

December 2022 Newsletter



Seasons Greetings!

Early Seasons Greetings to all from BRMC Team. We still have plenty of activity at the Welcome Centre in December. See below and come along.

You are invited to join our launch of our research 'Destination Ballarat' at 4:30 pm on 19 December followed by a community dialogue on celebrations and events in 2023. Enjoy this last social gathering with members and entertainment and refreshments afterward.

RSVP to Shipra at ss.saini@brmc.org.au or 0353830613.

Congratulations to the members who have stepped up to serve BRMC on the Executive Committee in 2023. We will be featuring the Committee members in next year's newsletter and on Facebook soon.

Our office remains open until midday, on Thursday 22 December, and reopens Monday 16 January.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season and New Year!

Warm Regards,
Ann
BRMC Chief Executive Officer











Global Market Christmas Market



Barkly Square Global Market Christmas and End of Year Market

Friday, December 9th from 4pm to 9pm Barkly Square, 25 Barkly Street Ballarat East 3350

Enjoy local shopping, raffles and auctions, kids activities delicious food, a visit from Santa, live music + more!

For all enquiries, please contact Emma at emma@bgt.org.au or (03) 5333 8600 or visit https://www.barklysquare.org.au/barkly-square-global-market.html











We cant wait to see you!

Preparations are in full swing for the Barkly Square Global Market.

With over 40 stallholders, it's sure to be the perfect night to have the kids visit Santa for a pic, do your Christmas shopping, enjoy some local entertainment & food, and spend some time enjoying the festive season.

We have kids' activities and a variety of delicious food on offer.

Stallholders include:

A Tuk, Adel & Anne, Au Naturel Treasures, Big Cookie Co, EcoDotty, Enbom Honeys, Flying Chillis, Gen's Garden, Heritage Weaving, Kilderkin Distillery, Madagascar Baskets, Mat Tetni, Mia & Talbot, OMG Donuts Ballarat, Tickettyboo Textiles, Zero Plastics Australia, Vicky's Precious Jewellery AND MORE!!!

Mark your calendars, spread the word on your socials, and get your shopping list ready. This market is going to be a magical wonderland of Christmas festivities, celebrating our multicultural community, and enjoying the beautiful connections we've all made here at Barkly Square.

More information on Barkly Square Global Market here



COVID-19 UPDATE

Victoria is moving through a new wave of COVID-19, and numbers are on the rise.

Please help us to help your communities, by communicating the following to them in your language.

Six steps to protect our community



Please know that if you or you know someone aged 70+, you should act fast

Test quickly if any symptoms arise (PCR is the best option), and contact your GP immediately if your result is positive, so you can begin anti-viral medication asap. Most effective within 24 hours.

For COVID or other emergency support, or information during the holiday period, please contact 1800 675 398 or via email at help@brmc.org.au

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from BRMC

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

Upcoming Events

- Barkly Square Global Market -Christmas and End of Year (see attached flyer above)
- Destination Ballarat (Flyer attached above)
- Multicultural women Friendship Circle
- Multicultural Playgroup
- Diversity Education Programs Celebrations
- Good governance

Items of Interest

- Victorian Multicultural Commission Gala Dinner 2023
- · Coaching Young people for success
- ECCV Health update an online forum
- Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) Strategy
- In My Voice Film- DFV from Migrant women leaders by Settlement Services International (SSI)
- · Global kitchen
- · Document signing

- Victorian Karen community Celebrations
- · Work Rights Workshop

UPDATES FROM BRMC

Refugee Experience in Australia Study

Seeking Participation in the **Refugee Experience in Australia Study**. The Scanlon Foundation Research Institute and Social Research Centre are conducting the "Refugee Experience in Australia Study", researching refugee and humanitarian entrants' experiences of integration and belonging in Australia to plan settlement and integration services and address any gaps in the future.

The 15-minute survey is for people with a refugee and humanitarian visa and their families (who are over 18; arrived in Australia after 2011 and have permanent residence). The survey (including translated versions) can be accessed in the link below until 23 December:



Community Education Connectors

BRMC together with Ballarat Regional Tourism, Federation University, and Westjustice ran the Work Rights Workshop for international students at the Ballarat Welcome Centre in November. The workshop was facilitated by a lawyer from Westjustice.

Two attendees have since been successful with job outcomes through the Diversify Project, which is fantastic and a testimony to the importance of this program.

