

March 2021 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

Ballarat has kicked off the Australia-wide Cultural Diversity Week early with Harmony Fest running from 12 until 28 March. See the full program below and feel free and welcome to participate. This morning the Ubuntu Breakfast led by Ballarat African Association reminded us we are one humanity. We share the [Ubuntu pledge](#) with you. After 13 days of celebration all across town, the BRMC Harmony Market takes place next Friday 26 March at Barkly Square and the online launch of 'A Better Place' by BRMC Diversity Homework Club choir on 28 March will cap off the many activities and celebrations.

This month we introduce you to the BRMC Board Chair, Ms Joy Sawiche who was appointed at the Annual General Meeting on 23 February. The BRMC Annual reports are available on our website and you can look forward to meeting the full Board in coming months through our social media and events. Members will be invited to join the Board for planning meetings in April and May.

Our focus in April will include support and information on the rollout of COVID-19 Vaccinations. You can now call in as well as email, phone or find us on Facebook. Our office remains open Monday to Friday each week and we look forward to finalising the current phase of Ballarat Welcome Centre renovations and community kitchen upgrade soon.

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Executive Officer

Joy Sawiche - BRMC's Newly Elected Chairperson

BRMC Board Chair, Joy Sawiche Juma, was born in Kenya and has travelled, worked and studied across the globe. She is a professional Midwife with Ballarat Health Services. As mother of three children and an active community member and champion, she brings to BRMC Chair role her strong commitment and understanding of community empowerment. Her public roles include public speaking and advocacy as an equality advocate for the CoRE Program of Women's Health Grampians, and an entrepreneur through her Joyful Hands infant massage consultancy - teaching care-givers post-natal and infant massage techniques from Kenya. She is also a current member of the Steering Committee of the

Ballarat Welcome Centre Women's Business incubator.
Joy's leadership at BRMC also builds on her governance experience at Ballarat African Association Board and as former BRMC Board Women's Officer.



**HARMONY
FEST**
BALLARAT

HARMONY MARKET

Part of Harmony Fest 2021
Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week

The Ballarat Welcome Centre Forecourt at Barkly Square will come alive with local businesses showcasing their wares. Favourite vendors from our Twilight Markets and our new Stepping Stones enterprises will be featured, as well as stalls supporting the BRMC THRIVE initiative and other emerging entrepreneurs from Ballarat's diverse community.

So come along, grab a coffee from A Pot of Courage Café and enjoy shopping for gifts and homewares.

FRIDAY 26 MARCH
10am - 2pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre,
25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Enquiries: 03 5383 0613



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council inc.



Victoria has returned to previous COVIDSafe restrictions: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live

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.

COVID-19 Vaccine

The Australian COVID-19 vaccination program began on 22 February. The program is being rolled out by the Department of Health and is available at no cost to everyone in Australia, including those who may not have Medicare eligibility.

To keep up to date with the latest progress on COVID-19 vaccines, and to ensure your information is reliable, visit: www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines

Translated information: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-in-your-language

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UPDATES FROM BRMC

SETS Program

Our Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program provides free settlement support to eligible visa holders from refugee and migrant backgrounds who have been in Australia less than 5 years. We support them to build a new life in regional Victoria.

Our Settlement services support people with:

- Understanding Australian systems and forms
- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Building stronger communities and meaningful connections to community
- Groups and casework to support young people
- Bilingual settlement workers and interpreter support



We work with our partners in the Regional Multicultural Consortium that provide these services across regional Victoria. SETS is funded by the Australian Federal Government.

Thrive Garden Project

Last month BRMC visited the Food is Free Laneway and Green Space in Ripon St, Ballarat Central. We were shown around by founder and director, Lou Risdale. The Food is Free Laneway is all about food security, education and community. It is a place of welcome where you can pick up free fruit, herbs and vegetables to feed your household. You can also drop off extra food from your garden to share with others. The Laneway is open 24 hours, 7 days a week. You will also find free pots, seeds and seedlings to help you grow at home. At the Green Space, just a block further up, you can drop off food waste to compost, volunteer in the gardens that supply the Laneway or attend one of the many workshops they run, from home composting to backyard chickens. Visit www.foodisfree.com.au to learn more.



