

2023

EVENT REPORT

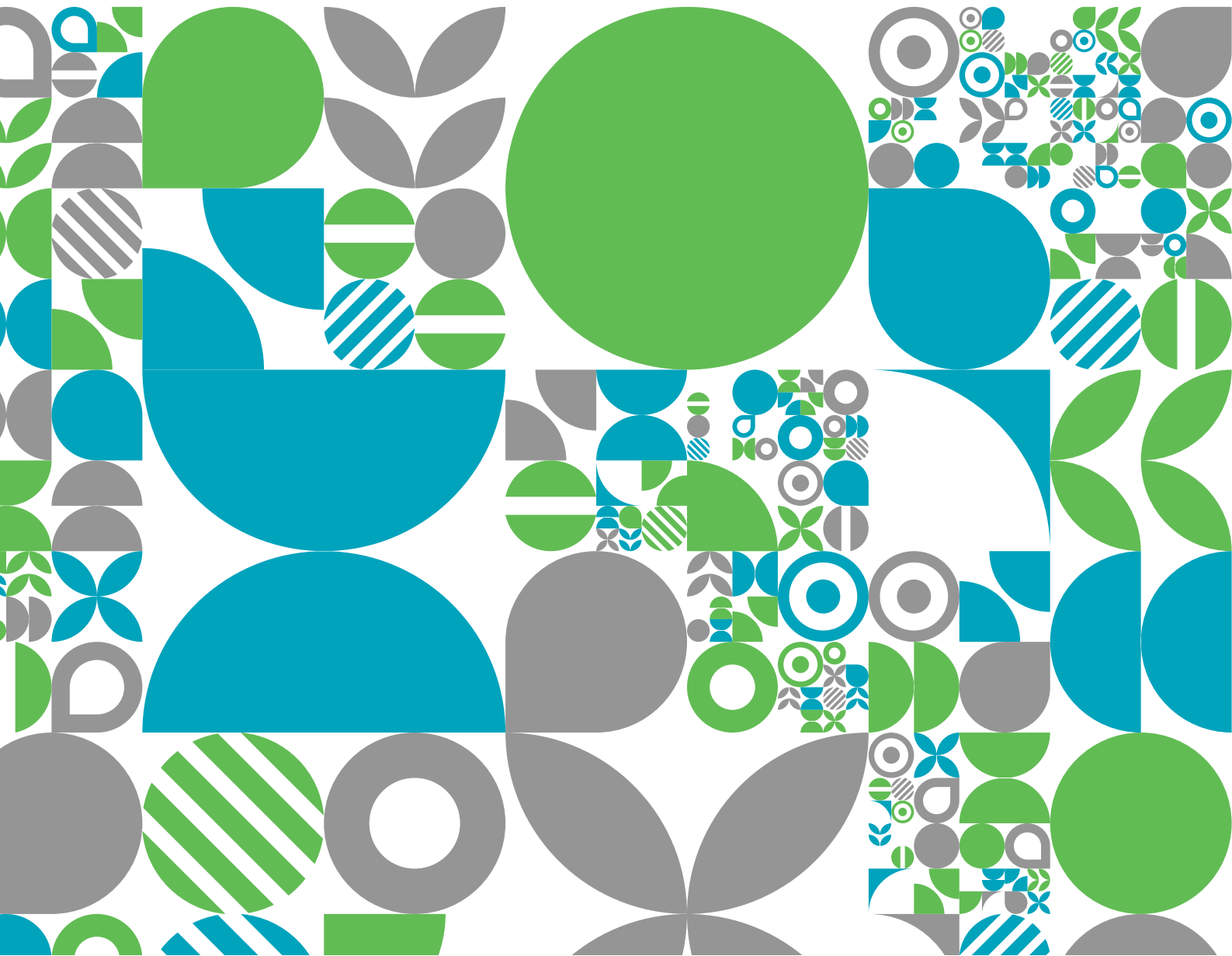
Multicultural Festival

Organized by: Pakistan Association of Otago



PREPARED BY

Umair Zia
President PAO



Multicultural Festival

By Pakistan Association of Otago

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Multicultural Festival

By Pakistan Association of Otago

Introduction:

On 11th March 2023, the Metro Direct Lounge at Edgar Centre in Dunedin played host to a Multicultural Festival from 3 PM to 6 PM. The aim of the festival was to provide a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in a diverse range of cultural experiences from around the world, all within the confines of Ōtepoti, Dunedin.



