



Multicultural Times

- journalism for diversity -

Published every alternate Wednesday

Issue 2, August 15 - August 28, 2018

free Online voluntary payments welcome



India, Pakistan Independence Day, on pages 7, 22



Refugee stories, on pages 10, 11



Labour MPs speak, on pages 4, 5

Is Multicultural Times not for Pākehā/ Kiwis of European descent?

Editor's note: Since our launch on August 1, we have received numerous messages from across the country. Mostly congratulatory, but with one concern.

As one reader very graciously wrote, "Congratulations and I wish your endeavour every and sustained success!". "But do note", the reader goes on to add, "New Zealander's of UK decent are [also] a cultural group in New Zealand! Your (Kiwi) representation of cultural groups - does not include this very sizeable and influential group at all levels in society. After watching Sunday last night on the two Canadians rhetoric on free speech on racial issues - [I think] we need to find a way to include New Zealander's of UK decent in our discourse of cultural diversity, and should do so from the very beginning. Now."

Another reader wrote, "Having read your newspaper today, I feel quite excluded in my own culture as nowhere is there any reference to Pākehā or tauiwi being part of our multicultural society. My great grandparents and one grandparent migrated to New Zealand from Ireland between 1860 and 1875. So I am a child of migrants. I understand that I am well removed from the challenges that recent migrants have to

face. But I would like to be recognised, otherwise this is just another magazine that is exclusive in its content."

And many such verbal and written messages, which essentially raise the same question. Is Multicultural Times not for Pākehā/ Kiwis of European descent?

The answer is - it most definitely is.

Multicultural Times considers Pākehā or New Zealanders of European decent as much a part of New Zealand's multicultural society, as anyone else. When we say we aim cover all the 200 plus ethnicities in Aotearoa, it includes Māori, Pākehā, and the rest.

It's true that sometimes in the discussion about multiculturalism in New Zealand, this section [Pākehā/ Kiwis of European descent] is not included. This is wrong, and we will always avoid it in our newspaper.

So our appeal to all Pākehā/ Kiwis of European descent is this.

Please treat Multicultural Times as your voice too, and do guide us from time-to-time in matters of public interest, which you want your newspaper to cover. ■

We need diversity in our public sector boards: Minister Jenny Salesa

- she also encouraged communities to join the education conversation, and apply for Ethnic Communities Development Fund opening on August 15



Jenny Salesa addressing the gathering at Multicultural Times launch event on August 9 (picture credit Steven Wong)

The Minister for Ethnic Communities Jenny Salesa has once again thrown light on the need for diversity in New Zealand's public sector boards. She was speaking at the launch event of this newspaper held at Auckland University of Technology on August 9.

"Not only do we need diversity in journalism, as this newspaper is aiming for, we also need ethnic communities to come forward and join our public sector boards. The current level of participation is much below the desired levels," said the minister.

Notably, in May this year, after realising that the Central Government has no data relating to the ethnic make-up of public sector boards, Salesa had ordered a review of ethnic diversity of such boards across the country. The report is due in few months, which the minister hopes will give a stock-

take of diversity. The next step would be to make public sector boards more diverse over time, according to her.

Later in her speech, the minister stressed on the need for more engagement from ethnic communities in the ongoing review of New Zealand's education system.

"My cabinet colleague Education Minister Chris Hipkins has embarked on a huge task of laying

the foundation of future of learning in New Zealand. So please go to the website conversation.education.govt.nz, and put forward your views. Have your say. Join the education conversation."

Concluding, the Minister encouraged communities to apply for 2018 Ethnic Communities Development Fund, opening on August 15. "There's only one funding round per year, with the total fund being \$520,000," she informed.

Communities interested should note that the fund will close on September 26, and has three funding priorities - leadership development, social cohesion, and cultural events; with projects to be implemented in 2019. ■

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NEW ZEALAND MEDIA COUNCIL

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A special thanks is due to Stevie Tiori for organising our launch event last week. And also to Steven Wong for his photography skills during the evening.



Jenny Salea (centre), Minister for Ethnic Communities, at Multicultural Times launch event held in Auckland University of Technology on August 9. Also present were community leaders, the newspaper’s team, and Advisory Board members. The common theme of the evening was - an increasingly multicultural New Zealand, needs a multicultural media, where voices of all the 200 plus communities, including Māori and Pakeha, are heard. A New Zealand where no one is voiceless, where no one is invisible, and where journalism is for diversity. (picture credit Steven Wong)

Post-study work rights to change from November

Last week, Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway announced major changes to post-study work rights, which he claimed will help ensure international students coming to New Zealand gain in-demand skills for the country’s economic growth, incentivise study in the regions and help reduce the risk of student exploitation.

The changes to take effect in November 2018, include:

- remove the employer-assisted post-study work visas at all levels;
- provide a one-year post-

study open work visa for students studying Level 4 to 6 and non-degree Level 7 qualifications, with an additional year for Graduate Diploma graduates who are working towards registration with a professional or trade body;

- provide a two-year post-study open work visa for students studying Level 4 to 6 and non-degree Level 7 qualifications outside Auckland provided study is completed by December 2021. At this point the entitlement for post-study work rights reverts to a one-year post-study open work visa for

students studying Level 4 to 6 and non-degree Level 7 qualifications with an additional year for Graduate Diploma graduates who are working towards registration with a professional or trade body;

- provide a three-year post-study open work visa for degree Level 7 or above qualifications; and
- require international students studying Level 8 qualifications to be in an area specified on the Long Term Skills Shortage list in order for their partner to be eligible for an open work visa, and in

turn for the partners’ dependent children to be eligible for fee-free domestic schooling.

“The grand-parenting provisions that mean that international students who are currently in New Zealand will be better off as a result of these changes. The changes preserve a pathway to residence for people with the skills and qualifications New Zealand needs. The removal of employer-assisted post-study work rights at all levels will help reduce the risk of migrant exploitation, and better protect New Zealand’s international reputation. They

also provide time-limited incentives for students to study and work in the regions, boosting regional education providers and supporting our aims to lift regional investment and productivity. New Zealand is a nation that must compete on quality, not quantity. Our changes reinforce New Zealand’s attractiveness for international students and match up positively with our key comparator nations,” the minister was quoted as saying in a press release. ■

New Zealand International Education Strategy for 2018-2030 released

The New Zealand Education Strategy 2018-2030 was launched at the New Zealand International Education Conference on August 9. It sets out three goals and the key actions needed for agencies to achieve them, as well as measures and indicators of success. These goals are:

- Delivering an excellent education and student experience
- Achieving sustainable growth
- Developing global citizens

The Ministry of Education and Education New Zealand co-developed the strategy with input from a broad range of government agencies, international education stakeholders. These included education providers, international and domestic students, peak bodies and community groups.

Commenting on the new strategy, Ministry of Education Deputy Secretary, Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers, Claire Douglas, informed that the strategy replaces the

Leadership Statement for International Education and signals a shift in priorities for the sector.

“The strategy shifts its primary focus to lifting the quality of international education and student experience, and maximising the social and cultural benefits in addition to its economic value. It also aims to ensure that the benefits of international education are shared with regions nationwide.”

"International students provide us a different world perspective, and contribute to a globally-connected and culturally diverse New Zealand. Bringing international education closer to the regions enables more New Zealanders to understand and embrace those benefits," she added.

The strategy document can be downloaded from here <https://enz.govt.nz/about-enz/international-education-strategy> ■

Mid-year enrolments see UC student numbers increase further 22 percent

University of Canterbury (UC) student numbers have received a further boost this year with a 22% increase in mid-year enrolments compared to last year.

With increases across all five UC Colleges UC has a total of 16,895 students, including 1011 doctoral students as of July 2018, compared to a total of 14,424 students in July 2014.

On the increasing numbers, UC Vice-Chancellor Rod Carr noted his delight, and put UC’s popularity down to a variety of factors, including a wide range of attractive programmes, affordable accommodation, and the supportive student environment on campus.

“Since UC started the academic year with a big increase in new-to-UC students, I’ve often been asked whether this increase in enrolments is related to the fees-free policy,” Carr said.

“While we’ve not yet had any conclusive evidence that UC’s enrolment boost has come directly from the new policy, there is emerging evidence that many first-year students are saying it was a significant factor in their choice or that it made some difference to their decision to study at UC this year.”

It appears that the increase in mid-year enrolments includes more people choosing to remain in the city to study, as well as more students moving to Christchurch, he added.

“We’ve had anecdotal evidence of students transferring from more expensive and congested locations, especially to escape difficult renting situations, such as in Auckland and Wellington. UC is proud to be part of the continuing recovery and exciting growth of Christchurch as the place to be.” ■



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RMC & NZNN Locations 2018

- RMC: MNZ Regional Multicultural Council :
- NZNN: New Zealand Newcomers Network



The Mayor and Council's Multicultural Subcommittee invite you to celebrate the first year since the launch of

'Our Future Together'
Christchurch's Multicultural Strategy

Wednesday 29 August 2018
5:30 – 7:30pm
Christchurch City Council
Function Room, Level 1
(Entrance from either Hereford or Worcester Streets)

The evening aims to highlight progress and understand what Council can do further to ensure the goals of the strategy continue to be realised.