Food is Free Laneway (left to right) Rebecca Marsh, Ann Foley, Lou Risdale and Heeyoung Lim

Back at Barkly Square, Thrive has just installed three more wicking beds in the Forecourt area and we are busy preparing for the fundraising plant stall at the Harmony Market on March 26. We are calling for volunteers to raise plants for sale, donate plants for sale and pots/potting mix/labels. The latter can be dropped off at Ballarat Welcome Centre now and plants can be dropped off in the week prior to the market.

For more information contact thrive@brmc.org.au.



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council INC.



THRIVE FUNDRAISER PLANT STALL

Thrive Community Garden project is planning our first plant stall to raise money for the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN).

We are asking for volunteers to help:

- Raise plants for sale
- Donate plants for sale
- Donate pots/potting mix/labels

Drop off items at the Ballarat Welcome Centre:

- Pots/potting mix/labels as soon as possible
- Plants in the week leading up to the market

WE WELCOME ALL HEALTHY PLANTS

Established, seedlings & seeds – veggies, herbs, flowers, succulents

Plants you can grow from seed in February include: silverbeet, basil, spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, parsley, calendula, lettuce, poppy, kale, lobelia, nigella and pansy.

HARMONY MARKET

Friday 26th March 2021, 10am – 2pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

For more information contact thrive@brmc.org.au



Harmony Week (15-21 March 2021) celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Community Engagement Team

'Living Together Box' program

The 'Living Together Box' service launched on 23 February. Supported by the Victorian Government and Ballarat Italian Association (BIA), the service will assist people from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to overcome difficulties due to COVID-19, by providing families with regular food and daily necessities.

BRMC Community Engagement Team delivers fresh fruit and vegetables (provided by BIA) once a month, and daily necessities (supported by the Victorian Government) once a month, in alternate weeks.

This service is linked to the 'Fresh Food Drop-Off' program, run last year by BRMC and

BRASSN. During COVID restrictions, the Fresh Food Drop-Off utilised close connections of community groups to provide donated fresh food and food funded by the Victorian Government. BRMC is aware of the continuing need for fresh food and daily necessities for vulnerable households in the Ballarat multicultural community. In response to this need, BRMC and BIA planned the Living Together Box service. Although this service is a five-month program, we hope it will greatly help multicultural families in Ballarat that are experiencing financial difficulties.



BRMC Community Engagement Team members Lunorphare Folly, Heeyoung Lim, Nyepuot Riek and Abdul Rasuli, with Ballarat Italian Association committee members Carla Woodruff and Alisdair Horgen (with son Henrik).

'Developing Our Children Together' program

The BRMC Developing Our Children Together program launched this month, on 4 March. Through this program, multicultural parents can get useful information in a comfortable and safe space, and can also share their beautiful culture, language, and values with other parents.

We hope parents have meaningful and enjoyable opportunities with other parents, whilst increasing the use of early parenting services.

Time: 10am - 12pm

Group 1, 7 sessions: March 4, 11, 18, 25 | April 22, 29 | May 6

Group 2, 7 sessions: May 28 | June 4, 11, 18, 25 | July 16, 23

If you need further information or want to join, please contact Community Engagement Team Leader, Heeyoung: 0410 760 618 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.



Stepping Stones to Small Business

International Women's Day - Online Event

International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate all of the resourceful and resilient women who have graduated from the Stepping Stones Program since 2011. This year Stepping Stones is planning a unique online event with special guests the Victorian Minister for Women Gabrielle Williams, MP and the Treasurer of Victoria Tim Pallas, MP.

On Thursday, 25 March from 11am, the Stepping Stones story will be told through the voices of graduates whose aspirations have soared, whose strengths have been tested, and whose hard work has paid dividends through the 2020 COVID period with the support of Stepping Stones.

Guests will be able to interact with Stepping Stones presenters and ask them questions about their journey, and all will be invited to rejoice in the positive difference that Stepping Stones has made in the lives of women and their families across Victoria.

Register online: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/international-womens-day-with-stepping-stones-to-small-business-tickets-143859386297



Celebrate
International Women's Day
with Stepping Stones to Small Business

Please join us to celebrate International Women's Day and the contributions Stepping Stones to Small Business leaders are making to their families and communities.

Share your ideas about how we can create more opportunities for women with our special guests,
**The Minister for Women, the Hon. Gabrielle Williams
& Treasurer of Victoria, the Hon. Tim Pallas.**

**Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future
in a COVID-19 world**

Date: Thursday 25 March 2021
Time: 10:45am for an 11:00am start
ZOOM Webinar: <https://bsl.zoom.us/j/95089635153>
RSVP to: steppingstones@bsl.org.au
or 0427 349 017 by 19 March 2021

Brotherhood of St Laurence UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA VICTORIA State Government

Stepping Stones Mentors

Stepping Stones Mentors from both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria will come together for the first time in March for a collaborative Community of Practice meeting where they can share experiences, expertise, advice and reflections on the challenging and rewarding practice of supporting women in achieving their goals.

Stepping Stones Sewing Group

A special Stepping Stones Sewing Group including Melbourne and regional Victorian women whose enterprises tap those skills convened for the first time to share ideas about their businesses and explore how to develop new customers. Ballarat graduates Mary Deng and Nyibol Deng, from the businesses Mat Tetni and ATUK, respectively, talked to the women about their experiences as active vendors in local farmers' and makers' markets, and about what the women would need to plan for in taking that step themselves.



Good Governance Program

The Good Governance program offers free mentoring support to community organisations, cultural groups and associations looking for governance and compliance advice.

Vivian, the Coordinator of our newest member group 'The Red Sunset' shares the story of their group:

"Everyone deserves happiness, especially older people. When my Mum came to Australia with no English, no friends and no confidence, I was worried. My friend Jun and I decided build a group for our mums. We didn't know there were more old people who would join the group.



With more and more events going on, more people joining in and people requesting different activities, we felt we needed help to manage the group. We also needed to think about the future of this club. So we decided to join the Good Governance program to support us to understand the rules and compliance issues related to formalising this group that makes good things happen to the old people in our community.

Today, we organise different activities like Tai Qi, singing, dancing, chatting, training and learning every Saturday morning 10am - 12pm for the Red Sunset group. When we see our Mums smile, we know we are doing something right."

Zoom Workshops - All are welcome to join!

These free Governance workshops on Zoom act as team building and realignment exercises for mentors and community organisations. The next workshop 'Managing the culture and values' will take place on 23 March.

For more details, contact Ballarat Host Coordinator, Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



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.

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

Did you know? Our MEP team offers one-on-one mentoring to individuals preparing for their IELTS, OET, PTE and TOEFL assessments. The tutors' Community of Practice session on 8 February had the team sharing stories of their students' successes and struggles. Innovative teaching ideas and resources were shared to help the tutors empower their students with the knowledge and skills to navigate their language learning goals.



The Migrant English Program (MEP) provides free online English learning support to clients in Ballarat, Ararat and Horsham. We are proud of our committed team of volunteer tutors whose untiring efforts continue to empower individuals find better work and social opportunities.

Meet Donya and her tutor Anna:

"I first started tutoring with the Ballarat and Regional Multicultural Council in March of 2018. I was looking for a volunteer opportunity as I was studying writing and publishing at the

time - language has always been a keen interest of mine. I met Donya at her house for our first lesson, a little nervous, but mostly excited for what was to come.

Our lessons progressed gradually, as we both took the time to learn how we communicated. We accommodated the others' learning and teaching styles, becoming more confident each time we met. Three years later, Donya and I are still having regular lessons. We've managed to meet up consistently despite life events like house moves and work commitments, as well as national lockdowns. The confidence that our regular lessons have instilled in Donya is inspiring - she consistently pushes herself to learn and is tenacious in her pursuit of growth.



"I now have not only a student for life, but a friend for life, too."

Find out more about this learning community: Sarabjit s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Diversity Homework Club

It's March and we're running into the second month of our DHC meetings! The students are gearing up to win Reading Awards as they participate in the activities designed to make learning joyful. Liseni's 'Word Play' and Brendan's 'Times Tables Bingo!' have the students having fun as they learn. The Science videos shared by the tutors add something to our knowledge bank each week. It's fun. It's free. We love it!

If you'd like to join the team as a student or tutor, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



'A Better Place' Virtual Choir (Online Launch) - Harmony Fest 2021

The Diversity Homework Club virtual choir 'A Better Place' will be released online on 28 March to celebrate diversity and the joy of collaborative learning. Follow us on Facebook to be the first to watch the choir! www.facebook.com/events/462197174982365



School's Out! Creative Workshops

The School's Out! Creative Workshops have a full program of activities planned through the first term, including traditional Stick Weaving, Song Writing and Interpretation, Creating Animated Drawings, and Creating Crystal Dream Catchers.

Fingers crossed, Creative Workshops students will be able to meet in-person for the first time during the Term 1 School Holidays, working one-on-one with artist facilitators to fashion unique items that reflect cultural traditions as well as offer embedded learning opportunities in literacy, numeracy and science.

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

Social Support

We had a great start to our Social Support programs in 2021 with 86 clients attending the first Multicultural Tucker in February. With a Dutch-themed three-course lunch and some great nostalgic live music inviting many to take to the dance floor, our Seniors appeared to enjoy the event, especially delighted to have the opportunity to be together again, meeting up with old friends and meeting new acquaintances.

The Social Support Team received fantastic support from 7 of our volunteers whose tireless effort (from setting up, serving meals, washing up, transport etc.) contributed to a wonderful day for our Seniors.



The snap COVID-related lockdown meant a cancellation of other planned February programs such as Social Hub and Seasonal Lunch; we were able to hold 2 of our weekly

Tai Chi classes which are becoming increasingly popular. At this stage, we are planning to hold all our March programs.

March Programs

Tai Chi: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1pm - 2pm (\$8)

Multicultural Tucker (Maltese Theme): Wednesday 10 March, 12pm - 2.30pm (\$10)

Bus Trip: Monday 15 March (\$40)

Social Hub: Thursday 18 March, 1pm - 3pm (\$5)

Seasonal Lunch: Wednesday 31 March, 12pm - 2pm (\$10)

All programs will be held at **Victoria Bowling Club**, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East.

Bookings are essential.

If restrictions change in the future we will be in touch with alternative plans.

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

Community Matters Podcast - New Episodes

In celebration of International Women's Day, we are pleased to share conversations with two extraordinary women through our Community Matters Podcast, hosted by Bobby Mehta.

Community Matters: Episode 2 - Yvon Davis

Yvon was a journalist with SBS for many years before taking on other various roles. A former City of Ballarat Multicultural Ambassador and current Intercultural Advisor. We are honoured to share an inspiring conversation of her life's journey.

Listen: <https://youtu.be/snmffhYWJoc>



Community Matters: Episode 3 - Rachel Muir

Rachel is a Proud Yorta Yorta Woman, born and raised on Wadawurrung land in Ballarat. She is the first female Aboriginal candidate to stand for election for the City of Ballarat in 2020. Rachel has contributed so much to the life of the community.

Listen: <https://youtu.be/1vaQjaEluMM>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Harmony Fest 2021

12 - 28 March 2021 | Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week

Harmony Fest has become a vibrant celebration of diversity in Ballarat.

View the full Harmony Fest 2021 Program:

www.brmc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Harmony-Fest-2021-Program-of-Events.pdf



A few Program Highlights

17 March: Ubuntu Breakfast
20 March: Meet Your Neighbour
20 March: BMA Indian Food Fest
21 March: Unity in Diversity - Interfaith Forum
26 March: Harmony Market
26 March: Virtual Intercultural City Gala
27 March: The African-Australian contribution to Ballarat
27 March: A Celebration of Philippines Culture
28 March: 'A Better Place' Virtual Choir (Online Launch)

Follow the [Harmony Fest Facebook page](#) to keep up to date on this year's events. BRMC's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages will also share regular updates.

Meet Your Neighbour

Saturday 20th March, 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

Come along to morning tea and meet members of the Islamic Society of Ballarat during Harmony Fest 2021. A wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy informative one-on-one conversations. All welcome. Light refreshments provided.

www.facebook.com/events/761656964475441



BMA Indian Food Fest

Saturday 20th March, 4pm - 8pm

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

Ballarat Malayalee Association welcomes you all to enjoy a variety of traditional Indian food and to experience the mystical flavours along with the rich culture of Kerala. Indulge

yourself in mouth-watering delicacies - vegetarian options available.

Tickets: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bma-indian-food-fest-tickets-142306116425



Unity in Diversity - Interfaith Forum

Sunday 21st March, 4pm - 5.30pm

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

Panellists representing various faiths such as: Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha'i, Sikh and Hindu, will address questions of interfaith interest.

To book, contact 0400 650 234.

HARMONY FEST

12 - 28 March 2021

Brought to you by  CITY OF BALLARAT

Unity in Diversity

Interfaith Forum

Date: Sunday 21st March

Time: 4-5.30pm

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral Hall,
Dawson St South, Ballarat CBD

Booking details: Ph. 0400 650 234

Masks and COVID registering essential

Event details:

- Panelists representing various faiths such as: Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha'i, Sikh and Hindu, will address questions of interfaith interest.
- Introduced by a live music recital.
- Concluding with refreshments.



Ballarat Interfaith Network



Follow  [harmonyfestballarat](https://www.facebook.com/harmonyfestballarat) for program updates | [#harmonyfest](https://twitter.com/harmonyfest)



Supporting City of Ballarat venues and services include Youth Services, Ballarat Libraries, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre and the Eureka Centre.

The City of Ballarat is a
Refuge Welcome Zone



Harmony Market

Friday 26th March, 10am - 2pm

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

The inaugural BRMC Harmony Market will be held in association with the 2021 Ballarat Harmony Fest multicultural celebrations. Favourite vendors from our Twilight Markets and our new Stepping Stones enterprises will be featured, as well as stalls supporting the BRMC THRIVE initiative and other emerging entrepreneurs from Ballarat's diverse community.



Virtual Intercultural City Gala

Friday 26th March, 7pm - 8.30pm | Online Event

The annual Gala Dinner event has been reimagined for 2021 and features First Nation's music star Mitch Tambo. Also featuring performances by Los Locos, Geoffrey Williams, Australian Irish Dance Company, Virasat E Punjab and Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat.

This virtual event will be livestreamed from Ballarat Trades Hall. Stream on your TV and dance in your lounge room! www.facebook.com/events/433520541087475



BAA Workshop: Re-Branding African Australian Identity Project - Your Wealth

Saturday 20th March, 10am - 4pm

Venue: Barkly Square Lecture Theatre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

At this workshop, organised by the Ballarat African Association, we will learn how to

sharpen your tools and how to appropriately direct them to bear fruits.

Register Now: <https://baa-rebranding-project-your-wealth.eventbrite.com.au>

Re-Branding African Australian Identity Project - Your Wealth

Featuring:

- Wealth Creation (Part 1)
- Family Stability and Wealth Creation (Part 1)
- Maximising your Mortgages & Borrowings
- Life Balance: Social, Spiritual and Contemporary Perspective
- Estate Planning

Re COVID Safety Smart!

10:00 – 16:00 Saturday 20 March 2021
Barkly Square Lecture Theater
25-39 Barkly St
Bakery Hill VIC 3350

Registrations at <https://baa-rebranding-project-your-wealth.eventbrite.com.au>

Speakers:

- Founder, Eagle Life Finance & Mortgage Broking
- CEO, 3P Corporation Author, Speaker and Entrepreneur
- Founder, Covenant Wealth Speaker & Sailor
- Founder & Chief Empowerment Officer Confidence and Self Esteem Academy Author & Speaker

Ballarat African Association
Since 2006
<https://ballarat.africanassociation.net.au>

Child Minding Available

Partners: Regional Development Victoria, Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, Ballarat City Council, City of Ballarat

Cultural Diversity Week

21 - 28 March 2021

Multiculturalism is a core part of the Victorian identity, our character and way of life. As home to people from all corners of the world, Victoria is a place where anyone can contribute and belong. This year's Cultural Diversity Week theme pushes the boundaries and asks: **What does multicultural Victoria look like in 2030?**

To learn more and view events, visit: www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity-week-victorian-multicultural-commission

Cultural Diversity Week

21 – 28 March 2021

What does **multicultural Victoria** look like in **2030?**

VICTORIAN multicultural commission
strengthening our community

VICTORIA
State Government

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Priority Response to Multicultural Communities

Applications for funding through the Priority Response to Multicultural Communities during Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 2 initiative are now open.

The Victorian Government is inviting multicultural and multifaith community organisations to apply for funding to support their communities and help prevent future COVID-19 outbreaks.

Learn more and apply: www.vic.gov.au/priority-response-multicultural-communities-during-coronavirus-covid-19

All applications must be submitted by **4pm on Friday 28 May 2021** or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.



Extreme Hardship Support Program

The Extreme Hardship Support Program provides emergency financial assistance to people who are not eligible for Commonwealth Government income support. The program continues to be available to assist people experiencing hardship due the coronavirus pandemic, and is expected to finish some time before June 2021. A single person can receive up to \$800 for their first application and may be able to apply for another payment after two months if they are still experiencing financial hardship. Families may receive more, based on the number of people in the family and individual circumstances.

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 applications. Contact Annie at a.dunn@brmc.org.au.

Partners in Wellbeing

The Partners in Wellbeing program, provides mental health support to Victorians aged 16 years and over whose mental health has been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This includes temporary visas holders and international students. The program also provides support around bills, vouchers and advocacy.

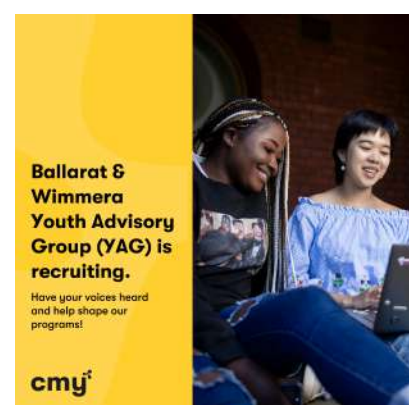


For more information, visit www.partnersinwellbeing.org.au or call 1300 375 330.

CMY Youth Advisory Group

Are you a young person in Ballarat, Horsham or Nhill? Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) welcome applications from young people (aged 15-25) of all backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and any young allies in the community who are keen to support their peers.

Contact hmcarthur@cmj.net.au or 0448 623 006 for more information and to apply.



Western Bulldogs FC Programs

The Western Bulldogs Football Club have 2 FREE programs starting soon.

Sons of the West - starts 15th March

Sons of the West is a FREE 10-week men's health program that runs across 7 local municipalities, including Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Wyndham, Melton, Ballarat and Sunbury.

Register: www.westernbulldogs.com.au/foundation/programs/sons-of-the-west

Youth Leadership Project - starts April

The Youth Leadership Project offers unique opportunities for young people aged 14 - 16 to build confidence, make new friends and develop skills that will enable them to become leaders in their community.

Register: www.westernbulldogs.com.au/foundation/forms/youth-leadership-project

Sebastopol Vikings FC

The Sebastopol Vikings Football Club are looking for players, all genders - from Miniroos under 9s to Metro League under 17s.

Training for ages 13, 14 and 15 starts on Monday 15 March at St Georges Reserve, Vickers St, Sebastopol.

If you are over 17 but would still like to play, feel free to get in contact.

If you are interested or know someone who would like to join, message the club on [Facebook](#) or through their website: www.sebasvikings.net