Metro Direct Lounge

Event Description:

The event consisted of a display of flower girl dresses by children, as well as cultural performances, entertainment, and speeches by notable individuals from the area. Participants of all ages from China, Spain, Japan, the Pacific Islands, India, New Zealand, and Pakistan were represented.



Audience enjoying festival

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Event Opening:

The Multicultural Festival commenced with the opening remarks by MC Nimo Elisara-Too, CEO of Pacific Trust Otago. Dr. Asrar Elahi recited verses from the Quran, which were then translated by Haneen Sajjad. The event then proceeded with the playing of the national anthems of both New Zealand and Pakistan.



MC - Nimo Elisara-Too



Asrar Elahi (left) and Haneen Sajjad

Cultural Performances:

Throughout the festival, a variety of multicultural performances took place to represent different cultural aspects and entertain the audience. One such performance was by Te Rōpū Māori Group, comprising students from the University of Otago, who performed Kapa Haka under the guidance of Cultural Officer Ngaroma.



Rōpū Māori Group

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The Dunedin Senior Chinese Association showcased Chinese culture, traditions, and customs through a series of performances. These included a Chinese Gong and Waist Drum performance, a Folk Dance known as "Fan Dance," a Tibetan Dance performance called "Painting You," and a Spanish Skirt Dance performance. The association, led by President Weidi Xu, presented these performances with the aim of sharing and celebrating the richness of Chinese culture with the wider community.



Chinese Gong and Waist Drum performance



Tibetan Dance performance



Chinese Fan Dance

The festival also featured a diverse range of performances, such as the Pasifika Performance, a Kids Flower Girls Show, African Drumming by Koffie, a Japanese O-Taiko performance by Henry Johnson and group, a Chinese Guzheng performance by Melody, and a Dance Performance by the Dunedin Dance Academy. These performances added to the vibrant and dynamic atmosphere of the festival, providing a platform for different cultural expressions and talents to be showcased.

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Kids Flower Girls Dress Show



African Drumming and Dance



Dance Performance of Dunedin Dance Academy



Japanese O-Taiko performance

Pacifika Performance

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The Indian Cultural aspect of the festival was highlighted through a number of performances, including a dance performance by Abhey, an Indo-Pak classical performance by Isha-Victoria Wing, and a Bollywood dance by young Anushka Rajesh from the Dunedin Tamil community.

The Pakistan Association of Otago Kids, including Khirad, Eman, Eshal, Hadeel, Mahad, Safa, Arbab, Anayah, and Anyah, performed an energetic dance to the song "Billo". Dr. Zohaib Rana Amjad Ali also presented a Pakistani song, which was well-received by the audience. Many members of the audience enthusiastically participated in Punjabi and Pakistani Bhangra, making the experience even more enjoyable for all.



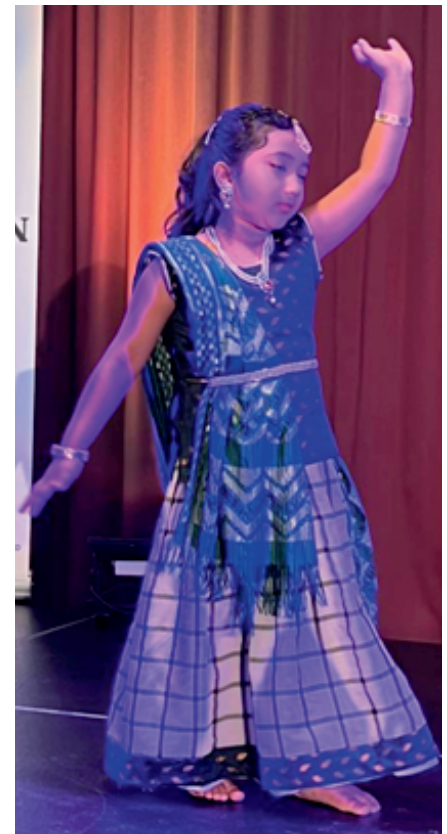
Classical performance by Isha Victoria Wing