"The workshop was fantastic. It has helped us to understand our working rights and entitlements in the working environment."

- Workshop participant





Diversity Education Programs

BRMC's **Diversity Homework Club** and **Diversity Youth Group** deliver award-winning academic and social-emotional wellbeing programs for school-age students.

Diversity Youth Group

Diversity Youth Group (DYG) for 13-17-year-old students offers self-paced online modules to support the students' interpersonal, social-emotional, and life skills development.

The students are offered video conferencing opportunities to interact with their peers across the world, thus empowering them to be proud of their individual identities, even as they widen their horizons and celebrate diversity.

To register a student, contact Sarabjit Kaur:

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au or

M: 0424 711 353



Diversity Homework Club

BRMC's awarded academic well-being program offers 5-12-year-old students the opportunity to learn and grow together. The tutors make learning fun for the students through STEM kits, videos, challenges and quizzes. The students read to win awards, share tips and tricks to solve Math problems, conduct Science experiments and learn with a smile.



Migrant English Program (MEP)

Our MEP team offers one-on-one mentoring to individuals for social communication, functional workplace English and IELTS, OET, PTE, and TOEFL assessments.

We use Innovative teaching ideas and resources to empower participants with the

knowledge and skills needed to achieve their language learning goals.

The English learning support is available to clients in Ballarat, Ararat, and Horsham.

If you'd like to support this program, we would love to have join our team as a community volunteer. Training, teaching resources, and ongoing support will be provided.

For more information, contact Sarabjit Kaur

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au

M: 0424 711 353





Social Support Services

As the end of the year approaches we take time to reflect on the successes and challenges we have faced throughout the year.

Some of my fondest memories of 2022 have been times we were able to come together and enjoy cultural meals, and craft activities, expand our knowledge on healthy ageing, and travel to places of interest together sharing new experiences.

It has been humbling observing clients rebuild social connections and develop new friendships and support and care for one another.

I would like to acknowledge and remember our dear clients that passed away in 2022 and send love and strength to their family and friends.

Thank you to the Social Support staff and volunteers who have once again delivered quality continuous care and services to our clients with passion and precision right throughout the year, through home visits and meal deliveries, and our much loved face-to-face activities.

I would also like to thank my wonderful BRMC colleagues, the BRMC Executive Committee, BRMC members, and friends for supporting our organization and our mission. Together we do make a difference!

The BRMC Social Support Team looks forward to continuing to offer quality Social Support services during 2023.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season filled with love, joy, and good health. Stay well and safe.

Best wishes, Teresa Azzopardi

Social Support Program Manager.





If you know someone who would benefit from BRMC Social Support Services, or you would like more information, get in touch with Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.

Stepping Stones Program

On Friday 18th November we had 3 visitors from Canberra's treasury department join us at the Brotherhood of St Lawrence to hear lessons, challenges, and proposed solutions which will be used to inform them when writing the white paper on the employment sector. We had representatives across BSL programs, ages, and cohorts.

Badriyah Eeso a graduate of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council's Stepping Stones Program did an amazing job highlighting the challenges of Job Services and the impact of long-term unemployment. She made some fantastic suggestions on how they could improve support by linking job seekers to employment.

Thank you again Badriyah.

Pictured Marta Kreiser (Manager Stepping Stones Program and Badriyah Eeso)



SCOA launches Road to Belonging and reappoints BRMC CEO, Ann Foley to the Board

The Road to Belonging is a Collective Strategy for Australian Settlement Services- SCOA, that was launched last month at SCOA's Annual General Meeting Dinner by Hon. Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.

The strategy outlines the gold standard for settlement in Australia and provides a practical roadmap for the Australian settlement sector to bolster the country's capacity for a more seamless, equitable, and prosperous system for migrants and the Australian population.

A collective of Australia's leading migration and settlement groups has committed to join SCOA in an ambitious five-year strategy to further strengthen the settlement experience for our country's newest arrivals as the government sets to increase the migration cap and cut visa waiting times.



And in exciting news, Ann Foley- Our BRMC Chief Executive Officer, has been reappointed to the Board of SCOA.

"I am delighted to be reappointed to the Board of Settlement Council of Australia and to have the opportunity to continue supporting the crucial work of SCOA. Big thanks to SCOA Chair, CEO, and team for your inspiring leadership and collaboration", Ann Foley.



