

January 2021 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

Happy New Year from BRMC at the Ballarat Welcome Centre. This edition includes December highlights, January news including COVID-19 updates, and opportunities for 2021. BRMC is pleased to promote and will be joining: the Virtual Survival Day Dawn Ceremony on 26 January, Tamil Festival 2021 and World Interfaith Harmony Week. Check out the Community Matters podcasts, Thrive gardening project, our DOCT young families and playgroup project or become a volunteer or mentor at BRMC in 2021.

We wish you a happy and safe time this month. Our team can be contacted during January by calling the office on 03 5383 0613 or emailing Program Managers.

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Executive Officer

COVID-19 Updates in Victoria

The following restrictions are in place in Victoria:

- From 11.59pm, Sunday 17 January 2021, face masks will no longer be mandatory in all public indoor settings. Face masks continue to be mandatory on public transport, taxi/ride share, in shopping centres, indoor markets, large retail stores, domestic flights, airports and hospitals. You must always carry a face mask with you when you leave home.
- The number of people who can visit a home per day is reduced to 15 (excluding members of the household and children under 12 months).
- From 11.59pm 1 January 2021, Victoria has closed its border to New South Wales.

Tips for staying safe this summer: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/together-we-can-keep-our-summer-covidsafe

For translated information, updates and advice visit:

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.

Updates from BRMC

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

- Call for Stepping Stones Mentors
- BRMC Podcast: Community Matters

Upcoming Events

- Summer Sundays
- Tamil Festival 2021: Harvest Festival Australia
- Virtual Survival Day Dawn Ceremony
- World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebrations
- BRMC Annual General Meeting
- FECCA Conference 2021

Items of Interest

- 2021 Honour Roll of Women Nominations
- EOI VMC Commissioner Positions
- Extreme Hardship Support Program
- Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund
- Victorian LGBTIQ+ Strategy
- Mental Health Support for CALD Communities
- Community Street Soccer Program
- 2021 AFCON Soccer Tournament
- BRIC Gamelan
- Melitopol-Ballarat ICC Competence Project

Events in Review

- Looking Back at 2020

UPDATES FROM BRMC

Thrive Garden Project

While many of us are on holidays, the Thrive Garden is working super hard. Green beans are appearing almost overnight, pumpkins are forming and the herbs are bursting with vigour. Tiny chillies are forming and tomatoes too. We are harvesting Thai basil, mint, Vietnamese mint, silver beet and green beans, lots of green beans.

Thrive is a pilot fresh food growing program at BRMC supported by The Ballarat Foundation. You can contact us at thrive@brmc.org.au.



Community Engagement Team

Developing Our Children Together Project: Participant Recruitment

We invite you to participate in our new Community Engagement Project 'Developing Our Children Together', supported by the Victorian Government Strategic Partnerships Program and the Strategic Engagement Coordination Program.

We will provide parenting support through collaborative partnerships with Government and

community service providers of early childhood services, which will support you in accessing a range of appropriate services based on your needs.

Who: Multicultural parents with children under the age of 5

When: Starting from early March 2021

Where: Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat VIC 3350

Session Length: 2 hours / session

(1 hour: information workshop, 1 hour: socialisation time with other parents and children)

Planned Workshop Topics: Children's Health and Safety, Activities for Children and Socialisation, Bringing Up a Child Speaking Two Languages, Out of School Hours Care (OSHC), Primary School, Mental Wellbeing for Parents and Children.

Fee: Free of charge

Childminding and refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to join this program or need further information, please contact Community Engagement Team Leader, Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au.



Cricket and Gift Donations from the Wendouree Cricket Club

During the summer and Christmas period BRMC received donations from the Wendouree Cricket Club through their work with the Cricket Without Boundaries program. Donations include wooden and plastic cricket bats, stumps, shirts, helmets, balls, pads, and protective gear. So far, the Islamic Society of Ballarat and the Ballarat Indian Association have collected some of the equipment. We have a few packs of cricket items available for any other associations that may be interested.

We also received donations of stationery, toys and gifts to be used in BRMC programs such as Developing Our Children Together, Diversity Homework Club and the Miniroos Soccer Program. We thank the Wendouree Cricket Club and the Cricket Without Boundaries program for their donations and amazing work in supporting BRMC, our associations and our community.

For more information or to receive some cricket items, contact Community Engagement Worker, Lunorphare: lk.folly@brmc.org.au.



Good Governance Program

Centre for Participations have scheduled six Zoom Workshops for community organisations in 2021. Contact the Ballarat Host Coordinator Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au to book a spot for your community organisation.





2021 Governance Workshops.

Join us to build your governance knowledge.

