

May 2021 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

May edition brings you news of National Reconciliation Week, as well as mentoring, tutoring and volunteering opportunities. See features on two of our community volunteers on the Board and Social Support team to inspire you.

We are pleased to be able to bring more Welcome Centre events and opportunities as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. Our playgroups, senior activities and digital mentoring will also continue during winter. Welcome Centre repair works are also well underway on the community kitchen at Barkly Square and the Women's Business Incubator. Both are expected to open in the next month. This week the Victorian Government announced a further grant to assist repairs at the Centre, on the bluestone stairwell and to create a gallery in the ground floor hallways.

We know that many communities across the globe are suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to support planned fundraisers by Indian communities in May and June and remind local families that BRMC can assist families who are isolated or in hardship. Don't hesitate to contact us.

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](#).

Phillip Moore

Assistant Treasurer, BRMC Executive Committee

Phillip has an Irish heritage; his ancestors arrived in Australia in 1842, moved to Ballarat during the gold discoveries and were involved in the Eureka Stockade events of 1854.

Professionally, Phillip is a qualified accountant - CPA, He also has a Master's Degree in Planning and is a member of the Royal Australian Planning Institute. Phillip's business background includes management positions with various Australian national companies as well as being the CEO of one of Australia's largest and most important community regional development organisations - the Murray Darling Association. He has been a guest lecturer at the 3 Universities in Adelaide and has written and published some 20 books.



During his lifetime he has served on numerous committees - both local and national. His current committee involvement includes: Celtic Club Inc. (Melbourne), Ballarat Irish Association, Eureka Australia Inc., Earth Care Australia, and BRMC Executive Board (Assistant Treasurer).

BRMC is very thankful that Phillip stepped up to provide financial governance.

Save the Date

INDIA UNITED Charity Challenge Match

Saturday 5th June, 12.30pm

Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility, 910 Pleasant St S, Ballarat

We're uniting all the local Indian communities for a soccer match like no other! Hosted by SMS and BRMC, this match will help raise much needed funds for the SMS India COVID Appeal.

SMS INDIA COVID APPEAL

india UNITED



CHARITY CHALLENGE MATCH

SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 2021

Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility ~ 12:30 pm kick off



in partnership with



**Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council** Inc.



COVID-19 Vaccine

If you're aged 50 and over, you can now receive the COVID-19 vaccine from Ballarat Health Services Community Vaccination Clinic (CVC) at the Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre (613 Main Road, Golden Point). To book an appointment call **1800 675 398**. For more information, visit www.bhs.org.au/vaccine

Videos in Your Language

Information about COVID-19 vaccines is available in multiple languages.

www.health.gov.au/resources/video/covid-19-vaccines-are-available-for-everyone-in-australia-other-languages

Updates from BRMC

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

Upcoming Events

- Victorian Law Week 2021
 - Information Session for Parents & Carers
 - Bring your Bills Day
- National Reconciliation Week
 - Flag-raising and Launch
 - Yarning with Professor Wayne Quilliam
- Energy Bill Session
- 2021 Gambling Harm Prevention Forum

Items of Interest

- BRMC Pop-Up Market - Call for Vendors
- Digital Mentor Program
- National Reconciliation Week Small Grants
- African and Pasifika Youth Sports Program Grants
- Indian Groceries - Free Delivery
- YourGround - Interactive Safety Map

UPDATES FROM BRMC

Ballarat Welcome Centre

On Monday 10 May, Michaela Settle MP announced that BRMC will receive a \$65,700 grant to upgrade the Ballarat Welcome Centre.

The works will include painting and repairs, making the bluestone stairwell accessible, installing new security locks and transforming the hall and foyers into creative spaces, where art can be created or exhibited, and can also be used as community and cultural events.



BRMC Women's Business Incubator Launch

With room for meetings, workshops, training, consultations, business incubation and events, the Women's Business Incubator is dedicated to supporting the aspirations of our community's women toward autonomy and financial well-being.

Friday 28th May, 12pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat



Photo credit: The Courier, Ballarat

Stepping Stones Graduation

Finally, the skies are clear and doors open so we can gather to celebrate all of the wonderful women who came together and thrived through the inaugural Ballarat Stepping Stones to Small Business Program!

On Friday, 28 May from 12pm we will honour the women who helped pioneer the inaugural Ballarat Stepping Stones Program, and celebrate the spirit that has sustained multiple micro-enterprises despite the restrictions of the COVID period.

Friday 28th May, 12pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat



Community Engagement Team

Developing Our Children Together program

We had a great session with Louise Buckle-Smith (Playgroup Victoria) and Rebecca Marsh (BRMC Thrive Garden Project). Thank you very much for providing such a wonderful session!