Dance on Billo song



Dr Zohaib Rana Amjad Ali Performance



Bollywood dance by Anushka Rajesh

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Keynote Speakers

The presence of various Dunedin administration authorities, public representatives, and professionals at the Multicultural Festival had a positive impact on promoting cultural diversity. The Pakistan Association of Otago (PAO) invited several distinguished guests to express their views and emotions about this multicultural event, including Jules Radich (Mayor of Dunedin), Malcolm Wong (ONZM, Council Chair University of Otago), Michael Woodhouse (MP), Lina Lastra (Diversity and Engagement Adviser for the South), Christine Gary (Councillor and Former Deputy Mayor of Dunedin), Steve Walker (Councillor, Dunedin City Council), Teresa Chan (Lawyer and Chair of Dunedin Shanghai Association), Councillor Sophie Barker (Deputy Mayor of Dunedin), Dr Abrar Khalid (Ophthalmologist at South Canterbury District Health Board), and Ingrid Leary (MP). Their participation further promoted the importance of embracing diversity and cultural exchange within the community.



Jules Radich, Mayor Of Dunedin,



Sophie Barker, Dunedin City Council
Deputy Mayor



Malcolm Wong (ONZM, Council Chair
University of Otago)

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Event Closing:

The Multicultural Festival was concluded with closing remarks from the MC and President of Pakistan Association of Otago (PAO), Umair Zia, as well as the Board Chair, Dr. Junaid Qureshi, Board Member Abdul Saboor, Board Member Sajjad Malik, and the rest of the PAO leadership team. Their efforts and contributions were instrumental in the success of this event, which brought together people from various cultures to celebrate diversity and promote unity.



Members of Pakistan Association of Otago

Food Festival:

The Multicultural Festival ended with a food festival, providing an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and experience a wide range of delicious foods from around the world. This event served as a platform for promoting cultural exchange through the universal language of food, further fostering understanding and appreciation of different cultures within the community.

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Audience Feedback & Event Impact:

The event has gained worldwide attention through social media, reflecting the positive response to multicultural gatherings. Here are some of the feedback from the audience:



Jules Radich, Mayor of Dunedin · Mar 12 · 🌐

Yesterday I also had the honour of opening a multicultural show and food festival at the Edgar Centre hosted by the Pakistan Association of Otago.

One of the most energetic performances was of West African drumming.



Dunedin City Council Deputy Mayor Sophie Barker · Follow · Mar 11 · 🌐

Congratulations [Pakistan Association of Otago](#) for a joyful multicultural festival this afternoon.

Here's my speech:... See more



Michael Woodhouse MP ✓ · 12 Mar at 5:55 pm · 🌐

Amazing variety and plenty of entertainment at yesterday's multicultural festival organised by the Pakistan Association of Otago.



Steve Walker is with **Robert Koffie Fugah and Weidi XU** · Follow · Mar 12 · 🌐

Congratulations to the [Pakistan Association of Otago](#) for arranging a hugely successful multicultural festival in Ōtepoti Dun... See more



Ingrid Leary MP · Follow · Mar 11 · 🌐



Thank you [Pakistan Association of Otago](#) for a really important and uplifting day of music, dance and food celebrating diversity and the many cultures in our region.



Rachel Brooking MP is at **New Zealand Parliament**. · 2d · Wellington, New Zealand · 🌐



Rachel Brooking MP
Pakistan Association of Otago cultural event – at **New Zealand Parliament**.

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Good morning Umair,

I am just quickly stopping by to say Well Done for an amazing night on Saturday. Great job in pulling everyone together to celebrate our Diversity and the richness of cultures in our city.

I hope you all got some good rest in the weekend following your busy day on Saturday.

It was lovely meeting you all on Saturday too. Have a wonderful week ahead.

