

October 2021 Newsletter



Dear Readers,

Here is our October newsletter, a bit late in the month due to our many activities, including the vaccination hubs, community support and pandemic relief, webinars and the return to some face-to-face activity. We are featuring our new Multicultural Job Club, the Diversity Homework Club and recent small events at the Welcome Centre.

From 6pm on Friday 29 October, Victoria opens up for people to move between the regions and Melbourne and for larger public and private gatherings. But COVID-19 is in the community so it's still important to keep that physical distancing, wear your mask and sanitise and wash your hands frequently. Vaccination is still the main protector against this disease and the Welcome Centre vaccination hubs have shown a great multicultural community commitment. Evidence of vaccination is a requirement now for many venues, including our Welcome Centre and the Barkly Square precinct, so we continue to encourage all to vaccinate if you possibly can. We have some reminders for you below on how to get information about vaccination, testing and support while isolating. If you need help to get your vaccination certificate contact our office or [Ballarat Libraries](#) for digital support.

We are on the doorstep of November and the next newsletter is imminent, so stay tuned, enjoy the Springtime and stay well!

Warm Regards,

Ann

BRMC Executive Officer

COVID-19 News

Victoria came out of lockdown from 11.59pm on Thursday 21 October, after hitting 70 per cent double-dose vaccination. The next milestone in the [Roadmap](#) will be when Victoria hits the 80 per cent double dose vaccination target.

Have you visited any Exposure Sites?

An exposure site is a place that someone with COVID-19 has visited. To locate the latest exposure sites, visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites

For people isolating at home, you may be eligible for financial support, essential relief supplies and food. Call the Coronavirus Hotline: 1800 675 398 (select 0 for an interpreter).

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Pregnancy

The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcaster's Council have provided information in 18 languages that explains how vaccination is safe for pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Listen: soundcloud.com/user-760283919/sets/pregnancy-vaccination-explainer

Important COVID-19 links and resources:

- [Find a vaccine clinic and book](#)
- [Current restrictions for Regional Victoria](#)
- [Case locations and outbreaks](#)
- [Where to get tested](#)
- [Translated information](#)
- [Financial support for COVID-19](#)
- [Isolation and quarantine - extra help and support](#)
- [Mental health resources](#)
- [Information for people with disability](#)
- [Victorian COVID-19 Data](#)

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

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Events in Review

- Women's Business Morning Tea: What's in YOUR Toolbox?

UPDATES FROM BRMC

BRMC Multicultural Job Club

Held every second and fourth Thursday of each month, 1pm - 2.30pm

Join us on [Zoom](#)

Offering connection and support to people on their employment journey. 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 and build confidence.

Join our Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturaljobclub
For more information, contact Bek at r.robertson@brmc.org.au 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



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council



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.robertson@brmc.org.au
or 0491 066 248

or join our Facebook Group
[BRMC Multicultural Job Club](https://www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturaljobclub)

Good Governance Program

- Free governance support from experienced mentors
- Great for community organisations, cultural groups and associations
- Management strategies to get your committee closer to your vision

BRMC's Good Governance program offers free governance 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 your cultural group or committee can participate or for more information contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Good Governance Program
Free mentoring support for your organisation

Free consultation from experienced mentors:

- Time Management
- Financial Management
- Risk Management
- Committee processes
- Collective decision making
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Planning for the future
- Applying for grants

Contact:
Sarabjit Kaur
0426 111 353
s.kaur@brmc.org.au

Good Governance
Helping community organisations do their best

BRMC Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council



Good Governance Webinar: Resurfacing After COVID-19

Tuesday 9th November, 6.30pm - 8pm

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87638003439>

Meeting ID: 876 3800 3439

Passcode: 804398



Resurfacing After COVID-19

Join us to build your governance knowledge.

