

September 2021 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

September has already been a challenging month for everyone in Victoria. BRMC Board and Staff Team send you our warmest wishes. We are with you. Don't hesitate to email or give our team members a call about any of the activities and programs below or even if you just want to be in touch, want some support or want to help.

COVID is a major challenge and multicultural communities are stepping up to be a critical part of the solutions. At BRMC we are continuing to find ways to engage our members and community leaders in partnerships to prepare and respond to this and other emergencies. For your information we have included here bulletins on COVID support options, latest guides on prevention and the next opportunity to **get vaccinated at BRMC Welcome Centre on Monday 27 September**. BRMC have a direct help line: 0491 066 247 and email: help@brmc.org.au for people seeking information on exposure sites or support while isolating. We also include some opportunities for you to join online school holiday, employment, business and social events with us while we all work towards opening up and getting out together for summer.

There is some great news and plenty of creativity afoot this Spring. What a thrill to see the students and tutors of Diversity Homework Club (DHC) winning awards and recognition as the best Regional Homework Club. Also exciting to welcome our next chapter with the opening of the Welcome Centre Women's Business Incubator already conducting Women's Business Month programs and about to kick off the Stepping Stones business and employment empowerment program for women. Our September Industry Networking Night will be followed by more so watch this space, [BRMC Facebook](#) and community updates.

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Executive Officer

BRMC Women's Business Month 2021

This September we are celebrating BRMC's inaugural Women's Business Month!

Promoting women's businesses and enterprises in and around Ballarat.

Women's Business Month celebrates progress, resilience and success.

We share stories to inspire and encourage and offer great opportunities to connect and build networks.



Multicultural COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub

Monday 27th September, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

In partnership with Ballarat Community Health and Ballarat Health Services, BRMC is holding a vaccination hub for all multicultural people aged 12 and over.

No walk-ins - bookings essential.

For further information about bookings, please contact the BRMC Community Engagement Team on 0491 066 246 or community@brmc.org.au.

Book Now

Multicultural Community COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub

12 years + over



**Ballarat Welcome Centre
25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat**

**MONDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER
10.30am - 3.30pm**

This COVID-19 Vaccination Hub is for the multicultural community of Ballarat.

BOOKINGS VIA EVENTBRITE

<https://bit.ly/2Xzsl20>

For further information about bookings, please contact BRMC Community Engagement Team on 0491 066 246 or community@brmc.org.au

For further information about the vaccine, contact BCH, Louise on 0448 578 475.



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council



**Bookings
Essential**

COVID-19 Update in Victoria

From 11.59pm on Wednesday 15 September, the City of Ballarat is in lockdown for one week to slow the spread of the virus in the community. Stay safe everyone.

Premier Statement: www.premier.vic.gov.au/ballarat-lock-down-week-slow-virus-spread

Ballarat Exposure Sites

Some exposure sites have been listed previously but dates and times of exposure have changed. Please check this detail carefully.

- People who have attended Tier 1 exposure sites and registered their details will receive a text message followed by a call from the Department of Health.
- If you attended a Tier 2 site you are unlikely to receive a text. Please remain vigilant and proactive in checking the list of exposure sites as often as possible, and follow

the directions of that site if you were present at the time and date of exposure.

Please regularly check the COVID-19 exposure site webpage:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/case-alerts-public-exposure-sites

If you have any questions about you or a family member visiting an exposure site, use this form on the Department of Health website - it is quick and easy to determine what you will need to do, based on where you have been: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/what-to-do-if-you-have-been-exposed-to-covid-19

Ballarat Testing Sites

See a list of local testing clinics: www.bhs.org.au/news-and-events/covid-19-information/testing-for-covid-19/

If you need a COVID test and you live outside the Ballarat LGA you can travel into the Ballarat LGA to get the test, so long as it is the closest testing site available to you.

Staying COVIDSafe is something we can all do to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It's important that we all get vaccinated to protect family, friends, and our community.

