



Waitakere Ethnic Board Inc.

Tui tui tui-tuia nga herenga tangata

Bringing Cultures Together

**ANNUAL REPORT
2009**

**Ann Pala QSM
President**

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Kiaora, Namaste, Assalaamwaleikum, Ni Hou, and warm ethnic greetings to you.

With much pleasure, I present the Waitakere Ethnic Board, Annual Report 2009.

INTRODUCTION

The Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) is an incorporated society, was formally launched by Hon. Chris Carter, the then Minister of Ethnic Affairs on 20 September 2003.

It came about after calls from ethnic groups in Waitakere City to establish an Ethnic Advisory Body to promote and represent the interests of all ethnic communities within Waitakere City Council's boundaries.

Why do we need the WEB?

- To provide a "voice" for ethnic communities to influence what the Council and the Government do for settlement in NZ and Waitakere City
- To identify the needs of the ethnic communities in Waitakere
- To enable groups to share common interests and ideas while maintaining their own identity
- To ensure that ethnic communities meet their own needs by capacity building through WEB for settlement in NZ and Waitakere City

What does the WEB do?

- Represents the views of migrants and refugees to Council and Central Government
- Speaks out on behalf of ethnic communities about issues that concern them
- Works with Council and government departments so that services are responsive to the needs of migrants and refugees

What values does the WEB seek to uphold?

- Representation: as many ethnic groups as possible in Waitakere City sitting around the table
- Broad based: inclusive of all ethnic groups and individuals working together
- Relationships: an independent organization that develops relationships with Waitakere City Council, Central Government agencies and non governmental organizations (NGOs) on behalf of ethnic communities
- Structure: incorporated society where all members elect the Executive Committee
- Mandate: elected representatives/individuals who are mandated by ethnic organisations or communities
- Decision-making: has a constitution to ensure accountability, transparency and integrity

- Capacity building of leadership and ethnic community development through training and workshops on governance and leadership
- WEB will provide opportunities to the ethnic community for collaboration with service providers
- WEB's goal is to have integrated and not segregated communities
- The WEB is about ethnic communities working together, not against each other.

Ethnic refers to people whose culture and traditions distinguish them from the majority in New Zealand.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A Community Partnership Agreement was formalized on 17th December 2004, allowing the Waitakere City Council (WCC) and the WEB to work together to achieve common goals such as:

- (a) Social inclusion - acceptable and tolerance, respect and acknowledgement of diversity,
- (b) For Waitakere City to become the city of choice for host community and new settler communities,
- (c) Pro-active and timely communication and sharing of information in relation to current and future needs,
- (d) Encouraging and promoting activities that foster greater understanding.

The above is achieved through the outcomes of a signed shared work agreement between the WEB and the WCC. A review of the CPA has been completed and signing of same will be completed at this month's Council meeting.

WEB BOARD 2008/09

The Annual General meeting was held on Saturday 22nd November 2008 at the Waitakere City Council buildings, 6 Henderson Valley Rd, Henderson. The Elections were assisted by Monica Sharma and Carmen Fernandes of the Waitakere City Council. The following members were elected to serve in the WEB Executive Committee and portfolios were as follows:

Executive

President	Ann Pala (Mrs)
Vice President	Tanya Suin (Mrs)
Secretary	Amail Habib (Mr)
Treasurer	Mirza Taimoori (Mr)

Board Member

Community Relations	Sunil Kaushal (Mr)
Social & Cultural	Jin Kyung Kim (Mrs)
Membership	Badrudin Shaikh (Mr)
Board Member	Selvi Sreedharan (Mrs)
Board Member	Meeden Alping (Ms)

Co-opted

Public Relations	Vincent Lin (Mr)
Board Member	Khan Aqa Fariady (Mr)
Board Member	Henry Anajamba (Mr)
Board Member	Arvinder (Mrs)
Board Member	Nita Chima (Ms)

Resignations this year for various reasons (changes in personal situations) was highlighted as main reason for resignations.