Resurfacing After COVID-19

Date: Tuesday 9th November 2021

Time: 6.30pm - 8pm

Where: Zoom

Meeting ID: 876 3800 3439

Passcode: 804398

For more information
contact your Host Coordinator

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council
Sarabjit Kaur, Migrant English Program Coordinator
03 5383 0613 | s.kaur@brmc.org.au

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Centre
Megs Osborne, Project & Outreach Manager
02 6021 0990 | way2go@vrb.org.au

Mildura Region
Melissa Tucker, Christie Centre
mtucker@christiecentre.com.au

- **Challenges and Opportunities**
- **Communication Strategies**
- **Team Management**
- **Financial Recovery**
- **Looking into the Future**

Helping community organisations be their best.

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

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

We'd like to celebrate the partnership of Dalliany and her tutor Rita. They have achieved the goal they set out for themselves at the start of 2020. In spite of the challenges that the pandemic posed, Dalliany and Rita continued to work towards perfecting the language skills required to realise Dalliany's dream of undertaking a career in nursing. A big 'thank you' to Rita for being an exceptionally committed mentor for Dalliany. This picture is from 2019, when they met at the library for the first time.

Here's Dalliany, sharing her story:

"My name is Dalliany, I'm Brazilian, and I've been living in Australia since 2018. I have a degree in education, although I have always had a passion for healthcare field. When I arrived in Australia, I thought I knew how to greet or say basic sentences in English. However, I realised that I didn't understand anything, and it was tough to communicate. So, I started looking for some English schools, and I found the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre where I met



Lisa, a lovely and attentive person. She referred me to the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC) to do volunteer work, as this would help me practice my language through meeting people and interacting with them. That's when I met everyone from BRMC, Sarabjit and the great English program for immigrants.

At the end of 2019, I started attending English classes with my tutor Rita. She taught me English to survive here in Australia, such as vocabulary and how to express myself when

going to the doctor, dentist, supermarket, children's school meetings, etc. In 2020, after the pandemic started, our classes changed to the online format via Zoom. Sometime later, I told Rita about my goal of taking an English test to start another degree here in Australia, this time in the health area. Therefore, Sarabjit, Rita and I changed the format of my English class to the IELTS preparation. Rita was always very dedicated and attentive to me. Together we practised the Speaking and Writing part. I practised Listening and Reading questions on an online platform by myself, and then after a few months, I decided to take the test. I got 6.5 overall in the IELTS Academic in my first test, and I was thrilled and proud with the result.

However, I still hadn't reached my desired score because I needed an overall 7 in all bands, I tried again sometime later, and I got precisely the same score. I decided to change the type of the test, and I chose to do the PTE, which is a computer-based test. Once again, Rita altered the teaching of our classes to the PTE, and in my second test, I got much more than I needed. My score was 73 overall (81 speaking, 73 listening, 69 Reading and 69 Listening).

I'm already enrolled at Australian Catholic University to start a Nursing Degree on February 2022. I'll continue my English studies, and I believe the University will also help me a lot. I have no words to thank Rita, who is now a friend for me, and Sarabjit for all the dedication and support they always gave me. Thank you so much."

Diversity Homework Club

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.

Martha Tuany won the MY Education Outstanding Student - Primary Award:

"I am so happy to get the Outstanding Student - Primary award. Thank you for being great tutors and teachers this year at the homework club. I had such a great time joining the Zoom calls and doing fun activities with you guys. My favourite thing about this past year was learning with Diversity Homework Club. Thank you so much for all that you do."



Thank you, Martha, we are proud of you!

Our students continue to inhabit the joyful world of reading. Each school term, they get the opportunity to win Good Readers' Gold, Silver, Bronze and Appreciation awards.

Congratulations to the winners of Reading Awards for Term 3:

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	APPRECIATION
Amal Hari	Martha Tuany	Syed Zakir Umar	Zaid Umar Syed

Imaani Macharia
Kathjajini Neelavannan
Sarah Hussein
Ujwal Gambhir

Ankita Hari
Nivetha Neelavannan
Pritha Chhabra

Nyador Lul
Nyamar Lul
Abhaas Chhabra
Eliyeza Nimoda
Nyakuey Diew
Nyasunday David Bol

Diversity Homework Club creates opportunities for students to learn, explore, share and create in a friendly, non-judgemental environment. Over the past few months, the students have participated in numerous activities thoughtfully designed to enhance their learning and leadership skills.

