



Waitakere Ethnic Board Inc.

Tui tui tui-tuia nga herenga
Bringing Cultures Together

Greetings, Kia Ora, Namaste, Nihao, Assalaamwaleikum and Ni Sa Bula to all our members and friends.

We forward to you our very first communications from the Board. Our Annual General Meeting was held in November, 2007 and the members adopted the revised Constitution. In December a new board was elected. Your current board members are:

Ann Pala - President
Tanya Suin – Vice President
Amail Habib– Secretary
Mirza Taimoori – Treasurer
June Lim – Social & Cultural Officer
Jin Kyung Kim – Social & Cultural Officer
Badruddin Shaikh – Membership Officer
Sunil Kaushal – Community Liaison Officer
Selvi Sreedharan, Meeden Aliping & Vincent Lin - Executive members

Shahid Azad was also elected, however is relocating to Pakistan for a considerable time, felt that it would be in the best interest of all the membership and the board if he resigned his Public Relations Officer role to pursue his family commitments. We wish him well and thank him for his support to date.

Co-option

At the time of the election only 10 people were nominated and elected and following the election one further member was co-opted on to the Executive Committee. As per the Constitution, the Executive Committee shall be composed of 12 elected plus 2 co-opted members. The board is now calling for nominations for three further co-options. You are encouraged to apply on the forms attached and return completed form to:

The Secretary
Waitakere Ethnic Board
PO Box 15765
New Lynn

The completed forms should reach this address by Tuesday 8th April. We are keen to invite the refugee community participation and certainly urge your support.

What Else is New Right Now!

The board welcomed the new C.E.O., Vijaya Vaidyanath at a diversity event that was held at the Council Chambers on Friday 14th March. WEB together with the Pacific Advisory Board and the support of the Te Taumata Runanga and WCC welcomed her and celebrated her role as an ethnic woman. The speakers included Hon. Minister Chris Carter and Sam Sefuiva of the Race Relations Office. The theme of the speeches were based on the Race Relations Theme of 'Finding Common Ground'. The Minister however spoke on the efforts of the volunteers that put themselves out in the community to advocate on behalf of their communities.

Race Relations Day

21st March is Race Relations Day. What is your responsibility? What is your Action for the Day? How are you going to maintain this relationship now that you are in NZ?

Royal Commission on Regional and Local Governance in Auckland

The Labour-led Government established the Royal Commission because there is a lack of co-ordinated powers and resources across the Auckland region to take initiatives and respond effectively to regional planning and provision for transport, housing, urban design, emergency services, arts organisations, museums, environmental and heritage protection, tourism and economic development. [There is also inadequate participation and sense of an involved community in local decision-making.](#) The WEB is just one organization that will be making a submission, and we encourage all community organizations to make submissions which has a tight timeframe of 22nd April. Please also go to the WCC website for further updates on this.

WEB Office

WEB now has an office space that is located directly opposite the WCC buildings in the main Henderson Shopping Arcade. We are happy to share this space with all communities who are our members for a very nominal fee. If you are keen to hold day or evening meetings at the venue, please contact our Secretary, Amail Habib on amail.habib@xtra.co.nz.

WEB Website

WEB is keen to update its website for the purpose of providing information to its members and friends. We are looking for support in this area and if you are happy to assist with this, please contact us as well. Our web address is www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz

WEB Networking & Meetings

Sunil Kaushal, our Community Liaison Officer together with Jin and June are gearing to organise a WEB forum with our members in the near future to identified issues of family safety, education, employment, family health, economic & social development, as ongoing priority. The WEB board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month. If your organization is keen to do a presentation to our board, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As your President, I am keen to promote a culture of leadership in our community that irrespective of the ethnic diversity one belongs to, shows integrity, is inclusive and is community focused. Too many times we are discouraging and do not participate in decision making, however I believe it is 'action time' and encourage you to reflect on this. Of course promoting cultures that we bring to our new home is wonderful, however we also need to increase our efforts when it comes to our children and women who may be suffering abuse in our communities or youth that need support in this new environment. Friends there are many issues and we all need to work together to enhance the partnership that we have with the Waitakere City Council.

I am hoping to seek out a shared community vision amongst our own ethnic diversities as we tread towards 'building bridges' with other communities. I welcome your correspondence or calls to see how best we can create the model of successful leadership within WEB that fits the New Zealand context.

Thank you I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Warm regards

Ann Pala O.S.M.
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