

BRMC

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC)

BRMC actively promotes multiculturalism, intercultural and interfaith harmony, social cohesion and well-being of migrant communities. Our services alleviate hardship and address barriers to full participation. We help build and enable inclusive and diverse communities and economies.

Proudly part of:



Cover image: Morning Tea and Parade of Cultures Fashion Parade at Barkly Square

Acknowledgement of Country

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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Image: Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade



Chairperson's Report

2020 was an extraordinary year for the entire community and specifically for the operation of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC). Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 restrictions I'm pleased to report that BRMC Board and staff continued to work diligently and adapted to new work and meeting restrictions in a productive and professional manner. Governance and program delivery continued in adaptive formats with online Zoom meetings and restricted face-to-face meetings when permitted.

In addition to Board focus on sound governance, work was undertaken on exploring the possibility of BRMC obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) and development of the Old Ballarat East Library as the new Ballarat Welcome Centre. I'm pleased to report that work is progressing steadily on both projects.

At an operational level BRMC has engaged extensively in the COVID-19 response by communicating information during pandemic restrictive times through social media and direct community contacts; liaising with health and government taskforce to communicate the voice of diverse communities; collaborating with communities to direct fresh food, material aid, information and social support.

Thanks to staff for building capacity across the organisation during the first half of the year with such highlights as Twilight Markets and member celebrations, employment and enterprise development; social support and material aid services delivered face-to-face and online to the most in need: emerging communities and seniors.

Thanks to members who have collaborated across events, forums and festivals including Ballarat African Association - Rebranding African Australia; Ballarat Indian Association - Diwali; Ballarat Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre - Bushfire Relief Fundraiser; City of Ballarat - Begonia Festival; Ballarat Italian Association - material support for emerging communities and language classes.

Thanks to 2019/20 Board members, especially Alma Lapina for her early work as Secretary on our work plans and meetings, and outgoing members Paul Miller and Lokan Ravi who were very active and supportive to the Stepping Stones project and Emergency Relief programs respectively; also wishing Dimitri Dollard well in his new role. Many thanks to Andy Tennant who plied his accounting expertise and professionalism on BRMC accounts and budget. A special tribute to Khushi Maharaj, who passed away in 2020. Khushi served as a Community Representative for many years where he enriched the organisation with his wisdom and carefully chosen words.

Special thanks to Ann Foley for her drive, networking skills and entrepreneurial spirit in always seeking funding opportunities to drive change and growth for BRMC whilst remaining focused on delivering for the neediest members of our community.

Finally, as this is my last term as BRMC Chair I acknowledge the support of all Board members past and present and sincerely thank Ann and staff for the dedicated work they do in improving the lives of the many people in our community, whether it's our senior citizens from our established communities or new arrivals seeking to improve their lives.



Cesare (Chez) Dichiera



Executive Committee 2019-2020



Cesare (Chez) Dichiera
Chairperson



Dimitri Dollard
Deputy Chair



Andrew Tennant
Treasurer



Paul Miller
Assistant Treasurer



Alma Lapina
Secretary
(resigned 2020)



Magdalena Kazmierczak
Assistant Secretary



Bobby Mehta
Public Relations Officer



Lokan Ravi
Interfaith Officer



Joy Sawiche Juma
Women's Officer



Lunorphare Folly
Youth Officer
(resigned 2020)



Navin Thomas
Community Representative



Constantine Osuchukwu
Immediate Past Chair

A Tribute



Khushi Maharaj
Community Representative

*na jaayate' mriyate' vaa kadaachin naayam bhuthva bhavithaa na bhooyah:
ajo nithyah saasvato'yam puraano na hanyate' hanyamaane' sareere'*
- from *The Bhagvad Gita*

Meaning: The Spirit is neither born nor does it die at any time. It does not come into being or cease to exist. It is unborn, eternal, permanent, and primeval. The Spirit is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.

Our dear Board member Khushi Maharaj left for his heavenly abode on 26 May 2020. His philanthropy, kindness and generosity touched many lives in Ballarat and beyond. A true karmayogi, 'Khushi uncle' was a beacon of light to many new migrant families in Ballarat. He was the founding President of the Ballarat Indian Association and served the community in the role for several years. He was also one of the founding members of Ballarat Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre and believed that kindness was his prime dharma. He is dearly remembered and missed by all.

Executive Officer's Report

We commenced this year reviewing BRMC strategic roadmap 2017-2020. Our governance planning emphasized constitutional review, financial sustainability and measurable work planning. Operationally, we prioritized the move to and renovation of Ballarat Welcome Centre; building regional migration strategies; and developing capacity across social support services, especially for vulnerable and new and emerging communities.

