

## December 2020 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

December newsletter highlights our end-of year activities as our 2020 programs draw to a close and we start to offer opportunities for 2021. **We sincerely thank all staff, volunteers, clients, members, partners and friends for their contributions and support throughout 2020.**

The BRMC Team will close the office doors at 12 noon on Thursday 24th December 2020 and re-open Monday 1st February 2021. Staff are contactable by phone on 03 5383 0613 and email from Monday 11th January 2021.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and new year in 2021 and will be back to you with a January newsletter to kick off 2021.

Warm Regards,

Ann

BRMC Executive Officer

### Planning for Fire Season

**Are you ready for this Summer's fire season?**

Not everyone thinks clearly in an emergency. Taking steps to get prepared before the fire season means you know what to do when you're at risk of fire. A well-practised plan will help you remember what needs to be done during a crisis.



Use this CFA Bushfire Survival Planning template:

[https://cdn.cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/70643/4713\\_CFA\\_Pullout\\_LEAVING\\_web.pdf](https://cdn.cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/70643/4713_CFA_Pullout_LEAVING_web.pdf)

### COVID-19 Updates in Victoria

Victoria has moved to 'COVIDSafe Summer' restrictions

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer)

- Wearing a face mask is only mandatory on public transport, while in taxis or ride share vehicles, or when going to large retail venues, including shopping centres, supermarkets and department stores.

- Wearing a face mask is strongly recommended indoors and outdoors when you can't keep 1.5 metres distance from other people.
- You can host up to 30 people in your home.
- Up to 100 people for outdoor gatherings in public places.

Important: You must continue to carry a face mask with you when you leave home.

For translated information, updates and advice visit:

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-coronavirus-covid-19)

For translator support call TIS National on 131 450 and ask for the coronavirus hotline.

## 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](#).

### Bobby Mehta

*Public Relations Officer, BRMC Executive Committee*

Bobby Mehta, a qualified Pharmacist with over 20 years experience, is the BRMC PR Officer. Bobby was born and educated in the UK and moved to Ballarat in 2010 where he now lives with his wife and two young daughters.

Bobby is an extremely active member of the community and as well as being volunteer at local radio station Voice FM, he is the founder of the not-for-profit group [SMS \(Support, Motivate & Serve\)](#) which he launched in the UK in 2001. SMS

aims to bring communities together and promotes cultural cohesion, social integration and health awareness, as well as fundraising for local, national and international charities.



In 2018, Bobby was behind Ballarat's first Indian Film Festival and has also been behind a number of local charity events, more recently this included the 'Top of the World Challenge' as part of the Great Cycle Challenge, where Bobby and his team cycled over 10,000km to raise funds to fight kids cancer. The team have raised over \$60,000 in the last 2 years.

Bobby is an enthusiastic sport fan, especially soccer, cricket and tennis. He is a diehard Liverpool FC fan currently basking in the glory of a long overdue championship win after 30 years in the making. Other interests include movies, music and pickleball (look it up!) as well as spending lots of time in the kitchen experimenting with new dishes... some of them edible.

## Updates from BRMC

Latest news on the Ballarat Welcome Centre and BRMC projects, programs and services.

## Upcoming Events

- Women's Business Pop-Up Market
- BRMC Tech Support Group
- Miniroos Soccer Program
- BKFA Blood Donation Campaign
- BAA Soccer Fiesta

## Items of Interest

- WORDS OUT Workshops
- The Kaleidoscope Project
- weVolunteer Initiative
- Italian Language Classes
- La Nostra Storia
- Ballarat Christmas Windows
- Christmas with Intercultural Ambassadors

## Events in Review

- Diwali Celebration 2020

# UPDATES FROM BRMC

## Thrive Garden Project

What a difference a month makes! The Thrive Garden beds have been enjoying the rain and warmth, herbs and vegetables exploding with growth. Despite being planted only four weeks ago, we are already harvesting. You might be tasting coriander from the Thrive Garden in your next meal at A Pot of Courage. The chard is almost ready to begin picking and will go out in our weekly fresh food boxes to families experiencing difficulty. Corn are racing beans ever upwards and the pumpkins are getting ready to cascade over the sides of the beds. Our tomato has its first set of flowers. Spring is such an exciting time.

