

July 2021 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and warm. Enjoy the newsletter this month. It's packed full of community news and welcoming activity.

Refugee Week in June 2021 celebrated the contributions of refugees to our communities, economies and civic life with a theme of unity. Ballarat celebrations were many and we've captured a few below.

We are in the midst of NAIDOC Week and the theme 'Heal Country!' is a strong message to us all to care and connect with Wadawurrung country we live on. See coverage of the Ballarat program below.

COVID-19 is still among us and BRMC community engagement team continues to provide emergency relief, COVID-19 and vaccination information and support.

Warm Regards,

Ann

BRMC Executive Officer



Local anti-racism action supported by the Victoria Government. We congratulate BRMC Chair, Joy Sawiche Juma on her appointment to the Victorian Anti- Racism Taskforce.
 Pictured: Juliana Addison MP, Joy Sawiche Juma, Ann Foley and Michaela Settle MP.

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](#).

Sami S Muhammad

Interfaith Officer, BRMC Executive Committee

Sami, our BRMC Board Interfaith Officer, is from Karachi, Pakistan. He has travelled widely to countries including the United States of America, United Kingdom, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong. He also lived in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia before finally choosing Australia as his home. Sami lived in Sydney before moving to Ballarat 6 year ago.



Sami decided to settle in Ballarat and right away felt a sense of welcome and hospitality. He is a qualified Computer Network Engineer with an Honours degree in Computing and a Postgraduate degree in Management. Finding work in his area of expertise was difficult to begin with. Through the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC), he was referred to attend the CALD Education and Employment Pathways Program (CEEP) with the City of Ballarat. During this program he met friends, undertook training, was mentored and encouraged to undertake volunteer work. All these experiences paved the way for him to find employment at IBM Ballarat.

His interests include swimming, storytelling, mentoring, coaching, and engaging in

simple and practical community projects which bring value to a socially cohesive Ballarat.

COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines will help protect our community from getting very sick from the virus. Find out if you are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>.

The vaccine is now available to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 16 years and over in Victoria: <https://bit.ly/2UrNvD9>

Ballarat COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

- **Mercure Ballarat**
613 Main Rd, Golden Point
Call 1800 675 398 to make an appointment. www.bhs.org.au/vaccine
- **UFS COVID Vaccination Clinic** (AstraZeneca only)
309 Dana St, Ballarat
Call 03 4320 0891 or online www.ufs.com.au/vaccine
- **Ballarat Community Health**
COVID-19 Clinics at Lucas, Sebastopol, Wendouree and Smythesdale
Call 03 5338 4538 or online bchc.org.au/services/covid-19-vaccination-rollout
- **Other GP Clinics in Ballarat** - talk to your doctor to find out if they can provide the COVID-19 vaccination.

For the latest news and information about COVID-19 vaccines in Australia, visit <https://health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines>

If you have a COVID-19 question and need a translator: call 131 450, then request the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398. Keep triple zero (000) for emergencies only.

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from BRMC

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- Book Launch: One Dream, Four Countries
- BAA 'Let's Celebrate' Social Event

BRMC Business-in-Residence

Housekeeping at the Ballarat Welcome Centre has readied the new Women's Business-in-Residence space, just in time for contracted resident Nyibol Deng to move her enterprise A TUK into the new digs.

In the coming months, A TUK will be joined in the upstairs enterprise space by Mary Deng and Mary Top of Mat Tetni, Joy Sawiche of Joyful Hands, and artist Nyagak Yang.

A TUK

A graduate of the Ballarat Stepping Stones to Small Business Program, Nyibol has established A TUK to produce a unique line of handcrafted housewares and fashion accessories combining re-purposed fabric with distinctive and colourful West African wax cloth. Through A TUK Nyibol seeks to bring some of the colour and vibrancy of her mother countries of South Sudan and Ethiopia to Australian homes. "Colour is life and joy in Africa," says Nyibol, "and I want to bring some of that joy to my new home in Australia with A TUK."

Over the next two years, the A TUK Business-in-Residence with BRMC will provide Nyibol with space to produce her products and ongoing mentoring support for her developing business.



