

December 2021 Newsletter



Dear Readers,

Here is our last newsletter until February 2022. We hope you enjoy a recap of some 2021 highlights and are enticed by the opportunities we are flagging for training, small business, leadership and ambassador programs in 2022.

May peace and goodwill fill your hearts and homes this Christmas.
Have a wonderful New Year and enjoy the festivities.

BRMC will close the office doors at 5pm on Thursday 23rd December 2021 and re-open Tuesday 1st February 2022. Emergency contacts are provided below and staff may be contacted on the office phone and usual emails from 10 January.

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Executive Officer

COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 restrictions are being updated to ensure Victorians enjoy more freedoms this festive season, while the Omicron variant is monitored and investigated. The Pandemic Orders take effect from 11.59pm, Wednesday 15 December 2021 and will be in place until 11.59pm on 12 January 2022. www.premier.vic.gov.au/updated-public-health-protections-keep-victorians-safe-0

Vaccine Booster

To maintain immunity against COVID-19, get your vaccine booster shot as soon as you are eligible, which in most cases is 6 months after your second dose. Pfizer vaccine boosters will be provided to everyone who is eligible, regardless of which type of vaccine you received for your initial doses. Book your booster appointment: www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder

Vaccinations for Children

Ensuring children are protected from coronavirus is also vital, and parents are encouraged to get their kids vaccinated when the rollout for 5-11 year olds begins on 10 January 2022.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, speak to your doctor or visit:

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from BRMC

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

Upcoming Events

- Free Christmas Day Take-Away Meal
- Christmas Lunch at the Lake
- Multicultural Harvest Festival
- Cax One Art & Illustration Workshop
- Survival Day Dawn Ceremony
- World Interfaith Harmony Week

Items of Interest

- Stepping Stones Volunteer Tutors Needed
- Ballarat Intercultural Ambassador Program
- Future Shapers 2022 Program
- Multicultural Communities Leadership in Action Program
- Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund
- COVID-19 Legal Needs Analysis Report

Events in Review

- Intercultural Strategic Plan 2022-26
- 2021 BRMC Annual General Meeting

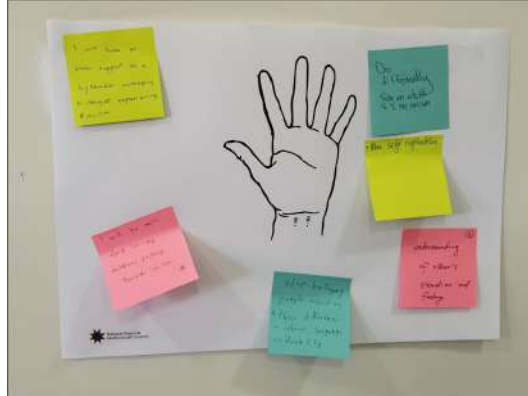
UPDATES FROM BRMC

Be the Bystander Who Says No to Racism

Through our local 'No to Racism in Western Regional Victoria' project BRMC will be reaching out to Ballarat community members next year. The bystander approach is a whole-of community commitment to prevent, call-out and respond to racism and discrimination,

Our first bystander train the trainer course was held in November 2021. From January to June 2022 our trained staff will offer practical Anti-Racism bystander training for participants from local government, hospitals, community organisations, local businesses, community clubs and other networks and groups. We are also excited to be working closely on other Anti-Racism initiatives with local professional artist, Stella Savy (Cocosounds) and the Ballarat Interfaith Network (BIN).

If your group is interested in receiving training, or in becoming an Anti-Racism bystander trainer, please contact Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.



2022 Stepping Stones Programs

Now taking applications!

Free online training providing women of migrant and humanitarian backgrounds, as well as women 50+ of any background the confidence and skills to move into employment, education or their own small business.

Stepping Stones to Small Business

11-week interactive and practical training in the skills you need to launch and build a successful small business. Delivered via Zoom.

- **Tuesdays, 1 February - 26 April, 10am - 2pm**
+ Tutorial Support Wednesdays, 9am - 12pm
- **Wednesdays, 30 March - 22 June, 10am - 2pm**
+ Tutorial Support Fridays, 9am - 12pm

[Apply now](#)

Interested In Starting Your Own Small Business?



The 2022 Stepping Stones To Small Business Program
Is Now Taking Applications!