The Thrive Garden is a pilot growing project supported by The Ballarat Foundation to increase access to culturally resonant fresh food to Ballarat's diverse multicultural communities. For more information contact [thrive@brmc.org.au](mailto:thrive@brmc.org.au)



Community Engagement Worker, Nyepuot Riek with the corn she planted.



Bob has unexpectedly taken up residence in one of our beds.



## Fresh Food Drop-Off

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 11am - 12pm

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

Thanks to all our Fresh Food donors!

Our Fresh Food delivery program is coming to an end for this year. The final day for food drop off is **Tuesday 22nd December**.

Our Fresh Food program has run from May through the second lockdown, a bleak winter and the gradual reopening of Ballarat. Every week generous donors have delivered fresh vegetables and fruit to BRMC for distribution to households in financial hardship and isolation. We want to thank everyone who gathered vegetables from their garden, bought groceries from the supermarket and shared jam and preserves. Through your generous donations, we assisted over thirty families facing food insecurity during the COVID period.



We would also like to thank Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN), Ballarat Community Health and The Salvation Army for their support with this program.

## Community Engagement Team

This week, BRMC officially launched our new Community Engagement Project **'Developing Our Children Together'**, supported by the Victorian Government Strategic Partnerships Program and the Strategic Engagement Coordination Program.

Developing Our Children Together will provide early parenting support through workshops, playgroups and other activities in 2021. This project aims to support and celebrate multicultural families and enhance their capacity and community connections, especially information and access to the early childhood-related services.

If informational and educational sessions are provided in a multicultural group environment that understand each other's culture and language, multicultural parents and their children will feel comfortable and safe. This will lead to parents easily learning about different services such as Children's Health and Safety, Activities for Children and Socialisation, Bringing Up a Child Speaking Two Language classes, Kindergarten, Primary School, and Childcare etc.



For further information, please contact Heeyoung Lim, Community Engagement Team Leader: [hy.lim@brmc.org.au](mailto:hy.lim@brmc.org.au)

## Stepping Stones Program

Many will recognise Noor Safiq, a Melbourne Stepping Stones Graduate who re-located to Ballarat early in 2019 with her business Lilly Lovecakes - offering delicious and beautiful cakes, cupcakes and sweet biscuits online through her website, at regional farmers markets and at a growing number of astute cafes across town.

COVID restrictions have necessitated a re-set, and Lilly is now managing A Pot of Courage at the Barkly Square café, working alongside another Stepping Stones graduate, Dung Nguyen (far right in photograph below).



Now serving coffee and lunches, the popular social enterprise include some of Lilly's favourite Malaysian family recipes. They also display and sell the beautiful wares of some of Ballarat's Stepping Stones enterprises, including: A TUK cushions, Met Tetni aprons and FLORA; *artisanal flowers*.

And that's not all... women partnering through A TUK and Met Tetni - Nyibol Deng, Mary Deng, Mary Top, Martha Wal Chol, Joy Sawiche - are regular vendors at Ballarat Farmers Market at Lake Wendouree and the Creswick Farmers Market. They are also mounting Pop-Up Shops at Barkly Square - so watch out for notifications of these events.





## Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

We are proud of our committed team of volunteer tutors. Their untiring efforts continue to empower individuals find better work and social opportunities in Ballarat. The team had their year-end reflective practice session on 28 November. The meeting offered the group the opportunity to share innovative online teaching-learning strategies.

