

September 2020 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

Welcome to our Spring edition. We hope it finds you enjoying some sunshine and keeping well and safe. COVID-19 restrictions in our region are highlighted below and we will update through Facebook and BRMC website as next steps are announced by the Victorian Government. You will see below that we are working online and that many opportunities are coming up to connect, learn and find support. BRMC continues to set up the Ballarat Welcome Centre as a COVID-19 compliant community space. If you have any enquiries about the Welcome Centre contact our Facilities Coordinator, Suzanne on welcome@brmc.org.au.

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Executive Officer

COVID-19 Updates in Victoria

From 11.59pm 13 September, some restrictions will change across Victoria.

Roadmaps have been developed that outline how Victoria is moving toward reopening - a goal referred to as "COVID Normal". Regional Victoria and Metro Melbourne each have their own roadmaps, relating to how many active cases are currently in the community. For more information, visit: www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps

BRMC and Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN) are assisting isolated and financially impacted members and communities with support and information. Support contacts and information are regularly updated on [Facebook](#) and [website](#).

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](#).

Dimitri Dollard

Deputy Chair, BRMC Executive Committee

After experiencing poverty, civil war and life in a refugee camp in Benin West Africa, Dimitri Kodjovi Dollard resettled in Australia in early 2007. With only nine years of formal education in a French speaking country, Dimitri managed self-taught English to an acceptable level before coming to Australia.



Once in Australia, Dimitri pushed himself into tertiary studies; Completing a Bachelor Degree in 2011 at Federation University and a Master of International Relations at Melbourne University.

Dimitri is currently undertaking his Master of Social Work and an MBA.

Dimitri has had an immeasurable passion for community activities since his teenage years, and has continued the same engagement since arriving in Australia and working with the City of Ballarat as Youth Development and Project Officer.

Dimitri is currently

- President of the Victoria Togolese Association
- President of the Togolese Diaspora in Australia
- Deputy Chair of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

Dimitri is also the founder and director of Solution-Aid International. An Australian registered charitable organisation that aims to provide world class education to countries known as third world or developing countries.

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UPDATES FROM BRMC

COVID-19 Fresh Food Drop-Off

A big Thank you to our regular donors, BRMC team and Salvation Army volunteers who bring fresh vegetables and fruit every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to the Ballarat Welcome Centre. Fresh food deliveries go out every week through a contactless delivery service to households in financial hardship and isolation.



FRESH FOOD DROP-OFF

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

Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables welcome

MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 11AM - 12PM
At rear entry of **Ballarat Welcome Centre**
25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat
(same location as Twilight Markets)



Cultural Competency Services

BRMC has reviewed and enhanced our Cultural Competency Training services. Thank you to Kate McInnes, consultant and Mina Abdolmaleki, BRMC Community Development Officer, for leading this project.

In August we trained 14 community members from migrant and refugee backgrounds in cross-cultural competency and facilitation. This amazing group of people will now be able to co-facilitate BRMC's training alongside our staff. As always, BRMC works in partnership with migrant and refugee communities to champion their perspectives, knowledge and expertise. We are thrilled to now be able to offer best-practice training that focuses on community members' lived experience, practical knowledge of what works and personal stories.

If you are interested in our cultural competency services or wish to refer an organisation, group or workplace for training (delivered online as needed), please contact eo@brmc.org.au.

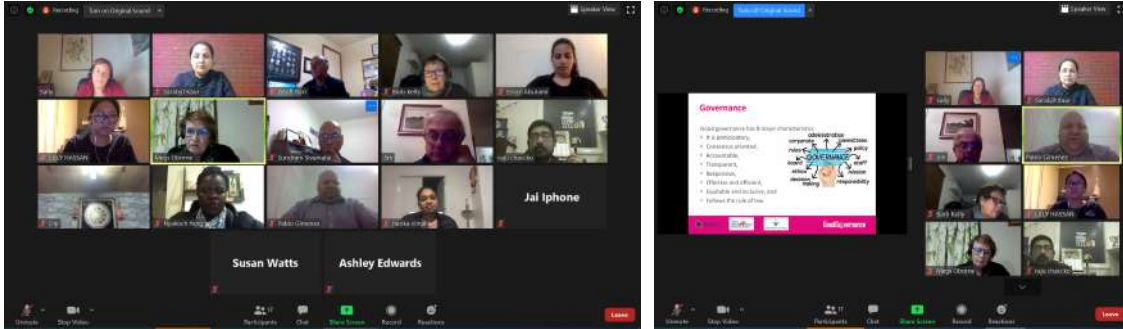


Our trainers and trainees tested and piloted the enhanced training online in August.

