



BRMC Newsletter - July 2019

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

Chairman's Report

Late in 2018 BRMC relocated, from the Sacred Heart Convent in Victoria Street, to the unused Barkly Street Secondary College site. The site is shared with a number of organisations including Ballarat Group Training (BGT) who is the primary leasee of the site. I'm pleased to report that the move has been positive and staff have continued to deliver programs in a seamless manner.

BRMC has secured a lease on the Heritage listed "Former Ballarat East Free Library" located next to the Barkly Street Secondary College site. This building will become the "Ballarat Welcome Centre" and with a grant from the State Government will undertake initial works to gain access to the building and to commence running programs.



BRMC is continuously exploring ways of securing its financial future independent of government funding as much as possible. To enable BRMC to embark on this journey we are currently exploring ways of positioning BRMC to tap into philanthropic and other sources of funding including social enterprises and to support people in our emerging communities to establish their own businesses. To this end BRMC is undertaking a review of its eligibility as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisation. BRMC members will soon be appraised of the work that is being undertaken to achieve DGR registration.

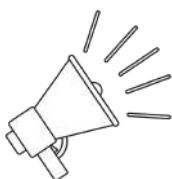
BRMC has partnered with the Brotherhood of St Laurence to bring the **"Stepping Stones"** Program to Ballarat. This is a micro-enterprise program that offers mentoring, training and support to women from refugee, migrant and asylum seeker backgrounds. The program helps participants develop new skills and increase their participation in business and community. This is a 3 year project starting late August.

BRMC is also proud to announce the expansion of the **"Interkultura - Friendship through Football"** tournament which will take place at the Ballarat Regional Soccer Centre on the 18 - 19th October 2019. We are pleased to have Craig Foster as the patron for the event. There will be 12 teams, comprising players of refugee and asylum seeker background, from across Victoria.

For further details on any of the items above or any other issues pertaining to BRMC matters you are welcome to contact Chez Dichiera – BRMC Chairman on 0400 990 542.

Ballarat Welcome Centre Fundraising Campaign

BRMC's fundraising campaign for purchase of a grand piano for the Ballarat Welcome Centre is steadily accumulating funds. You can be part of this campaign by purchasing a piano key for \$250 or team up with a family or group of people to purchase a piano key. A piano meter is measuring donations made and donors will be acknowledged publicly at the Ballarat Welcome Centre.



BRMC is looking for a Regional Program Coordinator

for our Stepping Stones to Small Business program

APPLY NOW! <https://www.seek.com.au/job/39388246>

BRMC is currently seeking Drivers to transport clients to and from our services. Volunteers must hold a current Victorian Driver's Licence.

If you are interested in volunteering at BRMC, or know someone who is, please contact Teresa on 03 5383 0613 or teresa@brmc.org.au



Forthcoming Events

- Karaoke with TBIA
- Ballarat Speakers Club Luncheon
- International Vesak Celebrations 2019
- 28th FAABI Gala Anniversary
- Wunderhorns and Red Rakia: Winter Dance Party
- Mark Isaacs, in Conversation
- BRMC Singing Group with Stella Savy
- Financial Literacy Workshop: Talking Money
- As it is in Heaven Film Screening
- Intercultural Conversations
- 2019 FECCA Conference
- Interkultura Benefit & Football Festival

Events in Review

- Refugee Week Intercultural Lunch
- Refugee Week Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Quick Program Updates

- Migration and Settlement Services
- Migrant English Program

- Senior Services

Opportunities & Items of Interest

- Stepping Stones Program
- Good Governance Program
- Free Employment Training for Jobseekers
- Refugee Talent
- Winter Safety Tips from WorkSafe Victoria

Forthcoming Events

Karaoke with TBIA

Sunday 7th July, 11am - 3pm

Member Event



The Ballarat Indian Association Inc.

PRESENTS

KARAOKE

FAMILY FUN FILLED EVENT

FREE PIZZA!