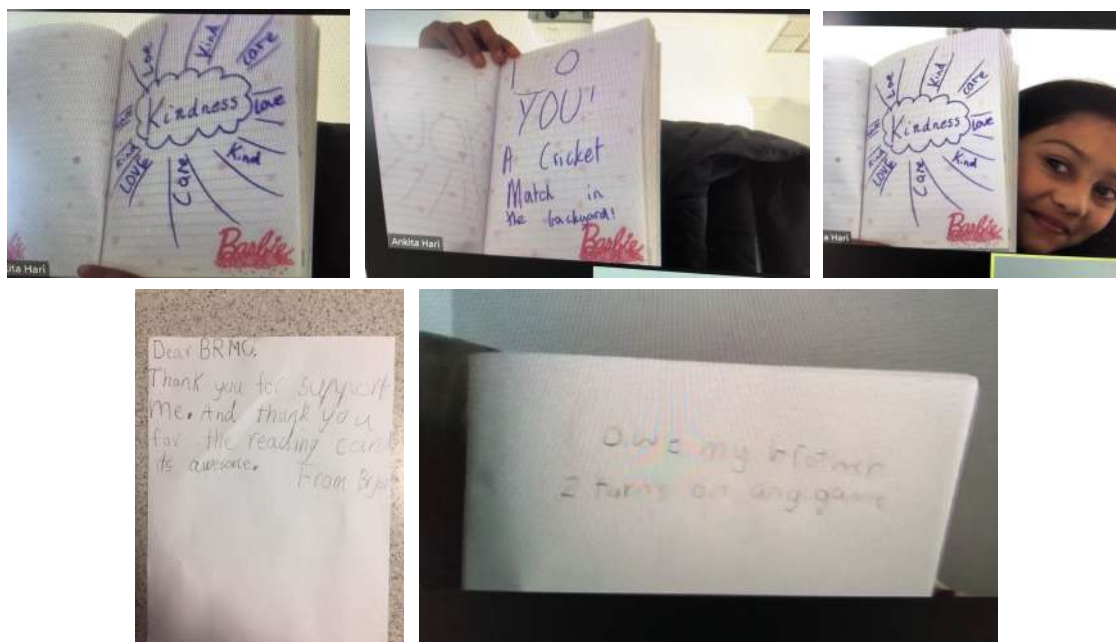
The Migrant English Program offers free English tutoring support tailored to the students' needs. We welcome applications from individuals seeking help with English tutoring support. Contact Sarabjit at [s.kaur@brmc.org.au](mailto:s.kaur@brmc.org.au).



## Diversity Homework Club

Diversity Homework Club Online November meetings found the students sharing book reviews, fun facts, words-of-the-day and participating in collaborative song writing - singing workshops.

Some photos of Diversity Homework Club students' work on 'values':



The Diversity Homework Club students received their learning kits on 7 December.

Happy holidays, everyone!



## School's Out! Creative Cultural Workshops

From July through December, the School's Out! Creative Cultural Workshops offered hands-on learning inspired by traditional cultural craft disciplines. Delivered via Zoom, students explored:

- Banner-Making inspired by the colours and patterns of traditional Ankara (African Wax) cloth, presented by Ghanaian artist & musician Mishael Gaybeng
- Beading, presented by local South Sudanese artisans and Stepping Stones graduates Mary Deng, Mary Top and Nyibol Deng
- Decorative Mask-Making and Portraiture, presented by Filipino artist & musician Diokno Pasilan
- Illustration, presented by local artist Deborah Lee Klein
- Ceramics, presented by ceramic artist and educator Dr. Dawn Whitehand
- Singing, presented by Seychelle Island musician and educator Stella Savy
- Wood-Working, presented by local artisan Justen Andrews
- Weaving, presented by Stepping Stones Mentor Bianca Patetl

Some of the students' ceramic creations will be incorporated into a special holiday season 'Our Stories' window display in the Ballarat CBD through December; images of the students' work and a performance recording of their singing will also be featured in the planned Ballarat multicultural HarmonyFest virtual exhibition in March 2021.



## Social Support

Social Support are excited to announce we will be holding Multicultural Tucker on **Wednesday 16th December** for all our Social Support participants to enjoy!



For more information about this event or if you would like to attend please contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 - bookings are essential.



Since April the Social Support Team have delivered over 2,500 meals to clients right across the Ballarat region. We've been everywhere and boy have we enjoyed the wonderful experiences we have had a long the way! Meeting adored pets everything from cats, dogs, chooks, alpacas, peacocks and much more! We enjoyed mesmerising gardens and listening to wonderful and heroic life stories.

**We are privileged to feature Howard & Nenita's story** (as told by Howard).

### Howard & Nenita

Nenita and I first met in the late 1970s. I used to sponsor several children through World Vision, and Nenita was the Sponsor Relations Officer who accompanied the sponsors to meet their children. Marissa was the sponsored child I visited. She lived In Dagupan, about 5 hours' drive from the Philippines capital, Manila.



After I returned to Australia, Nenita and I exchanged letters, and got to know each other quite well. A few visits and many long letters later we spent some time with friends in the Philippines, and I managed to propose to Nenita. After a little while, I received a positive answer, and we were married on January 19th, 1980. Marissa, our sponsored child, was able to attend our wedding, which was fantastic!

During the pandemic we have been blessed by many friends, including our amazing Social Support Team from BRMC, who have helped out with food, manual help and much love, which we have greatly appreciated. We sincerely thank all our friends at BRMC for their continued commitment and dedication to our Seniors. You are all very much appreciated!

