

# *September 2022 Newsletter*



## **Welcome**

Dear Members and Readers,

We are happy to see the signs of Spring and to be sharing more time together at the Welcome Centre and around town. Even this weekend there are celebrations, our vaccination hub and forums to attend. See below!

City of Ballarat's Inclusion Plans are out for public comment and we will be providing a submission next week to encourage our City to continue and strengthen commitments and measurable improvements to our intercultural city, welcome to new migrants and expand opportunities. We will share the submission on our website soon.

Thank you to members who have joined our member meetings. Our first two member global cafe conversation reports will be published soon and more will follow. Our Pandemic Response and Emergency Preparation work also continues and will be led by our PREP network of 15 community leaders who will be featured in our next edition.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you're looking for more information about any of the features below. It's a dynamic time in our region for jobs, support, volunteering or cultural celebration. We want you to be part of that.

Ann Foley  
CEO

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## **A word from the Chair**

**Hello again from the BRMC Executive Committee**

Like many of you I am busy with volunteer and community activities. I have also been privileged to represent BRMC at beautiful events, including Nepali Teej, Ganesh Chaturthi, Malayalee Onam and our BRMC Welcome Morning Teas. I am pleased to say my work in the Victorian Anti-Racism Taskforce will also continue to June 2023.

I personally thank members who came together with city and business leaders on 3 September at Ballarat Welcome Centre to provide expert multicultural perspectives and advice on our city's migration and employment strategies. We will share the presentations

and a report with you all soon.

BRMC will soon be inviting members to our Annual General Meeting to be held on 30 November. Over the next few weeks and months our committee are happy to hear from members who are interested in taking on a governance role. We can share our Governance Welcome Kit and to talk to you. Formal nominations will be called for in October.

Keep well and active everybody and I hope to see you soon.

Joy Sawiche  
Chair

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## COVID-19 & Health Information

**Prevention is the best protection when it comes to COVID-19.**

Here are 6 steps you can take to help you stay well:

- Stay up to date with your vaccination
- Wear a face mask indoors and where you can't physically distance outdoors
- Let fresh air in
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Get early treatment medicines if you are at risk

For more on what you can do to reduce the risk and stop the spread of COVID-19, visit:

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/health-advice](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/health-advice)

**Are you ready for your 3rd or 4th COVID-19 vaccination dose?**

Book in for our next Multicultural Community Pop-Up Vaccination Hub on **Saturday 10th September**: <https://BRMCvaccination.eventbrite.com.au>

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

**MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY POP-UP VACCINATION HUB**

Saturday September 10th  
10am-2pm  
Ballarat Welcome Centre  
25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat  
For more information call BRMC on 03 5383 0613

Free Flu & COVID-19 vaccinations available

Free Food & activities provided

The animal farm is coming back

The animals are also due for their booster!

To Book: <https://BRMCvaccination.eventbrite.com.au>

Ballarat Community Health WIG women's health Grampians Health BRMC

## Updates from BRMC

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

### Upcoming Events

- Ulsava Ravu 2022
- Ballarat Indian Film Festival: Brahmāstra
- Forum: Compassionate Approaches to Resettling Refugees
- Mooncake Festival 2022
- Work Rights Workshop
- A Starry Night in Ballarat
- YOUTH FEST Creative Showcase
- Circle of Solidarity

## Items of Interest

- Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program
- Victorian Health Promotion Awards
- Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee
- Entries Open for 2023 Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade
- Document Signing Station at Barkly Square

## Events in Review

- Multicultural Community Dialogue
- Friends of India Network Fundraising for Mental Health
- Remembering the Tampa Rally

## UPDATES FROM BRMC

### THRIVE Garden Project

While our garden beds at the Welcome Centre are being prepared for spring, we have been hard at work on a new project. Building on our existing partnership, BRMC now has a garden plot at Ballarat Community Garden. The bed has been cleared, prepared and planted with silverbeet, parsley, coriander and spinach, quick growing, cold hardy crops. With fresh food prices skyrocketing for households across the regions, we wanted to be able to grow healthy green leafy vegetables to include in our household support programs.



We also have several boxes of tomato seedlings propagated and potted up for our annual distribution when the weather warms up. We've focused on Tigerella and Jaune Flamme for salad eating and Amish Paste and Roma for cooking.



