Welcoming Whanganui

A monthly update on events, opportunities and stories for newcomers and our diverse communities

Kia ora koutou

Another month is here with plenty more opportunities to connect, learn and get involved. Read on for a quick round-up of what's coming up and some of the great welcoming mahi happening across our community!

On a personal note, I was able to connect with my 'Canadian pen pal' this month, as part of the Global Peer Connect programme.
My peer, Nancy, is based on Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. While our communities are on opposite sides of the world, there are some strong parallels: both are relatively small communities with a strong Indigenous presence and growing cultural diversity, and both are navigating how to ensure newcomers can connect, participate and feel a sense of belonging. Epektwik (PEI) is home to the Mi'kmaq (MIG-mah), the traditional people of Epekwitk/PEI, and has also experienced significant growth in international and interprovincial migration in recent years. We also filmed an interview with the Canadian news network, CBC. I hope to share that with you in the next pānui!

Grace - Community Activator

Castlecliff Water issues

If you are experiencing discoloured water, sand, sediment, grit, reduced water pressure, or problems with taps, filters, hot water cylinders or appliances, please contact Whanganui District Council on 06 349 0001 so we can record your details and arrange follow-up support. Find out more here

Save the date!

Expressions of Interest are still open for the below events. Please check the end of the newsletter for more details
✨Whānau Ora Day: 7 November
✨ Fest of Cultural Unity: 14 November (please reach out to Hellen Puhipuhi for any pātai)
✨ La Fiesta Womens Festival: 10 February - 10 March

Have something to share?

Are you doing something welcoming in Whanganui? Have an event, activity, group or opportunity you'd like to share? Get in touch with the Welcoming Communities coordinator and we may be able to include it in a future update | grace.humphreys@whanganui.govt.nz

Welcoming Communities
TE WAHAROA KI NGĀ HAPORI

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

What's happening this month

CASTLECLIFF COMMUNITY WATER DROP-IN | 10 & 11 OCTOBER | DUNCAN PAVILLION

Drop-in sessions for community affected by Castlecliff water issues at the Duncan Pavilion, Castlecliff Beach. Please feel free to come along at any time between 10.00am and 2.00pm. A sausage sizzle will be provided. More info here

LUNCH AND LEARN | 14 OCTOBER | COMMUNITY HOUSE

Navigating complexities with Jo Voice. Responding to challenging behaviors and barriers to change. BYO lunch, coffee & tea provided. Find out more → hello@cldcollective.org.nz

ENROLMENT AND EDUCATION POP-UP | 14 OCTOBER | HAKEKE ST COMMUNITY CENTRE

Balance Aotearoa, in collaboration with the Electoral Commission, is hosting free enrolment and education pop-ups in Whanganui. If you're not sure whether you're enrolled to vote, this is a great chance to check your details, enrol, and learn how the election and enrolment process works — in a friendly, no-pressure space. Free sausage sizzle!

FESTIVAL OF DESIGN | 16-25 OCTOBER | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

50+ events. Local and international speakers. Ten days of design across Whanganui and Palmerston North. Explore the full Festival of Design Aotearoa Event Guide here — from talks, workshops and exhibitions to open studios, tours, performances and experiences. Hear from leading local, national and international voices, explore architecture and public spaces, get hands-on with creative workshops, or bring friends and whānau along to one of the many free and family-friendly events.

WHANGANUI FUN PALACES | 16 OCTOBER | WAR MEMORIAL CENTRE

Immerse yourself in interactive play! Listen to Small Talks, watch a secret play, play in the box wars, parade, make a mess, make some weird noise with Neil and Rosie with their extraordinary instruments, make a song without words with Whetu, and more... paint, upcycle, fabricate, smoosh, squish, think, play and create. Whoever you are, young, old or in-between, the Fun Palace is a space for everyone to embrace their creativity and culture whatever that looks like. Find more info here

DIWALI CELEBRATIONS | 31 OCTOBER | WAR MEMORIAL CENTRE

Everyone welcome for a night of food, dance and music - celebrating the light of Diwali. Hosted by Lotus Indian Group from 6pm

Where possible, full event posters/guides are available at the end of the newsletter

Community Spotlight

Lunch and Learn with William ‘Gumz’ Pati
A fantastic session with Gumz which was well attended. the session was interactive, with good vives and insighful info on engaging with different pacific communities





Candlelight vigil for Nepal
From the Multicultural Council Facebook page: Thank you all for braving the weather to join the prayers organised by the Multicultural Council Rangitikei/Whanganui in solidarity with Nepal. Our heartfelt thanks to Carl Bates, Andrew Tripe, the Nepalese community, and everyone who came together in support. From here in Aotearoa, our hearts are with Nepal and all those affected. If you’d like to help, you can donate to Nepal’s Prime Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund online

Welcome to Kelly Sparrow - coordinator for Multicultural Council

Kelly is excited to be appointed as the new Coordinator for the Whanganui Rangitīkei Multicultural Council and looks forward to meeting new people, building relationships & discovering new opportunities for the Council to connect with & support our wonderfully diverse community!