Please come in national dress if desired. Food and entertainment provided.

Please RSVP by 22 August for catering purposes to multicultural@ccc.govt.nz

MULTICULTURAL STRATEGY

Christchurch City Council

I support Deputy PM’s stand on multiculturalism where he talks about having a New Zealand culture: Labour’s Michael Wood

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities and MP for Mt Roskill Michael Wood has come out in support of the Deputy Prime Minister's recent remarks on multiculturalism saying, “I have heard Mr Peters recently talking about forging a New Zealand identity. A unique Kiwi identity, if you will.”

“He is not talking about one culture dominating another. He is simply stating that we need to have our own unique cultural identity as New Zealanders. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with it. People sometimes misinterpret what he says.”

“See, I personally don’t believe in the melting pot concept, where

new arrivals are expected to leave their cultural traits behind. Where there’s an expectation of assimilation. I think New Zealand will be better off when new arrivals bring their own cultures with them, and integrate with the New Zealand society. So integration instead of assimilation is the key,” he added, while talking on the sidelines of the opening of Labour Party’s new office at Maungakiekie. ■

"People sometimes misinterpret what he [Peters] says"



Michael Wood

In response (defence) to the Deputy PM’s stand on multiculturalism

Liberals, in today’s world, are guilty of one thing. That is not listening to the other side. When Donald Trump became the US President, liberals didn’t pause to think that maybe failure of the liberal icon – President Obama – to listen to the plight of middle-class blue-collar-white-America, was one of the major reasons. Liberal media, goes a step further. While not listening to the other side, it also just fills in the blanks to suit its editorial slants.

Take for example the recent interview of the Deputy PM by Newstalk ZB’s Leighton Smith, and how it was reported.

If one actually watches (or listens to the interview, as it is radio after all), Smith asks a very leading question to the Deputy PM. He quotes extensively from an article - Preserve nation, cut immigration - published in The

Australian written by Sherry Sufi, who is the chairman of the Western Australia (WA) Liberal Party’s policy committee. This is the same party, which joined hands with the nationalist right-wing Pauline Hanson’s One Nation last year, and lost the WA state elections after ruling the state for eight-and-a-half years.

Moreover, Sufi is known – as reported by the ABC News – for his linking of same-sex marriage with polygamy and polyamory, and saying that recognising Indigenous Australians in the constitution was "a move to divide the country".

It seems, Sufi’s Party hasn’t learnt anything from 2017’s crushing defeat, and is poised to carry on with its change of tact – immigration bashing and anti-multiculturalism rhetoric. Well, more power to him, as this is his, and his

party’s democratic right.

Coming back to the interview of the Deputy PM in question, which some media outlets reported as his take on multiculturalism.

It’s a 14 something minutes long interview. Right at the very end, Smith frames his question for about 16 seconds, while asking the Deputy PM what he thinks of multiculturalism in New Zealand.

Peters reply is for about 18 seconds, where he says, “There is one cultural thing we want developed in this country and that’s the New Zealand culture. That’s a unique culture that’s New Zealand. It’s not a multitude of cultures and a plethora rising up like mushrooms in this country. No, we want a New Zealand culture. That’s what I’ve always stood for.”

Now, obviously, while liberal

media has very right to jump on it, and claim that Winston is back to his old ways, it will help if we can just pause and think. What is the Acting PM actually saying?

He is not talking about a Christian culture, or a Pākehā, or a Māori culture. Nor is he talking about one culture dominating others. He is just saying “we want a New Zealand culture”, “a unique culture that’s New Zealand”. Now, who can argue against that.

Aotearoa is a young country, where the debate is still on, about adopting cultural and national symbols. Two years back, we had a referendum on the national flag. Some [read the current minister of justice Andrew Little] think that the national anthem is a “dirge”.

All these, and much more, form part of a nation’s cultural, social identity. And every modern nation state has

gone through the process of zeroing these. New Zealand will too, in its own sweet time, and a unique culture will eventually emerge.

Granted though, may be the Deputy PM’s blueprint, on how we can reach to a “unique New Zealand culture” is not properly phrased. So this is what is going to happen. [not prophesying here, just learning from history]

Much like Māori and Pākehā earlier, people coming to New Zealand now, are bringing a multitude of cultures – “a plethora rising up like mushrooms” - and will integrate over time [process is ongoing].

This will give rise to a even more beautiful, and a very unique New Zealand culture. A “100% Pure New Zealand” - if we can borrow Tourism New Zealand’s phrase here. ■

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Migrants are here to make New Zealand better: Labour MP Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki



Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki

In an event where Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities and MP for Mt Roskill, Michael Wood, seems like “the token white guy” - his own words - New Zealand’s diversity would be amply demonstrated.

Such was the case on August 10, at the opening of Labour Party’s new office in Maungakiekie, where three of the Party’s MPs - Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki, and Raymond Ho, will now be based.

“And the great thing is, all three of us are migrants, who immigrated to New Zealand at respective times in our lives. We are here, like all

migrants, to make New Zealand better,” said Kanongata'a-Suisuiki, who hails from Hofoa in Tonga, in her speech.

To which Ho, who immigrated from China, added, “For all of us, New Zealand is our home away from home now.”

Something Wood acknowledged saying, “This is the Labour Party 2018, which represents all cross-sections of today’s New Zealand society.”



Priyanca Radhakrishnan, while talking to reporters, stressed on the need to tackle international students exploitation in New Zealand. "That's why we have come up with generous post-study work rights not tied to any employer," she said. ■

Chinese builders and financiers are contributing massively to KiwiBuild projects: Labour MP Raymond Ho



Raymond Ho

While no one knows the authenticity of claims that Chinese buyers are driving up the Auckland housing prices, Chinese builders and financiers are contributing massively to KiwiBuild projects, that’s for sure. This assertion was made by Labour MP Raymond Ho on the sidelines of his office opening in Maungakiekie on August 9.

“As I have been saying since last year, no one has a true picture of the size of the overseas speculator problem. The Land Information NZ report is not ideal as its data has only been collected since the introduction of the bright line test in October 2015.

Moreover, the government’s figures rely on tax residency, but not the citizenship or residency status of the ultimate owner. So, an overseas speculator buying through a New Zealand trust is counted as a New Zealand purchase. Also, the data does not include business purchases. So the extent of foreign buyers in the domestic residential market, we don’t know for sure,” Ho said.

He then added, “What I can say for sure though, is that about one-third of the total construction in and around Auckland, over the past decade or so, has been by Chinese construction companies and financiers. In fact, these days, my office sees expression of interests on a weekly basis by the Chinese construction industry, where they want to be a part of KiwiBuild projects, and help the government in solving the issue of homelessness in New Zealand.” ■

"No one has a true picture of the size of the overseas speculator problem"

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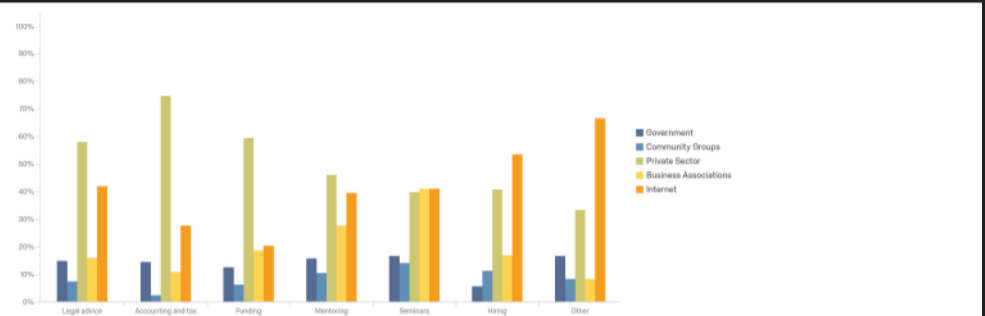
Migrant entrepreneurs in New Zealand

Interim Research Results, August 12, 2018

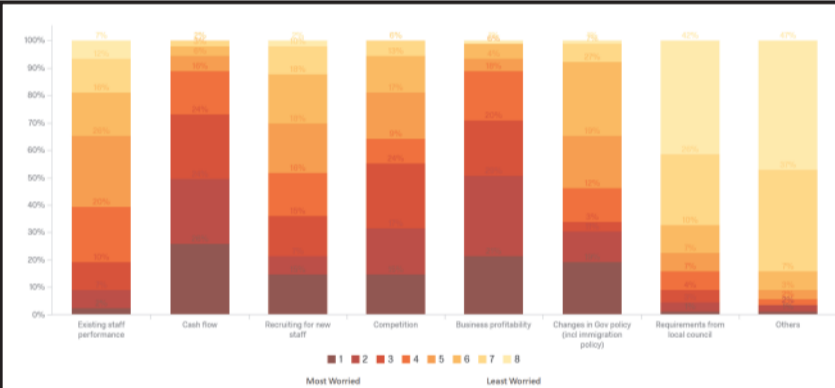
More details at www.culturalconnections.co.nz/entrepreneurs/



Insight #1: We found that 91% of migrant business owners started their business from ground up.
Implication: Many migrant business owners need to ensure they have all the right business and technical skills in managing a startup.
(Based on Q2.4 - How did you start your business?)



Insight #3: In the early years, migrant entrepreneurs rely on private sector for Accounting and Tax, Legal, Funding, and Mentoring; internet for Hiring, and business association for Seminar.
Implication: Stakeholders in small business ecosystem to consider reallocating budget to ensure efforts are not overlap and resources are optimised for maximum impact.
(Based on Q2.18 - In the early years of your business, where did you go for the following?)



Insight #4: Migrant entrepreneurs are currently most concerned about cashflow, followed by Business profitability and Competition.
Implication: Can banks provide better products (eg large overdrafts) to bridge cashflow?
What insights can be provided to migrant entrepreneurs to stay ahead of competition?
(Based on Q2.20 - Please rank which area of the business are you most worried about currently?)



Insight #2: Migrant entrepreneurs scored Financial Management as the lowest skill that they have in running a success business, followed by Sales and Marketing.
Implication: Stakeholders in small business ecosystem should consider offering courses and seminars in upskilling migrant entrepreneurs in these areas.
(Based on Q2.16 - How do you score yourself in the following skills required to run a successful business?)

Cultural Connections is currently running “Migrant Entrepreneurs in New Zealand” research, an initiative led by Auckland Regional Migrant Services (ARMS) in partnership with Auckland Council, and Immigration New Zealand.

The purpose of this research is to help us better understand how migrants start their businesses and the challenges that they face. Migrants are defined as those who are born overseas but currently living in NZ.

Based on the interim results, respondents indicated that they need support in sales and marketing. Hence we are now adding the following prize draw to help migrant business owners:

- 1 x half page advertisement in Multicultural Times newspaper valued at \$590.
- 1 x sales and marketing plan from MultiMarketing valued at \$380.

If you are a migrant business owner, we would love to hear from you. With just 10 minutes of your time, you can help others to have a better chance in running a successful business. ■

Here are just some of the research findings from the interim results

Disclosure -
Cultural Connections is owned by Eric Chuah, who is also the co-founder of Multicultural Times.





Security & Automation





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Organisations come together to celebrate India's 72nd Independence Day

India is known for its unity in diversity. A mini-Europe, sort of, with hundreds of languages spoken, every prominent religion practised, and cuisine and culture differing from region to region. That's why when Indians move abroad, even while forming pan-Indian identity denoting associations, region-specific organisations are also very common. Like in Auckland, while there's a New Zealand Indian Central Association, but there's a Tamil Association as well.

But importantly, while organisations celebrate their regional festivals separately, everyone comes together to mark the three national days of India - Republic Day (January 26, when Indian constitution was implemented), Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (October 2), and August 15, when India got its independence from the British.

This is what happened on August 12, in Auckland as well, when at the famous Mahatma Gandhi Centre the following organisations came together and marked the biggest ever Indian Independence Day celebrations in the city:

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Mahatma Gandhi Centre/Auckland Indian Association, Auckland Tamil Association, New Zealand Telugu Association, Telangana Association of New Zealand, Auckland Malayali Samajam, Gujarati Samaj New Zealand, Shanti Niwas Charitable Trust, Telangana Jagruthi New Zealand, New Zealand Sikh Women's Association, Woman Care Trust, Auckland Marathi Association, and Bihar Jharkhand Sabha of Australia and New Zealand.



Political leaders and MPs from the treasury and opposition benches made an appearance too. Leader of Opposition Simon Bridges addressing the gathering here.



From Maharastra, South Western India



NZ Police came along as well



From Punjab, North India



From Kerala, South India



From Gujarat, Western India

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- submissions end on September 30

All content on this page is courtesy Te Puni Kōkiri. We encourage our readers to visit the organisation's website www.tpk.govt.nz to read more about what it does, as well as about Maihi Karauna.

Te reo Māori remains a crucial cultural asset for Māori and is protected under the Treaty of Waitangi. And Te Puni Kōkiri is playing a leading role in the government's efforts to support the revitalisation of the Māori language. This is the first time the Crown and Māori, represented by Te Mātāwai, have entered into an active, planned partnership for revitalisation. Te Mātāwai is a new organisation established under Te Ture mō te Reo Māori 2016 (The Māori Language Act 2016) to lead revitalisation of te reo Māori on behalf of iwi and Māori. Te Mātāwai has 13 members.

- seven appointed by iwi
- four appointed by reo tukutuku (Māori language stakeholder) organisations
- two appointed by the Minister for Māori Development.

The purpose of the new act is to revitalise the Māori language, and to affirm the status of the Māori language as;

- the indigenous language of New Zealand
- a taonga of iwi and Māori
- a language valued by the nation
- an official language of New Zealand.

Maihi Karauna

The Maihi Karauna is the Crown's strategy for Māori language revitalisation. It is for all New Zealanders. It outlines what the Crown will do to support a strong, healthy, thriving Māori language; Kia māhorahora te reo - everywhere, every way, for everyone, every day. A draft of the Maihi Karauna was released for public consultation on August 3, 2018. Consultation on it ends on September 30, 2018.

You can give your feedback by completing the surveys on www.tpk.govt.nz/maihikarauna either in English or in te reo Māori. For more detailed submissions you can also email maihi.karauna@tpk.govt.nz

Maihi Karauna has been developed by Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori, Te Māngai Pāhō, the Māori Television Service, Ministry of Education, Department of Internal Affairs and Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Te Puni Kōkiri, in partnership with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, is leading the development and implementation planning for the Maihi Karauna, alongside other Crown agencies and Crown-funded entities. The draft Maihi Karauna complements the Maihi Māori, the strategy developed by Te Mātāwai for language revitalisation among whānau, in homes and at community level. ■

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Why we should all work towards saving Te Reo Māori in New Zealand

Ever since the country started marking the Maori Language Week in 1975, the cultural and historical argument to preserve the language has held its ground. It's time to introduce the economic element into it as well.

Endangered Language Alliance (ELA) – a non-profit based in New York and working towards preserving the world's linguistic diversity – outlines three fundamental reasons to save a language from dying: human rights, communal identity and science. What can be added in te reo Māori's case is the economic benefit that New Zealand will have if this 800-year-old treasure flourishes here again.

Economics of collective knowledge

First and foremost – and in the domain where some work has already started – is te reo Māori's extensive database of weather and climate of New Zealand.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), a crown research institute established in 1992, says, “Over the centuries, Māori have developed an extensive knowledge of weather and climate. The lessons learnt have been incorporated into traditional and modern practices of agriculture, sailing, fishing, and conservation.”

“NIWA's research and development unit, in collaboration with iwis from across New Zealand, has initiated a project to explore this traditional knowledge, and link events in the natural world to the forecasting of weather and climate,” adds the institute.

And this is not unique to New Zealand's oldest language.

As Judith Thurman points out in her brilliant article in The New Yorker, “The taxonomies of endangered languages often distinguish hundreds more types of flora and fauna than are known to Western science.”

“Take for example, Polynesian herbal doctors of Samoa who had an extensive nomenclature for endemic diseases; or the Haunóo tribe of the Philippines which has forty expressions for types of soil; or the forest-dwelling healers of South-east Asia who have identified the medicinal properties of some sixty-five hundred species,” she adds.

A case in point – where Māori knowledge had helped New Zealand trade – was the country's flax business.

Flax – one of the New Zealand's most distinctive native plants – was used by Māori since 1200s as raw materials for clothing and home-ware, as well as for medicinal purposes.

When Europeans arrived in the 1700s, they expanded the usage to rope-making to be fitted in sailing ships, among other uses. It grew to an extent that a flax fibre trade started between New Zealand, Australia and Britain, which peaked in the 1830s.

In a nutshell, Māori's knowledge of flax and its subsequent enhancement by Pakeha can be touted as probably one of the first examples of overseas trade by this great trading nation.

Some might say that whatever scientific knowledge te reo Māori had incorporated since 1200s, western science has already made use of it in the last 200 years.

But recalling how te reo Māori and its usage was actively discouraged in the country till few decades ago, it's quite plausible that we will discover newer knowledge as more and more people learn the language and revisit its literature, stories, and events.

Economics of communal identity

Another economic benefit is the role te reo Māori can play in helping offenders identified with Māori ethnicity reintegrate into the society.

The statistics show that almost 50 percent (50.8%) of our prison population is identified as Māori. This is well over the proportion of people with Māori ethnicity in the country's population, which is 15 percent according to the 2013 census.

Most of these offenders are victims of alcohol and drug abuse themselves, who need societal and systemic support to come back to the mainstream.

And as pointed by ELA, “The value of rooted identities to individual and communal health is only now beginning to find wider acceptance among scientific circles. Studies in both the United

States and Australia have shown significant correlations between increased use of indigenous language and avoidance of drug and alcohol abuse. What is the reason behind this? It is very likely that the very act of speaking one's traditional communal language is living proof that one does not belong to a vanquished people.”

ELA refers to a 2011 Australia study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths which linked “speaking an indigenous language to youth well-being”.

The US, in fact, has used “American Indian cultural activities in substance abuse prevention programs as part of the indigenous cultural renaissance that has been under way in tribal communities since the late 1960's”, noted authors Ruth Sanchez-Way and Sandie Johnson in their paper published by the National Criminal Reference Service (NCJRS) of America.

Thus, as it had done in other countries, wide use and encouragement of te reo Māori among offenders identified as having Māori ethnicity will certainly help Corrections in achieving its goal of reducing re-offending, which in turn has tremendous economic benefits to the society.

Kia ora
Hi! G'day!

Haere mai
Welcome! Come!

Morena
Good morning!

Economics of multilingualism

Finally – and it's a no-brainer really because various studies have proved this in the last few decades – multilingualism improves creativity, cognitive development, and problem-solving abilities in humans.

Thus, when Jeffrey Kluger, senior editor at the Time magazine, writes, “New studies are showing that a multilingual brain is nimbler, quicker, better able to deal with ambiguities, resolve conflicts and even resist Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia longer,”; we can extrapolate his argument and infer that a future New Zealand, where every kid learns at least two languages – English and another of his or her choice (preferably Maori because of its other benefits and relevance here, but may be Chinese, German, French etc.) – will be a country of more creative and more healthy citizenry.

This will mean more entrepreneurship, more leaders, more innovation, more businesses, i.e. an improved economic scene overall.

What we will save in reduced healthcare costs due to less instances of mental health diseases will be an added economic advantage. ■



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Your corner
This, as the title suggests, is 'Your Corner'. Simply put, these are stories of migrants in their own words. How they came to New Zealand, and then slowly, brick by brick, how they built their lives here. We don't edit this section. These are stories of new Kiwis, as they feel like telling it.

Leita Hassan from Sudan and Ansha Mohammed Adem from Ethiopia tell their stories

They are supported by the WISE Project, which is run under a unique partnership between the Auckland Resettled Community Coalition and the Auckland Regional Migrant Services Charitable Trust. The project supports refugee background women to develop the necessary knowledge, skills, confidence and resources to start-up or contribute to activities for generating income for their families. More than 800 women have engaged with the WISE Collective Project since its inception five years ago, and come from 18 different countries.

Ansha's story

I am Ansha Mohammed Adem. I came to New Zealand to join my daughter in February 2008. At that time, I had to leave my 10 months old son back home. I felt I had lost my life; I felt no hope for the future. The happiness of joining my daughter could not really cover the sadness and pain in the deepest part of my heart.

The whole environment was completely new to me. I did not speak English; I did not know how to drive. I was all alone at home every day as my daughter was attending school. I was crying almost every day. The only way I felt I was alive and useful was cooking and cleaning for my daughter. Yet I knew I had to do something to start a new life here. So I attended an English course as I wanted to learn the language as the first step.

After studying English for a while, I was happy realise I could still learn. Slowly, I gained courage to think about studying a skill and employment. I attended an Early Childhood Care Certificate course and did well in my study. Unfortunately, I was sick and had an operation and had to rest for a long period of time. My lonely days

started again; and I was not sure when I would feel the joy of learning again.

To my happiness, my son joined me in New Zealand 2013. I was so happy to have him beside me. It gave me lots of happiness and hope for life. I was recovering slowly and I was looking for a new start for our life.

A friend of mine, talked about the Wise Collective and suggested I join in. I loved the Wise Collective from day one. The staff are friendly and supportive. They made me feel like part of them straight away. I thought I came to the right place. And I am correct.

They introduced the WISE Collective workshops and community activities to me. I have attended these on a regular basis. I experienced what it is like knitting, screen printing, making embroidery, and catering. I enjoyed learning and tried to find my own interest. I am interested in making embroidery on table clothes, beddings, and other household stuff. If my situation allows, I would like to open my own business based on this skill in future.

By saying that, I am so grateful to the WISE



Ansha Mohammed Adem (picture credit Steven Wong)

Collective that through providing opportunities, it changed me from a shy, stressed, unconfident woman to an open-minded, happy and confident woman, to the point that now I can even think of having my own business.

Another interest of mine is catering. The WISE Collective helped me to develop these skills. They introduced me to a Food Handling Certificate course where I learned lots of new things about food preparation. The WISE

Collective also provided several chances for me to practice my skills at big events.

Once I performed preparing traditional Ethiopian coffee. I was so happy that all my coffee was sold out. People enjoyed it. Another time I was asked to sell finger foods at a community event. People were queuing to buy my food.

Seeing this I was so excited. "I am alive, I am living" I kept saying this to myself

throughout the event and all the way back home. That excitement is still fresh in my memory and it always gives me hope and encouragement. Many thanks for the WISE Collective for bringing such a huge change in my life. Without the support and opportunities from the WISE Collective, I could not imagine myself being so hopeful about the future, "Thank you WISE Collective: you are giving life to me".

- continued on page 11

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THE MISSION STATEMENT
shall be as follows:

To work together to promote educational and social activities as a means of increasing understanding between cultures and strengthening New Zealand society.

GOALS
The goals of the Society shall be

To foster awareness of each culture and communication between members of the Society.

To experience and learn from the customs, traditions and ways of life of the ethnic groups represented in the Society as well as the wider community.

To achieve through educational and community projects deeper understanding and appreciation of different culture.

To publicise and promote the Multicultural goals and work of the Society as a means towards achieving unity in New Zealand

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CROESO KONNICHI WA BUENOS DIOS FAKA LOFA LAHI ATU NISA BULA KAM MAURI TASHI DELEK VANAKAM BON JOUR

IA ORANA ASALAANI ALEKUM KAI ORA NAMAATI ALOHA GROETEN GREETINGS SHALOM WELKOM SELAMUDATANG

Leita's story



Leita Hassan (picture credit Steven Wong)

I am Leita Hassan. I came to New Zealand with my husband and two children on March, 2014. We stayed at the Mangere camp for six weeks before moving to a rental house in Mt Roskill. My husband was looking for a job, and I was a housewife looking after the family. My daily routine was cooking and cleaning for my family. I seldom went out because I was too shy. I also did not feel that I could do anything outside the house.

My only connection with community was through Auckland Refugee Community Coalition. My husband

attended community activities there as a representative of the Sudanese community. Whenever he went, he asked me to come as well. And I went along with a plate of food I have cooked. I did so because I am good at cooking and everyone liked my food.

At one activity, we met a WISE Collective staff member. She liked my food and made positive comments about it. She also asked me if I would like to join the WISE Collective where women from refugee backgrounds get various sorts of support. It sounded good but I was not sure what I would do there.

Still I visited WISE Collective. I received a warm welcome and came to know that they have many activities for the women. I was quite interested in selling ethnic food at the New Lynne Night Market. But I hesitated because I do not have any experience in such activity and also did not know any food handling rules. .

The WISE Collective encouraged me to make good use of my strength in cooking. They gave me all the support I needed to become skilled and confident. The staff are patient and encouraging. They helped me to get familiar with all the details of running a food stall. They also arranged me to have Food Safety Handling training. As a result, in a short time, I was ready to run a stall at market.

I am so happy that I have got such a chance. Every week, I look forward to the day to arrive. I love to meet my customers. They like my food. Yet, they are more than just customers. We sometimes have time to talk to each other while we do business. Such friendly talks really give me lots of encouragement and a sense of being part of a bigger community.

I also enjoy working with other WISE women at the market. We act as a friendly team. We help each other to set up the stalls and clean them at the end. We share our experiences about running food stalls because that is how we improve together.

I would like to call the Night Market day as my 'Lucky Day', because it brings me the luck to be able to practice what I am passionate about, to feel friendship, and to grow with the support of WISE Collective.

Besides the Night Market, WISE Collective also gave me a chance to be part of the catering team and run food stalls at events around Auckland. I would never imagine myself being involved in big activities like that, but I have successfully managed it several times. I am so grateful to the WISE Collective which has enabled me to learn and practice, and be confident in what I am doing. My success is due to the support and encouragement from WISE Collective.

My family is very pleased to see me improving. They are happy that being part of WISE Collective has made me more confident and make good use of my potentiality in cooking. Therefore, they are very supportive of my activities. My husband has always made himself ready whenever I need transport to my 'Lucky Day' and other WISE Collective activities. As such, we appreciate that WISE Collective has embraced me and has given me chances to grow. ■

Public Meeting

Deborah Russell

MP for New Lynn



Let's talk immigration

with MP for Palmerston North and Minister of Immigration Iain Lees-Galloway

Tuesday 21 August 2018
7pm | New Lynn Friendship Club



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Tour company to pay \$110,000 for employment breaches

06 March 2018

Alps Travel, a South Island based tour company primarily aimed at tourists from China, has been ordered to pay \$75,000 in penalties and more than \$35,000 in arrears after a Labour Inspectorate investigation found serious breaches of employment law.

