

Season's Greetings

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council INC.



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

Wishing all members and partners a happy and peaceful Christmas break and New Year of hope and harmony.

See our Christmas closing hours and Twilight Market details for 19 December below. This is our final Twilight Market for 2019 so come on down with family and friends for a wonderful evening.

Best wishes from the BRMC Team.



The BRMC Office will close at 12pm on Friday 20th December 2019 and re-open Monday 3rd February 2020. Staff are contactable by phone on 03 5383 0613 and email from Monday 13th January 2020.

We sincerely thank our staff, volunteers, clients, members, partners and friends for their contributions and support throughout 2019. Wishing you all the best for 2020!

BRMC Twilight Market

Thursday 19th November, 5pm - 8pm

Venue: Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Our December Twilight Market is a great place to find unique and handmade gifts for Christmas. Browse the market stalls and discover a beautiful range of items including jewellery, clothing, bags, baskets, homewares and so much more.

House of Welcome Ballarat and BRASSN will be selling plants and are holding a competition for a Christmas fruit cake. Tickets on sale at the market: 3 for \$5 or \$2 each. Drawn that night.



March Twilight Market date to be confirmed.

Keep up to date on our markets and stalls by following us on Facebook [@brmc.ballarat](https://www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat)

To request a stall application please contact 03 5383 0613 or events@brmc.org.au

Forthcoming Events

- BRMC Twilight Market
- BMA Blood Donation Campaign
- Cocosounds Christmas Concert
- FAABI Christmas Party
- Lucia Brighenti: An Italian Journey, with Kavisha Mazzella
- BMA X'Mas Carol
- BMA X'Mas & New Year Night
- Picnic with Refugees & People Seeking Asylum
- BIN World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration
- Intercultural Variety Concert

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- BRMC Annual General Meeting 2019
- BRMC Volunteer Thank You Luncheon

Forthcoming Events

BMA Blood Donation Campaign

Saturday 14th December, 1pm - 3.15pm

Member Event

Venue: Ballarat Blood Donor Centre, 601-603 La Trobe St, Ballarat

Ballarat Malayalee Association Inc. (BMA) is conducting a Blood Donation Campaign day in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. Please join and be part of this great cause which aims to make a difference in other people's lives.



The poster features a light blue background. At the top center is the BMA logo, which includes a circular emblem with a lamp and the text 'BMA' and 'Bhakti Bhakti Bhakti'. Below the logo is a blue rounded rectangle containing the text 'BALLARAT MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION'. To the left is a large red heart with a white outline, containing the text 'Give Blood, Give Love, Save Lives'. To the right of the heart, the words 'BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN' are written in large, bold, red and black letters. Below this, a red rounded rectangle contains the text 'Registrations ends 5th December'. A red line resembling a heartbeat or a string forms a loop and then extends to the right, ending in a heartbeat line. Below this line, the text 'Saturday 14th December 1 P.M. to 3.15 P.M. At BallarAt Blood Donor center 601- 603 La Trobe Street, Ballarat.' is written. At the bottom, a blue rounded rectangle contains the text 'For Registration!' followed by a list of names and phone numbers: SHEENA NELSON 0431518221, SHIRLEY SAJU 0470556935, BIBIN MATHEW 0478 290774, and NAVIN THOMAS 0469862609.

BMA
Bhakti Bhakti Bhakti

BALLARAT MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

**BLOOD
DONATION
CAMPAIGN**

Registrations ends 5th December

Saturday 14th December 1 P.M. to 3.15 P.M.
At BallarAt Blood Donor center 601- 603
La Trobe Street, Ballarat.

For Registration!

SHEENA NELSON 0431518221 SHIRLEY SAJU 0470556935 BIBIN MATHEW 0478 290774 NAVIN THOMAS 0469862609

Cocosounds Christmas Concert

Saturday 14th December, 1pm

Venue: Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

The Cocosounds annual Christmas Concert picnic is a great way to be entertained with great music from some fantastic solo students as well as amazing ensembles such as the Thursday Night Choir, Hanz On Drumming, Mini Mona's Choir and Mini Hanz On Drumming.

Bring some picnic food and drinks, even bring a rug.



Please join us for our annual

CHRISTMAS CONCERT PICNIC

Saturday Dec 14, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Cocosounds Hall

Barkly Square - 25-39 Barkly Street,
Ballarat VIC 3350







FAABI Christmas Party

Saturday 14th December, 4pm - 11pm

Member Event

Venue: Victorian Railways Institute Hall, Lydiard St N, Soldiers Hill

Kids Christmas Party at 4pm / Adults Christmas Party at 6pm.