See the original post here



Community Spotlight

Continued...



Living Well, Ageing Well expo

Hosted by Whanganui District Council, Grey Power, U3A, Your Way Kia Roha, Te Oranganui, Age Concern, Whanganui Regional Health Network, the event saw over 55 exhibitors, guest speakers and special performances come together to celebrate positive ageing in our community. The event was a great success with ~500 visitors!

Newcomer groups

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP

The International Women's Group is a long-running programme at English Language Partners Whanganui, where women from a diverse range of cultures meet to improve their English Language skills and make new friends in a welcoming and inclusive group.
Suite 6/66 Ingestre Street, 9:45AM on Fridays | whanganui@englishlanguage.org.nz

SENIORS GROUP

A friendly space to connect, share a cuppa, and enjoy good company, hosted by the Multicultural Council of Whanganui and Rangitikei. Whether you're a regular or coming for the first time, you're most welcome!
137 Anzac Parade, 10:30 AM on Thursdays | info@wanganuimulticultural.co.nz

MULTICULTURAL MUMS: COFFEE & CONNECT GROUP

A space for coffee, connection and conversation with other local parents. Everyone is welcome! Hosted by Whānau Āwhina Plunket and supported by the Multicultural Council of Whanganui and Rangitikei. Runs for 5 weeks on October 6 - November 3.
Whanganui Plunket Hub, 10AM on Tuesdays | dipti.pandrangi@plunket.org.nz

Welcoming Communities advisory group

Our final meeting for the year is 24 November at 101 Guyton Street

Interested in joining our advisory group? you can contact Grace at the email address above *or* if you know an existing group member, have a chat with them first. You can also check out our website



Community Spotlight

Introducing Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust

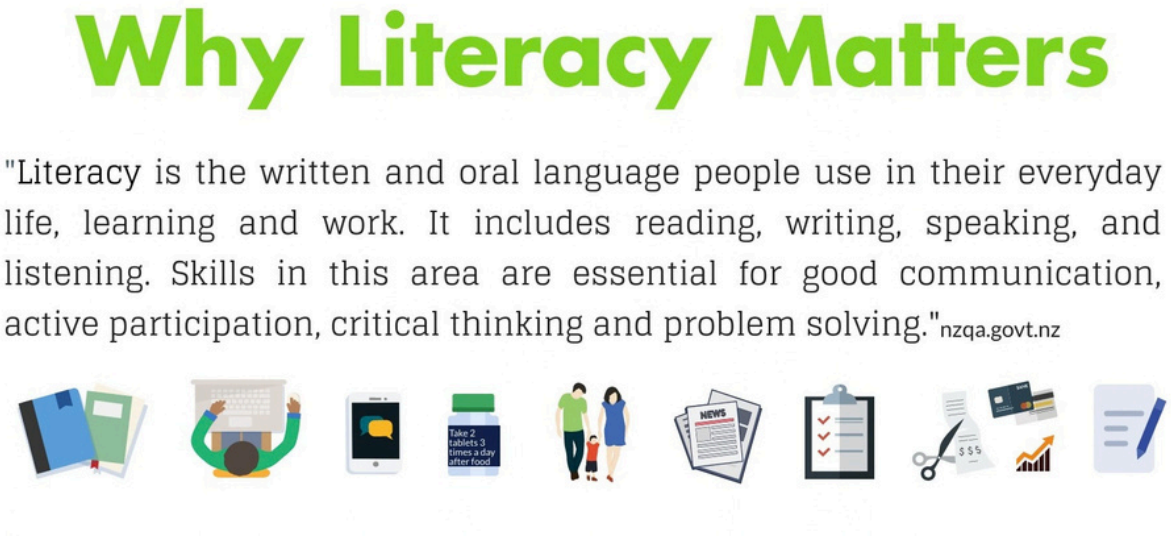
Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust is a non-profit for rural or isolated adults and teens with literacy problems. This includes everyone - parents, grandparents, farm workers, farmers, unemployed and low- skilled workers and business people. Trained volunteer coaches provide free coaching - usually online - 3-5 times a week. The learner's goals and interests are the starting point. For example, their aims can be passing NCEA, getting a (better) job, reading to their children, reading important documents and information. We can help with accessing cheap internet.

