

March 2022 Newsletter



Dear Readers,

One week into March together and we have celebrated International Women's Day! Our new Board Women's Officer is featured in the Meet the Board section. Betty Mathew joined the IWD celebration at Ballarat Welcome Centre last weekend and is keen to hear from and connect with members on issues concerning women.

Next week Cultural Diversity Week celebrates and promotes cultural diversity and inclusion. See Ballarat's Harmony Fest Program below for details of the activities presented across our communities and City of Ballarat from 15 - 26 March. Next week we hope to see you at Street Soccer on Tuesday or the Twilight Market on Thursday. Our regional VMC Commissioner will join us also on Thursday to launch the community kitchen at Barkly Square. Multicultural Infrastructure funding from the Victorian government enabled this facility to be built and we encourage you to RSVP if you want to come along and celebrate the launch. In any case, start planning your community cooking in 2022. BRMC Board, Staff team and I wish you and your loved ones well and look forward to seeing you soon.

Warm Regards,

Ann

BRMC Executive Officer



Meet the Board

BRMC is governed by an elected committee of management elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. A full list of Committee members can be found on the [BRMC website](#).

Betty Mathew

Women's Officer, BRMC Executive Committee

Betty Mathew is our BRMC Board Women's Officer. She is from India (Kerala state, southern part of India) and moved to Australia in 2007.

Betty completed her Bachelor of Nursing at Federation University and Master of Nursing at Monash University. She is a Registered Nurse with Ballarat Health Services and is currently working as an Associate Nurse Unit Manager. Betty worked at Stawell Regional Health and lived there for almost 2 years (2008-2010). She has worked as treasurer with Ballarat Malayalee Association (BMA) and is still an active member.



She is a mum of two little girls aged 11 and 8. Her interests include cooking, reading and articles or documentaries related to current affairs.

COVID-19 Information

Rapid Antigen Tests - FREE for Multicultural Community

RATs available to community members who need them and cannot otherwise access or afford the Rapid Antigen Tests. We encourage you to test if unwell, isolating and especially before you participate in community gatherings. Contact us on 03 5383 0613.

Vaccinations for Children Aged 5-11

Want to know more about vaccinating your kids against COVID-19 but don't have information in your language?

NEMBC Media have produced audio explainers on COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 5-11 in 19 languages. The explainers outline why your child should get vaccinated, how many doses they need, where you can take them to get vaccinated, and more.

Listen and share: <https://soundcloud.com/user-760283919/sets/vaccinations-for-5-11-year-olds>

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.

Items of Interest

- Healthy Living for Women
- Grampians Health Community Survey

- Barkly Square Community & Commercial Kitchen Launch

Upcoming Events

- Harmony Fest 2022
 - Street Soccer & BBQ
 - Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market
 - Morning Tea with Islamic Society of Ballarat
 - Ballarat Indian Film Festival Movie Screenings
 - Interfaith Walk for Peace
 - Intercultural City Extravaganza
- Cultural Diversity Week
- Ballarat RAR Garage Sale
- Rally for Refugees & People Seeking Asylum

- Cafs Services
- Thread Together
- Red Cross Utility Subsidy Program
- Document Signing Station at Barkly Square
- Capturing Culture Photography Competition

Events in Review

- BRMC Homework Club Hands-On Workshops

UPDATES FROM BRMC

Barkly Square Community & Commercial Kitchen Launch

Thursday 17th March, 3pm - 4pm

A Pot of Courage Café, Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

We are delighted to invite you to the launch of our new community kitchen located at Barkly Square. The kitchen has been renovated and fitted out to commercial standard through support from the Victorian Government through the Multicultural Infrastructure Grant Program.

Please join us as Victorian Multicultural Commissioner, Silvia Renda officially opens the facility and we cut the ribbon and toast the new facility that will offer our many multicultural community members and broader community the opportunity to cook, cater and train together. The launch will follow with BRMC's Twilight Market. All welcome.

RSVP to Suzanne is essential - by 5pm Tuesday 15 March 2022.

s.ryan-evers@brmc.org.au / 0455 667 227



Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) Program

Have you or someone you know been in Australia less than 5 years, and need help with understanding Australian systems and forms, housing, employment or education? We work with our partners in the Regional Multicultural Consortium to support people and build stronger communities and meaningful connections. We can provide casework and interpreter support. Our bilingual settlement workers provide these services across regional Victoria.

For support, contact SETS Coordinator, Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 247.

BRMC SETS Program

Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support (SETS)

Our Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program provides free settlement support to eligible visa holders from refugee and migrant backgrounds who have been in Australia **less than 5 years**.

We support people to build a new life in regional Victoria.



Our Settlement Services support people with:



English
Language



Family
Support



Housing



Employment



Education



Community
Engagement



Australian
Systems & Forms

We work with our partners in the Regional Multicultural Consortium that provide these services across regional Victoria.

SETS is funded by the Australian Federal Government.

For support, contact **BRMC Migrant and Settlement Support Coordinator, Heeyoung**: 0491 066 247 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au



'No to Racism in Western Regional Victoria' Project

Anti-Racism Bystander Training

Anti-Racism Bystander Training is a perfect platform for developing an understanding of racism and technology to challenge racism. Our interactive workshop is designed to develop an understanding of race, empathy, and race-related problems and identities along with tools, techniques, and strategies to intervene in daily life.

If your organisation or company wants to have this important training for your staff and volunteers, please contact Anti-Racism Project Coordinator, Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.



Anti-Racism Music Based Intercultural Engagement Program

BRMC is working in partnership with Stella Savy (Cocosounds) to deliver this program. Her rich experiences provide an important opportunity for children to understand multiculturalism, empathise with multicultural people, and further learn how important anti-racism is.

We provided this program at Invermay Primary School on 14, 21, 28 February and 7 March. Students actively participated in various activities with Stella to understand multiculturalism and racism.

For further information, please contact Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.



Anti-Racism Intercultural Music Workshop

BRMC will provide amazing music workshops with professional musicians Valanga Khoza and Stella Savy. Participants aged 12-25 will have the opportunity to learn drumming and singing. In addition, musician Valanga will share the racism he has experienced during his life as an African-Australian with a refugee background and lived story of overcoming racism. Multicultural teenagers and young people participating in the workshop will have time to express their experiences through music, and share racism they have experienced in school or society with others. This session is scheduled for **23, 30 April and 14, 21 May**.

If you want to join, please contact Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 or hy.lim@brmc.org.au.

Anti-Racism Intercultural Music Workshops with Amazing Musician Valanga Khoza and Stella Savy

For Ages 12-25 | Free Session!

**5:30pm-7pm
Saturday 23, 30 April and 14, 21 May
Ballarat Welcome Centre, BRMC**



In the workshops:

Valanga and Stella will teach you African drumming and some singing. Through the 4 workshops, you can explore songs and drumming that carried through the oppression of Apartheid in South Africa. Hear the stories of Valanga's journey from South Africa all the way via refugee camps around the world to Australia, and how he has dealt with and still deals with subtle and overt racism in Australia.

FOR BOOKING,

Please contact Anti-Racism Project Coordinator,
Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 or hy.ilm@brmc.org.au



Musician Valanga Khoza and Stella Savy



Valanga Khoza

Valanga Khoza left South Africa in 1976, exiled along with many other young people because of their struggle against apartheid or racism. The music and stories he has since created reflects the places he has been and the people he has touched throughout his journey across the world as a refugee, finally settling in Australia in 1988.

Valanga charms his audiences with humour and wit, telling stories that are embellished by beautiful music from many traditional instruments such as the kalimba, marimba and shijoro (jaw harp) as well as irresistible rhythms from the guitar, percussion and Valanga's velvety voice. Valanga has performed and warmed audiences of adults and children at selected world music events and in many schools across Australia and the Pacific. As well as recording six albums of original music, he is also the author of well known "Gezani and the Tricky Baboon" republished by Ford Street in 2014 and "Dumazi and the Big Yellow Lion" published by Scholastic in 2019.



Stella Savy

Stella Savy has had over 26 years' experience working with young children all the way to seniors facilitating singing and drumming. Her focus is on world music, and she would love for the parents to have input by

teaching the group songs from their cultures as well as learning new songs that they can share with their children outside of the sessions in their homes. She has access to all sorts of drums and other instruments that we can use during the sessions, she looks forward to being able to facilitate an enjoyable, relaxed and culturally safe musical experience.

Stepping Stones to Small Business Program

Stepping Stones Registration

Do you or someone you know have a dream of starting your own enterprise and being your own boss? Then the Stepping Stones Program is what you are looking for!

Registrations are open for the Stepping Stones to Small Business training program, **starting Wednesday 30 March, 10am - 2pm** and running each Wednesday to 22 June (with a break for the Term 1 School Holidays). **FREE** and online, Stepping Stones is open to all women of migrant and humanitarian backgrounds, and to women 50+ of any background.

Contact Deborah at d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728 for further information.

Register

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 via ZOOM
- Build Confidence + Develop Business Skills + Grow Networks**
- Research + Planning + Marketing + Finance + Management**
- Training + Connecting + Tutoring + Mentoring For Graduates**
- Wednesdays, 30 March - 22 June 2022 10am - 2pm**

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

Stepping Stones To Small Business

FREE - Online via ZOOM
Wednesday, 30 March - Wednesday, 22 June



Date	Topics Covered
Wednesday, 30 March 10am - 2pm	DAY 1 Introduction to Stepping Stones, Training structure Starting a Small Business in Victoria Introduction to Developing Your Own Business Plan
Friday, 1 April 9am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 1 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 6 April 10am - 2pm	DAY 2 It's All About My Customers Creating My Business Plan
Friday, 8 April 9am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 2 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
TEAM BREAK 9 - 30 April	
Wednesday, 27 April 10am - 2pm	DAY 3 Who Are My Competitors? Basic Business Marketing
Friday, 29 April 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 3 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 4 May 10am - 2pm	DAY 4 Communicating With My Customers Building Business Relationships Through Networking Digital Marketing
Friday, 6 May 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 4 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 12 May 10am - 2pm	DAY 5 Setting Achievable Business Goals Time Management
Friday, 14 May 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 5 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 18 May 10am - 2pm	DAY 6 My Key Suppliers, Partners, Resources How To Plan For Risk Communication in Business
Friday, 20 May 9pm - 12am	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 6 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 26 May 10am - 2pm	DAY 7 Financial Literacy For Small Business
Friday, 27 May 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 7 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 1 June 10am - 2pm	DAY 8 Superintendence and Tax Banking For Business Rights for Business
Friday, 3 June 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 8 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 9 June 10am - 2pm	DAY 9 Finding Your Niche Business Registration and ABN
Friday, 10 June 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 9 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 16 June 10am - 2pm	DAY 10 Business Insurance Business Record-keeping Stepping Stones Mentoring Program
Friday, 17 June 10am - 12pm	Optional tutorial/reviewing DAY 10 topics & supporting students working on their own Business Plan
Wednesday, 22 June 10am - 2pm	DAY 11 Bank Terms Business Policies and Graduation Certificate Presentation What's Coming Up - Stepping Stones Thriver and Community Programs

Registration now open:
www.brmc.org.au/services/consulting-and-training/stepping-stones
Questions? Need Help?
Contact Deborah Klein d.klein@brmc.org.au 0457 934 728



Stepping Stones Volunteers

Can you help support a woman who dreams of being her own boss and running her own small business?

The Stepping Stones to Small Business program is seeking volunteer Mentors to support our graduates as they launch themselves into the world of small business, and volunteer tutors who can help support their learning to get there.

Have you got a couple of hours a week - or just a couple of hours?

You could be the key to a woman realising her dream to better support herself and her family. Full training and orientation provided.

Contact Deborah at d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728 for further information.



Social Support

The Social Support Team are delivering small group lunches with an indoor picnic theme for the month of March at the Victoria Bowling Club. Tai Chi classes continue to be delivered every Tuesday during school terms (only \$5 per session). We are hoping to deliver all Social Support Programs from April 1. Bring back Tucker!



The Social Support Team would like to send out a huge thank you to one of our dearest clients, Dawn. Thank you for continuing to provide our community with donations of woollen items. Made and received with love.



Hazara Social Support Program

Barkly Square Courtyard, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

The Hazara community are enjoying their monthly Tuesday evening BBQs and so are all who attend, the food is delicious! This month we will also be celebrating the Afghanistan New Year on Monday 21 March - to find out more contact Teresa.



If you would like to learn more about our Social Support Programs, you can contact Teresa at teresa@brmc.org.au or 0417 109 052.

Multicultural Job Club

Mondays, 6pm - 7pm or Thursdays, 1pm - 2pm

Via Zoom during Term 1

The Multicultural Job Club is back on Monday 28 February and will be running twice a week! Topics will be repeated on Mondays and Thursdays - so you can choose which day suits best. Everyone welcome to attend.

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

Mondays 6-7pm

OR

Thursdays 1-2pm

Join us on ZOOM -

<https://bit.ly/3HnSNT3>

Register Online: bit.ly/3CJ5m9A



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.



**LOOKING FOR
A JOB?**

**YOU'RE NOT
ALONE!**

The Multicultural Job Club is a weekly 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)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harmony Fest 2022

The 2022 Harmony Fest celebrations will again highlight Ballarat's diverse cultural community.

You'll have a chance to celebrate St Patrick's Day, get colourful during the Indian Holi Festival, listen to a discussion on Art, Multiculturalism, enjoy music and dance of many different cultures, enjoy handmade crafts, delightful dishes, learn more about each other's religions, languages, and cultures, see some Indian movies, try Tai Chi, Street Soccer and enjoy some wonderful performances and music at our Intercultural Cities Extravaganza with amongst others the highly acclaimed Latin band Amaru Tribe (free event) at the Civic Hall on Friday 25 March... this and much more.

[View Program](#)



HARMONY FEST

15 - 26 March 2022 | Program Highlights

Brought to you by  **BALLARAT**

Connecting Through Culture

Tuesday 15 March, 5.30 - 7.30pm | Morshead Park Street Soccer
The Big Issue, in collaboration with CAPS and BRMC, invite you to come and try Street Soccer at their special Harmony Week event! Public food catering will be provided, as well as a raffle game and entries for the kids!
No bookings required. Free.

Wednesday 16 March, 7pm | Golf House Hotel
St. Patrick's Day Eve Dinner
Ballarat and District Irish Association St. Patrick's Eve Dinner at the Golf House Hotel, 932 Coventon Street North, Ballarat North at the Coventon Room.
Bookings required. Cost is per menu, \$50.00 before 10 March to Marlene Sheridan Phone 0422 447 546 or email info@ballaratoh.org.au.

Thursday 17 March, 10.30am | Queen Victoria Square
St. Patrick's Day Flag Ceremony
Opposite the Town Hall, Queen Victoria Square.

Thursday 17 March, 4 - 7pm
BRMC Twilight Market
The market will feature a mix of stallholders and enterprisers, led by BRMC's "Displacement" graduates from their entrepreneurship program which works with Ballarat businesses from refugee backgrounds. Pot of Courage Cafe will also be open.

Friday 18 March, 12pm
The Inauguration of Ballarat's FIRST Peace Pole
An initiative by Let's Talk Peace Ballarat in partnership with the Rotary Club of Ballarat South, The Peace Pole, inscribed with messages in Malayalam, English, Hindi, Nepali and Ukrainian, will be opened at the Sebastopol Primary School at 12 pm midday.
Bookings required via Eventbrite

Friday 18 March, 6 - 8pm | Ballarat South Community Hub Intercultural Celebration
Ballarat Community Health & Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre invite you to an evening that celebrates Ballarat's cultural diversity with the message of "everybody belongs" with special performances & workshops: Tai chi, Bollywood dancing and sing along with songs from the Caribbean. Multicultural Roads plus a world of activities for kids. Free event. From 6 - 8pm at the Ballarat South Community Hub, Tupper Street, Sebastopol.
Bookings required. www.eventbrite.com.au/activity/show?id=5329

Saturday 19 March, 9 - 10am | Lake Wendouree (Near Pipers) Tai Chi
No bookings required. Free.

Saturday 19 March, 10 - 11.30am | Ballarat Libraries
Harmony Fest morning tea with the Islamic Society of Ballarat
Islamic Society Ballarat with Ballarat Libraries at the Sebastopol Library from 10am - 11.30am.
Bookings required. info@isb.org.au

Saturday 19 March, 11am - 12pm | Eureka Centre Ballarat
Ballarat African Association Panel Multicultural Discussion
The discussion panel will aim to recognise the value of diversity and inclusion in our city and region. It will explore significant historical events and facts about other cultures including Indigenous Australians.

Saturday 19 March, 1 - 4pm | Victoria Park
HOLI Festival of Colours
Ballarat Indian Association at Oak Avenue, Victoria Park (near the Morshead Playground) from 1pm - 4pm

Saturday 19 March, 1 - 4pm | Regent Cinema
Indian Film Festival - movie screening

Sunday 20 March, 9 - 10am | Lake Wendouree (Near Pipers) Tai Chi
No bookings required. Free.

[@harmonyfestballarat](#) [@interculturalservices@ballarat.vic.gov.au](#) [@ballarat.vic.gov.au](#)

Sunday 20 March, 1pm | Eureka Centre Ballarat
The Chinese Phoenix "Resilience: The Revolt" of 1859
Historian Paul Macgregor explores the way that Chinese miners on the Victorian goldfields dealt with racism and banded together to end discriminatory laws and taxes. He will give special attention to the Ballarat 1859 Revolt of 1859 in Victoria, which he considers to be "the equal of the Eureka Rebellion, in terms of racist, demanding rights and determination, followed by a discussion.
You can attend this event in person at the Eureka Centre or stream live via Facebook, starting at 1pm.
No bookings required.

Sunday 20 March, 11am | Victoria Park
Filipino Australian Association of Ballarat
Celebrating Filipino Culture at Victoria Park, BYO Lunch
No bookings required.

Sunday 20 March, 2 - 4.30pm | Main Road
Indigenous Walls for Peace
Ballarat Indigenous Network walls, an interfaith focus on peace through Indigenous, Christian and Islamic wisdom starting at 10.30am, Ballarat and District Aboriginal Corporation in Main Road via VRSC Family Violence Support in the CBD. Finishing at the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral in Lyndale St South. All welcome.
No bookings required.

Sunday 20 March, 3 - 4.30pm | Ballarat Mosque
Ballarat Mosque Open Day
Watch a documentary about the Holy Place of Muslims - "One Day in the Haram", take a tour of the mosque and enjoy some snacks, pizza and soft drink with family. At the Ballarat Mosque, 18 Elsworth Street East, Canadian.
No bookings required.

Monday 21 March, 10.30am | Queen Victoria Square
Harmony Day - Official Flag Raising
Opposite the Town Hall, Queen Victoria Square at 10.30am, with the Street Organ, the mayor and guest speaker Intersuburb Ambassador Sarajin Khan. Followed by morning tea.
No bookings required.

Tuesday 22 March, 1 - 3pm | Eastern Oval Netball Courts
Street Soccer
The Big Issue, in collaboration with CAPS invite you to come and try Street Soccer at the Eastern Oval Netball Courts, Scotts Parade, Ballarat East.
No bookings required. Free.

Tuesday 22 March, 1 - 8pm | Saint Patrick's Hall, Dawson Street
IRMA Indian Food Festival
Taste the authentic Indian food prepared by the people from Kerala, the best of spices at affordable prices.
Bookings required. <https://www.ballarat.com.au>

Thursday 24 March, 6 - 7.30pm | Sebastopol Library Meeting Room
Libraries After Dark - Gypsy Making Workshop
In this hands-on workshop Lily Head Chef at 'A Bit of Courage', will be teaching how to cook authentic gypsy dishes.
Bookings required. <https://www.ballarat.com.au>

Friday 25 March, 7 - 8pm | Civic Hall
Intercultural City Extravaganza
Free intercultural music performed by Amaru Tribe, One Spirit Africa dance performances and more at the Civic Hall in Pear Street, Ballarat. All ages welcome.
@harmonyfestballarat
Bookings required via Eventbrite

Saturday 26 March, 9 - 10am | Lake Wendouree (Near Pipers) Tai Chi
No bookings required. Free.

Saturday 26 March, 2pm | Art Gallery of Ballarat
Discovering Islamic Art
Free gallery workshop.
Bookings required. <https://artgalleryofballarat.com.au/>

Saturday 26 March, 6 - 8pm | St Patrick's Cathedral Hall
Ballarat Kerattar Foundation of Australia (BKFA) Indian Food Fest
Indian food and drinks fest at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons Street South, Ballarat.
Bookings required via Eventbrite
\$20 per person or \$25 take-away.
Pre bookings only, no walk-ins.

Saturday 26 March | Regent Cinema
Indian Film Festival - movie screening

Follow [@harmonyfestballarat](#) for program updates | [#harmonyfest](#)









Supporting City of Ballarat venues and services include Youth Services, Ballarat Libraries, Art Gallery of Ballarat, and the Cinema Centre.

Street Soccer & BBQ

Tuesday 15th March, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility (Morshead Park), 910 Pleasant St S, Ballarat

Come along and join in our annual Harmony Fest Street Soccer event. Everyone 16+ is welcome! For more information, contact Ross on 0458 737 953.



STREET SOCCER & BBQ

MARCH 15, 2022

5.30 PM TO 7.30 PM

MORSEHEAD PARK, REDAN

Come along and join in our annual Harmony Week Street Soccer event. Whether you're new to the game or an old hand, everyone (16+) is welcome!

- A free, inclusive soccer program
- Rebel Sport vouchers for the players who display the best Harmony Week spirit.
- BBQ - Multicultural catering
- Mini game and activities for the kids
- Connect with local services.
- Have fun, make friends, get active!

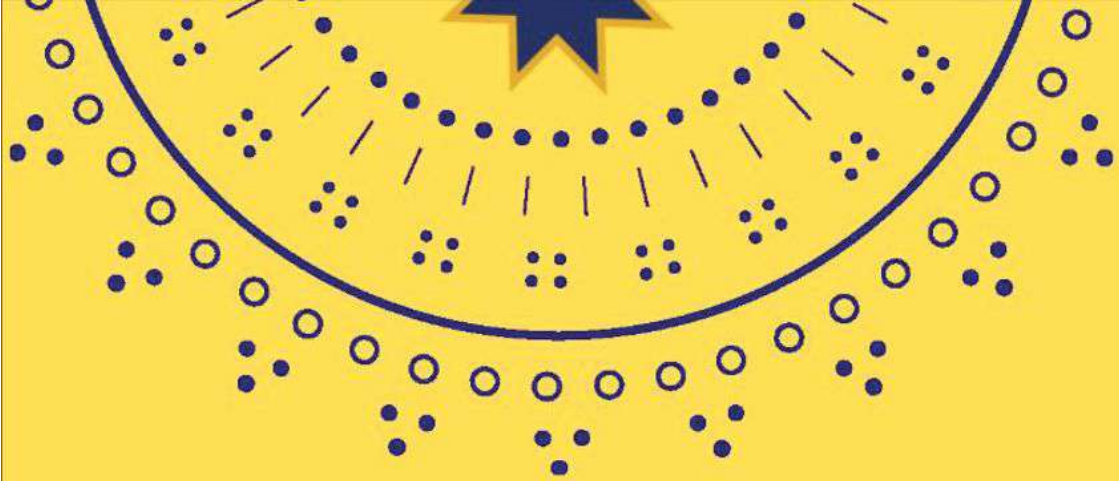
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROSS 0458 737 953

Ballarat Welcome Centre Twilight Market

Thursday 17th March, 4pm - 7pm

Barkly Square, 29-35 Barkly St, Ballarat

One of Ballarat's most popular community markets roars back to life during the 2022 Harmony Fest with an array of vendors offering quality designer-made and locally-sourced artworks, goods, services and food items. Come join all the fun of the Market and celebrate the very best of Ballarat!



