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FEBRUARY 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to 2023 everyone. It's the year of the Rabbit according to Chinese zodiac, the cat in the Vietnamese lunar calendar and the mousedeer in Malay.

For our multicultural Australia, it is also a year with an important referendum on recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution and a Voice to Parliament. Our own Dawn Ballarat Survival Ceremony on 26 January spoke of justice, hope and change.

According to all, 2023 is a year to focus on building deeper connections with loved ones, being more open and honest in communication, and appreciating life: A good message! Our doors here at the Ballarat Welcome Centre are open for the year and we are pleased to bring you the first monthly newsletter featuring many activities, programs and opportunities.

See also our BRMC logo and template with colours that celebrate diversity and the eight pointed star that is a powerful and positive symbol in many cultures. Here it is saying: 'Open your eyes to each other with encouragement and care'.



Take some time to read the Uluru Statement from the Heart

ULURU STATEMENT

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COVID-19 & HEALTH SAFETY UPDATE

More advice is always available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au and you can contact COVID-19 BRMC Helpline on help@brmc.org.au. In the meantime, follow these 6 simple steps to help prevent severe illness and reduce the spread of the virus in our community.

BRMC continues to offer FREE face masks and Rapid Antigen Tests, and we encourage you to collect these from the Ballarat Welcome Centre at any time during business hours.

 Get vaccinated	 Wear a face mask indoors	 Let fresh air in	<div>FREE Face Masks and Rapid Antigen Tests</div> <div> We have free masks and RAT tests (while stock lasts) Take some for yourself, family and friends to stay safe</div> <div><small>Provided by Grampians Health Grampians Public Health Unit</small></div> <div><small>Available now from the Ballarat Welcome Centre during business hours</small></div>
 Managing COVID-19 at home	 Get tested if unwell	 Get medicines if at risk	

The **Grampians Public Health Unit** has informed us on the recent detection of **Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus** in mosquitoes in Horsham. The summer floods in Victoria have posed a risk of increased mosquito breeding. **Mosquitos** can carry a number of diseases that can make people very ill and, in severe cases, can even cause death. But simple precautions can help protect your community against mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry.



MORE TRANSLATED INFORMATION

- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-disease>
- [Beat the bite - mosquito \(poster\) \(healthtranslations.vic.gov.au\)](#)

- [Floods and mosquito-borne diseases \(healthtranslations.vic.gov.au\)](https://healthtranslations.vic.gov.au).

UPDATES FROM BRMC

BRMC ANNUAL SURVEY

Did you miss out on completing our Settling in Ballarat survey last year? Don't worry, you have another chance! We are reopening our survey for anyone in Ballarat who was born overseas to tell us about your experience moving to and living in Ballarat. You can access the survey below.



COMPLETE THE SURVEY

SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Social Support Team are gearing up for a year filled with creative and vibrant programs including our first two events:

Thursday 9 February - Our first Multicultural Tucker for 2023 celebrating the country of China with a

three-course Chinese inspired meal.

Thursday 23rd March - Bus Trip to Queenscliff where we will view the 2023 Art Prize on the pier.

All social support programs support clients to celebrate their cultural identity, maintain and improve their independence and live a high quality life. They also provide an opportunity for carers to take a break from their role caring for their loved one.



Find out more by contacting Teresa, Social Support Program Manager on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au

STRATEGY AND SETTLEMENT

The BRMC Settlement team welcomes you to the new year with gratitude!

This year, we are excited to bring you more opportunities to support people in need. We will continue to work together to help people find a sense of belonging and celebrate the rich cultural diversity in our communities.

AVAILABLE IN 2023

Further information of settlement programs, contact Heeyoung, Strategy and Settlement Manager: hy.lim@brmc.org.au or 0491 054 902

Individual support: Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) Program

For people who live in Australia for less than 5 years.

