

2014/15 Annual Report

Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.



BRMC





Cultural Zone: The BRMC converted the Ballarat Mining Exchange into the MPlace during Harmony Fest on 22 March, this year.

Picture: Lara Russell

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Dr Sundram Sivamalai



Ann Foley



Virgie Hocking



Katja Fiedler



Judy Brumby

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Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc.

GPlace - Golden Point Learning and Cultural Environment

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Thriving Partnerships

THE past 12 months have proved to be an interesting and challenging year in which the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council has gained momentum at state level.

This was evidenced by the visits of ministers of the previous and current state governments and also by visits from members of the ECCV and other state organisations that have attended events hosted by the BRMC.

The BRMC enjoyed local-level partnerships to co-host key events in Ballarat, such as International Women's Day, the Harmony Fest on March 22, Refugee Week, and the Diwali Festival.

These events showed solidarity within the organisation and with our partners as well.

Our participation in various community events in Ballarat and the wider region has increased. The satisfying outcome of this work has, among many other things, led to satisfactory outcomes, including in refugee support activities.

These connections maintained through ongoing collaborations have improved the profile of the BRMC and made the role of the organisation more prominent within the community.

Most obviously our strategic partnerships in the region, including with state bodies, have been well established and they have improved our profile and secured more funds to support BRMC objectives.

The current position of BRMC is stable and manageable. Our funders are pleased with our operations to support the community.

We hope to increase our resources in the future.

One critical issue that we face now is to secure the GPlace building in Golden Point, which is the current home of the BRMC. A lot of work has gone in to highlighting the situation with our potential funders and government organisations. The negotiations are ongoing.

The last 12 months have also seen some new volunteers joining the Executive Committee and others from a diverse range of backgrounds have volunteered their help in the day-to-day running of the BRMC.

Some of these volunteers – whether in the Executive Committee or in offering general help within the organisation – had to leave Ballarat because of changes in their personal circumstances. Such situations are, unfortunately, an ongoing issue for regional ECCs, (ethnic community councils) such as Ballarat.

My role as the Chairperson of the BRMC has been a “never-ending” one for the last three years.

The committees and staff have been very supportive.

Our achievements and future hopes would not have been possible without the support of all our volunteers (including the executive committee), ethnospecific organisations, the dedicated staff of the BRMC and our current organisational partners.

I hope the new Executive Committee will continue the good work for the BRMC and take it to the next level. I wish them all of the best in their endeavours.

Dr Sundram Sivamalai
BRMC chairman



Whirl of colour:

Young Bharathanatyam dancers (above) light up the Diwali celebrations, hosted by the Ballarat Indian Association in partnership with BRMC. The dancers are part of the Skanda Matha Dance and Music group which rehearses weekly at the GPlace, the home of the BRMC.

Talking to the Premier:

BRMC chairman Dr Sundram Sivamalai, right, in consultation with Victorian State Premier Daniel Andrews at the Premier's Gala Dinner held in March this year.



Capacity Building



Ann Foley,
BRMC Executive Officer

THIS annual report marks a significant year of work across BRMC activities and networks.

I acknowledge and thank all Staff and Volunteers and in particular our outgoing Chair, Dr Sundram Sivamalai and Deputy Chair, Aisha Aboulfadil. They have led our Executive Committee with great commitment and co-operation and both leave a strong legacy of goodwill and active engagement with community.

This report shows our continued work in the growing field of healthy ageing and social support for our members through our ongoing programs as well as our new services, including our migration advice, GPLACE multicultural hub, Community Garden and Shed and other community activities and auspices.

Highlights of our 2014/15 Partnerships were the *Breathe, Woman* artist in residence project with Victorian College of the Arts, our collaborations with Harmony Fest in Cultural Diversity Week, Celebrate Africa night in June and the Diwali Festival.

It is great to see our larger and stronger associations embracing intercultural membership and activities, and mentoring and supporting emerging communities.

In our advocacy role, especially through Ballarat Regional Settlement Advocacy Committee we have activated a collaborative settlement strategy for Ballarat.

We have adapted the Award-winning Wyndham Humanitarian Network to our region's needs and work collaboratively across government, business and community partners in that framework.

We are fortunate to live in a town with a council and community that publicly support increased cultural diversity and harmonious community.

Ballarat City Councillors voted unanimously for Ballarat to welcome refugees and safe haven enterprise visas and Say No to Racism.

Our community associations, churches, business and schools are backing these decisions.

This time is one of unusually high profile for Australia's multicultural and migration and settlement issues. It's thus a time for us to stand together with clear and well-informed advocacy.

Our new strategic plan emphasises the work needed to ensure and build organisational accountability, coordinated advocacy and full participation of migrants in Ballarat's economic and cultural life.



BRMC Executive Officer Ann Foley, from left, with Cllr Belinda Coates representing the City of Ballarat, dance tutor/mentor Shermaine Heng, Loraine Little of Victoria College of Arts and Katja Fiedler at the launch of the *Breathe, Woman!* project in March.

Cultural Highlights

BRMCM is committed to providing excellent artistic and cultural events and coordinated four major projects this year:

- ***Breathe, Woman! Contemporary Artist in Residency*** led by contemporary dancer Shermaine Heng from January to March, engaged a total of 12 Ballarat women from all cultural backgrounds to rehearse and produce a stunning soundscape and dance performance exploring migration experience, women, and cultural identity. Our *Breathe, Woman!* troupe performed to fully booked theatres in Ballarat and Melbourne. The project was delivered in partnership with the Faculty of Arts VCA and MCM's Regional Training and Engagement Program funded by the State Government through Creative Victoria and delivered in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria and local partners Centre for Multicultural Youth and City of Ballarat;

- **Refugee Week** was coordinated across the Region in June with 21 community partners, launched with a flag raising and Civic Reception by City of Ballarat and followed by public events, fundraisers, Welcome Film Festival at MADE and school-targeted information.

City of Ballarat also affirmed its commitment

to welcoming Refugees and Asylum Seekers this year. Councillors voted unanimously to opt in as a location for Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) for asylum seekers and committed to a five-year strategy to lift the profile of Ballarat as a settlement destination;

- **African Celebration Day** funded by the Victorian Multicultural Commission Festivals and Events Program was held in June by the African Association and auspiced by BRMC. Over 300 people shared food provided by members from Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Kenya, Togo and Morocco. Local Nuer and Togolese dance groups performed on stage with Melbourne band AfroVival and the Oil Can.

- **MPlace at Harmony Fest** was our fifth major collaboration with HarmonyFest in Cultural Diversity Week in March. We coordinated 25 participating cultural groups and over 3,000 community participants as we transformed the Mining Exchange into a multicultural bazaar and showcase of local services, cultures and talents. MPlace was supported by the VMC Festivals and Events Program and City of Ballarat Cultural Diversity Team.



Home of the BRMC: The GPlace has been the home of the BRMC in recent years. The former Golden Point School has been developed to offer the community a venue for a range of activities both social and commercial.

BRMC Services at GPlace

Consultation Services for Member Associations

BRMC supports new and emerging associations with the process of writing a constitution and applying to become an incorporated association.

We advise on changes in constitution, governance, insurance or reporting. We also assist associations with budgeting, project financial planning and acquittal.

Grant Application, Auspicing and Project Partnership

BRMC provides support with grant applications and auspice to member organisations. An auspice agreement is available in these cases.

We regularly partner with member organisations for events and project management, providing knowledge, mentoring new associations, or supporting big events with volunteers.

GPLACE Social Enterprise, Venue hire

BRMC has chaired GPLACE Consortium managing GPLACE facilities in partnership with U3A and Mount Clear Secondary Collage. GPLACE has provided the basis for our social enterprise and BRMC

continues to develop the enterprise for the benefit of Members including access to Community Garden and Shed, discounted prices for venue hire, including classrooms, function rooms and commercial Kitchen.

Migration Advice and Referral

THE Ballarat Migration Advice Service independently financed and supported by BRMC and BRASSN was officially registered in May to offer migration advice and referrals to members and others who cannot afford legal and migration advice.

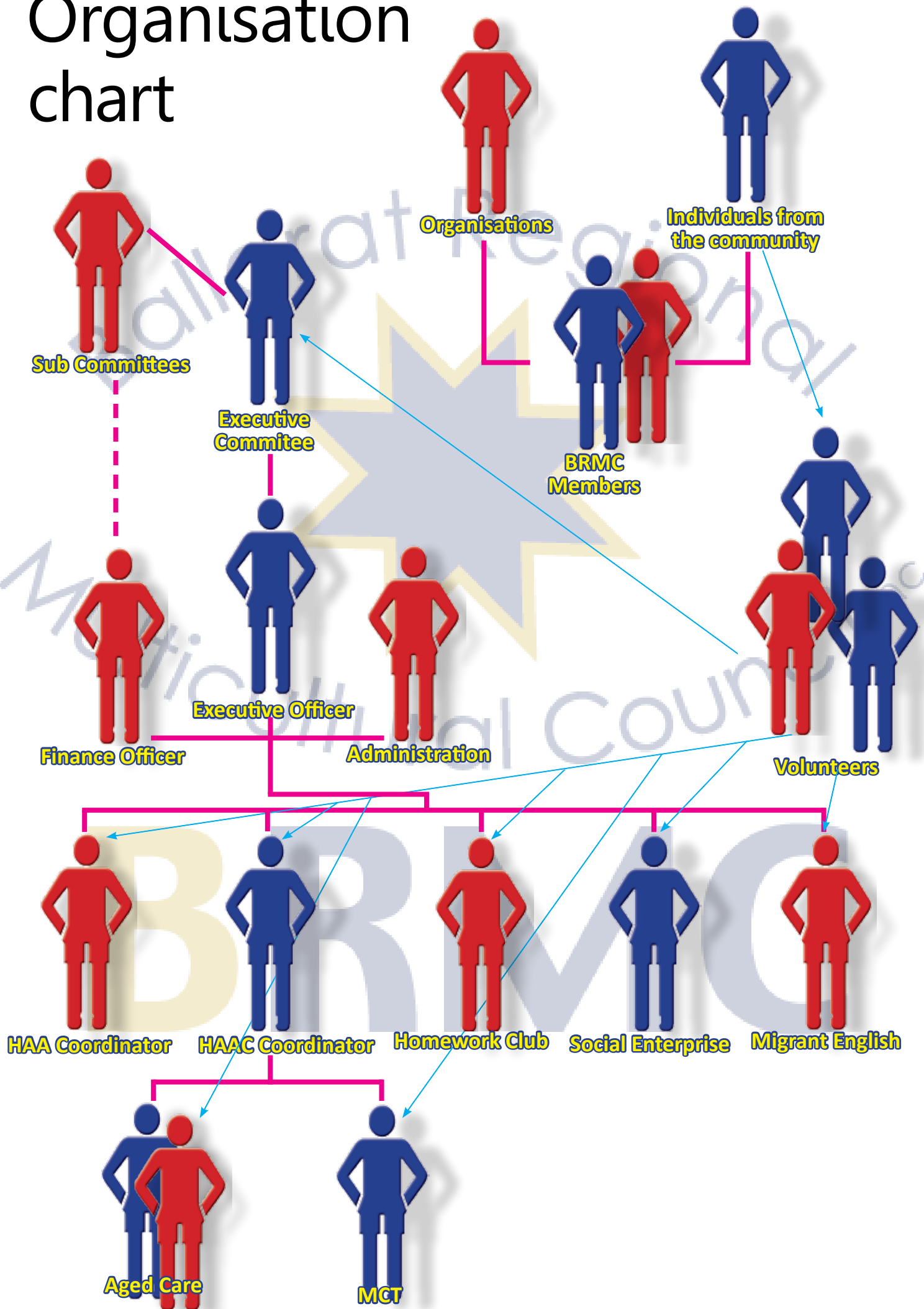
Services are provided pro bono and by volunteers so can be offered free of charge.

Information Advocacy

BRMC keeps members informed about grant rounds, events and consultations throughout the region and Victoria. We publish and promote information for CALD communities on topical issues and policies, services for clients and members.

Members receive newsletters, email bulletins and social media posts, as well as invitations to community events and consultations.

Organisation chart



Financial Summary

IN 2014/15 BRMC operated and delivered all programs and services within budget and reported a surplus and increased equity. Finance sub-committee of the Executive have also worked on strengthened financial governance, including cash-flow planning, comprehensive reporting, and an approved Auspice Policy, Finance Policies and Procedures.

A major service program, Healthy and Active Ageing Program contract, funded by the Department of Health and Ageing /Department of Social Services (DOHA/DSS), concluded this year.

This funding loss will be offset by a new funding received for the Settlement Services Program and an increase in the overall Home and Community

Care (HACC) funding for BRMC due to a new funded program under HACC that will be utilised to develop our Multicultural Seniors Hub at GPLACE.

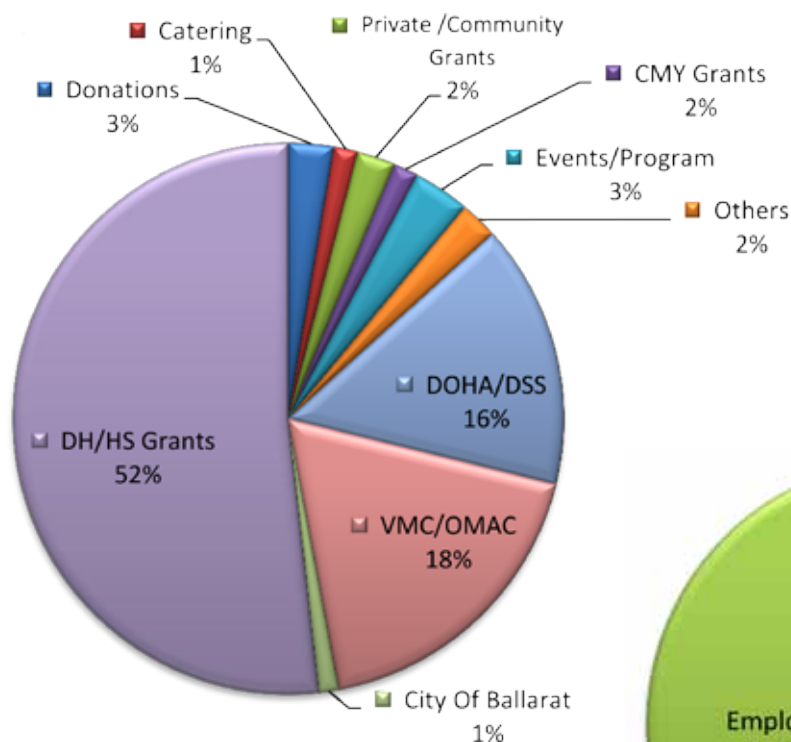
We invested in the purchase of a new vehicle (Hyundai IMAX) which will provide an opportunity to deliver more services to our members in the next years.

A separate copy of the full audited report is available to all of our members, stakeholders and to the wider community.

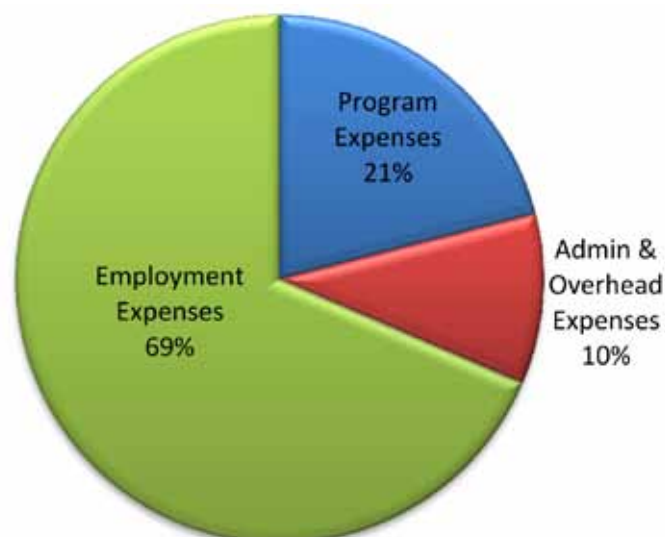
This will be available in print and/or electronic copy at the BRMC office and on our website.

BRMC Finance Sub-Committee

Income



Expenses



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE, 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	216,630	214,370
Trade and other receivables	1,158	3,539
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	217,788	217,909
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	54,389	58,617
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	54,389	58,617
TOTAL ASSETS	272,177	276,526
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	16,231	22,208
Borrowings	4,488	—
Provisions	31,420	16,831
Other liabilities	99,796	138,092
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	151,935	177,131
Borrowings	1,870	—
Long-term provisions	2,223	—
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,093	—
TOTAL LIABILITIES	156,028	177,131
NET ASSETS	116,149	99,395
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	116,149	99,395
TOTAL EQUITY	116,149	99,395

People at the Centre

B RMC provides social support programs through Home And Community Care (HACC) to Ballarat's Multicultural Senior communities.

The Department of Health and Human Services provides funding and support for the HACC programs at BRMC.

Our services provide CALD appropriate service provision through inclusive and person centred service delivery.

Our major program, **Multicultural Tucker (MCT)**, provides an opportunity for 100 people of diverse cultural groups to meet on the first Wednesday of each month to celebrate their cuisine and culture by sharing in a three-course nutritious meal at the GPlace.

The MCT also gives clients the opportunity to interact face to face with organisations such as Red Cross Transportation Services, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Centrelink, Ballarat Police and many more.

Through raising funds the MCT gives back to the cultural associations in Ballarat who volunteer their time to plan, prepare, cook and serve their traditional cuisine to over 100 socially isolated CALD clients.

In 2014 - 2015, BRMC received further funding for a Social Connections Group which BRMC are now providing monthly as the **Multicultural Seniors Hub** at GPlace.

The Hub, established in March 2015, provides crafts, arts, sports and cooking activities in a relaxed environment while we share a plate and share skills.

The Hub is provided in partnership with the Central Highlands Regional Library Outreach which offers an opportunity for people to borrow books, magazines and locate a range of resources in other languages.

The **Community Shed** now meets weekly and provides members the opportunity to create projects for community members including a bookcases, bird feeders, garden planters and foot stools.



Industrious: From left Tony Bidwell, Michael Grace and Ron Hucker of the Community Shed hard at work on their garden planters.

Ten years of Multicultural Tucker!

IN MAY this year, the HACC Team celebrated 10 years of BRMC's flagship program the Multicultural Tucker. The Mayor John Phillips, Local Members of Parliament, Sharon Knight MP and Geoff Howard MP, as well as key figures who played a role in the launch of the Tucker program, including Evie Dichiera and Yin Toe.

Win TV, *The Miner* and *The Courier* captured the day and the very important role that volunteers play every month at the Tucker.

Clients, staff and guests reminisced about earlier years, the start of the Multicultural Tucker and some of the dishes that appeared on the early menus! A great day was had by all who enjoyed the culinary delights prepared and served by our dedicated MCT volunteer team. I would like to thank the strong committed core group of volunteers who help out every month at the Tucker, this program does not run without the passionate team.



Media Whirl: The 10th anniversary of the MCT celebrations drew coverage from *The Miner*, top, *The Courier*, middle, and Win News.



In the Kitchen: From left MCT volunteer Theresa Skrypko with MCT cook Rebecca Salisbury and Halina Woods ready to serve pudding after the main meal.



Organisers (above): MCT organisers Jill Spicer of CAFS, left, Virgie Hocking and Kate Allen.

After Tucker: Multicultural Tucker volunteers enjoy a meal together after Tucker.

Keeping the lines open

SOCIAL Support Telelink Coordinator Virgie Hocking plans and facilitates the Hepburn Moorabool lunches which provide rural, socially isolated community members with the opportunity to socialize, enjoy a meal and participate in many craft and other activities.

BRMC in partnership with Hepburn and Moorabool Shires have run five events during the year. People are entertained with stories, footy tipping, craft projects and other activities while enjoying a two-course meal.

Telelink continues to run two groups the Filipino and Maltese. Both have been having a wonderful time.

Every two months, the groups get together for a luncheon. This will either in one of the participant's home or in other more public venues, such as a park. Often the groups invite some of the clients and volunteers into the Friendly Visiting program.

Friendly Visiting Program - our enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers continues to make their time to visit the clients and encouraged them to join other activities that BRMC runs, such as the Seniors Hub and Young at Heart.



Keeping spirits up: Social Support Telelink Coordinator Virgie Hocking.

Partnership Links

Centacare Ballarat

<http://www.centacareballarat.org.au/>

Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation Library Outreach

<http://www.chrlc.vic.gov.au>

Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Community Care Services
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

Hepburn Shire

<http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/>

Moorabool Shire

<http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/>



Jill Spicer of Centacare.

2014

July

Multicultural Tucker
Polish Seniors



Multicultural
Afternoon Tea Dance



August

Multicultural Tucker
Filipino Australian
Association Ballarat



Sports Day



Hepburn Moorabool
Lunch



September

Multicultural
Tucker Croatian



Multicultural
Afternoon Tea Dance



2015

January

Multicultural Tucker



Working Bee



Sports Day



February

Multicultural Tucker
Harmony Fest
Crafternoon



Multicultural Tucker
Summer Volunteer
Team



March

Hepburn
Moorabool Lunch



Multicultural
Tucker - Croatian
Association



Sports Day



October

Hepburn Moorabool
lunch



MCT German/Austrian



Bus trip



Multicultural
Afternoon
Tea Dance



November

Multicultural Tucker
Circolo Pensionati
Italiani



Carers Day Out

Hepburn Moorabool
Lunch



Multicultural
Afternoon
Tea Dance



December

Multicultural Tucker
Christmas Volunteer
Team



Volunteer Thank You
Lunch



April

Multicultural Tucker -
Volunteer Group



Bus Trip



Multicultural Seniors
Hub



May

Carers Day Out



Multicultural Tucker -
10 year Anniversary



Multicultural Seniors
Hub



June

Hepburn Moorabool
Lunch



Multicultural Tucker
Intercultural
Women's Network
Ballarat

Sports Day



Young At Heart

HACC Statistics

872 Meals Served at the Multicultural Tucker
40 BRMC Community Shed Hours (15 jobs!)
94 competitors at the Sports Day
87 bus trip attendance
32 HACC Team Community Events 2014 – 2015
50 Cultural Association Volunteers,
+15 MCT team volunteers;
3 Men's Shed volunteers,
10 Friendly Visiting / Telelink volunteers.

Acknowledgements:

The volunteers: **20** Multicultural Tucker
10 Friendly Visiting/Telelink
3 Men's Shed

Funded by Home and Community Care

Cultural Group Participants:

Ballarat Croatian Society
Intercultural Women's Network Ballarat
Ballarat Polish Seniors Club
Filipino Australian Association of Ballarat Inc
German Austrian Association Inc.



Get together: Eva and Michael Skilling at a Hepburn Moorabool Multicultural program luncheon earlier this year.

Healthy Ageing Champions

THE Healthy And Active Ageing (HAA) program was funded by the Department of Social Services under the Aged Care Service and Healthy Ageing Flexible Grant to raise awareness of and increase access to aged care services by CALD communities; to promote a healthy and active ageing lifestyle; and to foster best practice in providing culturally competent health and aged care.

The program, with help from Intercultural Facilitators, benefitted emerging ageing Filipino, Indian, Iranian and Chinese communities and Intercultural Women's Network Ballarat (IWNB), the smaller and dispersed Hungarian and Maltese communities as well as the established ageing Italian, Croatian, German/ Austrian and Dutch communities.

In its final year of funding, the HAA program has delivered following program activities:

- Eleven Intercultural Facilitators were trained;
- Fifty people attended Zumba, Tai Chi for Arthritis and a Community Gym Trial with Ballarat Community Health;
- Seventy-five seniors participated in three Multicultural Sports Days in collaboration with BRMC's HACC Team and Centacare;
- Ninety-seven people took part in our Annual GPLACE Community Garden Day and monthly Gardening Classes held with U3A;
- Forty-eight multicultural seniors enjoyed workshops on Running a Multicultural Arts Group, Bollywood Dance, Yoga and Staying fit with Digital Technology;
- Thirty Filipino seniors attended information

sessions on Elder Abuse Awareness. Thirty-seven Maltese seniors learnt about Palliative Care at the Maltese Community Council Victoria centre in Parkville, and Carer Support was the theme of Carers Victoria Maltese picnic in Ballarat;

- Twenty-two members of the Intercultural

"I got to meet some great people, learnt a lot about various services and other useful skills and information. It gave me a good overview of aged care services – I have the knowledge to direct a person to the appropriate service" – Jean Goh, Malaysian facilitator

Women's Network Ballarat digitally trained in Diabetes Education and Support;

- Information sessions on a variety of subjects, including June Hennel who spoke on Your Brain Matters (Dementia Awareness) and Living Well with Dementia;

- Sixty-three people attended a Victoria Police talk on Personal and Community Safety;

- A presentation on Cultural Briefings drew 78 people from the health and aged care services. These briefings focussed on working with ageing Croatian, Malaysian and Italian clients; and

- Our survey presentation on Culturally Competent Aged Care in Regional Victoria was delivered to 16 people at the Grampians Aged Care Providers' meeting in June this year.



Katja Fiedler
HAA Program
Coordinator

Katja Fiedler

HAA Program Coordinator



Fun and Games:

Young At Heart seniors, front from left, Virgie Hocking and Tesse Knight, middle row Nenita Drough and Brenda McMahon and Parri Khadem and Connie Bonzon at the back, have a great time at a function earlier this year.



Checking: A Ballarat Community Health worker carries out a health check during the Count Us In Expo.



HAA Volunteers Group Shot: Angelka Sekulic, front from left, Connie Bonzon, Ron Males, Mary Lolacono, Nenita Drough, Wilma Werts, John Werts. Back row from left: Ugo Lolacono, Jean Goh, S/Sgt David Reither, Pari Khadem, Kate Allen, Brigitte Kerrutt.

HAA highlights 2014 - 2015

SOME of the key Healthy and Active Ageing (HAA) events of the 12 months spanning 2014-2015 have included:

- Count us in – Shaping Inclusive Communities Expo on 26 September 2014.
- The Expo for CALD seniors in collaboration with Alzheimer's Australia VIC was held to celebrate Dementia Awareness Month. The expo hosted 23 aged care health provider stalls.

There was a range of information and exercise sessions. Entertainment was provided by the U3A choir.

The event was supported by the Australian Croatian Community Services and Filipino Community Council VIC, 60+ attendees.

- *A Life's Journey - Online Cultural Awareness Videos:* This three-part video series (see picture above) has been developed as an educational resource for aged care and related service providers. In the interviews seniors from German,

Croatian and Filipino background share their story of migration and ageing in Australia. The videos have been published online and the link has been sent to 60+ services: <https://vimeo.com/album/3523515>

- Our survey on Cultural Competent Aged Care in Regional Victoria, February/ March 2015 (see opposite page).

The survey examined the regional aged care service provider sector and helped identifying potential strategies, forms of assistance to services to improve culturally competent practises.

The survey particularly informed resource development through this project as well as potential future strategies at BRMC to sustain positive outcomes of the project.

We received 32 service responses from across Western Victoria.

The complete report can be obtained electronically on our website www.brmc.org.au

Culturally Competent Aged Care in Regional Victoria

Survey by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc.
February 2015



Number of CALD* clients



Top 5 backgrounds of clients from NMESC*

Italian

German

Dutch

Croatian/ Greek

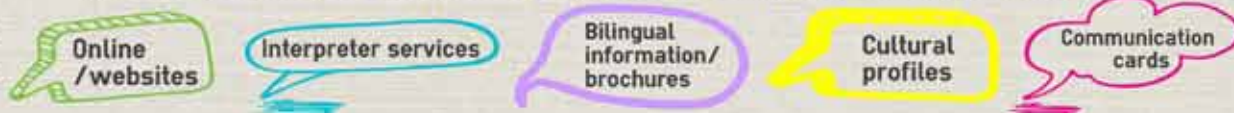


Cultural Awareness training frequency



Access and use of resources

1 in 4 do not know how to access and when to use resources to effectively work with CALD clients.



Experience in working with interpreters



Organisation links



Engaging with CALD clients



Resistance to use services
Limited connection
Understanding of the carer's role

1. Access

Limited service awareness
No trust
Transport

Access and Availability
Time
Funding
Staff

2. Resources

Training
Community Links
No ethno-specific services

Main barriers for service provision

Limitations to timely access to face to face interpreting
Lack of local interpreters

3. Communication

Limited health literacy
Language barriers
Lack of bilingual workers

Small CALD population
Lack of Cultural Awareness

4. Demographics

Limited numbers of CALD clients

Most relevant forms of support identified



Driving opportunity through education and employment

THROUGH our Community Volunteer Tutor Program (CVTP) supported by AMES and CEEP and Diversity Homework Club partnerships, BRMC works with migrants and refugees to improve their learning and employment opportunities.

CEEP

BRMC is an active partner in the Ballarat CALD Employment and Education Pathways Program (CEEP) funded by the Commonwealth Government to provide employment support, workplace acculturation, mentoring and training to candidates who face cultural and language barriers to finding employment.

The program has over 60 candidates registered and supported through the CEEP partnership between City of Ballarat, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Ballarat Community Health and Centre for Multicultural Youth and BRMC.

Diversity Homework Club

DIVERSITY Homework Club, originally established through the Ballarat Refugee Asylum Seeker Support Network to teach English to Hazara Asylum Seekers in 2013 has developed into a regular weekly homework support session for school aged children from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Supporting an average of 17 students the program is sustained by a partnership between BRMC, CMY and Ballarat Library with a dedicated team of

volunteer tutors. Training and coordination funding was provided by CMY through the OSHLP (Out of School Hours Learning Program) enabling volunteer tutor training and coordination of resources and school liaison.

Further partnerships with the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Ballarat Grammar School have provided additional capacity for peer tutors and resource development projects.

Migrant English

A TEAM of volunteers led by Volunteer Coordinator Judy Brumby and volunteer Administrative Assistant, Maureen Downard provide individual tutors and/or informal classes to assist migrants with English language.

Individual volunteer tutors are matched with clients in response to referrals and requests from both individuals and Settlement Services (Child and Family Services) and Refugee and Asylum Seekers support groups:

- 35 volunteer tutors assisted more than 40 clients, either working with the students in their homes, or in small classes with individual help for those with lower levels of English proficiency.
- Gender distribution was approximately 85% female, 15% male.
- Help provided includes basic language for everyday and settlement needs, extra support for English classes and other certificate courses,

Continued to opposite page



Planning the way forward: Community Volunteer Tutors, from left, Alice Christie with Judy Brumby, Maureen Downard and Hana Matic meet to plan lessons.

workplace communication, preparation for IELTS and other language tests, university study, employment, permanent residency and citizenship.

Training is conducted in partnership with AMES. This includes planning and strategies for English tutoring, cultural awareness and refugee issues.

Group conversation classes are provided class at the Ballarat City Library, with back-up from volunteers to assist clients with individual needs.

Participants included people from China, Russia, India, Ethiopia and the Middle East.

A Literacy Group class has commenced with support from the St Patrick's Cathedral Offices

We are taking a real-life experience conversation, reading/writing process approach which involves general class work along with one-to-one tutor assistance with the students.

This central venue with adequate, untimed parking has proved very satisfactory.

Clients have included African refugees (mostly Sudanese and Togolese) also a Sri Lankan lady.

USEFUL ACRONYMS

BRASSN: Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network

BRMC: Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

BRSAC: Ballarat Regional Settlement Advisory Committee

CAFS: Child And Family Services

CALD: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

CEEP: CALD Employment and Education Pathways Program

CMY: Centre for Multicultural Youth

DHHS: Department of Health and Human Services

DSS: Department of Social Services

ECC: Ethnic Community Council

ECCV: Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

FECCA: Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia

HAA: Healthy and Active Ageing

HACC: Home And Community Care services

IWNB: Intercultural Women's Network Ballarat

GPlace: Golden Point Learning and Cultural Environment

MCT: Multicultural Tucker

MEP: Migrant English Program

OMAC: Office of Multicultural Affairs Commission

VMC: Victorian Multicultural Commission

BRMC acknowledges other organisations that directly support our work

Partnerships

Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC)
Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)
Ethnic Community Council of Victoria (ECCV)
Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA)
City of Ballarat (CoB)
Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)
Ballarat Community Health (BCH)
Children and Family Services (CAFS)
Voice FM
Federation University
Australian Catholic University (ACU)

Sponsorships

BRMC has made many valuable sponsors that fund and enable us to deliver services and Programs:

Department of Social Services
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
Victorian Multicultural Commission
City of Ballarat
United Way and Ballarat Foundation
Department of Health and Human Services

Networks

Local and Regional networks promoting successful settlement:
Ballarat Regional Settlement Advocacy Committee (BRSAC)
SHARE
Multicultural Action Group Networks
Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Network (BRASSN)
Central Highlands Primary Care Partnerships

The BRMC Executive



Deputy Chair:
Aisha Aboulfadil



Secretary:
Zahra Wahid



Assist. Secretary:
Carmel Kavanagh



Chair:
Sundram Sivamalai



Women's Officer:
Meeta Narsi



Youth Officer:
Arash Biargemand



Publicity Officer,
Georgina Vagg



Interfaith Officer:
Constantine
Osuchukwu



Community:
Ugo Lo Iaconono



Community:
Sherley Hart



Past Chair:
Frank Williams

Absent
Treasurer:
Kiarash Mostafavi
Assistant
Treasurer:
Neville Ivey
Community Rep:
Roshani Kattel

How you can become involved

Become a Volunteer

Make a difference in our community. BRMC has many activities where you can get involved to help and also share your time, talents and skills. There is always an opportunity to work with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Become a Member

There are three membership categories: general, associate, and individual. Besides having voting rights, members have access to our services and are part of BRMC network.

Invest and Donate

We are open to partners will to support our community. We accept donations of many kinds that will be made available to support newly arrived individuals and families.



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc.

GPlace - Golden Point Learning and Cultural Environment

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