







#### **Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council**

Dear Members,

Congratulations to the many members who have organised and contributed to fundraisers for bushfire relief, notably FASCOBI, Ballarat Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre and Friends of India.

Now our first autumn days of March bring the season of major cultural events. This weekend at Ballarat Welcome Centre you can enjoy a very special music workshop and concert of Pt Sugato Nag, Indian sitarist accompanied by Aman Kalyan on tabla. BRMC and members will also be out in force at the Begonia Parade again this long weekend. We hope to see you there. Harmony Fest activities and program are featured below and include many activities across Ballarat throughout March, including our own Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market on Friday 21st March.

Warm Regards, Ann Foley Executive Officer

#### Pt. Sugato Nag - Live in Concert

Sunday 8th March, 7pm - 9pm

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

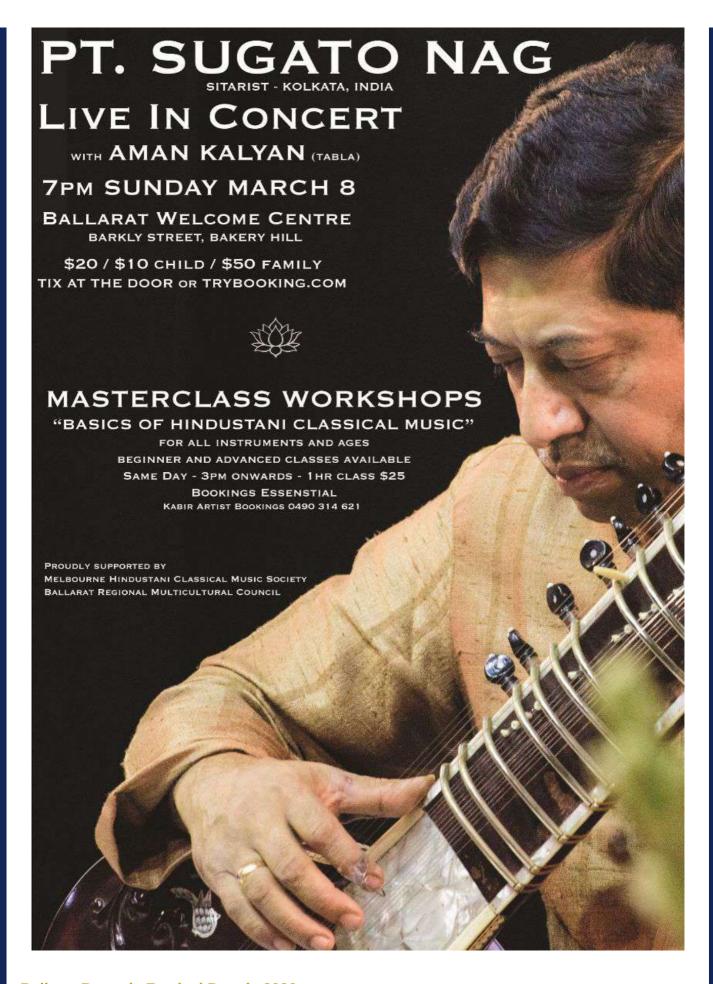
One of India's most talented and well-regarded sitar players, Sugato Nag, will be performing live in Ballarat. A very melodious and sensitive player with a unique and alluring sound. Sugato will be accompanied by the brilliant Aman Kalyan on tabla.

Buy Tickets at the door or online: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=600850">www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=600850</a>

\$20 Adult \$10 Child (12yrs and under) \$50 Family (2 adults and 2 children)

For all enquiries please call 0490 314 621.

Masterclass Workshops will be taking place on the same day from 3pm: www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=600853



#### **Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade 2020**

Monday 9th March, 9am

Each year more than 10,000 people watch the Begonia Parade - a highlight of the Ballarat Begonia Festival. The parade will travel along Wendouree Parade at Lake Wendouree, between the South Gardens and the North Gardens.

#### Do you want to be part of the 2020 Begonia Parade?

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council is inviting all associations and members to join us for the 2020 Begonia Parade. Cultural dress is encouraged and flags are welcomed. Participants on foot are to arrive at 9am - 9.40am for judging.