Contact Abrar: a.dham@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 246

Welcome Morning Tea

22 February 10:30am – 12 noon

Contact Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 246 / 0491 066 247

Multicultural Playgroup

Every Thursday 10:30am – 12 noon (during school terms)

Contact Nyibol: n.deng@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 247

Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle

1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday 10am – 12 noon (during school term)

Contact Nyibol: n.deng@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 247

DIVERSITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

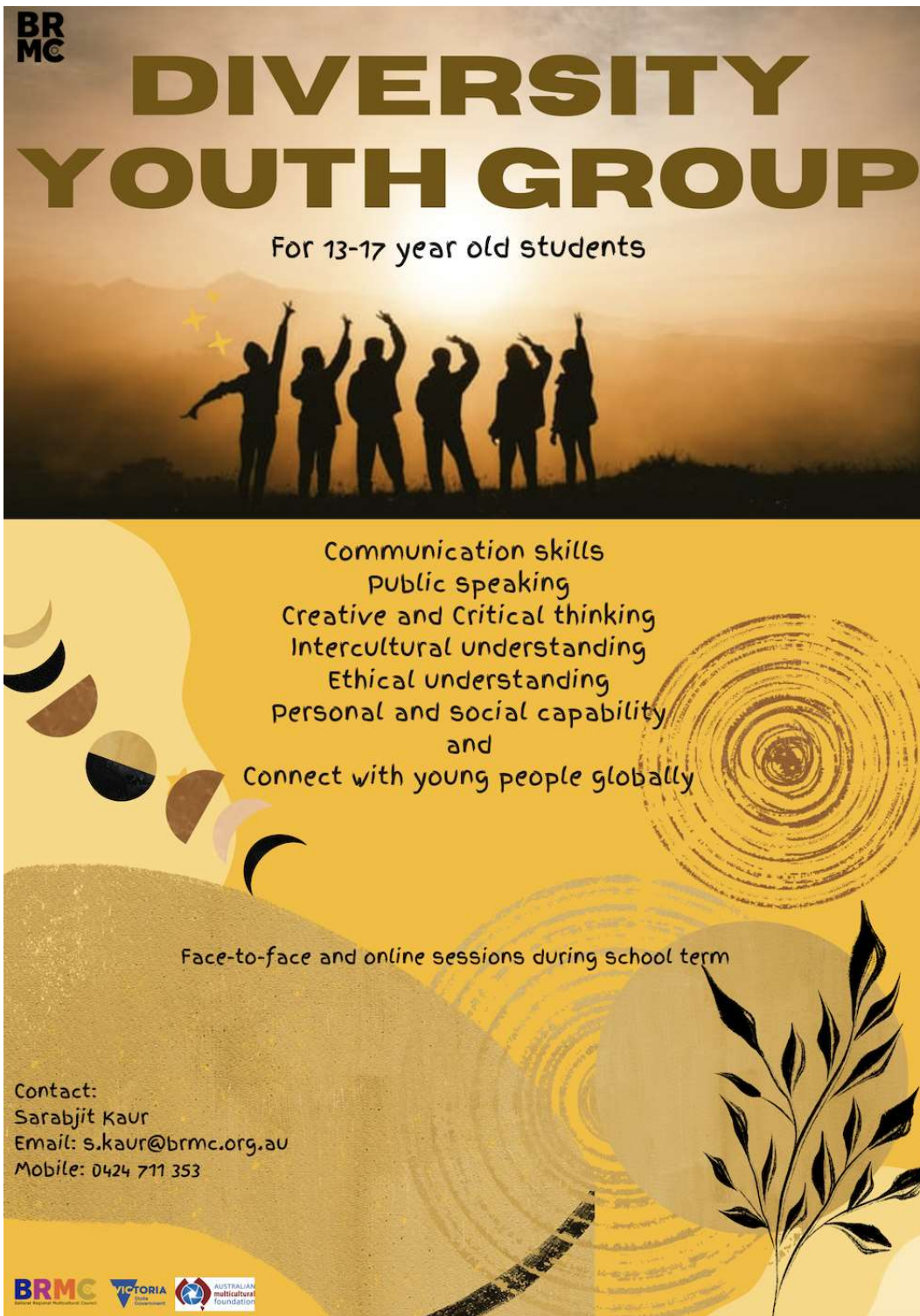
BRMC's **Diversity Homework Club** and **Diversity Youth Group** teams wish a fabulous year ahead to students who are back to school! Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in academic and wellbeing activities throughout 2022. Our end-of-year celebration was so much fun!



OUR PROGRAMS FOR 2023

For more information about any of our Education Programs or Good Governance Programs, contact Sarabjit Kaur at E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au or M: 0424 711 353

Diversity Youth Group for 13-17-year-old students, offering self-paced online modules to support the students' interpersonal, social-emotional and life skills development. Students are offered video conferencing opportunities to interact with their peers across the world.



Diversity Homework Club, BRMC's awarded academic wellbeing 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. BRMC's Education Programs teams geared-up for the year ahead with training sessions organised on 13 and 17 January.



Migrant English Program. We've started the year with a smile! Offering English learning support to clients in Ballarat, Ararat and Horsham, our MEP team offers one-on-one mentoring to empower participants with the knowledge and skills to achieve their language learning goals.



EMPLOYMENT



Work Rights Workshop

These sessions are designed to inform you of your rights at work, how to safeguard your well-being, plus other various topics.

Come along, it's a free workshop for communities !

For further information and to book for the workshop
Please contact Shipra Saini: s.saini@brmc.org.au or 03 5383 0613



UPCOMING EVENTS

"WELLBEING" THROUGH OUR OWN LENS'

Ballarat Welcome Centre, Community Hall

Sunday 26 February – 12-2pm

It's a popular word right now, isn't it? But, what *is* 'wellbeing'? What does it look like? Where do we find it? Or is it something that we create in our own lives? Something we *do*, even? "Wellbeing" through our own lens' showcases a range of insights and perspectives from a multicultural team of Ballarat young people on the topic of 'wellbeing', and how it can be best supported. The exhibition is an outcome of photography-based research exploring young people's experiences of 'wellbeing' in the Ballarat and Wimmera regions, led by Ballarat student Meg Lee. The PhD research project focuses on the perspectives of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds aged 15-25.

'Wellbeing' through our own lens

What goes into young
people's mental &
emotional **wellbeing**?

-Hear from the experts:
**a multicultural team of
young people**

-Have your own say



For more information, contact
Meg Lee
meghanl@student.unimelb.edu.au
0493 125 189



What:
**interactive photo
exhibition, picnic
celebration**

When: **12- 2pm
Sunday Feb 26**

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

If you want: **bring a
picnic!**



BALLARAT BEGONIA FESTIVAL

11 - 13 March, Lake Wendouree

The Ballarat Begonia Festival returns over the Labour Day long weekend. Festival-goers can expect vibrant floral displays, markets, live music, family activities, roving entertainment and more!

For more information visit <https://ballaratbegoniafestival.com/>



CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

11-21 March 2023

Multiculturalism is a core part of the Victorian identity, our character and way of life. Our state is home to people who speak 290 languages and have 314 different ancestries. It's also a place where anyone can contribute and belong.

Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence, and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities, and all Victorians are invited to participate through a variety of in-person events and activities.

The theme for 2023 is: Our Past. Our Future: celebrating and reflecting on the contributions of Victoria's multicultural communities.

Learn more about [Cultural Diversity Week](#).

Cultural Diversity Week 2023



HARMONY FESTIVAL 2023

16-23 March 2023

Harmony Fest 2023 takes place here in Ballarat from 16-23 March, and celebrates our culturally diverse community. The program will be released shortly, and in the meantime, here are the dates to lock into your calendars.

Friday 17 March

Harmony Week Intercultural Celebration

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Ballarat South Community Hub, Tuppen St, Sebastopol

Sunday 19 March

Interfaith Friendship Walk

Tuesday 21 March - 10.30am

Harmony Day Flag Raising Ceremony

Queen Victoria Square (In front of the Town Hall), followed by a morning tea – All welcome

Tuesday 21 March at 6pm

Baha'i Naw Ruz (New Year), Ballarat Baha'i Community

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol, Victoria

Friday 24 March – 3pm – 8pm

Barkly Square Global Market

25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat

Sunday, 26 March - 11.30am – 3.00pm

Harmony Day at the Lake

A free community picnic, with music, dance, and activities for families and everyone at Lake Wendouree.

Keep up to date [here](#).



INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP WALK

Sunday 19 March

BALLARAT HARMONY FEST 2023

INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP WALK

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH 2023 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM

BALLARAT INTERFAITH NETWORK together with **BRMC** invites you to join the friendship walk and learn about Islamic, Jewish, and Orthodox Christian beliefs.

Beginning at the **Islamic Mosque**, 116 Elsworth Street East, Canadian walking to **BRMC Welcome Centre Hall**, 25-39 Barkly Street, Bakery Hill, Ballarat East ending at **St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church**, 116 Humffray Street North, Ballarat East.

Refreshments provided. All welcome.



BARKLY SQUARE GLOBAL MARKET

Friday 24 March



Barkly Square Global Markets Harmony Festival Market

Friday, March 24th from 3pm to 8pm

Barkly Square, 25 Barkly Street Ballarat East 3350

Enjoy local shopping, raffles and auctions, live entertainment, food trucks, kids music + more!

We want you! Join us to hold a stall at Ballarat's newest market at Barkly Square.

To apply, visit our website: www.barklysquare.org.au/barkly-square-global-market

For more information email Brooke at brooke@bgt.org.au or call (03) 5333 8600

Proudly supported by:



MAHA SHIVRATRI HINDU FESTIVAL

19 February 2023

Mahasivarathiri – "The Great Night of Shiva" is celebrated annually in honour of the Lord Shiva. It marks a remembrance of "overcoming darkness and ignorance" in life and the world.

All are welcome. Kindly make your booking as soon as possible, to help with coordination and food preparation. [Book Now.](#)



ITEMS OF INTEREST

NEEDING FUNDS?

City of Ballarat will be opening the second round of their Community Impact Grants on February 6 2023 and is encouraging community groups who run projects, events and other activities, or who need to buy needed equipment to promote community outcomes, to apply. Grant amounts of \$500 - \$20,000 are available.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Local, not-for-profit incorporated organisations, groups or associations

Non-incorporated groups may also apply if they have an auspice relationship with an incorporated group.



Write winning grant applications!

Does your group or club have a great idea? Wanting to boost participation? Deliver great things for the community?

Let us help you!

The City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grant program is now open.

The City of Ballarat and Ballarat's Neighbourhood Houses are partnering to run grant writing workshops to help your club or group write quality grant applications.

Join us on Wednesday 8 February

 **In person**

10am-11.30am at the Theatre, Barkly Square
(25 Barkly Street, Ballarat East)

 **Online**

7pm-8.30pm on Zoom

 **FREE**

 **Register**

Scan the QR code below or visit

ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/community-groups

 **Enquiries**

community@ballarateastnh.org.au or 0460 699 669

**CITY OF
BALLARAT**



For additional information relating to the grant please go to [Grants](#) | [City of Ballarat](#)



VICTORIAN REFUGEE AWARDS

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

Nominations are now open and close on 14 March 2023.

The Awards Ceremony will be on 20 June 2023.

Learn more about the [Victorian Refugee Awards](#).

MULTICULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

An annual short film festival that explores diversity and multiculturalism through powerful, uplifting and thought-provoking films.

Entries open 1 February 2023

Entries close 16 April 2023

Premier screening and awards ceremony 24 August 2023

Learn more about the [Multicultural Film Festival](#).

REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA – CREATIVE INSPIRATION GRANT

This program aims to assist a maker, artist, creative, specialist practitioner in their practice, fund a small creative ongoing opportunity or kickstart the development of a new idea.

City of Ballarat Grants of up to \$1,000 are available. The next funding round dates open 1 February and closes 1 March 2023, 5pm

These plans are available to be viewed on the project My Say page by visiting <https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/intercultural-garden-plans>

Alternatively, there will be five drop-in consultation sessions on-site where you can visit and collect hard copies of the plans. These drop-in consultation sessions will occur at the “pods” located at the corner of Sturt and Pleasant Streets at the following times:

Wednesday 8th February 4pm-5.30pm

Thursday 9th February 12pm-1.30pm

Wednesday 15th February 11.30am-1pm

Thursday 16th February 5pm-6.30pm

Wednesday 22nd February 4pm-5.30pm

There will be an additional drop-in session to be held at the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Centre (BRMC), 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat between 12pm-1.30pm on Wednesday 22nd February.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT PILOT

For more information, visit <https://lnkd.in/g3GdgQWa>



Australian Government
Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations

Skills Assessment Pilots



Interested in a FREE and FAST-TRACKED skills assessment?

If you are in Australia on a family, partner, refugee, or humanitarian visa, you could get your overseas qualifications recognised for free.

- Take part in the **Skills Assessment Opportunities for Migrants Pilot**
- Get your overseas qualifications recognised
- Improve your employment opportunities



APPLY NOW!