Download the full SCOA report here

Strategy and Settlement Services

During the month of November, the BRMC Strategy and Settlement team communicated with members of the multicultural community through various programs and worked together to improve the quality of their lives in Ballarat.

A welcome morning tea was held on 23rd November to further improve the welcoming culture of Ballarat and to give a glimpse of the harmonious atmosphere of living together. In addition, playgroups and multicultural women's friendship circle sessions were held to help improve social belonging and social connections so they are not lonely or isolated in this society, and women, parents, and children from multicultural countries had a meaningful and enjoyable time together.

Programs in December:

- Case management (Settlement support): we support people who live in Australia for less than 5 years. Contact Abrar: a.dham@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 246
- Multicultural Playgroup: 1st, 8th December at 10:30 am 12 noon, contact Nyibol: n.deng@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 247
- Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle: 7th December at 10 am 12 noon, contact Nyibol: n.deng@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 247
- The end of the celebration with Multicultural Playgroup and Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle together: 15th December at 10 am – 12 noon, contact Nyibol: n.deng@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 247

Welcome Morning Tea

The welcome Morning Tea Program happens every last Wednesday of the month. And will resume next year, at Ballarat Welcome Centre. Here are some photographs from previous meetings, welcoming newly settled migrants and residents of Ballarat region.





Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle

Held on the **1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10 am - 12 pm** Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat





Financial Literacy

John Bradshaw from Cafs Ballarat visited the Multicultural Women's Circle on 3rd November for an informal session on looking after your money - budgeting, spending "leaks", good and bad credit, scam awareness, and how to get help.

To find out more, visit https://cafs.org.au/financial-counselling/

If you would like John to deliver a session for your community group, you can email him at john.bradshaw@cafs.org.au or 0417 860 002.





Multicultural Playgroup in October

BRMC multicultural playgroup is designed to develop children's physical, social, cultural, and mental wellbeing

Parents with children under 5 years of age are highly encouraged to join.





Food is Free

At the Food is Free, Green space and Laneway on 16 November, we had a chance to learn about the importance of soil health, environmental action against climate change, and growing your own food and also teaching the young ones where food comes from.





Health and Wellbeing

Tai Chi Session in November where our members enjoyed some gentle exercises





Christmas community spirit alive in Ballarat

"Gift box with seeds of hope."

At the end of the year, warm hands are continuing to help multicultural people and refugees who are suffering from economic difficulties. The Ballarat Italian Association has decided to provide boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, while the Catholic parish in Creswick has decided to provide gift vouchers for beneficiaries to purchase what they need.

Also, Kardina Church donated Christmas boxes to BRMC, while the Wendouree Cricket Club, which has donated Christmas presents for the past two years, has also proposed donations this year.

The sponsored items will be delivered to multicultural families suffering from a series of COVID-19. We hope that the warm-hearted gift boxes will once again give them hope.









Launch of the City of Ballarat Calendar

The FREE 2023 Intercultural Wall Calendars are available for collection at the Ballarat Welcome Centre. Come in and get yours whilst they last.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle

Come join us every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 am - 12 pm at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

BRMC INVITES YOU TO JOIN

Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle



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

EVERYONE WELCOME!

1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of every month (During school terms)

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

- Art / Crafting

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

 - · and other activities

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

For further information, contact Nyibol: 0491 066 247 or n.deng@brmc.org.au



Welcome Morning Tea

Resumes in January 2023 at Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Last Wednesday of each month, (2023) 10.30 am - 12 pm



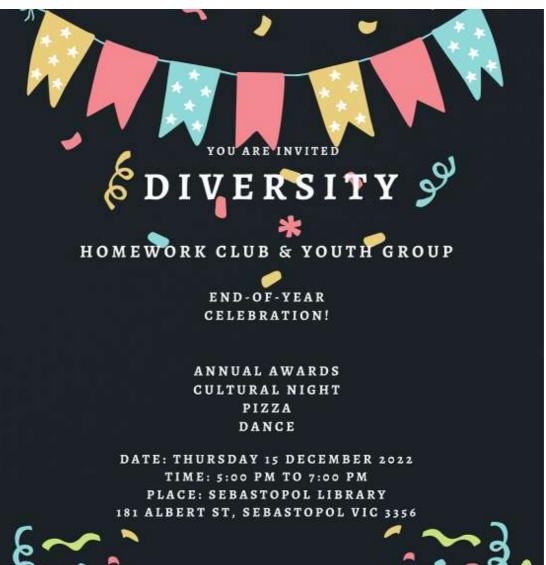
Multicultural Playgroup

BRMC multicultural playgroup is designed to develop children's physical, social, cultural, and mental wellbeing

Parents with children under 5 years of age are highly encouraged to join.



