

Autumn Newsletter

Festival Season 2008

Special points of interest:

- Multicultural festival for Race Relations Day 2008, 29 March 2008
- Join the new Marlborough Newcomers Network!
- Check out the scheduled events and activities!



Haere mai, Welcome, Dobrodosli, Namaste, Bienvenue, Gruezi, Bienvenidos — I would like to welcome everyone to our festival season!

It is a pleasure to organize the Multicultural festival and to share the importance of positive Race Relations and cultural diversity with you and our community.

Finding Common Ground - We all sit under the same stars: This is the theme for this year's Race Relations Day on 21 March and it is a very relevant and helpful thought to keep in mind in our ever diversifying and growing community.

Our motto at the Migrant Centre is "One community - Many faces" and our role is to facilitate unity in diversity in Marlborough.

While we are all very different as humans — for example our personalities, languages, nationalities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, gender and age - there are things we all have in common.

This is why we organise a Multicultural festival every year. The celebration of cultural diversity offers a great way to share the very things we do have in common: the enjoyment of good and happy times with great food, music, song and dance.

Another thing we have in common is that we all have 'culture', whether we are aware of this or not. One way to see culture is: "How we order our daily lives, the rituals we use and how we manifest our relationships with other humans, animals, nature and the cosmos." Perhaps this view can aid in trying to show understanding and interest for people's different cultures. Culture is an expression of the same idea of living together but in very many different ways. So we have a lot in common after all. Let's celebrate together!!!

Your Andreja

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Last year's Multicultural Festival, March 2007; Photos and collage by Trevor Dennis

Highlights of 2007 and looking into 2008

Andreja Phillips, Coordinator

The year 2007 has seen the birth and establishment of the Marlborough Migrant Centre. The groundwork for this had been initiated in 2006, by Brigid Ryan, Project Manager for Settling In (MSD) with the 'Settling In Marlborough' report and a very dedicated team of volunteers that now form the Migrant Centre committee.

I would like to share with you some of the achievements and highlights of 2007:

- ◆ Establishment of our office, co-located with ESOL Home Tutors and Volunteer Marlborough
- ◆ Multicultural festival in March 2007
- ◆ Publishing of 'New to Marlborough? Useful Tips for Migrants' booklet
- ◆ Establishing Marlborough Newcomers Network
- ◆ Successful seminar for migrant women around healthy living issues, leading to new initiatives in 2008
- ◆ Winning Trustpower Award in the category 'Arts and Culture'

And perhaps most importantly:

- ◆ Assisting 250+ people from over 30 different countries; and
- ◆ Establishing positive working relationships with many different local government agencies and community organisations.

Looking ahead into 2008, we would like to continue this successful start and build on our achievements to date.

In collaboration with the Primary Health Organisation (PHO) we held a series of workshops for a new translator/cultural educator pool last month. I found 30+ people, from 20 different countries, speaking 30+ different languages to act not only as linguistic interpreters but as guides and advocates for other migrants regarding the health system. The seminars were well received and the group will continue to work with the Migrant Centre in other areas also.

This year we would also like to:

- ◆ Implement a DHB funded project lead by a group of migrant women to improve nutrition in kids' lunchboxes
- ◆ Develop and hold a series of integration seminars for newcomers
- ◆ Expand the Newcomers Network membership base and regular activities
- ◆ Continue celebrating and sharing cultural diversity by organizing further positive events, such as a Global Soccer/Football festival (see 'Upcoming Events' on page 4)
- ◆ Assist many more migrants
- ◆ And continue working with and expanding our relationships with tangata whenua, agencies and organizations.

*"Be the change
you want to see
in the world"*
M. Ghandi

Marlborough Newcomers Network — Activities Autumn 2008

- **1 May 2008, Thursday, from 5.30pm onwards:** Relaxed potluck dinner at the Riversdale Community House, 131 Budge St. in Blenheim. Everyone welcome, please bring a plate (with some finger food).
- **Women's craft group:** This group will meet once a month (date, time & venue to be advised).
- **Young parents group** (incl. toddlers and children): This group will meet once a month (date, time & venue to be advised).

Please let us know if you would like to join any of these — see our contact details on the next page.

If you have any other ideas for activities and get-togethers please let us know—we can put together as many regular activity groups as you would like! (Such as a craft group, book or movie group, coffee mornings, etc.)