If you would like to be involved please contact 03 5383 0613 / teresa@brmc.org.au / d.dekuek@brmc.org.au



#### **Forthcoming Events**

- Pt. Sugato Nag Live in Concert
- Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade
- Harmony Fest
  - Colours of World Cultures Exhibition
  - · Chinese Art Workshops
  - Intercultural Welcome Morning Tea
  - Indian Kerala Food Fest
  - Interfaith Messages for Harmony
  - St Patrick's Celebratory Gathering
  - Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market
  - Walk With Us + Holi Festival
  - Dutch Morning Tea
  - Little Languages Carnival of Nations
  - March Language Café
  - Intercultural City Gala Dinner
- The Difference You Make

#### **Quick Program Updates**

- Stepping Stones Program
- Good Governance Program
- Migration and Settlement Services
- Migrant English Program
- Senior Services

#### **Opportunities & Items of Interest**

- A Pot of Courage at The Four Corners Café
- Multicultural Grant Resources
- High-Profile Media Stories for Refugee Week
- Safety Advice and Resources in Other Languages

#### **Events in Review**

- World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration
- BHTCC Bushfire Relief Fundraising Luncheon
- LYLO Art Exhibition
- February Twilight Market
- · Timor-Leste Delegates visit BRMC
- Thai New Year "Songkran" Festival 2020

#### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Harmony Fest**

12th - 27th March 2020

Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week

Promoting the theme 'All of Us', Harmony Fest 2020 will explode across the city in celebration of Ballarat's wonderful diversity.

Harmony Fest wraps around Harmony Day, the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is celebrated on 21st March. The day encourages Australians to come together to reflect on and celebrate the many cultures that create our great nation. Now in its 10th year, Harmony Fest continues to grow in size, popularity and participation.

Download the full program: www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/HarmonyFest2020\_Program\_web.pdf



#### **Cultural Diversity Week**

21st - 29th March 2020

Cultural Diversity Week is Victoria's largest multicultural celebration, featuring an exciting program of festivals and events across metropolitan and regional areas. It is a fantastic way to celebrate the everyday diversity of Victorians and reflect on what gives us all a sense of belonging in our multicultural community.

In 2020, Cultural Diversity Week will be held from 21 - 29 March with the theme 'Curiosity. Conversation. Community.'

Find out more: www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity-week-victorian-multicultural-commission

#### **Colours of World Cultures Exhibition**

5th - 29th March, 10am - 5pm

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

This group exhibition showcases Ballarat's cultural diversity by bringing together artworks and artefacts to celebrate 10 years of the City of

Ballarat's Intercultural Ambassadors Program. Each item in the exhibition has been shaped by the cultures of their makers and the environments in which they were produced, whether they have been brought from the artists' place of origin or created in their new homeland.

Opening Event: Saturday 14th March, 3pm - 5pm



Image: Magdalena Kazmierczak, Patchwork 2019-20, paper cut-outs and acrylic paint on canvas.

#### **Chinese Art Workshops**

Saturday 7th March & Saturday 21st March, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Art Gallery of Ballarat, 40 Lydiard S N, Ballarat

Introducing Chinese art, including calligraphy, ink-blowing painting, paper cutting and Tai Chi.

Presented in association with Colours of World Cultures Exhibition. Suitable for all ages.

Free but bookings essential as numbers are strictly limited: <a href="https://www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au/gallery\_events/chinese-art-workshops-for-harmony-fest/">www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au/gallery\_events/chinese-art-workshops-for-harmony-fest/</a>



#### **Intercultural Welcome Morning Tea**

Saturday 14th March, 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

Mingle and network at this annual meetup during Harmony Fest 2020. Bring a friend or meet someone new at this morning tea to welcome new migrants and international students.



#### Saturday 14th March, 5.30 - 8pm

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

Celebrating delicious and authentic southern and northern Indian food with music and stalls. Bring the family for a dinner you'll never forget! Vegetarian options available. Presented by Ballarat Malayalee Association (BMA).