If you'd like to learn more or find out how you can participate, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Diversity Homework Club: Creative Workshops

BRMC Diversity Homework Club students took part in Term 3 school holiday Creative Workshops. They enjoyed making bat mobiles, micro bat nesting boxes and visiting installed nesting boxes at the Gong Gong Reserve.



Social Support

BRMC Social Support delivered Multicultural Tucker on the 13th and 14th of October - German theme. We will also provide a home delivery on the 27th October.

While it is unsafe to provide you with face-to-face activities, we hope you are enjoying home deliveries. The BRMC Social Support Team look forward to seeing you all and chatting at your door!



Are you looking for things to do during lockdown?

ACMI has one of the most significant moving image collections in Australia. So why not browse the selection below and take a trip down memory lane today:

www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/services-information/social-support-hub/take-a-trip-down-memory-lane

Royal Botanic Gardens - Experience the Gardens from the comfort of your home with a selection of videos, workshops, talks and tours: www.rbg.vic.gov.au/initiatives/virtual-garden

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

Ballarat PopCon 2021

16 - 30 October 2021

Online and in-person

PopCon is known for its inclusive and warm atmosphere, with a strong emphasis on supporting local businesses and providing high-quality experiences, without the financial barriers of bigger conventions. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, PopCon is hosting a combination of online and in-person events across Ballarat.

[More info](#)



'Racism: It stops with...?' Webinar

Wednesday 27th October, 6pm - 7.30pm

Online webinar

This panel discussion will focus on progressive, positive and inclusive ways to eliminate racism within the community and the workplace, in the education sector, and in our communities. In this discussion we will learn from our panel on what works to reduce racism and how we can drive positive change across all sectors of society.

[Register](#)



Youth Soccer Session

30 October & 6 November, 10am - 12pm

Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility (Morshead Park), 900 Pleasant St S, Redan

Young people (aged 12-25) of all genders and backgrounds are welcome to join these fun and engaging sessions. Equipment and light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact 0413 572 541.

[Register](#)



YOUTH SOCCER SESSION

30 October &
6 November 2021

10am - 12pm



Ballarat Regional Soccer
Facility (Morshead Park)
900 Pleasant St S, Redan

Young people (aged 12-25)
of all genders and
backgrounds are welcome.

More info: 0413 572 541

Equipment and light refreshments
provided.

YOUTH
SERVICES

CITY OF
BALLARAT



ENGAGE!

20 Years of Trauma and Resistance: the Ballarat Refugee Story

7 - 14 November 2021

Ballarat Trades Hall, 24 Camp St

Official Opening: Sunday 7th November, 4.30pm

The Expose will consist of archival material from The Courier of the past 20 years, as well as videos and photos showing how refugee supporters in Ballarat have advocated for justice for refugees and people seeking asylum, supported people seeking asylum and refugees in Australia and in our community.

20 Years of Trauma and Resistance *the Ballarat Refugee Story*

*Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees
in partnership with Ballarat Courier*

*Ballarat's refugee story in 20 years:
via video, photos and archival material.*

7 – 14 November
Ballarat Trades Hall, 24 Camp St.

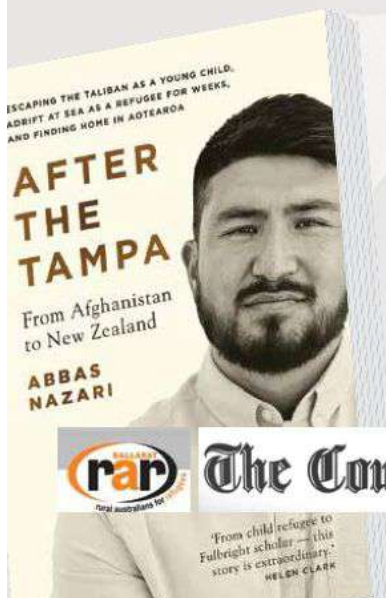
Official Opening: Sunday 7 November,
4.30pm for 5.00 pm start.

Light refreshments provided.

