

## *May 2022 Newsletter*



Dear Readers,

Greetings to all in these last few weeks of autumn as the days grow colder and shorter. Many of our communities continue to celebrate New Year and have shared traditions and feasts that we feature below. Thank you to the Malayalee and Sri Lankan communities for beautiful and generous recent celebrations. At the same time, we wish our Muslim communities Eid Mubarak at the conclusion of Ramadan early this month. In the next few weeks BRMC will be inviting community leaders to gather again for a few hours on Saturday morning coinciding with the election on 21 May. We will provide feedback on our global community conversation. Trained local facilitators will also conduct an Anti-Racism Bystander training workshop and we will share a delicious meal together again. The Afghan, African and Indian communities also plan major cultural and social events later this month. I hope to see you there. For now, our team offers you news and reviews below and wish you warm and well.

Warm Regards,  
Ann  
BRMC Chief Executive Officer

### **COVID-19 Information**

**New statewide COVID-19 settings are in place from 22 April 2022.**

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live)

- If you test positive for COVID-19, you are still required to isolate for seven days from the day you took your test.
- Household contacts are exempt from quarantine, provided they wear a mask indoors if aged 8 and above, avoid hospitals and care facilities, and receive a negative rapid test on five of the seven days after their exposure.

COVID-19 is in our community and when we leave our homes or invite others to visit we increase our risk of contracting the virus. As we learn to live with COVID-19, we can take steps to protect ourselves and each other by ensuring we have up-to-date vaccinations, wear masks, social distance and adopt good hand-hygiene practices. Together, we will get through this.

**COVID-19 BRMC Help:** 0491 066 247 and [help@brmc.org.au](mailto:help@brmc.org.au)

# Voting Information in Your Language

**The 2022 Federal Election is taking place on Saturday 21 May.**

The AEC has translated information in 33 languages to help people from non-English speaking backgrounds understand enrolling and voting in Australia.

If you require assistance in a language not listed, please call 1300 720 153.



**Translated information**

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Updates from BRMC

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- Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle

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- Africa Day Forum: 'My heritage, my journey'
- BAA Africa Day Dinner 2022
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- Shade Grants Program
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- Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations 2022
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- BMA Vishu and Easter Celebration
- Ballarat Community Leaders meet with DH

## UPDATES FROM BRMC

## Migration and Settlement Services

### Launch of Welcome Morning Tea Program

**Wednesday 25th May 2022, 10am - 11.30am**

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

This new program will help the settlement of new arrivals to Ballarat. We invite multicultural people who have recently settled in Ballarat and other community members who would like

to welcome and say 'Hello' to new arrivals. We hope you can join us and give them warm welcome. This will be a monthly event held on the last Wednesday of every month. Kids activity space provided.

RSVP to Heeyoung by 20 May: [hy.lim@brmc.org.au](mailto:hy.lim@brmc.org.au) / 0491 066 247

BRMC would like to invite you  
to the launch of our

# WELCOME MORNING TEA PROGRAM

Guest performer:  
**Los Locos**



**This new program will help the settlement of new arrivals to Ballarat.**

We invite everyone who would like to welcome and say 'Hello' to multicultural people who have recently arrived in Ballarat.



Kids activity space provided.

RSVP to Heeyoung by **Friday 20 May**:  
[hy.lim@brmc.org.au](mailto:hy.lim@brmc.org.au) or 0491 066 247

Please join us and give them a warm welcome.

**Wednesday  
25 May 2022  
10AM - 11.30AM**

Ballarat Welcome Centre,  
25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat



## Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle Program

**Starting Wednesday 1st June, 10am - 12pm**

**(1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of every month)**

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

BRMC invites you to the 'Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle'.

Every week, multicultural women can meet, talk, laugh, and share stories and skills with



each other. In addition, we will arrange meaningful information sessions related to women's mental, physical, economic, and cultural well-being. We will also celebrate our traditions, cultures, values, and traditional foods. We welcome everyone.

For further information, please contact Heeyoung: [hy.lim@brmc.org.au](mailto:hy.lim@brmc.org.au) / 0491 066 247

BRMC INVITES YOU TO JOIN

# Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle



Connecting multicultural women - learning from each other

You can connect with other women, make new friends,  
chat and have a cup of tea and relax.