Adults \$15 / Children \$10 (over 5yrs)

Ticket sales close Wednesday 11th March: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/indian-kerala-food-fest-tickets-96180308893

Enquiries: 0434 365 538



#### **Interfaith Messages for Harmony**

Sunday 15th March, 5pm

Venue: Rotunda next to Pipers Restaurant, Lake Wendouree

Everyone is welcome to come together, enjoy live music and guest speakers. Concludes with release of homing pigeons. Presented by Ballarat Interfaith Network.

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**Ballarat Interfaith Network** 

## Interfaith Messages for Harmony

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020, 5PM

ROTUNDA NEXT TO PIPERS RESTAURANT LAKE WENDOUREE

TOGETHER WITH LIVE MUSIC.

CONCLUDING WITH RELEASE OF PIGEONS FREE EVENT

Ph: 0400 650 234 for further details

Ballarat Harmony Fest.
proudly brought to you by the
City of Ballarat

supported by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council





St Patrick's Celebratory Gathering

Monday 16th March, 6.30pm - 9.30pm

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

Presented by the Ballarat & District Irish Association (BDIA). The event will be a great opportunity to celebrate this special Irish occasion with members, friends and community leaders.
Please RSVP no later than Monday 9th March.  Contact: Marlene Shanahan on 0402 447 546 or marlene@brimars.com



# The Ballarat & District Irish Association (BDIA)

are pleased to invite you to our

## St Patrick's Celebratory Gathering



#### **Guest Speakers:**

Ann Foley: Executive Officer- Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC)
 Topic: The Role of BRMC promoting Multiculturalism and Intercultural Diversity

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 6:30 for 7pm Start



Venue: BRMC – "Welcome Centre" - 25-39 Barkly St, Bakery Hill

Note: Carpark also at rear off Princes Street

Entertainment: Geoff Mc Arthur Trio - (with Violin, Mandolin and Flute)

Cost: \$25 - A Buffet Supper of delicious Canapes. Refreshments included



As members of the BRMC we are delighted with the opportunity this year to celebrate our St Patrick annual event in this wonderful "Welcome Centre" (previously the Ballarat East Library)

Please RSVP no later than 9<sup>th</sup> March to assist us in quoting booking numbers for caterer.

Contact: Marlene Shanahan Mobile: 0402447546 Email: marlene@brimars.com

<u>Payment by EFT to BDIA</u> – BSB No 633000 Account No 1630767391 Please include your name on the internet transfer. <u>Payment by Cheque to:</u> Treasurer 33 Victory Ave, Alfredton Vic. 3350

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

The March Twilight Market, held during Harmony Fest, is a community market that celebrates Ballarat's rich diversity. It's a fantastic opportunity for people to get out and experience different cultures, engage with one another, and support local crafts and small business.

Bring your family and friends to this vibrant multicultural community event.

Upcoming Market Dates: 20th March and 17th April.



Are you interested in booking a stall? Contact Suzanne Ryan-Evers on 0455 667 227 or events@brmc.org.au for an application form.

#### Walk With Us + Holi Festival

Saturday 21st March, 11am - 3pm

Venue: Fairyland, Lake Wendouree

Presented by Ballarat Indian Association (BIA), Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY), headspace, Ballarat Health Services and Sonika.

All ages and abilities are welcome to 'Walk With Us' for a community walk around Lake Wendouree, raising dialogue around mental health issues in diverse communities. Afterwards, collect your paint and enjoy the Holi Festival of Colours.

Features Celebration Central with entertainment, music, art, food and community stalls.



#### **Dutch Morning Tea**

Tuesday 24th March, 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

Enjoy a talk by guest speaker Ron Vulling with his street organ Marianne, followed by morning tea including Dutch biscuits.

Bookings required for this FREE event:  $\underline{www.eventbrite.com.au/e/harmony-fest-dutch-morning-tea-tickets-91939430311}$ 



#### **Little Languages - Carnival of Nations**

Wednesday 25th March, 10.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

Little Languages celebrates all cultures at this fun session. Children are encouraged to wear cultural or national dress. Features special performance by the Filipino Australian Association of Ballarat (FAABI) dancers.