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

10am - 2pm



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



Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program

Join this 6-session online group-based program to grow skills and gain confidence for your move into small business, employment or education. Delivered via Zoom.

- Wimmera: Mondays, 14 February - 21 March, 10am - 2pm
- Ballarat: Thursdays, 5 May - 9 June, 10am - 2pm

2022 Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program

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

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| DAY 1 | Monday, 14 February 2022 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Defining Our Strengths & Skills</i> |
| Program Introduction + Exploring Our Strengths + Traits Helping Us To Thrive | | |
| DAY 2 | Monday, 21 February 2022 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Turning Strengths Into Achievements</i> |
| Our Strengths And Our Achievements + Setting SMART Goals That Work For Us | | |
| DAY 3 | Monday, 28 February 2022 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Being Money-Minded</i> |
| Budgeting & Financial Goals + Debt Busters + Superannuation & Tax | | |
| DAY 4 | Monday, 7 March 2022 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Finding Our Meaning & Purpose</i> |
| Time Management + Being Assertive + Balancing Our Values, Our Strengths & Our Passions | | |
| DAY 5 | Monday, 14 March 2022 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Saying It Out Loud Makes It Real</i> |
| Interview & Presentation Hints & Tips + Interview & Presentation Practice | | |
| DAY 6 | Monday, 21 March 2022 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 & ASYLUM-SEEKING BACKGROUNDS & ALL WOMEN 50+
- ALL SESSIONS ONLINE

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



Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program

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

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| DAY 1 | Thursday, 5 May 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Defining Our Strengths & Skills</i> |
| Program Introduction + Exploring Our Strengths + Traits Helping Us To Thrive | | |
| DAY 2 | Thursday, 12 May 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Turning Strengths Into Achievements</i> |
| Our Strengths And Our Achievements + Setting SMART Goals That Work For Us | | |
| DAY 3 | Thursday, 19 May 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Being Money-Minded</i> |
| Budgeting & Financial Goals + Debt Busters + Superannuation & Tax | | |
| DAY 4 | Thursday, 26 May 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Creating Time For Yourself</i> |
| Time Management + Being Assertive + Balancing Our Values, Our Strengths & Our Passions | | |
| DAY 5 | Thursday, 2 June 10:00AM - 2:00PM | <i>Saying It Out Loud Makes It Real</i> |
| Interview & Presentation Hints & Tips + Interview & Presentation Practice | | |
| DAY 6 | Thursday, 9 June 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 & ASYLUM-SEEKING BACKGROUNDS & ANY WOMAN 50+
- ALL SESSIONS ONLINE

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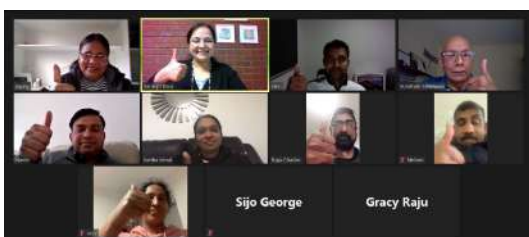


Questions? Contact Deborah Klein: d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728.

Good Governance Program

Here are some highlights from 2021, a year of creativity, growth and new partnerships for the program that was filled with webinars for the community, Community of Practice sessions for mentors and mentoring catch-ups with community groups.

To find out how your cultural group or committee can participate or for more information contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

Here are some highlights from 2021, a year of linguistic and digital empowerment for tutors and students. The tutors spared no efforts to upskill and get training and tech support to continue to connect with their students in online. Their ongoing support saw many students celebrating academic and professional success. Our Community Volunteer Tutors' commitment to serving the migrant-refugee community is the backbone of the program. A big 'Thank You' to all of you.

