

[View this email in your browser](#)**APRIL 2023**

Autumn greetings to all as we look forward to the coming holidays and celebrations. We acknowledge both are traditionally times of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, devotion and worship. BRMC wishes a happy and peaceful Ramadan to our Muslim community, Chag Sameach to our Jewish community and a Happy Easter to our Christian community.



Three weeks into the Acting CEO role, I am excited to be leading such a skilled and passionate team through this transitional period; all who are dedicated to building connection with and capacity for multicultural communities here in Ballarat and the surrounding region.

Over the three years I have been at BRMC, I have met many of you at the Welcome Centre, and through our various activities and events. I continue to look forward to working with you all - our members, partners and supporters, and to build on the incredible work done to date. Please know I am contactable via email both at s.ryan-evers@brmc.org.au and ceo@brmc.org.au.

So, what's in store for you with the April issue of our newsletter? It's a bumper issue again, and I'm keen to draw your attention to a few articles:

It was wonderful to be part of and see so many familiar faces at Harmony Fest this year, coming together and enjoying another vibrant program of music, dancing, food, family activities, the Twilight Global Market and so much more.

With COVID infections on the rise again in Ballarat and the Flu season gearing up, BRMC will be hosting a Multicultural Community Pop-Up Vaccination Hub at our Welcome Centre on Saturday 13 May. COVID booster and flu vaccines will be available for free. Coinciding with Mother's Day, we

have a special gift for all mothers coming along!

Finally, we encourage all our members to complete our annual survey so we can broaden and enhance our services to your communities.



Suzanne Evers-Ryan
BRMC Acting CEO

IN THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 & HEALTH SAFETY UPDATE

HARMONY FEST 2023 IN PICTURES

UPDATES FROM BRMC

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

BRMC & THE BALLARAT WELCOME CENTRE CLOSURE TIMES DURING EASTER

Please be aware that **BRMC and THE BALLARAT WELCOME CENTRE** will be closed on:
Friday 7th April • Saturday 8th April • Sunday 9th April • Monday 10th April

COVID-19 & HEALTH SAFETY UPDATE

We are fast approaching the third winter of the COVID pandemic, with the number of hospitalised COVID cases increasing each week. To protect yourself and your community, it's important to keep your vaccination status up to date. If it's been six months since your last dose, or since you have had COVID, then it's time for your next vaccination.

To ensure everyone has the chance to be vaccinated, BRMC in partnership with Ballarat Community Health is hosting a pop-up vaccination hub on Saturday 13 May for our multicultural communities. FREE COVID and flu vaccinations will be available.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 13 May, 10am – 2pm, Ballarat Welcome Centre

**MULTICULTURAL
COMMUNITY POP UP
VACCINATION HUB**

Saturday 13th May 2023, 10am-12pm
Day before Mother's day. Free gift for all mums.
Ballarat Welcome Centre
25-39 Barkley St Ballarat
For more information call BRMC on 03 5383 0613

Stay well
this winter

Save the date
More details to
come

Free gift
for mum

Free COVID-19
and flu
vaccination

Ballarat
Community
Health

BRMC
Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

More advice is always available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au, and you can contact COVID-19 BRMC Helpline on help@brmc.org.au.

FREE Face Masks & RATs

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.



FREE
**Face Masks and
Rapid Antigen Tests**

We have free masks
and RAT tests
(while stock lasts)

Take some for
yourself, family and
friends to stay safe

Provided by
**Grampians
Health**
Grampians Public Health Unit

Available now from the
Ballarat Welcome Centre
during business hours



Dealing with COVID can be stressful and challenging for many. If you are struggling, we encourage you to reach out to a healthcare professional or mental health support service for help. If you need assistance to access support, please contact the BRMC office on 5383 0613.

HARMONY FEST BALLARAT

HOW BALLARAT CELEBRATED CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

From 16-26 March, Ballarat's diverse cultural communities came together to celebrate the 13th year of Harmony Fest and this year's theme: Our Past. Our Future: celebrating and reflecting on the contributions of Victoria's multicultural communities.

Harmony Fest wraps around Harmony Day, the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is celebrated on 21 March. The day encourages Australians to come together to reflect on and celebrate the many cultures that create our great nation.

A wide array of events was held across the ten days, showcasing music, arts, food and dancing from Ballarat's multicultural communities. The Fest concluded with the inaugural Harmony by the Lake event held at the Botanic Gardens on Sunday; a truly festive but relaxed event to cap off the city's Harmony celebrations.

Check out all the celebrations on [Facebook](#).