SUNDAY, 7th July, 2019
11 AM - Till 3 PM

Cattle Yards Inn, 1015 La Trobe Street, Ballarat

RSVP by 5th July, 2019 at tbiainc@gmail.com

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Ballarat Speakers Club Luncheon

Thursday 11th July, 12pm

RSVP by Tuesday 9th July: www.meetup.com/Ballarat-Speakers-Club

You're invited to the
Ballarat Speakers Club
Luncheon

City Oval Hotel

Thursday July 11th at 12 noon

\$40 per person (includes \$15 to charity)

RSVP by Tuesday 9th July at
[meetup.com/Ballarat-Speakers-Club/](https://www.meetup.com/Ballarat-Speakers-Club/)
or phone/message Anthony on 0458 312 533



Our July Speaker, Seka Sumonja, was 7 when the Nazis marched into her country of Croatia. Many in her family perished. After the war the Russian occupation saw their culture collapse again. Seka will tell the story of her escape from Marshall Tito's Yugoslavia in 1956, reaching Australia with nothing. Seka's resilience and "do what it takes" attitude led to her become a very successful real estate developer and publican. All this with only 9 months of formal schooling in her life! What a story she has to tell!

International Vesak Celebrations 2019

Saturday 13th July, 2pm - 8pm

Member Event

Held by the Sri Lankan Australian Association of Ballarat, this is an international Buddhist event celebrating the birth and enlightenment of Lord Buddha focusing on both materialistic and spiritual activities.



28th FAABI Gala Anniversary

Saturday 13th July, 6.30pm - 11.30pm

Member Event

\$60/person includes 3 course meal, live music and more exciting performances.

For more information contact Sherley Hart on 03 53381266.



Gala
**28TH FAABI
 ANNIVERSARY**

**Ballarat Greyhound Racing
 Corner of Rubicon & Sutton St
 Saturday, July 13, 2019 / 6:30pm**

3 Course Meal
 Live Music
 Alcohol Drinks at Bar Prices
 Attire: Formal,
 Barong or Filipiniana

\$60

Ticket must be booked
 and paid by July 8.
 RSVP Sherley Hart -
 0353381266 / 0417332756

Wunderhorns and Red Rakia: Winter Dance Party

Saturday 13th July, 8pm - 11pm

Bringing an 8-piece big Balkan soul sound to the Trades Hall, Wunderhorns will perform gypsy čočeks, trubači classics, a dose of Serbian ska, a touch of Goran Bregovic and a serve of Euro-diva pop.



They will be joined by the Red Rakia Dancers from Melbourne in their first ever music-dance collaboration. The Red Rakia Dancers offer a dizzying brew of Balkan and Near Eastern inspired dance to intoxicate the senses.



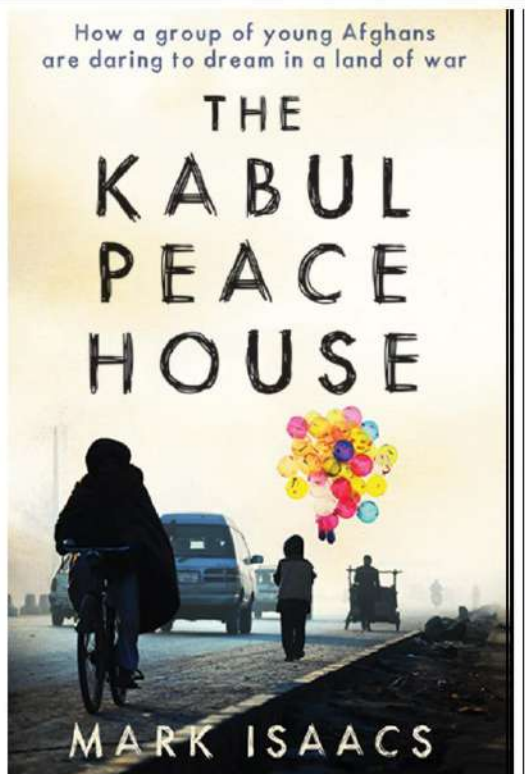
Venue: Ballarat Trades Hall, 24 Camp Street, Ballarat

Book Now: www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=519810

Mark Isaacs, in Conversation

Monday 15th July, 6pm - 7.30pm

An inspirational talk by Mark Isaacs, a refugee activist, writer, researcher and community worker. He will share how his latest book "The Kabul Peace House" arose from his experiences and investigation into deportations to Afghanistan with the Edmund Rice Centre.



Mark Isaacs, in conversation

Refugee activist, writer, and community worker to speak about his book, "The Kabul Peace House".

6 – 7.30pm, Monday 15 July

Central Uniting Church, 103 Lydiard St. South,
Ballarat.