#### **March Language Café**

Thursday 26th March, 4pm - 5.30pm

Venue: Ballarat Library, 178 Doveton Street North, Ballarat

Celebrate diversity in our community with a Chinese Lion Dance demonstration followed by mingling and chatting in languages from all around the world. All welcome.

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/language-cafe-tickets-85911502617



#### **Intercultural City Gala Dinner**

Friday 27th March, 6.30pm - 10.30pm

Venue: Mercure Ballarat, 613 Main Rd, Ballarat

The Intercultural City Gala Dinner is one of the hottest tickets in the Ballarat calendar and a highlight of the Harmony Fest program. It is a much anticipated event which celebrates Ballarat's intercultural diversity with an evening of fine dining, cultural entertainment, networking and dancing.

Buy Tickets: www.hermaj.com/events/intercultural-city-gala-dinner/

On sale until Wednesday 11th March or until sold out.

#### The City of Ballarat invites you to

### **INTERCULTURAL CITY GALA DINNER 2020**



### Join us as we celebrate Ballarat's wonderful, diverse communities and Harmony Fest 2020.

Enjoy a three-course dinner and live entertainment featuring multicultural performers Amaru Tribe, Mitch Tambo, Nesian Pearl and Hanz on Drumming.

#### Friday 27 March, 2020

**6.30pm:** Pre-dinner function | 7pm Dinner and entertainment

Venue: Mercure Ballarat, 613 Main Road, Ballarat

Dress: Traditional or formal dress

Tickets: \$65 per person for community members and groups,

\$105 per person for corporate and government sector \* discount for bookings of tables of 10 - see options online





















For bookings visit hermal.com/events/intercultural-city-gala-dinne Bookings by 11 March or until sold out.

For more information contact Lisa Collins lisacollins@ballarat.vic.gov.au or (03) 5320 5831

#### The Difference You Make

Wednesday 18th March, 7.30pm

Venue: Sisters of Mercy, 151 Victoria St, Ballarat East

Mercy Connect invites you to a night with Mohamed Semra. Mohamed is a young leader working to shatter stigma and misconception surrounding African migrants and refugees. He hopes that sharing his story and the resilience he has gained from it will inspire young people to become leaders and challenge the negative stereotypes they often face.

RSVP to Donna Stewart mercyconnect@gmail.com or 0417 624 330.



Mercy Connect Ballarat Presents

# THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

In an evening similar to David Nyoul last year, Mercy Connect would like to invite you to a night with Mohamed Semra.

This evening to all who work to make a difference in the lives of people from refugee or asylum seeker background and part of the professional development provided to Mercy Connect Volunteers.

MARCH 18TH 2020 7:30 PM SISTERS OF MERCY 151 VICTORIA STREET BALLARAT EAST

Please RSVP by 2nd March to Donna Stewart mercyconnectb@gmail.com or 0417 624 330



Mohamed Semra is a young leader working to shatter stigma and misconceptions surrounding African migrants and refugees. As someone who migrated to Australia at a young age, he has encountered and overcome challenges; learning English and overcoming a stutter, being elected as School and Debating Captain, winning the Commissioner's Race Discrimination Prize for his essay on racism, and developing a leadership mentoring program while studying Commerce and International Relations at university. He hopes that sharing his story and the resilience he has gained from it will inspire young people to become leaders and challenge the negative stereotypes they often face.

#### Do you want to start your own business?

Applications for the 2020 Ballarat Stepping Stones to Small Business Program are NOW OPEN!

Stepping Stones to Small Business is a FREE micro-enterprise program for women from CALD backgrounds and women over 50 from any background.

Stepping Stones includes:

- A four-day Empowerment Program Discover your strengths and gain financial literacy skills to help you choose your pathway to small business, employment or education
- Serious about business? We offer an eight-day Business Skills course tailored for women from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
- · Mentor support to achieve your goals.
- Referral pathways for employment and education opportunities.
- Free childminding, so you can enjoy worry-free learning.

For more information or to apply contact Deborah Klein: <a href="mailto:steppingstones@brmc.org.au">steppingstones@brmc.org.au</a> / 03 5383 0613 / 0457 934 728

**Call for Stepping Stones Volunteer Mentors** 



Is Your 2020 New Year's Resolution "To Make A Difference"?

