



REFUGEE WEEK 14 - 20 June
Celebrating the Year of Welcome



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

Winter Greetings from BRMC,

Refugee Week celebrations are commencing all over Australia this weekend. The theme in 2020 is Year of Welcome. But the violent and unjust death of George Floyd has shone a spotlight on racism and on the continuing unacceptable numbers of Australian Aboriginal Deaths in custody. Take a moment now to reflect on how Brian Powell spoke to the Ballarat community on behalf of the Wadawurrung (Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation) about the local Aboriginal welcome to refugees:

In this modern age, people are still forced to leave their homelands to seek a better life for themselves and their children. Worst of all, some are forcibly removed from their homelands or have to flee violence or war. Wadawurrung people have been dispossessed of our lands, herded into refugee camps and forced to undergo assimilation practices. As such we understand the emotions and feelings that can at times overwhelm those who are involved. It is a sad indictment on modern society, that people cannot see the bigger picture. Greed and religion are the drivers of today's thinking. When a community comes together to try and address some of the issues that can affect those on the journey to a better life, it shows that there is still hope for this world. Ballarat has come together to try and do something positive and tangible for migrants and refugees who seek to make this municipality their home. Wadawurrung support those efforts.

Ref. Destination Ballarat 2017

Multicultural Communities Support Uluru Statement

During Reconciliation Week BRMC joined FECCA and other multicultural and ethnic communities in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Learn more about the Uluru Statement: <https://ulurustatement.org>

FECCA has shared the consultation draft of their latest guide, *Encouraging Engagement: A Guide for Multicultural Organisations to Engage in Reconciliation*. This guide is designed for multicultural communities to start or extend their engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples.

They are seeking feedback on the draft guide, from both First Nations Peoples and CALD communities, during a consultation period that runs until **Friday 31 July**.

To read the guide and provide feedback visit <http://fecca.org.au/reconciliation>



We came together in sadness this month to farewell Khushi Maharaj who as been a constant voice for compassion and justice.

BRMC Board - A Tribute

Khushi Maharaj

Community Representative, BRMC Executive Committee

*na jaayate' mriyate' vaa kadaachin naayam bhuthva bhavithaa na bhooyah:
ajo nityah saasvato'yam puraano na hanyate' hanyamaane' sareere'*
- from *The Bhagvad Gita*

Meaning: The Spirit is neither born nor does it die at any time. It does not come into being or cease to exist. It is unborn, eternal, permanent, and primeval. The Spirit is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.

Our dear Board member Khushi Maharaj left for his heavenly abode on 26 May 2020. His philanthropy, kindness and generosity touched many lives in Ballarat and beyond. A true karmayogi, 'Khushi uncle' was a beacon of light to many new migrant families in Ballarat. He was the founding President of the Ballarat Indian Association and served the community in the role for several years. He was also one of the founding members of Ballarat Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre and believed that kindness was his prime dharma.

He will be dearly remembered and missed by all.



Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market Online

Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market Online features our most popular vendors and supports an array of emerging entrepreneurs from refugee backgrounds. Twilight Market Online now offers all the fun of the fair at a click of your mouse.

Buy securely from the Twilight Market Online site, or directly from vendors themselves. Proceeds from sales are paid directly to our vendors. When you buy from the Twilight Market Online you build the strength and vibrancy of culturally diverse, local and regional small business.

Goods sold through Twilight Market Online can be picked up from the Ballarat Welcome Centre at Barkly Square (25-39 Barkly St).

An exciting new feature is our Services Directory. You can browse a range of direct support services, demonstrations and learning opportunities from providers whose skills will enhance your life and well-being.

And that's not all!

Our Twilight Market always offers the lyrical accompaniment of some of Ballarat's best performers. The new Online platform showcases favourites: Groove along to their clips, join in celebrating home-grown talent, and highlight them when booking future events.

Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market Online Goes Live!

