



FULL ENJOYMENT: Music, dance, food and fun are on the menu for the MPlace during Harmony Fest on Sunday, March 20.

## Harmony Fest to liven up MPlace

HARMONY Fest on Sunday, March 20, is a big date on the multicultural calendar of this city. It is the culmination of Cultural Diversity Week in Victoria and it is a massive celebration in Ballarat.

As in previous years, BRMC will host the events in the Mining Exchange which will be called the MPlace during Harmony Fest.

BRMC's MPlace Project Coordinator Tashkah Lloyd began working on preparations for Harmony Fest in January and she was assisted by volunteer extraordinaire Toni Wilson.

"As it is an Italian theme this year, we have really tried to embrace an Italian Festa, market feel with lots of hanging herbs, flower pots and checked table clothes created from all the wonderful BRMC volunteers and social groups such as; the Seniors' Hub and Men's Shed," Tashkah said.

"The MPlace program has an array of demonstrations that I personally can't wait

to see with pasta and passata making to demonstrations by the Tarantella dancers that will be presented by the Italian Association.

"BRMC and I would like to thank all the wonderful support we have had from the amazing volunteers, associations, stall holders, City of Ballarat and local businesses, such as Formosa Nursery, for being so supportive and helping us celebrate Cultural Diversity.

"Organising this event has been a big task, but so rewarding as I have had the pleasure to work with such great people at BRMC.

"I think we have all pulled together as a great team and will have a wonderful Harmony Fest 2016," Tashkah said.



Tashkah Lloyd

## Program of Events

### MPLACE @ Harmony Fest

Sunday, 20 March 2016

#### On the Floor

- 12.30: Tarentella Dancers
- 12.35: Welcome and event introduction
- 12.45: Tarentella Dancers/ workshop
- 1.10: MPLACE stall promotion (roving mic talking to stall holders)
- 1.15: Pasta Demonstration: Mara Ripani
- 1.40: MPLACE stall promotion
- 1.45: Filipino Dancers
- 2.10: Bollywood flower arrangement: Helen (BRMC)
- 2.35: Passata Demonstration: Italian association
- 2.40: Pasta Demonstration: Mara Ripani
- 3.00: Solomon Island Band: SIVA
- 3.20: Solomon Island Dancers: SIVA
- 3.40: Thank you and close

#### Green Room 12am to 4pm

Parent Place: Baby feeding and changing space, young children's play area

#### Children's Activities

Arts and crafts photo board: RAR  
Multicultural dress ups: Helen (BRMC)  
Multicultural Make-up: Helen (BRMC)  
Chillout zone: Couches and seating for all

#### Stalls

BRASSN Café: Carmel Kavanagh  
BRMC Mens Shed: Tony  
Gambling info-CAFS  
Community services info and smoothie bike-BCH  
Handmade dolls: Lee Touzeau  
Passata Demonstration-Italian Association  
Re-Cranked recycle bike program: YMCA  
Italian Arts and crafts: Italian Association  
Food snacks-Taste Thailand  
Survey station for Intercultural garden project-Intercultural Advisory committee  
Thailand tourist info: Ms Wipasri Chal-aprawat,  
Fresh Produce fruit/veg: Highland Heritage Farm  
Indian Jewellery and Clothing?  
BRMC - Floristry and Face Painting - Helen Lloyd-Potter  
Solomon Island  
Friends of Ainaro



**MAKING TRACKS:** Multicultural Bus Trip participants make their way to the bus after a satisfying meal at the Railway Cafe and Tracks Bar at the Maryborough Station. **Picture: Melanie Wortmann**

# Clunes/Maryborough trip for seniors

FOR recently joined BRMC volunteer **Melanie Wortmann** the Multicultural Bus Trip to Clunes and Maryborough on March 2 was an opportunity to serve outside the usual confines of the office.

