

Weave Twilight Market celebrates cultural diversity



We live in a beautiful diverse community in Hamilton. The Weave Twilight Market gives us an opportunity to celebrate this diversity.

Weave Twilight Market aims to celebrate, in particular, refugee background communities, but also the entire ethnic diversity of our city. When people arrive in Hamilton as former refugees, they sometimes do not have much English language, yet have amazing skills such as weaving, cooking incredible traditional foods, embroidery and crafts. This market wants to build on the strength and skills of these communities and share them with the wider Hamilton community to celebrate them! This fun family event will include food, entertainment, face painting, hair braiding, cultural performances, and more.

Through meeting stallholders, sharing food and conversations, and watching traditional performances, we can connect and learn about the cultures which make up our city. Diversity is something which gives us strength, and adds richness into the communities we live in.

Haidee Kalirai, Community Development worker at the NZ Red Cross, and the coordinator of the Weave Twilight Market says that this market provides an opportunity for people to learn more about other cultures.

“Sometimes the word ‘refugee’ can be discussed in a negative way in the media, but we want to show and celebrate the strength, resilience and beauty of these incredible communities. We want to encourage people to come along and learn more and celebrate with us!” says Haidee.

This event particularly showcases refugee background communities which often the general public may know little about – such as the Afar, Congolese, Colombian, Burmese and Afghan communities.

Through this event, the goal is to support communities in how to participate in local events and markets and gain experience in doing so. This supports refugee communities with integration into the community, and builds social cohesion.

Weave Twilight Market is on Friday 16 December from 4pm-8:30pm, at the Waikato Migrant Resource Centre, Claudelands Hamilton.

All are welcome.