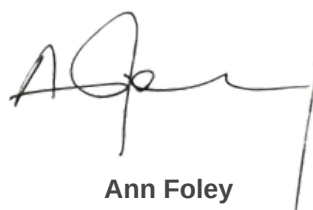
Buoyed by the success of Interkultura and new collaborations, the first half of the year tracked to plan. Young and old came together for the popular Begonia Parade and the shock of bushfires brought out the best in community including generous multicultural community support led by the Ballarat Hindu Temple Cultural Centre (BHTCC) Bushfire fundraiser.

But it was a year of extraordinary and unexpected challenges and hardship so we pivoted sharply in February 2020 to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including multilingual communication, emergency food relief and material aid. BRMC relocated into the Heritage building that is now the Ballarat Welcome Centre and at the same time put in place working-from-home, online services, contactless material aid and COVID-19 safe practices.

A huge thank you to each one of our talented, compassionate and professional team at BRMC who rallied to learn, listen and respond to community needs and support each other. The Social Support team delivered hundreds of meals and kits to isolated seniors and every staff member supported them. Our Stepping Stones business incubation moved online, pioneering online markets and virtual mentoring. Diversity Homework Club and tutor programs thrived and reached out to people with home deliveries plus extra digital devices and training. Project management, services and forums switched online and our strategic engagement and media staff didn't miss a beat.

Among partners and networks generosity and agility was also evident. Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN) coordinated donations every week; Sikh and Malayalee and other communities coordinated many meals for frontline health workers and financially pressured families. Ballarat Indian Association reached out to international students, Both Ballarat African Association and CMY adapted impressively online for the Rebranding African Identity project and Wimmera youth projects.

I thank the Board for your precious donated time and support. Chez Dichiera as Chair has been an exemplary leader, always mindful and always inclusive. BRMC and community benefit immensely from that leadership and example. We are well positioned to plan for the next chapter.



Ann Foley



Ballarat Welcome Centre

Ballarat Welcome Centre at the former Town Hall in East Ballarat is strongly emerging as Ballarat's multicultural and intercultural hub. The generous spaces in the BWC and grounds enable BRMC's work to catalyse opportunities and provide a safe and welcoming place of cultural exchange, especially for new and emerging migrant communities. Linked to the Barkly Square community hub, Ballarat Welcome Centre also connects to employment, training education and broad community opportunities.

By September the Ballarat Welcome Centre Community Hall was painted, repaired and offered as a venue to members and community for regular singing, drumming classes, Tai Chi, Zumba, Pilates & Yoga classes, association and community meetings, workshops and gatherings. We glimpsed the event potential at the performance by India's talented and world-renowned sitar player, Pt. Sugato Nag. The popular Twilight Market series also showcased the place and welcomed over 1,000 visitors with a diverse range of multicultural market stalls, local entertainment, food and activities.



Left image: (left to right) Juliana Addison MP, Deruka Dekuek, Ann Foley, Richard Wynne MP, Michaela Settle MP & Dimitri Dollard
Right image: Twilight Market at the Ballarat Welcome Centre

The December Market coincided with a visit from The Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs who came to see the great things happening at the Ballarat Welcome Centre. The Minister toured the building to observe the repair works funded by the Victorian Government, and opened the December Twilight Market. We also welcomed visits from Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) Chair, Vivienne Nguyen, and look forward to a full launch and opening of the facilities in 2021, including the women's business incubator, training rooms, galleries and meeting spaces.

Ballarat Welcome Centre has operated as a key service and material aid centre during the 2019/20 COVID-19 pandemic response. We acknowledge the support to date from government and strategic partners and continue to develop the Centre towards full use and accessibility.

Migrant English Program

The Migrant English Program (MEP) supports adult learners from diverse backgrounds achieve their language learning goals through one-on-one English tutoring. The team of trained English tutors tailors teaching strategies and resources to suit the individual needs of the learners.

In March 2020 the program made a quick transition to the online format to suit the COVID-safe service delivery requirements. This included tutor-client recruitment, tutor training, Community of Practice meetings and ongoing updating of online delivery policies and protocols. New training modules were developed to help the MEP community transition seamlessly to the new online format.

Between July 2019 - June 2020, 72 students accessed free English tutoring. One orientation and several refresher training sessions were organised to help the team of 46 tutors upskill and adapt to the ever-evolving teaching-learning scenario. The Program extended its reach to mentor clients in Beaufort, Ararat and Horsham, in addition to its existing base of learners in Ballarat.

“

For over two years, I have been a volunteer English language tutor. Little did I know when I signed up that it would be just as much of a learning experience for me as well as my students! I've been lucky to have connected with two students, working through lessons with them both either face-to-face or online. Tutoring through the recent lockdown had its challenges, but both of my students (virtually) showed up to every lesson enthusiastic and more than willing to learn and share. Growth and connection is fostered by shared experience and trust. To witness how my students have grown in confidence and to have learned from their lives and cultures has been a highlight of my time with BRMC.