BRMC is holding a COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub on Monday 27 September for members of the multicultural community in Ballarat - [BOOK NOW](#)

See also a list of [Ballarat vaccination locations](#)

COVID-19 BRMC Help: 0491 066 247 and help@brmc.org.au

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from BRMC

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

Upcoming Events

- COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub
- BRMC Women's Business Month 2021
 - Money Minded Workshops
 - Women's Business Morning Tea
 - Women's Business Pop-Up Market
- Victoria Nature Festival
- 2021 Interfaith Forum - Postponed
- Letter for Refugee Day 2021

Items of Interest

- New VMC Multicultural Commissioners
- Food Relief Support for Multicultural Victorians
- Support for Crisis in Afghanistan
- Refugee Legal
- Connecting Victoria
- Ballarat Community and Business Support Package
- headspace Photography Competition

Events in Review

- Multicultural Community COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub

UPDATES FROM BRMC

Women's Business Incubator Launch

BRMC gathered partners and supporters online to launch our Women's Business Incubator on 6 September.

The Women's Business Incubator, located at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, has a very particular role - to promote, support and catalyse women's businesses and livelihood, and to provide a place that brings together women of diverse backgrounds to collaborate and support each other in business, job seeking, skills training and creativity.

The planning, preparation and retrofit of the Women's Business Incubator was funded through the Regional Development Victoria Stronger Regional Communities Program.

Thank you to our local Members of the Victorian Government, the Hon. Michaela Settle MP and the Hon. Juliana Addison MP, for ongoing support and for speaking on behalf of the Minister for Regional Development.



Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program

Calling all women from migrant and asylum-seeking backgrounds, and women 50+ of any background.

5 - 21 October 2021, the 6-session Empowerment Program will engage women from the Ballarat, Central Highlands, Grampians Region, and Melton in a fun and interactive group-based program designed to increase the confidence and skills needed to pursue your transition to employment, education or entrepreneurship.

For further information, contact Deborah Klein: d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728



Come join this fun and interactive group-based program to learn skills and gain the confidence for your move into employment, education or entrepreneurship

DAY 1	Tuesday, 5 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Defining Our Strengths & Skills</i>
	Program Introduction + Exploring Our Strengths + Traits Helping Us To Thrive	
DAY 2	Thursday, 7 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Turning Strengths Into Achievements</i>
	Our Strengths And Our Achievements + Setting SMART Goals That Work For Us	
DAY 3	Tuesday, 12 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Being Money-Minded</i>
	Budgeting & Financial Goals + Debt Busters + Superannuation & Tax	
DAY 4	Thursday, 14 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Finding Our Meaning & Purpose</i>
	Time Management + Being Assertive + Balancing Our Values, Our Strengths & Our Passions	
DAY 5	Tuesday, 19 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Saying It Out Loud Makes It Real</i>
	Interview & Presentation Hints & Tips + Interview & Presentation Practice	
DAY 6	Thursday, 21 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Empowerment Aspirations</i>
	Interview & Presentation Practice + Guest Speakers + Celebrating You!	

- **FREE - REGISTER NOW!**
bsl.org.au/services/consulting-and-training/stepping-stones
- **FOR WOMEN OF MIGRANT & REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS & ALL WOMEN 50+**
- **ALL SESSIONS ONLINE**

Interested? Have Questions?
Contact Deborah Klein
d.klein@brmc.org.au
0457 934 728



Good Governance Program

The first pan-pilot Good Governance Mentors' Community of Practice meeting took place on Tuesday, 14 September. Mentors across the three regions of this pilot, Ballarat, Albury Wodonga and Mildura, met to discuss governance mentoring for community organisations.

BRMC's Good Governance program offers free governance mentoring support to community organisations, cultural groups and associations looking for governance and compliance advice. Experienced and trained volunteer mentors support committee members with management strategies to help them realise their vision for their communities through ongoing mentoring, advice and governance support.

