



## **TIMARU DISTRICT MULTI-ETHNIC COUNCIL**

### **Building Bridges of Friendship**

#### **NEWSLETTER – MAY 2008**

#### **Greetings to all Members**

It was great to see so many new faces at our meeting a fortnight ago when Viv Woods our local immigration consultant spoke. Caroline has contributed the following report :-.

On Sunday the 4 May at our monthly pot-luck dinner we had the pleasure of a special guest speaker, Vivienne Wood. Vivienne is the only local Immigration Consultant resident in Timaru. She came along to our meeting and shared aspects of her role and gave us an insight into the Immigration Service in New Zealand. The following were some of the key points that Vivienne highlighted:-

- there are no 'warm fuzzies' as far as dealing with Immigration NZ - it is strictly "do you fit the criteria?"
- meeting the 'criteria' can be difficult as the Immigration Act is a living document and is constantly changing
- every case is an individual case and is therefore taken on it's own merits
- do you fit into the category that you are applying within?
- the Review Committee cannot move legislation and policy - you must fit the criteria!
- you either fit the box or you don't fit the box - it is that simple as far as the Immigration Dept is concerned
- please make sure that any family that you are trying to assist getting into NZ know everything they need to about the criteria required
- if you are bringing in a partner from o/s you must make sure that you provide all of the information together to the Immigration Service
- the Immigration Dept will investigate you in your home country before allowing you to have a visa in NZ
- it is a good idea to take an advocate with you when you go to meet the people from the Immigration Dept

- it is not a right for your family to receive a visitor's permit to visit you whilst you are living in NZ. You may have to apply more than once for this to be granted to them.
- there are several health issues to be aware of when applying to immigrate to NZ
- if your family are entering the Country to visit you and any risk is determined, then your family may be asked to place a bond of money with the Immigration Service that is held until they leave the Country.
- NB. just because you may hold a work permit in NZ this is no guarantee that you will be granted residency in the future
- if your visa has expired and you are waiting for your work permit to be issued you are not legally allowed to stay in NZ
- if you know anyone wanting to come to NZ to live and apply for permanent residency then get them to check their o/s qualification with the N.Z.Q.A.
- the N.Z.Q.A test your qualifications to check if they match our qualifications
- with a residency application be aware that if you apply to live in the South Island you will gain 10 more points than if you were to apply to live in the N.I. (you require 100 points to meet the criteria)
- and most importantly with all issues surrounding the Immigration Dept - don't leave anything to the last minute!! You must allow at least 18 mths to have any application processed.

That's it thanks!!  
Caroline

For these people unable to attend here are her contact details again, Ph. 021 499 244 or email [vivaoraki@hotmail.com](mailto:vivaoraki@hotmail.com)

A car load of members drove to Oamaru on May 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the newly established Waitaki District Multi Ethnic Council that has been set up by Elena Conaglon, the enthusiastic Filipino women, who encouraged our group 15 months ago. It was a wonderful evening with approx 150 attendees. Among those living in Oamaru are people from Nepal, Paraguay, Hungary, Holland and many from Fiji and India, so if you can all remember and share that information in case others in our district would like to make contact. Networking in our small country is easy!

This week some members have kindly agreed to come and be part of an international panel of speakers who have been invited to speak at a Zonta Women's Club meeting. Another opportunity for Timaru people to hear about life as a new migrant and the work of the Multi-Ethnic Council in our district.

We are now an official incorporated Society and preparing the final stages of becoming a charitable trust.

Tony Howey our Chairperson and Kate Wright, our vice chairperson will both be representing us at a National Multi Ethnic conference next month.

To celebrate the anniversary of Independence Day our local Filipino association is hosting a celebration dinner at the Celtic Club rooms at 6pm on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome please ring Belinda Dewe for ticket details – Ph. 684 6887.

Also the Timaru branch of the NZ China Friendship Society have invited us all to attend a Chinese fundraising banquet to assist and help rehabilitate victims of the earthquake in China. The Dinner is on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Palace Restaurant and for more details please ring Val Penty on 684 35 30, and while you have your diaries out and you are planning your busy social calendar for this winter please mark down **this Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of June – 6 pm** We are having monthly "Pot Luck" get together.

We have arranged a special speaker Jackie Newton, from the Aoraki Primary Health Organisation, who is a social worker and health promoter who will speak (amongst other things) about how to get the health care you need either at **low cost** or **free** and also the process of funding a Doctor(G.P.) Even if you don't need this advice personally it will be interesting information for you to share to others who don't come regularly to our meetings.

Lastly, keep July 6<sup>th</sup> free for a special 'Mid Winter Dinner' we plan to host with dancing and music for something a little different. In case you still have time to spare and want to meet more people never forget Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury, who always need willing people!! With lots of dinners, theatre and recitals this cold winter will soon be over!

**p.s. :** The catholic organisation called St.Vincent de Paul has been extremely generous is supplying goods to some of our families. We are grateful for their co-operation. If you need help with collecting or delivering furniture ring either Kate Elsen on 6886064 or Kate Wright on 6881892 and we will co-ordinate this for you.