Email Rebecca at [thrive@brmc.org.au](mailto:thrive@brmc.org.au) if you are interested in getting involved in gardening at BRMC. If you are a recent migrant or refugee, we are particularly interested in hearing from you. We have resources to share to help you get growing in Ballarat's climate quickly and cheaply.

## Strategy and Settlement

### Welcome Morning Tea Program

**Every last Wednesday, 10.30am - 12pm**

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

We invite multicultural people who have recently settled in Ballarat and community members who would like to welcome and say 'Hello' to new arrivals. At our August Welcome Morning Tea, we were lucky to have our guest Valanga Khoza, who entertained us with his captivating performance with his music and storytelling.

RSVP to Heeyoung by the 24th of every month: [hy.lim@brmc.org.au](mailto:hy.lim@brmc.org.au) or 0491 066 247.



### Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) Program

Are you a new arrival in Ballarat and do you need any help from us?

Our Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support program (SETS) is FREE to eligible visa holders from migrant and refugee backgrounds who have been in Australia less than 5 years. We support you to build life in regional Victoria.

- English Language
- Employment
- Family support
- Community engagement
- Understanding Australian systems and forms
- and much more

For more information about any of these services, please get in touch with the Settlement Support Coordinator, Abrar Dham: [a.dham@brmc.org.au](mailto:a.dham@brmc.org.au) or 0491 066 246.



## Social Support

BRMC Social Support are running all face-to-face programs again from September. Our first event will be Multicultural Tucker with a Filipino theme.



## September Programs

- **Multicultural Tucker:** Wednesday 14 September, 12pm (\$10)  
*Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton*
- **Social Hub:** Thursday 22 September, 10am - 3pm (\$10)  
*Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St, Brown Hill*
- **Health and Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch:** Friday 30 September, 11am - 2pm (\$10)  
*Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton*
- **Tai Chi:** Tuesdays, 1pm (\$5 - first class free)  
*Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St, Brown Hill*

Registrations are essential - please call 03 5331 1123.

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

## \$250 Electricity Government Rebate

The BRMC Social Support Team can assist you with your online application for the \$250 rebate for winter electricity bills. You will need to provide a copy of an electricity bill, your bank account details and provide an email address.

Contact our team to make an appointment or for more information - BRMC Social Support Office 03 5331 1123.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Ulsava Ravu 2022**

**Friday 9th September, 6pm - 9pm**

Ballarat Civic Hall, 300/304 Mair St, Ballarat

The Ballarat Keralites Foundations of Australia presents "Ulsava Ravu" - A South Indian music and dance extravaganza by artists from India. Support the Ballarat community and enjoy a night of music and dance. Additionally, Indian snacks, vegetarian and non-vegetarian foods will be available to purchase onsite.

[\*\*Book now\*\*](#)





*Proudly Presents*

# ULSAVARAV 2022



Playback Singers  
**Sreenath, Mridula Warriar**



Cine Artist  
**Sarayu**



Sarigama 2020 Winner  
**Libin Scaria**

**First time ever in Ballarat**

A South Indian  
Music & Dance Extravaganza by artists from India  
**Friday, 9th September 6PM to 9PM**

*A fundraising event to support BKFA Community projects in Ballarat*

Powered by  
**Vish Homes**  
*Build your wish*

**VENUE**  
Ballarat Civic Hall, 300/304  
Mair St. Ballarat Central

Tickets For Booking



Enquiries | Navin - 0469862609 | Binsu - 0470644028

OUR SPONSORS



## Ballarat Indian Film Festival: Brahmāstra

9th, 10th & 11th September, 7.30pm

Regent Cinemas Ballarat, 49 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat

Brahmāstra Part One: Shiva is screening in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil this weekend. Get ready to experience a new world of Ancient Indian Astras and the magic of this extraordinary journey.

**BALLARAT INDIAN  
FILM FESTIVAL**



# Brahmastra

Telugu  
Hindi  
Tamil

**Fri 9th Sept 7.30 pm**  
**Sat 10th Sept 7.30pm**  
**Sun 11th Sept 7.30pm**



A reminder that all patrons above the age of 2yrs require a valid ticket

**REGENT CINEMAS**

**BOOK NOW!**

CITY OF  
BALLARAT

**Sun 2 Solar**  
THE REAL SOLUTION

**OPSM**  
Stockland Wendouree





Indian  
Grill  
@BALLARAT

## Forum: Compassionate Approaches to Resettling Refugees

**Saturday 10th September, 2pm - 3.15pm**

Online and St Paul's Cathedral, corner Swanston & Flinders St, Melbourne

Special guests in this forum will compare and contrast the way Australia and New Zealand have responded to people who have sought protection by exercising their right to seek asylum under the United Nations Convention on Refugees. Attend online, or in person. Speakers: Abbas Nazari, Zaki Haidari and Dr Claire Loughnan.