To find out how you can participate, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



The Red Sunset, Good Governance program member group

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

Our Volunteer Tutors participated in a Community of Practice session on 18 August 2021. Two of our students, Dalliany Alencastro and Suganthini Neelavannan joined the session to share their language learning journeys with the group. Tutors Cathy Leslie, Pam Oxlade and Rita Holt shared their tutoring tips with the group.

Many congratulations to Dalliany, who has since passed the qualifying language test (PTE) and can now chase her dream of working as a nurse!

If you'd like to know more about this free service offered by BRMC, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



Meet the tutor: Colin Palmer

Col has been volunteering with the English Tutoring program for several years. It is heart-warming to see his students learn and grow with him. In the words of one of his mentees, "Col is the best teacher anyone can get. He helped me with English and also with everything that I should know about Australia and about Ballarat."

Here's Colin, sharing his experience with the English Tutoring program:

"Volunteering as an English Tutor to adults has been one of my best life experiences. No

doubt the readers of this newsletter know what I mean already but in brief it feels good to be a volunteer. I began tutoring as my way to give a bit more to the community. Volunteering has been a lifetime commitment for me but my focus has occasionally changed.

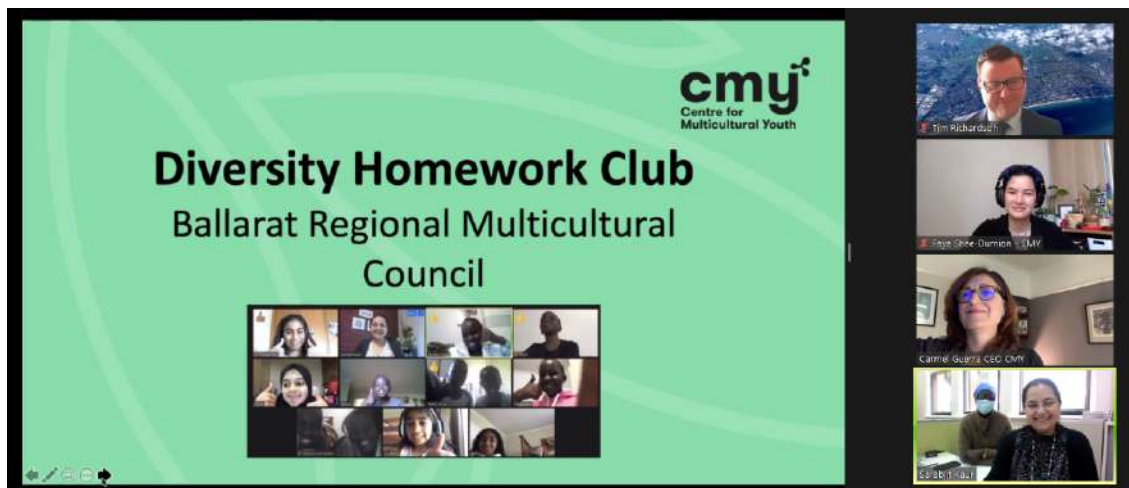
Tutoring provides a weekly challenge. What will this week's session be about? Will it be focused on obtaining a forklift licence, the intricacies of Australian Rules Football or the use of metaphor in a pop song? As long as we are talking, writing and reading; accent, fluency and vocabulary look after themselves. Occasionally I have been able to assist with explaining cultural issues, those odd intricacies of Australian customs that I was not aware of until they were pointed out by someone from another culture. This has all been part of the fun of tutoring and why I am looking forward to volunteer tutoring into the future."



Diversity Homework Club

MY Education Awards

Diversity Homework Club was declared Out-of-School-Hours Learning Support Program (OSHLSP) of the year Regional/Rural 2021 in an online award ceremony held online on 7 September.