Good Governance Program

Free, flexible and customised mentoring support is offered to community organisations through the Good Governance program including web-based support. We are building our mentor networks and their capacity to work more effectively online. A webinar, Building Stronger Communities during COVID-19, was attended by community organisations and mentors across the three sites - Ballarat, Mildura and Albury.

We have a waiting list. If you are interested in seeking governance support for your association, please contact Sara on s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



Diversity Homework Club

The Diversity Homework Club team packed and delivered learning kits for their member students and families on 19 August. The students received chapter books, journals, lapboards and reusable masks in their customised kits. Their sunny smiles sure brightened the rainy day!



Throughout August, the homework club students read stories on 'kindness' and wrote poems, songs or stories and created art. Here's a poem written collectively by Nyamar, Nyaduor, Jiech, Maker, Lul and Chudier:

Kindness is caring for others
I try to help them in any way I can
Nice to help my sister with her Maths
Don't fight because that's not kind
Nice in school is always great
Everyday my friends would help me especially if I'm sad
Smiling is showing kindness
Sometimes we help cook, clean rooms, sometimes I do all the dishes
Which can take a long time, they all love it when I've helped.

Acrostic poems on 'kindness'.

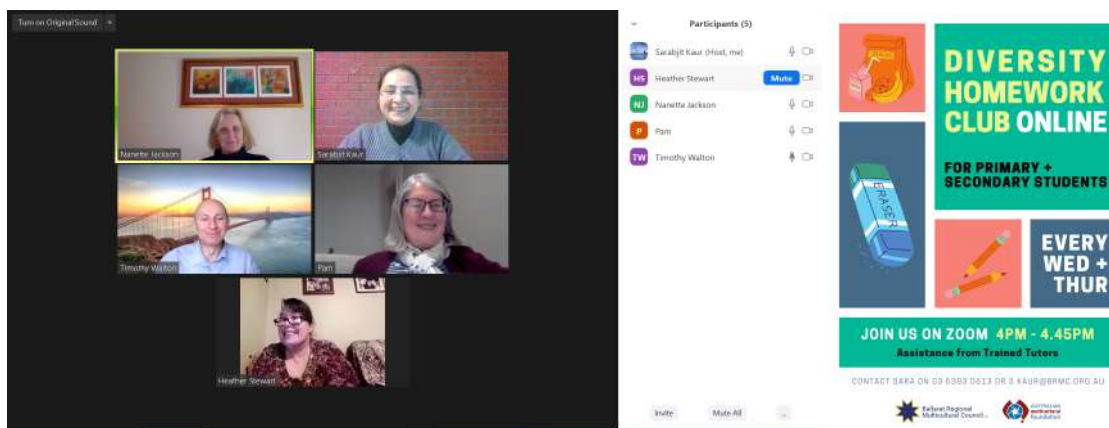
Kind
Ice-cream sharing with siblings
Nyayul sharing food with others
Drawing pictures of kindness
Night-time hugs

KINDNESS
 IS
 NICE
 DO
 NOT
 EVER
 STOP
 SHOWING KINDNESS
 -Martha

Exciting to be kind
School friends being kind
Sharing with other
 - Nyayul and George

Keeping close to your friends and enemies!
 Including everyone in games!
 Not teasing others for who they are!
 Don't ever blame without evidence!
 Never talking bad of someone behind their backs or in face to face!
 Enjoying company from even those people you dislike!
 Sitting patiently with youngsters to help them learn or understand!
 Silently showing kindness without expecting applause!
 - Nivash

The Diversity Homework Club has been nominated for the My Education Awards - Regional category. A huge **'thank you!'** to the students, families and tutors for their team spirit and for making this happen.