- Anna Bilbrough, Volunteer Tutor

”



Images: Face-to-face and online tutoring sessions

“

There is a rather ordinary word that I sometimes use. I have never thought too much about it. Lately, though, this solitary word has become of major significance both locally and globally. The word? ZOOM! As a volunteer English Tutor, and during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sarabjit Kaur approached me with a very strange request indeed - would I be willing to tutor online on this "thing" called ZOOM? I had no idea at all what she meant, but being passionately wedded to tutoring, and without too much hesitation I said I would give it a go. Well here I am, months later, still Zooming along after a rather shaky start!

- Jan Angus, Volunteer Tutor

”

Diversity Homework Club

Diversity Homework Club (DHC) is a welcoming community of students and volunteer tutors from diverse backgrounds. It is a fun-learning space where the member students learn and grow by engaging in activities designed specifically to support their academic learning at school. This reporting period evinced a dramatic growth in the number of students attending the club meetings. With the COVID-safe program delivery protocols in place, the DHC transitioned to the online format in March 2020.

The Australian Communities Foundation and the Department of Education's Victorian African Communities Action Plan supported the Club's planning and activities. Nutritious meals were provided to the students attending DHC meetings, tech-access was facilitated, extensive individual and group training sessions were conducted to ensure a seamless transition from face-to-face to online service delivery. To support the existing team of committed volunteer tutors, several high school students signed up as Peer Tutors.

The Club reached out to 22 families and 51 school students across Ballarat ranging from 2 - 16 years of age. 33 students attended the weekly Club meetings.

“

The DHC has made me feel like a useful part of our community because I feel proud to be able to help, in my own little way, with the children's educational future, so I feel lucky to have this opportunity.

- Heather, DHC Tutor

I enjoy helping students with learning new things at Diversity Homework Club. I learned a lot of things in my two year journey with DHC. Training and workshops provided by BRMC were very helpful to my tutoring. - Tahsina, DHC Tutor

I am extremely thankful for Diversity Homework Club team for their wonderful work. I see my child growing with every session. There is always much to learn and brain storm. Thank you. - Azra, Parent

The girls enjoy Homework Club so much! They talk about it and love participating in the activities. - Suganthini, Parent

Homework Club is enjoyable, I learn haikus, make new friends, meet my tutors who are very nice. I love Homework Club! - Martha, Student

Haiku writing was fun, I enjoy Homework Club. - Nyakuey, Student

”

Images: (Left) Online Zoom session (Right) Nutrition and learning kit home delivery



Stepping Stones to Small Business

Stepping Stones to Small Business launched in Ballarat in September 2019 by BRMC as the first regional iteration of a decade-old program of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

Stepping Stones is designed to support women of migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeker backgrounds to achieve autonomy and financial stability by exploring their ideas and developing skills that will help them establish a small business or pursue educational and employment opportunities.

Funded by the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet - Office of Women and local delivery agencies, Stepping Stones fulfils its objectives through delivery of empowerment and small business skills training, within a supportive gender-aware environment encouraging women to build personal networks and to think big.

13 women graduated from the inaugural Ballarat Stepping Stones Program in December 2019. In the face of COVID restrictions, six of that cohort have established the foundations of a viable micro-enterprise, three have secured employment, and one enrolled in tertiary study towards a Bachelor of Arts.



Images: 'Shark Tank' held by Ballarat Stepping Stones entrepreneurs at Barkly Square
Photo credit: Brotherhood of St. Laurence

“

*I was immediately interested. I instantly felt 'This is my call!'...
Connecting with other women from diverse backgrounds made me realise
'This is home! I was very, very comfortable and safe to be with other women who
came from somewhere else and who had only been here for a short time.'
It was even better to know that everyone there shared a desire to start a business
and gain independence, and were encouraged to do so. That affirmation.*

- Participant of Stepping Stones

”

Social Support

BRMC Social Support Team, resourced by the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and the Victorian Government Home and Community Care Programs for Younger People (HACC PYP) and client contributions, provide eligible individuals with a health service to relieve social isolation.

BRMC Social Support helps people to live at home safely for as long as possible by providing vibrant programs with a strong focus on healthy and active ageing. Our programs provide an opportunity for people to make friendships, improve and develop cognitive and physical skills while empowering individuals to expand their capabilities.

We currently have 140 clients from 26 different cultural backgrounds. Clients embrace each other and come to together in harmony, creating safe environments within our programs where interculturalism can be celebrated. We provide a variety of cultural cuisines and cultural events allowing our clients to experience a 'taste of home'.

“ *Socialising, being connected and able to converse with one another stimulates the brain and events are great to look forward to.*

Great group of people at BRMC making a huge difference to our loneliness, especially during the coronavirus.