It was also an opportunity for Melanie, who is a recent arrival to Australia, to see something more of the Goldfields region:

*At 9am on Wednesday morning, all Dolls and Dons alike gathered at the BRMC for departure to Clunes and then on to Maryborough.*

*The sun shone brightly for our trip: a brazen reminder of the hot weather. We were glad to pile into the air-conditioned bus and we were off. The 32 people that formed the travelling party included Dutch, Croatian and Italian groups, as well as Centacare, BRMC staff and volunteers.*

*We arrived safely in Clunes- thanks to the bus driver, David. And after finding a suitable place to have our tea, we parked the bus and set up a few tables for a cuppa, some snacks and a chat.*

*Widow Twankey Confectionery Emporium was one of the highlights of the trip: An adorned, old-style lolly shop in the heart of Clunes.*

*While I had hoped to see the pantomime madam in all her glory - alas she was not available - I settled for some lovely double-salt Dutch liquorice instead. The peanut brittle seemed to be a hit among the group and ice cream was also enjoyed by a few.*

*After a brief window-shop and stretch along the main street, we set off once again, this time in the direction of Maryborough.*

*Once there we dined in style at the Railway*

*Cafe and Tracks Bar which is located in the iconic Maryborough station.*

*The cafe features an art gallery, below sky-high ceilings and surrounded by original fixtures. The restaurant staff went out of their way to cater for our every need.*

*After a long lunch, we left full and satiated for our return to Ballarat.*

*Thank you to Jill Spicer of Centacare and the Victorian government under the HACC program for making this trip possible.*



Melanie Wortmann

## Eddie plans for life in community service

EDDIE Msanzimana was born in Rwanda and spent his early years in a Tanzanian refugee camp before coming to Horsham in Australia. He completed his secondary education and while doing so, became involved in community work with Nexus Youth Centre.

He describes below what inspired to follow a career in community work.

*Hi My name is Elisa Nsanzimana but I'm known as Eddie. I am currently working at Nexus Youth Centre as a trainee.*

*I'm doing a Certificate IV in Community Service which is for two years and it is a full time job in community service. The course will last for 24 months and it is certainly keeping me busy.*

*I chose to do community work because I have been inspired by the people who supported people of different multicultural background: like my English as a Second Language teacher, the team at Nexus and Barry Petrovski from Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) in Ballarat.*

*They made me want to help others; they made me feel that have so much to offer.*

*I did work placement with Nexus while I was still studying at Horsham College. This led to a full-time job at the end of year 12 in 2015.*

*I'm involved with the multicultural youth group down at Nexus which is called Young G, as in young generation.*



**COMMITTED:** Elisa "Eddie" Msanzimana works as a trainee for Nexus Youth Centre in Horsham.

*This year we have put a team together For Relay for Life Through Nexus with Freeza kids too which was held on March 18.*

*I'm also organising a camp for Young G for later in the year.*

*I just want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your support. It means a lot, words can't describe how grateful I am.*

## Women's Day fundraiser dinner for Filipino village

OVER 200 children of San Roque school in the Philippines enjoyed a special meal thanks to the money raised by the Beyond Shores Project in Ballarat late last year.

Now the aim is to raise funds to buy supplies of bamboo and corrugated iron to help the people in Salamanta village on Aklan island rebuild their homes.

**And the venue for this fundraising venture is a special dinner to celebrate International Women's Day on at the Prospects Restaurant at the Federation University SMB Campus Lydiard St South on March 23.**

Event organiser Georgina Vagg said the event which starts at 7pm will include a three-course meal as well as lucky draws, a complimentary drink and entertainment for \$40 per person.

The guest speaker for the event will be the Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner – Western Region, Therese Walsh.



**GATHERINGS:** A large number of people gathered at the BRMC to farewell Virgie and Lawrie Hocking (left) on March 3. BRMC executive member Georgina Vagg sits between them.



Also saying farewell on March 3 was Juliet Montague, left, who is receiving a gift from BRMC executive officer Ann Foley.



Judy Brumby thanks the volunteers of the Migrant English Program, friends and colleagues at her farewell tea on March 9.

## March, changes and farewells at BRMC

The beginning of March was a time of change at BRMC as long-serving employees Virgie Hocking (Social Support/Telelink Coordinator), Judy Brumby (Volunteer Migrant English Program Coordinator) and Juliet Montague (Food Coordinator) moved on to new endeavours in their lives.

Picking up the reins are Helen Lloyd-Potter as the HACC team leader, an Deruka Dekuek as the new Social Support /Telelink Coordinator.

BRMC will call for expressions of interest for coordinating the Migrant English Program and thanks Hana Matic for stepping into the position in the interim.



