone me now as it is limited in numbers.

**Claiming Tax Refunds—Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm St Stephens Church Hall, Waikiwi, Invercargill**

How to reclaim some of your tax money, and how to reclaim donations

**Southern Field Days at Waimumu, Gore 10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> February**

Wow, a great time was had at Waimumu, with 25,500 people attending including the Prime Minister John Key, to view the latest in farming equipment. Several managed to catch up with me at my site in the biggest marquee and were brought up to date in what has been planned for Settlement services this year.

**Fonterra Edendale Dryer Opened By Prime Minister**

After attending field days at Waimumu, John Key opened the expansion of the Fonterra plant at Edendale which a number of migrant staff have been involved in building over the last year. Costing \$212 million this additional plant means the milk production at Edendale will double and now produce \$2 Billion dairy exports a year. Daily 4 million litres of milk are processed which converts into 700 tons of milk powder ready to be exported. 700 tons would fill 35 shipping containers a day. This plant has the biggest processing capacity in the world and in three or four years this will need to be expanded again. 550 staff process milk at Edendale from 800 Southland dairy farms and on the road there are 60 tankers operating 24 hours a day.

Sue Morrison-Bailey 03 2111803 [sue@venturesouthland.co.nz](mailto:sue@venturesouthland.co.nz)

Southland Settlement Support, 143 Spey Street, Invercargill, funded by Department of Labour

**Multi Cultural Celebration**

*In Support of Race Relations Day*

**THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
FROM 7PM UNTIL 9PM

*James Cumming Wing, Ararwick St Gore*

**EXPO**

Learn about our Local Services.  
Information for new  
Community Members.  
English Language courses.  
Meet new people.

We all sit under  
the same stars

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY**  
Movie and Popcorn - 7:15pm Start

**LIGHT SUPPER PROVIDED**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Colleen Te Au 209 0388 or Community Connection Centre 208 8480



**All Welcome bring friends and family**

**Race Relations Day 2010**

Each year 21 March is observed around the world as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The United Nations selected 21 March to symbolise the need to end racism. The date recalls the tragic loss of life at Sharpeville in South Africa, 21 March 1960.

Race Relations Day is a time to reflect on our journey as a culturally diverse nation and to celebrate the value of cultural diversity. In various centres in New Zealand in March there are multicultural festivals, cultural events, displays etc.

In Gore there is a Multi Cultural Celebration on Thursday March 18 (see poster on this page) and on Saturday March 20 there is a Multicultural Food Festival organised by Southland Multi-Nations (see page 1)



## Notice Board

### Citizen's Advice Bureau corner of Dee & Gala streets

This agency has been set up to assist people with enquiries for services and for referral to other agencies.

#### Specialist service include:

**Justice of the Peace clinic**– Saturday 10am until noon. (no appointment necessary)

**Consumer clinic**- every Wednesday 3pm- 4.30pm, Friday 12pm-1.30pm- call to make an appointment

**Legal services**- free legal service on Thursday night. An appointment must be made.

Telephone: (03) 218 6648 or 0800 367 222

### Southland Community Law Centre

5 Tay Street

Invercargill (just along from W.I.N.Z)

Ph 03 214 3180 or 0800 55 0800

Services include:

- providing legal information
- advice and assistance
- promoting legal education and law reform
- and in some cases representing people in court.

**These services are usually provided free to eligible members of the public. Check with your local community law centre to see what services they offer.**

### March Birthday Greetings To:

- 😊 Siddhanth
- 😊 Cass
- 😊 Krispell Joy
- 😊 Sonali
- 😊 Krish
- 😊 Jake
- 😊 Samuel

If anyone would like to have birthday greetings in our newsletters please let Violet know at the office, 214 9296



**ENGLISH**  
LANGUAGE PARTNERS  
NEW ZEALAND  
Working with Migrants and Refugees

Southland Centre

184 Esk Street, Invercargill

Tel/fax: 03-2182736

email [southland@esolht.org.nz](mailto:southland@esolht.org.nz)

*Free English language classes for people from non-English speaking backgrounds\**

- Home tutors
- Social English Groups
- ( in Invercargill & Gore)
- English for Employees  
(a specially designed programme for people in employment)

\*conditions apply



**SOUTHERN**  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
TE WHARE WANGAKA O HURUNUI

### Learn English at SIT

#### ZERO FEES FOR NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS

The SIT English language school provides new & old residents of Southland the best educational opportunity in the country to improve their English language learning at no cost.