[Register](#)[Livestream](#)



## **Forum: Compassionate approaches to resettling refugees**

**Sat 10 Sept | 2pm | St Paul's Cathedral**



**Abbas Nazari**



**Dr Claire Loughnan**



**Zaki Haidari**

## **Mooncake Festival 2022**

**Sunday 11th September, 12pm - 3pm**

Ballarat Civic Hall, 300/304 Mair St, Ballarat

To celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, one of three biggest traditional Chinese festivals, Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc. is hosting Mooncake Festival 2022 at Civic Hall on 11 September 2022. With traditional ethnic performances, children's handcraft activity, lantern riddles, feature foods, prizes and gifts, zodiac animal lanterns, and more.

The poster has a vibrant red background. On the left, there is a large, stylized yellow moon with circular patterns. Two white rabbits are depicted in mid-leap, one on the left and one on the right, facing each other. Two large, pink lotus flowers with yellow centers are positioned on the left side, one above and one below the moon. In the top left and bottom right corners, there are golden mooncakes with intricate patterns. The text is arranged in a clean, modern font, with the title 'MOONCAKE FESTIVAL' being the most prominent.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL  
SOCIETY BALLARAT PRESENTS

# MOONCAKE FESTIVAL

Come celebrate with us and enjoy  
cultural performances, delicious  
food, our beautiful lantern display,  
craft activities for kids and more.

**SEPT. 11, 2022 | 12PM TO 3PM**  
**CIVIC HALL, BALLARAT**

Address: 300/304 Mair St, Ballarat.

Cost: Member \$10. Non Member \$20. Ages 6-12  
or 60+ years half price. Children 5 years and  
under free.

RSVP by 8 Sep, text to Charles 0422343357  
or Yilin 0423644946.

## Work Rights Workshop

**Thursday 22nd September, 5.30pm - 7pm**

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Topics that will be covered during the session: Different types of employment, safety at work, your rights if you get injured at work, where to go for help.

[Book now](#)

# Work Rights Workshop



- **Employee's rights include being paid the correct amount and the right to be safe at work**
- **Different types of employment**
- **Safety at work**
- **If you get injured at work what are your rights?**
- **Where to go for help?**



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

Thursday, 22 September 2022  
5.30pm - 7pm

For further information, contact Quynh: [q.tran@brmc.org.au](mailto:q.tran@brmc.org.au) or 0491 066 248



**Scan this code to book your seat!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/work-rights-tickets-405967980157>



Ballarat Regional  
Multicultural Council INC.

## A Starry Night in Ballarat

**Saturday 24th September, 5.30pm - 8.30pm**

Mary's Mount Centre, Loreto College, 1600 Sturt St, Ballarat

Featuring the popular, talented Artist Raween Kanishka with Ranil Mallawaarachchi & Shyami Nadeesha, this concert is organised by The Sri Lankan Australian Association of Ballarat (SLAAB) in support of our SLAAB SRI LANKA APPEAL fundraiser. Profit from ticket sales will be directed to purchase essential medical supplies in Sri Lanka and Future Kids.