Diversity Homework Club & Youth Group Celebration









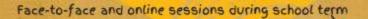






For 13-17 year old students

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



Contact:

Sarabjit Kaur, Program Coordinator Email: s.kaur@brmc.org.au

Mobile: 0424 711 353









Victoria Karen Community Celebrations

The Victoria Karen community cordially invites you to their New Year celebrations, on December 10th, 2022, at the Lan Maroske Hall, in Horsham.



Community Employment Connectors

These sessions are curated to educate International students about their rights at the workplace, how to safeguard their well-being, and various other topics including, how to land their first job!

Come along to the next one, it's a free workshop.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) Gala Dinner

VMC - Expressions of interest are now open for tickets to the 2023 Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner.

This annual flagship event will be held on Saturday 11 March 2023 and launches Victoria's Cultural Diversity Week.

Join the magical and memorable night of cultural entertainment, fine dining, reflection, and celebration at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.



VMC expression of interest here

Training Opportunity: Coaching Young People for Success

Coaching Young People for Success Leader Accreditation Training

Upcoming training opportunity in Ballarat of Coaching Young People For Success (CYPFS) that provides youth professionals with the training and the resources to assist young people to thrive in all areas of their life.

Participants will receive access to SIX COACHING MODULES that all come with a leaders toolkit, and up to 60 hours of curriculum, to coach young people, their peers, and parents in groups, one-to-one or online straight away!

Register for ONE or TWO days of training.

Dates: Thursday 8th December, & Friday 9th December, 2022

Venue: Ballarat Town Hall, Cnr Sturt and Armstrong St Sth, Ballarat.

Time: 9.30 am - 4.30 pm (both days)

Fees: Day 1 - \$770 pp / Two days - \$1,100 pp



Registration here

ECCV Health Update- Online Forum

ECCV will be holding a free online forum this week on the latest health information and how to keep you and your loved ones safe during the current surge in Covid cases.

6:30 pm - 8 pm

Thursday, 8 December 2022

💻 via Zoom

The guest speaker will be Dr. Steven Lu, a Specialist GP, and Clinical Champion for the Victorian Department of Health's COVID-19 Response Program. There will be a Q&A section at the end of the forum where you can ask Dr. Lu questions.



Register here

Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) announces Youth Strategy

Last year, CMY was engaged, along with YACVic and other key youth organizations, to seek the views of young people regarding their vision for Victoria. This consultation helped as a framework to inform the Victorian Government's development of a new Youth Strategy. Here are some insights:



Young people's vision

"I want to live in a place where..."





Young people's vision

"I want to live in a place where..."



Young people's vision

"I want to live in a place where..."



Here are some insights

In My Voice - brief film clips that share insights on DFV from migrant women leaders

November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) - an international campaign to address violence against women and girls.

SSI is sharing our 'In My Voice' promotional campaign to help spread awareness and create an impact on ending Gender Based Violence.

The 'In My Voice' campaign consists of six brief (4 minutes on average) film clips that illuminate different aspects of DFV, shared by women leaders from different migrant communities - Africa, South East Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Regional Australia.

This campaign hopes to spark conversations, encourage understanding and contribute to change.

Join SSI over the next 16 days and be part of the solution to end #GBV for all. Hold conversations using the videos. They are available in different languages also.

Trigger Warning: While these film clips are not explicit in content, the topic of DFV can be triggering.



Global Kitchen

Through Multicultural infrastructure funding by the Victorian Government, BRMC was able to assist the Barkly Square community to set up our Global Community and Commercial Kitchen.

If you are looking for the perfect location to hold cooking classes, or want to just take your home baking business to the next level, with a fully equipped commercial kitchen, then look no further!

Community and Commercial Kitchen now available to hire at Barkly Square



Hire the kitchen from just \$40 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours.

Contact Barkly Square today to hire the space on (03) 5333 8600 or bookings@barklysquare.org.au.

Visit barklysquare.org.au/commercial-kitchen for more information.



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.

Have something you would like us to share on social media or in our monthly newsletter?

Tag us on Facebook object.org.au 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: <u>info@brmc.org.au</u>

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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