Warm regards,

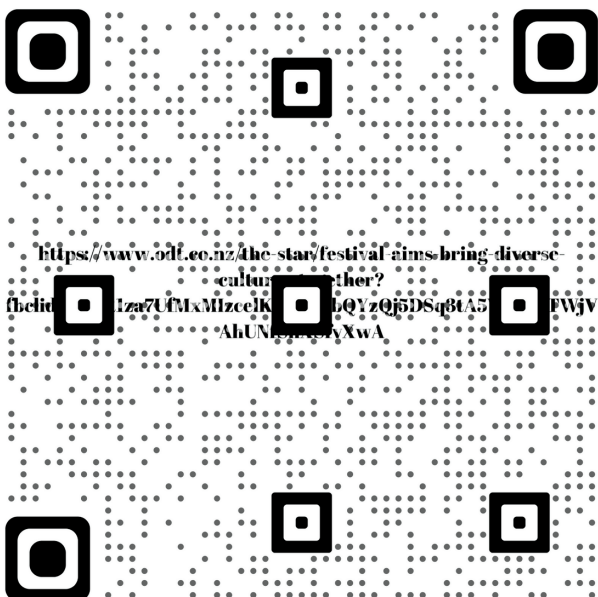
Nimo



Fa'animo Elisara-Too
Chief Executive Officer

Otago Daily Times News:

On March 2, 2023, the Otago Daily Times reported on an upcoming multicultural festival in Dunedin, organized by Pakistan Association of Otago which can be accessed by scanning QR code below.



Thursday, 2 March 2023

Festival aims to bring diverse cultures together

By Simon Henderson

135 1

The Star



Looking forward to cross-cultural collaboration are (from left) Pakistan Association of Otago president Umair Zia, Eshal Umair (9), Aeman Nedeem, carrying Zohan Umair (9 months), Humara Fiaz Sajjad, Pakistan Association of Otago board member Sajjad Malik, Hadeel Sajjad (9) and Mohammad Arbeb (14). PHOTO: SIMON HENDERSON

A free multi-cultural festival aims to bring together nations from around the world under one roof.

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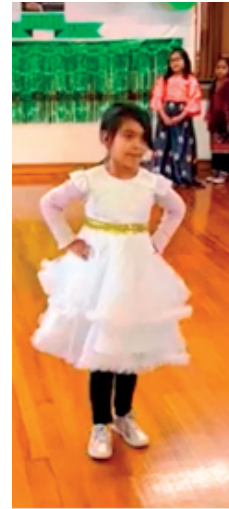
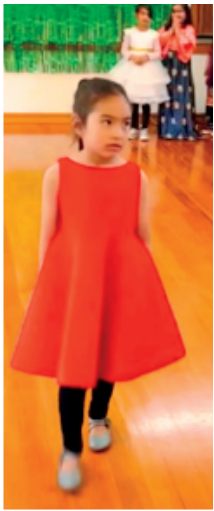
Project Planning, Preparation and Flower Dress Show Rehearsal

On January 7, 2023, the Project Planning and Preparation for the Multicultural Festival and Flower Dress Show Rehearsal took place. This event brought together a team of dedicated individuals who are passionate about celebrating the rich diversity of cultures in our community. The team spent the day planning and preparing for the upcoming festival and rehearsal.



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Project Review Meeting and Team Dinner with Volunteers

On March 15, 2023, a Project Review Meeting and Team Dinner with Volunteers was held to assess the progress of the Multicultural Festival. The team discussed the challenges they faced during the planning and preparation phase and shared feedback on how to improve the festival experience for attendees. The volunteers were recognized and appreciated for their hard work and dedication to the project. The meeting concluded with a team dinner, providing an opportunity for everyone to socialize and celebrate their successes.



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Benefits & Outcomes:

Overall, the Multicultural Festival was a great success in promoting cultural diversity, social cohesion, and mutual understanding among the community. The event showcased the beauty and richness of various cultures from around the world, promoting a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Expenses:

Please find attached at Appendix 1 the comprehensive list of expenses incurred for the arrangement of the festival.

Sponsors & Partners:

The list of sponsors & partners is attached at Appendix 2.

