

July 2020 Newsletter



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

BRMC team wish you well and warm in July. Our friends and colleagues in lockdown in Melbourne are in our hearts and thoughts, as are other community members feeling isolated and concerned for family and friends around the globe at this time. We are with you and would like you to connect with the safe intercultural opportunities and support we can share. This edition highlights COVID-19 current information and emergency relief updates, as well as our ongoing services and celebrations. Make sure you visit our Ballarat Welcome Centre [Online Twilight Market](#) any time 24/7 and also the monthly special market event on 16 July. All of our usual services can be accessed online or by calling the office number on 03 5383 0613. Stay safe and stay in contact!

Warm Regards,
Ann
Ann Foley, Executive Officer

Meet the Board

BRMC is governed by an elected committee of management elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. A full list of Committee members can be found on the [BRMC website](#).

Lunorphare 'Luna' Folly
Youth Officer, BRMC Executive Committee

Luna is our BRMC Board youth representative. He is also an active member of the Ballarat African Association Board, Interkultura Football Tournament Steering Group and is employed by Centre for Multicultural Youth as a youth advisor and community engagement worker.

Lunorphare Kodjo Folly was born in Benin, in a small village called Ouidah in West Africa. He moved to Australia from a refugee camp in May 2008 with his mother and 5 siblings.

After moving to Australia he attended ESL, a class to help improve his ability to learn English. After gaining confidence in the ESL program he enrolled at Macarthur St Primary School. A year later he moved to Redan Primary School (now known as Phoenix College).

Luna started playing soccer for Ballarat Red Devils and later joined the under 13 squad at Vic Park FC, where he won several club awards. He then moved on to play for Ballarat City FC which played in the National Premier League in Victoria.

With his keen interest to work in the sports sector, he attended and completed the SEDA College Sports Development Program. While at SEDA he went on placement



at the Centre for Multicultural Youth. After placement at CMY Luna was offered a casual position as a Youth Facilitator and has been part of some amazing projects such as Rock the Block, Young Men's Group, Happy Place and Interkultura, just to name a few.

Now Luna plays for the Sebastopol Vikings and coaches their under 15 junior team. As a gifted athlete and football player, he is passionate about encouraging and including young people in sports and community opportunities, especially through the world game. After recently turning 20, he is excited to see life resume back to normal from what has been a difficult and challenging time for us all during this pandemic.

Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market Online

Don't miss our special market event on **Thursday 16th July, at 7pm.**

<http://twilightmarket.brmc.org.au>

Twilight Market Online launched in June with great colour, music and community participation. We were delighted to welcome over 400 people who attended the launch night and the online market site in June. You can visit the Market any time:

<https://twilightmarket.brmc.org.au/>

The online market is a unique innovation that supports migrant business people who have exciting business skills, merchandise and services but face barriers in getting them onto the market.

July Market will feature a mix of stallholders and entertainers, led by the Stepping Stones graduates from our entrepreneurship program that works with Ballarat business women from refugee backgrounds.



Important Advice on COVID-19

Do not visit Melbourne - it is in lockdown.

Only enter the lockdown areas if you:

- study or work in Melbourne and cannot do this work or study from home
- have healthcare or medical reasons to enter those areas
- you are caring for others in those places and nobody else can care for them

Suburbs very close to Ballarat are part of this lockdown, including: Melton, Werribee, Deer Park, Sunshine, Footscray, Broadmeadows, Caroline Springs, Sunbury, Sydenham and many more. It is not okay to visit these places until further advised by the Premier.

Let's all do our part to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Stay home, stay safe, stay connected.



Quick Program Updates

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

Opportunities & Items of Interest

- PhD Scholarship Opportunity
- Lodging Your First Tax Return?
- IT STARTS WITH YOU Postcard Competition
- VMC Online Workshops
- BRMC Seeking IT Volunteers

Quick Program Updates

Stepping Stones to Small Business

Stepping Stones Mentorships

Our Stepping Stones introductory Mentor - Mentee meetings are currently being scheduled. Over the next few weeks each Stepping Stones graduate and her designated Mentor will be sitting down to begin planning what aspects of the graduates' developing business the partners will focus on.

Wherever possible, we will meet in person - and where distance or circumstance prevent that, we will meet virtually via Zoom.

This next phase of the Stepping Stones journey is critical one. While on-the-ground

business activity and customer contact may be restricted, this is still a good time for emerging entrepreneurs to work on their business: Refining their business plan, re-visiting the short and long-term goals that will help make their business more viable, and finding ways to upgrade the skills they need to successfully run their business.



Having a Mentor at their side through all of this provides our graduates a guiding hand and sounding board to help them navigate some of the uncertainties of these times, and to continue to build toward the future.

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

Migration and Settlement Services

BRMC services to new migrants and refugees have extended to offer a fresh food donation and delivery services and IT and communications support for people who don't have good connection, data or devices. We are also working with other Ballarat support services to coordinate a relief support package for people who are in financial stress as a result of COVID-19. Call the BRMC office on 03 5383 0613 if you seek more information.