Celebrate with the Filipino Australian Association of Ballarat Inc. (FAABI). You are welcome to bring food to share if you would like to.



Lucia Brighenti: An Italian Journey, with Kavisha Mazzella

Saturday 14th December, 6pm (doors open at 5.30pm)

Member Event

Venue: Art Gallery of Ballarat, 40 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat

Book online: artgalleryofballarat.com.au/gallery_events/lucia-brighenti-an-italian-journey

The Ballarat Italian Association in collaboration with the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

Present

An Italian Journey— from the Baroque to the 20th Century

Featuring Lucia Brighenti

Italian pianist Lucia Brighenti has cultivated her passion for music from a very early age.

Lucia graduated with honours from the Conservatorio Statale in Latina under the guidance of Maria Manzi. In 2014 completed a Master of Arts in Performance at the Royal Academy of Music, London, with Michael Dussek.

Winner of various prizes in national and international competitions, both in chamber music and as a soloist, Lucia has performed abroad in prestigious venues in numerous countries.



Kavisha Mazzella

Kavisha Mazzella AM is an ARIA award winning singer songwriter who has explored her heritage through Italian traditional song since the late eighties. Kavisha's soulful lyrical voice, accordion and guitar, brings to life ancient songs with the beautiful strains of Jack Norton on Bouzouki. The Duo will play songs from Kavisha's recent recording of traditional folk songs from all parts of Italy and spanning 600 years of love and betrayal as well as her original songs.

Kavisha Mazzella and Lucia Brighenti will be performing at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

Saturday 14th December 2019 at 6.00 pm (Doors open at 5.30 pm)

Tickets: \$30/ person BIA and Gallery members Non-members \$35/person

Book online: <https://artgalleryofballarat.com.au/events/>

For further details contact Chez 0400 990 542

BMA X'Mas Carol

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th December, 6pm

Member Event

Ballarat Malayalee Association Inc. (BMA) will be visiting Association Members and singing carols.



BMA X'Mas & New Year Night

Saturday 28th December, 5pm

Member Event

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Hall, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

Celebrate Christmas and the New Year with Ballarat Malayalee Association Inc. (BMA).

BALLARAT MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION INC. (BMA)
PROUDLY PRESENTS
X'Mas and New Year



Stage Performances by
our Kids and BMA
Members, **Delicious**
Dinner prepared by our
members. Please Come
and Join us.....

Our Platinum Sponsors



**Mt. Clear
Medical Centre**



Date : 28 Dec 2019
Time : 05:00 PM Onwards
Venue : St. Patrick Church
Parish Hall, Ballarat

Our Gold Sponsor



Our Silver Sponsor



Picnic with Refugees & People Seeking Asylum

Sunday 19th January, 2pm

Venue: Kirks Reservoir Park, 255 Daylesford Rd, Gong Gong

A close-up photograph of a pink flower, likely a lily, with soft, out-of-focus petals and a prominent stamen. The flower is the central visual element, with its pink and white hues dominating the background.

PICNIC

With

REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

19/01/2020, Sunday at 2:00 PM

AT

Kirks Reservoir Park

255 Daylesford Rd, Gong Gong VIC 3352

please be aware of mosquitoes

Bring a plate to share
Bring chairs if you wish

Contact

Doreen: 0417117382

Neil: 0452533759

BIN World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration

Tuesday 4th & Saturday 8th February 2020

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February. This week is an opportunity for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



*Ballarat Interfaith Network celebrating
World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020 together with
Ballarat City Council*

Flag Raising Event

Tuesday 4th February, 11am:

Sturt St median strip opposite Town Hall.

Speakers: Peter Lovett, indigenous Acknowledgement of Country & didgeridoo, Mayor Ben Taylor welcome, Buddhist keynote speaker. Sebastopol Primary School choir. Refreshments.

Walk & Talk in the Wetlands

Saturday 8th February, 10am:

Lake Wendouree wetlands precinct & Indigenous Sculpture Park

Join with people of different faiths and cultures in friendship as we walk around and learn about the concept behind the creation of the wetlands at Lake Wendouree, and the indigenous sculpture park.

Bring a picnic and rug to share a meal in friendship at the end.



Intercultural Variety Concert

Saturday 18th April 2020

Save the Date

Venue: Wendouree Centre for the Performing Arts, 1220 Howitt Street, Wendouree



Don't miss this amazing fundraising event with a diverse range of performers! More details to come.

Quick Program Updates

Stepping Stones to Small Business

Since 2011, Stepping Stones has supported over 2,000 migrant and refugee women explore topics including finance, marketing and small business regulations through a mix of classroom teaching, seminars and one-to-one learning. Over 500 entrepreneurs (from over 70 different countries) have engaged in business training, with additional business seminars delivered to over 1,600 participants.

2019 saw Stepping Stones expand from metropolitan Melbourne to regional Victoria for the first time, and since August 14 women from across the Central Highlands and as far away as Warrnambool have joined in sharing their ideas and building their skills for developing their own enterprises.



Stepping Stones is looking for women with business backgrounds of their own interested in providing one-on-one mentorship, working closely with a participant once she has completed the course at the end of this year.

The program runs on Tuesdays, 9.30am - 3pm at Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council: 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat.

For more info contact Deborah Klein: steppingstones@brmc.org.au / 0457 934 728

Good Governance Program

Apply to be a Good Governance mentor!

Helping community organisations be their best Good Governance helps to create strong, cohesive and more resilient communities by boosting good governance practices in community organisations. The initiative matches trained volunteers skilled in governance with community organisations. These volunteers act as mentors over 12 months, working with the entire committee or board to empower the organisation to develop policies, processes and the culture that facilitate good governance. Through this direct partnership,



mentors can support organisations with the individualised assistance they need to overcome their unique challenges and reach their specific goals. Mentors may support organisations to develop good governance practices in areas such as:

- identifying and minimising risk
- navigating complex reporting and compliance requirements
- ensuring the efficient use of resources
- evaluating whether or not the group is succeeding
- reducing the social cost of unsustainable organisations
- building organisational capacity
- creating strong, cohesive and resilient communities



How you can make a difference through Good Governance

By sharing your expertise and becoming a mentor, you have an opportunity to help contribute to local organisations, shape your community, and enhance your own professional skills. Full training and support is provided for all mentors, and there is also a Community of Practice available for mentors to further develop their networks and professional learning.

To register your interest contact Sarabjit Good.Gov@brmc.org.au

Migration and Settlement Services

Settlement Services this year have included 47 individual client support sessions for 20 client services and 96 swimming lessons for 15 participants. School visits and presentations on culture and anti-racism provided information to 597 students at 7 schools and 40 Diversity Homework Club sessions supporting 129 participants.

We finish 2019 with a Federal Government endorsement of the Asher gold recommendation on migration and settlement strategy. They identify four settlement priorities: www.ssi.org.au/news/ssi-news-blog/1593

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.

Do you know a young person who could use some help with their school work?

Contact Deruka at d.dekuek@brmc.org.au



Migrant English Program

Volunteer tutors assist BRMC in providing flexible one-on-one English tutoring sessions.

Tutoring is provided by community volunteers who undertake compulsory orientation, refresher training and peer support sessions. Volunteer tutoring currently assists and empowers 53 people from 17 different cultural backgrounds.

Do you know someone who needs individual English tutoring?

Contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au



We've had a wonderful year and are proud to share the smiles!

Senior Services

BRMC Senior Services would like to wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and may the spirit of Christmas fill your homes with peace and joy. Enjoy the festivities and stay safe!

Our events in 2020 will commence with Tai Chi on Tuesday 4th February at Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East.

Multicultural Tucker

What a spectacular end to a wonderful year at our December MCT with 104 people attending. The magic of Christmas filled the room and our hearts. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed in making the event so special.

Next MCT **Wednesday 12th February 2020, 12pm**
Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East



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

Social Hub

Our last Social Hub for 2019 was a lovely celebration of 2019! A wonderful year of making friendships, sharing laughter, joy and exploring our creative skills. Thank you to all our seniors who have participated throughout 2019 and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.



The next Social Hub is on **Tuesday 17th February 2020, 1.30pm - 3.30pm**
Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East

Cost is \$4. Bookings are essential! To book please call Teresa or Helen on 03 5383 0613.

Seasonal Lunches

Another delicious meal served at our final Seasonal Lunch for 2019. Thank You to the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre - Social Enterprise for their fantastic catering service.



Next Seasonal Lunch
Wednesday 26th February 2020, 12pm
Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East

Cost: \$8

Don't miss out - limited numbers. Bookings essential!

Call Teresa or Helen on 03 5383 0613.