Diversity Homework Club, run by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, is one of the largest regional clubs in Victoria, supporting over 50 students, primarily from African and Asian backgrounds. Over the last 18 months, the Diversity Homework Club have reached out to the community in a variety of innovative ways to address their social and emotional wellbeing, and learning needs. These include monthly nutrition kits, a tech-access program for families, an online choir, STEM projects, a reading club, and weekly sessions which provide fun and engaging academic tasks for students.

Out of the 7 nominated tutors, the following were shortlisted:

- Timothy Walton
- Heather Ann Stewart
- Liseni Warnakulasuriya

Out of the 15 students nominated, the following were shortlisted:

- Nivashini Neelavannan
- Martha Tuany
- Nivetha Neelavannan

Timothy Walton, DHC Tutor, runner-up - Outstanding Volunteer Regional/Rural

Timothy has been a volunteer tutor with the Diversity Homework Club in Ballarat for over 5 years, which has allowed him to get to know and devise highly effective tutoring strategies

for his students. Within the club, Timothy is known for his inspiring and patient nature, which encourages even the shyest of students to have a go, helping them reach their social and academic potential.



Nivashini Neelavannan, runner-up - Outstanding Secondary Student

For the past four years Nivashini has been a cheerful and engaged student at the Diversity Homework Club in Ballarat. She has a great optimism and love of learning, which has been demonstrated in her participation in planned activities and her contributions to the homework club through sharing her research and knowledge with her peers and tutors.



Martha Tuany, winner - Outstanding Primary Student

Martha is in year 5, and has been attending the Diversity Homework Club run by the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council for 2 years. In that time, she has shown great initiative in creating activities for her fellow students and continues to be a 'ray of sunshine' in online sessions. Martha has navigated her learning with pride and confidence, and has been an inspiration for many students to sign up for the program.



We are proud of the talent, skill and resilience demonstrated by all our students and tutors. They make the magic happen - week after week.

DHC Peace Ambassadors

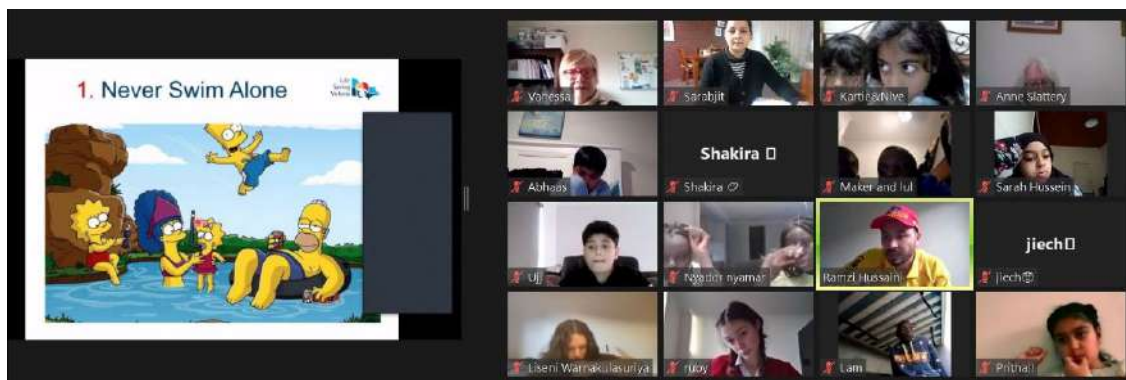
Amid all the doom and gloom prevailing in the world today, our Peace Ambassadors shared their hope for the future through colour and creativity. Twenty DHC students participated in the 23rd Annual Peace Pals International contest, winning participation certificates for their creativity. Here are some warm rays of hope and love from DHC Peace Ambassadors.





Water Safety Workshop

DHC students are all set to welcome Spring-Summer with their water-safety skills. A Life Saving Victoria (LSV) session was organised for DHC families on 18 August 2021. Kudos to the LSV team for tailoring the online interactive session especially for Diversity Homework Club team.