- Quotes from a recent client satisfaction survey

”

BRMC Social Support takes a person-centred approach, our programs are flexible and designed to improve the quality of life for each individual. During the challenges of COVID-19 our Social Support team quickly transitioned to Home Deliveries, delivering over 2,500 meals to date! We delivered Activity Packs aimed at keeping clients busy and active, provided welfare checks, and ensured our clients remained connected and supported.

Our largest and most vibrant program is Multicultural Tucker where clients enjoy a three-course sit down cultural meal, live entertainment and much more.

Our Social Support Team of Staff and Volunteers are dedicated to providing a rich and quality service to each client. We really do care!

Images: Smiling BRMC senior clients, (Left) Social Hub (Centre) Home Delivery (Right) Multicultural Tucker



Strategic Partnerships Projects

Strategic Partnership Program (SPP) is a state-wide multicultural initiative of the Victorian Government to support and collaborate strategically with the multicultural sector. In our region BRMC has partnered with City of Ballarat, Ballarat Community Health, Centre for Multicultural Youth and Wimmera Development Agency.

Projects target inclusion, information and services, community governance and leadership, family relationships, health, education, employment, social cohesion and community engagement. The Strategic Engagement Coordination (SEC) component of the SPP targets resources to settlement gaps faced by people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

SPP funded ongoing support for BRMC peak activities and settlement networks:

- Ballarat Welcome Centre facility
- English tutoring
- Wimmera settlement strategy

In 2020 SPP also funded significant specific initiatives including:

- Ballarat African Association Forums
- Regional migration and settlement advocacy
- Melkol Lokal Dance Group
- A Tuk enterprise development
- Good Governance mentoring
- Bicultural workers for community outreach

Our Strategic Engagement Coordinator (SEC) projects included:

- Cultural Competency Training
- Wimmera Westlink Project
- Interkultura
- Regional Employment Service System (RESS)
- Wimmera Professional Services Access
- Migrant English Program Extension - Online
- Twilight Market Online

Special COVID-19 Flexible Funding:

- Financial Assistance
- Food Security
 - Fresh Food Drop-Off Program
 - Thrive Garden Project
- Technology Access

Images: (Left) Fresh Food Drop-Off donation (Centre) Cultural Competency Session (Right) Delivery of laptops to ensure online access



Media & Communications

Over the past year BRMC has achieved a significant increase in community engagement and awareness of BRMC and its member organisations through effective use of our website, social media, newsletters, radio and other communications.

Our social media posts have had a reach of up to 3,500 people, with reshares and engagement from community organisations, cultural associations and key stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter continues to gain interest and the number of subscribers has doubled.

We regularly promote and share links to opportunities, events, services and programs both online and through our weekly BRMC radio segment on Voice FM.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained a reliable source of quality information for CALD members in our community, sharing translated resources as they become available from Government organisations.

Communications have been involved in many of BRMC's projects and events, including Interkultura, Twilight Markets and the Fresh Food Drop-Off Program. By assisting in design, digital media and online awareness, each project has had opportunity for greater exposure in the Ballarat region and Victoria.

Social & Digital Engagement

Facebook



404

New Likes

1,277

Total Likes

46%

Increase

Twitter



78

New Followers

330

Total Followers

30%

Increase

Newsletter



97

New Subscribers

286

Total Subscribers

51%

Increase

Radio



32

Interviews

13

Guests



Regions Connect

Migration and Settlement - Regional Multicultural Services (RMS) Consortium

BRMC joined forces in 2019 with three other regional Ethnic Communities' Councils creating a regional multicultural services consortium (RMS) to coordinate regional service systems. The cross-regional partnership between Geelong Ethnic Communities Council (Diversitat) as the lead, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS) and Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC) commits us to work together to promote increased and sustainable regional migrant settlement support for humanitarian migrants. While each region has different economies and primary and secondary migration patterns all promote regional and cross-regional opportunities and access for new migrants and emerging communities.

Our consortium targets case support annually to 896 vulnerable migrants in their first five years through the Federal Government funded SETS program. Supported by the Victorian Government, RMS has also initiated the RESS (Regional Employment Support Service) to develop online links to employment, housing and social support options and pathways within and across regional Victoria. Resources include a web-based application for job seekers and employers. We are trialling this in Ballarat through the Intercultural Employment Program of the City of Ballarat.

Interkultura: Connecting Through the World Game

In October 2019, the inaugural Interkultura event was staged here in Ballarat, as a 'whole of community' event, to welcome, connect and celebrate refugee communities and youth through the shared love of the world game.

The Triple D Dinner that opened the weekend was a sell-out event for 350 guests, a night of dining, discourse and dancing provided by local businesses and artists. Former Matilda, Tal Karp was MC and Interkultura Patron, Craig Foster, led a panel of young players in a dialogue on 'what football means in my life'. Players from the twelve competing regions joined business and community identities, all of whom we thank wholeheartedly for being partners and sponsors of this first Interkultura event.

The football tournament the following day brought together 150 young players and their families from emerging ethnic communities across regional Victoria. Many, such as the Nhill and Mildura teams, enjoyed the unusual chance to play at the premier Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility. All celebrated their talents and teamwork with others from diverse places and cultural backgrounds. We congratulate all participants and especially the winning Hadrami team. We also thank local representatives, Lunorpha Folly and Chudier Tyson, who presented on Interkultura to the FECCA Conference 2019.

Interkultura reinforces the richness of intercultural and regional collaboration for people considering and exploring opportunities in regional Victoria. Although we couldn't host this event in 2020 due to COVID, we are keeping in touch and know our regional partners are eager for it to become an annual event.

Images: (Left) Football Victoria representatives with Tal Karp, Hakeem, and Craig Foster at Triple D in October 2019 (Centre) Community conversation panel (Right) Interkultura tournament champions, Hadrami Australian Community
Photo credit: Bespoke Design Co





Key Program Outcomes

Our year in review 2019-2020

Social Support



Senior clients



Countries of origin



Events



Attendees



Hours with
4 home visit clients



Volunteers



Meals
home delivered



Activity packs
home delivered

COVID-19 Support



Individuals/families
received SEC
financial assistance



Households
supported through
SEC food security



Donations of IT equipment, data,
food & household support through
BRASN & partners

Diversity Homework Club



Students



Volunteer tutors



Age range



Increase in student
attendance

Stepping Stones



Participants



Age range



Hours of
training sessions



Countries of origin



Hours of
informal coaching



Women employed as
childminders during the
program

Migrant English Program



Countries of origin



Participants



Volunteer tutors



Hours of
training sessions



Financial Overview

Revenue Sources

Government & Community Grants
\$1,242,995.00 (93.5%)

Fundraising & Events \$22,690 (1.7%)

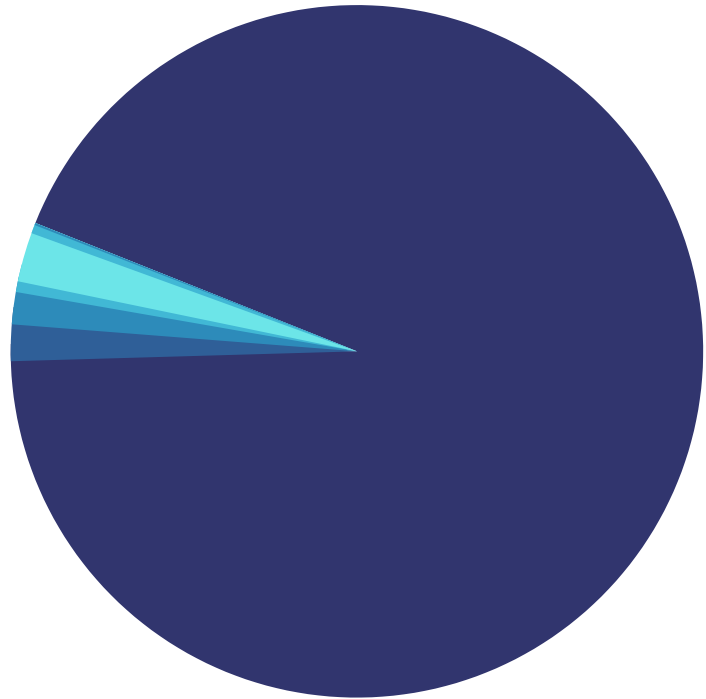
Other Revenue \$19,635 (1.5%)

Rental Income \$1,853 (0.1%)

Interest Income \$6,387 (0.5%)

Sponsorship \$30,364 (2.3%)

Donations \$5,932 (0.4%)



Annual Expenditure Impact

Strategic Partnerships \$406,504.71 (35%)

Social Support \$353,432.59 (31%)

Diversity Homework Club \$15,098.00 (1%)

Regional Migration and Settlement Services
\$105,772.00 (9%)

BRASSN \$1,511.00 (0.1%)

Stepping Stones \$90,039.00 (8%)

