

# November 2021 Newsletter



Dear Readers.

See in this edition that we are still offering COVID-19 vaccination certificate support and information at the Welcome Centre and sharing more and more member opportunities and events as Victoria opens up. Thank you to our 40 member representatives who came together for our Global Café conversation this month to discuss priorities and needs of our regional multicultural and faith communities. We look forward to continuing this planning conversation and action with members in 2022. I also look forward to seeing members again at our AGM on Thursday evening this week. Happy reading today and we wish you and yours safe and well.

Warm Regards, Ann BRMC Executive Officer

# **BRMC Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 25th November, 6pm - 8pm Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

BRMC Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 25 November 2021. We look forward to your continued membership and active participation.



#### **Get your COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination**

It's time to get your COVID-19 Digital Certificate ready to check-in at businesses and venues. Digital certificates are available to anyone fully vaccinated, even if you don't have a Medicare number. Remember, when showing your digital certificate, please show it with kindness and consideration to the businesses you're visiting.

How to get your COVID-19 digital certificate: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaxproof

#### BRMC has a COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate Help Desk available

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 5pm at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St. Bookings essential: 0491 066 246 or <a href="mailto:community@brmc.org.au">community@brmc.org.au</a>.

# BRMC COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate HELP DESK

BRMC will help you to have COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

Who?	Multicultural people in Ballarat
When?	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Time?	9.30am - 5.00pm
Where?	BRMC Welcome Centre 25 - 39 Barkly St. Ballarat East

If you want to book in or need further information, please contact

Community Engagement Team: 0491 066 246 or community@brmc.org.au



#### **COVID-19 Vaccine for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**

The COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect you and your community. The vaccine is available to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 12 years and over in

Victoria. Contact your local Aboriginal Health Service or doctor to get your free vaccination or call 1800 675 398. More information: <a href="www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine">www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine</a>

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Information in Your Language**

The Department of Health has information about COVID-19 vaccines available in 63 languages. <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages">www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages</a>

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.

- COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate Help Desk
- Stepping Stones Programs

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Pop-Up Holiday Shop
- Small Business Support Workshops
- · Hindustani Classical Music Concert
- House of Welcome Annual Garden Party
- FECCA 2022

#### **Items of Interest**

- · Music Works Grants
- Regional Event Funding
- Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program
- Volunteer with Food Is Free Inc.
- · Ballarat Buddies for International Students
- · Walk to School
- Thunderstorm Asthma
- New Ways November Calendar

#### **Events in Review**

· Global Café Roundtable

#### **UPDATES FROM BRMC**

# **Community Engagement Team**

#### **Multicultural COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub**

BRMC provided a total of eight Vaccination Hubs from August to November, in partnership with Ballarat Community Health and Ballarat Health Service. Through these hubs, a total of 721 vaccines were provided to multicultural people who had difficulty booking vaccinations and those who were reluctant to get vaccinated. Positive feedback from many people attending the vaccination hubs provided evidence of how beneficial the service was to them.

"If it weren't for the BRMC vaccination hub, I might not have been vaccinated. Thank you to BRMC for this opportunity."

"If I hadn't been vaccinated today, I wouldn't be able to go to work next Monday. I'm glad I could smile like this today".

"It's great that my whole family can get vaccinated all at once."







#### **BRMC COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate Help Desk**

During BRMC Vaccination Hub sessions, it was found that multicultural people had difficulty downloading their COVID-19 vaccination certificates. The hub provided a COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate Help Desk service to help people. Subsequently, BRMC contacted community members and clients to identify further needs for this service. Since 9 November, the service has been provided to multicultural people, including the elderly, from 9.30am to 5pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Booking is essential for this service.

If you want to book in or need further information, please contact the Community Engagement Team on 0491 066 246 or <a href="mailto:community@brmc.org.au">community@brmc.org.au</a>.





# **Stepping Stones Business Taster Program**

Get an introductory look into the Stepping Stones to Small Business Program, and find out about everything you need to know to successfully start your own small business. Open to women of migrant, asylum-seeking and humanitarian background and women aged 50+ of any background.

#### **FREE Stepping Stones Business Taster**

Tuesday 14 & Thursday 16 December, 10am - 2pm Online via Zoom

Register now with Deborah Klein: d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728.