Community Engagement Team

Developing Our Children Together

Parents and children who participated in the Developing Our Children Together workshop (Group A) on 29 April, seeded, planted and watered the BRMC garden bed in front of the Welcome Centre under the guidance of BRMC Thrive Garden Project Coordinator, Rebecca. Participants enjoyed the day with joy and laughter. Now we can see the climbing peas blooming in the mini garden and the silver beet is ready for harvest. It is delightful to see the fruits of the time that our parents and children have contributed together. They will be able to use the harvested silver beet in soups, hotpot and curries. After school holidays,

parents and children will be invited to garden and harvest when the Multicultural Playgroup begins on 15 July.

Multicultural Playgroup will be held every Thursday and a DOCT workshop every Friday, when Term 3 commences. If you want to join the program, please contact Heeyoung on 0410 760 618 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.



BMA Parenting Workshop

More good news is that on 3 July, the Ballarat Malayalee Association (BMA) successfully ran their project ABCD (Australian Based Culturally Diverse Parents) Parenting Workshop, supported by the BRMC Community Engagement Team and the City of Ballarat. Parents who attended the workshop had the opportunity to obtain important and meaningful parenting skills to help overcome the challenges and issues of raising their children in Australia. This precious information was delivered by Sarabjit Kaur, BRMC Migrant English Program Coordinator, and Dr Anoop Lalitha, Dr Jacob Kulathikulangara, and Dr Shabna Rajapaksa from Ballarat Health Services. Through this program, we hope that the children of BMA will have the opportunity to enjoy a more advanced mental, physical, and cultural life in Australia as multicultural children.



Stepping Stones to Small Business

Stepping Stones Ballarat Regional Coordinator, Deborah Klein completed delivery of a pilot 5-day online Empowerment Pathways Program to clients of the Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN), just as news was breaking that the full Stepping Stones to Small Business Program has been funded for a further two year period through 2022.

This good news will see Stepping Stones available to more women across regional Victoria - and many more opportunities for those women to realise their dreams of financial independence and micro-enterprise.

Planning is underway, so keep your eyes open for more announcements and recruitment

opening for participants from across our region.



Good Governance Program

Food is Free Laneway Inc. (FIF) board members met their Good Governance Volunteer Mentor - Nancy Myrianthis on 29 June 2021. The Director-Founder of FIF - Lou Ridsdale introduced the new committee members and stated that the team's quest for a better understanding of the key factors of a not-for-profit, including financials, strategy, fundraising, operations, volunteer wellbeing and community engagement, guided by good governance practices was their motivation behind joining BRMC's Good Governance program. The session was enlivened by discussions around exploring the possibilities of growth and improvement over the next few months.

www.foodisfree.com.au

www.facebook.com/foodisfreelanewayballarat



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

Whether you are a board member, committee member or someone in the community - there's something to gain for everyone! Contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

Margaret Lenan Ellis has been a Volunteer Tutor with the Migrant English Program for over two years. With her meticulous session planning and careful guidance, she has mentored several students and taken them closer to achieving their language learning goals.

Here's Margaret, sharing her experience:

The most rewarding experience I've enjoyed in BRMC's English Tutoring programme has been a long-term one of over two years. The others less so because the commitment of the clients was short lived, whether because of finding the English language learning process too great a challenge at the age of 50 or so, or because life was already too great a challenge, raising a young child as a single parent at the same time as studying and working part-time.

My long-term Chinese student, already quite competent in English, was a young adult

student at Federation University who wanted to improve her competency with conversational English. Initially, pre-COVID, we met in the city library and would base our sessions together on units of study that had an oral component; and share conversations on a TV programme she elected to watch and then talk about. Later, via WhatsApp, this progressed to talking about her part-time work and issues that arose which puzzled or troubled her; and also reading together online websites about pregnancy, childbirth and raising babies as she began planning for a family. This led to a rich opportunity to extend her knowledge of related vocabulary and for us to practise conversations at doctors' appointments or casually with friends.



I thoroughly enjoy helping to make a positive difference in someone else's life through teaching.

