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MAY 2023

On behalf of the BRMC team here at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, Autumn greetings to all. As our weather cools here in Ballarat, a gentle reminder that our Welcome Centre is warm and active, and we invite inquiries and bookings from members and the community.

Many of our communities continue to celebrate New Year and have shared traditions and feasts that we feature below. Thank you to the Bangladeshi and Indian communities for beautiful and generous recent celebrations. At the same time, we wish our Muslim communities Eid Mubarak at the conclusion of Ramadan in late April.

Last week on ANZAC Day Tuesday 25th April we paid tribute and remembered all those who have served our nations in times of war, conflict, peace and humanitarian operations.

At the end of May we will have National Reconciliation Week. Held from 27 May – 3 June, the week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

In this issue we have updates from the Welcome Centre and notice of forthcoming multicultural events in May and June, as well as a number of Ballarat-based free training workshops. In particular, we encourage our multicultural community members to book in early for the Winter Popup Vaccination Hub on Saturday 13th May – all mothers coming along will receive a special

Mother's Day gift!



Suzanne Ryan-Evers BRMC Acting CEO

E <u>s.ryan-evers@brmc.org.au</u> | <u>ceo@brmc.org.au</u>

IN THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 & HEALTH SAFETY UPDATE

UPDATES FROM BRMC

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

COVID-19 & HEALTH SAFETY UPDATE

Keep yourself well and protect your families and communities over winter. Book in now to get the COVID-19 booster and the flu vaccination.

MULTICULTURAL POP-UP VACCINATION HUB

Saturday 13th May – Ballarat Welcome Centre - 10am – 2pm The day before Mothers' Day, and we'll have a small gift for all mums registered!

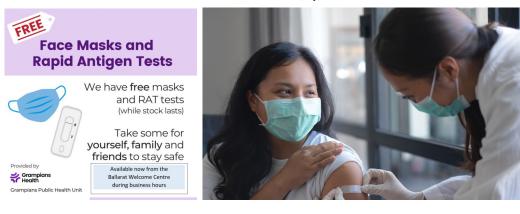
- The COVID-19 booster is free and available for anyone aged 18 and above.
- If you haven't had a COVID vaccination or COVID itself in the last 6 months, 'top-up' now, and get a booster.
- You can also get a FREE flu vaccine at the same time. This is available for anyone aged 6
 months and over.
- It is safe to take the COVID and the Flu vaccination on the same day. In fact, Health
 Professionals agree that the best way to keep yourself healthy this winter is by receiving
 both vaccines.



As always, detailed advice is 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.



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 26 May.

Thank you for completing the survey!

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Social Support clients enjoyed the following activities during April:

- · Multicultural Tucker where we celebrated the beautiful country of Togo in West Africa
- · An Easter Bonnet workshop and parade
- The Health & Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch featuring a presentation on Dementia by Alice Haley from Dementia Australia



MAY PROGRAMS

- Thursday 4th May Bus Trip to the Immigration Museum followed by 2-course lunch
- Wednesday 10th May We are looking forward to celebrating the country of Croatia at Multicultural Tucker
- Thursday 18th May Social Hub for Seniors will feature a fun Mother's Day activity
- · Wednesday 31st May Health and Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch for Seniors
- Each Tuesday during May Tai Chi

For more information about our Social Support programs:

Contact Teresa Azzopardi, BRMC Social Support Program Manager

M 0417 109 052 | E teresa@brmc.org.au

CARERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

BRMC Social Support Team are now delivering a Carers Support Program which includes: transport to and from the program; two-course lunch from the menu; activity entry cost.

The Carers Support Program allows the cared for to enjoy activities outside their home. BRMC staff are trained to offer high quality care to seniors with various needs. The Carer is welcome to join, or can enjoy a well-earned break from their caring role.

Do you know someone in your community who would benefit from our Carer Support Program?

