

## Greetings

### ...from the Chair



*'There can be so much stress when you are new but when you leave the Migrant Centre office, you feel you have climbed a ladder and can live life the same as everyone else in Marlborough.'*

A new migrant, after accessing the services offered at the Marlborough Migrant Centre

Welcome to the first Marlborough Migrant Centre Newsletter of 2016. We hope all of you have a great year and that we can continue to offer a useful service to Marlborough's growing and varied migrant communities.

Last year was exciting and challenging for the Centre. Census 2013 showed increased numbers of migrants moving into Marlborough and we continue to offer them a much needed service. We have provided advocacy and support around accommodation, employment, education, health and welfare issues. Being able to manage these aspects of life can make settling into Marlborough so much easier for new migrants.

Social events have been important too. Apart from morning teas, people enjoyed the Thai New Year Songkran Festival, a combined Chinese and

Korean celebration, the enthusiastic Dance Extravaganza in July, and finally, the International Migrants Day Celebration dinner in December.

Keep an eye on our website at [www.migrantcentre.org.nz](http://www.migrantcentre.org.nz) for this year's events - and do remember to 'like' us on Facebook to keep in touch during 2016.

**Tracey Ellis**

### ...from the Manager



Finally, Fadia, Rajai and family, from Jordan, are now New Zealand citizens. Congratulations to all!

Organising the Multicultural Festival is well underway (more on page 2). We're registering participants now. It'll be a good day, so tell your friends, watch Facebook for updates, and contact us at the Migrant Centre to register.

I look forward to working collaboratively with other agencies in 2016 to continue providing wraparound advocacy and support to our growing migrant communities.

And once again, Happy New Year - and may we all achieve good things in 2016.

**Margaret Western**

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This year, the Migrant Centre welcomes new management committee members, who will offer useful skills and experience to help us continue our work. (The names of all our committee members are on our website.)

Our new staff member is Paddy O'Dea, also a new migrant to Marlborough, having spent the past fifteen years in the UK as an editor and writer.

Here now, is news from our migrant community. We are sad to have lost Tina Radley, a valued friend and a strong supporter of the Filipino community. She'll be missed and our deep sympathies go to her family.

There's happy news too. Marco & Sylvia have welcomed their dear wee girl, and Eva & Balazs and Malia & Rick are proud parents of precious new baby boys.

Nuraeni and her family have completed a challenging and stressful journey - their New Zealand residency has now been granted and they can look forward to really settling in New Zealand.



## Marlborough Multicultural Festival - 2016



You'll have noticed that the face of Marlborough is changing and being enriched by a wonderful mix of different nationalities and languages.

The Marlborough Multicultural Festival gives everyone in Marlborough the opportunity to welcome and celebrate these changes and to get to know more about other people's cultures, languages and traditions.

If you were here last year, you'll remember that we sadly had to cancel the Festival because of poor weather.

This year, the summer looks promising so far, and we've decided to run the Festival a month before Race Relations Day (which is usually in March). February is usually a better month for summer weather, so let's hope we have a clear, blue day for the event.

Bring your families to the Festival and enjoy traditional music, dance and ethnic food and meet other newcomers to Marlborough. There'll be a parade of people in their traditional dress, ethnic food, craft and information stalls.

**Saturday 27 February 2016** is the date to put in your diaries.

The Festival will be held between 11am and 4pm at Baden Powell Green, Pollard Park, Blenheim.

If you would like to take part, please email us at [info@migrantcentre.co.nz](mailto:info@migrantcentre.co.nz) - or call us at one of the numbers on the back of this Newsletter in order to register.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Your local library is a great public resource for you

Any newcomer to Marlborough will always find the Marlborough District Libraries an interesting and useful place to visit.

Apart from the huge range of books, magazines and E-content, you'll find information about the Marlborough region, New Zealand history, films and music, and a space for children with regular activities. Computers are available for use and you can access a free wi-fi service.

There are two libraries: Marlborough District Library (Blenheim) and Picton Library and Service Centre. Check their websites to see what free events are taking place at each. For example, beginning on 10 February at Marlborough District Library (Blenheim), there will be series of information sessions from Community Law. The first is about employment law, which could be useful to newcomers to Marlborough.

Visit the website at:

[www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz)

## Marlborough Migrant Centre - membership fees

To do our work at the Marlborough Migrant Centre, we need to gather funding from various sources - and a small but important part of our funding is made up of membership fees.

If you are not yet a member of the Marlborough Migrant Centre, please do join us.

The annual membership fee is \$5 per person and enables the Migrant Centre to offer its members access to some events during the year.

Please send your fee to us at:

Marlborough Migrant Centre  
Marlborough House  
21 Henry Street  
Blenheim 7201



## Free healthcare in New Zealand

For any new migrant to New Zealand, knowing how to receive healthcare is an important issue. Here are some points to note, with details about where you can find more information.

To be eligible for free healthcare in New Zealand, you need to be one of the following:

- A New Zealand citizen (including New Zealand citizens living in the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau)
- A person with New Zealand Residency
- A refugee with proof of status
- A pregnant woman, lawfully in New Zealand with a spouse/partner who is a New Zealand citizen/permanent resident (maternity care only)
- A foreign worker with work permit(s) for two or more years
- An Australian or UK resident who needs 'immediate necessary treatment'
- A child of 18 years or under who is under the legal guardianship of an eligible person.

Children are entitled to free dental care from birth until they are 18 years old. It is important to enrol your child. Phone 03 520 9922 for more information.

If you are an overseas visitor to New Zealand, and you have an accident here, you can receive free emergency treatment. However, for any ongoing treatment you need to apply to Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC).

Healthcare is also free for anyone admitted to hospital in New Zealand under a 'compulsory treatment order' issued under The Tuberculosis Act, The Mental Health Act, or the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act.

To find out what documents prove that you are eligible for free healthcare in New Zealand and also who pays for your treatment if you are not eligible for free healthcare, please visit [www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility).

To find out more about health care in Marlborough, please contact the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board on 03 520 9999.



## Chinese New Year 2016

It's Chinese New Year again - so please do come along to the Marlborough Migrant Centre to celebrate with us at a **morning tea at 10.30am on Wednesday, 10 February**.

If you would like to bring along a plate of something delicious to share, that would be appreciated.

The Chinese New Year is the most important date in the Chinese festival calendar and this year is the Year of the Sheep.

Find out more about [what the Chinese New Year festival means](#).

## Keep in touch with us...

When you are a newcomer, finding people who are also new is a great way to learn about settling. Sharing your stories and knowledge with others can help make the settlement journey in a new country easier.

For this reason, the Migrant Centre offers a series of morning teas and potluck meal events, so do keep an eye on our Facebook pages and our website:

[The Marlborough Migrant Centre](#)

[The Marlborough Newcomers Network](#)

[www.migrantcentre.org.nz](http://www.migrantcentre.org.nz)

**Our opening hours are:**  
10am to 3pm Monday to Thursday