School's Out! Workshops

The BRMC Diversity Homework Club is now offering students free after-school and school holiday creative cultural workshops. During COVID restrictions, School's Out! Workshops are delivered online via Zoom, for two hours on Tuesdays and Fridays during school term and then for three hours from Tuesdays - Thursdays each week of term break. Materials for each activity are delivered to the students' homes.

To sign up, contact Diversity Homework Club Coordinator Sarabjit Kaur, s.kaur@brmc.org.au. For further information, contact School's Out! Coordinator Deborah Klein, d.klein@brmc.org.au.

SCHOOL'S OUT!

Homework Club Workshops

After-School & School Holiday Creative Cultural Workshops

Tuesdays & Fridays 4:00 - 6:00pm

Making Banners 1 - 11 September
Inspired by West African wax cloth designs

Beading 15 - 18 September
Explore traditional bead stringing

Making Masks School Holiday Workshops
Create faces from around the world 22 September - 1 October
Tuesday - Thursday 11am - 1pm

Movement & Dance 6 - 20 October
Learn traditional & contemporary moves

FREE + All Materials Provided

Sign Up Now!
Contact Sarabjit Kaur s.kaur@brmc.org.au

The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council is proud to offer this opportunity in partnership with the Ballarat African Communities Action Plan and Victorian Department of Education and Training

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

The program continues to deliver English tutoring to clients across Ballarat, Beaufort, Ararat and Horsham. We have also been able to assist tutors and students with digital support through equipment, digital training and support. A huge thank you to all the community volunteer tutors who spare no efforts to bring language learning and smiles to many in the safety of their homes.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM



BRMC is looking for Online Volunteer Tutors

For details and free training please email Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au



Social Support, including Senior Services

We continue through COVID-19 restrictions to connect with people through our Meals and Activity Packs for 140 Seniors across Ballarat and surrounding areas. Our Activity Packs have included art supplies, meditation colouring books, jigsaw puzzles, spring bulbs, herbs and potted plants to face masks and pantry staples, as well as printouts of helpful government safety guidance and resources. While the Seniors miss our group face-to-face activities, they are delighted with the visits from the team.

If you know someone who may benefit from BRMC services, please contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or email teresa@brmc.org.au.

Meet members of our Social Support Groups

Rita and Tony Danko

We became BRMC members four years ago when we moved house from Melbourne to Ballarat and have enjoyed the monthly Tucker, bus trips and other activities organised by Teresa and Co. Unfortunately, Tony has not been well and 18 months ago he was moved to PS Hobson Residential Aged Care in Ballarat. I continued to enjoy the activities of the Multicultural group on my own and made many good friends there.

Then came corona virus. I was still permitted to visit Tony even though restrictions applied. Life for me was pretty lonely until the Social Support Team came to the rescue bringing food and activity packs. One of the BRMC's Activity Packs contained a set of paints,



brushes and canvas, enticing to an ex painter.

"Shall I paint again?" My little house is already wall papered with my many previous paintings. "Will I remember how to paint?"

"What shall I paint?" These were all questions running through my mind.

Finally I decided to paint some flowers. I presented these to Natalie on her next visit. Thanks to the gift of paints from BRMC, I restarted a long forgotten skill and love of painting and the COVID-19 isolation became bearable.

Read Rita and Tony's full story: www.brmc.org.au/social-support-members-rita-and-tony-danko



Check out Rita's autobiography for sale on Twilight Market Online:
<https://twilightmarket.brmc.org.au/collections/rita-danko/products/niina>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Racism Information Sessions

1 - 22 September

Limited places are left for the remaining racism information sessions hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. These sessions are designed to educate and empower multicultural and multifaith communities in Victoria. You will also learn how to recognise racism, how to report it and where to seek advice and support.



Learn more and register: www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/racism-information-sessions-understanding-your-rights-and-taking-action

Running for Council - Everything you want to know

Friday 11th September, 5.30pm

The Ballarat Mechanics Institute has teamed up with the Victorian Local Governance Association and the City of Ballarat to present the first in a four-part series on the Ballarat Local Government Elections. This panel discussion will tell you everything you should know about running for council.