2021 Zoom Workshop Schedule

1. Building your Committee Manual - 28th January
2. Setting your purpose - 22nd Feb
3. Managing the culture and values - 23rd March
4. Conducting effective board meetings - 28th April
5. Managing risk - 27th May
6. Developing a strategy - 21st June

Workshop time: 7pm-8:30pm

RSVP sally@centreforparticipation.org.au
 Zoom: Meeting ID 420 751 2341 Passcode C4P

For more information contact your Host Coordinator


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


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


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

Helping community organisations be their best.

Diversity Homework Club

Here are some photos of our member students with their MY Education Award certificates and reading vouchers:



Social Support

The magic of Christmas filled the room and our hearts at December Multicultural Tucker. It was so wonderful to see everyone together sharing a lovely Christmas lunch.

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



Call for Stepping Stones Mentors

Stepping Stones is looking for volunteers interested in working closely with a participant to provide one-on-one mentorship in 2021.

If you are interested, contact Deborah Klein, Stepping Stones Ballarat Regional Coordinator: steppingstones@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728.



Is Your 2021 New Year's Resolution "To Make A Difference"?
Do You Want To Support Women Entrepreneurs?
Can You Give A Couple Of Hours Once A Fortnight?

Then volunteering as a Mentor for the Stepping Stones To Small Business Program could be what you're looking for!

We are looking for reliable & resilient people with sound common sense and a commitment to supporting women's aspirations.

No direct business experience is necessary, though it certainly will help!

**If you are interested in learning more, please contact Deborah Klein
d.klein@brmc.org.au 0457 934 728**

Our next Mentor Training and Induction is scheduled for February, so take some time over Summer to think about how you can help strengthen & grow local small business – and then get in quickly to be involved!



BRMC Podcast: Community Matters

We are inviting the community of Ballarat to take part in this project and help share stories from around the world. We are looking for all ages, from the youth of our community to the seniors in our community, because your story matters and we want to hear it and share it.

New podcast episodes out soon!

Our first two conversations, with host Bobby Mehta, are with Rachel Muir and Yvon Davis. Rachel is a well-known local Aboriginal woman and active community member and Yvon is a migrant from the Netherlands who continues to be an energetic and thoughtful contributor to the Ballarat community. Keep an eye on the [BRMC Facebook page](#) for the release of these podcasts.

If you would like to share your story through conversation, please contact us to express

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Sundays

Sunday 24th January, 2.30pm - 5pm | Online Event

Live and local, over three weekends in January, Summer Sundays has partnered with major Ballarat attractions to deliver the popular live music events. Each Summer Sunday concert is streamed via the [@summersundaysballarat](https://www.facebook.com/summersundaysballarat) Facebook page.

Enjoy the final concert this Sunday - live streamed from Kryal Castle.



Tamil Festival 2021: Harvest Festival Australia

Saturday 23rd January, 10am

Venue: Garibaldi Public Hall, Hardies Hill Rd, Garibaldi

Tamils in Ballarat and the surrounding area are going to celebrate Harvest Festival Australia in their own style at Garibaldi. Thaippongal is celebrated in Sri Lanka, India, Singapore, Malaysia, and many other countries where Tamils live. Everyone welcome!

Register online for this FREE event: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/harvest-festival-australia-tickets-134583720531



Tamil festival 2021 Ballarat Happy THAIPPONGAL

a day to thank our farmers and nature

We are cordially inviting you to our inaugural
TAMIL THAIPPONGAL to thanks our farmers and nature

Date: Saturday, Jan 23, 2021

Time: Between 10:00 AM and 02:00 PM

Venue: Garibaldi Public Hall, Hardies Hill Rd, Garibaldi 3352

- Variety of Indian, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Singaporean style Tamil food
- Sports and Games may include kites

Dress code (optional)

Women in Saree Men in Vesti

Let use tamil words

Vanakkam for Hello
Varnkai for Welcome
Nanri for Thank you

Wish you all
Happy Thaippongal

in Tamil

Ungal anaivarukkum
pongal nalvaalththn



Contact

Email: thanksfarmers@yahoo.com

Mobile: 0452533759 (Neil Para)

Supported by

Tamil Heritage and Thaippongal

www.tamilfestival.org.au

Virtual Survival Day Dawn Ceremony

Tuesday 26th January, from 5.30am | Online Event

The Koorie Engagement Action Group (KEAG) invites you to join virtually for Ballarat's second Survival Day Dawn Ceremony. The ceremony will be livestreamed from View Point, Lake Wendouree. Let's watch together in solidarity to peacefully reflect on those who have gone before us.