The Migrant English Program offers free English tutoring to empower individuals with the language skills required for their social and professional growth. To participate/volunteer, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Diversity Homework Club

Vanessa Seymour is one of our Diversity Homework Club (DHC) Reading Room Tutors who, along with Anne Slattery, manages the students' Reading Awards.

Here's Vanessa, talking about her experience with Reading Breakout Room:

This term Anne and I discussed books and reading with twenty different children. They ranged in age and ability from kindergarten, younger siblings of older attendees, to a couple of children aged thirteen. Their enthusiasm increased over the term as we got to know them and their interests. The children read extracts from their books and talked about what they liked about the characters and the story line.



The most popular books for all ages were books by Ahn Do and other authors with amusing characters, Weirido, Captain Underpants and Diary of a Wimpy Kid were all very popular. Graphic novels were also popular both for literary content and the art work.

I have really enjoyed the time I have spent with the children, particularly seeing their skills improve and their taste in books expand. I look forward to the next term and to awarding the certificates for this term. I am still getting the names of certificate winners together, but am very pleased that we have several gold awards to give out.

We're delighted to announce the Good Readers' Awardees for Term 2:

| Gold Award | Silver Award | Bronze Award | Appreciation |
|--|----------------|--------------|--|
| Ankita Bryan Jinup Pritha Ujjwal | Amal Thiech | Rachel | Abhas Jiech Kartie Lam Lul Martha |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| | | | Nyador Nyamar Nyayul |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|

Meet DHC Students: Eliyeza and Godgive are two of our talented DHC students. Eliyeza plays the flute and Godgive loves to draw.

"I like Diversity Homework Club because it helps me more with my learning and I love how we get to make songs and sing together. It inspires me as we get to learn facts and new words. We read stories and books." - ***Eliyeza, DHC student***



Jinup Lual and Ankita Hari, with their Gold Reading Awards for Term 1:



Diversity Homework Club is a learning community creating learning opportunities to support Primary and Secondary level students. For more information contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Diversity Homework Club: Creative Field Trips

The Diversity Homework Club Creative Workshop Program finished Term 2 with a series of three weekly Creative Field Trips for students, introducing them to the people and places that make Ballarat a celebrated Creative City.

Week One saw the students travelling to nearby Learmonth, where they spent the day creating collaborative drawings and exploring the discipline of screenprinting at the artHALL Learmonth with hosts Sarah Lloyd and Geoff Bonney. Before heading for home, the students also visited Indigenous artist Deanne Gilson's Muurup Laar installation in the Ballarat North Gardens.



DHC students and hosts Sarah Lloyd and Geoff Bonney enjoying their Creative Field Trip to arHALL Learmonth.
Photo credit: Roy Rhoderick

Week Two, students visited the Art Gallery of Ballarat, where they enjoyed a special guided tour of selected works from the Gallery Collection, before visiting artist Emily Van Der Molen in the ArtSpace Ballarat and the Old Butcher Shop Gallery in Soldiers Hill, where artist Axel Scholz was exhibiting his landscape paintings.



DHC Creative Field Trip to the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Week Three was a blockbuster, with the students visiting the DJ Projects sculpture fabrication studio in Napoleons, hosted by artist Julie Collins, before travelling into nearby Buninyong to explore the Public Art Murals behind the main street shopfronts. The day ended with a special surprise visit to the beautiful Salt Bush Kitchen, where owner and Indigenous food producer Brigid Corcoran spoke to the students and invited them to smell and taste delicious foods made with indigenous plant ingredients.



DHC Creative Field Trip to the DJ Projects sculpture fabrication studio, Buninyong Public Art Murals and Salt Bush Kitchen Indigenous food producers.

Social Support

BRMC Senior clients enjoyed a lovely Bus Trip to Bendigo on 24 June. We visited the Bendigo Art Gallery and café and the magnificent Sacred Heart Cathedral.



July Social Support Programs

Please note that all programs are subject to COVID-19 restrictions and may be postponed with short notice.

Tai Chi: 13, 20 & 27 July, 1pm - 2pm (\$5)

Multicultural Tucker (Spanish): Wednesday 14 July, 12pm - 3pm (\$10)

Carer Support Hub / Social Hub: Thursday 22 July, 10am - 3pm
(\$5 Social Hub, \$10 Carer Support Hub)

Health & Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch: Wednesday 28 July, 11.30am - 2pm (\$10)

All programs are held at Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East (enter via Stawell St N). Bookings essential.