Scan the QR code for more information

ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL BALLARAT EAST COMMUNITY DAY

Sunday 2nd April - 10am-2pm

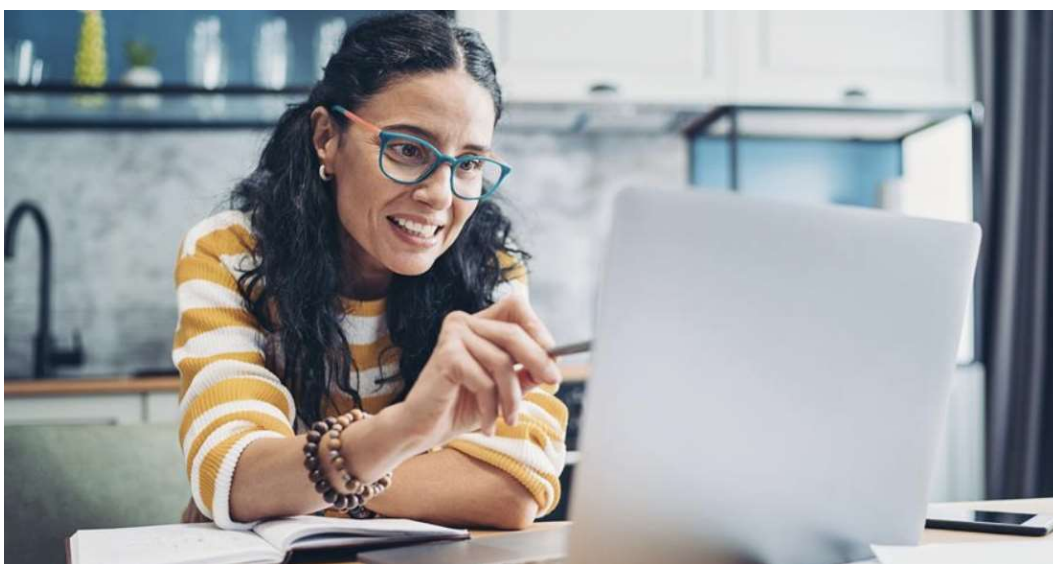
Calling out now for Expressions of Interest

We're bringing Ballarat East community together and showcasing all the wonderful businesses and organisations that make up our community and the local area.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from local businesses to be a part of this event. We will be holding the day in our school grounds, with space for food, stalls, workshops etc.



Please complete [this form](#) to indicate your expression of interest in this event



WOMEN'S BOARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Victorian Government's Office for Women is sponsoring 50 places for women who want to undertake an online Diploma of Governance in 2023. These places are part of the Women's Board Leadership Program, supported by the Office for Women Victoria.

This scholarship program provides governance training and networking to help women advance their board careers. All women in Victoria who have experience serving, or a desire to serve, on a government or not-for-profit board or committee of management can apply.

The scholarship covers 100% of the fee for this course. Applications for the scholarship must be made by following the "apply" link on this page.

APPLY NOW



Speak Up for Gender Equity!

Recruiting young people aged 14-30 from refugee or migrant backgrounds to co-design and deliver our new program, Speak Up, which will be designed to promote gender equity among multicultural young people in Victoria.

Being a Speak Up volunteer is an opportunity to come together with passionate, like-minded people, be recognised for your leadership, share your unique identity and experiences, learn about gender equity and promote awareness and solutions to other young people.

We are looking for volunteers in Melbourne and around Ballarat.

Join us and support CMY to create and deliver a program that will work towards improving gender equity.

If you are interested in becoming a Speak Up volunteer, for Regional contact:

Angeli Atuesta | Project Officer Ballarat
E | aatuesta@cmymy.net.au

cmymy Centre for Multicultural Youth

AND HERE'S SOME LIGHT READING FOR YOU...

["A Migration System for Australia's Future"](#) - a discussion paper produced by the Australian Government reviewing Australia's migration system.

SCOA Submission: ["A Migration System for Australia's Future"](#) - a submission in response to the Migration Program Review, representing a community of members whose core work is helping people make Australia home.

RCOA Submission: ["A Migration System for Australia's Future"](#) - a submission in response to the Migration Program Review, representing refugees and people seeking asylum and the organisations and individuals who work with and support them.

LET'S TALK DEMENTIA

Did you know that there are more than 400,000 people living with dementia here in Australia? Plus, almost 1.6 million people supporting them with care.

It can happen to anyone, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed when you, or someone close to you, is diagnosed with dementia. Dementia Australia helps individuals, couples and families from all cultural backgrounds to:

- think about the future
- identify goals and priorities
- access supports and services
- manage dementia symptoms and live well.