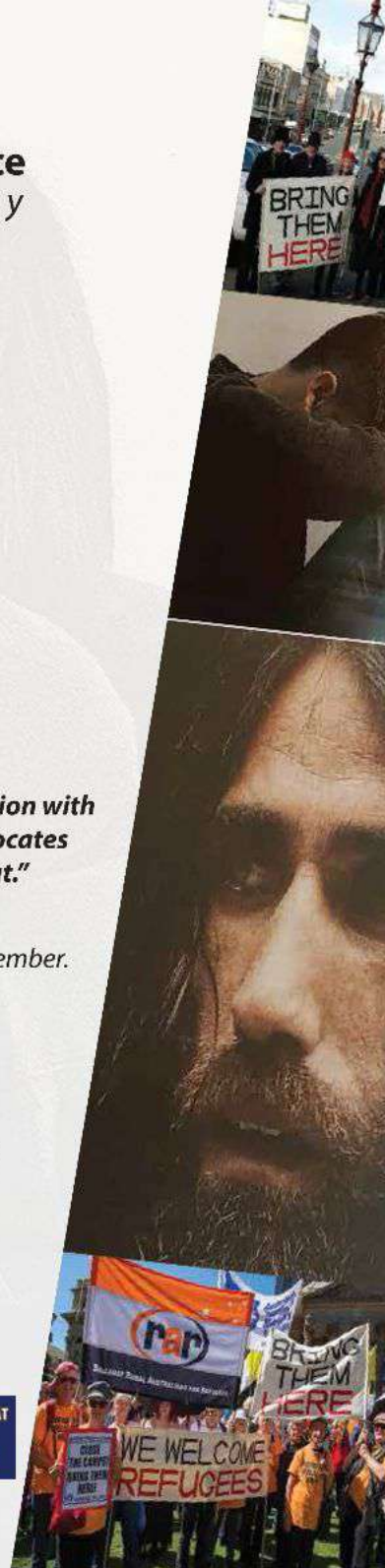
**“Ballarat Courier Editor Eugene Duffy, in conversation with
Tampa survivor Abbas Nazari, and Ballarat advocates
explore 20 years of seeking asylum in Ballarat.”**

Open 10am – 4pm daily from 8 – 14 November.
public event, **free entry**

Contact: David MacPhail
0419368199
david.i.macphail@gmail.com



The Courier



Ballarat, where are you sleeping tonight?

Tuesday 9th November, 7.15am - 9.30am

Ballarat Tech School, 136 Albert St, Ballarat

A forum bringing together homelessness support services, businesses, residents and leaders to catalyse community action on our hidden crisis. Organised by the Committee for Ballarat Future Shapers program, supported by the Ballarat Foundation and Compassion Ballarat.

Video with important messages regarding this event: <https://youtu.be/Low38bNM1dl>

Register



Friendship Walk

Sunday 14th November, 2pm - 5pm

Meet at the Islamic Mosque, 116 Elsworth St E, Canadian

Organised by the Ballarat Interfaith Network.

Register: 0400 650 234



Ballarat Interfaith Network



Friendship Walk

Sunday 14th November
Time 2-5pm



Beginning at the Islamic Mosque in 116 Ellsworth St East, Canadian,



Walking to The Salvation Army Centre
on the corner of Eureka St and Main Rd,



Ending at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
in 116 Humffray St North .



Registration : 0400650234

Hellenic (Greek) Orthodox Community of Ballarat will be catering with refreshments at the end.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

SistaHub Vaccination Campaign

We hear you. We understand. We are living it.

Featuring Muslim women from diverse backgrounds, the campaign video aims to create a sense of collective purpose centred on preserving our community's health and wellbeing, while acknowledging concerns.

For more information and ways to connect, visit www.sistahub.org

[Watch video](#)



Afghanistan Legal Clinic Hotline

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is providing free legal support to people from Afghanistan. If you need information or assistance call 03 9252 2534 Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm or email afghanistantriage@asrc.org.au.

- If you have family members who are in Afghanistan, they can assist in preparing an offshore special humanitarian visa.
- If you are from Afghanistan living in Australia and have had your protection visa application refused.
- If you are seeking a referral for ongoing legal assistance with other kinds of offshore family visa applications or an existing offshore special humanitarian application.