“Employees were working very long hours while being paid a daily rate, regardless of how many hours they worked. This meant they were not being paid minimum wage, and they were also left without holiday pay,” says Labour Inspectorate regional manager Jeanie Borsboom

“This employer also failed to keep accurate time, wage, holiday or leave records, and made unlawful deductions from their employees to discipline them for things like bus damage or negative customer feedback – all completely unacceptable under New Zealand employment law.”



Construction firm hammered with 19k penalty for employment breaches

Setia Construction 2013 Limited was fined \$14,000 for 17 breaches of employment standards, having some of its visa-dependent migrant workers on unlawful casual employment agreements that did not provide for entitlements such as sick leave and pay on public holidays.

“It is the nature of the relationship that is important, not the label you give your employee in the employment agreement – and in any case, casual employees, like all other employees, are entitled to holiday pay,” says Mr Milne.

“Too many employers take a misguided ‘no work, no pay’ attitude with casual employees that leads to entitlements to paid leave being ignored, opening themselves up to be penalised.”

02 May 2018

12 July 2018

Japanese fishing company to pay 180k for exploitation of workers in NZ waters

The Employment Relations Authority (ERA) has made the order against Watarai Company Limited for serious breaches of minimum employment standards while its vessel, Koshin Maru 7, was chartered by New Zealand Japan Tuna Company Limited in New Zealand waters between 1 May and 23 June 2015.

The company’s wage and time records were not compliant with the law and the wages the crew received did not match the wages they were entitled to, based on true hours worked.

The amount imposed includes \$97,715.87 for minimum wage entitlements, a penalty of \$80,000 and \$2071.56 for costs incurred by the Labour Inspector pursuing the case.

20 June 2018

Farm penalised \$45k for exploiting ‘volunteer’ workers

A farm near Christchurch has been penalised more than \$45,000 by the Employment Relations Authority (ERA) for exploiting volunteer workers, following a Labour Inspectorate investigation.

Robinwood Farms Limited, whose sole director and shareholder is Julia Osselton, was found to have breached the rights of workers who she claimed were ‘volunteers’, rather than employees, in a bid to avoid meeting her obligations under New Zealand law.



Restaurant chain owner fined over \$40,000 for underpaying staff

An Indian restaurant chain has been fined more than \$40,000 in penalties after several breaches to employment law, despite having paid more than \$24,000 to staff in arrears previously.

Shamiana Limited and Shamiana Enterprises Limited, with Satish Shetty as the sole director and shareholder, have been fined \$41,000 in penalties after several breaches to employment law.

Following complaints received by the Labour Inspectorate, it’s been found that Mr Shetty failed to pay staff minimum wage and holiday pay, as well as keep correct employment agreements.

“The continuous nature of these breaches, despite remediation at the time, shows that Mr Shetty wasn’t taking his obligations as an employer of 120 staff seriously.”

16 March 2018

Kiwifruit picking company to pay \$30k for employment law breaches

18 May 2018

Aulack Enterprises Limited, and its sole director, Hardeep Singh, were first issued an improvement notice by the Labour Inspectorate in 2014 for failing to pay minimum wage. Despite this warning, a visit by the Inspectorate in mid-2016 found more issues.

travellers on working holiday visas, and less likely to understand their employment rights, which suggests an element of exploitation by this employer who was taking advantage of their ignorance or inability to find other work.

“As this case demonstrates, repeated breaches of employment law will result in serious penalties. While the whole sum of money owed to the employees was \$487.65, it was the persistent and deliberate nature of the breaches that lead to a \$30,000 penalty for Mr Singh.

“It’s surprising to continue to find breaches in an industry which is calling out for more workers, as generally people aren’t throwing their hands up to work for employers that don’t meet the minimum standards,” says Labour Inspectorate regional manager Kevin Finnegan

“The workers affected were primarily casual workers or



Domino’s franchisees to pay more than \$32,000 for employment breaches

Two companies, which operated as Domino’s pizza franchises in Auckland, have been penalised \$32,400 for serious breaches of employment law, following a Labour Inspectorate investigation.

E Lynn Limited and E Ming Limited, operated by Mr Xi Chen, failed to provide their employees with correct employment agreements and to keep correct wage, time, holiday and leave records.

The businesses were based in Henderson and Te Atatu, and the breaches affected some 112 staff across both.

09 July 2018

CourierPost contractor to pay more than \$37k for employment breaches

A joint operation between the Labour Inspectorate, Immigration New Zealand and Inland Revenue in Marlborough vineyards found contractors committing serious breaches of employment standards.

Among the breaches included the failure to pay the workers, mostly recent migrants from India, for tasks such as preparing the vehicles for delivery which could take up to two hours every day.

08 May 2018



Business owner banned from employing staff after serious breaches

05 April 2018

The former owner of Christchurch bar and eatery, Watershed Bar and Restaurant, and restaurant, Sequoia 88, and the sole director and shareholder of Victoria 88 Limited, Gordon Freeman, was banned from hiring, being involved in hiring employees, or being an officer of an employer, following an application by the Labour Inspectorate to the Employment Court.

Labour Inspectorate national manager Stu Lumsden says, “This case demonstrates the Inspectorate’s commitment to having employers removed from the labour market who seriously fail to meet their obligations, and are unfit to be employers.”

“Mr Freeman cynically abused the trust placed in employers, and disregarded the basic rules put in place to ensure everyone in the workplace is getting a fair deal. This ban should serve as a clear warning to any other employers who aren’t taking their obligations seriously.”

The decision came after Mr Freeman, despite being fined by the Employment Relations Authority (ERA) previously, continued to include an illegal clause in his employment agreements stating that staff would forfeit their holiday pay if less than six weeks’ notice was given when resigning.



Construction firm hammered with 19k penalty for employment breaches

02 May 2018

Setia Construction 2013 Limited was fined \$14,000 for 17 breaches of employment standards, having some of its visa-dependent migrant workers on unlawful casual employment agreements that did not provide for entitlements such as sick leave and pay on public holidays. Setia Construction’s sole director, was penalised \$5,000 for facilitating the breaches, which included failing to provide employees the minimum wage, holiday and termination pay, and not having compliant employment agreements.

Christchurch restaurants to pay \$70k for multiple employment law breaches

20 April 2018

The director of Japan Power, which trades as Samurai Bowl, Masakazu Takeuchi, said he did not agree with New Zealand employment law, and ran his business “how it is in Japan”.

“These were significant breaches of employment standards done by an employer who failed to follow New Zealand law, and as a result left his employees out of pocket,” says Labour Inspectorate regional manager Jeanie Borsboom.

“By not correctly paying annual leave, alternative holiday pay and public holiday, and paying on the basis of minimum wage rates rather than their agreed hourly rate, Japan Power breached the rights of 25 employees.”



BP franchisee owes \$250,000 for breaching employment law

Pegasus Energy Limited, which operated as a BP station in Hastings has been ordered to pay upwards of \$132,000 in arrears to two ex-staff and \$120,000 in penalties.

“These employees were not paid the minimum wage, or holiday pay by sole director Jag Rawat. They were subjected to unlawful premiums being deducted from their pay and were at times working up to 16 hour shifts, with lesser hours falsely recorded in the business’s records.”

The pair was made to live in accommodation provided by the employer and pay excessive amounts in rent, despite poor living conditions where they were required to sleep on the floor.

“The employees continuously received threats from Mr Rawat saying that he would cancel their visas and they’d be forced to leave New Zealand if they spoke up about the mistreatment. Mr Rawat also threatened trouble in the employees’ home countries on return,” says Ms Ward.

The seriousness of the breaches resulted in Mr Rawat being personally liable for a further \$24,000 in penalties.

11 April 2018

Building companies penalised for turning blind eye to employment breaches

Juno Homes Limited and EXP Builders Limited failed to keep employment records, ensure workers were paid correct holiday pay, and to comply with an improvement notice issued by the Labour Inspectorate in March last year.

Labour Inspectorate regional manager Jeanie Borsboom says, “The companies, directed by Mr Chunnan Li, were ordered to pay \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively. He has also been given 20 days to comply with the Inspectorate’s improvement notice.”

25 June 2018



Tips for designing a bed and breakfast in New Zealand

People think that any building can be turned into Airbnb. However, it is not like that if architects and planners opinions are anything to go by. The plan and design have to be exquisite to prevent complaints from neighbours, comply with the regulations, and maximise the space and number of guests.

Corner and front site would be the best location

How to choose an appropriate location for bed and breakfast? Wayne Wang, a planner with GUC Consultants, told *Yiju New Zealand* that quiet, convenience and safety are the most important factors.

Generally speaking, he would recommend front or corner site in an urban zone, which will minimise interruption to neighbours. Comparatively speaking, a front site will have less interruption to those dwellers at back site.

