

## Cultural Diversity Week: Tell your story through dance

One of the top community-based dancer choreographers in the state is in Ballarat to lead a dance-based residency for women of culturally diverse backgrounds that will culminate in a public performance during the Cultural Diversity Week celebrations. Shermaine Heng Li-Ling was invited by the Victorian College of Arts (VCA) to deliver *Breathe, Woman!* a dance-based residency in the city.

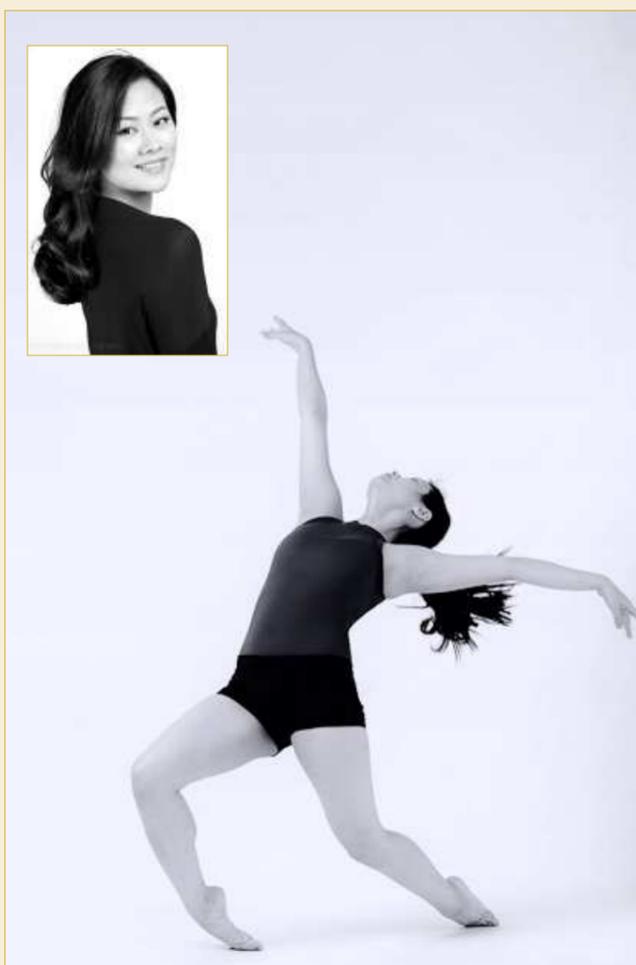
During her time here she will lead a series of workshops and rehearsals at the Trades Hall on Camp Street in which the participants will tell their stories. These will form the basis of the final performance that will take place at the Federation University's Post Office Box Theatre on March 20. She will be working closely with local dance group Dance on the MAP led by Meiro de Mello.

"This project is about engaging with women from various cultural backgrounds to create the work. Diversity is key and so, thus, the more the merrier," said Shermaine. "I hope to give the participants a more fulfilling sense of themselves and, essentially, gain a better understanding of what it means to be a woman."

The women who take part in the project do not need to have had previous experience as dancers.

"I hope to create a 'lycra-free' environment that will give the participants the confidence to overcome any fear and doubts about performing in front of an audience. I want them to know that anyone with a story can tell it with their bodies. We just need conviction," she said.

"Although dance is fundamentally performative, the action in itself is a very internal



**Shermaine Heng Li-Ling**

conversation between the performer and his or her thoughts. I believe it is a process of self-discovery that questions the subject and his or her purpose as an individual," she said.

Shermaine is a post-graduate student of VCA Dance and was awarded the 2014 Victorian Government Creative Scholarship for Dance. She is the current Associate Artistic Director of Flare Dance Company Inc, a non-profit organisation in the City of Boroondara.

Dancing has been part of Shermaine's life from an early age. A native of Singapore, she

started dancing at four years old.

When she was 17, she came to Australia to study Journalism and Political Science at the University of Melbourne but she continued to dance.

"I went back to Singapore and went into banking. I did what was expected in Asian society and that is to find a good job and make money. I questioned what I really wanted," Shermaine said.

She decided that she wanted a life in dance instead and returned to the University of Melbourne to study at VCA Dance.

She has developed a strong leaning to choreography and has choreographed 10 contemporary works.

"It was in choreography where I personally found value in my role as an artist," she said.

"I've always been the sort of person who wanted to make a change in society. I did not want to dance to impress people aesthetically. Choreography is the one platform that allows me to challenge life's biggest questions in a dimension that is open to vast meaning and interpretation.

"My upcoming work here in Regional Victoria will be about the aftermath of migration: How we as women from various cultures can progress and offer our experiences to help the community grow."

*Breathe, Woman!* is a project of the Faculty of VCA & MCM's Regional Training & Engagement program, funded by the State Government through Creative Victoria and delivered in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria.

☐ **Contact Katja Fiedler on 0498 196 473 email: [k.fiedler@brmc.org.au](mailto:k.fiedler@brmc.org.au) or you can find out more on Facebook: *Breathe, Woman!***

# Regular activities

## Community Shed

Meets every other Thursday. A great way to contribute to the community, learning or sharing skills, with the added bonus of making friends and having a good time.

Call Kate Allen on  
0439 413 962

## Homework Club

Every Wednesday from 4pm-5.30pm at Ballarat Library

Call Tara Hossack on  
5338 6864 or via the BRMC on  
5332 5941

## Yoga class

Every Monday 5.30-6.30pm at GPlace. \$8 per session, bring your own yoga mat

Call Mina: 0433 627 770

## Multicultural Tucker

2nd Wednesday of each month held at GPlace

Call Kate Allen on  
0439 413 962

## Library Outreach

Third Tuesday of every month the Central Highlands Ballarat Library pays a visit to the GPlace

For more information call  
5332 5941

## English Class

1-3pm, every Friday at City of Ballarat Library. Cost \$40.

Concessions apply  
Call Judy Brumby on  
0487 173 957

## Dinner fundraiser

On International Women's Day, March 10, the Beyond Shores Project, which is raising money for the typhoon victims of San Roque in the Philippines, is holding a fundraising dinner.

The guest speaker will be Sue Noble, the chief executive officer of Volunteering Victoria. The event will take place at the Mr Rede Restaurant on 203 Dana Street.

The price of \$32 per person includes a three-course meal, complimentary drink on arrival as well as a lucky draw and door prizes.

☐ Contact Georgina Vagg on 0408 109 471.  
Email [madambutterfly36@bigpond.com](mailto:madambutterfly36@bigpond.com)

## Welcome return

A Welcome-back Service for Fr Peter Kunen has been arranged by Kunen family and Sudanese community at 1pm on Saturday, 14 February, at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Lydiard St North.

The service will be followed by light refreshments and Fr Kunen will speak on the current situation for refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP) in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

All are welcome. Feel free to bring refreshments to share.



Would you like to join our creative team for a colourful and vibrant Harmony Fest 2015?

SUNDAY

**22nd March**

**2015**



We need donations of:

Colourful fabric, clothing and cotton rope (or a similar hanging material) and/or

helping hands to make decorations for Harmony Fest

The Crafternoon will run on  
Tuesday 17th February at BRMC 2pm onwards  
Afternoon Tea provided

Under the guidance from Filipino artist Diokno, we will be making bunting and other creative designs from donated materials

If you would like to help make bunting or have items to donate please contact Kate 5332 5941

**Would you like to see your event in this newsletter? Please send information about your event to [admin@brmc.org.au](mailto:admin@brmc.org.au) before the 20th day of each month so that it will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.**

## Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

102 English Street  
Golden Point, VIC 3350  
Tue - Thu 9am-5pm

P.O. Box 1418  
Bakery Hill  
VIC 3354

ph. 03 5332 5941  
[admin@brmc.org.au](mailto:admin@brmc.org.au)  
[www.brmc.org.au](http://www.brmc.org.au)

BRMC is the peak multicultural organisation in Ballarat and Central Highlands. We promote cultural diversity and harmony and offer a range of services.

# Ballarat's Citizen of the Year

A lucky man in the lucky country some might say, but Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council stalwart Charles Zhang has relied on more than luck to make his mark in Ballarat.

Mr Zhang is Ballarat's volunteer extraordinaire, and vice-president of the Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat. He also an active Rotarian and a radio announcer on community radio station VoiceFM.

Over the years, Mr Zhang has helped many migrants to find their feet in the new country.

His efforts were recently recognised when he was chosen to be Ballarat's Citizen of the Year on Australia Day (January 26).

He came to Australia with his family in 1989. The family eventually settled in Ballarat in 1998 and Mr Zhang has been active in the life of the city since then.

In 2013, he walked from Robe to Ballarat retracing the arduous route that Chinese workers took to the gold mines of Ballarat in the 19th Century.

**UPBEAT: Citizen of the Year Charles Zhang.**



**COLOURFUL: Pahiyas made by students of Black Hill primary school as part of the Pahiyas Arts Project, the brainchild of local artist Diokono Pasilan.**

## Crafternoon delights and Pahiyas for Cultural Diversity Week

Do you want to take part in art? Local artist Diokno Pasilan, will be making a star turn at Crafternoon on Tuesday, February 17. The final work will be displayed at the Ballarat Harmony Fest on March 22.

Mr Pasilan's work with the Pahiyas Arts Project and as an artist in his own right will also be prominent throughout Cultural Diversity Week which runs from March 14 to 22.

For the Crafternoon to be successful, Mr Pasilan and the BRMC need donations from you of colourful fabrics and clothing. Alternately you can help to make bunting and other creative works under Mr Pasilan's guidance (**Contact Kate Allen on 5332 5941**).

Mr Pasilan, who is of Filipino descent, has also run a series of workshops, though his Pahiyas Arts Project, with the students of Black Hill, Delacombe and Pleasant Street Primary Schools. Together they have created the highly decorative Pahiyas

from milk cartons. The word Pahiyas is derived from the Filipino word for "to decorate".