FREE registration: <https://runningforcouncilbmi.eventbrite.com.au>

Everything you
want to know about

RUNNING FOR COUNCIL

but are too afraid to ask!

FORUM



Photo: The Courier



Photo: The Courier



Photo: The Courier

Judy Verlin | Kathryn Arndt | Janet Dore

4 times Ballarat Mayor
(1998, 1999, 2009, 2010)

CEO - Victorian Local
Governance Association

CEO - City of Ballarat

HOST



Prue Bentley
ABC Ballarat Chief of Staff

Friday 11th September - 5.30pm

Register via
runningforcouncilbmi.eventbrite.com.au

VIGA Victorian Local Governance Association

CITY OF BALLARAT



Gambling Harm Prevention Forum

Wednesday 16th September, 10am - 1pm

Hear from experts, practitioners and community voices from the gambling harm reduction sector who will speak about the new challenges and effects of gambling in multicultural communities during the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown. The panel of speakers includes Lunorphare Folly, BRMC Board member (Youth Officer) and CMY Youth Facilitator.

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/reducing-gambling-harm-in-cald-communities-during-covid-19-tickets-119027146399



Youth Employment Info Session

Wednesday 16th September, 4.30pm - 6pm

City of Ballarat Intercultural Employment Program and G-force Youth Employment Ballarat will provide an insightful info session on youth employment opportunities in current environment and beyond.

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/youth-employment-info-session-tickets-119383125141



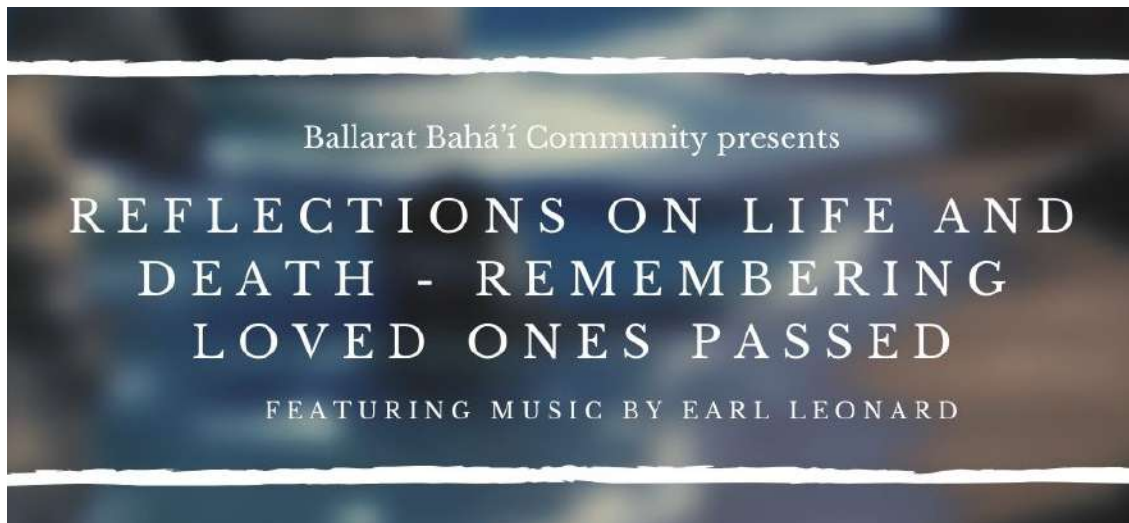
Friday Sessions with Earl Leonard

Friday 18th September, 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Ballarat Baha'i Community is hosting regular online Friday sessions focused on reflection, prayer and meditation and featuring special guests from the local arts community. The

fifteenth in this series will feature music from Earl Leonard and reflections on Life and Death - Remembering Loved Ones Passed.