Meanwhile, front site is better for public surveillance to ensure community safety in the long term. No one would like to stay at a bed and breakfast on a hidden or closed back site. After all, safety is the top priority for a tourist in an unfamiliar city.

If the bed and breakfast is more focused on customers who like to stay away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the owner should be more careful if they operate a cottage by the sea, mountain or forest, which are often located at a remote rural area. The landlord should install outdoor lighting system to ensure safe traffic at night since there is no public lighting system in most rural areas in New Zealand. Outdoor lighting is especially important for tourists, unfamiliar with local road condition, to drive on the narrow private path without guardrails.

If it is outdoor parking, the owner should consider providing solid parking spot, such as a formed driveway or pavement. The outdoor of New Zealand is usually wet and slippery due to rainy weather. Formed driveway or pavement will reduce the chance of accident significantly. Same is the case for sidewalks.

Consider the flexibility of housing purpose

Before construction, many elements determining the performance of the bed and breakfast have already been embedded. Above all, the architect needs to consider how to reflect the flexibility of a house’s purpose, and build a house that can accommodate

the needs of various customer group and housing purpose.

Generally speaking, a house built for Airbnb may be sold or switched to owner-occupation later on. If the owner has a similar plan, the kitchen should be designed as normal size to accommodate the owner-occupation needs later on.

In addition, Robben Han, Design Manager of Vikon – an Auckland based architectural design company, told *Yiju New Zealand* that consideration should be taken for the future owner-occupation purpose from design to material. Such as using lighter clap-board for exterior walls. Brick not only take longer to be installed, but also are harder to be remove.

Be cautious about number of kitchens to prevent excessive compliance cost

In Wayne's opinion, the criteria for a house for rent should be stricter than owner-occupied ones. Firstly, factors like house condition, structure, fire-proofing, damp-proofing and insulation should comply with the New Zealand Building Code. Secondly, both the interior and exterior construction should meet the local authority's planning standard.

He emphasised the principle of "one kitchen one house". Landlords should not build several illegal kitchens aiming to rent the house to different guests. Meanwhile, they should consult with local authority or planning consulting firm for any alteration. Any additional kitchen should be reviewed to meet urban planning regulations. The landlord needs to apply for resource consent and pay for development contribution fee for anything beyond permission already given.

He reminds investors never to breach regulations for immediate interest. Otherwise, they may have to pay a significant fine later, and restore the property as per local authority's order. Furthermore, the insurance company will not settle the claim for a property without proper consent.

Enhance the usage of living space

Under certain circumstances, a living room can be converted into a bedroom, which will attract families or groups with more people.

Unlike residential properties, interior space of an Airbnb house needs to be fully used. Robben indicated that maximisation of living space usually means detached

garage rather than an attached one, to make space for a room.

Additionally, one living room could be shared by two independent bedrooms subject to reasonable design. Robben advised living room could be put in the middle with two to three bedrooms on both sides equipped with sliding doors. The entire space for one group of guests or separate space for two groups of guest could be switched back and forth with the sliding door.

Also, the space superiority of yard could be exerted to some degree . Dylan Huang, founder of Archiland and Secretary General of New Zealand Chinese Building Industry Association (NZCBIA) told *Yiju New Zealand* that a prefabricated tiny house of 10m2 can accommodate a double bed, living room, writing desk, pantry (without water). Larger trailer cabin will accommodate a double bed, dining room, kitchen, and toilet. "As long as the yard is to a certain size, professional architects will be able to avoid the approval procedure in accordance with regulations to meet local authority's requirement."

"More bedrooms do not guarantee considerable revenue for the bed and breakfast. The owner needs a balance to ensure residential quality and comply with authority's regulations".

Wayne pointed out that adequate and warm outdoor living area, optimal distance between houses, standard bedroom will instantly enhance the overall residential quality of the bed and breakfast. It will then bring the owner considerable revenue and returning guests.

As per the standard of Auckland Unitary Plan, the smallest two-person bedroom must have a dimension of 3m in depth and 3m in width, Wayne informed. He adds, “The outdoor living area must have a minimum dimension of 4m in depth and 5m in width, and must not be located to the south of the house. A principal living room must have an outlook space with a minimum dimension of 6m in depth and 4m in width. Where the room has two or more external faces with windows the outlook space must be provided from the face with the largest area of glazing. A principal bedroom must have an outlook space with a minimum dimension of 3m in depth and 3m in width.”

Cost reduction

Meanwhile, Robben noted that



(Photo by Daniel Barnes on Unsplash)

"...quiet, convenience and safety.."

some Airbnb investors have started using prefabrication to reduce construction time and cost. Nowadays, there are manufactures producing standardised bathrooms and walls to be assembled on the construction site.

Prefabrication is an emerging construction practice. How much will it save in cost?

Dylan, who has researched and harnessed prefabrication for a long time, compared the costs of building a house with four bedrooms and one living, using both conventional construction practice, and prefabrication.

The cost of conventional construction practice is minimum \$350,000 and it will take nine months from design to finish. Nevertheless, the cost of a prefabricated tiny house is maximum \$150,000 and the residents can move in after 2-4 weeks of assembly.

Dylan has a backyard of 200m2, and he plans to build a property of four bedrooms and one living room on it using two trailer cabins and three prefabricated tiny houses of 10m2, including a suite. At present, the components are being manufactured.

Moreover, if an older house is being converted into a bed and breakfast, Prefinish should be considered.

The conventional way of building a partition in New Zealand includes "timber frame + plaster wood + plastering + paint". Prefinish is made up of wall assembly like Lego and colourful paint-free panels with various patterns, which will accelerate the construction speed 3-5 times.

In the field of prefabrication, use of modular technology can further reduce the assembly time.

Care about guests' feeling

An ordinary living space will differentiate the master

bedroom and other bedrooms with size.

Robben noted that an Airbnb house should be designed with equal size, and each room should have as many windows as possible for daylight. Guests will have a comparison if there are huge differences in size and daylight between two rooms at the same price.

If the owner wants to put writing desk and sofa in the room, the unit size of Airbnb room will be bigger than an ordinary residence. The smallest two-person room of ordinary residence is 10-12 m2, and such an Airbnb room will have to be 15 m2, according to Robben.

In addition, the number of bathrooms should match the number of bedrooms. An Airbnb house will have more bathrooms than ordinary residence, according to Robben. Taking cost into consideration, there should be a reasonable ratio between guests and bathroom. If the bathroom is to be shared by guests, then the shower room and toilet should be designed separately.

Usually, people living in Airbnb houses are strangers. That’s why Robben suggested that each room should be equipped with an outswing door, or be connected through a corridor. An interior or exterior stair could be utilised if it is a two-floor house. Nevertheless, an interior stair can hardly achieve perfect separation.

"All these practices are to enhance guests’ privacy and comfort,” he concludes. ■

- by Xiuyue Chen, first published in the Chinese property magazine *Yiju New Zealand*

Disclosure - Yiju New Zealand is owned by Pauline Gao, who also sits on the Advisory Board of Multicultural Times.

Viva Eclectika 2018

The biennial Viva Eclectika Intercultural Music and Dance performance is presented by New Zealand Asia Association (NZAA) Incorporated. With the Late Right Reverend Sir Paul Reeves as its Patron, the association has been presenting the event for over 10 years now. In recognition of NZAA's outstanding contribution to diversity in Aotearoa New Zealand, it was presented by the New Zealand Diversity Action Award in 2014, by the then Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae. This year the event was held on July 28, in Auckland.

"Traditionally ethnic dancers present their culture to the community as showcase of a single culture. The concept of Viva Eclectika is to take this one step further by showcasing fusion performances where dancers from two or more diverse cultures bring together elements of both into a single dance. In doing this, the Viva Eclectika event not only bridges understanding between ethnic communities and the mainstream, but also between individual communities," explains the association.

This year, the audience were treated to a never-before

collaboration of two different Indian dance styles with Bulgarian dance, which brought together 24 talented and vibrant dancers. It was a collaboration between Tapasya School of Classical Dance and Bulgarian Roses.

A special guest performance was from The Swagganauts from the Identity Dance Company, who were placed fifth at the world Hip Hop Champs last year.



Participants at Viva Eclectika 2018 beaming with smiles



Winner (up), second runner-up (right)



First runner-up

In all, Viva Eclectika 2018 featured performers of all ages - from primary school right through to dancers in their 80s.

"Dance not only unites cultures, it also crosses age and generational boundaries," noted the association in a Facebook post. ■

Pacific Education Summit

What kind of education system do you want?
What kind of education system do you want for your children and grandchildren?

The Honourable Jenny Salesa Associate Minister of Education will be at the Pacific Education Summit to hear from our Pacific families and communities



Thursday 16th August 2018, 6pm - 9:30pm
Naenae College Hall
910 High Street, Lower Hutt

The Pacific Education Summits are part of the ongoing education conversation and will give our Pacific communities a unique opportunity to have their say.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
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conversation.education.govt.nz
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Local talent showcased at ISCC mid-winter event



(picture courtesy: ISCC)

The 350-odd audience who attended the Midwinter Talent Show organised by the Christchurch-based Indian Social and Cultural Club on August 4, were treated to some amazing performances, including 18 different song and dance sequences.