We thank our Peer Tutoring partner Ballarat Clarendon College for their ongoing support. Want to know more about Diversity Homework Club? Contact DHC Coordinator Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Social Support

Thank you to everyone who attended the launch of our new program Carer Support Hub on 19 August. Special thanks to Phillip Moore (Assistant Treasurer, BRMC Executive Committee) for his attendance and heart felt speech, Melinda Muscat (local artist) for the wonderful plaster paint workshop, and Barrie McCausland (musician) for entertaining us with beautiful tunes during the event.



We are sorry we can't be together during September. The BRMC Social Support Team will continue to stay in touch with you through phone calls and home deliveries. We hope you enjoy having Multicultural Tucker brought to you!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRMC Women's Business Month 2021

September 2021

Take part in these events and join us in celebrating BRMC Women's Business Month.

[See Program of Events](#)

Website: www.brmc.org.au | Facebook: www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat

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BMCC respectfully acknowledges the Haida-nung and Qa Qa Hoonung people, traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work.

Join BRMC on ZOOM for

MONEY MINDED TRAINING

As part of BRMC's inaugural Women's Business Month, we are bringing women together to talk about MONEY. Whether you are a woman in business or managing a household, these sessions will cover a range of useful topics.

THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

9 SEPTEMBER

10 - 11:30 AM

Budgeting and Saving

Learn how to make, and stick to, a budget and how making SMART saving goals will help you succeed!

16 SEPTEMBER

10 - 11:30 AM

Superannuation

This workshop introduces you to superannuation and how you can maximise your retirement savings by looking after it.

23 SEPTEMBER

10 - 11:30 AM

How to Avoid Debt Traps

Credit comes in many forms. In this workshop, we will look at credit and debt and how you can avoid common debt traps.

30 SEPTEMBER

10 - 11:30 AM

You Tell Us

What money topic would you like to learn more about? For this session, we will ask YOU for the most useful topic.

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

<https://moneymindedballarat.eventbrite.com.au>

SEPTEMBER is BRMC's inaugural

Women's Business
Month

WBM 2021



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council



Women's Business Morning Tea

Tuesday 28th September, 10am - 11.30am

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Join BRMC as we ask three Ballarat business women... What's in YOUR Toolbox?
Morning tea provided. Limited spaces available.

If you have any enquiries, contact Annie Dunn on 0427 426 937 or a.dunn@brmc.org.au.

Register



JOIN BRMC AS WE ASK THREE BALLARAT BUSINESS WOMEN

WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

Learn what tools helped our guests succeed in business.

ALDONA KMIEC - ALDONA KMIEC PHOTOGRAPHY

KIM HALBERT-PERE - HANDY GIRL AUSTRALIA

SARA KITTELTY - KITTELTY'S

TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Ballarat Welcome Centre

25 - 39 Barkly Street

Morning Tea Provided

**Limited Spaces Available -
Please Register via Eventbrite**

SEPTEMBER is BRMC's Inaugural

**Women's Business
Month**

WBM 2021



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council



Women's Business Pop-up Market

Thursday 30th September, 10am - 2pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Quality handmade and locally sourced goods by BRMC Twilight Market vendors, Stepping Stones enterprises, and emerging entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds from across our region.

If you would like to join our market as a stallholder, please contact Deborah Klein on 0457 934 728 or d.klein@brmc.org.au.



Women's Business Month

SPRING MARKET

Quality handmade and locally sourced goods by BRMC Twilight Market vendors, Stepping Stones enterprises, and emerging entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds from across our region

THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER
10am - 2pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre
Barkly Square 25 - 39 Barkly Street



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

BRMC 2021 Women's Business Month

www.facebook.com/brmcballarat/









Victoria Nature Festival

11 - 26 September 2021

Explore and learn all about Victoria's rich natural environment and wildlife. Connect to nature from the comfort of your own home with more than 80 virtual events and experiences. The festival has something for people of all ages, abilities, and interests.

