

Points of View

Quarterly Newsletter of the Waitakere Ethnic Board

Vol 1 Issue 2

May 2011

Auckland Unleashed – Mayor Len Brown launches a voice for Auckland's ethnic peoples

Auckland Mayor Len Brown launched 'Auckland Unleashed' on 23 March 2011. Currently a number of forums and summits are being organised by Council or co-hosted with organisations around the city to present the discussion document to targeted audiences.

Engaging with ethnic communities

The 'Auckland Unleashed' discussion document presents a timely opportunity for the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel to engage with ethnic communities to bring in their perspectives at an early stage of the discussion on the Auckland Plan, and to

become informed of community views to provide advice to the Mayor and governing body subsequently when the draft Auckland Plan is released later in the year.

The Waitakere Ethnic Board invites members and friends to this historical event. Please join the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel and the City Council and have your say.

Key Dates in the Auckland Plan

Initial key stakeholder discussions

November 2010 – March 2011

Discussion document launched

23 March 2011

Informal engagement period

23 March – 31 May 2011

Draft Auckland Plan

July 2011

Formal consultation on draft Auckland Plan

August – November 2011

Adoption of final Auckland Plan

December 2011

Other key dates

Community engagement-Local Board Plans

1 March – 30 April 2011

Draft Local Board Plans

May 2011

Formal consultation-Local Board Plans

From July 2011

Local Board Plans adopted

28 October 2011

Long-term Plan/Unitary Plan

Late 2011

Your feedback

By Email

theaucklandplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

By Post

Freepost Authority 237170
Auckland Council
The Auckland Plan
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1141

Ethnic peoples voices on Auckland Unleashed

Auckland Council and the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel invite you to attend an afternoon forum on how we can meet the Mayor's vision of Auckland becoming the most liveable city in the world.

Auckland Council and the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel invite you to attend an afternoon forum on how we can meet the Mayor's vision of Auckland becoming the most liveable city in the world.

Take this opportunity to add your ideas and views on key social, economic, environmental, cultural and urban growth issues, to the members of the Council's first Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel.

In March 2011 the Mayor appointed 12 members to the Panel, which has been established to advise Council on the issues facing all our ethnic communities throughout Auckland now and in the future. They will be on hand to hear your views and ideas on how to make Auckland the most liveable city for all ethnic communities.

The Office of Ethnic Affairs supports the Forums and encourages ethnic communities to participate actively.

Your feedback from these discussions will be used to inform other plans and strategies that are being developed throughout the year. Use this opportunity to join in the forum workshops, meet the Ethnic Panel members and give the council your views on key issues that will help shape the future of Auckland.

Auckland Council staff will be present to provide technical advice and information.

Please select one forum that you will attend

Please RSVP to theaucklandplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or by calling Helen Lyttleton on 301 0101 ext 6240 by 5 p.m on Monday 9th May 2011 for catering purposes. Please make sure to let us know which date you are attending.

More information on other events and activities will be available at: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Forum 1
Saturday 14 May 2011
From 1 to 4.30 pm
followed by nibbles
Venue: Alexandra Park, Greenlane

Forum 2
Saturday 21 May 2011
From 1 to 4.30pm
followed by nibbles
Venue: Henderson Service Centre,
6 Henderson Valley Rd, Waitakere

THE OFFICE OF ethnic affairs
Te Tari Matawaka

Auckland Council
Te Kauhanga o Tāmaki Māhuru

From the President ...

It is my pleasure to present to you our first newsletter for this year. There has been a gap due to change in staff. Our new administrator Julieth who joined in the month of March has made it possible to make it happen and we do hope that it will now be circulated on regular basis.

The Waitakere Ethnic Board has been meeting regularly to discuss a number of issues faced by various Ethnic Groups. Waitakere Ethnic Board made a submission on the Alcohol Reform Law and the new Auckland Super City Plan. Our Mayor His Worship Len Brown has a vision for Auckland to make it the most livable city in the world. The document *Auckland Unleashed* has been published and is available on the Auckland Council website for viewing. It is a discussion document about the Auckland Plan. The final document will determine how Auckland will shape to be the most livable city in the world.