BALLARAT WELCOME CENTRE

TWILIGHT MARKET

Thursday, 17 March
4pm - 7pm

Barkly Square 25 - 39 Barkly Street

Quality Designer-Made & Locally-Sourced Artwork, Goods & Food



Morning Tea with the Islamic Society of Ballarat

Saturday 19th March, 10am - 11.30am

Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

Come along to morning tea and meet members of the Islamic Society of Ballarat during Harmony Fest 2022. A Wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy informative one-on-one conversations. All welcome. Light refreshments provided.

[Register](#)



Ballarat Indian Film Festival Movie Screenings

Regent Cinemas, 49 Lydiard St N, Ballarat

The Ballarat Indian Film Festival is back for 2022, and as a special treat for Harmony Fest they have teamed up to offer two amazing films during this year's celebration of cultural diversity.

- **Bachchan Pandey**
Saturday 19th March
- **Kesari**
Saturday 26th March

Ballarat Indian Film Festival



Interfaith Walk for Peace

Sunday 20th March, 2pm - 4.30pm

Beginning at BADAC Cultural Education Centre (403 Main Rd), walking to WRISC Family Violence Support (205 Dana St) and ending at Anglican Cathedral Church of Christ the King (49 Lydiard St S).



BALLARAT HARMONY FEST 2022

BALLARAT INTERFAITH NETWORK EVENT TOGETHER WITH BRMC

INTERFAITH WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, March 20th, 2-4.30pm

Beginning at BADAC Cultural Education

Centre, 403 Main Rd

**Walking to WRISC Family Violence Support,
205 Dana St**

**Ending at Anglican Cathedral Church of
Christ the King, 49 Lydiard St Sth.**

**Insight into community services offered to
mitigate against violence - and
Interfaith focus on Indigenous, Christian &
Islamic wisdom for peace.**

COVID precautions. Refreshments offered



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council



Intercultural City Extravaganza

Friday 25th March, 7pm - 9pm

Ballarat Civic Hall, 300/304 Mair St, Ballarat

Back for the first time since 2019, the Intercultural City Extravaganza is a night to celebrate Ballarat's diverse community with musical performances, recognising achievements throughout our community, and to acknowledge the work of our Intercultural Ambassadors. This is a free, family friendly community event that everyone is welcome to join. Registration essential.

Register

**FREE
EVENT**

March 25
7pm-9pm
Ballarat Civic Hall

Intercultural City **EXTRAVAGANZA**

Live Music Performances

Registration essential at
<https://bit.ly/InterculturalCityExtravaganza2022Tickets>

- Amaru Tribe
- One Spirit Africa
- & more



HARMONY
FEST



CITY OF
BALLARAT



Cultural Diversity Week

19 - 27 March

Cultural Diversity Week invites us to reconnect, share and express ourselves creatively through this year's theme 'Connecting Through Culture'.

Multiculturalism is a core part of the Victorian identity, our character and way of life. As home to people from all corners of the world, Victoria is a place where anyone can contribute and belong.

[Learn more](#)

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK 2022

Connecting through **culture**

VICTORIAN
multicultural
commission
strengthening our community



Ballarat RAR Garage Sale

Saturday 19th March, 8am

CBD end of Skipton St, Ballarat

All proceeds go to Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees to assist refugees and people seeking asylum. For more information, contact rarballarat@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR.

Support Refugees and People Seeking Asylum in Ballarat



Saturday 19th March

CBD end of Skipton Street,
Balloons out at 8am

We are here on the Lands of the Wadawurrung People

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees
needs funding:

to meet ongoing commitments of housing, transport, education, health and general living expenses for refugees and people seeking asylum, many of whom are denied work rights and government benefits.

Thank you for your ongoing support



#RuralAustraliansForRefugees
#BackYourNeighbour
#TimeForAHome
@ballarattimes
@ballaratcourier

Contact Details:
rarballarat@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR
rar_australia on Instagram

Rally for Refugees & People Seeking Asylum

Monday 21st March, 12pm - 1pm

Intersection of Sturt St and Lydiard St, Ballarat

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees is beginning the pre-election rallies, with a call to stand up for the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum, even more so with the increase of refugees from war torn Afghanistan and Ukraine, and not forgetting the people still indefinitely detained in Australia immigration detention centres some for 9 years or more.

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) invites the public to join us to begin pre-election rallies. For more information, contact rarballarat@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR.