Tai Chi Classes

Tuesday afternoons, 1pm - 2pm

Venue: Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East

Classes start next year on **Tuesday 4th February 2020.**

There are many amazing benefits of Tai Chi for Seniors including:

- Promotes deep breathing
- Helps with arthritis pain
- Reduces blood pressure
- Enhances mental capacity and concentration
- Improves balance and stability by strengthening ankles and knees



Limited places. To register call Teresa or Helen on 03 5383 0613.

Bus Trip

The last Bus Trip for 2019 took our Seniors to the famous Vasili's Cafe and Garden in Coburg. Our seniors enjoyed an informative presentation by Jack from Vasili's. Thank you to all our Seniors who participated in our Bus Trips throughout 2019 and we look forward to many more exciting trips in 2020.



Want to see BRMC deliver MORE programs for seniors in 2020?
Get in touch and tell us what YOU want.

Opportunities & Items of Interest

Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund

The Victorian Government's Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund (MCIF) is now open.

The program aims to support Victoria's diverse communities to feel connected with their traditional culture and identity by increasing the safety, accessibility and condition of existing community facilities.

Grants of \$10,000 - \$100,000 are available for the practical things that really make a difference to your organisation's efforts to support diversity, such as kitchens, bathrooms, showers, toilets, gardens, offices, floors and even solar panels.

Find out how more about the program and how to submit an application at www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-community-infrastructure-fund

Applications close 20th February 2020.



Indian Community Infrastructure Fund

Victoria is proudly home to nearly 170,000 people of Indian heritage, making it the largest Indian community in Australia. In 2018, the Victorian Government committed to further invest in improving and enhancing the facilities Indian communities use to gather, celebrate and share their traditions.



The Indian Community Infrastructure Fund (ICIF) will support local community infrastructure projects that help maintain, upgrade, renovate and construct facilities used by Victoria's Indian communities. Grants range from \$10,000 – \$500,000.

For more information visit www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/indian-community-infrastructure-fund

Applications close 20th February 2020.

Back Your Neighbour Campaign



The Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program provides vital support to individuals and families living in the Australian community while they await a decision about their refugee status. It provides help with the basics of life like housing, food, clothing, medical services and the costs of putting kids through kinder and school. It also provides access to counselling and mental health support.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to provide support to people until they get the outcome of their asylum claims and can move forward with their lives in a positive way.

We need to back our neighbours, friends and local communities instead of leaving the people who need our help most to suffer in silence.

Find out more at www.backyourneighbour.com.au

Events in Review

November Twilight Market

The November Twilight Market was held on Friday 15th November. Thank you to all who attended and for supporting the community. Our next market will take place on Thursday 19th December at 5pm - 8pm.



Local Lens: Refugees in Regional Australia

On Wednesday 20th November a panel discussion was held at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute. Congratulations on a full house with speakers Deruka Dekuek, Julian Burnside and Akua Ed Nignpense. Deruka shared her story - from Civil War to Refugee Camp to Australia.



BRMC Annual General Meeting 2019

The 2019 BRMC AGM was held last Tuesday, 26th November at the new Ballarat Welcome Centre (25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat). Many thanks to all who attended.

We also want to thank our wonderful caterers Susan and Raj (Nepalese) and A Pot of Courage for the delicious food, Ballarat Region Indonesian Community for the exciting entertainment, and BRMC staff and volunteers for your assistance.



The new Executive Committee Members were appointed for 2019/20.

Chairperson	Chez Dichiera
Deputy Chair	Dimitri Dollard
Secretary	Alma Lapina
Assistant Secretary	Magdalena Kazmierczak
Treasurer	Andrew Tennant
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Miller
Public Relations Officer	Bobby Mehta
Youth Officer	Lunorphare Folly
Women's Affairs Officer	Joy Juma
Interfaith Officer	Lokan Ravi
Community Representatives	Navin Thomas Khushi Maharaj Hemraz Bhoolah

Thank you to all outgoing Executive Committee Members and we wish you well.

BRMC Volunteer Thank You Luncheon

BRMC celebrated **20 Years of Volunteers** on Thursday 5th December at our Volunteer Thank You Luncheon. A wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation to our amazing team of volunteers. Thank you to everyone who attended.



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.

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



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

We are looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to and from events in a BRMC vehicle. Volunteers must hold a current Victorian driver's licence.

BRMC Contact Details

Ballarat Welcome Centre, Barkly Square
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





Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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.  



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