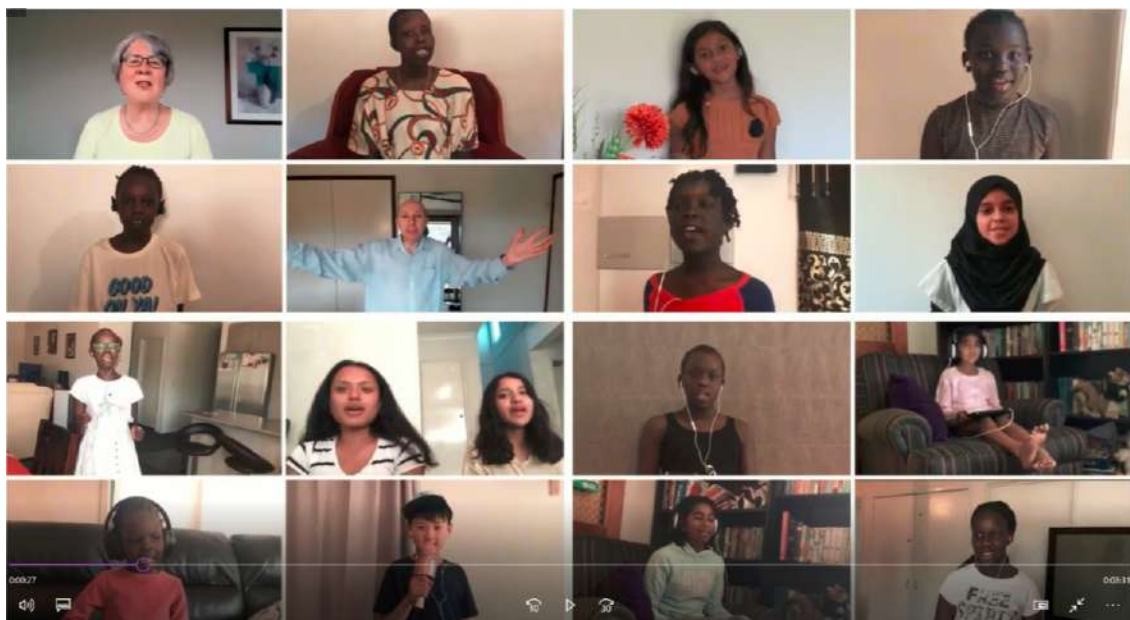
If you'd like to participate as a student or volunteer tutor, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



Diversity Homework Club

2021 was filled with exciting activities and learning opportunities for the Diversity Homework Club team. We started the year in style with our virtual choir 'A Better Place'.

[Watch video](#)



The students participated in Peace Pals International Art Contest, won Good Reader awards, wrote poems, made presentations, and so much more! DHC parents participated in activities that were organised for families, including cultural show and tell, Life Saving Victoria and Country Fire Authority sessions. The highlight of the year was winning the OSHLSP of the Year award second year in a row!



The group met Leading Senior Constable Melissa Peters on 8 December. The students asked several questions and learnt about the joys and challenges of being a police officer.



DHC Presentation Night was held on 9 December at Sebastopol Library Community Hub. The students who had won MY Education awards and Good Reading awards were felicitated. The tutors were thanked for their generous gift of time and effort throughout the year. Some students presented stories, poems, riddles, jokes, hula-hoop demonstrations, song and dance. Some parents shared cultural stories, songs and dances, inviting the group members to join in. The night was vibrant with a true demonstration of interculturalism.



Diversity Homework Club is a welcoming community of students and tutors. We design unique opportunities for students to learn, explore, share and create in a nurturing environment. If you'd like to learn more or find out how you can participate, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Social Support

Hazara Social Support Program

The BRMC Social Support Team have worked together with our local Hazara Afghan community, BRASSN community volunteers and Foundation House in a new initiative, the Hazara Social Support Program. Hazara community members have welcomed new opportunities to come together to socialize and to gain information on other community services, local events and pathways to study, employment and health and wellbeing.



Tai Chi

BRMC Social Support deliver Tai Chi every Tuesday during school terms. Our Tai Chi qualified and skilled facilitator, Sandra Pierce will work with you on an individual basis to customise your exercise session when needed.

Only \$5 a class. Next class is Tuesday 25 January 2022, 1pm - 2pm at the Brown Hill

Cricket Club (30 Reid St, Brown Hill).

For more information or to register call Caroline on 03 5331 1123.



Merry Christmas to all our Social Support clients! We hope you enjoyed our last Multicultural Tucker for 2021.



The Social Support Team would like to thank all our clients for their continued support throughout the year. Our team have enjoyed delivering programs to you when we could and visiting you at your homes when we couldn't be together. We are looking forward to delivering all our face-to-face programs to you from February 2022!

For more information about Social Support Programs contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.

Volunteer with BRMC

Volunteers make BRMC a real community and a thriving hub for community connection and services. BRMC is always in need of people who are willing to help and share their time, talents and skills. www.brmc.org.au/get-involved

Contact Teresa on 03 5383 0613 / 0417 109 052 / teresa@brmc.org.au

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**BRMC IS LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS!**

**Find out more about
how YOU can help**

Contact Teresa on
03 5383 0613 / 0417 109 052
or teresa@brmc.org.au



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.