**Book now**



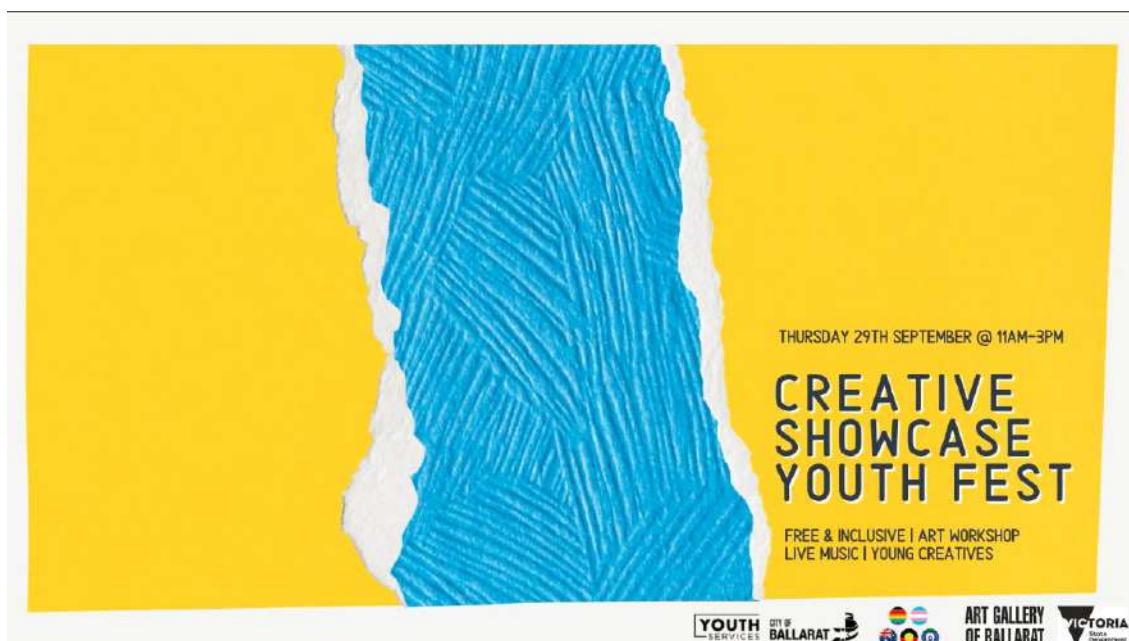


## YOUTH FEST Creative Showcase

Thursday 29th September, 11am - 3pm

Art Gallery of Ballarat Annexe, 40 Lydiard St N, Ballarat

Get your friends together and celebrate 2022 YOUTH FEST. Enjoy live music from local young musicians, fun and free youth run punch needle embroidery workshop, and a creative showcase exhibition highlighting local young artists talent. This inclusive event welcomes young people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTIQ+ youth



## Circle of Solidarity

Sunday 9th October

Lake Esmond, Ballarat

After all the lockdowns and continuing disruption of COVID-19, many people are experiencing mental health challenges. Ballarat Mental Health Collective is a not-for-profit, local organisation promoting mental health awareness. They will be hosting a free festival at Lake Esmond with music, activities, information and food.

# FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Join the Ballarat Mental Health Collective for the  
**CIRCLE OF SOLIDARITY**  
for mental health

**Sunday 9th of October**  
**Lake Esmond, Ballarat**

*Fun activities for all ages!*

✓ BBQ ✓ Stalls ✓ Live music ✓ Coffee

This is a Child Safe event and has accessible public toilets

Any access requirements please email  
[bmhccommunityevent@gmail.com](mailto:bmhccommunityevent@gmail.com)



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program

Victoria Police is encouraging applicants who identify with culturally and linguistically diverse communities that are under-represented in the Victoria Police workforce to apply for the Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program. This includes, but is not limited to, First Nations Peoples of Australia applicants, Maori or Pasifika applicants and applicants who are of Middle Eastern, East Asian, South Asian, South American and African heritage.

[Find out more](#)



### Victorian Health Promotion Awards



Do you know someone who's great at connecting your community and encourages improved health and wellbeing for Victorian communities? Nominate them for the 2022 Victorian Health Promotion Awards by 6.30pm, Sunday 11 September.

[Learn more and nominate](#)

## Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee

Are you a casual worker? Do you know someone with a casual job?

Eligible casual and contract workers can now get paid for up to 38 hours a year when they are sick or caring for others through the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee.

Translations of the Sick Pay Guarantee are available at: [www.vic.gov.au/victorian-sick-pay-guarantee-translated-information](http://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-sick-pay-guarantee-translated-information)

[More info](#)



Check your eligibility & register at  
[vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee](http://vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee)

## Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee

Sick and carer's pay for casual and contract workers.

**sick pay**  
GUARANTEE



Authorised by the Victorian Government,  
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

## Entries Open for 2023 Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade

The City of Ballarat is seeking applications for funding from community groups looking to boost their entry into the 2023 Power FM Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade. Multi-cultural groups, sporting groups, musical groups, performing arts groups, schools and business are all encouraged to apply for the funding.

The top two submissions that meet the set selection criteria will be awarded \$2,000 each to support bringing their parade float idea to life.