Board Member	Selvi Sreedharan (Mrs)
Board Member	Meeden Alping (Ms)
Board Member	Henry Anajamba (Mr)
Social & Cultural	Jin Kyung Kim (Mrs)
Membership	Badrudin Shaikh (Mr)
Public Relations	Vincent Lin (Mr) (resigned this month to take up a position in Hong Kong).

The board has continued to function with the small number. Often members joining to serve realize that even voluntary organizations such as WEB have a vast range of outcomes to achieve especially as advocates in an MOU partnership. The Board realizes as well that as volunteer's members can decline tasks due to time constraints and this has caused some issues. Attendance at day time meetings and workshops has seen reduction due to volunteers having high profile full time positions. Contributions have been between 30% to 60% participation. Individual board members have not attended full meetings; some meetings have tended to go further then two hour duration to catch on previous meeting discussions. Meetings provided for good interaction and getting to one decision has been intensive at the best of times, challenging but rewarding. Network meetings have seen a huge decline, time factor and database noted as issues of concern. For me personally a challenge was to ignore some aggressive personality issues as is seen in many non for profit organizations of a voluntary nature Councillor attendance was good with both Penny Hulse and Peter Chan attending. The support of Tony Rea, Monica Sharma and Carmen Fernandes has been noted and appreciated by the board.

It is with much sadness we acknowledge that our very outspoken and committed board member Mr Badruddin Shaikh was taken ill and has not returned to the board. We continue to wish him recovery and appreciate his many hours of work for WEB.

The Board met monthly at the Waitemata Room, in Council at 6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson. WEB has now purchased computer and office equipment to resource the office at Railside Avenue. WEB continue to meet for special meetings at the office and hires out the space to other community groups for a minimum fee.

WEB has invested \$50K in view to accommodating a part-time person, install computers and accounting systems, fax, copy and internet services.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

WEB is now in its 6th year since inception. Information gathering is crucial to be effective in this role to advocate for our people. The WEB board on behalf of the members has continued to work with the 2004-2009 planned strategies and achieving desired outcomes. The board intends to consult further with members in view to adopting a 2010-2013 strategic plan.

WEB has continued to work with the office of the Human Rights Commission as a partner in the Diversity Action Program Project and attended the Diversity Forum as well. I have networked widely with the local Waitakere community, regionally and nationally. We have continued our association with the Office of Ethnic Affairs and attended significant ethnic forums. A significant forum also included Preventing Violence Against Women, Engaging Men: Workshops by Dr Michael Flood.

Local collaboration includes Safe Waitakere Injury Prevention, (SWIP), Active Waitakere, Waitakere On Line, Unitec, Waitemata Police, and the Crime Prevention Reference Group. WEB has also had representation in the Asian Crime Prevention Group with representation from Tanya Suin. Vincent Lin was part of the Cantonese Group represented at the Moon Festival and Amail Habib represented WEB at the Diwali Festival.

Meetings have addressed issues pertinent to our people, issues such as Problem Gambling, Active Diverse Waitakere, and Safe Waitakere, Culture Committee presentation to Councilors have been part of our presentations this year. WEB also organized a Global Fest at Council to share the cultures and values of the Moon, Diwali and Eid Ul Fitr. The event was attended by National List MP Kanwal Bakshi. Other speakers included Abdul Rafik, Manoj Tahal, Penny Hulse and Vijaya Vaidyanath. WEB also hosted a Chinese Delegation headed by the Deputy Director General, Civil Affairs Bureau, Zhejiang Province together with WCC early this month.

WEB will continue to celebrate diverse ethnic minority events as an awareness and as a means of sharing and bringing cultures together in the growing multi ethnic Auckland to ensure further fostering of inclusiveness. WEB intends to organize the Global Fest 2010 for Race Relations Day in March and further advocacy work in the areas of economic development, environment and social and cultural work is also envisaged in collaboration with organizations of similar objectives.