We have a responsibility to respond to the questions asked in this document. Hence, Waitakere Ethnic Board has organised a forum to discuss some aspects of this document. We have suggested the following topics to be discussed at the forum.

- Job opportunities
- Housing
- Means of communications with ethnic communities using English as a second language
- Improvement of public transport

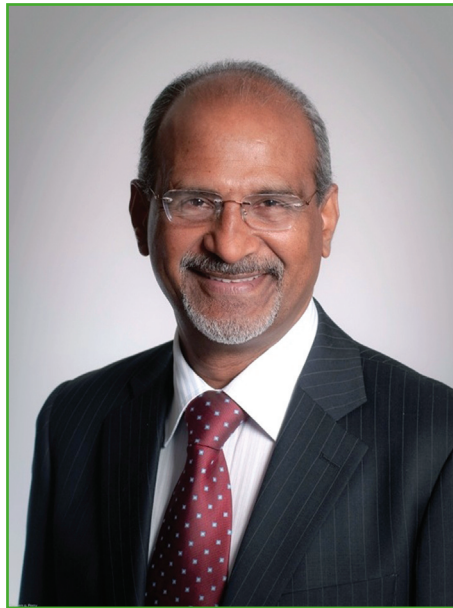
The Forum has been scheduled for Wednesday 25 May at 7pm at the Waitakere Centre (previously known as Waitakere City Council Chamber). We encourage you to join us at the Forum to have your say. The Forum will involve group discussions and the feedback from you will be given to the Auckland Council who will consider the possibilities of incorporating it in the final plan. Let us get together and add ethnic fabric to this plan.

Ethnic People's Advisory Panel

You will be pleased to know that Mayor Len Brown has also announced a few panels charged with the responsibility to gather feedback from various communities and present it to the mayor for his consideration for inclusion in the Auckland Plan. One has been named as the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel. The panel is to represent the 180 diverse communities in Auckland. As the mayor said, "The diversity of our communities is one of the features that make Auckland such a special place, giving it a cultural richness and vibrancy."

The purpose of the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel is to –

- Identify and communicate to the council the interests and preferences of the ethnic peoples of Auckland in relation to content of strategies, policies, plans and bylaws of the Council; any matter that the panel considers to be of particular interest or concern to the ethnic peoples of Auckland; and



The NZ Community Economic Development Conference

Germaine Neueli, secretary of the Waitakere Ethnic Board, reports on the conference held 18 to 20 April, 2011.

One of the highlights of this event for me was listening to the many Maori academics and business people at the conference.

The first workshop I attended was called *Community Owned Assets for Community Benefit*, a topic that was shared by two community development groups. I found out from both the Maori and Pakeha projects that they had come across similar difficulties and challenges, including bureaucracy, maintaining momentum, being a volunteer, working with volunteers and resolving conflict.

The second workshop I attended was *Strengthening Communities through Microfinance and Strategic Partnerships* with keynote speaker Te Aruhe Kitta Mio from the 'Awhi' (All Together We Have Independence) family credit union. They were able to finance whanau (families) and people from their local community into buying their own homes and business ventures.

The third and last workshop I attended was *Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Indigenous Communities*, which included a mainly Maori panel of speakers as well as an Australian aborigine, Dr Denis Foley from the University of Newcastle, Australia.

They discussed the strengths of the Maori community such as the infrastructure of Maori, having worked alongside the government for over 150 years, and the emerging industries of communication using the media. Maori speakers on this panel included Leisa Nathan from Ochre Business Solutions, New Zealand, Dr Wiremu Dohery from Te Whare Wananga O Awanuiarangi and Heta Hudson from the WHK Business Growth Team.

- to advise the mayor, and the council's governing body and local boards, of the council processes and mechanisms for engagement with ethnic peoples and communities in Auckland.

It is with pleasure that I can tell you that five present and past members of the Waitakere Ethnic Board have been given the honour to be on the panel. The following board members are also on the EPAP: Amail Habib (Interim Chair), Ann Pala, Camille Nakhid, Susan Zhu (past member), Grace Ryu (past member).