Read Howard and Nenita's full story: [www.brmc.org.au/howard-and-nenita-story](http://www.brmc.org.au/howard-and-nenita-story).





## BRMC Miniroos Soccer Program

As the year 2020 lingers, drawing closer to Christmas, we thought it would be great to do something enjoyable for the little ones.

At BRMC, everything that is done is about inclusion, diversity, multiculturalism and education. There are always different programs being facilitated to help the Ballarat community with keeping active, gaining more knowledge, and creating new networks. With most activities focusing on the group of 12 to 25 year old's or older, Miniroos Soccer draws the line at the lower age group. Researched and planned by BRMC and Football Victoria, the program targets younger children in the 5 to 12 year old bracket. Miniroos Soccer is designed to get the kids active, but mostly to help them learn and create networks. We first kicked off on 28th November 2020, with a second session that took place on 5th December 2020. The program has 4 sessions in total (see flyer further down for details).

Read the full article: [www.brmc.org.au/brmc-minirooms-soccer-program](http://www.brmc.org.au/brmc-minirooms-soccer-program)

For more information please contact Lunorphare Folly on 0413 572 541 or [lk.folly@brmc.org.au](mailto:lk.folly@brmc.org.au)



## Twilight Market Online

Calling All Holiday Shoppers!

Making a list and checking it twice?

It doesn't matter if they've been naughty or nice -

Everyone deserves a prize for making it through 2020,  
and we all know the best kind of prize is a surprise!

The Twilight Market Online is your best one-stop-shop for gifts guaranteed to give gasps of joy and cries of wonder. Offering the very best quality goods from some of our region's most celebrated market vendors and rising small businesses, the Twilight Market Online has something for everyone on your list.



Order today for pick-up from the Ballarat Welcome Centre until 18 December!

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

# Women's Business Pop-Up Market

Friday 11th December, 9am - 1.30pm

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

Pop in, take a look around, do some Christmas shopping, and enjoy some lunch at A Pot of Courage café. Vendors include A TUK, Eco Enviro Concepts and Mat Tetni.