Join this FREE two-day interactive online program to get a taste of *everything* you need to know before starting a small business



Tuesday, 14 December 10am - 2pm

Small Business: What You REALLY Need to Know

Program Introduction + Small Business Realities + The Strength Of Mentors



Thursday, 16 December 10am - 2pm

Turning Your Skills, Interests And Ideas Into A Business

Why Business? + Identifying Gaps & Trends + Different Types of Businesses

FOR ALL WOMEN OF MIGRANT & ASYLUM-SEEKING BACKGROUNDS, AND WOMEN 50+ OF ANY BACKGROUND

**REGISTER NOW!** www.bsl.org.au/services/consulting-and-training/stepping-stones







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

# 2022 Stepping Stones to Small Business Program

It's back, and you don't want to miss out!

Stepping Stones celebrates 10 great years of successfully helping women develop their dreams of small business with its 2022 Stepping Stones to Small Business Program.

Open to women of migrant, asylum-seeking and humanitarian backgrounds, and women 50+ of any background, the FREE Stepping Stones to Small Business Program provides professional training in the many skills and disciplines needed to build and sustain a strong small business.

Tuesdays, 1 February - 26 April 2022

10am - 2pm

Online via Zoom - in-person as conditions permit

All in-person sessions provide FREE childminding for participants.

Register your interest NOW with Deborah Klein: d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728.



For women of migrant and humanitarian backgrounds, and women 50+ of any background

**FREE 11-Week Course** 

Online & In-Person As Allowed

Build Confidence + Develop Business Skills + Grow Networks

Research + Planning + Marketing + Finance + Management

Training + Connecting + Tutoring + Mentoring For Graduates

Tuesdays, 1 February - 26 April 2022 1

10am - 2pm



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



# **2022 Wimmera Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways**

Working in partnership with the Wimmera Development Association, Stepping Stones is now offering women from across the Wimmera Region opportunity to participate in the Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program, Business Taster sessions, and full Stepping Stones to Small Business training.

Registration is now open for women of migrant, asylum-seeking or humanitarian backgrounds, and women 50+ of any background for the Empowerment Pathways Program offered each Monday from 14 February - 21 March 2022.

#### **Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program (Wimmera Region)**

Mondays, 14 February - 21 March 2022

10am - 2pm Online via Zoom

Register now with Deborah Klein: d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728.



Come join this fun and interative group-based program to make social connections, learn skills and gain the confidence for your move into employment, education or small business





FOR WOMEN OF MIGRANT & ASYLUM-SEEKING
BACKGROUNDS & ALL WOMEN 50+

Monday, 21 March 2022 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Interview & Presenation Practice + Guest Speakers + Celebrating You!

ALL SESSIONS ONLINE

DAY

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

**Empowerment Aspirations** 







'Resurfacing after COVID-19' webinar for community groups was held on 9 November. The attendees participated in interactive discussions on issues such as challenges and opportunities, demand for services, re-skilling for shift to digital tech and volunteer resourcing. Information was provided on upcoming funding opportunities and effective fundraising strategies. We are grateful to Ballarat Good Governance Mentor Malcolm Sanders for sharing information on grant applications with the attendees.

To find out how your cultural group or committee can participate or for more information contact Sarabjit at <a href="mailto:s.kaur@brmc.org.au">s.kaur@brmc.org.au</a>.

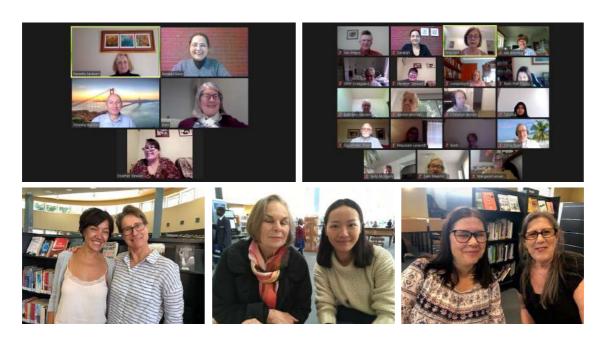


## **Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program**

The Migrant English Program offers free English tutoring to empower individuals with the language skills required for their social wellbeing, academic pursuit and professional growth.

We'd like to celebrate the mutually nurturing partnerships between our volunteer tutors and their students. The tutors' commitment to serving the migrant-refugee community of Ballarat and beyond is the backbone of the program. We salute your untiring efforts to enable, empower and make this world a better place.

If you'd like to participate as a student or volunteer tutor, contact Sarabjit at <a href="mailto:s.kaur@brmc.org.au">s.kaur@brmc.org.au</a>.

