

Regular activities

Community Shed

Meets every Thursday.

A great way to contribute to the community, learn/share skills. Make friends while having a good time.

Call Kate Allen on 5332 5941

Homework Club

Every Wednesday from 4pm-5.30pm at Ballarat Library.

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

GPlace Gardening Day

Every First Thursday of the month. 9.30am to 12noon.

Yoga class

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

Call Mina: 0433 627 770

Seniors Hub

Multicultural Seniors's Hub meets on 21 April, 2pm to 4pm, at GPlace. Activities include Crafts - Sewing Joey pouches, Library Outreach programme and indoor sports and games.

Call Kate Allen or Katja Fiedler on 0439 413 962

Library Outreach

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

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

Migration advice clinic opening in July

The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council will soon open our migration advice clinic for Ballarat and Central Highlands community members.

The clinic is being established at the BRMC through its partnership and collaboration with the Ballarat

Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network.

The not-for-profit clinic will offer free advice and referrals to people on personal migration matters.

Appointments are essential. Launch details will be announced in July.

Community Bulletin board

Free Hearing Care

National Hearing Care organising free hearing check up for over-55s.

Where: Stockland Wendouree cnr of Norman and Gillie Streets just outside the KMart

When: Open Monday to Friday, 8.40am to 3.40pm.

Contact: Telephone 1800 701 457 to make appointment and mention the Wendouree Clinic.

Dutch Coffee Morning

Jana and Yvon are holding a coffee morning for the people of Dutch roots or for those who would like to speak Dutch.

Where: Oscar's Hotel and Cafe Bar, 18 Doveton Street South, opposite Target.

When: 10am, 1 July.

Contact: Jana (email: jana.vd.schoot@gmail.com); or Yvon on 0438 140 756

Shopping expedition

Ballarat Italian Association is hosting a free shopping trip for members and friends to Assembly Drive Tullamarine to visit factory outlets and wholesale suppliers of choice foods, homewares, grocery supplies. Bus departs from Ballarat Library

When: Sunday, 21 June. Bus leaves Ballarat Library at 9.00am and returns at 2.00pm.

Contact: Yvette on 0437 327 718.

Young @Heart

Come to the GPlace and join us at the BRMC for a morning of fun and healthy ageing activities followed by lunch. Bring a plate to share, if you like. Participation and lunch are free. RSVP by 19 June.

Where: GPlace, 102 English Street, Golden Point.

When: 10am, Tuesday, 23 June.

Contact: Connie Bonzon on 0449 053 647, Virgie Hocking on 5332 5941 or Katja Fiedler on 0498 196 473.

Hepburn Moorabool Multicultural Program Luncheon

The Hepburn/Moorabool Multicultural Programme is a social support programme for people of diverse cultural background living in Moorabool and Hepburn who are aged, have a disability and feel isolated. Carers are welcome.

Where: Old Hepburn Hotel, 236 Main Road, Hepburn Springs

When: From 11.30am to 2.30pm on June 24. RSVP by Wednesday, 17 June.

Cost: \$7 for a two course meal.

Contact: If you feel this activity will benefit you or a friend, if you need transport and if you have special dietary needs let Virgie Hocking the BRMC Social Support/Telelink Coordinator know. Call on 5332 5941, or email: virgieh@brmc.org.au The program provides social support for people of diverse cultural backgrounds who are aged, have a disability and feel isolated. Carers are most welcome to take part.

Library Service comes to BRMC and Golden Point

Library Outreach programme at the GPlace, home of the BRMC.

When: every third Tuesday of the month in afternoon from

Where: GPlace at 102 English Street Golden Point.

Contact: 5332 5941.

Yoga Classes at BRMC

Yoga classes run by Mina to help you become stronger, more flexible and balanced.

When: Every Monday 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Where: The GPlace.

Contact: Mina 0433 627 770; e: minarz.r@gmail.com

Cost: \$8 per session.