# Women's Business Pop-Up Market



ATUK

Mat Tetni

Eco Enviro Concepts

**Cushions & Bags & Jewellery**  
**Garden Items & Self-Care**  
**Aprons & Gifts & More**

**Friday, 11 December**  
**9AM - 1:30PM**

**Barkly Square Rear 25 - 39 Barkly Street**  
**Ballarat Welcome Centre Forecourt**

Proudly supported by  Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

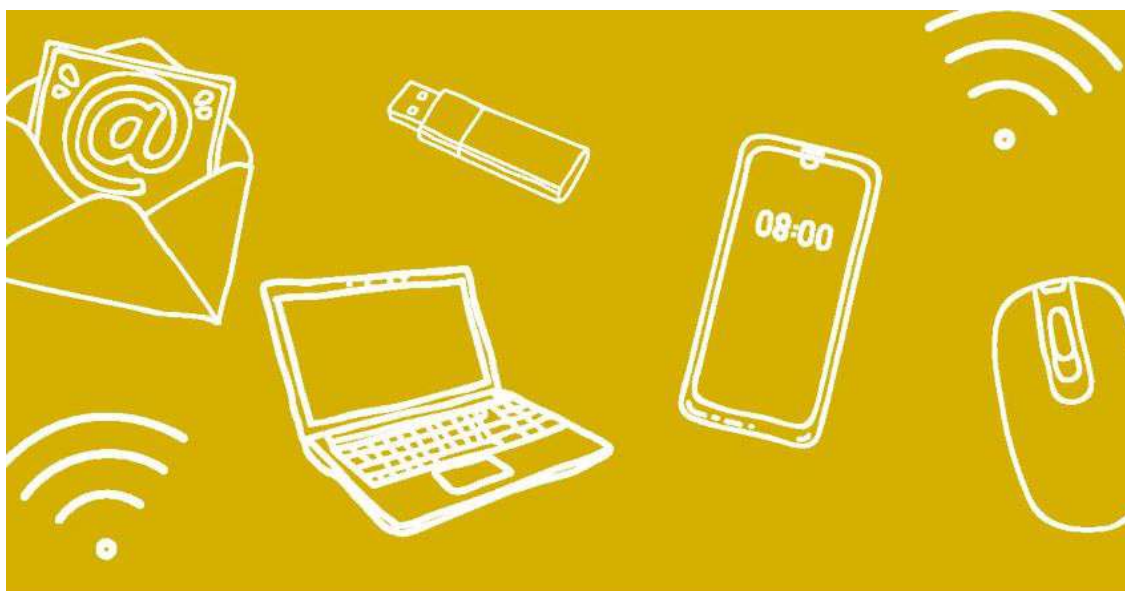
## BRMC Tech Support Group

Friday 11th December, 2 - 4pm

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



BRMC staff and volunteers will work with you to improve your IT skills and make the most out of your technology. Call to register 03 5383 0613 - spaces limited.



Ballarat Regional  
Multicultural Council Inc.

Need help with Technology?

Come along to BRMC's NEW

## TECH SUPPORT GROUP

Bring your phone, laptop or iPad and BRMC staff and volunteers will work with you to improve your IT skills and make the most out of your technology.

Friday 13 November  
Friday 27 November  
Friday 11 December

2-4 pm  
Ballarat Welcome Centre  
Barkly Street

Covid-Safe Practices in Place

Space is Limited - Call to Register  
03 5383 0613

### Miniroos Soccer Program

Saturday 12th & Saturday 19th December, 1pm

Venue: Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility, 900 Pleasant St S, Redan

Do you know any kids aged 5-12 that would be interested in playing soccer and making new friends? Let them know about our next Miniros Soccer session!

For more information contact: [lk.folly@brmc.org.au](mailto:lk.folly@brmc.org.au) / 0413 572 541

# MINIROOS SOCCER

KIDS AGED  
5-12

from a diverse  
multicultural  
background



LEARN NEW  
SKILLS AND  
MAKE LIFE-LONG  
FRIENDS

28 NOV 10AM  
5 DEC 1PM  
12 DEC 1PM  
19 DEC 1PM



Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility (Morshead Park)  
900 Pleasant St South, Redan

For more info contact: [lk.folly@brmc.org.au](mailto:lk.folly@brmc.org.au) / 0413 572 541



## BKFA Blood Donation Campaign

Saturday 12th December

Venue: Ballarat Donor Centre, 601-603 La Trobe St, Ballarat

Roll up a sleeve and donate blood. During this pandemic let us look after each other and look after others by providing a helping hand to the Australian Red Cross. Organised by The Helping Hands - Ballarat Keralites' Foundation of Australia (BKFA)

Contact Maria on 0403 068 184 for more information.





# THE HELPING HANDS BALLARAT KERALITES' FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Lend a hand ,fill a heart

## BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

**Saturday 12th December 2020**

At Ballarat Blood Donor center  
601- 603 La Trobe Street, Ballarat.

*Give Blood, Give Love,  
Save Lives*



### FOR REGISTRATION

**MARIA JOHN**  
0403 068 184

**SEMINA SIJO**  
0435 954 492

**HARIKA VIMAL**  
0421 954 331

**LINCY SINO**  
0469 854 611

**VINNY BASIL**  
0469 892 821

**DALIA NAVIN**  
0469 024 043

## BAA Soccer Fiesta

Sunday 13th December, 1pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility (Pitch 4), 900 Pleasant St S, Redan

Community event with COVIDsafe BBQ. Featuring a novelty soccer match and soccer clinic for children (aged 6 - 13). Organised by the Ballarat African Association.

### Featuring

- 
- BE COVIDSAFE**
- PHYSICAL DISTANCING
  - WEAR MASKS
  - COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE
  - USE HAND SANITIZER
  - STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK
  - 10-15 MINUTE HAND WASH

### Important Notice

- For further reading on how to prepare, please visit

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/spaceyvideo/hometheater/how-to-have-a-covid-safe-holiday/news-story/68e532-2af6e66a41e4306b170a7c>  
<https://www.today.com/flood-it-safe-go-har-becus-summer-har-becus-safety-age-covid-19-1t84272>  
<https://www.houstanjournal.org/blog/articles/2020/sep/05-a-backyard-hq-safe-during-covid-19/>



## A photograph of three people smiling outdoors. On the left is a young man with dark hair wearing a black t-shirt. In the center is a young woman with brown hair and glasses, wearing a grey and white patterned sweater. On the right is an older man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a plaid shirt. He is holding an acoustic guitar. The background is a bright, out-of-focus green area, likely trees or foliage.