We invite you to join Group B of our program - starting Friday 28 May

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

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

Time: 10am - 12pm

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

Living Together Box

The community's warm attention has been drawn to the 'Living Together Box' service that is run for people who have migrant, refugee, and asylum seeker backgrounds in need during COVID-19. In this newsletter, we would like to share some warm news that helped support this program in April.

First, we would like to thank Ballarat Community Health and Foodbank for providing the Farms to Families Market tickets to our recipients. These tickets were delivered with our Living Together Boxes on 11 May, and they will have the opportunity to visit the market on 20 May to receive fresh food once again.

We also received a beautiful handmade blanket from Alison, a client of BRMC Social Support, which we donated to a family. The family expressed deep gratitude with a bright smile when presented with a warm and beautiful blanket.

Once again, we thank the Ballarat Italian Association and Victorian Government for supporting this program.



Multicultural Playgroup

During our Developing Our Children Together workshops, participating parents expressed their desire to further develop their children's physical, social, cultural and mental well-being in our conversations and surveys, and hoped for creative and practical multicultural early childhood programs. To fulfil such needs of multicultural parents, we will start the Multicultural Playgroup on 4 June.

By participating in the BRMC Multicultural Playgroup, multicultural children can interact with other multicultural children in the region and thus absorb cultural diversity naturally. This allows the children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Furthermore, parents can improve parenting skills through programs and as a result help the formation of positive relationships between multicultural parents and their children.

Join our Multicultural Playgroup - for multicultural parents with children under 5.

Every Thursday from 3rd June, 10am - 11.30am (during school terms)

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Contact Heeyoung on 0410 760 618 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.

We invite you to join the

Multicultural Playgroup



- ▶ **WHO** Multicultural parents with children under 5
- ▶ **WHEN** From 3rd June, every Thursday during school term 10am – 11:30am
(excluding Public Holidays)
- ▶ **WHERE** Ballarat Welcome Centre (25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat)
- ▶ **FEE** Gold coin donation (The donated coins will be used for playgroup)

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

Good Governance Program

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

Free Good Governance Webinar - all are welcome to join!

Topic: Conducting effective board meetings

Date: Thursday 27 May

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

RSVP: Sally at sally@centreforparticipation.org.au

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 2422 4151

Passcode: 529916

Questions? Contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au





2021 Governance Workshops.
Join us to build your
governance knowledge.

2021 Zoom Workshops Schedule:

1. Building your Committee Manual - 28th January
2. Setting your purpose - 22nd Feb
3. Managing the culture and values - 22nd 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: 426 751 2341 Passcode: C4P

For more information contact your Host Coordinator

 Sarabjit Kaur, Migrant English Program Coordinator 04 2483 9418 s.kaur@brmc.org.au	 Helen Murray, Migrant English Program Coordinator 04 2483 9418 h.murray@brmc.org.au
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Helping community organisations be their best.

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

Kudos to our volunteer tutors who work tirelessly to empower their students from migrant-refugee backgrounds find better employment and social opportunities.

Meet Kathleen, MEP tutor:

"In 2020, I ran weekly sessions tutoring my student on Zoom. While I was the teacher, I was also a learner. I had some experience of the Zoom platform, and I had much to learn. The bright greeting from the woman I was tutoring and her laugh when we got it wrong kept me going. Thank you, my country student. Teaching English was fine; explaining how to share the screen on Zoom had its problems. To get around this, I emailed worksheets ahead and both of us were happy. Where there's a will, there's a way. I enjoyed my time preparing PowerPoint presentations.



Another thing: I didn't need to leave home, and that was important during lockdown."

To participate or volunteer with the Migrant English Program, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Diversity Homework Club

We are delighted to welcome our new Peer Tutors Meg, Arian and Xiang. They attended an Orientation Training session and enjoyed participating in the DHC activities on 5 May 2021.



A BIG 'Congratulations!' to our shining stars - the winners of the Reading Awards!
We are proud of you!

Gold Award	Bronze Award	Appreciation
Ankita Hari Jinup Lual Kartie Neelavannan Lam Tor Nivethaa Neelavannan Rachel Chol Nivashini Neelavannan	Bryan Nguyen	Martha Tuany Mat Gach Nyamuoch Keat Nyarout Nyaziel Nending Nyamar Maker Shreeya Maheshwari Amal Hari

Meet Heather Stewart, DHC Tutor:

"I have been a tutor for BRMC Diversity Homework Club for around four years. Although I believed that I was going to attempt to teach and help the students, I too learnt a lot and felt truly needed.