Thursday, 18 June from 7pm

twilightmarket.brmc.org.au

Forthcoming Events

- Refugee Week 2020

- Ballarat Refugee Week 2020 Program
 - This is My Story...
 - Ballarat Share 100 Meals
 - Flag Raising Ceremony
 - RAR Video Sharing
 - House of Welcome High Tea
 - Storytime Online
- Online Language Café

Quick Program Updates

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

Opportunities & Items of Interest

- Ballarat Welcome Centre Fresh Food Drop-Off
- Update on Victoria's COVID-19 Restrictions
- 2020 Multicultural Media Grants Program
- Delivering Access to Justice for More Victorians
- Family Violence Videos in Multiple Languages
- MyAusCovid-19 App - Multilingual Resource
- Have You Had Your Flu Vaccination?
- Ballarat RAR - Rural Australians for Refugees
- BRMC Seeking IT Volunteers

Forthcoming Events

Refugee Week 2020

Sunday 14 - Saturday 20 June

2020 Theme: *Celebrating the Year of Welcome*

This year Refugee Week will be moving online to ensure we can celebrate safely.

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. Originally celebrated in 1986, Refugee Week coincides with World Refugee Day (20 June).

Learn more: www.refugeeweek.org.au



Ballarat Refugee Week 2020 Program

Saturday 13 - Saturday 20 June

Download the Ballarat Program to see all the great events you can take part in.

[Ballarat Refugee Week 2020 Program](#)

This is My Story...

Saturday 13 - Saturday 20 June

Presented by Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY). Young people who now call Ballarat, Horsham or Nhill home, share their experiences and achievements, while reflecting on the theme - 'Year of Welcome'.

CMY Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CMYBallarat

Ballarat Share 100 Meals

Saturday 13th June, 12.30pm - 2pm

Ballarat Malayalee Association (BMA) members will cook and package a lunch of delicious traditional food. Together with volunteers from Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support network (BRASSN) they will deliver the meal to people across our community.

Community members have purchased this tasty Malayalee lunch for home delivery. Another 60 health workers and refugees will receive a meal for free.

Proceeds will support financially stressed households including students, refugees and people seeking asylum in our community. This project is also supported by BRMC, Ballarat Community Health, City of Ballarat and Victorian Government.



Flag Raising Ceremony

Monday 15th June, 10am

The Flag Raising Ceremony will take place at Queen Victoria Square in Sturt St - no gathering permitted. Ballarat Mayor, Cr Ben Taylor, will deliver an online message for Refugee Week 2020 via Facebook.

Ballarat Council Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BallaratCityCouncil

RAR Video Sharing

Monday 15th June, 1pm

Rural Australians for Refugees video sharing activities and actions supporting Refugee and Asylum Seekers.

Ballarat RAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR

House of Welcome High Tea

Wednesday 17th June

Venue: 30 Waller Ave, Newington

Bookings Essential. Contact Carmel: 0401 175 045 or annekav1234@gmail.com

BALLARAT



INVITES YOU TO

HIGH TEA

REFUGEE WEEK, 2020

Wednesday June 17th

30 WALLER AVENUE
NEWINGTON

Two Seating Options

1-3 PM OR

3.15 Pm Onwards

\$50 ENTRY

For those Attending Please Book by one of these:

BY TEXT - STATING YOUR NAME 0401175045

For Donations

BY PHONE: +61 3 53322103

"HOUSE OF WELCOME BALLARAT"

BY EMAIL: – annekav1234@gmail.com

BSB 633 000 Account: 1440 44963

STALLS AND COMPETITIONS

Safe Distancing & Precautions Guaranteed

Storytime Online

Saturday 20th June

Storytime online presented by Ballarat Libraries. Featuring the book, My Two Blankets by Irena Kobald. A beautifully written story illustrating the refugee experience through a young girl's eyes.

Ballarat Libraries Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ballaratalibraries

Language Café Online

Thursday 25th June, 4pm - 5.30pm

The Language Café aims to regularly bring people from all walks of life together to chat in different languages, improve English conversation skills and make new connections.