If you know someone who would benefit from BRMC Social Support Services, contact

Volunteer Opportunity: Reception/Admin

Volunteering with BRMC is a great way to learn new skills, gain confidence, be part of a community, meet new people and make a difference!

Do you have one or two half days per week to be our receptionist? We have morning and afternoon shifts available, Monday to Friday. You decide which days and hours suit you. Contact Suzanne on 03 5383 0613 or s.ryan-evers@brmc.org.au.

Got a spare half day a week?

BRMC IS RECRUITING

RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS

In our efforts to make the Ballarat Welcome Centre as welcoming as possible, BRMC is seeking volunteers to man our reception desk during work hours (9am - 5pm).

As one of our volunteer receptionists, some of your tasks might include:

- Answering the phone
- Taking & passing on messages via email
- Welcoming visitors & handling enquiries
- Small administrative tasks

BRMC is always in need of people who are willing to help share their time and skills.



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.



If you are interested, please contact Suzanne on 03 5383 0613
or 0455 667 227 or email s.ryan-evers@brmc.org.au

NAIDOC Week

4 - 11 July 2021

The NAIDOC 2021 theme - Heal Country! - calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction. Learn more: www.naidoc.org.au

Here is Ballarat's Program of Events to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

[Download Program](#)



PROGRAM OF EVENTS
All activities are free unless specified.

The City of Ballarat respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung peoples - Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| FRIDAY 2 July | NAIDOC 2021 Launch Come and celebrate NAIDOC Week. Featuring deadly entertainment by Deborah N, Jack Shrock and DJ Sam Smith. Presented by City of Ballarat, Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee, Federation University, the Local Aboriginal Network and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. | Where: The Grand 203 Dana St Ballarat Time: 5:30pm-8pm Bookings: Required Limited places 📞 naidocweeklaunch@eventsforthe.com.au |
| SUNDAY 4 July | 'Facing Up' NAIDOC Week at Eureka Centre To mark NAIDOC Week, the Eureka Centre presents 'Facing Up', a powerful creative collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers. This performance will be followed by a Q&A with the cast, director and designer and chaired by Ballarat Torres Strait Islander musician and educator, Deb Lowish Clark. This series of 'Facing Up' is presented by the Eureka Centre for NAIDOC Week 2021 and proudly supported by Regional Arts Victoria. | Where: Eureka Centre 102 Stawell Street South, Ballarat Time: 2pm Bookings: Not required |
| MONDAY 5 July | Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC) 10am Flag-raising, Smoking Ceremony and Acknowledgment of Country 10:30am Walk to Ballarat Cemetery to pay respect to Mulawath followed by Smoking Ceremony and morning tea. (limited transport available) NAIDOC Week - Online Storytime NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Join us online, as Cr Daniel Moloney, Mayor of the City of Ballarat, reads <i>Smus</i> under the bed by Lesam J Edwards. NAIDOC Flag-raising and Afternoon Tea Join us to raise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Viewpoint, Lake Wendouree (opposite The Lake View Hotel, followed by afternoon tea at The Lake View Hotel, 22 Wendouree Parade. For updates follow Facebook @KEAGBallarat 📞 KEAGBallarat | Where: 109 Armstrong Street North Ballarat Time: From 10am Bookings: not required Time: 10am Online: To view the storytime, please go to Ballarat Libraries on Facebook and follow the link. 📞 facebook.com/ballaratlibraries Where: Viewpoint, Lake Wendouree Time: 2pm Bookings: Required 📞 naidocflagraising@eventsforthe.com.au |



| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| TUESDAY 6 July | Elders Day Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC) | Where: 108 Armstrong Street Nth Ballarat Time: All day |
| WEDNESDAY 7 July | BADAC Community Day Features stalls, food, Indigenous hip hop and various performers, balloon animals, face painting, green screen, burlap, temporary tattoos, jumping castle and awards. Follow Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-Operative on Facebook for updates 📞 Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-Operative | Postponed to November due to Covid-19 restrictions. Date to be confirmed. |
| THURSDAY 8 July | Djirringga Getwoll Parra Binyak Learn the art of weaving with Auntie Marjorie Pickford and create your own basket and other woven creations. Presented by Ballarat Youth Services. 'Facing Up' NAIDOC Week at Eureka Centre To mark NAIDOC Week, the Eureka Centre presents 'Facing Up', a powerful creative collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers. This series of 'Facing Up' is presented by the Eureka Centre for NAIDOC Week 2021 and proudly supported by Regional Arts Victoria. Libraries After Dark MOVIE NIGHT In My Blood It Runs (P6) Join us for a screening of <i>In My Blood It Runs</i> . <i>In My Blood It Runs</i> is an intimate and compassionate observational documentary from the perspective of a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy in Alice Springs, Australia, struggling to balance his traditional Animerri/Gamwa upbringing with a State education. | Where: Mering Exchange, 12-16 Lyford Street North Time: 1pm-4pm Bookings: Required Limited places 📞 info@ballaratyouthservices.com.au Where: Eureka Centre 102 Stawell Street South, Ballarat Time: 5:30pm Bookings: Not required Where: Sebastopol Library Time: 7pm Bookings: Not required |

Events may be cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Follow the KEAG Facebook page for updates facebook.com/KEAGBallarat

Follow the KEAG Facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/KEAGBallarat

BKFA Blood Donation Campaign

Saturday 10th July

Ballarat Blood Donor Centre, 601-603 La Trobe St, Ballarat

Ballarat Keralites' Foundation of Australia is conducting a Blood Donation Campaign in association with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. They invite anyone to come participate and save lives. Contact 0470 529 064 to register.

BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

In Association with



Come participate
and *save lives*

10th JULY
Saturday

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



**BALLARAT KERALITES'
FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

Lend a hand ,fill a heart



FOR REGISTRATION

MINI RIJU
0470 529 064

GRACY RAJU
0412 166 395

SOFIA SHAJI
0401 038 612

SEMINA SIJO
0435 954 492

BIA Republic Day Celebration

Saturday 31st July, 5.30pm

Ballarat Function Centre, Sutton St & Rubicon St, Redan

The Ballarat Italian Association Presents a dinner dance to celebrate Italian Republic Day.
Catering by Convivium Catering (Carboni's Italian Kitchen) and entertainment by Bella Ciao.

[Book Now](#)



presents

FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



DOOR
PRIZES

GIVEAWAYS

Join us on
JULY 31, 2021
AT 5:30PM

Ballarat Function Centre

SUTTON AND RUBICON STREET, REDAN

Entertainment

BELLA CIAO

ENJOY A NIGHT OF
DANCING TO CLASSIC
ITALIAN MUSIC

Buon appetito!

4 COURSE MEAL
CATERED BY CONVIVUM
(CARBONI'S)

Cost

BIA MEMBERS

ADULTS \$45 CHILD \$20

NON-MEMBERS

ADULTS \$75 CHILD \$25

Bookings

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BRCQA

RSVP BY FRIDAY, JULY 23

CONTACT: INFO@BALLARATITALIANASSOCIATION.ORG PH: 0492 938 828

Bounce for India

Friday 30th July, 6pm - 7pm

Xtreme Bounce, 48-50 Heinz Rd, Delacombe

Presented by The Ballarat Indian Association in partnership with SMS. 100% of the ticket price will be donated to CARE Australia to support the fight against COVID-19 in India.

[Buy Tickets](#)

SMS INDIA COVID APPEAL

The Ballarat Indian Association Inc.

Bounce for India

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Xtreme Bounce

care

FRIDAY 30TH JULY FROM 6-7 PM

Indian Grill @BALLARAT

OPSM ❤️ 👁️ **Stockland Wendouree**

Springhill Farm



Art Exhibition: My Kulture

24 June to 1 August 2021, open 10am - 5pm daily

Backspace Gallery, 15 Camp St, Ballarat

South Sudanese-born artist Nyagak Yang launched her art exhibition, 'My Kulture' during Refugee Week. Nyagak's work aims to evoke emotion in the viewer and convey aspects of the experience of refugees, drawing from her experiences and those of her family and community.

