

WEB Panui

*Tui, tui, tui-tuia nga herenga tangata
Bringing Cultures Together*



DECEMBER 2011

VOL. #1 ISSUE #4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of Executive Committee of the Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB), I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I am very pleased with the achievement of WEB that we have produced quarterly News letter to keep all the stakeholders up-to-date with our activities.

WEB also re-launched the new website last year; which has been professionally developed and regularly updated. WEB has developed excellent relationship with the three Local Boards in West Auckland as well as Auckland Council. All the three local boards are very supportive and appreciate the work carried out by the WEB. We are thankful to the Chairs and members of the Local Boards for their support. WEB has made submissions to all the three Local Boards as well as the Auckland Council about the Auckland Plan and Local Board Plans highlighting the concerns of Ethnic Communities. An oral submission was made on 2nd Dec 2011 to the Auckland Future Vision Committee which was chaired by Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse. Mayor Len Brown was also present at the hearing along with other Councillors. WEB has suggested that Ethnic representatives be co-opted as Councillors and Local Board members, because it is not possible for ethnic people to win an election as independent candidates. This is the only way the Ethnic Communities could be represented on the Council and Local Boards to be a part of the decision making process rather than having just the Advisory Role. WEB also raised the issue that Ethnic Communities face huge hurdles in finding suitable jobs that match their qualifications. The issue of acceptance of migrant medical doctors in the work force has also been raised. A number of them end up taking up odd jobs which are degrading to their profession causing huge social issues. WEB is also thankful to the Auckland Council for the support that they have provided so far and we will appreciate that the Partnering Agreement with the Council continues in the future so that WEB can continue to provide vital feedback to the Council. I am especially thankful to Tony Rea and Monica Sharma for their continued support and advice.

Waitakere Ethnic Board has also developed a good working relationship with the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel. We will continue to build this relationship and work together in the future as well. You might be aware that I am also on the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel and would continue to support WEB in that capacity. The AGM scheduled for Sat 21st Jan 2012 will elect the new board. I have served Waitakere Ethnic Board for the last four years and have enjoyed working with the board members. I take this opportunity to thank all the board members for their support and valuable contribution. I also thank wider membership and all the stakeholders for their support.

I would like to wish all the best to the new board which will be elected at the AGM.

I am delighted to inform you that WEB has appointed an experienced new Co-ordinator Baljit Singh. I am sure she will be an asset to WEB.

God bless

Rev. Amail Habib

Message from the Co-ordinator

The Waitakere Ethnic Board will continue to work for all ethnic communities in the wider West Auckland area. It was with great pride and pleasure that I attended the Auckland Council submission hearing with Amail Habib, where he verbally delivered **your** ideas towards the Draft Auckland Plan on 2nd December 2011.

The valuable information that was provided via the results of our Forums on what ethnic people want in Auckland was acknowledged by the Auckland Council.

A big thank you to all of the people who contributed their worthwhile ideas on Economy, Infrastructure, Health, Transport & Housing.

We have many more forums to organise next year for all ethnic people to promote their needs to the Auckland Council and The **Long Term Plan**.

The Long Term Plan is the foundation of the Auckland Plan becoming a reality. It is the 30 year strategic vision aimed at the future of how Auckland will become.

Your continued input into this will prove to be very valuable for now and generations to come.

ALL together united, we can make a difference to influence the future of Auckland.

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AGM and voting of new board members

The Waitakere Ethnic Board will be holding their Annual General Meeting to elect new board members. Details are as follows:

Date: 21st January 2012

Time: 10:30am

Location: Civic Centre (Council Chambers), 6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson

If you wish to become a member of WEB, please visit our website www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz or contact our office and speak to our friendly co-ordinator.

If you wish to apply to become a board member of WEB, please contact our office on (09) 836-0169 or email contact@waitakereethnicboard.org.nz to request application forms.

Requirements: Included in the application form is a nomination form where the candidate must be nominated by two members of the WEB.

Member organisation and groups may nominate only one person from their own organisational group.

Futures without Violence

Ann Pala QSM

"Violence against women is global. It occurs everywhere and all the time. In households, in work places, in schools and hospitals, in police stations and prisons, in social movements, in political parties, in trade unions. Everywhere! All the time! The threat of violence against women is always already in the air. It's an environmental hazard women face every day. [Excerpt from *Battered Bodies, Broken Families: Remembering Immigrant Women.*" by Kanya D'Almeida]

November 25th 2011 marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Dec. 10 is International Human Rights Day. Women around the world are battling "gender justice" for lower wages, sexual abuse, genital mutilation, rape as a weapon of war, and intimate partner violence.

New Zealand is no different. One in three women around the world will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. (2003 UNIFEM report "Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women). Although there is not enough evidence in the form of hard data, there is anecdotal evidence indicating that the statistics for minority women may even be as high as 2 in 3.



Pictured: Vishal Rishi,(TANI) Ann Pala & Baljit Singh at the White Ribbon "Say No to Violence" march 25th November 2011

There is also evidence that in democratic New Zealand, human rights and rights of women especially rights of minority women are less forthcoming, with practices brought from cultures and traditions of one's own country. Unfortunately, one of the most recognised abuses of power by men is seen with domestic violence. Although family violence is not only perpetrated by males on women and children, men are by far the biggest number of perpetrators. In Waitakere, New Zealand, the day was marked with a White Ribbon Day March.