You can also contact Lunorpha Folly: 0413 572 541 / lk.folly@bmrc.org.au

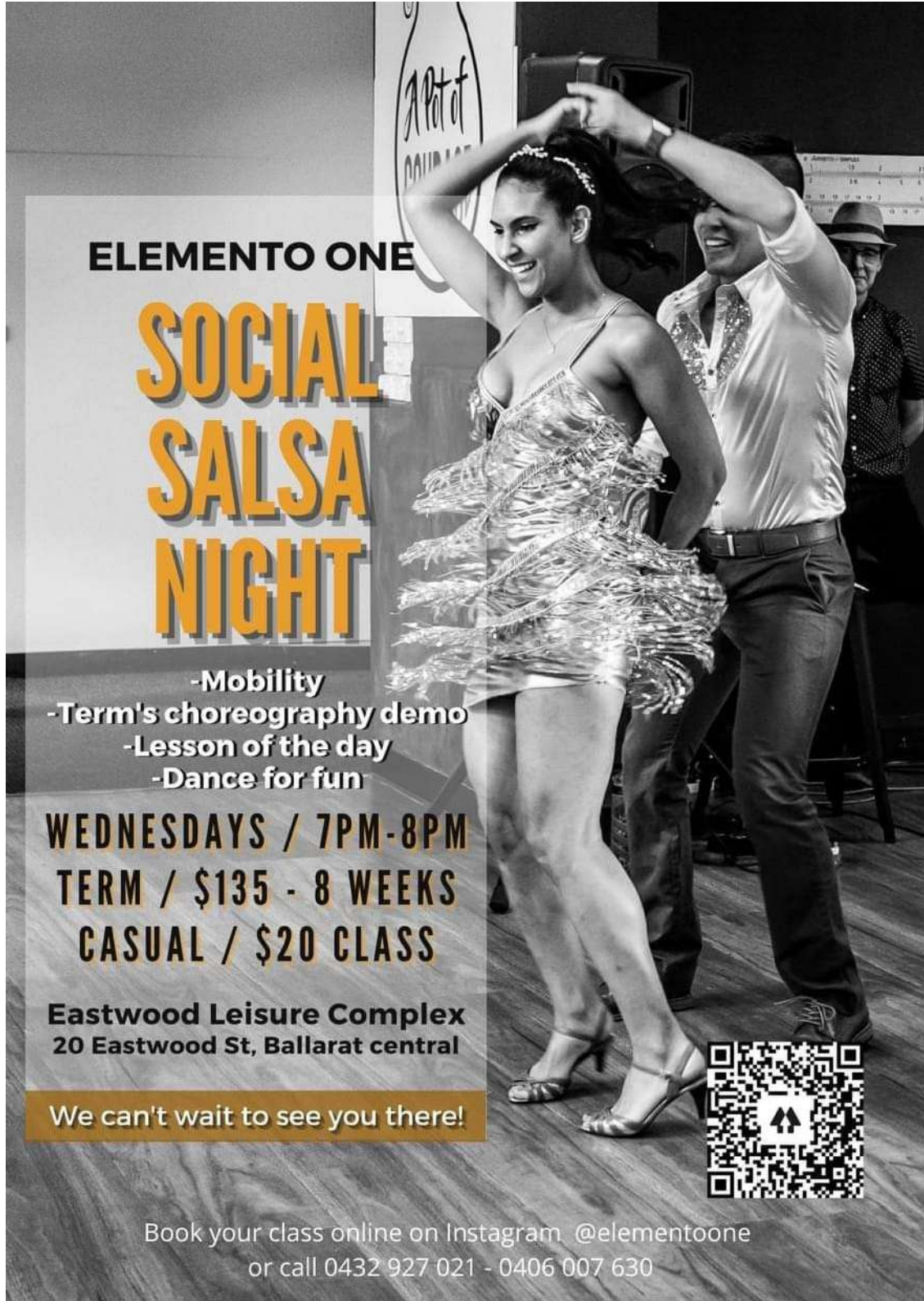


Social Salsa Night

Salsa classes on Wednesday nights. **Term begins 24th March.** Enjoy a Latin American experience with Victor and Stefi from Colombia.

Everyone welcome - you only need a passion for music! You will learn how to dance SALSA, the language and culture, and meet other people. Just give it a go!

Contact 0432 927 021 or book directly through <https://linktr.ee/Elementoone>



ELEMENTO ONE


**SOCIAL
SALSA
NIGHT**

- Mobility
- Term's choreography demo
- Lesson of the day
- Dance for fun

WEDNESDAYS / 7PM-8PM
TERM / \$135 - 8 WEEKS
CASUAL / \$20 CLASS

Eastwood Leisure Complex
20 Eastwood St, Ballarat central

We can't wait to see you there!



Book your class online on Instagram @elementoone
or call 0432 927 021 - 0406 007 630

2021 Ballarat Begonia Festival

6 - 28 March 2021

The 2021 Ballarat Begonia Festival is blooming across town through the March, and BRMC Stepping Stones Coordinator Deborah Klein has a piece of the action!

By day - supporting women's enterprise through Stepping Stones and students' learning through the Diversity Homework Club School's Out! Creative Workshops, by night and weekends - Deborah is one of five artists fashioning public decorations celebrating the colour and vibrancy of their 'home town' for the Ballarat Begonia Festival.

Now on view at Sturt and Doveton Street!



Jumbo letters spelling out 'BEGONIA'. Letters E and O dressed by Deborah Klein.

EVENTS IN REVIEW

BRMC Annual General Meeting

BRMC's 2020 Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 23 February in the Barkly Square Lecture Theatre. Numbers were limited due to COVID restrictions and the event was livestreamed to members with help from SLC - Sound & Light Concepts.



We welcome new Executive Committee Members appointed for 2020/2021.

Position	Name
Chairperson	Joy Sawiche
Deputy Chair	Bobby Mehta
Treasurer	Andrew Tennant
Assistant Treasurer	Phillip Moore
Secretary	Magdalena Kazmierczak
Assistant Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Public Relations Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Interfaith Officer	Syed M Sami

Women's Officer	Serena Ogbuokiri
Youth Officer	Vacant
Community Representatives	Navin Thomas Sylvana Mitchell Kiky Amelia
Immediate Past Chair	Chez Dichiera

Thank you to all outgoing Executive Committee Members and we wish you well.

BRMC Annual Report 2020: www.brmc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BRMC-Annual-Report-2020.pdf

BRMC Annual Audited Financial Statements 2020: www.brmc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BRMC-Audited-Financial-Statements-2020.pdf

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

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. 