Diversity Homework Club

Diversity Homework Club welcomes back new and old students and tutors next week. Sara and Nyepuot delivered 30 homework club kits to students this week to kick off the next term. We are also planning exciting new art, sport and cultural fun through the school term so watch this space!



We hugely appreciate our dedicated tutors and are always happy to hear of people who may offer their skills to the team. We offer support and training for our online tutoring.

A colorful graphic advertisement for the Diversity Homework Club. The background is light blue with various school supplies like pencils, notebooks, and a laptop. The text reads: "BRMC is looking for Diversity Homework Club Volunteer Tutors". At the bottom center is the logo for Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, which consists of a stylized starburst shape next to the text "Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council".

BRMC is looking for

Diversity Homework Club

Volunteer Tutors

 Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

The Diversity Homework Club needs you.

Are you passionate about supporting young learners navigate their learning journeys?

Help our enthusiastic members achieve their goals - send an email to Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au expressing your interest.

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

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

We are looking for online volunteer tutors.

Free online English tutoring is provided to clients through our Migrant English Program.

For details and free training send an email to Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au



Senior Services

BRMC Senior Services have been busy delivering weekly meals and activity packs to clients in and around the Ballarat Region. It's wonderful seeing all their beautiful happy faces when we arrive. Weekly deliveries will continue for the month of July.



Senior Services staff thank all our clients for sharing their wonderful art work, farm animals and life stories. We also want to thank Allsorts Catering for all their hard work preparing meals for our clients.

BRMC Senior Services provides community based services and activities to assist people from CALD backgrounds who are socially isolated. We welcome all enquiries and our assessment process is designed to discover how we can assist you on an individual basis.

We also provide social support to people under the age of 65. To find out if you are eligible please contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.

Are you
Under 65 and
from a CALD
background?



Contact Teresa on
0417 109 052 or
teresa@brmc.org.au
to find out if you are eligible
for BRMC Senior Services.



Opportunities & Items of Interest

PhD Scholarship Opportunity

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute and the Ballarat EVOLVE Strategic Partnership invite proposals from applicants interested in undertaking research into rural / regional settlement of new migrants in the Ballarat, Wimmera and/or Western Districts of Victoria.

The EVOLVE Strategic Partnership involves five primary partners: [Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council](#), [Ballarat Community Health](#), [City of Ballarat](#), [Centre for Multicultural Youth](#), [Wimmera Development Association](#).

Applications close at 12pm midday on Monday 3rd August 2020.

Find out more: <https://socialequity.unimelb.edu.au/news/latest/phd-scholarship-evolve-partnership>

Lodging Your First Tax Return?

Is this your first tax return or are you new to Australia? The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) can help you with your first tax time.

Your tax return tells the ATO whether you need to pay extra tax (a tax bill) or if you'll get money back (a tax refund). In your tax return you need to include your income and any deductions you are claiming.



IT STARTS WITH YOU Postcard Competition

Ballarat Community Health is excited to announce their IT STARTS WITH YOU Postcard Competition.

If you work with anyone aged 12 to 25 and want to give a voice to our youth, then they need you. The entries will be art or writing (or both) to create a series of postcards that advocates positive change in the prevention of family violence.



Closing date 27 July 2020.

Download the application form for full specifications:
<https://bchc.org.au/postcard-competition/>

VMC Online Workshops

The Victorian Multicultural Commission is running a series of online workshops to celebrate the diverse arts, crafts and culture of Victoria's multicultural communities.

Register for these FREE workshops and learn a range of new skills from the comfort of your living room.



Silk Ribbon Lei Weaving Workshop

Saturday 11th July, 11am

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/silk-ribbon-lei-weaving-workshop-tickets-110068088616

Siva Samoa Class with Nesian Pearl

Saturday 11th July, 2pm

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/siva-samoa-class-with-nesian-pearl-tickets-109930715730

Turban Tying Workshop

Saturday 18th July, 11am

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/turban-tying-workshop-tickets-110239996798

Wearable Paper Art Tutorial by WILD HARDT

Saturday 25th July, 9am

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wearable-paper-art-tutorial-by-wild-hardt-registration-110235096140

BRMC Seeking IT Volunteers

If you are interested in helping people with online technology and have the skills we're looking for please contact Mina on 03 5383 0613 or m.abdolmaleki@brmc.org.au.



Interested in joining us?

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Contact details:
m.abdolmaleki@brmc.org.au
03 5383 0613

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

Feeling unwell? Get tested and get advice on how to manage health and virus transmission.

If you have any symptoms, no matter how mild, get tested. **Testing is FREE at the Lucas Community Hub - by appointment only: call 03 4311 1571 to book.**

Symptoms include: cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste.

If you or a loved one need help to arrange an appointment or fill out paperwork, talk to your

SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY



Wash your hands



Maintain physical distancing (1.5 metres)



If you're sick, stay at home

ANY SYMPTOMS, GET TESTED!



.....Fever, chills or sweats

Cough



.....Sore throat

Shortness of breath



.....Runny nose

Loss of smell or taste



If you have any symptoms, no matter how mild, get tested.

FREE TESTING @ LUCAS COMMUNITY HUB:
By appointment only - (03) 4311 1571



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

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Website: www.brmc.org.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat