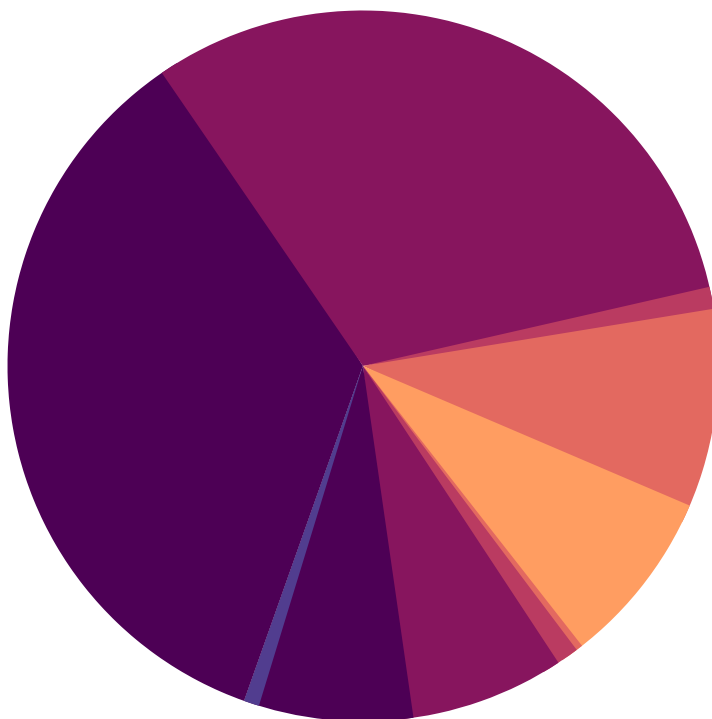
Auspiced Activities \$4,000.00 (0.3%)

Good Governance \$13,500.00 (1%)

Interkultura \$77,267.00 (7%)

Welcome Centre Infrastructure \$76,512.00 (7%)

Depreciation \$7,405.00 (0.6%)



Partnerships & Acknowledgements

BRMC acknowledges organisations and partnerships that directly support our work.

- Australian Multicultural Foundation
- Ballarat Community Health
- BGT
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Centre for Participation
- City of Ballarat
- Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE)
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Home Affairs
- Diversitat
- Djerriwarrh
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
- Here Studio Architects
- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
- Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council
- Victorian Government
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Wimmera Development Association
- Women's Health Grampians

BRMC actively participates in:

- Advocacy and Action Group of Ballarat Regional Settlement Advocacy Committee (BRSAC)
- Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Action Plan Network
- Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN)
- Bridges to Regional Employment Settlement Subcommittee
- Central Highlands Primary Care Partnerships
- City of Ballarat Intercultural Advisory Committee
- City of Ballarat Harmony Fest Working Group
- City of Ballarat Intercultural Employment Program (IEP)
- Community of Practice for Anti-Racism Action Plan Victoria
- CoRE - Equality for All Reference Group convened by Women's Health Grampians
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) Regional Network
- Family Violence Prevention: Safer Pathways Reference Group convened jointly by Ballarat Community Health, WRISC and Women's Health Grampians
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) Regional Advisory Group
- Grampians PCP Harmony Project
- Grampians Regional Alliance
- Harmony Alliance
- Interkultura - Friendship through Football Working Group
- Regional Multicultural Services Consortium
- Regional Partnerships - Victorian Government
- Stepping Stones Regional Reference Group
- Stepping Stones to Business Reference Group
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) Regional Advisory Council
- Wimmera Settlement Committee

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc.

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat VIC 3350

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Web: www.brmc.org.au

ABN: 247 767 445

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BRMC

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council Inc.



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC)

Cover image: Interkultura Triple D Eve Gala at the Ballarat Civic Hall
Photo credit: Bespoke Design Co

Acknowledgement of Country

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.



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

ABN: 24 776 744 519

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

ABN: 24 776 744 519

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Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

		2020	2019
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	3	1,329,856	889,145
Employee benefits expense		(690,775)	(558,778)
Depreciation expense		(7,405)	(7,146)
Program costs		(265,773)	(129,600)
Other expenses	4	(188,088)	(176,040)
Surplus before income tax		177,815	17,581
Income tax expense	1(f)	-	-
Surplus for the year		177,815	17,581
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		177,815	17,581

The Company has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118 and related interpretations.

The Company has initially applied AASB 16 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 117 and related interpretations.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	435,483	681,143
Trade and other receivables	6	67,190	13,215
Prepayments		1,595	3,475
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		504,268	697,833
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	7	50,411	41,729
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		50,411	41,729
TOTAL ASSETS		554,679	739,562
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	69,289	15,135
Provisions	9	45,587	42,212
Income in advance	10	101,280	533,278
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		216,156	590,625
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long-term provisions	9	20,132	8,361
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		20,132	8,361
TOTAL LIABILITIES		236,288	598,986
NET ASSETS		318,391	140,576
EQUITY			
Reserves		117,399	7,997
Retained surplus		200,992	132,579
TOTAL EQUITY		318,391	140,576

The Company has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118 and related interpretations.