[Find out more](#)





## 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.

## EVENTS IN REVIEW

### Multicultural Community Dialogue

BRMC hosted multicultural community leaders together with local government and industry representatives in a dialogue on Ballarat migration and employment strategies on Saturday 3 September at the Ballarat Welcome Centre.

Our 50 Participants included representatives from 20 multicultural associations and a range of industry stakeholders including Commerce Ballarat, Ballarat Regional Tourism, Central Highlands Regional Partnership, Jobs Victoria, Federation University, Regional Opportunities Australia, Runway HQ and major employers in Ballarat and region.

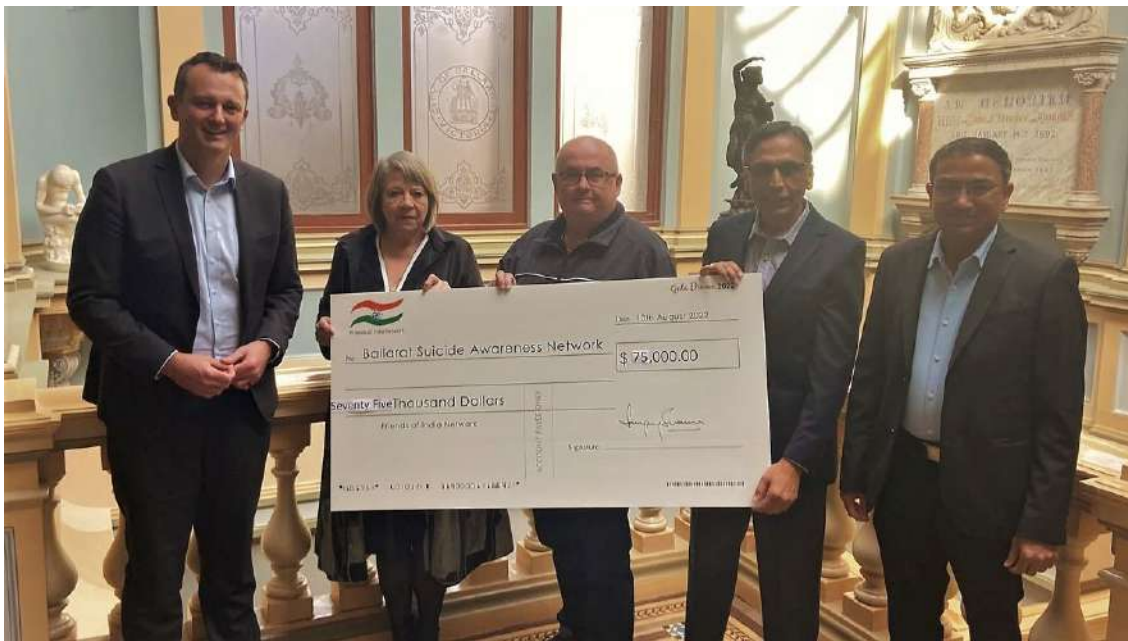
Presenters spoke on Ballarat's economy, job needs now and future projections (Kelli Moran, Team Leader Economic Growth at City of Ballarat); current research on regional settlement preparedness against the national settlement standards of Settlement Council of Australia (Dr Tess Altman from BRMC for the EVOLVE consortium including Ballarat Community Health, Centre for Multicultural Youth and Wimmera Development Agency), Ballarat Professional Mentoring Pilot (Joseph Youhana, State Director of Host International); the successful long-established role of Malayalee and Keralite migrants in filling health sector professional roles (Anaranj from IHNA) and the current Diversify Project of Ballarat Regional Tourism and BRMC (Sarah Myers BRT CEO).

The dialogue examined Ballarat's readiness, barriers and opportunities for culturally diverse and migrant jobseekers, employers and entrepreneurs, considering both local, secondary and overseas situations.



## Friends of India Network Fundraising for Mental Health

Friends of India Network have successfully raised funds to support mental health and wellbeing. On Monday 5 September they handed over a cheque of \$75,000 to the Ballarat & District Suicide Prevention Network. The money will be used for Ballarat Youth Services-led mental health Live 4 Life Program, to be rolled out next year across secondary schools in our region.



## Remembering the Tampa Rally

Ballarat RAR and friends stood together at the Remembering the Tampa Rally on Friday 26 August, with a call to the new government to stop mandatory indefinite detention of refugees seeking asylum now.



## 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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