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Starting from

**Wednesday, 1 June 2022 | 10am - 12pm**  
(1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of every month)

**Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat**

- Art / Crafting
- Healthy living
- Sewing
- Choir
- Relationship skills
- Walking together
- Mental wellbeing
- Employment
- and other activities

**\*\*All activities will be decided with you and childminding provided!**


For further information, contact Heeyoung: [hy.lim@brmc.org.au](mailto:hy.lim@brmc.org.au) or 0491 066 247

**BRMC**  Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc.

## Stepping Stones to Small Business

The first 2022 Regional Stepping Stones Graduation was celebrated in late April, with 9 women from across Victoria completing the online Stepping Stones to Small Business training and presenting their business ideas to the group. Special guests at this celebration included the Hon. Michaela Settle, MLA, Stepping Stones Program Manager Marta Kreiser, and guest presenter Hien Blackmore.

The Stepping Stone to Small Business program is seeking Volunteer Mentors interested in supporting women's enterprise by advising and guiding women in establishing their own small business. If you are able to commit to a few hours once a fortnight, then this may be the volunteer opportunity you are looking for! Contact Deborah Klein on 0457 934 728 or [d.klein@brmc.org.au](mailto:d.klein@brmc.org.au) for more information.



**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](mailto: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.



## **Diversity Homework Club Creative Workshops & Field Trip**

In the lead-up to the Ballarat Begonia Festival and through the Term 1 school holidays, the Diversity Homework Club Creative Workshop program has been busy engaging students from the BRMC Diversity Homework Club in a range of hands-on activities.



- **Over two weekends**, students and family members came together to craft the large-scale paper mosaic 'Many Hands' artworks to decorate the BRMC entry in the Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade.
- **In the first week of Term 1 school break**, Homework Club students joined in a Pajaki Workshop, creating traditional hangings inspired by the many beliefs around the world about spiders and spiderwebs.
- **The second week of the Term 1 school break** saw Homework Club students on a field trip to Avoca, where they visited the Fire and Water Chinese Garden; tried their hands at carding, spinning, and weaving wool at the Dawn Lim Studio and Gallery; and visited the Avoca Silo Art and Railway Gallery.



## Social Support

BRMC Social Support were excited to deliver our first Health and Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch for 2022. Our clients enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch and joined in some fun games with prizes. Thank you to Ann Pitt and Sue Kennedy from City of Ballarat for presenting on the CoB Ageing Well in Ballarat Strategy and providing our clients the opportunity to have their say.

If you would like to know more about our programs, contact Teresa on 0417 109 052.



## May Programs

- **Tai Chi:** Tuesdays, 1pm - 2pm, \$5  
Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St, Brown Hill
- **Tucker Little Lunches:** Delivered weekly to small groups, 12pm - 3pm, \$10  
Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton
- **Carer Support Hub:** Thursday 19 May, 10am - 3pm, \$10  
Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St, Brown Hill
- **Bus Trip:** Thursday 26 May, 9am - 4.30pm, \$50  
Bendigo Art Gallery, Elvis Expo and two-course lunch.  
Leaving from Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria St, Ballarat East

Bookings are essential - please call 03 5331 1123.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Slava Ukraini Artist Talk

**Wednesday 11th May, 6pm**

Mitchell Harris Wines (Upstairs), 38 Doveton St N, Ballarat

Meet artist Samuel Eder, an award-winning documentary photographer and writer to hear about his experience in Ukraine as he worked as a photojournalist in the war zone.

Presented by the Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

[Buy ticket](#)



## Ballarat Speakers Club

Thursday 12th May, 12pm

City Oval Hotel, 1321 Mair St, Ballarat

May's speaker invites you on a journey to Ukraine and offers us insights into life on the ground right now for its people and the agricultural sector. Ballarat farmer Lawrence Richmond will speak to us by Zoom from Romania about what has happened to the farms in Ukraine and his experiences in helping his staff and their families get to safety.

[Register](#)



## CALDWays 2022: Multicultural Aged Care Conference

Thursday 19th May, 9.30am - 5pm

Online

CALDWays is an annual conference focused on developing expertise in multicultural aged care. This event is perfect for aged care providers and their staff to gain new knowledge and expertise in the provision of services for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) senior communities.

[Register](#)





## **Abbas Nazari Book Launch**

**Friday 20th May, 5pm**

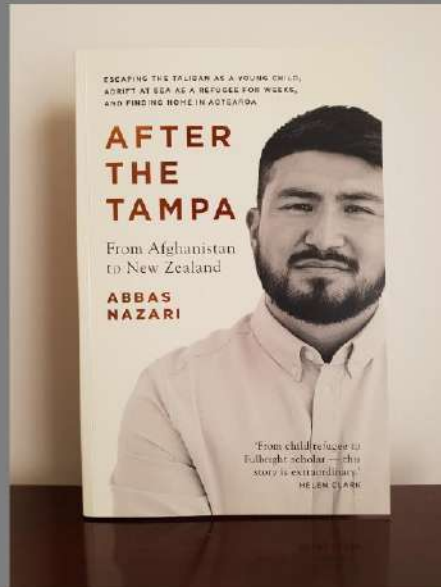
Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

The heart-rending story of a child 'Tampa' refugee who grew up to become a Fulbright scholar, highlighting the plight and potential of refugees everywhere. The book launch will be followed by a traditional Afghan supper.

**RSVP: 03 5383 0613**

# BOOK LAUNCH

20 MAY 2022



## ABBAS NAZARI

An extraordinary maritime drama off Australia's west coast - over 400 refugees saved from the sea, told by one who experienced the ordeal as a child refugee

**Date :** Friday 20 MAY 2022      Admission Free

**NB:** for catering purposes **RSVP** Ballarat Welcome Centre, phone 5383 0613

**Venue :** The Ballarat Welcome Centre 25-35 Barkly Street BALLARAT

**Time :** 5.00-5.30 pm light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages will be available.

**7.00 pm:** at conclusion, we invite you to join us for a traditional Afghan supper.

This is a Covid safe event. Evidence of vaccination required. Masks recommended.



## Africa Day Forum: 'My heritage, my journey'

Wednesday 25th May, 12pm - 1.30pm

Online via Zoom

To mark Africa Day, the IPAA Victoria African-Australian Community of Practice will host its annual public forum. It is an opportunity to bring together in unity the diverse African cultures represented here in Australia to celebrate the economic, spiritual, moral, social and cultural contributions and successes of Australians of all age groups from African descent.

[More info](#)



## **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](#)





## **Festa della Repubblica Italiana (Italian Republic Day) 2022**

**Saturday 4th June, 5.30pm - 10.30pm**

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

Viva Italia, Viva Australia! A dinner dance proudly presented by the Ballarat Italian Association, celebrating the freedom of Italy and culture, highlighting traditional Italian cuisine and live music by a Melbourne-based band, Bella Ciao, performing a repertoire from the Italian Peninsula of the 40's, 50's and 60's.

**RSVP by Friday 27 May 2022.**

[Buy tickets](#)



presents

# FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



DOOR  
PRIZES

GIVEAWAYS

Join us on  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**  
**5:30PM - 10:30PM**

*St Patrick's Cathedral Hall*  
3 LYONS ST SOUTH, BALLARAT CENTRAL

## *Entertainment*

### **BELLA CIAO**

ENJOY A NIGHT OF  
DANCING TO CLASSIC  
ITALIAN MUSIC

## *Buon appetito!*

### **4 COURSE MEAL**

WITH DRINKS AT  
BAR PRICES

## *Cost*

### **BIA MEMBERS**

ADULTS \$45 CHILD \$20  
AGES 3-12

### **NON-MEMBERS**

ADULTS \$75 CHILD \$25  
AGES 3-12

## *Bookings*

**[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BYWFX](https://www.trybooking.com/BYWFX)**

RSVP BY FRIDAY, MAY 27

**CONTACT: INFO@BALLARATITALIANASSOCIATION.ORG PH: 0492 938 828**

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Call for Office for Multicultural Australia

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the serious health, economic and social failures of a fragmented and weakened approach to the systems and frameworks necessary to upholding multiculturalism. This is why in 2022, FECCA is calling for an Office for Multicultural Australia.

The Office for Multicultural Australia would lead Australia's multiculturalism by working



across government to provide a cohesive, effective, and efficient approach to multicultural policy.

**FECCA Policy Platform 2022**



## **Shade Grants Program**

### **Applications now open**

The Shade Grants Program aims to reduce Victorians' exposure to UV radiation by increasing shade in public places across the state. Eligible community organisations can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for shade development and can include up to \$700 for sun protection items. Applicants may also request up to \$700 for sun protection items only.

**Community Shade Grant applications close 10 June 2022.**

[Find out more](#)

## **Enhancing Digital Participation Amongst Refugee and Migrant Background Youth**

As part of the VicHealth-funded project, 'Enhancing Digital Participation Amongst Refugee and Migrant Background Youth', focus groups will be conducted to better understand intergenerational barriers and capacities in relation to digital technology use among refugee and migrant background youth aged 15 to 24.

[Learn more](#)



# What makes you feel good, happy, or peaceful?

Are you:

- aged **15—25**?
- living in Ballarat or Nhill?
- interested in **photography**?

Is English an additional language for you or your parent/s?

This project could be for you!



- Connect with peers
- Raise your voice as part of a group
- Raise community awareness

About the **things that matter to your mental wellbeing**



**For more information, contact**

**Meg Lee**

University of Melbourne PhD  
candidate

[meghanl@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:meghanl@student.unimelb.edu.au)

0493 125 189

## 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. Anyone is welcome to use the service, and Statutory Declaration forms can be collected from the BGT Reception area if needed.

## Art Gallery of Ballarat Volunteer Gallery Guides

Would you like to become part of a team committed to welcoming visitors to one of Ballarat's leading attractions? By joining our team of Volunteer Guides, you will be helping the achieve the Gallery's vision of being Australia's most exciting and engaging regional gallery. We are looking for enthusiastic people who love art, enjoy interacting with the public and are excited about promoting the Gallery and its Collection. The program requires a time commitment to training and regular provision of tours.

If you would like to discuss your application, please contact Gallery Marketing and Public Programs Officer Peter Freund on 0407 501 818 or [peterfreund@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:peterfreund@ballarat.vic.gov.au).

**Applications close Sunday 5 June 2022.**

[Learn more and apply](#)



## **BGCLS Board Vacancy**

**Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service (BGCLS) is seeking applications to join the Board.** Areas of expertise being sought are: Governance, Human Resources, Legal Services, Strategy, Succession Planning, Business Development & Funding, Public Relations, Policy, Risk Management, Accounting & Financial Management, Social Services & Community Development.

BGCLS is committed to ensuring the diversity of the Board represents the diversity of our communities. People of all genders, all ages, LGBTQIA+, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

[Find out more and apply](#)

## **EVENTS IN REVIEW**

### **Anti-Racism Action**

BRMC is committed to working against racism. We are conducting Anti-racism Bystander training and other community awareness raising. Watch out for opportunities to join in.

We held our first Anti-Racism Intercultural Music Workshop on Saturday 23 April. Young people and their parents attended the event together. Valanga and Stella shared

their music and Valanga's stories with participants.

These FREE sessions are now open to ALL AGES - everyone is invited to join!

### **Workshops:**

- Saturday 14 May
- Saturday 21 May

5.30pm - 7pm at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St

[Book now](#)



## **Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations 2022**

The Sri Lankan Australian Association of Ballarat (SLAAB) has been holding New Year celebrations annually from 2017. After being unable to celebrate this occasion for the past 2 years due to pandemic restrictions, they were very excited to host the event on Saturday 7 May. More than 100 SLAAB members, families and other multicultural community members attended the vibrant celebrations.

BRMC extends our friendship and support to community members worried about the current troubles in Sri Lanka.



## **African/South Sudanese Women in Business Fundraiser**

The African/South Sudanese Women in Business Fundraiser was held on Saturday 30 April. The event showcased creative work from Mat Tetni, A Tuk and Martha Chol Creative.



Congratulations to the business women and thanks to all who attended.



## BMA Vishu and Easter Celebration

The Ballarat Malayalee Association (BMA) celebrated Vishu 2022 and Easter on Saturday 23 April. Vishu marks the first day of the Malayalam calendar and is celebrated in the state of Kerala. Community members enjoyed cultural dances, music, food and a lighting the lamp ceremony. More celebrations followed the next week hosted by Ballarat Keralites' Foundation of Australia (BKFA). Happy New Year!



## Ballarat Community Leaders meet with Department of Health

On Saturday 2 April Ballarat community leaders met with staff from the Department of Health to learn important information about COVID-19 vaccines and have morning tea with the team.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@brmc.org.au)

Website: [www.brmc.org.au](http://www.brmc.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat](https://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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