Watch live via <https://bit.ly/2VZXBsA> or on the KEAG Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/KEAGBallarat

• VIRTUAL •
Survival Day
Dawn Ceremony

Tuesday 26 January 2021
5.30 – 6.45am, livestreamed

View on Facebook or via
<https://bit.ly/2VZXBsA>
Follow KEAG Ballarat for updates

 **@KEAGBallarat**

The Koorie Engagement Action Group (KEAG) invites you to join us virtually for Ballarat's second Survival Day Dawn Ceremony.

The ceremony will be livestreamed from Viewpoint, Lake Wendouree.

Let's watch together in solidarity to peacefully reflect on those who have gone before us.

Everyone is welcome to join.
LET'S UNITE AS ONE.

Enquiries: interculturalservices@ballarat.vic.gov.au



World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebrations

1 - 7 February 2021

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February. This week is an opportunity for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people.

Learn more: worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

Ballarat Interfaith Network presents:



**World Interfaith
Harmony Week
2021**



BALLARAT INTERFAITH NETWORK PRESENTS IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE CITY OF BALLARAT & BRMC

Civic Flag-Raising Event


Featuring:
Address by Juliana Addison MP
Keynote Speaker:
Bishop Gary Weatherill
Including:
Tour of St. Peter's Church
Followed by Refreshments

11am | February 1, 2021 | St Peter's Anglican Church,
1307 Sturt St, Ballarat City




Contact Margaret at:
mfellis@netconnect.com.au
Registration of your
attendance is required due
to current Covid Restrictions

LOVE OF THE GOOD LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR



**World Interfaith
Harmony Week
2021**



BALLARAT INTERFAITH NETWORK PRESENTS:

Morning Ritual at The Buddhist Temple
Tuesday 2 February -19 Griffeys Lane, Mount Helen
Visit the temple to participate in the morning ritual, between
10 am and 12 noon
Also includes overview of future temple plans; Introduction to Buddhist history,
Chanting of morning suttas led by the monks, a meditation session. Offerings of
food can be given to the monks and temple entry requires removal of shoes.
There is a limit of 20 people who can attend due to government restrictions and
attendance must be registered at 3364monument@gmail.com

**Family History Day - Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter Day Saints**
Thursday 4 February - 1 Grammar St, Wendouree, 1pm
This will include an explanation of how to use *Family Search*,
and why LDS Christians link research to their temples.

Sikh Event - Path Shri Sukamani Sahib
**Sunday 7 February - Brown Hill Hall,
375 Humffrey St Nth, Brown Hill, 3pm - 5.30pm**
Includes:
Tea, PATH (Prayer of peace and joy of mind), KIRTAN
(Devotional Singing, Introduction to Sikhism, Guru Ka Langer
(Communal Dinner)
Contact Raman 0416 159 485/Rajinder 0430 749 666

LOVE OF THE GOOD LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR

BRMC Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 23rd February, 6pm
Venue: Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St (rear), Ballarat
(Free parking at Barkly Square Car Park, Princes St South)

For more information, contact adminassist@brmc.org.au or 03 5383 0613.

FECCA Conference 2021

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) and the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) have announced that Australia's premier multicultural biennial conference is coming to Melbourne in **November 2021**.

Read the announcement: <https://mailchi.mp/fecca/announcing-2021-fecca-conference>



ITEMS OF INTEREST

2021 Honour Roll of Women Nominations

Do you know a trailblazer, a local champion, a change agent, maybe an emerging leader or a woman leading the way through the 2020 bushfires or COVID-19 response? Nominate them for induction onto the 2021 Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Nominations close on **31 January 2021**.

Visit: www.vic.gov.au/victorian-honour-roll-women-program



EOI VMC Commissioner Positions

Are you passionate about multicultural affairs and want to make a positive change for all Victorians? Expressions of interest are now open for five Commissioner roles and the Deputy Chair role within the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC). These VMC Commissioner roles are critical in advocating for the needs of diverse communities and promoting multiculturalism across Victoria.

Register your interest by **8 February 2021**:

<http://fisherleadership.com/opportunities/victorian-multicultural-commissioners-expressions-of-interest>

Extreme Hardship Support Program

The Extreme Hardship Support Program (EHSP) provides emergency financial assistance to people who cannot access Commonwealth income support. It is available to people on temporary and provisional visas and undocumented migrants, who have zero or very limited savings, income or community support.



From 1 January 2021, all international students experiencing extreme financial hardship can apply, even if they have previously received assistance through ISERF.

Apply via the Red Cross: www.redcross.org.au/vicrelief or call 1800 855 240. Interpreters are available to assist in any language.

BRMC can also provide support with these applications. Contact Annie at a.dunn@brmc.org.au.

Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund

The 2020-21 Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund (MCIF) offers grants of up to \$500,000 to Victoria's culturally diverse communities to help them maintain, upgrade and renovate community infrastructure.