Full time students can apply for study allowances to assist them through their study.

**SIT offer?** Full & part-time Intensive English language certificate, NZQA approved with part-time afternoon IELTS program.

#### Beginning any Monday-Times are:

Monday– Thursday 9am-3pm and  
Fridays 9am-12pm.

For further information call 03 2112699 extn. 8770 or email [overseas@sit.ac.nz](mailto:overseas@sit.ac.nz)

### Membership of

### Southland Multi-Nations



If you aren't a member of Southland Multi-Nations and would like to be you can either phone Violet at the office for a form, come into the office and collect a form or download a form from our website [www.multipations.co.nz](http://www.multipations.co.nz). On the website you will find the membership form under the heading of publications.

**Annual Membership is \$10 per family**

## Kids Korner

On Waitangi Day, our cat Whiskers caught a mouse. Whiskers is over 15 years old now which is old for a cat. He was so proud that he brought it to the front door to show us. He tried to meow with a mouse in his mouth which was a very funny sound. I heard the funny sound and turned around. That's when I saw Whiskers coming inside the house with the mouse's tail hanging out of his mouth. I told him I had seen how clever he was, and go away now. But he kept trying to come inside the house.



Looking for a mouse

Bringing things to show you is what cats do. It's part of their instinct. I was cross with Whiskers that he wouldn't go away when I told him to. It's important to remember if you have a pet to be kind to them, even if they bring you a mouse for a present. Especially if you don't like mice!!

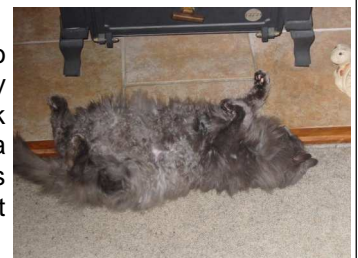
Cats are popular pets in New Zealand. They are easier to look after than dogs. If you want to get a pet you can get pets from the SPCA. They have lovely animals there which need a good home. Having a pet costs money to look after it so it's important to work out before you get a pet how much it is going to cost a week to make sure your family can afford to give it good food. You have to be 18 years old or over to own a pet, but your family can own it. You may need to take it to the vet sometimes and that costs more than children or grownups going to the doctor.

You can get brochures about looking after pets from the SPCA and vets and also on the website <http://rnzspca.org.nz>. On the sidebar click on "Animal Care."

Animals are fun to have as part of the family. Be kind to your pets and other people's pets.



Whiskers being good



Keeping warm in winter

## Violet ☺

### Family News

- \* Avinash, son of Jacob and Nalini, and Katie were married recently in Christchurch. These two were founding members of our original Youth Group, along with Rang, who was in the official wedding party as a groomsman. Rang (son of Noria) is now living with his family in Auckland. A fourth founding member of this group, Sarah, also recently announced her engagement in Dunedin. Congratulations and best wishes for the future to all these
- \* We hear from various sources that Seung is settling into life in Auckland and is involved with the NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils Youth Council Forum in February.
- \* All the best to our members who are studying this year—some are at SIT and some are doing studies at Otago University.

*If you have any news you would like to go in our monthly newsletter please let Violet know at the office, either by phone or email.*

## Citizenship requirements change in April—don't miss out if you are eligible

At the moment, if you received permanent residence or had a successful application accepted by Immigration New Zealand **before** 21 April 2005, you could be eligible for a grant of citizenship after living here for three years. If you applied for and received permanent residence on or **after** 21 April 2005, you have to be resident in New Zealand for five years before becoming eligible for a grant of citizenship. However, from 21 April 2010, everyone will have to be resident for five years before becoming eligible for a grant of citizenship, no matter when they got permanent residence.

Visit the Citizenship website [www.citizenship.govt.nz](http://www.citizenship.govt.nz) where you can obtain more information and check whether you are eligible for citizenship by using the Online Calculation Tool or phone the Citizenship Office on 0800 22 51 51.

Please return to:  
Southland Multi-Nations Council  
Southland Community House  
46 Kelvin Street  
Invercargill

*Celebrating  
story*

## CONCERT

**Invercargill Working Men's Club  
Friday 12 March, 8.00pm**

**Sophisticated story telling from world class tellers**

**Anna Jarrett and Michael Parent**

**\$15.00—Adults**

**\$10.00—Students & Senior Citizens**

**DOOR SALES AVAILABLE**



**Workshops also on March 13th & March 14th. Information on these plus concert tickets available from Young Reflections, Tay Street Invercargill**