**AT WORK:** Deruka Dekuek has joined the BRMC as the new Social Support/Telelink Coordinator.

## Opportunity for Deruka to serve community

BRMC welcomes Deruka Dekuek as the new Social Support and Telelink Coordinator – a role she took over from Virgie Hocking.

“My aim is to work with the multicultural communities of Ballarat to enhance their lives and to help vulnerable people to strengthen their capacities in any way,” Deruka said.

Deruka was born in the South Sudan and came to Australia in 2004. She worked as a supervisor for Work for Dole programs in Hoppers Crossing and Footscray.

She also facilitated sewing groups in Hoppers Crossing.

“I gained great experience working with the various culturally diverse groups and these enhanced my skills over the years in working with people of various cultural and ethnic communities,” she said.

Deruka also worked for nine years as an interpreter for Department of



***My aim is to work with the multicultural communities of Ballarat to enhance their lives.***

Immigration.

Last year, she successfully completed a three-year long Bachelor of Community Development degree through Victoria University.

“I feel really fortunate to be joining the BRMC and I hope to be a resource for this organisation and generate new experiences here” Deruka said.

“From what I have seen of Ballarat, it is a role model for other regional cities in Australia in terms of embracing multiculturalism and cultural diversity.”

# Regular activities

## Community Shed

Meets every Thursday.

A great way to contribute to the community, learn/share skills using a well-equipped workshop.

Call BRMC on 5332 5941

## Homework Club

Every Wednesday from

4pm-5.30pm at Ballarat Library.

Call BRMC

on 5332 5941

## GPlace Gardening Day

Every First Thursday of the month.

9.30am to 12noon.

## Yoga class

Every Monday 6pm to 7pm at GPlace. \$8 per session, bring your own yoga mat.

Call Mina: 0433 627 770

## Seniors Hub

Multicultural Seniors' Hub meets

Third Tuesday of every month, 2pm to 4pm, at GPlace. Activities include crafts, food demos, indoor sports and other activities and Library Outreach programme. Transport can be arranged

Call Helen Lloyd-Potter or Deruka Dekuek at BRMC on 5332 5941

## Library Outreach

Third Tuesday of every month the Central Highlands

Ballarat Library pays a visit to the GPlace after 3pm.

Loads of parking.

Call 5332 5941 or just drop in

## English Conversation Class with tutors

Concessions apply.

Call Hannah Matic at BRMC on 5332 5941



**THE DECORATORS:** Many of the decorations that will adorn the MPlace is the work of the volunteers of the Multicultural Seniors Hub which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Function Room of the GPlace in Golden Point. The Hub is enhanced by the City of Ballarat Library's Library Outreach Programme. From left are: Sam Patil (Library Outreach), Clementine Afanou, Meriyeh Vojdani, Pari Khadem, Deruka Dekuek, Patience Woudou, Katja Fiedler, Angelka Sekulic, Jenny Carson, Dulari Hatwal, Jeni Lawrence (Library Outreach), Helen Dunham, Connie Bonzon.

# Key BRMC Meetings and Events for 2016

## General Meetings

General Meetings for All Members are held at GPLACE Function Hall: Refreshments at 5.30pm and meeting 6-7.30pm. Dates scheduled for the remainder of 2016 are:

- 3 May
  - 5 July
  - 6 September
  - 8 November
- AGM date to be confirmed

## BRMC Executive Committee meetings

BRMC Executive Committee of Management meets bi-monthly on the third Tuesday at GPLACE with refreshments from 5.30pm and meetings 6-8pm. Next Executive Meeting is 19 April.

Executive Committee Portfolio Working Groups also meet regularly in between Executive Meetings.

For any inquiries about Executive Meetings please contact Constantine or Ann via the office on 5332 5941.

## GPLACE Welcome Markets

GPLACE Welcome Markets will be held on Saturday mornings 10-12 noon with food and fun and a breakfast for Saturday morning language students

- 16 April
- 11 June
- 10 September
- 10 December

Thank you to all who joined our March inaugural social gathering 'From Indifference to Encounter' with guest speaker David Deutscher.

Please watch our Website Facebook and quarterly newsletters in 2016 for notice of future gatherings.

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

## Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

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