Concluding Remarks:

Thanks to the support of our distinguished guests, talented performers, and generous sponsors, the Multicultural Festival project was a resounding success. Please refer to Appendix 3 for the run sheet of the event.

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Acknowledgment:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Ethnic Communities for their invaluable contribution towards the successful organization of the Multicultural Festival and Food Festival. Their generous funding and unwavering support have enabled us to bring together people from diverse cultures and backgrounds to celebrate our shared heritage and traditions.

Without the support of the Ministry, we would not have been able to organize such a memorable event that has brought so much joy and happiness to our community. We appreciate the Ministry's commitment to promoting cultural diversity and inclusiveness and look forward to collaborating with them in future events.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Ethnic Communities for their unwavering support and partnership in making the Multicultural Festival and Food Festival a resounding success.

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APPENDIX 1

List of Expenses

| Sr. No | Expenses | Cost (\$) |
|--|--|---------------|
| Project Planning, Rehearsal, Preparation | | |
| 1 | Hall Rent | 140 |
| 2 | Decoration and Lighting | 50 |
| 3 | Consumable / Disposables | 54.37 |
| 4 | Food | 782.28 |
| Total | | 1026.65 |
| Multicultural Festival and Food Festival | | |
| 1 | Hall Rent – Metro Direct Lounge Edgar Centre | 1138.50 |
| 2 | Decoration and Lighting | 953.25 |
| 3 | Poster Design | 100 |
| 4 | Banner – Design | 132.42 |
| 5 | Banner – Printing | 290.95 |
| 6 | Koha | 350 |
| 7 | Facebook Marketing | 58.29 |
| 8 | Food | 1,419.96 |
| 9 | Sound System with Mic for Practice and Rehearsal | 718.99 |
| 10 | Website Design and Hosting | 514 (INV TBC) |
| Total | | 5,676.43 |
| Project Review Meeting and Team Dinner with Volunteers | | |
| 1 | Dinner | 350.92 |
| Total | | 350.92 |

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APPENDIX 2

Sponsors:

1. Ministry of Ethnic Communities
2. Alaina Natural Beauty Products
3. Hums Beauty Clinic - Humera Sajjad
4. QCS - Quality Control Services

Partners:

1. Pacific Trust Otago
2. Gala Events
3. Dunedin Senior Chinese Association
4. Kadodo Music - Drum and Dance School
5. Te Rōpū Māori' Group
6. Dunedin Tamil Society
7. Dunedin Multicultural Council