Art from the exhibition are available for purchase from the [Gallery Shop](#).



Forum: Artist to Artist

Saturday 31st July, 5pm - 8pm

Art Gallery of Ballarat, 40 Lydiard St N, Ballarat

Artist to Artist is an innovative program bringing together artists from various fields to have raw, unfiltered and entertaining conversations about mental health, creativity, and artistry. Led by members of the South Sudanese community in Ballarat, people are invited to come together to enjoy live music and discussions.

[Book Now](#)



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Community Employment Connectors Program

BRMC and ten other organisations will provide culturally appropriate and individualised support to jobseekers through a network of Community Employment Connectors. The program aims to support CALD and young jobseekers facing barriers to entry and re-entry to employment pathways, particularly in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The program was announced by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on Thursday 24 June 2021: www.premier.vic.gov.au/job-support-young-and-culturally-diverse-victorians

We are now recruiting two CEC positions, one based in Ballarat and the other based in Horsham. **Applications close midnight 18 July 2021.**

[Apply Now](#)

CALD COVID-19 Health Small Grants Fund

The CALD COVID-19 Health Small Grants Fund will help multicultural community groups to lead grassroots communication activities around COVID-19 and the vaccination rollout, targeting CALD communities.

FECCA will administer grants of \$2500, \$3500 or \$5000 to groups or organisations to fund short-term, one-off, communication and outreach projects.

[Read More and Apply](#)

A graphic for the COVID-19 Small Grants Fund. It features a white background with a colorful molecular structure on the right side. The text "APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR" is in a small, dark font. Below it, "COVID-19 SMALL GRANTS FUND." is written in large, bold, dark letters. At the bottom, there is a colorful, abstract banner. On the left of the banner is the text "fecca.org.au/grants" in white. On the right is the FECCA logo, which consists of a stylized circular icon followed by the word "FECCA" in white capital letters.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR

COVID-19 SMALL GRANTS FUND.

fecca.org.au/grants  **FECCA**

Women's Board Leadership Program

This year the Women's Board Leadership Program is offering 62 scholarships for Victorian women to undertake valuable board governance training.

Women with prior experience, or a desire to serve, on government or not-for-profit boards are encouraged to apply.

Applications close Friday 9 July 2021.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



Open Futures Program

Welcoming Australia and Neighbourhood Collective Australia are excited to announce the second year of Open Futures! Open Futures is a 6-month professional development and mentoring program supporting young emerging leaders from refugee, asylum seeker and migrant backgrounds living in regional and rural Victoria.

For more information or support with applications get in touch with Kate Steenvoorden at kate@collective.org.au or 0402 383 058.

Applications close midnight Sunday 11 July 2021.

Apply Now



VMC Regional Advisory Council - Call for Members

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) is advised by 8 Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), which cover the whole state. RAC Members are VMC's eyes and ears, keeping Commissioners informed about the issues that matter to multicultural communities.

Expressions of interest are invited from anyone who has:

- an understanding of local issues impacting multicultural communities
- connections to diverse communities
- a commitment to improving their local community

Email rac@vmc.vic.gov.au to find out how to apply to the Expression of Interest.

Nominations close Friday 23 July 2021.

Ballarat Export-ready Incubator

Do you have a business and a product or service you're thinking about selling overseas? Apply now for a free Business Incubator program open to businesses in every industry in Ballarat and surrounding Shires.

Places are limited to up to 15 startup/early-stage business Founders.

Applications close Saturday 31 July 2021.

Apply Now



Are you thinking of selling products or services overseas?

Apply now for the FREE Ballarat Export-ready Incubator.

Applications are welcome from every Founder from every industry sector:

- with a business and product or service less than 12 months old
- who are interested in selling overseas
- and live or work in Ballarat, Central Goldfields, Pyrenees, Hepburn, Golden Plains and Moorabool.

We especially want applications from women, young people 18+ and migrants.