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 INTERCULTURAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Harmony Fest celebration also incorporated the Intercultural Recognition Awards event hosted by City of Ballarat to recognise individuals, organisations and businesses who have made a valuable contribution to our Intercultural Community. Congratulations to all worthy recipients including our own Ann Foley, former CEO Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council for her "Outstanding Contribution to the Intercultural Community". The award was accepted on her behalf by her daughter Aviva.



OTHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ballarat Council

Intercultural Cities / Cités interculturelles

Welcoming Centre

Compassionate Ballarat

Ballarat African Association

Ballarat Interfaith Network

Ballarat Keralites Federation of Australia

Ballarat Indian Association Inc.

Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc

Filipino/Australian Association Of Ballarat Inc. (FAABI)

Women's Health Grampians

Ballarat Bahá'í Community

Ballarat Community Health

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

UPDATES FROM BRMC

2023 ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEY IS STILL OPEN

We want to know more about our multicultural communities and how you are experiencing BRMC! We are asking you about your cultural and faith community as well as awareness within your community of BRMC programs and services. This will give us valuable information about our multicultural communities and the capacity to improve our services. If you are a BRMC member, please complete the survey by 20 April.

Thank you for completing the survey!

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Social Support clients enjoyed the following activities during March:

- Bus Trip to Queenscliff including morning tea at the award winning 360Q restaurant. Clients toured the largest Open Air Art Show in the southern hemisphere.
- A tussie mussie posy-making workshop.
- The Multicultural Tucker where we celebrated the beautiful country of Malta. Clients were treated with a performance by Maltese ballroom dancers.
- The Health & Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch where Rebecca Marsh from the Social Support Team delivered a presentation on the Aged Care reforms, and how the changes to the sector will affect aged care services.



APRIL PROGRAMS

- **Thursday 13 April** - We are looking forward to celebrating the country of Togo in Western Africa at Multicultural Tucker.
- **Thursday 20 April** – Social Hub for Seniors will feature a fun Easter activity

- **Thursday 27 April** - Health and Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch for Seniors featuring a presentation on Dementia
- **Each Tuesday during April** - Tai Chi

For more information about our Social Support programs contact Teresa Azzopardi at teresa@brmc.org.au or 0417 109 052.

STRATEGY AND SETTLEMENT

BRASSN (Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seekers Network) stall at the Global Market!

At the Global Market on 24th March BRMC and BRASSN jointly hosted a stall to raise funds for people with refugee and asylum seeker background. On offer were wonderful handmade cakes and slices, served with tea and coffee, as well as an array of diverse plants kindly donated by Sheilagh Kentish from the Ballarat Community Garden.

BRASSN will again participate at the Global Market during Refugee Week in June. We encourage community members to visit the BRASSN stall and meet some of the BRASSN members and learn more about their history and work.



Your warm donation is a way to reaching a helping hand. By making even a

small donation, you can be part of an effort to help families in need.



Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network

“Make a donation today!”

**“Your warm donation is a way to reaching out a helping
hand.**

**By making even a small donation,
you can be part of an effort to help families in need.”**



THE NEXT BALLARAT WELCOME BUS TOUR

- **When:** Friday, 12 May at 9:30am – 2:30pm
- **Who:** Any multicultural people who have lived in Ballarat for less than 5 years
- **What:** We will visit major service facilities to learn more about their services and receive some useful information kits (e.g. Ballarat Welcome Centre, Town Hall, Council – information centre, customer service, libraries, Ballarat Community Health, Police station, Fire station, BGT, Orange Door and other facilities)

** A detailed tour route will be announced soon!

** Simple Lunch will be provided!

** For further information, please contact Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au or 0491 054 902

REGISTER HERE



BRMC

Ballarat Welcome Bus Tour

(Free service - a Day Trip)

Welcome to Ballarat!
Let's enjoy a Day Trip to major facilities in Ballarat

- **When:** Friday, 12 May at 9:30am – 2:30pm
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- **What:** we will visit major service facilities to learn more about their services and receive some useful information kits (e.g. Ballarat Welcome Centre, Town Hall, Council – Information Centre, Customer Service, Libraries, bgt, Ballarat Community Health, Police Station, Fire Station and other facilities)
- **The detailed tour routes will be announced later!**
- **Lunch will be provided**

If you want to attend the trip, please register via **Eventbrite**
<https://ballaratwelcomebustour2.eventbrite.com.au>

For further information, please contact **Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au**
 or **0491 054 902(Heeyoung), 0491 066 247(Nyibol)**



This service is supported by the Victorian Government.

SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS IN APRIL

- **Individual support:** Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program for people who have lived in Australia for less than 5 years. Contact Abrar: a.dham@brmc.org.au or 0491 066 246

- **Welcome Morning Tea:** 26 April 10:30am – 12 noon, contact Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au or 0491 054 902
- **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

For further information, please contact Heeyoung: hy.lim@brmc.org.au or 0491 054 902

NEW INITIATIVE TO DIVERSIFY OUR LOCAL WORKFORCE

BRMC has recently partnered with Ballarat Regional Tourism (BRT) to deliver a pilot project 'Diversify Our Local Workforce'. This project aims to help connect culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) job seekers in our region with our local tourism and hospitality industry employers. Our dual aims are to support CALD job seekers to overcome their barriers to employment and to help alleviate critical local workforce shortages.

As one of our strategies, we engaged local people for promotional videos to raise awareness of both local employers and CALD job seekers. Please take some time to watch the videos and we encourage you to promote and share them with your networks:

[Diversify Local Workforce – Employers](#) | [Diversify Local Workforce – Job Seekers](#)

For more information about the Diversify Project and job-seeking and employment support in our region contact Quynh Tran, BRMC Community Employment Connector
P (03) 5383 0613 | M 0491 066 248 | E q.tran@brmc.org.au

VACANT POSITION COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CONNECTOR AT BRMC

A new part-time role commencing June 2023 serving the Ballarat and Ararat region.

Interested in helping people find work?

The role of the Community Employment Connector is to help young people and adults from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds to navigate and connect with employment and training services.

To obtain a copy of the Position Description please contact Quynh Tran
M 0491 066 248 | E q.tran@brmc.org.au



WE ARE HIRING

Community Employment Connector

Submit your Cover letter & Resume

q.tran@brmc.org.au

For more information, please contact Quynh Tran:
(03) 5383 0613 or 0491 066 248



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for a team of warm and friendly volunteers to be our BRMC 'Meeters and Greeters' at the forthcoming Ballarat Jobs & Training Expo to be held on 16 & 17 June.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT BALLARAT JOBS & TRAINING EXPO

**16 & 17
JUN**

**COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT
CONNECTORS**

For more information, please contact Quynh Tran:
q.tran@brmc.org.au, 0491 066 248



MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM

Offering tailored English learning support, our MEP team mentors' participants to achieve their language learning goals. Contact Sarabjit Kaur, Education Programs Manager.

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au



YOUTH GROUP

Diversity Youth Group students have started their global dialogue journeys. The students have discussed issues related to health and wellbeing and are all set to engage in dialogue through a video conference with peers across the world. To participate in this program for 13-17-year-old students, contact Sarabjit Kaur, Education Programs Manager.

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au



HOMEWORK CLUB

Recognised as an exemplary out-of-school-hours-learning-support-program by agencies and researchers across Victoria, Diversity Homework Club, with its committed team of tutors, is constantly adapting, upskilling and offering tailored learning and wellbeing support to Ballarat's CALD students. Enthusiastic Peer Tutors from Ballarat & Clarendon College light up each session with their innovative games that have the students competing to do their best.

To participate, contact Sarabjit Kaur, Education Programs Manager.

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au

GOOD GOVERNANCE

If you're looking for governance resources and templates to adapt to your committee's structure and needs, BRMC's Good Governance program can offer you referrals and mentoring support.

Contact Sarabjit Kaur, Education Programs Manager.

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au

STEPPING STONES TO SMALL BUSINESS

Registrations are open for the Small Business training program, starting Thursday 9th March from 10am-2pm, delivered weekly online via ZOOM, and open to all women of migrant and humanitarian backgrounds. Participants interested in attending please fill the registration form [here](#) or contact Sarabjit, Education Programs Manager.

E: s.kaur@brmc.org.au



Join our Small Business program to learn more about what it takes to run a Small Business in Australia.

Stepping Stones to Small Business is a **free** program tailored for women from refugee, migrant and asylum seeking backgrounds and **all** women over 50.

Business Training - 11 weekly sessions

March 9th-May 25th

Thursdays- 10:00am - 2:00pm

You will learn:

- About what is required to start a small business in Australia and gain the skills you need to run a small business
- How to develop your product and understand your point of difference
- Learn what finances are required to start and run a business as well as record keeping
- To develop and apply your ideas to create a Business Plan

Extra support is available through tutors.

All our courses are between **school hours** and **will be delivered online**, there will be **no classes on school holidays**.

For more information, contact 0490 288 058.

You can register [here](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

FREE REFUGEE LEGAL INFORMATION SESSIONS:

TPV/SHEV VISAS TO PERMANENCY, FAMILY REUNION AND SPONSORSHIP

Friday 28 April, 5.00-8.30pm, Ballarat Welcome Centre 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat

Refugee Legal is a community legal centre based in Melbourne. At these sessions they will provide FREE information on immigration matters including:

- The changes to the Visa laws and where people can get help
- Who is and isn't eligible to apply for RoS [Resolution of Status] Visas:
- The process for applying for RoS Visas
- What will change for people who are granted permanent residency

The Family Reunion Information Session will cover:

- Partner Visas
- Child Visas
- Split Family Provisions
- Other options for bringing family to Australia

REFUGEE CLINIC

Saturday 29 April, 10am-4pm, Ballarat Welcome Centre 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat

Lawyers will be present across the day to provide free, in-person, practical assistance in lodging RoS [Resolution of Status] Applications. Interpreting services will be available for any clients who need them.