As a community worker and volunteer in the community for the last 19 years, volunteerism fits very much into my humanitarian ideals, and gives me an opportunity to broaden my horizons, think deeply, and act creatively in support of these ideals. Together with my board, I am motivated and passionate about creating a better world, and I am sure my board members have the same ideals.

Please also keep an eye on our website for any new events/information. It is your right as a member to communicate with the board.

I encourage the membership to participate in community workshops, these are made available to ensure your settlement needs are met and WEB will continue to work closely with similar organizations to achieve better outcomes for you our members. My message to all migrant and refugee people is to " get involved, participate in this country that you have made home and especially seek changes to be active diverse communities, share diversity, complement interfaith and intercultural issues promote your own uniqueness and values.

CONSTITUTION

The 2004 WEB constitution was reviewed and amended in November 2007 to increase the term of the executive for continuity of the strategic plan and future visions. Further amendments is being sought in 2009 to accommodate new changes. A community partnership often takes years to mature. As President I continue to seek best opportunities for the board members and the wider membership.

FUNDING AGREEMENT

On behalf of the WEB Board, I submitted to the Long Term Council Community Partnership. Support of WCC has been visible and forthcoming. A two year funding was approved, however the board was advised of an extended year of funding announced by the ATA and conveyed by WCC that that A multi-year funding agreement with community partners can be signed for three years rather than two years. The board is welcoming this variation to the funding agreement. This will assist with further strategic planning and sustaining board objectives including the completion of the Shared Work Agreement. A copy of the Shared Work Agreement is available on our website.

WEBSITE

We have endeavored to furnish our members with updated information as much as possible. We believe it is a great way to pass information. Some members have advised access issues of the website. We will keep working to develop more ways to be in touch with the members via email and via post. It is also crucial for you to advise us should you have a change of email or your physical address. Your suggestions and comments are as always welcome. Remember this is your board and it is you that we represent. Appreciate the support and time of Jacky Du of WinMac Computer Solutions.

www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz or email
president@waitakereethnicboard.org.nz

Always Remember:-' Calm Seas Never
Make Skillful Sailors' ' a friend'

**Ann Pala QSM
President**

As new Board members two have shared their opinions which I am happy to include in the Annual Report.

Greetings!,

It is all most a year now since I joined "WEB". only by joining and getting associated with WEB,I really started to have a better understanding not only of my Community but of many other communities as well. I feel so proud when I see diversity in Communities and feel that there is an element of similarities in them. When I joined WEB I also got the association of leaned and well versed personalities from different communities and cultural backgrounds, like Ann Pala QSM. the president of WEB.

It has given me the confidence to understand the day to day problems of my community and try to guide them by providing the right information. A lot of information I get from the able members of WEB

during the monthly meetings and AGM. Our president provide us with a lot of information about the communities, council, NGOs and Govt. All the issues like domestic violence, gambling, smoking and drinking problem, Racism, job losses due to on going recession are discussed during meetings. All this issues are communicated to the Council and to various Govt. agencies.

WEB has always been helpful towards all the communities, it has organised various events like this month it calibrated the "Global festival", in which different Ethnic communities celebrated their cultural festivals.

I get lot of encouragement from WEB, to do more for the communities.

Regards,
Arvinder Vasudeva

I joined WEB in 2007 and was elected as Secretary of the board.

During the past two years I have observed that the board needs to mature a lot more as far as the working is concerned. In my view it has been an unstable board due to the turnover of board members. If we have more dedicated members on the board, there is a lot of potential for a good contribution to the growth of the board as well as different communities.

I have tried to contribute as much as I could with the constraints of time and my family circumstances. (My wife suffering from an incurable sickness).

I feel that my experience and expertise have not been fully used by WEB. I some how feel that the working atmosphere of the board needs to change for better.

The board has spent far too much time talking about a number of trivial/petty issues. This time could have been spent in a lot better way.

The new members on the board should be given an opportunity to grow professionally if they do not have previous experience.

Amail Habib