Other Activities in and around Marlborough:

Check out the **Marlborough4Fun Event Guide** — for general regular activities and events in Marlborough—as a monthly supplement in the Saturday Express newspaper or go to: www.marlborough4fun.co.nz.

The **Marlborough Multicultural Group** has 105 member from many different countries and meets for functions (dinner or potluck lunch) every 2-3 months. Please contact: marlboroughmulticultural@yahoo.com for more information.

John's kitchen — offers a free meal once a week every Wednesday, 5.30pm, Wesley Hall, Blenheim, for needy and lonely people. They always look for volunteers to help with cooking and serving and once a month serve an Indian dinner. They also gladly accept donations of money and food. Contact ph: 578 5796.

REAP Marlborough offers many different courses (e.g. food preparation, learning foreign languages, crafts& arts, etc.) for a small charge. Contact REAP House, 19 George St., Ph: 578 7848, Email: reap1@xtra.co.nz

The **Mountain Safety Marlborough** and Marlborough Forest and Bird Society have a great programme of activities for youth aged 12-19 years. Go to: www.mountainsafety.org.nz to find out more about this and their other activities.



*Join the
Marlborough
Newcomers
Network! Meet
people, share
your interests
and have fun!
And its FREE to
join!
Call us on Ph:
(03) 579 2460*

Channa dhal (Chickpea curry) — *Recipe from India*

You will need:

2 cups red lentils
2/3 cups of chickpeas,
soaked and cooked
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 onions, chopped
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp turmeric
1/2-1 tsp chili powder

2 tbsp oil or ghee

Water
salt and pepper

How to cook it:

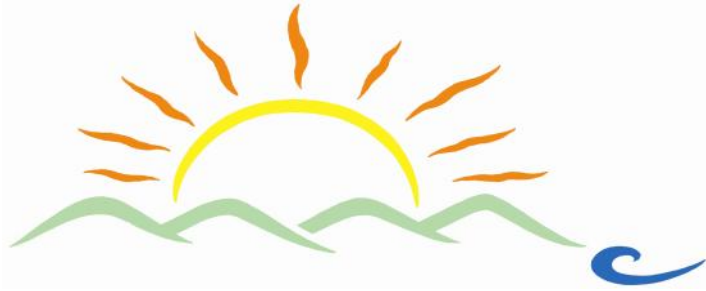
Heat the oil or ghee in a saucepan and cook the onions and garlic until soft. Now, add cumin, turmeric, chili, pepper and salt, together with 2 tbsp of water and cook until the liquid has been taken up.

Next, put in the cooked chickpeas and the red lentils and mix well. Cover with boiling water and then reduce the heat and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring from time to time.

When the mixture is cooked, remove the pan from the heat and mash the dhal with a fork before serving.

Enjoy with rice, chapattis or naan bread.

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One Community - Many Faces

Contact Details:

Shop 12, 7 Market Street North
Blenheim 7201

Phone: (03) 579 2460

E-mail: mmc@marlboroughonline.co.nz

We're on the web:
www.marlboroughonline.co.nz/mmc

Our mission is to promote and facilitate unity in diversity.

Our key services are:

- * Supporting newcomers
- * Helping with migrant matters
- * Education/awareness raising
- * Social functions and events
- * Promoting Marlborough as a multicultural province
- * Celebrating cultural diversity and promoting positive race relations

We are always looking for people who would like to become committee members. We also would like to hear from people who are interested in becoming 'Friends of the Migrant Centre' or who would like to be translators. And we would be happy to hear from businesses and organizations that would like to support us, financially or otherwise.

Please let us know if you do!!! Thank you very much!!!

Upcoming Events

1 May 2008, Thursday, from 5.30pm onwards

Relaxed potluck dinner at Riversdale Community House, 131 Budge St., Blenheim. Everyone welcome, please bring a plate (with some finger food).

7 June 2008, Saturday, afternoon/evening

Celebrating Matariki, Arbor Day and Environment Day with a powhiri (welcome), tree planting and potluck lunch/dinner at Omaka marae. Please RSVP to Andreja by 29 May, ph: 579 2460 or email: mmc@marlboroughonline.co.nz and bring a plate with food from your country.

6 September 2008, Saturday

Global Soccer/football festival, venue to be advised. Please contact us to register your interest to enter a team and to represent your ethnicity or country!!! Call Andreja on 579 2460 or email: mmc@marlboroughonline.co.nz

A great big thank you to everyone who supports our work:

