

October 2020 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

We hope you are enjoying the Spring rains and warmer days. BRMC Team continues to offer information, support and relief in relation to COVID-19 so please keep in touch. Our Ballarat Welcome Centre phone and administration will be back in place at the Welcome Centre next week and we are developing some COVID safe spaces for essential meetings and support activities. Our new Community Engagement Team and Diversity Homework Club 'School's Out!' workshops are highlights of the news in this edition.

Warm Regards,

Ann

BRMC 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](#).

Paul Miller

Assistant Treasurer, BRMC Executive Committee

Dr Paul Miller is a Ballarat-based trainer, mentor and coach with 20 years' experience assisting thousands of people start, grow and manage their businesses. He has worked across a range of business sectors throughout Victoria and understands from firsthand experience that running a business is not a sprint, it is a marathon, with many challenges and rewards along the way.



He has spent most of his career working in the small business sector either as an owner/operator or coaching others to take an idea from the concept stage to a fully operational business. Paul brings with him extensive local experience, both in the delivery of employment services and as a small business operator.

Paul has worked with Sarina Russo Job Access since 2015 delivering direct services to budding entrepreneurs - from concept stage, developing the idea, training and preparing the business and then coaching and mentoring to sustain the enterprise.

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UPDATES FROM BRMC

Ballarat Welcome Centre

As you may be aware, the Ballarat Welcome Centre is being developed both as a new home for BRMC, and a safe and welcoming place for diverse community members to connect, learn and access opportunities.

Since first opening in 2019, the beautiful Hall within the Welcome Centre has proved a huge success with our communities, hosting a number of activities and events including our popular Twilight Markets, singing and drumming classes, Zumba, and Sitar performance community workshops.



We are now in the next stage of developing the rest of the building to enable further opportunities for community meetings, programs and events. It's a long process, but also an exciting one, as we uncover a little more each and every day this grand building's history and community intentions.

BRMC are honoured and privileged to be its latest custodians. We are dedicated to acknowledging its history and relevance to Ballarat's evolving community past and future.

We hope that the legacy of learning and community spirit which began in 1862 with the founders of the Ballarat East Town Library, and continued with the Ballarat School of Design and then Ballarat Secondary College, will further continue through the objectives of the Ballarat Welcome Centre.

We look forward to bringing you updates of the work being done, and welcoming you all to the centre once completed.

Did you know that our building was originally the Ballarat Town Library? Built in 1862 it was significant at the time because most libraries were not open to general public. This was the first free library in Ballarat, financially supported by rate-payers, and welcoming to all, particularly the working classes and "different creeds".



New Community Engagement Team

We have seen the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our daily lives and have come to recognise that community engagement during this period is more important than ever.

The new BRMC Community Engagement Team has been established to help multicultural communities who are facing economic, social and cultural hardships in this situation. The Community Engagement Team, with strong cultural capabilities, will directly engage with people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds who face a range of challenges as a result of the pandemic.

The team will focus on providing COVID emergency relief services, including COVID-19 Flexible Funding and Technology access support and other services that meet the specific needs of CALD communities impacted by COVID-19.

For further information, contact Heeyoung Lim, Community Engagement Coordinator:

hy.lim@brmc.org.au

Twilight Market

The BRMC [Twilight Market Online](#) held musical market events in the winter season of June, July and August and remains open 24/7 for now.

With the prospect of COVID restrictions easing through regional Victoria and the consequent opening of community markets, BRMC is now surveying Twilight Market Online vendors and visitors to determine their current and future interest in the Twilight Market e-commerce platform.



Stepping Stones Program

During September, Stepping Stones staff undertook the mammoth task of surveying over 2,000 current and past participants in the program.

Designed to provide clear data about the outcomes of the Stepping Stones Program, the survey explored how their participation impacted on improving women's confidence, financial literacy, community engagement, and building independence through their own business enterprise.

Meanwhile, Ballarat Stepping Stones staff and Mentors are working closely with our local Stepping Stones graduates. While COVID restrictions are still limiting on-the-ground business activities, the Mentor Partnerships have been building stronger foundations for when those enterprises are able to operate freely once again.

Some of the activities that Mentors have been assisting with include:

- developing cash flow systems
- developing inventory management for stock
- improving quality control of goods
- exploring potential new markets for goods
- supporting goal-setting and time management
- documenting new goods and developing promotional copy
- exploring packaging and labelling options
- exploring new suppliers
- brainstorming ideas for future business development

Good Governance Program

We welcome applications from community organisations, cultural groups and associations looking for 'good governance' mentoring support to keep afloat during these challenging times. Read the Good Governance newsletter here:

<https://rise.articulate.com/share/trjTA3Mwko9M9MLjVW0rAO6An8jR0sxH#/>

Our current Good Governance mentors attended a Mentor Resource training on 30 September. The attendees discussed the recommended process to support the mentee community organisation(s) to determine priority actions and develop an action plan.

Thriving during COVID Normal webinar will be held for community organisations on 20 October. Contact the Ballarat Host Coordinator Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au to book a spot for your community organisation.



ZOOM WEBINAR: Thriving during Covid Normal

Join the Good Governance program to discuss how you can help your community organisation to Thrive during Covid Normal.

Our discussion topics will include:

- Innovative online fundraising ideas,
- Networking and online interactions,
- Grant and funding opportunities, and
- Using technology to market your organisation.

[Click here](#) to register for the Zoom webinar

For more information contact your local Good Governance Host Coordinator

 **Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council**
Sarabjit Kaur, Migrant English Program
03 5383 0613 | s.kaur@bmc.org.au

 **Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Centre**
Megs Osborne, Project & Outreach Manager
02 6021 0990 | way2go@vrbc.org.au

 **Mildura Rural City Council**
Geoff Burr, Community Development Officer
0418 329 448 | geoff.burr@mildura.vic.gov.au

Tuesday 20th October 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Diversity Homework Club

The Diversity Homework Club offers free out of school hours learning support to children from diverse backgrounds. Delivered online on Wednesdays and Thursdays 4 - 4.45pm, the program is popular with students and tutors alike.

The ongoing reading program of the club offers engaging activities to promote a love of reading. The students get a chance to lead games and take turns at presenting their work to the group.

In the MY Education Awards ceremony held online on Tuesday, 22 September, Tim Richardson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Schools presented the awards. Diversity Homework Club was declared **Regional OSHLSP of the Year** and awarded a certificate and \$400 voucher. Read more: www.cmy.net.au/cmy-news/my-education-awards-2020/

Our heartiest congratulations to Kathjajini (Kartie), Martha Tuany, Nivashini (Nivash), Nivethaa (Nive), Nyakuey Diew, Sarah Hussein and Bryan Nguyen for winning a \$ 50 reading voucher and certificate each for their creative submissions towards the MY Education Awards.



School's Out! Cultural Workshops

July saw the introduction of the School's Out! Cultural Workshops. Funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training, School's Out! activities complement the strong academic support provided to students through the BRMC Diversity Homework Club.

School's Out! workshops offer creative making opportunities inspired by community cultural traditions and designed to reinforce students' skills in numeracy, literacy, observation, pattern development, communication, and hand-to-eye dexterity.

With 20+ Homework Club students signed up for School's Out! workshops, the project has delivered twice-weekly online sessions in Banner-Making, Beading, Mask-Making, and Drawing Portraits. All sessions are presented by professional artists and community cultural leaders, giving young people across Ballarat an opportunity to learn alongside some of the world's best cultural ambassadors and communicators - its artists.



With a short break to re-set while students return to face-to-face schooling, the School's Out! Cultural Workshops return later in October with a program including Weaving, Ceramics, Singing, Wood-Working, Dance and Movement and more!

For more information, contact School's Out! Coordinator Deborah Klein, d.klein@brmc.org.au.



Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

The Migrant English Program offers free English tutoring support tailored to the students' needs. The service is currently being delivered online across Ballarat, Beaufort, Ararat and Horsham due to the COVID-19 physical distancing norms. We welcome applications from individuals seeking help with English tutoring support.

We are also looking for new online tutors to join our exciting journey of bringing English learning and smiles to people in the safety and comfort of their homes. Free orientation training and teaching resources will be provided to volunteer tutors. Contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au if you are

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

Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council

interested.

Social Support

It's been lovely to see our seniors getting outside and enjoying some spring sunshine! Social Support will continue to deliver meals and activity packs up until the week of Christmas.



If you know someone who would benefit from BRMC Social Support Services contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or t.azzopardi@brmc.org.au.

Meet one of our longest BRMC Social Support members:

Tamie

Tamie joined the BRMC Social Support group more than 12 years ago when she came along to a social event with a Japanese friend. Over the years Tamie has enjoyed attending all social support events from Tucker to Bus Trips, Social Hub and Health & Wellbeing Days, and making many good friends within the BRMC community.

Tamie came to Ballarat from Kure (a town near Hiroshima, Japan) at the age of 20, newly married to Kevin, who was in the Australian Defence Force. Tamie and Kevin created a lovely home surrounded by a beautiful garden which they planted with iconic Japanese plants including cherry blossoms, maples and camellias - a loving tribute to Japan. Sixty-six years later, the garden continues to flourish and is a source of great joy and comfort to Tamie.



Read more about Tamie: www.brmc.org.au/tamie-social-support-member



UPCOMING EVENTS

Simple Ways to Keep Your Money Safe Online

Thursday 22nd October, 7pm - 8pm

With a shift to many people buying things online for the first time due to the restrictions imposed during this pandemic, this training exercise will help people improve the safety and the security of any transactions they make. Session held by Ballarat Libraries.

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/simple-ways-to-keep-your-money-safe-online-tickets-121490394039



Ballarat African Association Workshops

Upcoming Workshops: Re-Branding Identities of African Australian Families - strengthening building blocks of our community and society at large.

Mini-Series: 24 October, 21 November, and 5 December 2020.

First workshop - focusing on "Foundation & Cradle"

Saturday 24th October, 10am - 4pm

Register: <https://baa-family-identities-rebranding.eventbrite.com.au>

The Ballarat African Association Inc. Presents

Re-Branding Identities of African Australian Families:

strengthening building blocks of our community and society at large



Re-Branding African Australian Identity Project



Featuring: Foundation & Cradle

- Community Building Blocks
 - Stronger Structures from Stronger Persons
 - Enhancing Wholeness and Wellness
 - Communicating For Growth
 - Intentional Relationships
- plus*
- Case Story: Never Giving Up

Speakers



Kaitirde Ndola
Founder
Confidence & Self Esteem.com
Author | Speaker | Personal Development | Life Purpose Strategist



Charmaine Swanson
Associate Lecturer
Rural Health Community Placements
Department of Rural Health
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
The University of Melbourne

Saturday
24 October 2020
10:00 - 16:00



Dia De Los Muertos

31 October - 3 November

Venue: The Gatehouse Ballarat, 1201 Lydiard St N, Ballarat North

The Gatehouse presents this significant cultural event for the second year in Ballarat. Members of the community are encouraged to bring photos of loved ones who have passed away and things that remind you of them to place on the ofrendas (altars) from October 31st. There will be Mexican inspired food, beverages and treats.

More information: www.facebook.com/events/2619709751614584



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mental Health Month

October is Mental Health Month! Mental Health Month gives us an opportunity to raise awareness about mental health and wellbeing. We all feel sad, stressed or upset sometimes, especially with so much happening in the world right now.



For resources on COVID-19 and mental health in multicultural communities, visit:

<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/i-need-support-now/information-in-languages-other-than-english.html>

Black Dog Institute is running their One Foot Forward challenge. You can get involved by walking 20km, 40km or 60km during October to raise funds for vital mental health research. Find out more: www.onefootforward.org.au

Extreme Hardship Support Program

The Extreme Hardship Support Program provides financial assistance, information and referrals to people living in Victoria who are experiencing significant hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and who are unable to access other forms of Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government income support. The program provides support for temporary and provisional visa holders and undocumented migrants with little or no income, savings or community support.



For more information and to apply, visit: www.redcross.org.au/get-help/help-for-migrants-in-transition/help-for-migrants-in-transition/vic-relief

COVID-19 Rent Relief Grant

The Victorian Government has established a rental assistance fund to provide rent relief payments of up to \$3,000 to Victorians experiencing rental hardship due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The package provides a one off grant to help Victorian renters maintain safe, secure and stable accommodation.

For more information and to find out if you're eligible, visit: www.housing.vic.gov.au/help-renting/rentrelief

Pride Events and Festival Fund 2020-21

Do you have an exciting idea for an activity that connects LGBTIQ+ Victorians? Organisations can now apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to run such initiatives, through the Victorian Government's Pride Events and Festival Fund 2020-21 Connection and Accessibility Grants. All funded activities must be offered virtually, held in line with coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, and meaningfully include people living with a disability.



Applications close **23 October 2020**.

For more information, visit www.vic.gov.au/pride-events-and-festivals-fund

City of Ballarat Grants

Grant opportunities now open for community groups and organisations seeking funding for programs, events, products and services that bring a wide range of benefits to Ballarat.

Community Impact Grant Program (CIGP)

The Community Impact Grant Program encourages organisations to address community needs by being innovative and creative.

Tourism Event Grant Program (TEGP)

Tourism Event Grants are for projects, festivals, events or activities which advance and encourage increased visitation, participation and yield and / or contribute to the presentation or marketing of Ballarat as a tourism destination of choice.

For more information, visit: www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/city/my-community/grants

Power in Culture and Ethnicity Project

Power in Culture and Ethnicity is gearing up for their new project. If you are a person with disability from a non-English speaking background, they want you to join in. Power in Culture and Ethnicity is a vibrant group, active in creating change for equity and fighting against discrimination and racism.

If this interests you, they'd like to hear from you - jcurtain.pce@gmail.com.

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PowerinCultureandEthnicity

Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia: Nationwide Survey

In partnership with Harmony Alliance, the Monash University Migration and Inclusion Centre is conducting a nationwide survey to increase understandings of the issues of importance to women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, with a focus on safety and well-being.

If you are over the age of 18 and identify as a migrant or refugee woman living in Australia, you can complete the survey here:

https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0vm6sG5rHErNXQ9

Share your experiences as a migrant and refugee woman living in Australia

Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia: Nationwide Survey

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera to take the survey



Available in English, Arabic, Thai, Vietnamese, Farsi, Nepali, Korean, Simplified Chinese, and Punjabi.







Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Language Classes

The Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre will be commencing face to face classes for English Level 1 and 2. Classes will be observing strict COVID-safe rules.

English classes are free and have no eligibility requirements. Students will need to be assessed before commencement to check which level is suitable.

English as a Second Language Level 1

Begins Friday 16th October, 9.30am - 12pm, every Friday morning for 8 weeks.

English as a Second Language Level 2

Begins Thursday 15th October, 9am - 11.30am, every Thursday morning for 8 weeks.

Other classes available: **Learning Baking and English** every Thursday afternoon, and **Literacy through Art** (also good for EAL learners) every Monday.

For more details or to enrol, call 03 5329 3273 or visit www.ballaratnc.org.au/support-for-migrants.php

SpringFest Ballarat Online Raffle

SpringFest Ballarat has been reimagined and redesigned for 2020 so you can take part without leaving your lounge room. To continue to support stall holders and stay connected with the community, an online raffle has been launched with over 100 prizes to be won.

Tickets are \$5 each: www.ballaratspringfest.com.au

The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 29th November.







ONLINE RAFFLE
Drawn: Sunday 29th November 2020

Pollen Season: Thunderstorm Asthma

If you have asthma or hay fever make sure you have an up-to-date management plan to help keep symptoms under control this spring, and reduce your risk of thunderstorm asthma during grass pollen season.

Learn more about thunderstorm asthma:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstormasthma



REMINDER: Don't forget to take a face mask with you when you leave the house and make sure your mask fits properly over your nose and mouth. Also remember to continue practising social distancing, proper hygiene and get tested if you have any symptoms.

Twilight Market Online still has a vibrant range of reusable face masks available:

<https://twilightmarket.brmc.org.au/collections/covid-face-masks>

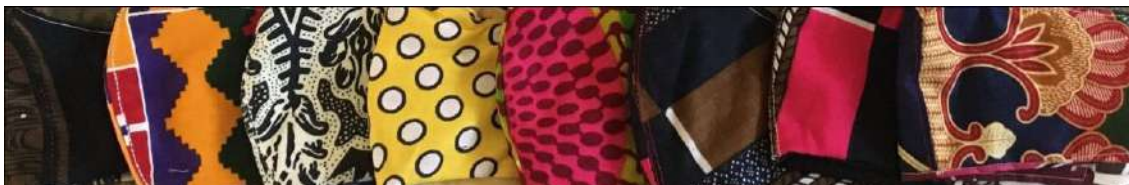
Reusable face masks should be washed each day after use.

How to clean your cloth mask:

- Wash in warm soapy water.
- Dry completely before being worn again (in the sun, if possible).

For more tips on how to safely wear and care for your face masks, visit:

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-and-coverings-covid-19



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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