Contact Teresa Azzopardi, BRMC Social Support Program Manager

M 0417 109 052 | E teresa@brmc.org.au



NEW PROGRAM!

CARERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

WHAT'S INCLUDED



- Transport
- Two-course lunch from the menu
- Activity entry cost



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Carers Support Program allows the cared for to enjoy activities outside their home. BRMC staff are trained to offer high quality care to seniors with various needs. The Carer is welcome to join in, or can enjoy a well earned break from their caring role.

Program Launch...

Thursday 1st June 2023

11.30am Sebastopol Bowling Club, two-course lunch from the menu Sebastopol Library movie session, Mrs Brown, 1pm to 3pm

\$10 per person



5331 1123



teresa@brmc.org.au

STRATEGY AND SETTLEMENT

Our inaugural Ballarat Welcome Bus Tour on Friday 12th April was a great success!

We would like to express our utmost gratitude to the City of Ballarat (Intercultural Services, Community Engagement and Partnerships, Customer Experience team) and the Ballarat

Community Health team for their generous support provided for our first tour. It was an excellent opportunity for the participants – new residents to the Ballarat community - to learn about their services through informative presentations and facility tours, and all thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

We are planning two more tours in May and June. As the schedules of all tours will vary, participants may attend all tours if they wish to do so.

Participants' feedback on the 1st tour enabled us to appreciate how beneficial this time was for them. We share some of their feedback:

- · Received useful information from the facilities
- · Learned how to use the services of major facilities for me and my family
- · Increased my sense of belonging
- · Received information that I will pass to other community members and friends
- This Welcome Bus Tour was useful for me / my family
- · I would like to recommend this tour to friends, colleagues or other community members
- · I would be interested in attending more welcome bus tour with different facilities
- · It was very well organised. Staff were very supportive!





THE NEXT BALLARAT WELCOME BUS TOUR IN MAY AND JUNE

- When: Friday 12th May and 16th June from 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
 useful information kits (e.g. Ballarat Welcome Centre, Town Hall, Council information
 centre, customer service, libraries, Ballarat Community Health, Police station, Fire station,
 BGT training and education, The Orange Door, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other facilities)
- ** A detailed tour route will be announced soon!
- ** Simple Lunch will be provided!

For further information please contact:

Heeyoung Lim, BRMC Strategy and Settlement Manager

M 0491 054 902 | E hy.lim@brmc.org.au

REGISTER HERE

SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS IN MAY

· Ballarat Welcome Bus Tour

Friday 12th May at 9:30am - 2:30pm

Contact Heeyoung Lim: M 0491 054 902 | E hy.lim@brmc.org.au or

Nyibol: M 0491 066 247

Welcome Morning Tea

Wednesday 31st May 10:30am - 12 noon

Contact Heeyoung Lim: M 0491 054 902 | E hy.lim@brmc.org.au or

Abrar: M 0491 066 246

• Individual support: Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program for

people who have lived in Australia for less than 5 years

Contact Abrar: M 0491 066 246 | E a.dham@brmc.org.au

• Multicultural Playgroup

Every Thursday 10:30am - 12 noon (during school term)

Contact Nyibol: M 0491 066 247 | E n.deng@brmc.org.au

Multicultural Women's Friendship Circle

Every Thursday 10:30am - 12 noon (during school term)

Contact Nyibol: M 0491 066 247 | E n.deng@brmc.org.au

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Do you enjoy meeting new people? We need you for the Ballarat Jobs & Training Expo!

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

For more information:

Contact Quynh Tran, BRMC Community Employment Connector:

P (03) 5383 0613 | M 0491 066 248 | E q.tran@brmc.org.au



EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISE PROGRAMS

Diversity Homework Club for 5 to 12-year-olds

Welcome to Term 2!

DHC team has been planning exciting activities for member students. Peace Pals International Art Contest is back, planning for drama workshops is underway and guest speakers are lined-up to meet the students and families.