Rally for Refugees & People Seeking Asylum

Join Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees

21st March 12noon – 1pm

intersection of Sturt St. and Lydiard St. Ballarat

We call for:

- * The end to off-shore processing
- * An end to indefinite mandatory detention
- * Permanent residence and path for citizenship including family reunion
- * Acceptance of New Zealand's offer of 150 refugees per year
- * An increase in the humanitarian visas for those fleeing Afghanistan
- * Refugee Policies that are just, transparent and fair
- * A Charter of Human Rights, to protect the human dignity of all

*Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*



Tell the next Prime Minister you want:

- * Just Refugee Policies and
- * Charter of Human Rights for All

We are here on the lands of the Wadawurrung People



Contact Details:
rarballarat@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR
rar_australia on Instagram

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Healthy Living for Women

Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

Do you want to learn more about achieving good physical and mental health, or more about your personal safety and when to check in with your doctor? Ballarat Community Health (BCH), Women's Health Grampians and Jean Hailes for Women's Health are

working together to deliver a series of free information sessions for refugee and migrant women.

Register



Do you want to learn more about achieving good physical and mental health, or more about your personal safety and when to check in with your doctor?

Ballarat Community Health (BCH), Women's Health Grampians and Jean Hailes for Women's Health are working together to deliver a series of information sessions for refugee and migrant women. Our multilingual health educators will deliver the Healthy Living Program at Sebastopol Library over four weeks. The presentations will be delivered in a culturally safe environment and each week there will be morning tea, childminding and a one-hour presentation provided. Join us:

WEEK 1: HEALTHY LIVING

Monday 7th March, 11.15am - 1pm

By Ballarat Community Health

Stress and settling in a new country, improving your health and wellbeing, the importance of healthy relationships at home and where to seek help if you're not safe.

WEEK 2: HEALTH CHECKS

Monday 21st March, 11.15am - 1pm

By BCH & Jean Hailes for Women's Health

What are health checks, when do we need to have them, and how do you make an appointment to see a doctor?

WEEK 3: FEELING GOOD - HOW TO FEEL MORE POSITIVE IN LIFE

Monday 28th March, 11.15am - 1pm

By BCH & Jean Hailes for Women's Health

Explore different feelings, what can affect how you feel, how feelings can impact your life, and what can help when you feel bad.

WEEK 4: COVID SAFETY

Monday 4th April, 11.15am - 1pm

By Women's Health Grampians

Help with vaccine appointments, support to link certificates with apps, info about Booster doses and Rapid Antigen tests, plus info on Department of Health guidelines.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-living-for-women-rescheduled-tickets-275253830617>



Grampians Health Community Survey

Help shape the future of Grampians Health through community survey. Residents of Edenhope, Stawell, Horsham, Dimboola and Ballarat are invited to have their say on how they would like to see the newly formed

Grampians Health deliver the best care and service.



The short survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete and is open until **Sunday 20 March 2022**.

[Complete survey](#)

Cafs Services

Cafs help all members of our community with a special emphasis on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. They deliver an expansive and innovative range of support programs that includes kinship and foster care, help for young people, financial support including gambler's help, family counselling, programs for new parents, homelessness support and youth care.

To find out more or to access programs and services, contact the Cafs Client Engagement Team on 03 5337 3333 or welcome@cafs.org.au.

[Website](#)

We're here to help all members of our community with a special emphasis on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. The programs and services we offer are listed here.

ACCESS TO EARLY LEARNING
Supporting the engagement of vulnerable three-year-old children in kindergarten.

ADOLESCENT VIOLENCE IN THE HOME
Adolescent family violence services provide a case management model of support for young people within the context of their family.

ADOPTION AND PERMANENT CARE
A program that offers permanent family options for infants and children who are unable to grow up with their biological families.

BETTER FUTURES
Supporting young people who have experienced long-term out-of-home care to transition into independent living.

CHILDREN'S CONTACT SERVICE
A safe and nurturing environment for children to maintain contact with a parent who is no longer living with them.

DAD'S TOOL KIT
A parenting group program for dads who want to improve their relationship with their children and work on being the best parent they can be.

DAY STAY
Sleep, settling and education support for parents with young children.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER
A placement prevention or reunification intervention for families involved with Child Protection.

FAMILY SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL, CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT
A comprehensive range of services for vulnerable children (from pre-birth up to 17 years old) and their families to promote children's safety, stability and healthy development.

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING
Financial and paralegal support for people who find themselves in financial difficulty through unresolved debt.

FOSTER CARE
Foster Carers provide homes for children and young people aged up to 17 years when the children's own parents are struggling to manage their care and wellbeing.

GAMBLER'S HELP
Therapeutic and practical supports for people impacted by gambling and the gambling of people they care about. Gambling harm prevention sessions for students, teachers and parents.

HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT
Services for people in private, public and community housing to help them maintain or access housing, as well as navigate tenancy issues.

KINSHIP CARE
Support and case management for Kinship Care families caring for extended family members or friends when children are not able to live with their biological parents.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING
A relationship counselling service for individuals, couples and families.

CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY
Help for children with complex disability support needs. Specialist Disability Practitioner. Providing case management support to children and parents/carers who have a disability.

MEN'S BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
A program for men who use violence against their current and former partners and other family members, including children.

GROWING TOGETHER PARENTING GROUPS
Bringing parents with learning difficulties and their young children together to learn through play, education and social interaction.

PARENTING ASSESSMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
An assessment and skill development service for families (with infants) involved with Child Protection.

POST-SEPARATION COOPERATIVE PARENTING PROGRAM
An education program for parents who have separated.

YOUTH CARE
Local places of care for young people in a home-like setting.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL
A program where volunteers support children's learning to enhance the transition from kindergarten to school.

THREAD TOGETHER
Cafs Thread Together clothing hub provides brand-new clothing allowing referred customers the ability to shop (for free) for a new outfit.



To find out more or to access our programs and services contact the Cafs Client Engagement Team on 03 5337 3333 or welcome@cafs.org.au

CAFS.ORG.AU

Thread Together

Cafs has launched a new partnership with Thread Together to provide people in need with brand-new clothing and accessories. Located in central Ballarat, the service is free for

anyone who is experiencing vulnerability and needs assistance with clothing. All you need is a referral card. For more information, contact welcome@cafs.org.au or 1800 692 237.

Website



HOW CAN I GET A REFERRAL CARD?

- If you're receiving support from Cafs or another agency ask your support worker to contact us at threadtogether@cafs.org.au
- If you're not currently receiving assistance from an agency, but are experiencing vulnerability and need new clothing, please contact Cafs.

e. welcome@cafs.org.au
t. 1800 692 237

115 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat
9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

cafs.org.au/thread-together



Red Cross Utility Subsidy Program

Are bills and household costs causing you stress?

The Utility Subsidy Program provides support for people seeking asylum in Victoria to help meet essential household utility needs like water, gas and electricity.

More info

Utility Subsidy Program

Financial assistance for people seeking asylum living in Victoria

Who is this program for?

Applicants must meet all of the following:



live in Victoria



be unable to access other utility concessions



be a person seeking asylum



have zero or very limited income, savings, or community support

What support is being provided?

Limited cash payments to help partially cover overdue household utility bills, like water, gas, and electricity.

Red Cross can also provide information about other support available to people seeking asylum living in Victoria.

For more information and to apply go to
redcross.org.au/utilitysupport

If you have questions, you can call us on 03 8327 7370. You may use
an interpreter.

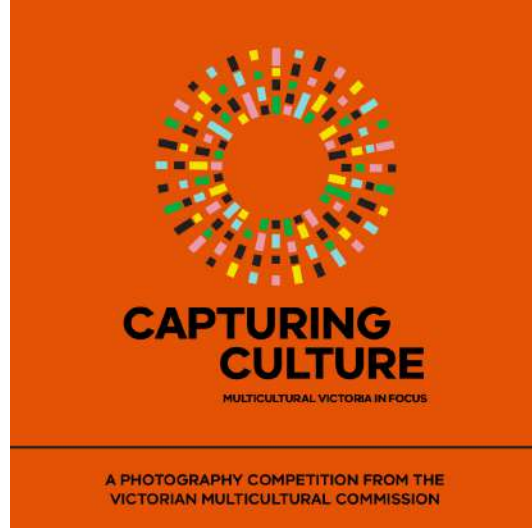
Document Signing Station at Barkly Square

The Ballarat branch of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices have established a Document Signing Station at Barkly Square near A Pot of Courage Café, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat.

A Justice of the Peace (JP) will be in attendance every Thursday from 12pm - 1.30pm. People can have documents certified as true copies, declare statutory declarations and affidavits.

Capturing Culture Photography Competition

The Victorian Multicultural Commission has partnered with Think HQ and CultureVerse to launch a new photography competition, 'Capturing Culture: Multicultural Victoria in focus.' The competition will recognise the resilience and lived experiences of multicultural communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and create a visual record of a unique time in Victoria's history.



Open to anyone aged 18 years and older living in Victoria, who is from a multicultural or multifaith background. Shortlisted entries will be showcased at an event launched in June with prizes and opportunities amounting to \$9,000 across 6 awards.

Submit your photographs by 17 April 2022.

[Find out more](#)

EVENTS IN REVIEW

BRMC Homework Club Hands-On Workshops

We had great fun creating decorations for BRMC's entry in the Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade at our weekend Homework Club All-Ages Hands-On Workshops.

We are inviting all multicultural members to join us in the parade on Monday 14 March. You are welcome to wear cultural dress or bright clothing. For more information and to register your participation, please contact teresa@brmc.org.au or 0417 109 052.







JOIN BRMC IN THE

BEGONIA PARADE 2022

Monday 14th March from 9am

ALL WELCOME!



Registrations or for
more info contact
teresa@brmc.org.au
0417 109 052



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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