For further information, contact David Mac Phail, Ballarat Afghan Action Group

M: 0419 368 199 | E: david.i.macphail@gmail.com

CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH

Wednesday, 19 April

Are you a #multicultural young person who is passionate about sport and wants to work in the sector? Or do you work with young people? [Centre for Multicultural Sport](#) (CMSport), together with [City of Melbourne](#) and [Centre for Multicultural Youth](#), is hosting a #FREE event for multicultural young people aged 16-25 to:

- Find out about employment pathways in sports
- Meet employers and hear stories of success
- Have fun with interactive sports activities

Join us on Wednesday 19 April from 10am-3pm, it's free to register and lunch will be provided!



FREE EVENT:
Employment Forum
10am-3pm, Wednesday 19 April

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**BALLARAT'S BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE
EID MUBARAK WITH THEM**

Saturday 22 April, 2023

Bangladeshi Community in Ballarat



The Bangladeshi community residing in Ballarat is elated to organize a familial convocation commemorating the Eid-al-Fitr and Bengali New Year 1430. This momentous event is anticipated to be the largest congregation with a projection of over 150 attendees hailing from Ballarat and its environs. The occasion will be replete with a great deal of scrumptious Bangladeshi culinary delights and cultural artifacts.

Date: Saturday 22nd April 2023 (৮ ই বৈশাখ ১৪৩০ শনিবার)

**Venue: Ballarat Masonic Centre
616 Barkly St, Golden Point VIC 3350**

**Start Time: 3:00pm
Finish Time: 9:00pm**

***** Please Mark This On Your Calendar *****

We extend a warm invitation to all Bangladeshi enterprises in Australia, alongside local Ballarat establishments, to endorse sundry segments of the occasion, thereby enabling us to promote your business.

Should you harbor an inclination to promote your business through this propitious familial convocation, kindly liaise with any of the following individuals:

Serajum Munira - smunira1208@gmail.com - 0469 612 592

Ryan Shuvo - rshuvo@yahoo.com - 0450 450 299

Ahsan Raja Chowdhury - farhan717@gmail.com - 0432693234

Ershadul Haque Naved - navedhaque@gmail.com - 0424 292 681

PIANO RECITAL

Saturday May 13, 7.30pm in the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts

Sydney International Piano Competition Winner and renowned pianist Konstantin Shamray will perform Ravel, Franck and Prokofiev at the 2023 Don Huntley Memorial Piano Recital. Bookings www.wcpa.com.au or 5338 0980



ITEMS OF INTEREST

MENTAL HEALTH COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Translated resources now available in 20 languages for multicultural communities

The Mental Health Complaints Commission (MHCC) and people with lived experience from multicultural communities have co-produced a variety of in-language resources to make MHCC more accessible to all Victorians. Digital and print resources available [here](#).



\$250 ELECTRICITY REBATE – NEW PAYMENT ROUND - DON'T MISS OUT!

From 24 March 2023 the \$250 Power Saving Bonus re-opened to all eligible Victorian households, including any households that received a payment through previous rounds of the program.

Eligibility requirements:

- You must be a residential energy consumer (i.e. have a residential electricity account)
- You must be the account holder
- Only one payment is available per household

The application process will take five to ten minutes of your time, and you will need to have a recent electricity bill with you.



Translation and language support available for the Power Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is providing in-person and over-the-phone support for Multicultural communities to apply for the power-saving bonus.

A new round of support will commence on 24 March, with eligible Victorian households able to receive a new \$250 payment.

There is in-language support for 31 languages.

For access to translation support call 131 450 or click on the link below.

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2023

FIFA is conducting a short survey to gauge the level of awareness of the upcoming FWWC 2023. You are invited to participate and share with friends and networks to complete. You might win two tickets to the tournament!

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

MULTICULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

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

Entries close 16 April 2023

Premier screening and awards ceremony 24 August 2023



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

FREE JP SERVICE

Needing help with completing a legal form or document? Needing a Justice of the Peace (JP) to witness and sign a form? Statutory declaration or an affidavit?

Come and see our qualified JP Maria Sozanski at **Barkly Square Reception** every Thursday 12pm – 1.30pm. This service is free to all.



Maria Sozanski JP

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 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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