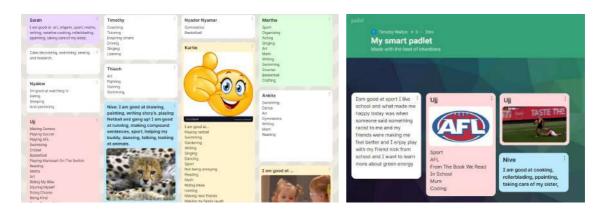






# **Diversity Homework Club**

Term 4 has brought with it new opportunities and challenges for our students. Going back to school for face-to-face learning has been exciting and also exhausting, at some level. The theme for Diversity Homework Club activities in Term 4 is 'Wellbeing' wherein we are celebrating the students' unique talents, abilities and identities.



A Fire Safety session was organised for our students in partnership with CFA Wendouree team. Graham O'Neill and his colleagues took the students through the fire station, fire truck and shared important fire safety tips.



MY Education Awards: Diversity Homework Club was declared Regional Homework Club of the Year for the second consecutive year. We are proud of the resilience demonstrated by all our students and tutors through the ups and downs of 2020-21.

# Nivashini Neelavannan was declared Runner Up - Outstanding Secondary Student Award:

"I am both proud and honoured to win runners up for the MY Education Awards. Although learning isn't about the awards, I still appreciate it and it encourages me to work and learn harder. Thank you for nominating me and giving me this chance."



Congratulations Nivash, we are proud of you!

If you'd like to learn more or find out how you can participate, contact Sarabjit at <a href="mailto:s.kaur@brmc.org.au">s.kaur@brmc.org.au</a>.

# **Social Support**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our clients back to Multicultural Tucker! You must be double vaccinated or have a medical exemption and show evidence on arrival. If you are not vaccinated against COVID-19 and do not have a medical exemption the BRMC Social Support Team can provide you with a home delivered meal.

#### **Christmas Multicultural Tucker**

Friday 10th December, 12pm - 3pm (\$15)

Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton

Bookings are essential so don't delay - call 03 5331 1123.

BRMC Social Support Programs will return to the Victoria Bowling Club in February 2022.







#### Join our Walk & Talk Club

We can match you with someone who lives nearby so you can walk together or in a group. For more information or to express your interest contact the Social Support Office on 03 5331 1123.



# Social Support WALK & TALK CLUB

Would you like to join our Walk & Talk Club?

We can match you with someone who lives nearby so you can walk together or in a group.

For more information or to express your interest contact the Social Support Office on 5331 1123

## Benefits of Walking

- Strengthen your muscles.
- Help keep your weight steady.
- Lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, colon cancer and diabetes.
- Help reduce blood pressure in some people with hypertension.
- Improve your balance and coordination, and decrease your likelihood of falling.
- Keep your joints flexible.

#### Walking with a friend

Walking with a friend or loved one has many benefits:

- It makes exercise more fun.
- It is harder to cancel a walk when you know you have a friend waiting for you.
- You'll probably walk further and meet more often with a friend.
- Walking with a friend is safer.

#### RETURNING TO FACE TO FACE PROGRAMS

In accordance with Government regulations, all clients must show proof of double vaccination or medical exemption to attend Social Support Programs.

If you are not vaccinated against Covid-19 and do not have a medical exemption the BRMC Social Support Team can provide you with a home delivered meal.

Find out more by calling Teresa 0417 109 052

If you know someone who would benefit from BRMC Social Support Services, contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or <a href="mailto:teresa@brmc.org.au">teresa@brmc.org.au</a>.

#### Multicultural Job Club

**Held every second and fourth Thursday of each month, 1pm - 2.30pm** Online via Zoom

The Multicultural Job club was established a few short months ago to offer connection and support to people on their employment journey. It is a fortnightly session to:

- Connect and support one another
- Set achievable goals
- · Connect services

- Learn something new
- · Build confidence
- Networking
- · Tips and advice on how to look for jobs
- · Resume, cover letter and key selection criteria guidance

On the alternate fortnight to the job club session, a newsletter is circulated to members to keep them motivated and engaged in the job seeking space. In its short inception the sessions have engaged a small, but enthusiastic group of people.

Join our Facebook Group: <a href="www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturaljobclub">www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturaljobclub</a>
For more information, contact Bek at <a href="mailto:r.robertson@brmc.org.au">r.robertson@brmc.org.au</a> or 0491 066 248.

Register





# Multicultural Job Club

Offering connection and support to people on their employment journey

Second & Fourth
Thursday of each Month
1pm - 2.30pm
Join us on ZOOM

Register Online: bit.ly/3CJ5m9A







# LOOKING FOR A JOB?

# YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

The Multicultural Job Club is a fortnightly session where you will:

- Connect and support each other
- Set achievable goals
- · Meet new people
- · Connect with services
- Learn something new
- Build confidence

#### Interested?

Contact Bek on r.robertsonebrmc.org.au or 0491 066 248

or join our Facebook Group BRMC Multicultural Job Club

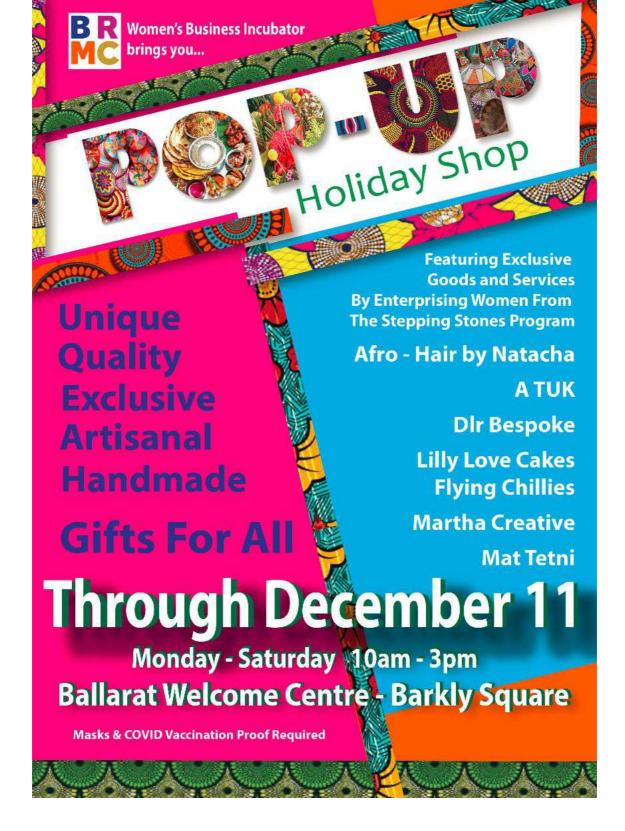
# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# Pop-Up Holiday Shop

15 November - 11 December 2021 Monday to Saturday, 10am - 3pm Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St

Featuring homewares, street fashion and accessories by the enterprising women of the Ballarat Stepping Stones Program, the Pop-Up Holiday Shop has exclusive and exquisite artisanal handmade beauties perfect for everyone on your gift list.

Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccination required.



# **Small Business Support Workshops**

The Ballarat Library is offering a series of four free online workshops, run in partnership with Business Victoria, facilitated by experts from the Monarch Institute. The series will run on Wednesday mornings in November. There is something for everyone, no matter what stage you are at with your business.

#### **Maximising Your Marketing**

Wednesday 24 November 10am - 12pm



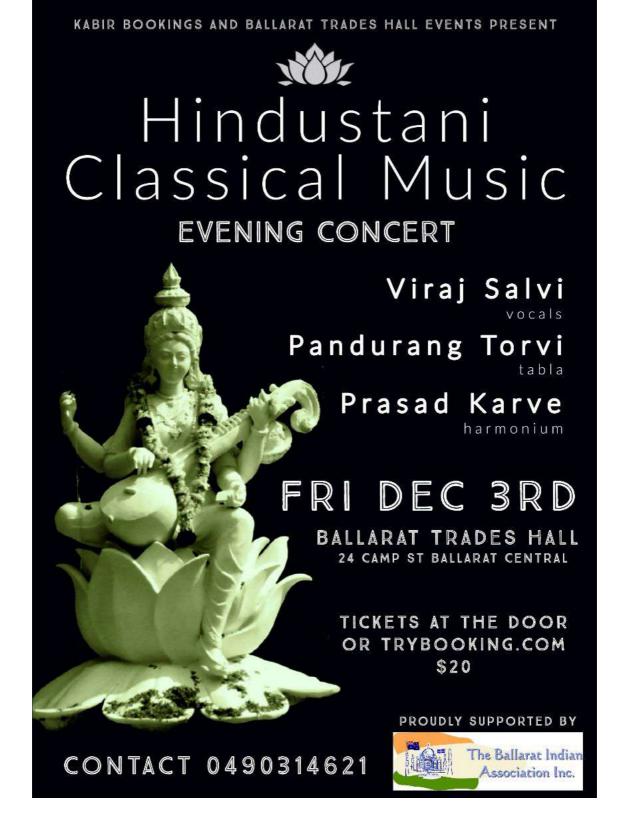


## **Hindustani Classical Music Concert**

Friday 3rd December, 7.30pm - 10pm Ballarat Trades Hall, 24 Camp St, Ballarat

An opportunity for Ballarat to enjoy North Indian ragas and bhajans, featuring classically trained vocalist Viraj Salvi with harmonium and tabla accompaniment by Prasad Karve and Pandurang Torvi. The artists will be giving a short introduction before the show to offer some insights into the art form and ragas.

Tickets



# **House of Welcome Annual Garden Party**

**Sunday 5th December, 2pm** 30 Waller Ave, Newington

The House of Welcome Ballarat is hosting their annual garden party to support refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable people. With afternoon tea, stalls, competitions, artwork by Geoff Lugg (Australian artist), music, entertainment, and trash and treasure for Christmas.

Entry is \$20

Enquiries and donations to Carmel: annekav1234@gmail.com or 0401 175 045.



#### **FECCA 2022**

10 - 11 March 2022

Sofitel Melbourne, 25 Collins St, Melbourne

FECCA 2022 is the premier conference on multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion. It will host multicultural communities, policy makers, service providers, academics and many more, over two big days of interesting presentations, speakers and topics.

Early bird rates are open until 30 November 2021.

Secure a spot



#### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

#### **Music Works Grants**

The Victorian Government is supporting musicians, bands and music businesses to get back on their feet and back on stage, with grants to recharge Victoria's famed live music scene. Grants of between \$4,000 and \$40,000 are available for activities including recording and releasing new music, presenting music events, marketing and business development.



Learn more

# **Regional Event Funding**

Events bring thousands of visitors to regional areas, boosting businesses, creating jobs, and helping local economies thrive.

#### **Regional Events Fund**

The \$20 million Regional Events Fund supports events held in regional Victoria, showcasing our regional tourism strengths and building Victoria's reputation as an events destination. Visit Victoria welcomes applications from private companies, councils, Regional Tourism Boards and not-for-profit organisations for events that meet the eligibility criteria and program objectives.

Apply

### **Regional Community Events Fund**

The Regional Community Events Fund helps public community events in regional Victoria with marketing support and the increased costs of running COVIDSafe event. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for eligible events.

Applications close 30 November 2021.

Apply



The Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program supports communities to harness the social and health benefits that sport and active recreation can provide. Teams can apply for grants of up to \$1,500 to participate in state or national sport carnivals, up to \$1,000 for uniforms and sporting equipment, and up to \$750 for travel and accommodation expenses.

Closes Friday 10 December 2021.



#### Volunteer with Food Is Free Inc.

Help make a difference in the lives of our community and beyond for food security education. Volunteer opportunities include gardening, watering, weeding, painting, building, maintenance, admin, fundraising, events, etc.

Contact volunteer@foodisfree.com.au or visit www.foodisfree.com.au/volunteers



#### **Ballarat Buddies for International Students**

This program aims to match socially isolated International Students with a local person/family to connect and feel less socially isolated. The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House provides a space for students and volunteers to meet and get to know each other and develop enduring social bonds through facilitated activities that aim to alleviate social isolation and promote good mental health.

To become a Ballarat Buddy, contact volunteer@ballarateastnh.org.au or 0422 612 052.

Find out more

#### Walk to School

Walk to School is a VicHealth initiative that promotes regular physical activity among Victorian primary school students. It helps kids and their families establish active routines for life and supports primary schools, local councils and communities to make active travel easy, safe and accessible. You can join even if your kids are learning from home.

Learn more



#### **Thunderstorm Asthma**

#### What is thunderstorm asthma?

Thunderstorm asthma is asthma that is triggered by a particular type of thunderstorm when there are high amounts of grass pollen in the air (typically from October to December). It can result in people wheezing, feeling short of breath, and tight in the chest with coughing. This can be sudden, serious, and even life threatening. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about what you can do to minimise risks.



More info

# **New Ways November Calendar**

Action for Happiness monthly calendars are packed with actions you can take to help create a happier and kinder world.



#### **EVENTS IN REVIEW**

#### Global Café Roundtable

BRMC hosted a Global Café Roundtable for Community Leaders on Saturday 30 October at the Ballarat Welcome Centre. The conversation followed member surveys about needs and priorities and will be followed by our planning together in 2022.

Thank you to all who participated in this conversation with our Members and Board. Special thanks to guest Rosita Vincent, Regional Lead at Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) for attending and assisting as Facilitator on the day.





#### **Share Your News**

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

Tag us on Facebook <a href="mailto:object.object">object.obj

#### **BRMC Contact Details**

**Ballarat Welcome Centre** 

25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat VIC 3350

Phone: 03 5383 0613 Email: <u>info@brmc.org.au</u>

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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