RYALT began in 2011 because isolated or rural adults who could not read and write and were not close to an adult literacy centre had no way of learning, no way to make these changes for the better, and so in turn they could not realise their potential, they could not achieve the possibilities and opportunities they are capable of. As one student put it, "When I was at school, I never thought I would be able to do anything like this. It's more fun than school and has given me confidence". In 2018, the literacy trust started working with teenagers, especially pre NCEA, years 9 & 10 (ages 13 & 14).



Why is there a need for literacy programmes?

International research tells us the proportion of adults who can't handle the literacy requirements of everyday life is 11.8%. Another 8% are employed and struggling with literacy at work. Education Hub (March 2023) reports that as many as 30% of NZ teenagers have very low literacy levels.

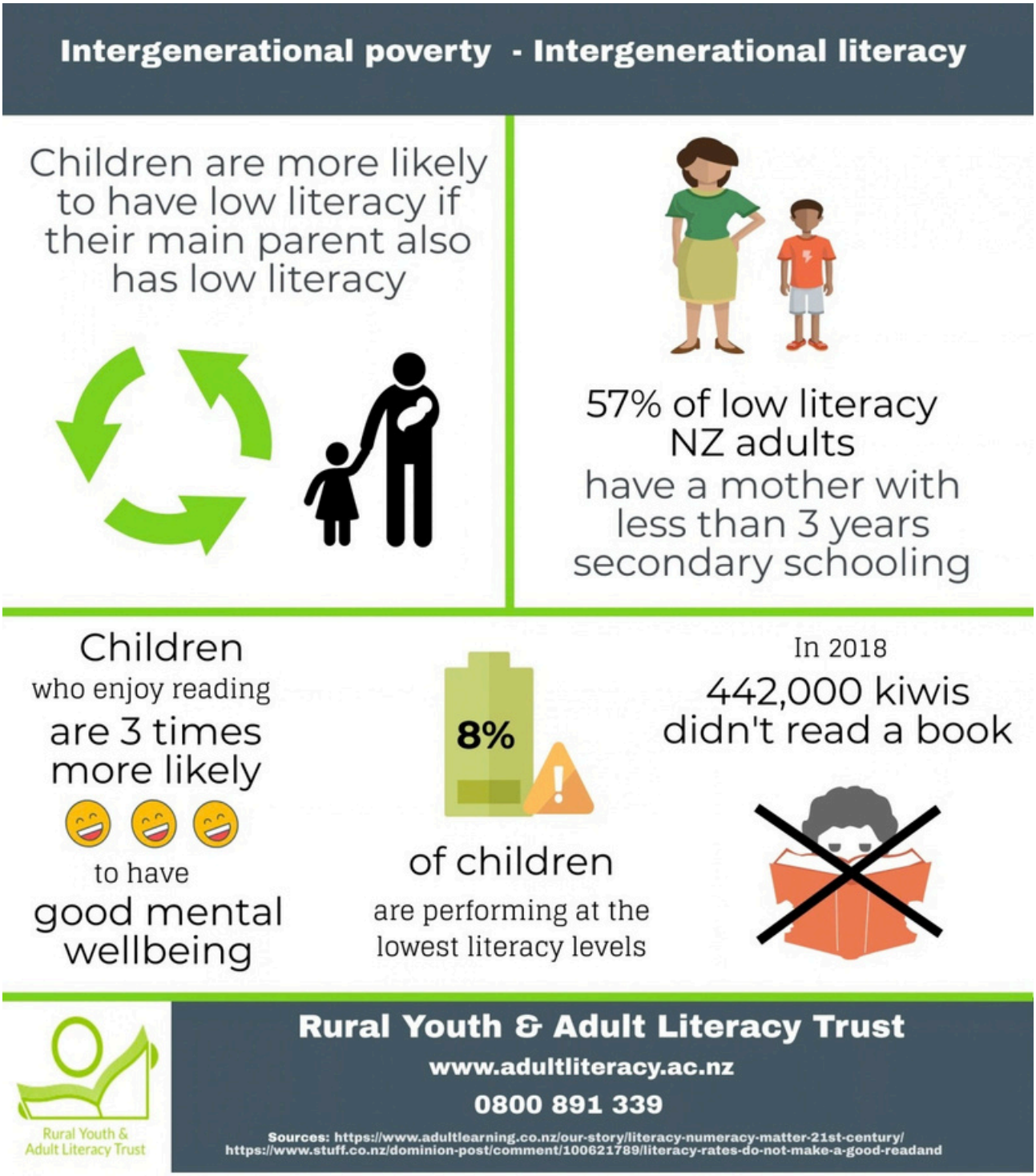


Most of our students are parents of young children or teens. However, some are in their sixties. Some are migrants or refugees – they need to be proficient in spoken English (or they can study with English Language Partners). This free online one-to-one coaching is for anyone who is isolated (for example, lives rurally).