Do You Want To Support Women Entrepreneurs?

Can You Give A Couple Of Hours Once A Fortnight?

Then volunteering as a Mentor for the Stepping Stones To Small Business Program could be what you are looking for!

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Deborah Klein 0457 934 728 or steppingstones@brmc.org.au

Our next Mentor Training and Induction is scheduled for March, so get in quickly if you'd like to be involved!







**Good Governance Program** 

Good Governance mentors participated in orientation and induction training on 21st and 22nd February 2020. They will soon be partnered with community organisations to offer free mentoring support with specific aspects of governance.

The program, delivered by BRMC in partnership with the Centre for Participation, is aimed towards creating stronger, more cohesive and resilient communities by boosting good governance practices in community organisations.

For more information email <a href="mailto:s.kaur@brmc.org.au">s.kaur@brmc.org.au</a>



#### **Migration and Settlement Services**

#### **Diversity Homework Club**

**UPDATE:** Diversity Homework Club is now at the Ballarat Welcome Centre!

Homework Club gets together every Wednesday at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St at 3.30pm - 5.30pm during school terms.

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

Do you know a young person who could use some help with their school work? Contact Deruka: <a href="mailto:d.dekuek@brmc.org.au">d.dekuek@brmc.org.au</a>



#### **Migrant English Program**

The Migrant English Program Volunteer Tutors' refresher catch-up was organised on Saturday 29th February 2020. Tutors engaged in peer learning discussions and shared their experiences.







For enquiries related to English tutoring or to volunteer with the Migrant English Program email Sarabjit: s.kaur@brmc.org.au

#### **Senior Services**

#### Tai Chi Classes

Tuesday afternoons, 1pm - 2pm

UPDATE: BRMC Tai Chi for seniors is now held at the Ballarat Welcome Centre!

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

March: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

There are many amazing health benefits of Tai Chi for seniors including: stress relief, improved balance and stability, help with arthritis pain, reduced blood pressure, enhanced mental capacity and concentration and improved conditions of Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's.

Cost is \$5.

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



#### **Multicultural Tucker**

Wednesday 11th March, 12pm

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



82 seniors attended our first Multicultural Tucker for 2020. We shared a lovely three course meal with an English cuisine.

We are looking forward to a delicious Filipino cuisine at our March MCT.

Cost is \$10. Bookings essential.

Call Teresa or Helen on 03 5383 0613 to book.

ATTENTION! MCT will be held on Fridays for the months of MAY, JUNE & JULY.

#### **Social Hub**

Tuesday 17th March, 1pm - 3pm

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

We shared a lovely afternoon at The Royal Park Hall in Buninyong for our February Social Hub. Thank you to all our seniors for your flexibility with the last-minute venue change due to the stormy weather.





March Social Hub will held at the Ballarat Welcome Centre on Tuesday 17th March.

Cost is \$4. Bookings are essential!

To book please call Teresa or Helen on 03 5383 0613.

#### **Seasonal Lunch**

Wednesday 25th March, 12pm

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

Seasonal Lunch is a wonderful way for our senior clients to get together and enjoy a delicious two-course meal. Thank you to the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre - Social Enterprise for providing delicious meals.

Cost: \$8 Don't miss out - limited numbers. Bookings essential! Call Teresa or Helen on 03 5383 0613.



#### **Health & Wellbeing Day**

Health & Wellbeing Day was held at the Ballarat Welcome Centre on Thursday 20th February. Our seniors were treated to two informative presentations on Fire Safety and good Nutrition. We enjoyed a Chair Based Yoga Session with the beautiful Shani Cain and Spanish Dancing with the lovely Stefi!







#### **Bus Trip**

Our seniors enjoyed a lovely day in Geelong on Wednesday 4th March. We delighted in a lovely morning tea at the Tea House in the Botanical Gardens followed by Fish and Chips for lunch at the Geelong Boat Shed.







Our next Bus Trip is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd April.

To find out if you are eligible for BRMC Senior Services contact Teresa on 03 5383 0613.