All Welcome

Host: Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees

Gold coin entry
Light refreshments



BRMC Singing Group with Stella Savy

Tuesday 23rd July, 9.30am - 10.30am



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.



BRMC Singing Group with Stella Savy

\$2

Together we can make music!

Tuesday 23rd July 9.30am to 10.30am

Come on and give it go!

Call Teresa to register 5383 0613

Stella Savy singular blend of funk, soul, reggae and ska is unlike any other performer in Australia. Her original music is influenced by her Seychelle Island heritage—the sound of the island fused with reggae and ska guitar rhythms.

Her original material showcases her talent as a songwriter and vocalist. Her expressive and soulful vocal style captivates audiences all over Australia. Stella has been a professional musician for over 20 years.

A multi-instrumentalist, Stella is renowned percussionist and vocalist.



Financial Literacy Workshop: Talking Money

Thursday 25th July, 5pm - 7pm

Register now: d.dekuek@brmc.org.au or 03 5383 0613

TALKING MONEY

LOOKING OUT FOR FUTURE YOU

This FREE workshop will cover:

- How to budget
- How to reduce bills
- How to protect future YOU
- How to achieve your money goals
- Options for safe + affordable finance

THURSDAY 25 JULY

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

SUPPER PROVIDED

BALLARAT WELCOME CENTRE

BARKLY SQUARE, 25-39 BARKLY ST

Please register by contacting
BRMC on 5383 0613 or
d.dekuek@brmc.org.au and notify
us of any dietary needs

"I've
saved \$300
on my power bill!"

2018 Workshop participant

Since
the workshop
"I don't feel like I
have financial stress
anymore"

2018 Workshop participant



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council

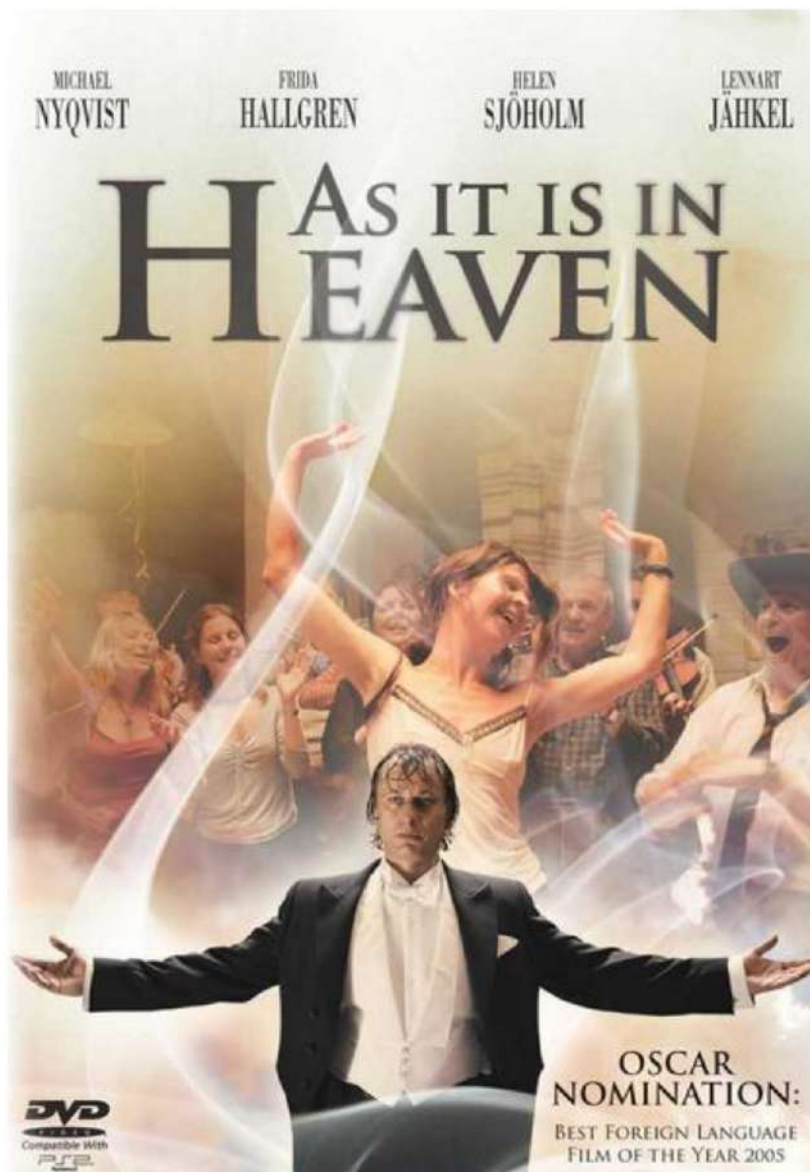


Good Shepherd
Microfinance



As it is in Heaven Film Screening

Saturday 27th July, 2pm



Directed by
Kay Pollack

Sub-titles
M rated

A renowned music conductor returns incognito to his boyhood roots in a remote Swedish village and reluctantly forms a choir.

Woven through the story of these ordinary people drawn together through the power of song, are themes of faith, hypocrisy, love, hate and fear.

Free film screening organized by *Ballarat Interfaith Network*

**Saturday July 27th, 2pm, @ Sisters of Mercy,
Ballarat East – entry via 16 Gent Street**

Followed by discussion and refreshments

Donations welcome

Intercultural Conversations

Tuesday 30th July, 1pm - 2.30pm

A unique chance to meet Irena Guidikova, Head of Division Inclusion and Anti-discrimination Programmes. Council of Europe - Strasbourg.

Learn all about Intercultural Practice in Australia with Lynda Ford.

Light refreshments provided.

Venue: Ballarat Town Hall, 225 Sturt St, Ballarat



Register Online: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/intercultural-conversations-tickets-60444900324

2019 FECCA Conference

10 - 11 October 2019

Learn about new and emerging issues in the CALD space, migrant-indigenous relations, and healthy ageing, all while enjoying the beautiful sights of Hobart at this year's FECCA Conference.

Early bird tickets are still available: www.fecca2019.com.au/registration-accommodation



Interkultura Benefit & Football Festival

18 - 19 October 2019



Interkultura Ballarat was created by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and Ballarat City Football Club to welcome, include and connect diverse regional communities in friendship through football.

In February 2019 around 100 players from 7 rural, regional and suburban satellite locations participated in a pilot event at Ballarat's premier Regional Soccer Facility. Karen, Hazara, Rohingya and diverse African ethnic communities were represented. Enthusiastic feedback from participants and multicultural agencies called for an annual regional event.

An enhanced Interkultura Benefit and Community Festival is scheduled for 18 - 19 October 2019. Over 150 players from 12 Victorian emerging ethnic communities will participate. Interkultura October 2019 will offer additional opportunities for girls and young women, community dialogue, youth training, internships and fundraising.

Current supporting partners include the State Government of Victoria, City of Ballarat, Football Victoria and Centre for Multicultural Youth.

There are several Sponsorship Packages available. To discuss your Partnership with the Interkultura event team please contact Elisabeth on 03 5383 0613 or welcome@brmc.org.au

Events in Review

Refugee Week Intercultural Lunch

The Refugee Week Intercultural Lunch was held at Barkly Square on Saturday 15th July. Attendees were given the chance to look through the eyes of a refugee. Participants were given a refugee identity and were taken on a 'boat experience', then escorted to a temporary tent that could sleep up to 10 family members. It is important to remember that no-one becomes a refugee by choice.

Refugee Week Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

House of Welcome Ballarat ran a very successful Soup and Sandwich Luncheon during Refugee Week in June. We would like to thank all our donors and volunteers who contributed to the success of this annual function. The funds raised enable us to assist asylum seekers, refugees and many vulnerable people.



Their needs are ongoing and our fundraising is ongoing through a competition for a holiday that we are planning to draw in November. Tickets are \$2 for a 2 night, 2 person stay at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Lorne, which includes a seaview room with spa and a \$100 meal voucher. We are looking for people to help us sell books of 20 tickets between now and November 24th, when this competition will be drawn at our annual Garden party.

Please contact us if you can help on annekav1234@gmail.com or 0401 175 045.

Quick Program Updates

Migration and Settlement Services

Diversity Homework Club

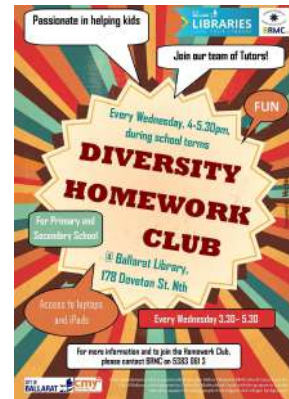
Diversity Homework Club provides homework support for primary and secondary school students in a supervised venue with trained tutors.

Homework Club gets together every Wednesday at the Ballarat Library 3.30pm - 5.30pm during school terms.

Diversity Homework Club is currently on break and we are resuming back on Wednesday 17th July.

The program for potential volunteers will be coming soon.

If you would like to attend or enquire please contact Deruka Dekuek on 03 5383 0613 or email d.dekuek@brmc.org.au



Volunteer Tutors Needed

We are looking for tutors in all subjects for Homework Club.

If you are interested or know anyone that can help, please contact BRMC on 03 5383 0613.

Migrant English Program

Community Volunteer Tutoring

Trained volunteer tutors assist BRMC in providing help with the English Language for people who have migrated to Australia. The program provides Individual Tuition for Eligible Clients.

We can provide information about English tutoring and conversation classes available in the Ballarat region.



Want to get FREE English tutoring?

Register for the BRMC Migrant English Program!

Want to give back to the community?

Become a community volunteer tutor! Register and receive FREE training.

For more information please contact Sara on 03 5383 0613 or email mep@brmc.org.au

Senior Services

Multicultural Tucker

Multicultural Tucker offered a Hungarian cuisine for June. We had 74 seniors attend from 24 different nationalities! What a great representation of diverse cultures living in harmony in the wonderful city of Ballarat.

July MCT is coming up soon and will feature a Japanese theme.

Friday 12th July at 12pm at the Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East

To find out more about Tucker or if you are eligible for Senior Services, contact Teresa on 03 5383 0613.



Social Hub

Looking for something to do during our long Ballarat Winter? Why not come along to one of our Social Hubs. Join in a board game / quiz / craft activity or simply enjoy a lovely afternoon tea and chat.



Our next Social Hub is on **Tuesday 16th July, 1.30pm - 3.30pm** at the Victoria Bowling Club.

Cost is \$2. Bookings are essential!
To book please call Teresa on 03 5383 0613.

Bus Trip

During our June Bus Trip we spent a lovely day at Bendigo Pottery exploring the art of pottery, shopping and enjoying wonderful food. We are so lucky to have a such a wonderful group of people to share our services with!



Health & Wellbeing Day

Wednesday 24th July, 10am - 2pm

Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East
\$5 entry

Come along and stay informed with two fantastic presentations by the UFS Pharmacist on Medication Safety and how to use a Webster Pack. We'll also be joined by a Nutritionist who will discuss healthy eating habits and the benefits of a healthy diet.



Back by popular demand - **Chair Based Yoga!**
Join in the fun with great prizes to be won.

Call Teresa on 03 5383 0613 to book.

Want to see BRMC deliver MORE programs for seniors?
Get in touch and tell us what YOU want.

Opportunities & Items of Interest

Stepping Stones Program

Call for Expressions of Interest

Stepping Stones to Small Business is a micro-enterprise program for women from CALD backgrounds as well as those over the age of 50. Stepping Stones builds upon the women's existing strengths by providing education and training about small business in Australia.



Through a suite of culturally-tailored training, workshops, mentoring and holistic support, the program supports women over three years to:

- Increase their business skills and knowledge of business in Australia;
- Increase their financial capabilities;
- Enhance their economic and social participation, as well as networks in the wider community; and
- In the last two years, reach key milestones towards establishing a small business.

The program is auspiced by and part of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's (BSL) work to achieve the full social and economic inclusion of refugees in Victoria. BSL will centrally coordinate the state-wide delivery and evaluation of this program. The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council is a local delivery partner for this program which will be open to women in Ballarat and the broader North West region of the state.

For more information or to **Apply Online** visit: www.bsl.org.au/services/refugees-immigration-multiculturalism/stepping-stones

BRMC is looking for a Regional Program Coordinator for our Stepping Stones to Small Business program.

APPLY NOW! <https://www.seek.com.au/job/39388246>

Good Governance Program



Are you someone who wants to make a difference in the community?

Would you like to help and empower community organisations be their best?

If the answer is yes, then this is your opportunity to utilise your skills and experience to make a real difference to new, emerging and established community organisations in matters relating to Good Governance.

This initiative is hosted by local peak bodies, councils and community development organisations, and it is free for community groups to take part. BRMC is the host for the Good Governance Program in Ballarat.

Under this program, trained volunteers skilled in governance are matched with small community organisations. These volunteers act as mentors over 12 months, working with the entire governing committee to empower the organisation, making sure the organisation gets the individualised support to overcome challenges and reach the set goals.

Free training will be provided to the mentors. A brochure with detailed information for mentors is available on our website: [Good Governance - Mentor Information](#).

If you are interested in taking part in Good Governance as a participating group or mentor or would like more information about the program, please contact Hemraz at the BRMC Office on 03 5383 0613 or GoodGov@brmc.org.au

Free Employment Training for Jobseekers

Do you know someone that would benefit from gaining valuable employment skills to help them enter the workforce?

BGT realise it can be hard to find a job and secure employment.

That is why BGT is offering FREE Fit for Work training for jobseekers to develop the confidence and skills to commence and sustain employment.

The course will focus on:

- Developing the skills to find a job
- Using your strengths to achieve at work

bgt.org.au
JOBS + TRAINING

- Identifying your ideal work environment
- Effective and fun communication to get the best from yourself and others
- Preparing for work

The course will run across 4 days over 4 weeks.

Dates: Mon 15th, Mon 22nd, Mon 29th July & Mon 5th August

Time: 9am - 3pm

Cost: Free

With only a limited number of spaces available, bookings are essential.

Please contact Nathan on 03 5333 8632 to secure a place!

Refugee Talent

Unlock refugee potential

Refugee Talent is a social enterprise and online platform that matches refugees with employment opportunities, helping them to obtain recognition of their skills and qualifications and gain valuable local work experiences.



It aims to ease the difficulties faced by many refugees who struggle to gain their first local work experience in a new country, despite their qualifications and transferable skills. Refugee Talent offers a digital platform that connects skilled refugees with job opportunities in such a way that benefits both. The philosophy of Refugee Talent is simple: "Gain local experience", "Use your skills" and "Improve your long term prospects".

Refugee Talent assists refugees at various stages in the employment process; reviewing resumes, preparing refugees for interviews, giving local industry insights, matching refugees with businesses and supporting them after the placement.

For more information contact Andrew Keast: andrewkeast@refugeetalent.com

Winter Safety Tips from WorkSafe Victoria

Preventing the Spread of the Flu

Experts are warning people not to go to work sick and spread contagious strains during this killer flu season. You should also avoid visiting aged care facilities and childcare centres until you have recovered.

Stopping the spread of the flu is as simple as following three simple steps:

1. Cough or sneeze into your elbow
2. Wash your hands thoroughly
3. If you're sick, stay home

Visit the Victorian Government Better Health channel for more information:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/flu

Fog and Winter Driving

Dense fog and wet weather during the winter months, creates situations of low visibility, which can lead to increased hazards on the roads.

If you are working or commuting in areas that experience fog or snow, it's important to understand how to safely drive in these conditions.

Visit the VicRoads website to find out more about driving in the snow and icy conditions: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/driver-safety/snow-and-winter-driving

Using your vehicle lights incorrectly can make it difficult for other drivers to see.

The VicRoads website has information on how to use fog and driving lights in winter: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/vehicle-safety/fog-and-driving-lights

Safety at Home

The idea of coming home from work and spending a night rugged up in bed with the electric blanket on sounds like a nice idea. But remember to check all electrical equipment is in working order.

You can find out more information on the Energy Safe Victoria website: www.esv.vic.gov.au/safety-education/electrical-safety-at-home/using-electricity-safely

Reminder

It is helpful if we receive RSVP for activities and events. This helps us to deliver a quality service for all. RSVP to 03 5383 0613 or info@brmc.org.au

Volunteering

We often need a helping hand and every volunteer is valued. We have various positions available and everyone can find the perfect position to suit them.



Currently seeking: Drivers to transport clients to and from our services. Volunteers must hold a current Victorian Driver's Licence.

If you are interested in volunteering at BRMC, or know someone who is, please contact Teresa on 03 5383 0613 or teresa@brmc.org.au

Visit our website for more information: www.brmc.org.au/get-involved

BRMC Contact Details

Ballarat Welcome Centre

Ballarat Regional

25 - 39 Barkly St, Ballarat VIC 3350

Phone: 03 5383 0613

Email: info@brmc.org.au

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat

Website

Visit www.brmc.org.au



BRMC respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people, their elders and community leaders, past, present and emerging - traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work.