[More info](#)

Youth Engagement Grants

Applications are now open for the Youth Engagement Grants. Small multicultural and Aboriginal clubs and community organisation are invited to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support young people make positive life choices and reach their potential.

An information session will be held online on **Wednesday 3 November 2021**.

Register: <https://youth-engagement-grants.eventbrite.com.au>

Applications close 4pm on 13 December 2021.

[Apply now](#)



New grants to help young people reach their potential

Applications close 13 December 2021

crimeprevention.vic.gov.au



Victoria's Anti-Racism Strategy and Taskforce

The Victorian Government will be launching its first state-wide Anti-Racism Strategy next year. The Strategy will set out a clear and targeted roadmap to reducing racism and faith-based discrimination in Victoria, guided by strategic advice and recommendations from the Anti-Racism Taskforce.

You can join the Anti-Racism Community Interest Group to receive regular updates on the latest developments of the Taskforce and Strategy and find out how to have your say. To join, email antiracism.taskforce@dffh.vic.gov.au.

Victoria's Anti-Racism Strategy and Taskforce

Subscribe to the Anti-Racism Community Interest Group

To Serve and Protect: Bringing diversity to Australia's emergency services

The Scanlon Foundation Research Institute has released an essay sharing the stories of emergency service volunteers from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds who are making an impact out in the field and paving the way for broader institutional change.



[Read essay](#)

Health Translations

Health Translations is a free online directory which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people from refugee and migrant backgrounds by providing access to an

extensive library of quality translated information. The library has over 23,000 multilingual resources translated in more than 100 languages.

[Find out more](#)



Health Translations
Translated information about health and wellbeing

Australia's largest free online library of quality translated health & wellbeing information. Over 21,000 quality assured health resources in 105 languages. A great tool for health practitioners who work with culturally & linguistically diverse communities.

www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au

 Managed by the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health (CEH) your expert in cultural competence training, for the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

 **VICTORIA** State Government | Health and Human Services

Moving Pictures CALD Dementia Awareness

Moving Pictures is raising dementia awareness through film and media in CALD communities. Sharing stories to help raise awareness and provide support and information to families.

Films are available in 9 languages: Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Tamil and Vietnamese.



[Watch videos](#)

ArtsACTION Zoom Workshops

If you are an emerging or professional artist, an arts worker, involved in community arts or work in any creative industry field, ArtsACTION is for you. Bookings are now open for the FREE Zoom workshops. There are four series you can choose from.

Topics:

- Being Market Ready
- Working Together Effectively
- Digital Communities

Places are limited. You can book for one topic or the whole series.





Artists & Creatives in ACTION!

Join this practical program providing inspiration & professional development



Back AGAIN for the fourth time!

SIGN UP for FREE:

- 6-part email resource pack
- Invitations to Zoom workshops
- Access to a growing network

ZOOM workshops on:

- Being Market Ready
- Working Together Effectively
- Digital Communities

ArtsACTION

Upskilling for creatives to activate career pathways, broaden networks & build market reach

JOIN NOW: popupart.com.au/artsaction

You can participate FREE from August 2021 - April 2022

Instituted by:



Funded by:



In partnership with:



Melbourne Office: 2C Percy St Prahran VIC 3181 • Tel: 9510 6822 • Mob: 0419 310 765 | Regional Office: Suite 449, 39-41 Willamson St Bendigo VIC 3550 • Mob: 0419 006 243

EVENTS IN REVIEW

Women's Business Morning Tea: What's in YOUR Toolbox?

The 'What's in YOUR Toolbox?' morning tea event, held on 28 September, posed this question to three successful business women, including Sara Kittelty (the cake queen) of Kittelty's, Kim Halbert-Pere of Handy Girl Australia and Aldona Kmieć of Aldona Kmieć Photography.

Participants brought items to convey some of the keys to their business success - from practical tools (hammer for building, eggs for baking, computer for running the business) to words of affirmation and inspiration. Thank you to all who participated.

The event was part of BRMC's inaugural Women's Business Month - a celebration of our local women-owned business.



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. 