I am impressed by the homework club children's eagerness to learn or understand the task at hand, their need for guidance and am inspired by their love of learning and life. Tutoring DHC students has boosted my pride, in the knowledge that I have been a small part of the children's educational journey."



For more information about the Diversity Homework Club, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

School's Out! Creative Workshops

During their first in-person Creative Workshops, held over the Term 1 School Holidays, Diversity Homework Club students collaborated in fashioning a fabulously colourful and lively WELCOME sign for the BRMC Welcome Centre.

Fabricated from recycled paper and lots of bling, this sign truly reflects the vibrant, varied and multi-hued nature of our BRMC community.



Social Support

Our Social Support Team are seeking VOLUNTEERS

Meet one of our valued volunteers Linda...

Linda joined BRMC, keen to get more involved in supporting people from diverse backgrounds. Over this time, she has assisted at our Welcome Centre Reception; greeting visitors, advising on services and resources, and providing administrative support. More recently, Linda has focused her energies on supporting the Senior clients of the Social Support team: driving particularly vulnerable Seniors to and from events, enabling them to participate in social activities, and assisting at events with serving meals and clearing up.



Linda describes what motivates her: "I love working with Seniors and people from rich and diverse cultural backgrounds and sharing their stories. I think 'hands on' direct and practical contact with the clients is so rewarding and enriching."

BRMC regards Linda as an integral and invaluable member - we could not do it without you!

If you are interested in volunteering with us, contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.

May Programs

Tai Chi: May 4, 11, 18 & 25, 1pm - 2pm (\$5)

Multicultural Tucker (Croatian): Wednesday 12 May, 12pm - 3pm (\$10)

Social Hub: Thursday 20 May, 1pm - 3pm (\$5)

Seasonal Lunch: Wednesday 26 May, 12pm - 2pm (\$10)

All programs are held at Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East. Bookings essential.

Digital Mentor Program

Did you know that 2.5 million Australians don't have basic digital skills to thrive in today's world? If you or someone you know needs help with technology - **Join BRMC's FREE Digital Mentor program!**

Contact Heeyoung on 03 5383 0613 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au to register.

BRMC DIGITAL MENTORS



Do you need help with technology?

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC) is offering one-on-one support with trained Digital Mentors through our FREE Digital Mentor program.

Mentors will meet with clients for 1 hour per week to help increase confidence to use technology.

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Learn how to use the internet safely and do things like pay bills, access Centrelink or contact family members.

.....

Use your own devices or borrow devices from BRMC.



This program is supported by the Victorian Government, the Ballarat North Neighbourhood Centre and the Australian Government's Be Connected Program.



Interested?

Contact Heeyoung on 03 5383 0613 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Victorian Law Week 2021

17 - 23 May 2021

Law Week is an annual festival of events that makes learning about the law easy. Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service are hosting the following events.

Law Week: Information Session for Parents & Carers

Monday 17th May, 5.30pm - 7pm

Seminar Theatre, Ballarat Technology Park Central, 106-110 Lydiard Street S, Ballarat

Do you have a child aged 12 years or older?

In this session for parents and carers, a panel of professionals will explore what the law says about cyber-bullying, sexting, the age of consent and online gambling. Learn tips for keeping your kids safe online and have your questions answered.

[Register](#)


Law Week: Bring your Bills Day


Wednesday 19th May, 9.30am

Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service, 5 Chancery Lane, Ballarat


Bring along your bills, credit card statement, fines or any documentation relating to your issue. Call 03 5331 5999 for more information and to make an appointment.

Free telephone interpreting available in more than 130 languages.





BRING YOUR BILLS DAY



FREE Information and Advice

WHEN: Wednesday 19th May, 2021 from 9.30am

WHERE: 5 Chancery Lane, Ballarat

During Law Week 2021, Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service in partnership with CAFS is hosting a Bring your Bills Day.

If you have concerns relating to any of the below matters please call to make an appointment on 5331 5999.

- Credit & Store Cards
- Payday loans
- Gas, electricity & water arrears
- Rate arrears
- Telephone & internet arrears
- Rent arrears
- Driving fines
- Parking fines
- Covid fines
- Other debt

All assistance provided is free and confidential and will be subject to a conflict check. Please bring along your bills, credit card statement, fines or any other documentation relating to your issue. This event will adhere to any Covid restrictions and comply with social distancing requirements.

Free Telephone Interpreting is available thanks to TranslationZ

National Reconciliation Week

27 May - 3 June 2021

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The theme for 2021, ***More than a word.***

Reconciliation takes action, urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action. www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week



NRW: Flag-raising and Launch

Thursday 27th May, 10.30am

Sturt St Flag Pole (opposite Town Hall, 225 Sturt St), Ballarat

Join the flag-raising ceremony with a guest speaker to launch National Reconciliation Week. Then walk together to the Mining Exchange (12 Lydiard St North) for morning tea.