The 2020-21 MCIF round offers funding through 2 streams:

Small: Grants up to \$100,000 for upgrades and renovations.

Large: Grants \$100,001 - \$500,000 for larger projects, extensions and new builds.

Applications for this round close 3pm on **15 February 2021**. Apply Now:

www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-community-infrastructure-fund

Victorian LGBTIQ+ Strategy

The first ever Victorian LGBTIQ+ Strategy will guide the Victorian Government's efforts to achieve equality for LGBTIQ+ communities over the next decade. Now the Department of Premier and Cabinet is seeking further feedback on whether this vision and the directions adequately capture your vision for LGBTIQ+ equality in Victoria, and ideas for improving the lives of LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

Have your say by completing the short survey by midnight on **17 February 2021**:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/LGBTIQstrategy>

Mental Health Support for CALD Communities

Stress, anxiety and depression can affect all of us, regardless of our cultural background. Specialised support is available for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

These organisations can help you access mental health information and support that is culturally appropriate:

Embrace: <https://embracementalhealth.org.au>

Spectrum Victoria: <https://spectrumvic.org.au>

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre: <https://asrc.org.au>



For more information, visit: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-communities-covid-19

Community Street Soccer Program

Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

Venue: Eastern Oval Netball Courts, Scott Parade, Ballarat East

To get involved, contact soccerballarat@bigissue.org.au or just turn up. For more information, visit: www.thebigissue.org.au/community-street-soccer/about



The Big Issue's Community Street Soccer Program uses the power of sport to promote social inclusion and personal change for homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- It's FREE
- Males and females 16 years and above
- Once a week
- Opportunities for players to link to services that address their individual needs
- Soccer activities and matches, special events and initiatives

BENEFITS FOR STREET SOCCER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

- Social inclusion and improved links with the community
- Re-connection with family
- Improved confidence and self-esteem
- Improved mental health
- Improved health and fitness
- A sense of belonging

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Refer clients to Street Soccer and incorporate the program into support structure
- Bring participants to Street Soccer for them to see how it is run
- Coordinate transport for participants to attend Street Soccer or tell them how to get there



"YOU MEET PEOPLE, HANG OUT WITH MATES, AND YOU'RE NOT SMOKING, YOU'RE NOT DRINKING, YOU'RE NOT POPPING PILLS. IT'S LIKE HANGING OUT WITH A REALLY GOOD BUNCH OF PEOPLE AND THEY'RE ALL GETTING THEIR LIFE BACK TOGETHER"

COMMUNITY STREET SOCCER PARTICIPANT

YOUR NEAREST PROGRAM:

Ballarat Street Soccer

Tuesday 1pm – 3pm

Eastern Oval Netball Courts, Scott Parade, Ballarat East.

To get involved, contact the Coordinator at soccerballarat@bigissue.org.au or just turn up.

WWW.THEBIGISSUE.ORG.AU

2021 AFCON Soccer Tournament

The Ballarat African Association, in partnership with BRMC, is participating in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) soccer tournament in Melbourne.

The AFCON tournament, which is being run by Football Empowerment in support with

Football Victoria, is taking place at Keilor Park on January 16th with group stage games to conclude on January 23rd. Those who progress will play quarter-finals which will take place at Altona Phoenix Soccer Club on the 24th, semis on the 25th and grand final on the 26th.

The tournament will consist of 16 teams representing African nations such as South Sudan, Kenya, Burundi, Congo and Cameroon. We will be entering as Togo with 22 players from Ballarat. Our first game will be against Kenya at 6pm Stadium drive Keilor Park.



BRIC Gamelan

The Ballarat Council granted funding for Ballarat Region Indonesian Community (BRIC) to restore this full set of Gamelan. Now they are ready to be used.

Gamelan is a set of percussion instruments originally from Java and Bali, Indonesia. To play the full set, 36 people are needed. However, because of its versatility, it can easily be arranged to make a smaller or medium size group instead.

Are you interested in learning how to play the Gamelan? Get in touch with BRIC at ballaratindonesiancommunity@gmail.com.



Melitopol-Ballarot ICC Competence Project

Melitopol and Ballarat have released an Impact Study of their ICC Competence Project. The document offers an impact analysis of the intercity cooperation project "Introducing and Engaging Diversity Globally" (IEDG) implemented by the intercultural partner cities Melitopol (Ukraine) and Ballarat (Australia) with the support of the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe in July-November 2020.

Learn more: www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/-/melitopol-and-ballarat-release-the-impact-study-of-their-icc-competence-project



#ICCITIES



CITY OF BALLARAT



EVENTS IN REVIEW

Looking Back at 2020

2020 was a challenging year and we truly appreciate everyone's continued support. As we look back at the past year, we remember all the great things we were able to achieve and everyone who helped us along the way.



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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