We have a broad range of
volunteer opportunities.

Get involved in one of our
services to help improve the
quality of life for culturally and
linguistically diverse members
of our community.

www.brmc.org.au/get-involved

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Christmas Day Take-Away Meal

Saturday 25th December 2021

OLHC Parish Hall, 482 Gillies St, Wendouree

Volunteers of OLHC Wendouree will be preparing free hot Christmas Meals for people to collect on Christmas Day. Bookings must be made in advance.

Call 0419 975 914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com to book.

O.L.H.C.Parish

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Like last year we can't gather for
lunch in 2021 but you are invited to
have a

Christmas Day Take-away meal

(no cost)



Meal collect time to be arranged on booking

Date: December 25th 2021

Where: OLHC Parish Hall

482 Gillies St.Wendouree

Book Early: Phone: 0419 975 914 or

Email:christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com

(Special arrangements will be made for those usually requiring transport)

Christmas Lunch at the Lake

Saturday 25th December 2021, 12pm

Lake Wendouree

Bring everything you need for a picnic lunch and a chair or mat to sit on. Everyone is welcome. Enquiries: Cathy 0403 713 087



Multicultural Harvest Festival

Saturday 22nd January 2022, 10am - 2pm

Garibaldi Public Hall, Hardies Hill Rd, Garibaldi

The Multicultural Harvest Festival is a celebration of our relationship to nature and the sustenance it provides to us. The event is an opportunity for cultural groups to come together and show off their traditions of growing food - and how, in their cultural traditions, they celebrate nature and the harvest through sharing food, and enjoying music and dance.

[Find out more](#)



This event celebrates nature and the harvest. It showcases communities and their food producing traditions from around the world. Come and share in the celebration of working with nature to sustain ourselves through growing our own food.



MULTICULTURAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday 22nd January 2022
10 am - 2 pm
Garibaldi Public Hall, Hardies Hill Road, Garibaldi Victoria

- 🌱 Grow your own produce - tips and demonstrations
- 🌱 Produce and plants for sale
- 🎵 Live music
- 👶 Kids' activities
- 🐾 Animal petting zoo
- 🍽️ Food from diverse culture

FREE ENTRY

This festival draws inspiration from the *Sri Lankan Thaipongal Tamil Festival* that celebrates the harvest and the sun.

Cax One Art & Illustration Workshop

Saturday 22nd January 2022, 10am - 4pm

Art Gallery of Ballarat, 40 Lydiard St N, Ballarat

Exclusive full day workshop for young artists aged 12-25, with one of Australia's renowned street artists. Places are limited.

[Register](#)



Survival Day Dawn Ceremony

Wednesday 26th January 2022, 5.30am - 6.30am

View Point, Lake Wendouree (opposite Lake View), Ballarat

The Koorie Engagement Action Group (KEAG) invites you to join Ballarat's Survival Day Dawn Ceremony. Let's come together and stand in solidarity to peacefully reflect on those who have gone before us.

[More info](#)



World Interfaith Harmony Week

This week is an opportunity for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people. Ballarat Interfaith Network is running two events to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Flag Raising Event

Tuesday 1st February 2022, 11am - 1pm

St Peter's Anglican Church, 1309 Sturt St, Ballarat

Sikh keynote speaker and refreshments provided. For any enquiries, please call 0400 650 234.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2022

FLAG RAISING EVENT

Sikh Keynote Speaker

**Tuesday 1st February, St
Peter's Anglican Church,
Sturt Street**

11 am to 1pm

Ballarat Interfaith Network
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



 **0400650234**

COVID QR check-in & Masks Required

Interfaith Forum

Sunday 6th February 2022, 2pm - 4pm

St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

This Interfaith Forum will discuss Death, Sanctity of the Human Body and Organ Donation.
To register attendance, call 0400 650 234.

BALLARAT
INTERFAITH
NETWORK



INTERFAITH FORUM DEATH, SANCTITY OF THE HUMAN BODY, & ORGAN DONATION

2 TO 4 PM SUNDAY 6 TH FEBRUARY,
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL HALL
CNR STURT & DAWSON ST'S, BALLARAT

Donar Registration Available
Bring Medicare Card To Facilitate

To register attendance
0400650234



COVID QR check-in & Masks Required

Refreshments Provided

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Stepping Stones Volunteer Tutors Needed

The Stepping Stones to Small Business Program is seeking volunteer tutors to help support women's business skills learning in 2022.