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APPENDIX 3

Multicultural Festival and Food Festival Run Sheet

| S. No. | Performance | Timing | Music Required | Music Arranged |
|--------|--|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | Event Opening by MC - Nimo Elisara-Too, CEO Pacific Trust Otago | 3:00 pm | No | N/A |
| 2. | Quran Recitation: Dr Asrar Elahi, Translation: Haneen Sajjad | 3:05 pm | No | N/A |
| 3. | National Anthems (Pakistan and New Zealand) | 3:10 pm | Yes | Yes |
| 4. | Speech 01 – Jules Radich (Mayor of Dunedin) | 3:15 pm | No | N/A |
| 5. | Kapa Haka Performance by ‘Te Rōpū Māori’ Group, led by Ngaroma - Ngaroma is the cultural officer of ‘Te Rōpū Māori’ | 3:20 pm | No | N/A |
| 6. | Chinese Gong and Waist Drum Performance by Dunedin Senior Chinese Association, President Weidi Xu | 3:25 pm | No | N/A |
| 7. | Pasifika Performance | 3:30 pm | | |
| 8. | Kids Flower Girls Show, sponsored by Alaina Natural Beauty Products | 3:35 pm | Yes | Yes |
| 9. | Chinese Folk Dance “Fan Dance” by Dunedin Senior Chinese Association, President Weidi Xu | 3:40 pm | Yes | Yes |
| 10. | African Drumming by Robert Koffie Fugah – - African Drumming and Dance Teacher at Ghana International School - Owner and Founder at Kadodo Music – Drum and Dance School | 3:50 pm | No | N/A |
| 11. | Speech 02 – Malcolm Wong - Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to the community and New Zealand-China relations. - Former Chair of the Dunedin Shanghai Association, - He has chaired the Dunedin Chinese Gardens Trust since 2008. - He is a Trustee of the Otago Community Trust | 3:55 pm | No | N/A |
| 12. | Multicultural Song By Peter Keshu, Vice President of Dunedin Multicultural Council | 4:00 pm | | |
| 13. | Indian Cultural Dance Performance by Abhey (care of Swroopa) | 4:05 pm | Yes | |
| 14. | The Tibetan Dance Performance "Painting You" - by Dunedin Senior Chinese Association, President Weidi Xu | 4:10 pm | Yes | Yes |
| 15. | Indo-Pak classical performance by Isha Victoria Wing | 4:15 pm | Yes | |
| 16. | Japanese O-Taiko performance by Henry Johnson and group | 4:25 pm | | |
| 17. | Chinese Guzheng performance by Melody | 4:30 pm | | |
| 18. | Jasmine Song by Omar and Alaina with Melody | 4:45 pm | | |
| 19. | Spanish Skirt Dance Performance - by Dunedin Senior Chinese Association, President Weidi Xu | 4:50 pm | Yes | Yes |
| 20. | Dance Performance by Dunedin Dance Academy - We now have a selection of tap dancers from the studio Dunedin Dance Academy. These students learn tap dancing through private lessons and perform in local and national competitions, as well as sitting their tap-dancing exams. They are taught by teacher and principal, Cat Densham, who has been performing and dancing herself for more than 30 years. Our performers are Lucy, Alice, Pip, Hannah, and Felipe! | 4:00 pm | Yes | |
| 21. | Bollywood dance by Anushka Rajesh (from Dunedin Tamil community; she is 8 years old and daughter of Associate Professor Rajesh Katara) | 5:05 pm | | |
| 22. | Speech 03 – Michael Woodhouse (MP) | 5:10 pm | No | N/A |
| 23. | Punjabi Bhangra | 5:15 pm | Yes | |
| 24. | Dance Performance on Song “Billo” by Pakistan Association of Otago Kids - Khirad, Eman, Eshal, Hadeel, Mahad, Safa, Arbab, Anayah, Anyah | 5:20 pm | Yes | |
| 25. | Speech 04 – Lina Lastra - Diversity and engagement adviser for the south, under the auspices of the Office of Ethnic Communities/Te Tari Matawaka - Lina works to build relationships and increase engagement with Otago and Southland’s ethnic communities, as well as promoting awareness of the Ethnic Communities Development Fund and other opportunities. | 5:25 pm | No | N/A |
| 26. | Speech 05 – Christine Gary (Councillor and Former Deputy Mayor of Dunedin) | 5:30 pm | No | N/A |

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| | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|-----|-----|
| 27. | Speech 06 – Steve Walker (Councillor Dunedin City Council) | 5:35 pm | No | N/A |
| 28. | Speech 07 – Teresa Chan (Lawyer and Chair of Dunedin Shanghai Association) | 5:40 pm | No | N/A |
| 29. | Speech 08 – Councillor Sophie Barker (Deputy Mayor of Dunedin) | 5:45 pm | No | N/A |
| 30. | Speech 09 – Dr Abrar Khalid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ophthalmologist at South Canterbury District Health Board - Medical Doctor completed MBBS, FRCS from Edinburg and Glasgow - Mentor to Pakistani Community in New Zealand | 5:50 pm | Yes | |
| 31. | Pakistani Song by Dr Zohaib Rana Amjad Ali | 6:00 pm | Yes | |
| 32. | Pakistani Bhangra Dance Performance | 6:10 pm | No | N/A |
| 33. | Speech 10 – Ingrid Leary – Event Closing Speech (MP) | | No | N/A |
| 34. | Event Closing by MC and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President PAO – Umair Zia - Board Chair – Dr Junaid Qureshi - Board Member – Abdul Saboor - Board Member – Sajjad Malik All PAO Leadership Team | 6:15 pm | Yes | |
| 35. | Food Festival | | Yes | |