The Company has initially applied AASB 16 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 117 and related interpretations.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

ABN: 24 776 744 519

Statement of Changes in Equity**For the Year Ended 30 June 2020****2020**

	BRASSN Reserve	Piano Funds Reserve	DOH Cash Reserve	Specific Purpose Funding Reserve	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2019	2,308	5,689	-	-	132,579	140,576
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	177,815	177,815
Transfer from Retained Earnings	(2,308)	250	20,000	91,460	(109,402)	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	-	5,939	20,000	91,460	200,992	318,391

2019

	BRASSN Reserve	Piano Funds Reserve	DOH Cash Reserve	Specific Purpose Funding Reserve	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2018	-	-	-	-	122,995	122,995
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	17,581	17,581
Transfer from Retained Earnings	2,308	5,689	-	-	(7,997)	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	2,308	5,689	-	-	132,579	140,576

The Company has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118 and related interpretations.

The Company has initially applied AASB 16 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 117 and related interpretations.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

		2020	2019
	Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from government and communities		839,034	879,210
Payments to suppliers, employees and communities		(1,073,456)	(539,707)
Interest received		6,387	3,019
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	11	(228,035)	342,522
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(17,625)	-
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	5,818
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(17,625)	5,818
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Net increase in cash held		(245,660)	348,340
Cash at beginning of year		681,143	332,803
Cash at end of financial year	5	435,483	681,143

The Company has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118 and related interpretations.

The Company has initially applied AASB 16 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 117 and related interpretations.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of section 60.40 of *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Regulation 2013*. The committee has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

These special purpose financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Equipment	11.25% - 50%
Motor Vehicles	18.75%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(c) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. All provisions for employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employees benefits are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the Association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposes under AASB 119.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than twelve months after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on corporate bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(d) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as an income in advance liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Donations

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

(f) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

2 Change in Accounting Policy

Revenue from Contracts with Customers - Adoption of AASB 15

The Association has adopted AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities for the first time in the current year with a date of initial application of 1 July 2019.

The Association has applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method which means the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 111, AASB 118, AASB 1004 and related interpretations. All adjustments on adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 have been taken to retained earnings at 1 July 2019.

Leases - Adoption of AASB 16

The Association has adopted AASB 16 Leases using the modified retrospective (cumulative catch-up) method from 1 July 2019 and therefore the comparative information for the year ended 30 June 2019 has not been restated and has been prepared in accordance with AASB 117 Leases and associated Accounting Interpretations.

Association as a lessee

Under AASB 117, the Association assessed whether leases were operating or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the significant risks and rewards of ownership had been transferred to the Association or remained with the lessor. Under AASB 16, there is no differentiation between finance and operating leases for the lessee and therefore all leases which meet the definition of a lease are recognised on the statement of financial position (except for short-term leases and leases of low value assets).

The Association has elected to use the exception to lease accounting for short-term leases and leases of low value assets, and the lease expense relating to these leases are recognised in the statement of profit or loss on a straight line basis.

Practical expedients used on transition

AASB 16 includes a number of practical expedients which can be used on transition, the Association has used the following expedients:

- contracts which had previously been assessed as not containing leases under AASB 117 were not re-assessed on transition to AASB 16;
- lease liabilities have been discounted using the Association's incremental borrowing rate at 1 July 2019;
- right-of-use assets at 1 July 2019 have been measured at an amount equal to the lease liability adjusted by the amount of any prepaid or accrued lease payments;
- a single discount rate was applied to all leases with similar characteristics;
- the right-of-use asset was adjusted by the existing onerous lease provision (where relevant) at 30 June 2019 rather than perform impairment testing of the right-of-use asset;
- excluded leases with an expiry date prior to 30 June 2020 from the statement of financial position and lease expenses for these leases have been recorded on a straight-line basis over the remaining term;

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

Leases - Adoption of AASB 16

- used hindsight when determining the lease term if the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease;
- for leases which were classified as finance leases under AASB 117, the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset and the lease liability at 1 July 2019 are the same value as the leased asset and liability on 30 June 2019.

Financial statement impact of adoption of AASB 16

The Association has not recognised any right-of-use assets, with current lease arrangements for premises being short term arrangements and excluded under the standard.