These will form a colourful feature of the Pahiyas Art Project display at the Backspace at 15 Camp Street Alfred Deakin Place.

Mr Pasilan is also looking for people who are willing to send pictures of themselves to be part of his own art installation at the Backspace Gallery during Cultural Diversity Week.

The installation which will be based on the theme of diversity and harmony and will feature the faces of people drawn from the Ballarat community. He would welcome portrait photographs taken from any angle be it front, back or side. There is no need to provide names or personal details.

The photographs can be sent to Deborah Klein at the City of Ballarat. For more details, call Ms Klein on 5320 5500 or email: [deborahklein@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:deborahklein@ballarat.vic.gov.au)



**UNITED IN THE WORLD GAME: City of Ballarat Mayor John Phillips with Sheikh Ali Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the president of the Bahrain Football Association.**

## Our city proves to be a great host for the world game

It is bright days ahead for soccer in Australia after the Socceroos triumphed over South Korea on January 31 to become champions of Asia. It is the first time that an Australian soccer team has won international silverware and it is a sign of more big things to come for the sport in this country.

The City of Ballarat had a foot in the door of the competition when the Bahrain football team decided to use the city as its base in its preparations for the Asia Cup campaign. The Bahrainis brought an exotic flavour to the local sports scene and made some history in the process.

Their friendly game against the much fancied Jordan, in which they triumphed 1-0, was the first ever soccer international to be held in Ballarat. The January 4 game at Moreshead Park drew a capacity crowd and the Sheikh Ali Bin Khalifa, the president of the Bahrain Football Association said he was very happy with his team's experience in the city.

During their stay from December 28 to January 7, the team made full use of the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility. Sheikh Ali described the pitch as being "like heaven". Local soccer fans also learned much from the regular training sessions that the visitors held at Moreshead Park.

During the team's stay, the City of Ballarat called on a number of volunteers to help make the visitors feel at home.

A City of Ballarat spokesperson said: "The visit was made possible thanks to the help of the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and the City of Ballarat Multicultural Ambassadors – we thank them for their contribution to making the visit such a success."

# Hepburn Moorabool Multicultural Program

## Community Concert and Lunch

(Organised by Moorabool Shire Council - HACC unit)

Wednesday, March 4

Bungaree Community Centre

Time: 11:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$7.00 includes morning tea & two course meal

**RSVP : By Wednesday 24th of February 2015**

The Hepburn/Moorabool Multicultural program is a social support program for people from diverse cultural backgrounds who are :  
aged , have a disability and feel isolated.

Carers are most welcome.

If you feel this activity would benefit you or a friend, need transport and have any special dietary needs:

Please contact: Virgie Hocking BRMC Social Support / Telelink Coordinator

Phone: [5332-5941](tel:5332-5941) or E-mail: [virgieh@brmc.org.au](mailto:virgieh@brmc.org.au).



A week when Victorians come together to celebrate our rich, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

With hundreds of events and activities held across the State, why not get involved and host your own event?

Save the date, start planning and register your event online:  
[www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)



**Book this day in your diary ...**

Ballarat Harmony fest 2015

Sunday, 22 March

11am to 4pm

Alfred Deakin Place, Camp Street and at the Ballarat Mining Exchange



## International Womens Day Celebration

Guest Speaker

**SUE NOBLE**

Chief Executive Officer  
Volunteering Victoria

10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

6:30pm for 7pm start

Venue: Mr Rede Restaurant  
203 Dana Street Ballarat

Complimentary  
Drink on  
Arrival

3 course  
meal

\$32  
person

Proceeds will be donated to  
**Beyond Shores Project**  
(Typhoon Victims)  
San Roque Tolosa  
Leyte, Philippines

entry by  
ticket  
only

drinks  
@ bar  
prices

Lucky  
Draws

Door Prize

For ticket please contact:

Georgina Vagg

BRMC- Publicity Officer

Fundraising Coordinator

P: 0408 109 471

E: [madambutterfly36@bigpond.com](mailto:madambutterfly36@bigpond.com)



Supported by:



## Indigenous and Multi-Cultural Footy Trials

Kickstart Trials (13-15yrs)

Multi-Cultural Trials (13-15 yrs)



Any indigenous or multicultural footballers interested in trialling for the State Indigenous Kickstart or All Nations Programs are asked to provide your nomination to Tim Shearer or Brett Anderson (details opposite). Nominations are required by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 with the following details:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Club
- School
- Contact Details

### ALL WELCOME TO NOMINATE

To nominate for Kickstart or Multi-Cultural trials

Contact: Tim Shearer, AFL Goldfields Football Development Manager.

Phone: 0408 586 536; email: [tim.shearer@aflvic.com.au](mailto:tim.shearer@aflvic.com.au)

Or Brett Anderson AFL Goldfields Football Development Manager

Phone: 0438 094 403, Email: [brett.anderson@aflvic.com.au](mailto:brett.anderson@aflvic.com.au)