Whether it was a song by a five year young performer, or one of the

energetic group dance performances, or a classical dance - the audience were thoroughly entertained, and kept engaged throughout the show. There was never a dull moment throughout the evening.

To quote the chief guest Christchurch Councillor Jimmy Chen, who is a long term supporter of the multiculturalism and diversity in our community, “Every performance was of high quality, very enjoyable. It was really an unforgettable evening.”

In addition to Indian items, a Latin dance and a Chinese group performance added to the variety on offer.

As in 2017, the main sponsor of the event was China Southern Airlines. What better example of the multi-multiculturalism than a Chinese airline being a main sponsor for an “Indian event”!

There were awards for the top performers, which were declared based on a three-judge-panel and audience votes.

The price of the ticket included food served before the programme. Mango lassi and samosas were available to purchase, to those who wanted more. ■

- by Shirish Paranjape, JP and Friend of Multicultural Times

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Wellington’s international accessibility needs to improve: Mayor Justin Lester



Wellington Mayor Justin Lester (picture courtesy: YeyingZhu)

The Mayor made this observation at the formal launch event of fifth India NZ Business Council (INZBC) Summit, which will be held on September 28, in Auckland, and will focus on aviation, tourism and technology.

Addressing the gathering in the capital on August 7, the mayor while commenting on the need for Wellington to increase

international linkage, noted, “ Singapore Airlines has done this through a link to Wellington via Melbourne but more would be better. We would like more tourists and businesses coming to Wellington, as the city provides advantages of cheaper housing, the highest educated work force, and is home to some great companies such as Xero.”

The Mayor then went on to outline various developments in transport and housing to increase Wellington’s accessibility. “The proposed Movie Museum will add to tourism stocks and make Wellington a must-see destination,” he said.

He also noted the importance of culture which is central to Wellington’s identity as New Zealand’s “cultural capital”. “More international visitors coming here, including students, will enhance that cultural connection, increasing Wellington’s growing reputation as a place of acceptance and diversity,” he added.

Jay Changlani, Wellington Chapter Head of INZBC, concluded, “This event was an effort to get greater participation from Wellington and the regions for the big annual summit, which is a business event of national importance now. We encourage Kiwis to participate in big numbers and engage with the incoming delegates from India, who are not easy to get hold of when we visit there”, said Jay. ■



www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz
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India New Zealand Business Council

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Top 10 ways to reduce your food waste

The average New Zealand family throws away \$563 worth of uneaten food every year.

Sad, isn't it?
Sadder still, all of it could have been eaten.

For ways to reduce your food waste visit lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

LOVE FOOD hate waste NEW ZEALAND

Try our **TOP TIPS** to reduce your food waste

PLAN your meals
WRITE a shopping list
CHECK use-by & best-before dates
MEASURE your serving sizes
STORE your food correctly
USE your leftovers

LOVE FOOD hate waste NEW ZEALAND
lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

- So you know that wasting food is bad for the environment and is costing you money, but you may be wondering how you actually reduce your food waste. Making a few small changes to how you shop, store and cook your food can make a huge difference and will reduce how much food you waste, and save you money at the same time.
- Store your bread in the freezer**
Kiwis throw away 20 million loaves of bread every year, mostly because it has gone stale or mouldy. There's a simple way to fix that - keep your bread in the freezer instead of the pantry and it will stay fresh and mould free.
 - Eat your leftovers**
If you've made too much, don't throw away the leftovers. Even if it is just a small amount, it's worth popping them in the fridge for later.
 - Keep bananas out of the fruit bowl**
If bananas are kept in the fruit bowl they ripen faster due to the ethylene gas released by fruits such as apples and pears. Once bananas are ripe they then produce ethylene gas which ripens other fruit. Keep bananas out of the fridge and away from other fruits.
 - Store potatoes and onions away from each other**
While it may be convenient to store potatoes and onions together, as they both like cool, dark conditions, storing them together will cause them to sprout faster. Keep your potatoes in your pantry and your onions somewhere else.
 - Plan your meals, make a list**
By knowing exactly what your family will be eating for the coming meals, you'll be able to buy only the food you need. Make sure you check your cupboards, fridge, and freezer before you make your meal plan and shopping list so you can use up what you already have.
 - If you can, shop more often**
By going to the supermarket more regularly, you can buy fresh produce in smaller quantities which means it will be fresher for when you eat it. You're
- also less likely to buy "just in case" items which you may not end up eating before they go off.
- If in doubt, freeze your food**
Freezers work like a giant pause button, preserving the quality of food almost indefinitely. If you're not sure when you are going to eat something, freeze it, then it will be there when you need it. Think it can't be frozen? Think again. Almost everything can be successfully frozen, with the exception of vegetables with high water content like lettuce and cucumber.
 - Don't peel your produce**
Peeling vegetables (and many fruits) is a waste of food, time, money, fibre and nutrients. You may not think those few potato skins make a difference, but collectively in New Zealand we throw away 13,658 tonnes of vegetables peelings and 986 tonnes of fruit peelings every year. You don't need to peel most of your produce, instead just wash your fruit and vegetables before eating them to remove any dirt. If you do have potato peels, try making these crispy potato skins.
 - Know what dates are important**
Knowing the difference between use by and best before dates will help you throw away less food. Food can be safely eaten past a best before date, providing there is no sign of spoiling. On the other hand, food should not be eaten after its use by date, unless it was frozen beforehand.
 - If you can't eat it, give it to someone who can**
Maybe you have leftover birthday cake, a tree brimming with citrus or a bottle of milk you're not going to use before you go on holiday. Before you biff it, ask if there is someone else who may want it. Could you give the cake to a friend, ask your neighbour if they would like some fruit and take the bottle of milk into the office? On a wider scale, there are other places that you can donate food. For packaged food, try food banks or the Auckland or Christchurch Community Fridges. For cooked food, look at social networks like Meals for Mums or The Social Pantry. ■

Food waste is a massive problem in New Zealand

Inspired by the Love Food Hate Waste campaign in Great Britain, we undertook some research to find out if household food waste was a problem in Aotearoa.

Turns out food waste is a problem, with the average Kiwi family throwing away three shopping trolleys of edible food each year.

In order to reduce the amount of food going to waste (and the vast financial and environmental costs associated with it) WasteMINZ has partnered with 60 councils and community groups and the Ministry for the Environment to deliver Love Food Hate Waste in Aotearoa. It is a three-

year campaign which launched on 1 June 2016.

Love Food Hate Waste started in Great Britain in 2007 and has been successful in reducing the amount of food that British households throw out. The campaign is also currently being run in Scotland, Vancouver, New South Wales and Victoria.

Contact Us
Whether you want to share your food waste tip with us or have questions about food waste in New Zealand, we'd love to hear from you.

Email info@lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

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Is your rental home insulated?

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- courtesy **Tenancy Services**



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About Auckland Regional Migrant Services Trust (ARMS)

We are a specialist settlement support agency, providing targeted programmes for skilled migrants, international students, other work visa holders, former refugees and their families. Our programmes and services are delivered in several locations across Auckland.

To find out more about ARMS visit <https://settlement.org.nz>

Media contact:

Rochana Sheward
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Volunteering provides pathway to paid work



(International student Vinkal Gaur (left) credits volunteering and networking opportunities found through Multicultural Whangarei for finding his perfect job; Volunteering gave migrant Astrid Kelly local work experience and references used to find paid work at Literacy Whangarei)



Whangarei migrants Vinkal Gaur and Astrid Kelly found that volunteering helped them successfully find paid work.

International Northtec student Vinkal Guar came to New Zealand in 2017 to study a degree in sport. He wanted to build networks and applied for advertised jobs but found the lack of response frustrating. "I applied for jobs," he says, "but I never heard back."

As part of a Multicultural Whangarei employment program he volunteered to lead Yoga classes. Then a referral to the Whangarei Aquatic Centre resulted in a few weeks working as a volunteer there until he was offered a paid job as a group fitness instructor.

"This is the ideal job for me," he says, "it is an amazing place to work... it is very satisfying."

Migrant Astrid Kelly had a similar experience; after migrating to New Zealand from the Philippines to join her kiwi husband she searched for jobs and learnt that volunteering could help.

"Volunteering can give you exposure... it can be a stepping stone to work," she says. Like Gaur, she had no success in applying for advertised jobs but worked as a volunteer through a Multicultural Whangarei employment program and joining Volunteer Northland.

"My first volunteering in administration was for Plunket," says Kelly. She was also a volunteer event photographer for Multicultural Whangarei.

She used these work experiences and references when applying for paid work at Literacy Whangarei, a vacancy she discovered through her Multicultural Whangarei network. She has

worked as a Literacy Whangarei administrator since May 2017.

"Volunteering is good for foreigners to know how it works here in New Zealand," Kelly says.

Multicultural Whangarei Centre Manager Jessie Manney agrees, "Lots of New Zealand employers want local experience."

As well as gaining local work experience and references, Manney has found volunteering helps migrants develop networks, get to know their community and learn how things are done here. She has observed that being a successful volunteer helps newcomers build confidence as well as provides opportunities to practice language skills, all of which help with success in getting paid work. ■

- by Volunteering Northland, Reporter Cathy Robinson

Spike in number of women applying to become firefighters



(picture courtesy: Joy Kochakkan/ JK Images)

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is hailing a spike in the number of women applying to become firefighters.

"With 12 days to go till the current round of recruitment closes, 75 women have completed applications to enter our recruitment pool," said Fire and Emergency Recruitment Manager Rochelle Martin adding, "That's the highest number we've ever had, but we'd like to see even more women putting their names forward. Presently only 4 percent of firefighters are female. Women bring a different and valuable set of skills and attributes to the job and we're keen to increase their number."

With 434 applications already in, total applications are also on track to be the highest ever for a single recruitment round. Once applications close, applicants will be interviewed and put through physical and cognitive tests. Successful applicants do three months training at Fire and Emergency's National Training Centre in Rotorua before beginning their careers as firefighters. Each course has places for 24 recruits.

This, Martin noted, is a reflection of the high regard in which firefighters are held and the variety and challenges of a job in which no two days are the same. The current recruitment round closes on August 20. ■

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- 2018 firefighter recruitment

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Applications open on 20 July and close at 10am on **20 August 2018.**

You must pass a series of tests (including fitness) before progressing to the formal interview stage.

Successful candidates must be available to start residential training on 7th January or 1st April 2019.

- all information courtesy Fire and Emergency New Zealand



Participants at the inaugural Ethnic Media Summit held in Auckland's Superdiversity Centre on July 31

National public education strategy for CALD communities by 2019: Civil Defence

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) has enlisted the support and advice of Auckland Emergency Management as it develops a new national public education strategy for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, which is due to be released early next year.

The ministry is also providing funding support to a joint project by the Christchurch City Council and Plains FM 96.9 – a community access radio station based there - to

develop foreign language emergency messaging for radio.

It has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Deaf Aotearoa as part of its ongoing drive to improve the accessibility of emergency information.

All this came out at a recent summit held in Auckland at the Superdiversity Centre chaired by prominent lawyer Mai Chen, during which ethnic media outlets, MCDEM, and Auckland

Emergency Management (AEM) met, developed understanding and identified opportunities to keep diverse communities safe.

Several media outlets attended the summit - including this newspaper - Chinese New Zealand Herald, Skykiwi, Mandarin Pages, NZ Messenger, Waikato Weekly Chinese newspaper, Korea Post, Radio Tarana, Indian Newslink, Tagata Pasifika, and WTV, among others.

"Our research shows that migrants and non-English

speakers have lower rates of preparedness than most New Zealanders. This means that when an emergency happens, they are more likely to be adversely affected. We believe that everybody has the right to be safe and informed in emergencies," noted MCDEM's Director Sarah Stuart-Black addressing the gathering at the summit.

"As around half of New Zealand's CALD communities live in Auckland, which is one of the world's most ethnically diverse cities, Auckland Emergency Management

already work extensively with these communities and ethnic media outlets. We want to ensure that we learn from and support this good work, and are able to share it across New Zealand," she said.

Sarah Sinclair, Director of AEM, while calling Auckland's diversity "a strength" concluded, " It can be further harnessed through collaborating with MCDEM and our ethnic media on making sure we recognise and value our diverse communities." ■

New Zealand

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A bit of history

Even though British East India Company entered the Indian sub-continent in the 1600s, it took them almost 150 years to establish their rule in India. The company rule (1757-1857) officially ended when it was transferred to the Crown, and Queen Victoria became the Empress of India in 1858, after the First War of Indian Independence of 1857. With Congress leading the charge, and Mahatma Gandhi entering the Indian freedom struggle after his return from South Africa in 1917, the Indian struggle for independence gained momentum. All-India Muslim League became a prominent player in the struggle in the 1930s and 40s, under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The British policy of divide and rule, came to fruition when British India was partitioned into the two modern states of Pakistan and India, which came into being on 14-15 August, 1947, respectively. These are the dates the two countries celebrate their Independence Day ever since.

Celebrating 71 years of independence

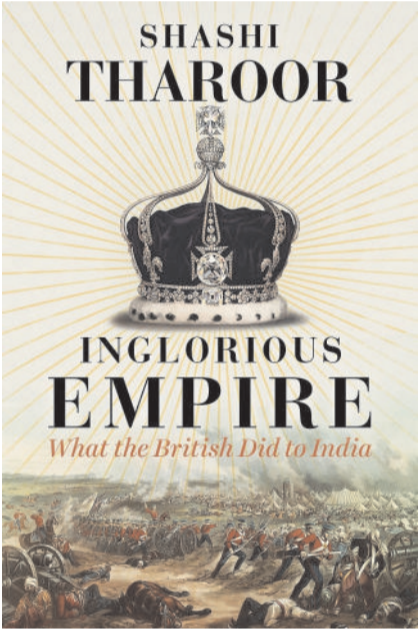




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Book

Does Britain owe India reparations for its colonial rule?

“why hasn’t Gandhi died yet - Churchill”

As India celebrated its 72nd independence day this month, the country also debated whether Britain owes reparations to world's largest democracy for its almost 200 years of colonial rule that ended on August 15, 1947.

Actually the debate (re)started with former minister of state for external affairs Shashi Tharoor dismantling the myth of Britishers being “benevolent colonial masters” at an Oxford Union (UK) debate few years back. He then followed it up with a detailed book on the subject released early this year, *Inglorious Empire* - what the British did to India.

This is noteworthy and very timely, as noted by The Guardian in its review of the book. “A 2014 poll in the UK found that 59% of people thought the British Empire was something to be proud of, and nearly half believed countries were better off for having been colonised. Tharoor’s passionately argued book provides a crushing rebuttal of such ideas with regard to India. The subjugation of his people was ‘a monstrous crime’ and any positives were mere by-products of actions not intended to benefit Indians,” said the UK newspaper.


Some snippets from Tharoor’s book and his speech at the Oxford Union:

- India's share in world economy fell from 23% - nearly as large as all of Europe put together then - to 4% in all these years. In fact, Britain's rise for 200 years was financed by its depredations in India. A classic example was the destruction of Indian textiles industry and its replacement by mills in England using raw materials exported from India, which led to our share of world textiles exports falling from 27% to 2%.
- Arguing against British claims of its rule being “enlightened despotism”, Tharoor noted historical events such as “Jallianwallah Bagh massacre of 1919, blowing freedom fighters to bits from the mouths of cannons and upholding iniquity through institutionalised racism”.
- The human cost was immense too as during the colonial rule between 15 and 29 million Indians were starved to death.
- Of these, most notable was the Great Bengal Famine of 1943 during which over four million Bengalis died after

Winston Churchill deliberately ordered the diversion of food from starving Indian civilians to well-supplied British soldiers.

- “When officers of conscience pointed out in a telegram to the Prime Minister the scale of the tragedy caused by his decisions, Churchill's only response was to ask peevishly 'why hasn't Gandhi died yet?'”, Tharoor noted.
- As regards to imperialist arguments of colonialism benefiting India by providing it political unity, railways and the English language; the former minister argued, “With modern technology, transport and communications, we could have achieved all this without having to be colonized. Moreover, these so called 'benefits' were simply instruments of colonialism put in place to serve British interests.”

Meanwhile acknowledging that today's Britons are not responsible for some of these reparations, Tharoor concluded in his speech, “Just accepting the principle that reparations are owed would be enough.” ■



सत्यमेव जयते

सत्यमेव जयते

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

CELEBRATION OF
INDIA’S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Wednesday, 15 August, 2018

PROGRAMME

10.30 AM

- ❖ Hoisting of the National Flag
- ❖ Singing of the National Anthem
- ❖ Reading out the message of the Hon'ble President of India
- ❖ Singing of patriotic songs

Venue

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All Indian Nationals / Persons of Indian origin / Friends of India are cordially invited to attend the function.

Kindly reach the venue by 10.15 am

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Under Countdown

5pm - 11pm

Wednesday

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5pm - 11pm

Thursday

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Under KMART

5:30pm - 11pm

Friday

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5pm - 11pm

Friday

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Under KMART

5:30pm - 12am

Saturday

PAKURANGA

Under The Warehouse

5:30pm - 12am

Sunday

GLENFIELD

Mall Under Countdown

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Sunday

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The Base

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DATES : Monday 27th August - Monday 3rd September 2018
TIME : 7.00 pm - 10.30 pm

PROGRAMME: 7.00 pm - Start
7.30 pm - Canch Vandana
7.45 pm - Katha parashar
9.00 pm - Shanti Path
9.35 pm - Prasad

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A portrait of Nathan Miglani, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a white shirt and a dark plaid blazer. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

Nathan Miglani

Mortgage Advisor



021 021 20555



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