How to access tuition: https://adultliteracy.ac.nz/our-services/literacy-lessons/

Our coaches are trained volunteers. More are welcome. Check out our website for more info.



Our local contact for the Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust:

Clare Fearnley - Community Ambassador Whanganui
(Voluntary, part-time)
021 0622 120
clare@adultliteracy.ac.nz | www.adultliteracy.ac.nz



Weekly Senior Group

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 10.30AM

137 ANZAC PARADE, WHANGANUI EAST

(Multicultural Offices)

OPEN TO ALL

Get connected
Meet new people
Gain support



Nau mai Haere mai... Everyone is welcome!

Multicultural Mums Coffee & Connect Group

Every Tuesday for 5 weeks - October 6 - November 3
10am- 12pm | Whanganui Plunket Hub

Join us for coffee, connection, and conversation with local mums. Share experiences and learn from one another in a safe welcoming space.
Facilitated by Komal and supported by the Multicultural Council of Whanganui & Rangitīkei in collaboration with Whānau Āwhina Plunket.

email: dipti.pandrangi@plunket.org.nz to register

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
RANGITĪKEI/WHANGANUI
HELPING NEWCOMERS FEEL AT HOME

whānau āwhina
plunket

L & L 2026



LUNCH & LEARN

Come along to our FREE Lunch & Learn sessions every second Wednesday of the month. A relaxed and inclusive space to meet others, enjoy lunch, and learn something new.

Bring your lunch
Tea and Coffee provided

12:00PM - 1:00PM
COMMUNITY HOUSE

hello@cldcollective.org.nz

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

- **Wed 9 Sep:** Bridging Cultures, Building Connection with William "Gumz" Pati
  Welcoming Week 2026
- **Wed 14 Oct:** Navigating Complexities with Jo Voice.
  Responding to complexity, challenging behaviour and barriers to change
- **Wed 11 Nov:** Reflect, Reset & Prepare for the New Year with Beth Savage
- **Wed 9 Dec:** Wellbeing Shared Lunch