This role is for up to 4 hours a week through the duration of the Small Business Program - either as a once-off, short-term, or ongoing engagement as negotiated. You will be working alongside the training facilitator to help participants review program content, engage in practical exercises, clarify terms or information, and answer questions.

Stepping Stones Volunteer Tutors can be involved with either or both Small Business training courses, which are scheduled:

- **Tuesdays, 1 February - 26 April 2022, 10am - 2pm**
- **Wednesdays, 30 March - 22 June 2022, 10am - 2pm**

Applications for this role will be accepted through December 2021.

Interviews, induction and training will commence at the end of January 2022, before the role starts at the beginning of February 2022.

Please contact Deborah Klein: d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728 for further information and a Position Description.

Intercultural Ambassador Program

Applications now open!

This program aims to enhance community awareness and social acceptance in Ballarat, foster leadership within multicultural and Indigenous communities, and highlight the positive contributions migrants and Indigenous Australians make to our community.

Applications close at 5pm on 9 January 2022.

[Apply now](#)



Future Shapers 2022 Program

Future Shapers is a 10-month program through Committee for Ballarat that draws together emerging leaders from all sectors across Ballarat and surrounds, to think, question, build connections, broaden understanding of community leadership and effect positive change.

gforce Ballarat is offering an Emerging Young Leader Scholarship through this program. This scholarship is open to people living in Ballarat aged between 18-30 years. They welcome and encourage all backgrounds, all genders, and people with disability to apply.

Applications close Monday 20th December 2021.

[Apply now](#)

Multicultural Communities Leadership in Action Program

This free program will build your ability to engage with government and mobilise your communities. Become an informed and influential advocate and join a network of like-minded people in a program that has been co-designed with community, for community. There are three streams for the program - women's, young people's or generalist streams.



Applications close 13 January 2022.

[Learn more and apply](#)

Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund

Applications are now open for funding to upgrade, renovate or maintain multicultural community spaces and infrastructure across Victoria. Grants of up to \$500,000 are available for infrastructure projects that are ready to proceed and can be delivered by 1 May 2023.

Applications close 3pm Monday 31 January 2022.

[Apply now](#)

COVID-19 Legal Needs Analysis Report

The Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service legal needs analysis was undertaken to identify areas of need that exist within the Grampian region, using a COVID-19 lens to identify additional legal need that may have arisen, or been exacerbated, by ongoing restrictions.

This includes areas such as family violence, family law, employment, income and housing.



[View report](#)

EVENTS IN REVIEW

Intercultural Strategic Plan 2022-26

The City of Ballarat Intercultural Services team conducted a Community Conversations Workshop to discuss the framework of actions for the development of the upcoming

Intercultural City Strategic Plan 2022-26. BRMC will also contribute to this plan with feedback from our Global Café conversation held in November 2021.



2021 BRMC Annual General Meeting

The 2021 BRMC AGM was held on Thursday 25 November in the Barkly Square Lecture Theatre. As well as the annual business reporting our gathering of members was an opportunity to recognise and thank all staff, Executive Committee and volunteers for extraordinary services and collaboration in the 2020/21 year. Thank you to all who attended and to Rose Nakakeeto for a beautiful rendition of 'Climb Every Mountain'. Refreshments were enjoyed after in the Ballarat Welcome Centre, with many treasures to browse at the Pop-Up Holiday Shop of our Businesses-in-Residence, A Tuk and Met Tetni.



We welcome new Executive Committee Members appointed for 2021/2022.

| Position | Name |
|--------------|-------------|
| Chairperson | Joy Sawiche |
| Deputy Chair | Bobby Mehta |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Treasurer | Andrew Tennant |
| Assistant Treasurer | Phillip Moore |
| Secretary | Magdalena Kazmierczak |
| Assistant Secretary | Nsonma Adeleye |
| Public Relations Officer | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Interfaith Officer | Syed M Sami |
| Women's Officer | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Youth Advisor | Jerrica Elsa John |
| Community Representative | Navin Thomas |
| Community Representative | Sundram Sivamalai |
| Community Representative | Kiky Amelia |
| Immediate Past Chair | Chez Dichiera |

Thank you to all outgoing Executive Committee Members.

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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