For more information about the incubator or to apply please go to:

www.enterprisingpartnerships.com.au/ballarat-incubator

What does the Incubator do?
The Ballarat Export-ready Incubator assists Founders of new and early-stage businesses to access support and knowledge to grow their business internationally.

The Incubator enables the development of global mindset, networks, skills and capabilities to improve your chances of commercial success.

How does the Incubator work?
Places are limited to up to 15 startup/early-stage business Founders.

Successful applicants will get:

- 14 weeks of business knowledge, information and support
- 5 full day workshops identifying setting up your business for export, finding markets for export and tech for export
- 6 individual or team 1:1 business coaching sessions
- introductions to local business organisations and accelerator programs where you may not have these networks
- to know other startup and early-stage Founders in the Ballarat region
- a unique, exceptional quality Incubator lead by export experts and delivered in person (COVID-19 permitting) in Ballarat.

This is a once in a lifetime business development opportunity as this Incubator will not be offered again in the Ballarat region.

Who can attend?
Founders of all startup and early-stage businesses across any industry sector, who are interested now or in the future, in exporting their products or services overseas.

Founders who live or work in City of Ballarat and Shires of Golden Plains, Central Goldfields, Hepburn, Pyrenees and Moorabool. Founders outside these areas are welcome to apply but priority will be given to Founders in the listed city and shires.

The Incubator is open to everyone and we want to hear from women, young people and migrant Founders in the region!

Participation in this incubator is completely free.
All elements are fully government funded.

If the Incubator isn't for you, please tell your family and friends.

Multicultural Gambling Harm Prevention Services

Are you or someone you know struggling with the effects of gambling? SSI's Multicultural Gambling Harm Prevention Services (MGHPS) offer free support for people, their families, and friends struggling with the effects of gambling.

MGHPS aims to support migrant, refugee, and culturally diverse community members to overcome the negative effects of gambling.

[Learn More](#)

2021 Census

The Census is happening in August. Census data helps tell the story of our communities - it highlights successes and what communities need to continue to grow. It's used to help plan services for our families and communities. For example:

- Libraries use Census data to understand languages spoken in local communities so they can stock in-language books for their readers.
- Broadcasters use Census data to determine which in-language radio and media services are needed for their listeners.
- Supermarkets use Census data to understand their customers and stock products for them - including international foods.
- Everyone in Australia must complete the Census including international students and visa holders. All personal information collected is kept safe and is not shared with anyone. You and your family can't be identified by the information you share.



Visit www.census.abs.gov.au or call 1800 512 441 for more information.

You can also contact Annie at a.dunn@brmc.org.au.

BRMC will be hosting a form filling session, so keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#).

If you need help in your language visit www.census.abs.gov.au/help/languages or call the free Translating and Interpreting service on 131 450.

EVENTS IN REVIEW

BRMC Winter Market

The Ballarat Welcome Centre main hall was cleared and ready for action, and the special Refugee Week BRMC Winter Market held on Friday 25 June was a success by every measure. A steady stream of people attended through the day and vendors reporting very good sales. The Winter Market was also the site for Michaela Settle MP and Juliana Addison MP to jointly announce the awarding of a Victorian State Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund Anti-Racism Grant to BRMC, and each afterward toured the stalls to enjoy the array of quality handmade goods from local entrepreneurs.



Lunorphare Folly, Nyibol Deng, Natacha Razfali and Juliana Addison MP enjoying the BRMC Winter Market.

Book Launch: One Dream, Four Countries

On Tuesday 22 June, during Refugee Week, Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees hosted the book launch for 'One Dream, Four Countries' by Dr Sundram Sivamalai. In conversation with Ballarat ABC's Prue Bentley of his journey to escape from oppression.

[Watch the Live Stream Replay](#)



BAA 'Let's Celebrate' Social Event

The Ballarat African Association (BAA) held their 'Let's Celebrate' social event on Saturday 26 June to celebrate the African community's societal contributions and the support of their allies throughout the district. With the support of BAA, seven African-Australian businesses have recently launched locally in sectors including retail, the arts, crafts, African culture, design, clothing, cleaning, counselling and cultural competency.



Photo credit: Yvon Davis

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](https://www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat) or submit items to media@brmc.org.au.

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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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