We are delighted to welcome Maria Grigg on board. With extensive teaching experience behind her, she will run EAL lessons for our new students as part of her role as Volunteer Tutor with BRMC's Diversity Youth Group and Homework Club.



Peace Pals International Art Contest is back! Diversity Homework Club students have participated over the past two years and added international participation credentials to their portfolios.

If you'd like to participate, contact Sarabjit, Education Programs Manager:

E s.kaur@brmc.org.au



The deadline to receive the artwork is August 31, 2023

Winners will be Announced on Global Peace Pole Day 22nd of November 2023

Youth from around the world are invited to submit their artwork to the Peace Pals International Art Exhibition and awards for 2023.



This year our we have partnered with with <u>Unity Earth</u>. **Unity Earth** is a global network on a mission to accelerate the realization of **unity** and peace on Earth. Inspired by the world's wisdom traditions and born out of the desire to meet global-sized challenges with global-sized solutions, the network is built to amplify the reach and impact of peace-aligned organizations and individuals.

For more information on Unity Earth, please visit their website.

Please have youth create their artwork with the theme "Unity" Giving thought as to what unity means to them. Unity is being together or at one with someone or something. It's the opposite of being divided. This is a word for togetherness or oneness.

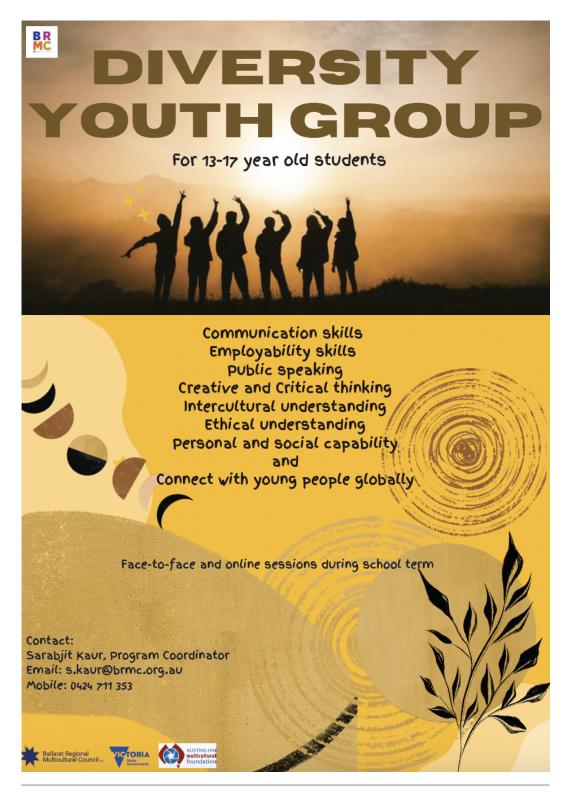
- · Unity in the Family
- Unity Beyond the Family
- · Unity in Nature
- . Unity Among Different Cultures
- . Unity Between Different Ages

Diversity Youth Group for 13 to 17-year-olds

Offering one of world's top 100 education programs, Generation Global, Diversity Youth Group provides the students intercultural dialogue and personal development tools to enrich their educational, interpersonal and employability outcomes. The students participate in video conferences with their global counterparts to discuss issues that matter to them and to the world. Podcast production training is lined-up for Term 3 and the students can't wait to get started on their audio lab training.

To know more and to participate, contact Sarabjit, Education Programs Manager:

E s.kaur@brmc.org.au



Migrant English Program

Offering free English learning support to learners 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.

Nyibol is committed to improving her English skills to communicate better. She is preparing to write her story through poetry under Jan's able tutelage. Well done, Nyibol!



Did you know that BRMC tutors can help you achieve your IELTS, PTE, OET and TOEFL goals? To know more and to participate, contact Sarabjit, Education Programs Manager:

E s.kaur@brmc.org.au



Good Governance

Does your community group need information and support with grant applications and governance best practices? Our Good Governance team can help you with free governance resources, templates and referrals.

Contact Sarabjit: E s.kaur@brmc.org.au





STEPPING STONES TO SMALL BUSINESS

Many congratulations to Multicultural Creative Women's collective enterprise for getting a shop front through City of Ballarat's Evolve funding stream! Ballarat shoppers will soon be able to shop around the world at the MCW retail outlet in Bridge Mall. Led by Stepping Stones graduate Mary Top, Multicultural Creative Women's collective will offer handcrafted items with a cultural flavor. Watch this space for the grand opening in the coming months!





Migrant Women in Business - Made By Many Minds platform

Made By Many Minds is a marketplace for migrant women to connect with micro & small business experts from across Australia. Victorian migrant businesswomen in our networks who meet our criteria can apply for one of fifty \$500 vouchers from <u>Business Victoria</u> to be used exclusively on the platform. The vouchers are for business services from the experts registered with <u>Made by Many Minds</u>.

Apply now! Apply for a Voucher - Made by Many Minds

Who can get a \$500 voucher:

- A migrant woman with a business based in Victoria
- · ABN registered
- Selling less than \$50,000 a year
- Works part-time or full-time in her business and
- Sell your products or services in <u>madebymanyhands.com.au</u> or have your business profile in <u>migrantwomeninbusiness.com.au</u>.
- All the above conditions are mandatory. If you are not part of our network, please email us at info@mwib.com.au

· Cannot be a service provider in Made by Many Minds

The voucher recipients will be awarded by the Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP, the Victorian Minister for Small Business in person on Friday 5th May.

Made By Many Minds Expo

https://mwib.com.au/event/made-by-many-minds-services-expo/

Come along and network with 70+ small business owners; learn about some of the businesses that will showcase their services on our platform; and meet with the Hon. <u>Natalie Suleyman MP</u>, the Victorian Small Business Minister, and her team.

Preference will be given to the voucher applicants who are present at the event. See below for details:

- **Date:** Friday, 5 May 2023
- Time: 11am to 3pm (Formal speeches from 1 pm to 2 pm)
- Venue: Accenture, Level 5/161 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000
- RSVP: <u>info@mwib.com.au</u> please note, places are limited to 70 attendees, so register early to avoid disappointment.

ArtsPay Foundation Grants for artists and small arts organisations

Applications are now open for The ArtsPay Foundation's inaugural small grant round. This is a pilot grant round to help us best understand how ArtsPay can support artists and small arts organisations from across Australia into the future. We want to hear from you about how our funding can help you or your business with your creative and artistic development.

In this first year, The ArtsPay Foundation will be providing:

- Six \$5,000 grants to independent artists
- Two \$10,000 grants to small arts organisations

Applications close midnight 9th May.

For more information and to apply, please click here.

EID-UL-FITRE AND THE BENGALI NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The vibrant Bangladeshi community residing in Ballarat recently came together in a joyous celebration of two significant events - Eid-ul-Fitre and the Bengali New Year.

The festive atmosphere was profound as community members indulged in authentic Bangladeshi delicacies and adorned themselves in traditional Bangladeshi attire, creating a colourful and lively ambiance.

The delectable Bangladeshi cuisine, bursting with flavours and spices, tantalized the taste buds of all those in attendance, while the intricate and beautiful Bangladeshi dresses added a touch of elegance and grace to the festivities.

Overall, it was a delightful and memorable occasion, brimming with the rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh, and a true testament to the community's vibrant spirit and deep-rooted traditions.



Rayhan Shuvo Photography

UPCOMING EVENTS

BALLARAT VOLUNTEER EXPO

Tuesday 16th May

The Ballarat Volunteer Expo, to be held at Barkly Square, will provide a fantastic opportunity for people to see the vast array of organisations needing assistance, including BRMC. This is a great opportunity to find the space that suits you, to give back to the community. We hope to see you

there!

As part of National Volunteer Week "The Change Makers"

BALLARAT VOLUNTEER EXPO 2023

Tuesday 16th May 12pm - 6pm

> Barkly Square 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat

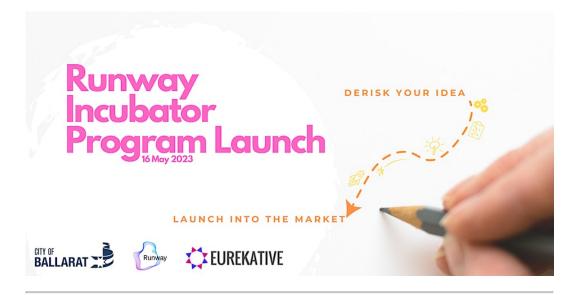
For queries, please contact Lisa lisa.hall@ballaratfoundation.org.au

Organised by









RUNWAY INCUBATOR PROGRAM LAUNCH

16 May 2023 at 5:30PM

Do you have a business idea? Not sure what do to with it?

Look no further. In partnership with Runway HQ, The City of Ballarat is pleased to announce the next Incubator program starting 7th August 2023.

As a lead-up into this program, we and other partners are hosting a series of free events to get you excited about potentially launching your idea into the market.

This first event will introduce you to local entrepreneurs who have progressed an idea to a Startup and speak about how technology is evolving to support Startups and SMEs.

When: Tuesday 16th May | 5:30pm - 7:30pm **Where**: Ballarat Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat

A light dinner will be provided.

This event is being run in partnership with Runway HQ, the City of Ballarat and Eurekative.

GET TICKETS

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY BALL

Wednesday, 17th May

The Wear Orange Wednesday Ball has been organised by the volunteers of the local State Emergency Service unit here in Ballarat. This is a chance for members of the public to come and enjoy a social activity with the volunteers and help raise money to purchase much needed rescue equipment.

When: Wednesday 17th May | 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Where: Victoria Bowling Club, 231 Victoria Street Ballarat East





NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 May - 3 June

This year's theme is 'Be a Voice for Generations'. The theme encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey: the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

As we head towards National Reconciliation Week later this month, we all have a chance to listen to and respect the ongoing history of Indigenous people both here in Ballarat and around our nation and open the doors for solutions and actions that bring us all closer together.

https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/ https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/reconciliationweek



REFUGEE WEEK 2023 - Finding Freedom

Sunday 18 June - Saturday 24 June 2023

Ballarat's full Refugee Week calendar of events and fundraisers between 18 to 24 June will be featured in the June Newsletter. Events will include the House of Welcome's Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon on Wednesday 21st June. Please keep this date free and remember that donations of plants, cakes and bric-a-brac will be welcomed for this event.



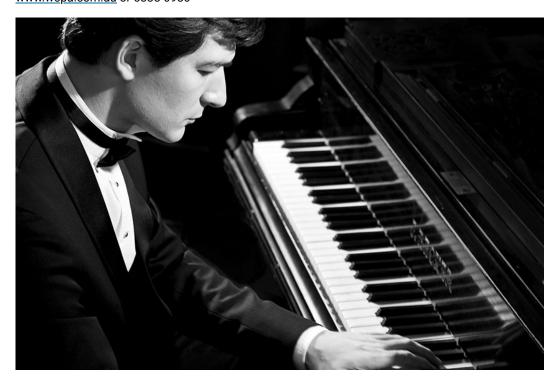
M 0401 175 045 | Facebook: House Of Welcome Ballarat

Read more about this year's theme.

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

GRANT WRITING MASTERCLASS

The Grampians Public Health Unit, in partnership with the Victorian Department of Health, will be hosting two face-to-face grant writing masterclass workshops next month.

- Horsham Masterclass: Wednesday 10th May 2023
- Ballarat Masterclass: Wednesday 24th May 2023

These workshops are designed to help organisations build their capacity in writing successful grant applications.