[Register](#)

NRW: Yarning with Professor Wayne Quilliam

Monday 31st May, 6.30pm - 8pm

Ballarat Library, 178 Doveton St N, Ballarat

Join international award-winning Indigenous photographer, Professor Wayne Quilliam, as he shares stories and yarns, in an interactive and stimulating setting. This is a free event.

[Register](#)

Energy Bill Session

Friday 4th June, 11am - 3pm

Ballarat North Neighbourhood House, 6 Crompton St, Soldiers Hill

The Victorian Government is providing a one-off \$250 payment to eligible households. Ballarat North Neighbourhood House is holding a session to help with applications. No bookings required.

For further information, contact 0491 753 307.

\$250 to help pay your energy bill.

The Victorian Government is providing a one-off \$250 payment to eligible households.

Get help applying for this \$250 payment at a special event. No bookings required.

*takes 10 minutes of your time

*we will have 5 specialist from the independent Energy Info Hub to support your application

What do I need to bring?

- Your concession card
- A recent electricity bill (not a reminder notice)
- Bank account details(name, BSB and account number)

Am I eligible?

You can apply for the \$250 payment if you have one of the following

- A Pension Concession Card
- JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Abstudy or Austudy
- Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card Specialists

**Ballarat North Neighbourhood
House**

Friday 4 June

11.00am to 3.00pm

6 Crompton Street, Soldiers Hill

Ph 0491753307

(for further information)



NI energy info hub

Save the Date

2021 Gambling Harm Prevention Forum

Friday 25th June

Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#), [website](#) and June Newsletter for details.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

BRMC Pop-Up Market - Call for Vendors

Back by popular demand, BRMC is planning another of its successful Pop-Up Markets in conjunction with Refugee Week. We are calling for vendors of quality handmade and locally-sourced goods who are interested in participating.

Friday 25th June, 10am - 2pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Interested? Contact Deborah Klein at d.klein@brmc.org.au.

Deadline is Monday 21 June 2021.



Pop-Up Market Opportunity

The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council is seeking vendors of quality sustainably-produced and locally-sourced goods for the

Ballarat Welcome Centre Pop-Up Market

hosted in conjunction with the
2021 Refugee Week
&

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation
2021 Harm Prevention Forum

Friday, 25 June

10am – 2pm

Barkly Square

25 – 39 Barkly Street, Ballarat

3m space

No fee, no commission on sales

BYO tables & marquees

BYO payment system

If you are interested in participating
please contact

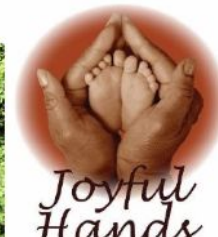
Deborah Klein

d.klein@brmc.org.au 0457 934 728

Deadline: Monday, 21 June



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council inc.



National Reconciliation Week Small Grants

Applications for Round 2 of National Reconciliation Week small grants are now open.

Reconciliation Victoria is offering a second round of small grants to local reconciliation groups, community groups, schools and early learning centres to assist with the planning of events to commemorate National Reconciliation Week 2021, running from 27 May to 3 June.

Applications close Thursday 13 May 2021.

Apply Now

African and Pasifika Youth Sports Program Grants

The Victorian Government's African and Pasifika Youth Sports Program supports informal sports teams to participate in competitions and events in partnership with local councils and community organisations. Local clubs are encouraged to partner with African and Pasifika young people or community organisations to apply for a grant.

Funded programs must be delivered between 1 July and 31 December 2021.



Open until Wednesday 19 May 2021.

Apply Now

Indian Groceries - Free Delivery

Local Ballarat based business, Discount Indian Grocery, is helping those unable to leave their homes by delivering groceries to their doorstep free of charge. What a great local initiative for both our Indian communities and those who love their Indian food.

Visit: www.discountindiangrocery.com.au

Get Discounted Indian Grocery Delivered to your doorstep 7 days a week, no delivery charges.

☎️ 📞 0450824545

DiscountIndianGrocery.com.au

Find us on  facebook



 **Discount Indian Grocery**

YourGround - Interactive Safety Map

This new interactive digital mapping platform will advance knowledge of safety in public spaces for women and gender-diverse people.



YourGround maps local streets, parks, trails and recreational spaces, sharing the often-hidden experiences of safety when accessing sport and recreation in Victorian towns.



[View Map](#)

Share Your News

Have something you would like us to share on social media or in our monthly newsletter?

Tag us on Facebook [@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.  



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