[Find out more](#)



2021 Interfaith Forum - Postponed

This event has been postponed until 2022.

Organised by Ballarat Interfaith Network.



Letter for Refugee Day 2021

Tuesday 28th September

[Facebook Live](#)

Introducing a special day for all refugee supporters and advocates to write a letter on behalf of a refugee or asylum seeker or any other terms used in Migration Act 1958.

On this day, friends of refugees around Australia will be writing to federal ministers and MPs, local councils, state MPs, and independent politicians. They can even write about the issues refugees face and they can write a welcoming, friendly letter or a postcard to refugee friends.



New VMC Multicultural Commissioners

The Victorian Multicultural Commission has announced eight new appointees. Each commissioner is recognised for their skills and lived experience championing cultural and religious diversity across Victoria.

We congratulate BRMC Community Engagement Worker, Lunorphare 'Luna' Folly on his appointment as Youth Commissioner.

[Read more](#)

Food Relief Support for Multicultural Victorians

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence announced more than \$1.4 million for 99 organisations to continue delivering immediate food relief services to Victoria's multicultural communities. This will allow organisations to continue their important work, including by providing food hampers, freshly cooked meals, groceries and essential items to community members in need.

Congratulations to the Ballarat African Association, Ballarat Keralites' Foundation of Australia, Ballarat Italian Association and others doing such great work to support communities with fresh food and care.

[Read more](#)

Support for Crisis in Afghanistan

The need in Afghanistan is growing as more people are fleeing for their lives. They urgently need food, water, shelter and protection. Since the start of the year, conflict has already driven more than 600,000 vulnerable people out of their homes - and numbers are growing by the day.

If you can, please donate to Australia for UNHCR to help lifesaving humanitarian assistance reach the most vulnerable families affected by the crisis in Afghanistan.

[Donate](#)

Refugee Legal

Refugee Legal is Australia's largest not-for-profit provider of free legal services in its specialist field of immigration and refugee law.

Afghanistan Legal Hotline

Legal assistance for people impacted by the crisis in Afghanistan: Call 03 9413 0166 (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday).

Resources

Connecting Victoria

It's never been more important to be connected - for family, community, work and safety. The Victorian Government is fast-tracking better mobile coverage and broadband across the state through the \$550 million Connecting Victoria program.

You can have your say on priority locations through a dedicated website. Pinpoint where you're experiencing a problem with mobile coverage or internet access on an interactive map.

Learn more



Ballarat Community and Business Support Package

The \$1 million grant package aims to supplement existing funding available from federal and state governments, while also supporting some of the small businesses and community groups not eligible for financial assistance through other funding programs.

Applications will close on Friday 29 October (unless grant funding has been distributed before this date).

Find out more and apply

headspace Photography Competition

Mental Wellbeing in Nature Photography Competition for Young People.

Young people aged 12-25 are asked to submit a photo that shows how they connect to nature, or the natural places around Ballarat that have a positive impact on their mental health. Even during lockdown and limits on how far you can travel from your home, it is important for young people to get out into their natural world.

The 12 winning entries will be published in the 2022 Wellbeing in Nature Calendar. The calendar is distributed throughout the region so the winners will gain exposure for their work. There is also a \$100 gift certificate for the best photo submitted.

Entries must be submitted to info@headspaceballarat.or.au with name, age, location of photo and applicant contact phone and email details. The attached photo should be landscape style. **Applications close Friday 29 October at 5pm.**



EVENTS IN REVIEW

Multicultural Community COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub

An amazing effort from everyone who attended our COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hubs on 28 August and 4 September! Thank you for your part in helping protect our community. A big thank you also to staff from Ballarat Community Health and Ballarat Health Services.

A total of 308 people received a dose of the vaccine at our pop-up vaccination hubs, held on 28 August, 4 September and 11 September. We are planning to hold more vaccination hubs in October for members of the community to receive their second dose. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for details.



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.

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



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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