Please join me in congratulating the members who have been appointed to the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel and wish them all the best for their endeavours to carry out the huge responsibility that has been bestowed upon them.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in the past years. I look forward to meeting you on 25 May at the Members' Forum. God bless.

... Amail Habib
President

The EthnicA Conference

The focus of this conference, held on the weekend of 2 and 3 April 2011, was on 'Responding to the issues and opportunities of New Zealand's increasingly ethnically diverse communities'.

On the opening day of the conference, the Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Hekia Parata, gave the welcome address and spoke of her commitment to ensuring that the value and contributions of multicultural communities are recognised and acknowledged in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The keynote address was given by Farah Pandith, Special Representative to Muslim Communities, US Department of State. Ms Pandith appealed to ethnic youth to express their support for each other and to connect across global boundaries to help create a more harmonious society.

Myth or reality?

A highlight of the day was a humorous yet poignant debate on the topic 'Multiculturalism contributes to social cohesion – myth or reality?'. Speakers on both sides of the argument left the audience with one single, sobering thought – New Zealand needs to lift its game if its multicultural approach is to lead to social unity.

The conference was held over a period of two days with a number of interesting and useful workshops. Of particular concern to those present was the information presented on family violence statistics and the increasing need for awareness of this among New Zealand's ethnic communities.

Citizenship ceremonies

Becoming a citizen of Aotearoa New Zealand is something many of us aspire towards. This process can take up to a five-year commitment and is celebrated enthusiastically in Waitakere City. Since its inception, the Waitakere Ethnic Board has had a commitment to being present at these ceremonies to welcome people from all walks of life to their citizenship of this beautiful country. There will be two ceremonies on Tuesday 31 May 2011 ... one at 9:30am and the other at 12:30pm. Please join us in the celebration.

Who to contact

If you are planning to attend a ceremony, please email Tracy Haggo at Tracy.Haggo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Where to go

Henderson Service Centre
Council Chamber Level 2
6 Henderson Valley Road
Henderson

Make sure you arrive 15 minutes before the ceremony starts.

World Refugee Day in New Zealand – 20 June 2011

First marked in 2001, World Refugee Day is held every year on 20 June. People from around the world take time to recognise and applaud the contribution of forcibly displaced people throughout the world. The annual commemoration is marked by a variety of events in more than 100 countries, involving government officials,

humanitarian aid workers, civilians and the forcibly displaced themselves.

Events in Waitakere City will be announced in the next couple of weeks. For updates on events in your area, visit our website regularly at —
<http://www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz/>

● Meet our staff – Julieth Rivera

Julieth Rivera is the new Coordinator for the Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) and comes with a wide range of personal and professional experience on diversity. Julieth was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, lived in New York City for 12 years and is now making Auckland her new home.



Julieth comes to WEB with a solid background in community development.

Her role as Coordinator is to increase WEB's profile among ethnic communities and key stakeholders in and around the Waitakere region. Overall, Julieth will support and guide the board members' efforts in achieving WEB's vision. Specifically, she will be directly involved in the board's advocacy work, project and event management, issue and data analysis, and administrative tasks.

Julieth Rivera works at the Waitakere Community Resource Centre, Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 3:30pm.

Something to do?

Take a look at the Community Events section on our website to discover what's happening in your local community – local events, workshops, seminars, forums and news. Our address is –
<http://www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz/>

Points of View

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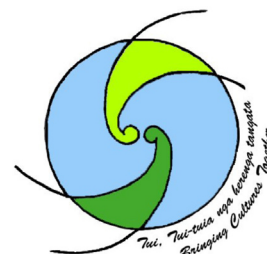
Website

Join the Waitakere Ethnic Board membership on line at our website address
<http://www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz/>

The Waitakere Ethnic Board

The Waitakere Ethnic Board represents the views of migrants and refugees to council and central government. We speak out on behalf of ethnic communities about issues that concern them and we work with council and government departments so they are responsive to the needs of migrants and refugees.

The Board was established on 20 September 2003, due to consistent calls for an ethnic advisory board by the ethnic communities in Waitakere City. The Board aims to promote and represent the interests of all ethnic communities within the Waitakere City Council boundaries.



Waitakere Ethnic Board