3 Revenue

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Government and community grants	1,242,995	824,529
Fundraising and events	22,690	12,506
Other revenue	19,635	7,135
Rental income	1,853	23,258
Interest income	6,387	3,019
Sponsorship	30,364	-
Donations	5,932	18,698
	1,329,856	889,145

4 Other Expenses

Accounting & audit fees	8,115	6,881
Advertising	1,045	1,208
Consulting fees	28,725	58,646
Lease expenses	3,144	4,152
Legal expenses	6,710	3,680
Memberships & subscriptions	2,068	1,555
Motor vehicles expense	4,841	7,064
Occupancy expenses	33,291	73,825
Repairs & maintenance	78,166	3,609
Printing & stationary	10,004	4,740
Sundry expenses	11,979	10,680
	188,088	176,040

5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	325,163	581,678
Short-term bank deposits	110,320	99,465
	435,483	681,143

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

6 Trade and other receivables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Trade and other receivables	67,190	13,215
	<u>67,190</u>	<u>13,215</u>

7 Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment

At cost	88,738	80,149
Accumulated depreciation	(53,737)	(57,485)
	<u>35,001</u>	<u>22,664</u>

Motor vehicles

At cost	52,848	52,848
Accumulated depreciation	(37,438)	(33,783)
	<u>15,410</u>	<u>19,065</u>

Total property, plant and equipment

	<u>50,411</u>	<u>41,729</u>
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(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2020			
Balance at the beginning of year	22,664	19,065	41,729
Additions	17,625	-	17,625
Depreciation expense	(3,750)	(3,655)	(7,405)
Disposals	(1,538)	-	(1,538)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>35,001</u>	<u>15,410</u>	<u>50,411</u>

8 Trade and other payables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Trade payables	21,560	4,443
Auspiced activities	1,089	-
GST payable	8,528	1,178
Superannuation payable	14,670	150
PAYG withholding payable	23,442	9,364
	<u>69,289</u>	<u>15,135</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

9 Provisions

	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT		
Provision for annual leave	30,117	30,117
Long service leave	15,470	12,095
	45,587	42,212
NON-CURRENT		
Provision for long service leave	20,132	8,361
	20,132	8,361

10 Income in advance

Government grants	101,280	513,278
Department of Health cash buffer	-	20,000
	101,280	533,278

11 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of surplus to cash provided by operating activities:

Surplus for the year	177,815	17,581
<u>Non-cash flows in surplus:</u>		
- depreciation	7,405	7,146
- donation of plant and equipment	-	(8,700)
- (profit)/loss on disposal of plant and equipment	1,538	(168)
<u>Changes in assets and liabilities:</u>		
- (increase) decrease in trade and other receivables	(53,975)	1,952
- (increase) decrease in prepayments	1,880	14,035
- increase (decrease) in income in advance	(431,998)	318,188
- increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	54,154	(16,551)
- increase in provisions	15,146	9,039
Cash provided by operating activities	(228,035)	342,522

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

12 Reserves

BRASSN Resrve

The BRASSN Reserve has been created to quarantine the cumulative donations and funds raised to service the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network.

Piano Funds Reserve

The Piano Funds Reserve has been created to quarantine the cumulative donations and fundraising held to purchase a grand piano by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council for future performances.

DOH Cash Reserve

The Department of Health has provided a cash buffer of \$20,000 as the Association is experiencing low levels of cash. This money is only to be used with the consent of the Department of Health if there is an inability to make payments from other sources of cash, and is to be offset against future funding if not used.

Specific Purpose Funding Reserve

The specific purpose funding reserve is used to record the balances of unspent grant funding, where the grant funding has been recognised as revenue under Australian Accounting Standards.

13 Association Details

The registered office and principal place of operation of the association is:

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc
145 Victoria Street East
Ballarat Vic 3350

Statement by Members of the Committee

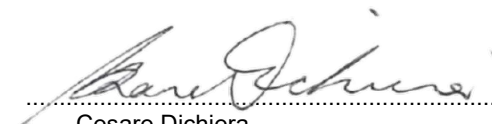
The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee:


1. the financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and
2. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* and a resolution of the committee by:

Chairperson


.....
Cesare Dichiera

Treasurer


.....
Andrew Tennant

Dated 5 February 2021

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

ABN: 24 776 744 519

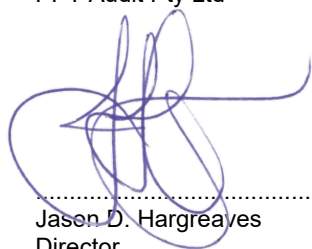
Auditors Independence Declaration To the Members of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

PPT Audit Pty Ltd

.....
PPT Audit Pty Ltd



.....
Jason D. Hargreaves
Director

5 February 2021

20 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat Vic 3350

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

Independent Audit Report to the members of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2020 presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year ended;
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the members of the Association, would be in the same terms if given to the members as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under Division 60 of *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and the Committee

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

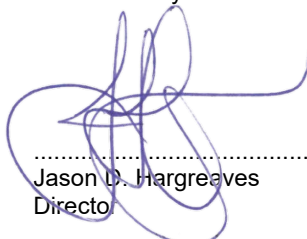
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PPT Audit Pty Ltd
PPT Audit Pty Ltd


Jason D. Hargreaves
Director

20 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat

5 February 2021

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc.

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat VIC 3350

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Web: www.brmc.org.au

ABN: 247 767 445

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