Register Now: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/language-cafe-online-tickets-85911508635



Quick Program Updates

Stepping Stones to Small Business

Stepping Stones Mentors Step Up

BRMC welcomes the new band of lively Stepping Stones Volunteer Mentors from across the community who have recently completed their Brotherhood of St. Laurence / Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council mentorship training and induction.

With diverse backgrounds and small business experience, these new volunteers share a commitment to advising and guiding Stepping Stones graduates as they develop their business ideas from concept to reality.

Our Stepping Stones Volunteer Mentors are:



Kathleen Burgum: With international experience in finance and accountancy, Kathy has successfully managed a professional and personal transition into being a published author, yoga instructor, and motivational speaker on entrepreneurial leadership.



Nicola Cerini: Over almost two decades, Nicola has built and sustained an innovative brand and successful business creating award-winning nature-inspired designs for products, interiors, and public spaces.



Julie Collins: A recognised artist, educator, curator and business manager, Julie is known as an advocate and pioneer in developing and delivering ground-breaking multidisciplinary initiatives.



Bianca Flowers: Committed to helping guide clients to realising their goals, Bianca employs diverse experiences from a small business career spanning naturopathy, horticultural design, hand-weaving, and personal counselling.



Ruth Graham: Educator, project director and administrator, agent and entrepreneur, Ruth maintains a balanced perspective of both creative and commercial imperatives in her diverse small business practice.

Anne Holloway: A community development professional, adventure traveller and long-time photographer, Anne brings strong skills in project administration oversight, resilience, and attention to detail to her new role as a Stepping Stones Mentor.



Paul Miller: A professional entrepreneurship facilitator with a background supporting emerging small businesses through the NEIS Program, Paul is uniquely positioned to contribute deep industry and community networks toward sustaining the micro-enterprise ambitions of CALD women.



Jane O'Beirne: Recently retired from her Warrnambool-based travel business and an active organiser with local Rural Australians for Refugees, Jane combines business skills with a special appreciation of issues faced by migrant women entrepreneurs in regional Victoria.



Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling: Independent artist, educator, designer, community advocate and marathon runner, Pauline has a singular understanding of the required skills and resilience for developing and maintaining a successful brand and business.

Adrian Sortino: An enthusiastic community advocate, media technician and entrepreneur, Adrian offers strong communication and marketing experience, alongside his background in small business in support of developing local micro-

enterprise.

For more information contact Deborah Klein, Stepping Stones Ballarat Regional Coordinator: steppingstones@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728.

Good Governance Program

We have been updating our community partner organisations with details related to upcoming job opportunities and free food supply information to disseminate among their networks and support individuals most adversely affected during these challenging times.

Contact Sara at s.kaur@brmc.org.au for details.

Migration and Settlement Services

Migration and Settlement Services are available to clients over the phone and online. Please contact BRMC if you are seeking support with employment, education, housing, information about health or other community links and supports. Settlement Services provide support and community links to assist people in their first five years as refugees or vulnerable migrants. We are also providing emergency relief, fresh food and support to vulnerable households so don't hesitate to get in contact on 03 5383 0613.

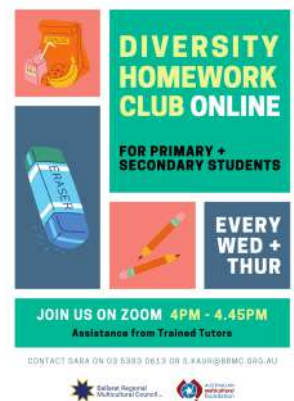
Diversity Homework Club

Diversity Homework Club is now available online!

We have adapted our Homework Club to suit the current social distancing norms. With experienced tutors helping Primary and Secondary level students navigate their literacy and numeracy skills in a fun learning environment, the club is growing in popularity and numbers.

Zoom sessions take place every Wednesday and Thursday at 4pm - 4.45pm.