Proudly faciliated by the

Community-Led Development Collective Whanganui
many voices, shared purpose

LOTUS INDIAN GROUP WHANGANUI INVITES YOU ALL
TO JOIN AND WISHES EVERYONE

HAPPY Diwali CELEBRATION

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 31 AT 6:00PM

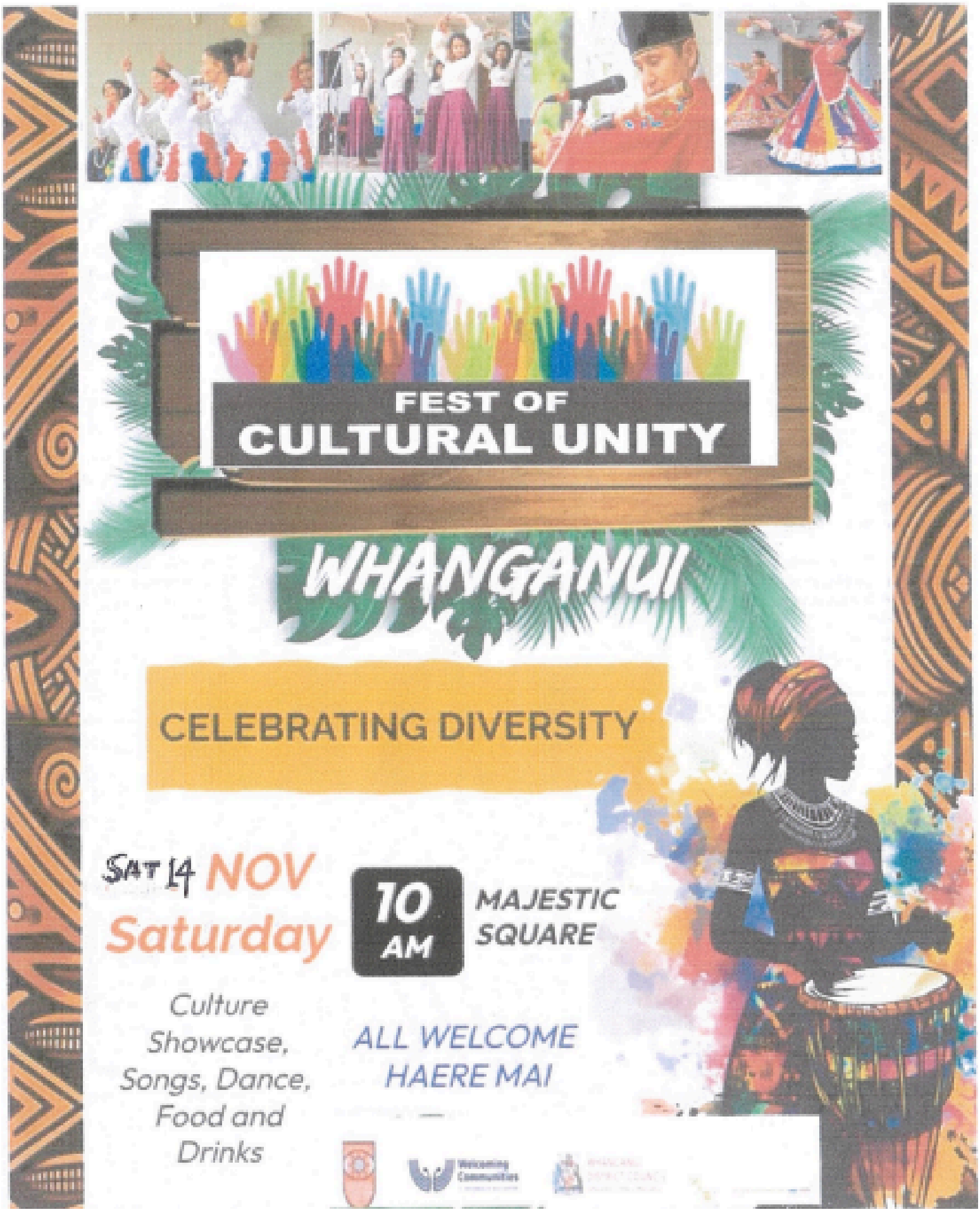
2026

FOOD | DANCE | MUSIC

VENUE:
WAR MEMORIAL HALL
WHANGANUI

Hosted by Lotus Indian Group Whanganui

RSVP: Mohini Ph: 021 256 9349


FEST OF
CULTURAL UNITY
WHANGANUI
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
SAT 14 NOV
Saturday
10 AM
MAJESTIC SQUARE
Culture Showcase, Songs, Dance, Food and Drinks
ALL WELCOME
HAERE MAI

MULTICULTURAL Feast & Festival

Let's celebrate Diwali

SATURDAY
14 NOVEMBER 2026



Food Carts and Stalls
Available from 4pm

Entertainment
from 4.30-7.30pm



Marton RSA Memorial Hall

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL RANGITĪKEI/WHANGANUI

Ministry for Ethnic Communities Te Tari Mātāwaka

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

For more information contact:
info@rangitikei.govt.nz | 0800 422 522

LA FIESTA IS NZ'S BEST WOMEN'S FEST

La Fiesta number 18 is set to run from 10 February to 10 March 2027
Brought to you by the wonderful Whanganui Women's Network

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE NOW OPEN!

Got a cool idea for a festival event or activity or know someone who does? Get in touch!

SUBMISSIONS DUE: 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Find out more about La Fiesta at our festival website: lafiesta.co.nz

Facebook pages: La Fiesta NZ Women's Network Whanganui



FOR AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM:
womnet.whanganui@gmail.com





Te Oranganui Trust is excited to invite you to be part of Whānau Ora Day 2026, happening on Saturday, 7th November 2026, 10am – 2pm at Springvale Stadium, Whanganui.

This special event is all about giving back to our whānau and community - promoting health, wellbeing, and FUN for all ages in a safe and uplifting environment. It's a chance for everyone to connect, celebrate, and explore the many services and opportunities available locally.

We're looking for passionate vendors, providers, and creatives to run free activities, demonstrations, or experiences that our whānau can enjoy. Keeping the day completely "FREE" is essential! This ensures accessibility for all, removes barriers, and it reflects the kaupapa of manaakitanga and equity.

If you'd like to be part of Whanau Ora Day 2026, please complete our registration form here:
Whānau Ora Day Registrations 2026 – Fill in form

We would love to have you join us in making Whānau Ora Day 2026 a celebration to remember.

Contact:
Alana Adamson
Kaitaataki Clinical Lead Waiora Hinengaro
P +64 27 468 0152 E alana.adamson@teoranganui.co.nz
P +64 6 349 0007 W www.teoranganui.co.nz