## The Kaleidoscope Project



ABC Children's Content and Screen Australia have partnered on The Kaleidoscope Project, a new funding initiative that will back the creation of up to four standalone films that capture what it's like to be a young culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australian. The projects, made for 8-12 year olds, will then be broadcast on ABC ME on Harmony Day in 2022.



**Applications close 5pm, 14 December 2020.**

Apply now: <https://screenaustraliafunding.smartygrants.com.au/TheKaleidoscopeProject>  
Guidelines: [www.abc.net.au/events/thekaleidoscopeproject/project-guidelines/12888196](http://www.abc.net.au/events/thekaleidoscopeproject/project-guidelines/12888196)

## weVolunteer Initiative

weVolunteer is a Community Recovery Volunteering initiative designed to support communities in times of need, bringing together volunteers, the organisations that involve volunteers in their work, and Volunteer Support Organisations that provide local solutions to volunteering and the communities that are enhanced through volunteer participation.

The Victorian Government has invested \$800,000 to make it easier and safer for Victorians to volunteer via the weVolunteer portal. Potential volunteers who register their interest via weVolunteer will receive alerts for a range of opportunities to address their interests and local needs, as roles become available.

To learn more and register, visit [www.wevolunteer.org.au](http://www.wevolunteer.org.au)

## Italian Language Classes

The Ballarat Italian Association's popular Italian language classes have been progressing online via Zoom for most of the year due to COVID, but will return face to face in the classroom shortly and will commence fully in 2021 when the school term starts.

Language classes are available for beginner, intermediate and advanced learners. The cost is \$10 per one-hour lesson payable in advance on a term basis.

For information on the languages classes and to enrol, contact [info@ballaratitalianassociation.org](mailto:info@ballaratitalianassociation.org)

## La Nostra Storia

Just a reminder that La Nostra Storia - the story of Italians in Ballarat - would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

You can purchase it at Collins Booksellers (Lydiard St or Bridge Mall), Ballarat Books in Yarrowee St, Sebastopol or through the Ballarat Italian Association via email to receive a member discount.

Email: [info@ballaratitalianassociation.org](mailto:info@ballaratitalianassociation.org)



## Ballarat Christmas Windows

Let's take time to tour Ballarat and celebrate the artists whose work is enlivening our downtown streets this season - including our own Stepping Stones Regional Coordinator, Deborah Klein!

The City of Ballarat has commissioned 6 local artists to interpret the theme Our Stories for the 2020 Christmas Window Trail, which wends its way from Sturt Street to Lydiard Street to the Bridge Street Mall, bringing life and lights to shopfront windows along the way:

[www.visitballarat.com.au/whats-on/christmas-window-trail](http://www.visitballarat.com.au/whats-on/christmas-window-trail)

To see who those artists are and the stories they've chosen to tell, check out:

[www.visitballarat.com.au/stories/artists-and-stories-behind-ballarats-christmas-window-trail](http://www.visitballarat.com.au/stories/artists-and-stories-behind-ballarats-christmas-window-trail)

## Christmas with Ballarat's Intercultural Ambassadors

Different cultures have their own unique ways of celebrating Christmas.

Find out how four of the City of Ballarat's Intercultural Ambassadors honour the festive season away from their home country: [www.visitballarat.com.au/stories/christmas-ballarats-intercultural-ambassadors](http://www.visitballarat.com.au/stories/christmas-ballarats-intercultural-ambassadors)



## EVENTS IN REVIEW

### Diwali Celebration 2020

This year the Ballarat Indian Association decided to conduct the Diwali celebration virtually to lift the spirit of the community in this unusual time. All events, as part of the celebration, were hosted virtually via the Association's YouTube channel and FaceBook page on 14th November 2020.

The event included; lighting of the traditional Indian lamp, message from Honourable Guest / President, Bollywood dancing, singing, messages from various community representatives were all planned / pre-organised and filmed at Ballarat South Community Hub for the broadcast.

Watch the 2020 Diwali celebrations online: <https://youtu.be/DYs8Gwhchf4>





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@brmc.org.au)

Website: [www.brmc.org.au](http://www.brmc.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat](https://www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat)



**WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

From all of us at BRMC, thank you for your support throughout 2020.

We will be closed from 12pm, 24th December 2020 and re-opening on 1st February 2021.

Be safe, be kind, and take care of yourself and those around you.

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. 