Join the fun - contact Sara at s.kaur@brmc.org.au for details, training and membership.



Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

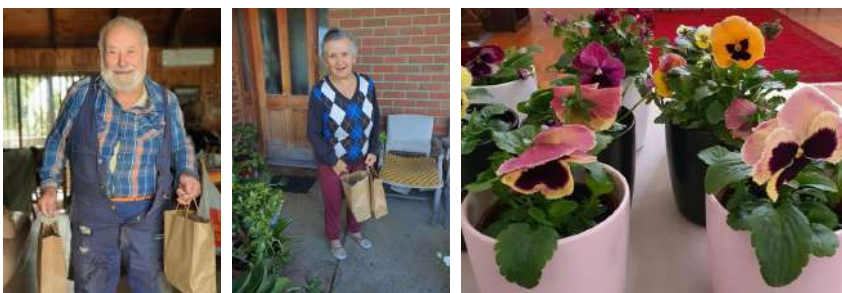
More than 40 clients and about the same number of tutors have been successfully participating in English learning and teaching. The volunteer tutors deftly deliver the service online to suit a vast range of our clients' individual linguistic needs. Some are learning English for social interaction, others to supplement their academic study or job prospects and some to prepare for their IELTS, TOEFL, OET and PTE - qualifying English tests for work or tertiary study.

If you're looking for a volunteering opportunity, contact Sara at s.kaur@brmc.org.au for details, free orientation training and quarterly Community of Practice sessions.



Senior Services

The BRMC Senior Services Team have been enjoying delivering meals to our seniors. Our delivery on Wednesday 6th May delighted seniors with a gardening activity pack and special Mother's Day chocolate surprise!



The Department of Health has introduced a new free dedicated support line for seniors who are affected by the impact of COVID-19: Contact

1800 171 866, Monday to Friday between 8.30am - 6pm.

Remember, BRMC Senior Services are only a phone call away. Call us if you are need of assistance or you would just like to chat - 03 5383 0613 or 0417 109 052.

STAY HOME STAY SAFE!

Opportunities & Items of Interest

Ballarat Welcome Centre Fresh Food Drop-Off

Mondays and Tuesdays, 11am - 12pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre (rear entry), 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Each week BRMC volunteers collect and organise donated fresh food to be delivered to households in need. If you know any gardeners that may have a surplus of fruit and vegetables, please let them know about the Fresh Food Drop-Off.



The drop-off point is set up for contactless donations so please bag or box your items and label with contents. Enquiries: 03 5383 0613



FRESH FOOD DROP-OFF

Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN) is gathering fresh food donations to assist households and families in need.

Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables welcome
MONDAYS & TUESDAYS, 11AM - 12PM
At rear entry of **Ballarat Welcome Centre**
25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat
(same location as Twilight Markets)





Update on Victoria's COVID-19 Restrictions

The Victorian Government announced the gradual easing of restrictions throughout the state from 11:59pm Sunday 31 May 2020.

"As we ease restrictions, each of us playing our part to keep one another safe. With the rate of community transmission remaining low, and the rate of testing remaining high, we're in a position to make a number of additional changes."

Statement from the Premier: www.premier.vic.gov.au/statement-from-the-premier-40

2020 Multicultural Media Grants Program

The Victorian Government is backing multicultural media outlets across the state to enable them to continue delivering high quality news, entertainment and information, while also increasing their engagement with readers, viewers and listeners.

Under the small grants stream, eligible outlets can apply from \$2,000 - \$9,999, while funding from \$10,000 - \$25,000 is available under the major grants stream.

Applications close at 11.59pm on **Sunday, 5 July 2020**.

www.vic.gov.au/2020-Multicultural-Media-Grants-Program



Delivering Access to Justice for More Victorians

More Victorians will have access to justice thanks to a \$17.5 million funding boost from the Victorian Government. The funding will flow immediately to Victoria Legal Aid and every Community Legal Centre and Aboriginal legal service in the state - supporting Victorians with a range of issues including family violence related matters, employment rights, debt and consumer credit, and tenancy and housing matters.

