

April 2022 Newsletter



Dear Readers,

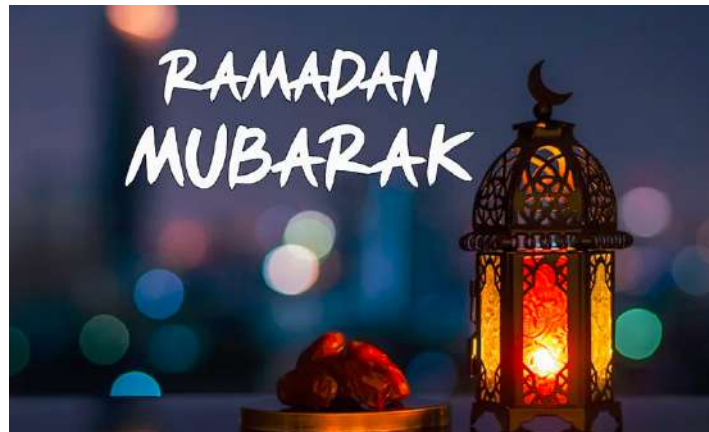
April brings more significant cultural and faith events in our calendar with communities observing Ramadan and celebrating Easter and Vaisakhi in the next few weeks. Please see also the advertised opportunities for you to participate in events and training and also nominate community members for recognition. Stay connected and safe and keep your families safe as the flu season and COVID still threaten.

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Chief Executive Officer

Ramadan Mubarak

May this Ramadan bring endless moments of joy and happiness.

Wishing our Muslim friends a blessed and peaceful Ramadan Mubarak 2022.



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](#).

Anam Shahab

Public Relations Officer, BRMC Executive Committee

Anam Shahab, the Public Relations and Communications Officer at BRMC, is from Karachi, Pakistan. She has lived in various countries including Pakistan, Kuwait,

Qatar, UAE and has chosen Australia as her home. As a Computer Engineer, she has worked at IBM for three and a half years and is now employed at the Federation University Australia.



Anam is a caring mum and wife and moved to Ballarat 4 years ago with her family. She is multilingual and has great passion to return back to the community. Anam runs a social group for women empowerment by the name of "Sisters Club" at the Islamic Society of Ballarat. She loves supporting and mentoring underprivileged sectors of the community such as migrants and neurodiverse individuals. Anam has also recently been appointed as an Intercultural Ambassador for the City of Ballarat.

Her interests include gyming and spending time with family and friends.

COVID-19 Information

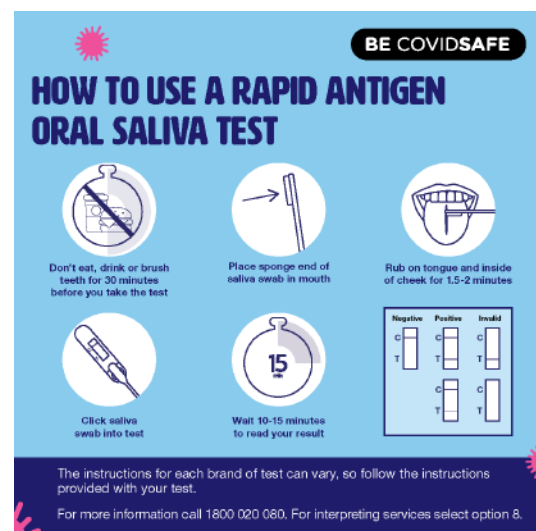
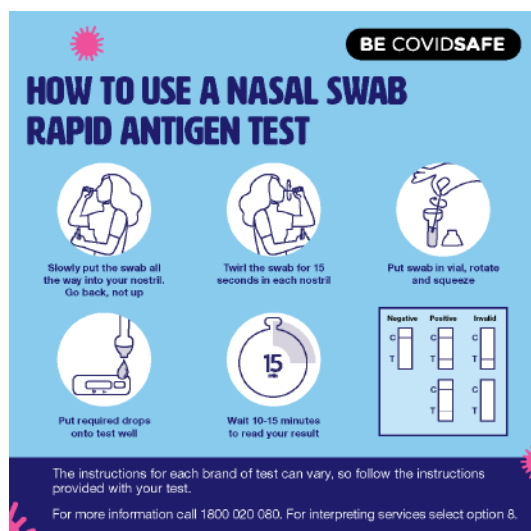
Common questions about COVID-19 vaccines

This language set contains translations, developed for multicultural communities, that provides accurate, evidence-based answers to common questions about COVID-19 vaccines. Available in 63 languages - [read fact sheet](#).

How to use a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)

These images provide information on how to use nasal swab and oral saliva rapid antigen tests. Available in 63 languages:

- [Nasal swab test](#)
- [Oral saliva test](#)



What to do if you test positive to COVID-19

This video animation includes information about symptoms, testing, how to care for yourself if you are COVID-19 positive, and who to call if you need help. Available in 32 languages - [watch video](#).

Information can also be found on the [Victorian Government COVID-19 website](#).

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.

- Volunteer Drivers Needed
- Become a Stepping Stones Mentor

Upcoming Events

- Gariwerd Adventure Day Out
- FAABI Easter BBQ Picnic
- Vaisakhi 2022
- BAA Africa Day Dinner 2022

Items of Interest

- 2022 Victorian Refugee Awards
- How to Report Racism: Audio in 24 Languages
- AMF Carla Zampatti Scholarship
- PACE Leadership Program
- Document Signing Station at Barkly Square
- Ballarat Intercultural Ambassadors 2022-2025

Events in Review

- Interfaith Walk for Peace
- Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner
- Barkly Square Community Kitchen Launch
- Street Soccer & BBQ
- Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade

UPDATES FROM BRMC

BRMC Anti-Racism Intercultural Music Workshop

We welcome everyone aged 12-25.

When words fail, music speaks! Our upcoming Anti-Racism Intercultural Music Workshop will show how both words and music can deliver our message in harmony.

With special guests; Valanga Khoza, storyteller and musician, shaping tales of his life into captivating presentations and Stella Savy, renowned percussionist and vocalist, a professional musician for over 25 years. Together they will teach African drumming, some singing, and touch the hearts of our participants with their lived story of racism.

For further information, contact Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 / hy.lim@brmc.org.au or Abrar on 0491 066 246 / a.dham@brmc.org.au

Register

**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**

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.

BOOKINGS VIA EVENTBRITE:
<https://interculturalworkshop.eventbrite.com.au>
For further information, please contact
Anti-Racism Project Coordinator,
Heeyoung on 0491 066 247 or hy.ilm@brmc.org.au

This program is supported
by Victorian Government

Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council

COCA
FOUNDED



Diversity Youth Group

Diversity Youth Group (DYG) offers young people in the age group 13-17 years a safe space to learn, grow, discover their strengths and practise dialogue skills with their peers locally and around the world.

After a successful school term of running the program, the team are working towards organising a global dialogue opportunity for member students at the start of Term 2.

To nominate a student for free participation contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



DIVERSITY YOUTH GROUP

For 13-17 year old students



You will learn:

Communication skills
Employability skills
Public speaking
Creative and Critical thinking
Intercultural understanding
Ethical understanding
Personal and social capability
and
Connect with young people globally

Face-to-face and online sessions during school term

To register contact:
Sarabjit Kaur, Program Coordinator
Email: s.kaur@brmc.org.au
Mobile: 0424 711 353



Diversity Homework Club

Although the students and volunteers were still coping with the effects of the COVID Pandemic in Term 1, the Reading room saw twenty-two students through the term. It is extremely pleasing to report that all twenty-two students have won a reading award, ranging from Gold to Appreciation. Some of the most enthusiastic readers are our youngest students, who are always keen to demonstrate their new reading skills. We think that this has been a strong start to the year and very much look forward to discussing books with the students in the next school term.

Anne Slattery and Vanessa Seymour, Reading Room Tutors

Many congratulations to the winners of Reading Awards:

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	APPRECIATION

Afif Mia	Sarah Hussain	Maker Maker	Abhaas Chhabra
Ankita Hari		Nivetha Neelavannan	Friday Biel
Kathajini Neelavannan		Sara Mathews	George Tor
Martha Tuany		Nyayul Tor	Godgive Akpandja
Pritha Chhabra			Lam Tor
Thiech Biel			Lul Maker
Ujjwal Gambhir			Mia Afif
			Nyadoar Maker
			Nyakuey Diew
			Nyamar Maker

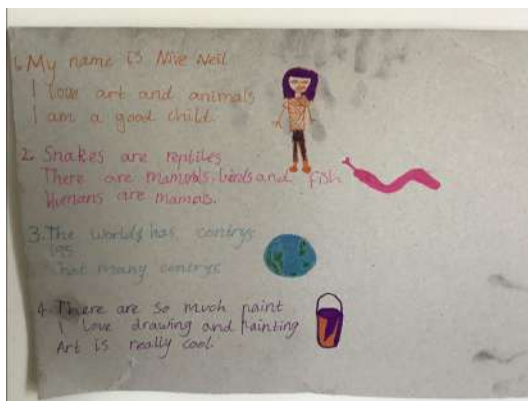
Students' Creative Corner

Left for camp at nine
A forty five minute drive
Was in Merrimu
Camp Sunny Stones is the name
Went for a two hour bush walk
Ujjwal

The world has countries
One hundred and ninety-five
These many countries!
Nivetha

Athletics day was fun
I was so good at hurdles
It was very fun
I came first in the hurdles
I cried when I did 800
Lam

S-T-E-M STEM
STEM is a great way to learn
Stem is amazing
Nivetha



Nutrition-learning Kits were delivered for member students on 10 March. These included board games, fun-learning activities and reading materials.



To nominate a student for free participation contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

The program is all about empowering individuals find better employment and social opportunities.

Returning to face-to-face delivery of the program has brought smiles to many. Our tutors Kathleen and Jan were all smiles at our planning meeting at the Sebastopol Library.

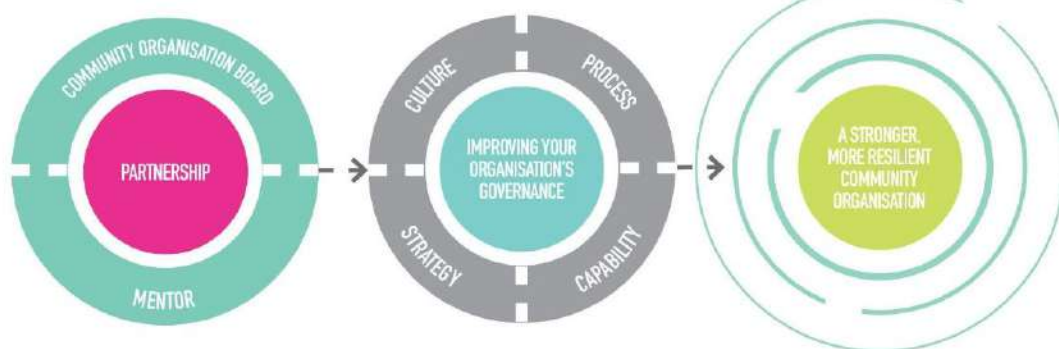


To register and volunteer contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Good Governance Program

Good Governance mentors help committees with templates to create and revise their board manuals and take them through the process of getting incorporated status, if required. Community groups get a lot out of bi-monthly governance webinars. The program is offered in Ballarat, Albury Wodonga and Mildura. Some community groups in Horsham are also lined up to benefit from the program in the near future.

To get more information contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



Social Support

BRMC Social Support delivered small group lunches to our clients throughout the month of March. It was wonderful to see all our dear seniors reunite and be face-to-face again.



We look forward to the return of all programs from April.

April Programs

- **Tai Chi:** Tuesdays, 1pm - 2pm, \$5
Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St, Brown Hill
- **Multicultural Tucker:** Thursday 14 April, 12pm - 3pm, \$10
Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton
- **Carers Hub:** Thursday 21 April, 10am - 3pm, \$10
Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St, Brown Hill
- **Health and Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch:** Wednesday 27 April, 11am - 2pm, \$10
Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton

Bookings are essential - please call 03 5331 1123.

Hazara Social Support Program

First Tuesday of each month

Barkly Square Courtyard, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

We shared a lovely evening celebrating the Afghanistan New Year on 21 March. Delicious, traditional food brought the Hazara community and friends of BRMC together to enjoy a magical night of community, kindness and generosity.

For more information contact Teresa on 0417 109 052.



Volunteer Drivers Needed

Become a BRMC Volunteer Driver and help a senior access much needed social support.
For more information, contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.



BRMC IS LOOKING FOR

SOCIAL SUPPORT

VOLUNTEER

DRIVERS

Help provide social support to clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through much needed programs.

Become a Volunteer!

Contact Teresa on
0417 109 052
or teresa@brmc.org.au



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.

**HELP A SENIOR ATTEND
SOCIAL SUPPORT
PROGRAMS**

Volunteer Drivers are needed to provide transport to and from our programs using a BRMC vehicle.

A current Victorian drivers license is essential.

Become a Stepping Stones Mentor

Can you give a couple of hours a fortnight to help build a woman's future by supporting her in developing her own small business?

Contact Deborah on 0457 934 728 or d.klein@brmc.org.au.



**Do You Want
To Make A
Difference
In Women's Lives?**

**Are You
A Champion
For Women's Enterprise?**

**Then volunteering as a Mentor
for Stepping Stones To Small Business graduates
may be what you are looking for!**

Whether you have specialised skills, business experience,
or a good understanding of how things work in our world,
by giving a couple of hours a fortnight
you can help build a woman's future by supporting her
in developing her own small business.

Interested in knowing more?
Contact Deborah 0457 934 728 or d.klein@brmc.org.au

Stepping Stones To Small Business is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, providing empowerment and small business training for over a decade for women of migrant and humanitarian backgrounds, and women 50+ of any background. Stepping Stones is supported by the Victorian Office of Women, and delivered across regional Victoria in partnership with the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council.



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council



Brotherhood
of St Laurence

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gariwerd Adventure Day Out

Wednesday 13th April, 10am - 4pm

Roses Gap Recreation Centre, Grampians National Park

For ages 12 - 25. A fun day out in Roses Gap (the Grampians) including outdoor recreation activities for team building and confidence. Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and snacks will be provided. Presented by Centre for Multicultural Youth.



PRESENTS:

Gariwerd Adventure Day Out Weds 13th April

A full day in the Grampians
at Roses Gap Recreation Centre
For more information and registration:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gariwerd-aventure-day-out-tickets-292218372017>

**Contacts- Shiree: 0438871503
Brianna: 0448 623 006
for ages 12-25
Registration closes Feb 28th
Limited spots available**

SPONSORED BY



GANDEL
PHILANTHROPY

FAABI Easter BBQ Picnic

Sunday 17th April, 11am

Eureka Stockade Gardens, 121 Stawell St S, Ballarat East

Celebrate Easter Sunday with the Filipino Australian Association of Ballarat (FAABI). Fun activities for all ages, an Easter egg hunt for the kids and children-at-heart, and a BBQ picnic. Feel free to bring your favourite food to share and your picnic chairs/mats. Everyone is welcome.



COME AND CELEBRATE
WITH US!

BARBECUE PICNIC AT
EUREKA STOCKADE GARDENS
121 STAWELL ST S, BALLARAT
EAST VIC 3350

HAPPY
Easter

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR
KIDS, FUN GAMES AND
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Vaisakhi 2022

Sunday 17th April, 2pm - 7pm

Invermay Hall, 6-8 Muscatel St, Invermay

Celebrate the Birth of Khalsa (Vaisakhi) with 5 hours of Divine Path Shri Sukhmani Sahib, Gurbani Kirtan, Katha and Poetry. Turbans 4 Australia will provide knowledge on the importance and significance of Turban in Sikhism. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gurudwara Ballarat
Dhan Shri Guru Nanak Incorporation
Invites you all to celebrate

VAISAKHI 2022

THE BIRTH OF KHALSA



**ਪੀਵਹੁ ਪਾਹੁਲ ਖੰਡੇਧਾਰ ਹੋਇ ਜਨਮ ਸੁਹੇਲਾ ॥
ਵਹੁ ਵਹੁ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਆਪੇ ਗੁਰ ਚੇਲਾ ॥**

Sunday, 17th April 2022
Invermay Hall 2pm - 7pm
**5 hours of Divine Path Shri Sukhmani Sahib,
Gurbani Kirtan, Katha & Poetry**

Support Partners:







Turbans 4 Australia participating in this program to educate and provide knowledge on the importance and significance of Turban in Sikhism. Interested attendees will be welcomed to tie Turban on their heads.

GURU KA LANGAR WILL BE SERVED THROUGH OUT THE PROGRAM

FOR DONATIONS PLEASE VISIT: <https://www.gurudwaraballarat.com.au/>

Address: 6-8 Muscatel Street, Invermay | Contact: 0430 006 956 0430 749 666



BAA Africa Day Dinner 2022

Saturday 28th May, 5pm

Buninyong Town Hall, 309A Learmonth St, Buninyong

The Ballarat African Association will be hosting BAA Africa Day Dinner 2022 on Saturday 28 May. Celebrating Africans in Ballarat, this dinner experience includes a 3-course meal (African dishes), live music, photobooth and raffle.

[Buy tickets](#)

THE BALLARAT AFRICAN ASSOCIATION

invites you to her

Africa Day 2022 Celebration

AN AFRICAN DINNER EXPERIENCE

Buninyong Town Hall

309A Learmonth St, Buninyong

Sat 28 May 2022
5:00 p.m.

Tickets at:



*Showcasing African history
Passion for cohesion and inclusion*

ITEMS OF INTEREST

2022 Victorian Refugee Awards

The awards recognise and promote the achievements and contributions of Victorians who arrived as refugees and asylum seekers. If you know a person, business or organisation that deserves recognition, please nominate them for a Refugee Award.

Nominations close on 12 April 2022.

[Nominate now](#)



How to Report Racism: Audio in 24 Languages

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission have partnered with the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council to produce 24 in-language 'How to Report Racism' audio clips.

The clips will assist community members in accessing information and support to combat racism and provide information on how to get help.



[Clips and resources](#)

AMF Carla Zampatti Scholarship

The Australian Multicultural Foundation Carla Zampatti Scholarship for Young Women (the Scholarship) is a national initiative developed by the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF) to celebrate the legacy of renowned Australian fashion designer and champion for multiculturalism, Carla Zampatti.

Do you know a young woman from a new and emerging community with a personal or business project in education, technology, arts, business or other, who might be interested in entering the Scholarship? The recipient will receive \$10,000 from AMF to kickstart their project.



[Learn more](#)

PACE Leadership Program

FREE interactive Zoom workshop

Calling all migrant and refugee women in Victoria! Multicultural Centre for Women's Health is running the PACE (Participate, Advocate, Communicate, Engage) Leadership Program to help you build knowledge and experience for leadership roles in your lives, work and community.

2 sessions in April:

- Thursday 14th April, 11am - 12.30pm
- Thursday 28th April, 11am - 12.30pm

[Register](#)



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.

Ballarat Intercultural Ambassadors 2022-2025

City of Ballarat's new Intercultural Ambassadors were welcomed at the Intercultural City Extravaganza on 25 March.

- Lokan Ravi - India (Kerala)
- Lucien Ibrahim - Lebanon
- Maridel Martinez Andanar - Philippines
- Lilly Wright - Malaysia
- Victor Barrantes - Colombia
- Yaqoob Kazan - Afghanistan
- Yilin Liu - China
- Anam Shahab - Pakistan
- Antonella Cupello - Italy
- Hien Blackmore - Vietnam



EVENTS IN REVIEW

Interfaith Walk for Peace

The Ballarat Interfaith Network held their 'Interfaith Walk for Peace' on Sunday 20 March, focusing on peace through Indigenous, Christian, and Islamic wisdom. The walk started from BADAC (Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-Operative) in Main Rd, then to WRISC Family Violence Support in Dana St, finishing at the Anglican Cathedral Church of Christ the King in Lydiard St South.



Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner

BRMC representatives enjoyed a celebration of multiculturalism and diversity at the Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner on Saturday 19 March.



Barkly Square Community Kitchen Launch

On Thursday 17 March we officially launched the opening of the community kitchen at Barkly Square. BRMC looks forward to welcoming many people into the space and providing opportunities for our multicultural community.



Photo: Luke Hemer

Street Soccer & BBQ

Thank you to all who joined our Harmony Fest Street Soccer & BBQ on 15 March. It was a vibrant event full of fun, friends and activity. Thanks also to BRASSN for providing a delicious BBQ.



Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade

Thank you to all who joined BRMC in the Begonia Parade on Monday 14 March. We enjoyed a lovely morning of sunshine, laughter and colour!



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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