The Department of Health will be presenting on the elements of grants proposals, how they relate to grant guidelines, terminology, assessment criteria, and common mistakes to avoid. After lunch, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the Grampians Public Health Unit and how we can support your organisation and the communities you serve.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your grant writing skills and increase your chances of success in receiving funding.



FREE WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS - LEARNING THE LAW

Targeted for Community Groups across Ballarat, this free 2-hour session will cover the basics of understanding the law for community groups and where and how to access resources online. From setting up your community group correctly, how and why (or why not) to become incorporated, options for and limitations of auspicing, how to document meeting and AGM minutes, how to report to CAV, what is and how to hold an SGM.

Monday 15th May 2023 - Victorian Law Week

Presented by Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service and Consumer Affairs

- Session 1: 10.00 am 12.00 noon
 (Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 11 Tuppin Drive, Sebastopol)
- **Session 2**: 6.00 pm 8.00 pm (Online via Zoom)

See the attached flyer for more information and how to register.



Running a Successful Community Group: Learning the Law

Monday 15 May 2023

Session 1: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon: Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

Session 2: 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm: Online via Zoom

This free 2-hour session will cover the basics of understanding the law for community groups and where and how to access resources.

- · Setting up your community group correctly
- How and why (or why not) to become incorporated.
- · Options for and limitations of auspicing.
- How to document meeting and AGM minutes,
- How to report to CAV?

The Ballarat and Grampians Community Legal Service and Consumer Affairs Victoria will be joining us to deliver this engaging presentation.

Booking online at www.ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/communitygroups or call Kay Miller on 0460 699 6 69 or email community@ballarateastnh.org.au

This workshop is part of the Community Governance Program presented by



This program is funded by City of Ballarat through its Strategic Partnership Program

\$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.

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?

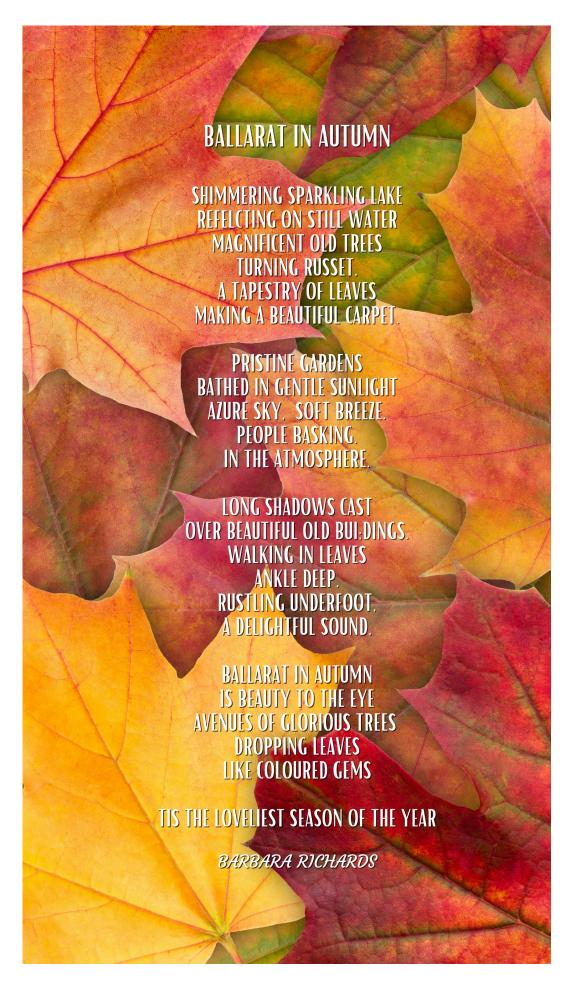
Come and see our qualified JP Maria Sozanski at **Barkly Square Reception** every Thursday 12pm – 1.30pm. This service is free to all.



Maria Sozanski JP

And we leave you now with a beautiful poem written by one of our Social Support Program clients

Barbara Richards.



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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