The Victorian Government is also providing a \$575,000 funding boost for community legal centres to deliver projects that support homeless women and children, recent arrivals, refugees and asylum seekers.

Read more: www.premier.vic.gov.au/delivering-access-to-justice-for-more-victorians

Family Violence Videos in Multiple Languages

Victoria Police have developed a suite of videos in multiple languages to encourage people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities to seek help if they are experiencing family violence.

The videos are available in English and 12 other languages: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Dari, Farsi, Greek, Italian, Punjabi, Macedonian, Turkish and Vietnamese. These videos will soon also be available in an additional 14 languages.

www.police.vic.gov.au/family-violence-there-no-excuse

MyAusCovid-19 App - Multilingual Resource

Migration Council Australia (MCA) has developed a multilingual resource for Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse communities about COVID-19, its impact and available support.

The MyAusCovid-19 app is available in 25 languages.

Learn more and download the app: www.myauscovid-19.org.au



Have You Had Your Flu Vaccination?

Getting vaccinated against the flu helps to protect the vulnerable people in our community. The elderly, the immune-compromised, babies and young children and those with chronic conditions are all more vulnerable.

This year it's more important than ever to protect yourself from the flu and help reduce the impact on our health service and local health care providers.

Visit www.stjohnvic.com.au/news/flu-vaccination

Ballarat RAR - Rural Australians for Refugees

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees supports refugees and people seeking asylum in detention centres and within the Ballarat community.

Aims

- To care for refugees and people seeking asylum by giving moral, practical and financial support.
- To raise public awareness to issues impacting on their freedom to live safely Australia.

Activities:

- Social activities such as picnics and home visits to welcome people into the community.
- Writing letters to politicians and newspapers.
- Participation in rallies – local rallies and national.
- Community radio talks.
- Visiting immigration detention centres to support people detained.
- Fund raising events.
- Liaise with other refugee advocacy groups, local and national.
- Refugee Week events
- Commemoration of significant refugee events eg. The Tampa, vigils for deaths in refugee detention centres.

Ballarat RAR welcomes new members: rarballarat@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR



Photos: 2019 Events - Remembering the Tampa rally in September and Run 4 A Cause fundraiser for Ballarat RAR in November.

BRMC Seeking IT Volunteers

COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted inequalities in access to critical communications technology. We are pleased to have been able to provide some positive responses, distributing 24 laptops, with thanks to the generosity of Loreto College as donors and Lateral Plains in applying their IT skills to recommission them. Our partners in the Wimmera are also addressing lack of devices and poor NBN connection. We are now conducting an audit of communications technology needs in our regional multicultural communities and further exploring needs for devices, connectivity, training and communications support.

Are you interested in helping people that are struggling with technology?

If you have the skills we're looking for please contact Emilia on 0435 902 853 or emilia@brmc.org.au



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.

TECHNOLOGY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Interested in joining us?

Contact details:

- emilia@brmc.org.au
- 0435 902 853

Looking forward to your help!

WE NEED HELP WITH:

- Support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to use online software (e.g. Zoom, Microsoft Teams)
- Be able to use Windows system & Microsoft Suite
- Perform minor IT troubleshooting

Share Your News

Do you have anything you would like us to share on social media or in the BRMC monthly newsletter?

Tag us on Facebook [@brmc.ballarat](https://www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat) or submit items to media@brmc.org.au.

BRMC Contact Details

Ballarat Welcome Centre, Barkly Square

25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat VIC 3350

Phone: 03 5383 0613

Email: info@brmc.org.au

Website: www.brmc.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

For updates, advice and **translated resources** visit

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus



If you have a coronavirus question and need a translator:

- Call 131 450 (TIS National)
- Then request the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398

Keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

BRMC connects and supports diverse communities to be safe and informed and to minimise the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

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. 