HOW TO GET HELP

- [Browse our translated materials](#) in 38 languages
- Call the [National Dementia Helpline](#) on free call 1800 100 500, or
- Use the [online service enquiry/referral request form](#)
- Browse and register [education programs](#) specifically designed for people living with dementia

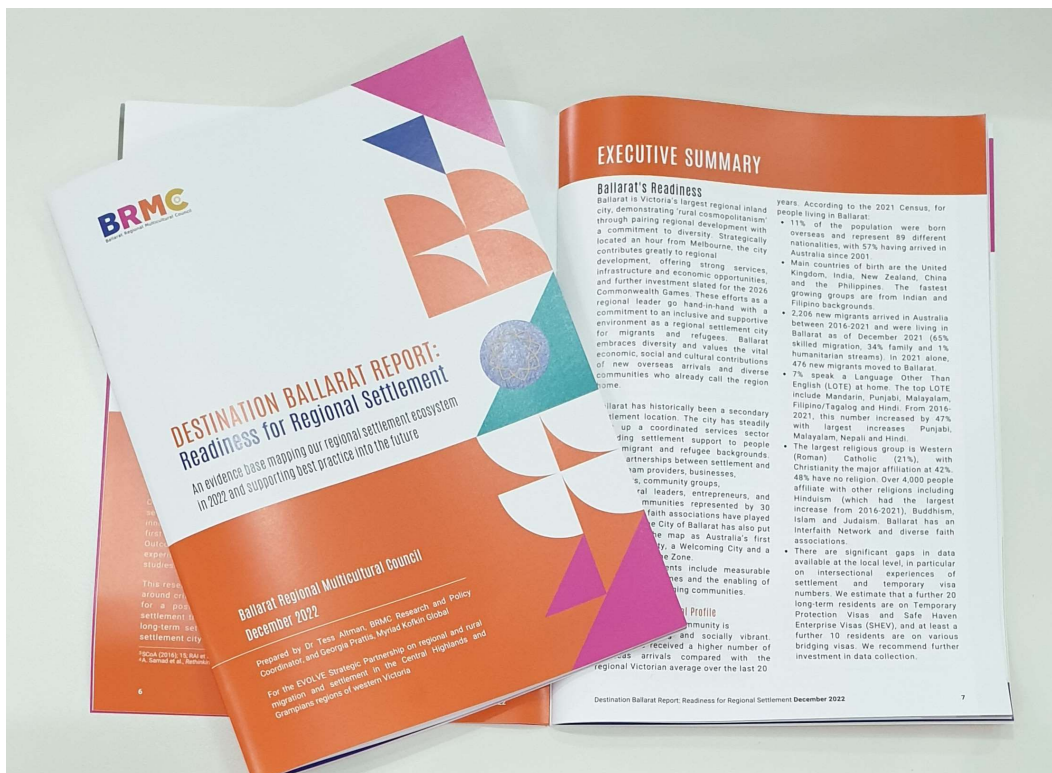


EVENTS IN REVIEW

DESTINATION BALLARAT LAUNCH

The Destination Ballarat Report was launched on 19 December 2022 at the Ballarat Welcome Centre. Over 60 people attended including the Mayor of City of Ballarat Cr Des Hudson, Victorian Multicultural Commissioner Silvia Renda, Cr Belinda Coates, Host International State Director Joseph Youhana, Director of Myriad Kofkin Global Maria Dimopoulos AM, as well as representatives from government, community and settlement sectors, and multicultural communities.

The Report provides an evidence base through innovative new research highlighting the readiness of Ballarat to support and increase regional settlement. It can be accessed on our new Research and Policy webpage [here](#).



MULTICULTURAL DIALOGUE ON CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

BRMC held our third Multicultural Dialogue on 19 December 2022, providing a forum to work with, involve and consult multicultural communities in the development of BRMC's strategic priorities.

The theme for the December Dialogue was Celebrations and Events, and brought together multicultural leaders with government, community, tertiary and settlement sector representatives to discuss how to ensure that celebrations and events are inclusive and sustainable in Ballarat.

The dialogue was attended by over 60 people and led by BRMC Chair Joy Juma along with BRMC board members Betty Mathew (Women's Officer) and Meeta Narsi (Secretary). A summary snapshot of the dialogue can be accessed on our new Research and Policy webpage [here](#).



BALLARAT SURVIVAL DAY DAWN CEREMONY 2023

Survival, hope and powerful change were some of the themes at this year's Survival Day Dawn Ceremony.

Ballarat community members connected to listen, learn and acknowledge the impact of colonisation, invasion and attempted genocide of First Nations People - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in this country.



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 respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people, their elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians, and their continuing culture, custodianship and connection to land and waters on which we live.

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