If you'd like to attend, please email ballarat@vic.bahai.org.au or message Ballarat Baha'i Community for the direct event link: <https://www.messenger.com/t/ballaratbahai>



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Community Matters EOI

BRMC is seeking expressions of interest for the new Community Matters podcast series. Any interest or inquiries will be managed by Lamourette Folly and Bobby Mehta who are working together to set up our podcast series. You can email them on communitymatters@brmc.org.au.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

COMMUNITY MATTERS PODCAST

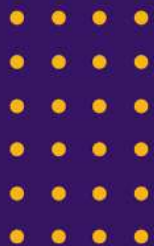
BRMC's Community Matters podcast series is launching this Spring 2020!

Listen to our first interview with
Dr Sundram Sivamalai

<https://youtu.be/QoqEt8HcjtU>

Perhaps you would like to tell your stories or you know someone you would like to recommend. If so, please email communitymatters@brmc.org.au

If you would like to subscribe to the series please email media@brmc.org.au



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council INC.



Episode 1: Health & Well-being During COVID-19 - <https://youtu.be/QoqEt8HcjtU>

Support for Multicultural Communities

The Victorian Government is boosting support for multicultural communities across the state with an additional \$14.3 million to reach out to more culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians. Funding will assist health messaging and support for multicultural organisations that work on the ground to deliver emergency relief. A CALD Communities Taskforce will also be established to help multicultural and multifaith communities through the pandemic.

Read the full media release: www.premier.vic.gov.au/working-together-multicultural-communities

Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence

If you or someone you know has made a positive impact on Victoria's multicultural communities, VMC want to hear about it. New categories include health, arts, sport, justice, refugee advocacy, emergency services and community response and recovery.



Nominations close on **11 October 2020**.

To view all categories and make a nomination, visit

www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/multicultural-awards-for-excellence

Multicultural Festivals and Events Program

The Multicultural Festivals and Events 2020-21 Digital Round One Program is open. Receive funding of up to \$50,000 to hold a digital cultural or religious festival/event for your community, or increase your organisation's digital capability, between 1 October 2020 and 28 February 2021.



Applications close midnight, **13 September 2020**.

Apply now: www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program

Active Kids Grant

The Australian Sports Foundation's Active Kids Grant applications are now OPEN. The Active Kids Grants aim to provide every child with the active childhood they deserve. Grants will be provided to programs that help acquire sporting equipment, kits and uniforms for young Australians aged under 20, with priority given to clubs in disadvantaged and/or rural communities.

Applications accepted from **1 September to 30 September** with suggested grant values up to \$10,000.

Apply now: https://grants.sportsfoundation.org.au/prog/active_kids_grant

BGCLS Committee of Management EOI

Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service is seeking expressions of interest to join the Committee of Management. The Committee of Management has particular interest in attracting people with skills in strategic planning, policy, finance, grant seeking and fundraising.

BGCLS is committed to ensuring the diversity of our Committee represents the diversity of our communities.

Women, Indigenous people, people with a disability, young people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



Information on how to apply can be found at www.bgcls.org.au/get-involved.html

Community Art Pathways

Arts & Culture Ballarat is looking for local artists to display their work at Unicorn Lane or Art Space Ballarat. It's free and Unicorn Lane is offering up to \$300 to assist emerging artists with printing costs. Creatives of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander descent, CALD and minority groups are encouraged to apply. It's important that the diverse voices from across our community have a chance to speak, create and make.

For more information and to apply, visit www.creativeballarat.com.au/art-pathways

VMConnect

VMConnect is a new platform, created by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, where you can share your ideas and experiences with others from the multicultural community of Victoria and beyond. There are a number of people using this platform as a way to connect, including the VMC's Commissioners, Regional Advisory Council members and key stakeholders, all wanting to hear from you.

Request to join: <https://victorian-multicultural-commission.hivebrite.com/signup>

EVENTS IN REVIEW

Twilight Markets

Twilight Market Online is available 24/7 and will continue to be updated with new products and services. Check it out: <https://twilightmarket.brmc.org.au>

Twilight Markets support and highlight emerging entrepreneurs from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, particularly emerging refugee entrepreneurs.

We have just completed the Twilight Markets online Winter series, launched during Refugee Week 2020 and held again in July and August. A big THANK YOU to our vendors, entertainers, and everyone that attended and supported local business by purchasing items through the website. We hope the events helped brighten these cold and difficult days.



Share Your News

Have something 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.  



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