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc. **BRMC**

June / July 2015

Konekti

BRMC's newsletter

Mission to South Sudan for Ballarat priest

A BUCKET, a mosquito net and a pot to cook with are the simple items that can make the difference between life and death for the people of the South Sudan who have been displaced by the fighting between factions within the country.

Ballarat-based Anglican priest, Father Peter Kunen, who was recently consecrated the Bishop of the newly created diocese of Greater Nasir in the eastern part of South Sudan, said having these basic implements would make easier the lives of many of the displaced people in his diocese.

Fr Kunen, who is a former Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Interfaith Officer, left Ballarat on May 21 to return to the South Sudan to assess the plight of the people within his diocese and to work out their needs.

"My diocese has four counties with a lot of people. It is a big population and the size of the whole of Western Victoria. Many of the people displaced by the fighting have fled to neighbouring Ethiopia, Kenya and even North Sudan. The United Nations came in an registered some of the people but there are many who have not been registered," said Fr Kunen.

The result is that those who are not registered do not receive much aid from humanitarian agencies. Also many have fled to the diocese from other parts of the country and they too are yet to be properly registered for aid by the UN and other interventional organisations, he said.

"Many come to our diocese seeking shelter and assistance from us," he said. "Many of the people have no shelter, they live under trees, so when there is rain (the rainy season is now starting in South Sudan) they live in the water.



SEEKING FACTS: Fr Peter Kunen, the recently consecrated Anglican Bishop of Great Nasir is in South Sudan to gauge the need of his diocese.

It is therefore easy for the cholera to call you."

Living out in the open, as they are, means they are vulnerable to malaria and cholera from drinking contaminated water, hence the need for mosquito nets to protect them from the malaria-carrying mosquitos and buckets to carry and contain water from safe sources.

Fr Kunen is a former refugee.

"I was born in South Sudan and left because of the civil war with Sudan. I lived in Ethiopia for 12 years as a refugee and two years in Kenya before coming to Australia."

"Coming to Australia was not because I was on holiday. It was because war came to my country, to our villages.

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BRMC sponsors film festival at MADE

The BRMC is hosting the Welcome Film Fest at the end of Refugee Week.

The mini-festival programme features three acclaimed movies that will be screened on Saturday, 20 June, and Sunday, 21 June, at 2pm at MADE Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka at 102 Stawell Street South.

Nicky Tindale-Biscoe, the director of *Mohamed Ali's Happy Day Feast*, will introduce her film to the audience on Saturday. This documentary which will also be screened on Sunday, is about Mohamed and his wife, Halina, who have arrived in Australia to set up their dream cafe. The film offers a perspective of Australian society through the eyes of the new arrivals. This will be followed by a screening of *Welcome*, a multi-award winning film by Phillippe Loiret.

The Oscar-nominated *War Dance*, about civil war seen from the eyes of children and directed by Sean and Andrea Nix, will screen on Sunday.

Bookings online via www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-festivaltickets-17180101145. Tickets \$10 per day. For more information call Inquiries the BRMC on 5332 5941.

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

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
www.brmc.org.au

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YMCA has 30 bikes for suitable applicants

THE director of Community and Youth Engagement of Ballarat YMCA says there are 30 bicycles that are available to anyone who needs them.

Stacey Oliver said: "We have about 30 bikes (all sizes) and a brand new Australian Safety Standard helmet to provide to people that would benefit from a bike."

Those wishing to get one of the bicycles should contact program coordinator Wallace Martin, and explain by email why they need a bicycle and how they would benefit from having one. Applicants should also provide a supporting agency's contact details.

The Bike Recycle is open 2pm to 5pm, Monday and Friday, to view the bikes. A helmet and a bicycle lock will also be provided.

For more details contact Wallace Martin on 0417 313 898.

Fun and free Italian lessons for the young

THE Ballarat Italian Association in conjunction with City of Ballarat and Central Highlands Libraries are offering a free bilingual *Storielle Italiana* for preschool and primary school children.

It is a fun, interactive and a great introduction to Italian language and a great opportunity for Australians of Italian heritage to revisit their culture and language.

Learning greetings; read stories; singing songs; colouring and craft activities in Italian and English is part of the programme. The service which is being conducted by a talented bi-linguist. People of all ages and cultures welcome.

For more information contact: Ballarat Italian Association Committee member: Mar-yann Morisi on telephone 0439 353 891 or City of Ballarat Children's and Youth Librarian Julie Bull on telephone 5338 6850

WELCOMING ALL NATIONALITIES

KALAKSHETRA ART & MUSIC SCHOOL

Starts classes in
BALLARAT
on 16th June 5.00 to 7.00pm

Venue: BRMC Hall
102, English St., Golden Point, Ballarat

- Teaches Indian Carnatic Classical Music through the syllabus of Saint Purandaradas for beginners and advanced



- Art School specialises in teaching Painting & Drawing to absolute beginners, intermediate and advanced students

Contact: Sedunath Prabhakar (Pradeep Prabhakar) Mob: 0478681130, 0469768170, Lokan Ravi Mob: 0402550163, Saritha Sedunath Mob: 0450831974, Email: kalakshetracultural@gmail.com

Multicultural cooking club for seniors

MOST of us have eaten some of the wonderful and diverse food that our members have prepared for BRMC events, such as the Multicultural Tucker.

Multicultural Seniors Cooking Club is a new initiative to further promote the skills and knowledge of the community. Cooking Club is about collecting, cooking and promoting delicious and nutritious food from around the world on Aged Care Service menus.

The first meeting will be at the next Multicultural Seniors Hub (held on the third Tuesday of every month) on 16 June; if you have recipes to share or would like to learn new dishes come and join us.

When: 16 June 12.30-3pm
Where: GPlace, 102 English Street, Golden Point.
Contact: Juliet on 0427 6477 99



TASTY INITIATIVE: Multicultural Seniors Cooking Club begins on 16 June during the next Multicultural Seniors Hub meeting at the home of the BRMC at GPlace in Golden Point.

Bishop's mission of mercy to the South Sudan

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"Our property and animals were destroyed by our enemies. They killed from the air and the ground. A lot of people ran away. Those who did not, did not make it."

"In 1989, our village was destroyed and I had to walk 15 days in the bush to Ethiopia. I was one of the lucky ones not killed by hunger, wild animals or floods," Fr Kunen said.

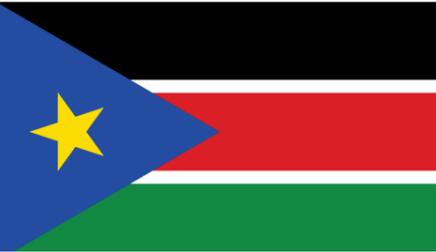
Once in Australia he worked among the African communities in Ballarat, Geelong and Colac with support of community organisations such as the BRMC.

"I thank the Ballarat community for becoming a welcoming zone for refugees."

Since settling in Australian, he became a citizen in 2006, Fr Kunen has returned to South Sudan four times to check the situation.

"The first visit was to find my family. I found them in Ethiopia. The community was suffering as there was no support for them after the war with Sudan."

"When there was new fighting in the region in 2013, I was invited by one of the bishops



in Kenya and was sponsored to go there by Anglican diocese of Ballarat to assess the situation earlier this year," he said. It was after this visit that he was made Bishop of Greater Nasir.

"I appeal to all organisations in Ballarat to support my people. They are really suffering and you need to pray for them and for me."

Fr Kunen will return to Ballarat in three months' time to report on the needs of his diocese in South Sudan.

For more information on how you can support Fr Kunen contact Peter Jarvis of the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat on 5331 1183 or the BRMC on 5332 5941.

BRMC Service cost changes

THE executive committee of the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council has approved an auspice budget that will enable the organisation to cover costs when auspicating organisation projects.

This is essentially an administration fee that will enable the BRMC to help you, your organisation and/or business.

"We can help you with a funding application, project or event management, promotion or marketing campaigns and materials and other areas," said Regina Bautista, the BRMC's Finance Coordinator.

"Our network of people from differ-

ent multicultural background can provide you with a very diverse experience/skills, diverse ideas and a multi-approach to your needs," she said. "Come and talk to us about auspicating. We have a very simple and direct approach to auspice management".

For approved grants/funds BRMC will charge the following administrative costs:

- 10% = \$10,000 and below;
- 15% = \$10,001 up to \$20,000;
- 20% = \$20,001 up to \$50,000;
- 25% = \$50,001 up to \$75,000; and
- 30% = \$75,001 above.

This cost is to cover assistance/support that BRMC will provide to you.

GPlace hire fees

The hiring costs of facilities at the GPlace, the home of the BRMC on English Street, Golden Point have been increased. The hire of the Function Room and three available classrooms for BRMC members is now \$10 an hour, \$25 for a half day (three hours), or \$45 for the day (six hours or more).

Fees for the use of the commercial kitchen include a cleaning fee. It will cost a BRMC member \$20 for an hour's use of the kitchen, \$50 for a half day and \$70 for a full day's use.

For users of the hall who are not affiliated to the BRMC, the costs for the use of the Function Room and commercial kitchen is \$30 an hour, \$75 for a half day and \$150 for the day. The cost of hiring a classroom will be \$20 for the first hour, and \$15 for every hour thereafter. The cost for a day will be \$115. All prices include GST.

To book GPlace facilities call 5332 5941.



Diarise this: Celebrate Africa day at Coinda

THE Ballarat African Association will be stepping up a gear to celebrate an evening of African music, dance and performance and cuisine that will represent the broad sweep of the continent from Morocco and Egypt in the north, to Nigeria and Togo in the west, Kenya and Ethiopia in the east, and Botswana in the south.

The celebration takes place at the Coinda Community Hall in Wendouree on 27 June at 6pm is open to everyone.

The Mokassa Brothers Production band will be headlining the entertainment with their brand of the fast moving, dance-inducing Soukous music of Congo.

Dancers drawn from the Ballarat region will perform to traditional music and a DJ will play African music to round off what should be a memorable and fun evening.

The secretary of the Ballarat African Association, Buk Dojiok, said the event would be an opportunity for people of African descent to reconnect with Africa.

"It is a reminder of our connectedness as Africans – of our common struggles and achievements. The music will be great and the people will be happy," said Mr Dojiok.

Africa day in Ballarat takes place on June 27, Coinda Hall, Wendouree.



TAKING A BOW: The performers of the *Breathe, Woman!* project take their bow before a sell-out audience at the Post Office Box Theatre on March 20. From left are Nivedita Sharma (not visible), Lynden Baxter, Trisha Frankie, Desire Mahn, Eva Giel, Kaycelyn Kucina, Beth Holmes, Leanne Holmes, Shermaine Heng, Ally Stewart, Magda Kazmierczak, Jolly Thakar, Shyla Tobin, Erin McCuskey (not visible). Pictures by Josh Hazendonk of Donk Photography

Our dancers take pride of place in Melbourne

ON 4 JULY, the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC) will celebrate the artistic achievements our Artist in Residence Dance Project *Breathe, Woman!* held in the weeks leading to the Harmony Festival in March.

The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) will host a one-off Melbourne performance that will feature the local dancers who participated in the project.

The performance was the result of a vibrant and creative partnership between BRMC and the Faculty of VCA& MCM – Victoria's pre-eminent arts education institutions – and our local partners.

"Together we have engaged Ballarat women from diverse cultural backgrounds and provided them with the opportunity to

work with VCA graduate Shermaine Heng to develop a contemporary dance piece," said Ann Foley, the BRMC Executive Officer.

Breathe, Woman! was one of more than 30 regional arts projects across the state over the last three years. It was realised through the Regional Training and Engagement Program by the Faculty of VCA and MCM, funded by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

It is the only project that the VCA has selected to bring to Melbourne.

The performance will be embedded in a short programme celebrating VCA's artistic achievements with various highlights on display from 4.30pm and a reception following the performance.