As I continue my community development efforts with ethnic communities, I will continue working closely in the area of family violence, an issue that can claim lives and lead people into a cycle of poverty, including of education, economic and social wellbeing. In seeking to network and collaborate with other similar organisations to reduce and eliminate family violence, we have that opportunity. Grassroots organizations such as EthNix Links which was founded as a advocacy network is working closely with Auckland Council and the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel and the NZ Ethnic Police team to develop ethnic policies, provide support and advocacy and break the chain of violence and silence around domestic abuse.

I move on from Waitakere Ethnic Board, perhaps as the longest serving member of the Board. I joined in 1994 and have met many wonderful people not only in the membership, but also in the partnership with Waitakere City Council and the communities of Waitakere. I personally feel the Board has profiled its efforts on behalf of ethnic communities in their best interests.

I take this opportunity to thank my many friends from the diverse communities of Waitakere for their support during my previous term as President and look forward to continued support in the future for the wellbeing of our families.

Wishing you a very Merry Xmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

"What should the role of Auckland Council be in the prevention of family and sexual violence?" An Ethnic communities consultation will be held in January 2012 (date to be advised) to seek your views. Please email annpala.ethlinks@xtra.co.nz if you would like to be involved in this stakeholder consultation.

Let's Be Violent Free!!

A message from the Chair of Auckland Council's Ethnic Peoples' Advisory Panel

Camille Nakhid



The Ethnic Peoples' Advisory Panel has been in operation now for eight months since it was established in March 2011. With a dedicated team of twelve members and support from Council officers, the panel has managed to achieve a number of goals in its brief time.

Members have made submissions to the Draft Auckland Plan, attended workshops and forums on the Long Term Plan, held community meetings with a number of ethnic communities and organizations and worked with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council to advance the wellbeing of ethnic peoples in Auckland.

One of the panel's most worthwhile tasks is advocating for and being the voice of the many ethnic communities. We respect the privilege of this task and we are committed to ensuring that as a panel we can be an effective and accurate voice of these communities.

The panel recognizes the need to build and maintain relationships with ethnic organizations such as the Waitakere Ethnic Board and to support the work of the Board.

The panel looks forward to the progress of WEB in the future and to the mutual support necessary to build strong ethnic communities.

The Ethnic Peoples' Advisory Panel wishes all WEB members and the communities of Waitakere a very blessed season and a wonderful year in 2012.

Board member profile

John (ChulKwon) Yang



ChulKwon Yang also known as Pastor John joined WEB in February 2010. He was born in 1972 and raised in Korea. Pastor John came to Auckland with his wife, Sylvia Yoo in 2002. He has lived in Waitakere since then.

John studied Theology at university and has also done a postgraduate course. He has travelled extensively visiting Thailand, Japan, Burma, Laos, Fiji and Kiribati. In 2003 Pastor John became more involved with his congregational church in Te Atatu.

He was also involved with the Asian Family Support Group in Waitakere Hospital and worked there as a Chaplaincy Assistant. John became a Pastor of the West Auckland Korean Church in 2008.

John has coordinated the West Auckland Korean Community Centre since 2009. The Centre provides services for the West Auckland Korean Community including English classes; writing and reading letters.

These experiences have given Pastor John the ability to see things from a multicultural perspective and he believes that this perspective can bring more strength to ethnic communities. Pastor John hopes to continue to share his knowledge and experiences with the communities in West Auckland.

"Make it a rule of life never to regret and never to look back. Regret is an appalling waste of energy, you can't build on it it's only good for wallowing in."

Katherine Mansfield

"I claim that human mind or human society is not divided into watertight compartments called social, political and religious. All act and react upon one and another."

Mahatma Gandhi

"What you do for yourself dies with you.....what you do for others and the world remains and is immortal"

Albert Pike

Board Member Farewell

Arvinder Vasudeva



Kia Ora, my name is Arvinder Vasudeva. My family and I migrated to beautiful New Zealand in 2002. I was born and brought up in New Delhi, India. Slowly, with time and patience, my family and I settled down and got busy living and working in West Auckland.

My journey with WEB began in Nov 2008 and it has taught me so much about **how** to help provide information for our West Auckland ethnic communities' needs. I have learnt how to help and advocate for others in ethnic communities through providing information that I had picked up from discussion and presentations held at WEB Forums.

I learnt so much about matters such as family violence, child abuse, gambling and drug problems. These problems occur across society as they can happen to any family

. On a much happier note it was great participating in bringing cultures together by celebrating in big events of all the different ethnic festivals and trying their yummy food! I also got to know about other organizations like Migrant Action Trust, Ethnic Peoples' Advisory Panel, Auckland Regional Migrant Services (ARMS), Shakti and many more. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet many more new migrants at Citizenship ceremonies when representing WEB. Now it's the time for me too to say good bye to WEB as I finished my 2 terms this year. I am going very happily as it has given me inner satisfaction that this experience has taught me to advocate and help new migrants and ethnic communities.

In the end I will just say: Join WEB if you are interested to know about our ethnic communities, especially those in the West. All the best!!!

Website: www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz

Email: contact@waitakereethnicboard.org.nz

Phone: (09) 836-0169

Physical Address: Waitakere Community Resource Centre

(opposite Waitakere District Court)

8 Ratanui Street Henderson

Postal address: PO Box 21068 Henderson,

Auckland 0650

Snapshots from WEB Forums 2011



"Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance".
Confucius