BRMC Senior Services deliver Social Support Programs designed to meet your needs, goals and preferences. If you would like to see a change or something different delivered please tell us!

#### **Opportunities & Items of Interest**

#### A Pot of Courage at The Four Corners Café

A Pot of Courage features on The Four Corners Café menu at Barkly Square (25-39 Barkly St), each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

With a rotating menu, you will find delicious home cooked traditional and street food options from many parts of the globe. This social enterprise empowers women, providing experience and income streams to those from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Come and enjoy coffee and exquisite sweets, or culturally diverse lunch dishes.

Follow A Pot of Courage on Facebook to keep up to date with their menu and special events <a href="mailto:@apotofcourage">@apotofcourage</a>



#### **Multicultural Grant Resources**

#### Applying for a Multicultural Festivals and Events grant?

Access all the information you need to write an impressive application at <a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/applying-and-reporting-multicultural-grants">www.vic.gov.au/applying-and-reporting-multicultural-grants</a>

Resources available include; tips to write a grant application, a step-by-step guide on how to login to the grants portal and answers to frequently asked questions.



#### **High-Profile Media Stories for Refugee Week**

Do you know anyone who can whip up delicious dolma, heart stopping halva or moreish mahalabia and wants to share them with the world?

## **CALLOUT**

The Refugee Council of Australia is seeking refugee community members who would like to feature in high-profile media stories for Refugee Week. Participants will need to provide a simple recipe from home, and share the story of what that dish means to you.

Contact Laura.Stacey@refugeecouncil.org.au



#### **Safety Advice and Resources in Other Languages**

It can be tricky to navigate online safety for young kids.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has made guides in a number of different languages for parents to help teach kids how to stay safe on the internet.

 $\textbf{Find out more info here:} \underline{www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/tailored-advice/help-in-languages-other-than-english} \\$ 



#### **Events in Review**

#### **World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration**

Two events were organised by Ballarat Interfaith Network to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week. On Tuesday 4th February a Civic Flag-Raising ceremony was held at Queen Victoria Square (opposite Town Hall). On Saturday 8th February a 'Walk & Talk in the Wetlands' took place at the Lake Wendouree Gardens to learn about the creation of the Lake Wendouree wetlands and the indigenous sculpture park.







#### **BHTCC Bushfire Relief Fundraising Luncheon**

Thank you to the Ballarat Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre for bringing Ballarat together on Saturday 8th February to raise funds for communities impacted by bushfires.



#### **LYLO Art Exhibition**

Congratulations to the Lead Yourself Lead Others (LYLO) group at the Centre for Multicultural Youth on their amazing Art Exhibition held at Barkly Square from Friday 14th - Friday 28th February.

The powerful artwork addressed gender equality, stereotypes, respectful relationships, cultural identity and violence against women.



#### **February Twilight Market**

The first Twilight Market for 2020 was held on Friday 21st February at the Ballarat Welcome Centre. We had 25 stalls with a diverse range of products and enjoyed great music from Milla, Janna and Geoffrey Williams. Thank you to all the stallholders and the community for coming along. We love seeing your friendly faces.

Our next Twilight Market is on Friday 20th March, 5pm - 8pm.







#### **Timor-Leste Delegates visit BRMC**

Delegates from Ainaro, Timor-Leste visited Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council at Barkly Square on Thursday 27th February.





#### Thai New Year "Songkran" Festival 2020

The 2020 Thai New Year "Songkran" Festival was held by Wat Thai Bhavana Ballarat on Sunday 1st March at the Ballarat Mining Exchange. Blessings were given by Buddhist monks for the Thai New Year and the community enjoyed Thai food, multicultural performances, local music and a parade.







#### 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 <a href="mailto:info@brmc.org.au">info@brmc.org.au</a>





### BRMC ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Find out more about how YOU can help by contacting

> Teresa on teresa@brmc.org.au 5383 0613

WE HAVE A BROAD RANGE

OF VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES. GET

INVOLVED IN ONE OF OUR

SERVICES TO HELP IMPROVE

THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR

MEMBERS OF OUR

COMMUNITY.

#### **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











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