

The priceless smiles from the BRMC Members Christmas Party and the Togolese Festival.



**Next General Meeting of Members  
Tuesday February 15th 7.00 pm at BRMC  
All Welcome**

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## Message from the Chairperson

On behalf of BRMC, I hope and trust that all our members and friends had a wonderful festive season and enjoyed a terrific New Year. However, it is now opportune to reflect back briefly and then move onto important events and celebrations for 2011.

Members should be aware that at BRMC's AGM (October 2010) a new Committee of Management was elected to office for the next 12 months. The new committee is committed to stabilizing BRMC's operations and then moving forward with all of its members. Given the appointment of a new Executive Officer, Jeff Langdon, to drive the organization and seek more funding opportunities that will benefit all our target groups, BRMC is entering a new era. The EO will also support our excellent staff to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our varied clients' needs. This will also enable us to review our organisational structure and refine our operations to make BRMC a more viable and dynamic peak body. To enable BRMC to be more focused and work towards achieving practices, we held a Strategic Planning & Team Building Day on the 22 January 2011. This involved develop-

ing a Vision & Mission statement, examining our core values and establishing our priorities for the next 3 to 5 years. The draft Strategic Plan will be circulated to all members and stakeholders shortly for their information and feedback.

Next, we need to look forward to some very important community events and activities to showcase BRMC and the respective cultural groups/associations. It was terrific to see a number of local cultural groups performing as part of a multicultural concert in the Botanic Gardens as part of Ballarat's Australia Day celebration. Congratulations to the Filipino dancers, Ballarat African Dance Troupe and the Chinese Assoc.'s Lion dance performance. With the annual Ballarat Begonia Festival parade on the 14th March BRMC is extending an open invitation to all Cultural Groups & members to participate. BRMC has received sponsorship from Bartlett Blinds to have a float and add to the theme of "Floating Synergies" with an emphasis on celebrating multiculturalism, cultural diversity, harmony and respect for all people in Ballarat. Fol-



lowing this will be the Cultural Diversity Week from the 14—21 March 2011. A major Intercultural Festival will be facilitated by the City of Ballarat and again BRMC seeks all members' ongoing support on the 18 March in the Armstrong Street Mall. Then too, International Women's Night will be a great occasion with a terrific guest speaker and delicious Chinese banquet. (see flyer page 9) Added to these activities will be NESBLinks Harmony Night on Saturday 19 March.

*continued on page 11*

## Let's Get to know our Executive Officer

Jeff's background is diverse to say the least. After obtaining a Ph D in Geophysics at Melbourne University Jeff didn't take the option of going bush and making his fortune but chose instead to live and work in Castlemaine. He was a teacher for a short time before taking on the management of the Castlemaine Education Centre which ran a number of the community support and development services in the town.

After 5 years in the position the potential of the community media took Jeff's attention. Jeff was amongst a group in Central Victoria who started the community radio station 3CCC FM. Eventually Jeff was attracted into the national scene where he became President of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia. In this role Jeff had quite a bit to do with Ethnic and Aboriginal broadcasters from around the country including visiting most of the ethnic stations. Under Jeff's Presidency the sector introduced national ethnic and general networking through satellite distribution.

After 3CCC Jeff went on to run the Community Health Centre in Eaglehawk near Bendigo then the University Radio station in Adelaide before returning to Victoria to run the web services for the State's Health Department. Jeff was instrumental in getting the Health Translations Directory launched (a sister web site to the popular Better Health Channel which grew to become the largest government website in Australia).

After a couple of years freelancing in community development and government web services Jeff took the part-time position funded by the Department of Health of Executive Officer at BRMC. "It's certainly been a tumultuous time at BRMC in the last year or so", says Jeff, "but I believe that with a strong Committee working constructively with the members of the association we can consolidate and move on to provide a range of relevant services and programs for the intercultural community of Ballarat."

Jeff is happy to talk with members about ideas they may have regarding the future of the association.



## Program Reports

### What: Multicultural Tucker

**When:** Second Wednesday of the month  
February - December  
**Where:** G-place Hall **Time:** 11.30am – 2pm (Bookings essential)

The Multicultural Tucker Program is funded by the Department of Health under the Home and Community Care (HACC) program. Our service is targeted toward the culturally and linguistically diverse community. An eligibility criteria is applied in a systematic, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory manner. Consumers and potential consumers are informed of the eligibility requirements.

The Multicultural Tucker program is a vibrant and vital program that provides social support and nutritious culturally appropriate meals to the CALD community of Ballarat and surrounding areas. It is comprised of paid HACC workers and a team of dedicat-

ed volunteers who work together to hold the luncheon catering to about 100 per month. It is a dynamic program that provides benefit to the community and provides a window to Ballarat's vibrant older culturally diverse community.

### What: Senior Men's Multicultural Sports Day

**When:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 –  
**Time:** 11 – 2pm  
**Where:** Ballarat Italian Association, Recreation Road, Mt Clear

We are conducting another Senior Men's Multicultural Sports Day in conjunction the Centacare and Central Highlands Sports. Partners are welcome and morning tea and lunch will be provided. Bookings are essential please phone 5332 5941.

### Farewell to Yin Toe, MCT Food Coordinator

It is with great sadness that after five years as Food Coordinator of the Multicultural Tucker program Yin Toe is hanging up his apron. We acknowledge all the long, hot hours you have put in the kitchen Yin and thank you for your tremendous contribution, not only to the MCT program but all other catering services you have provided on a volunteer basis to the BRMC programs. We will miss you but we wish you every success for the future.

### Welcome back Jason Shorter, farewell Tiffany Gardiner

After six months paternity leave Jason is back on deck 1<sup>st</sup> March on a part-time basis. Thank you Tiffany for looking after the MCT program whilst Jason has been on leave.

### HACC Social Support/ Telelink

The volunteers from the Friendly Visiting Scheme are doing a wonderful job. They continue to visit our clients and have developed a close relationship with them.

I had visited two of the Friendly Visiting clients a couple of weeks ago and both of them are looking well and really appreciate the support that BRMC provided to them.

With the Telelink program the Filipino group will resume their session this week and will continue the telephone conference

every fortnight.

The Dutch Telelink has resumed with different participants. So far there are three members in group.

The group will continue to have the telephone chat every Monday night and is hoping to build up the numbers.

We are hoping that the Intercultural Group will continue.

At the same time the Coordinator is busy organising the 1<sup>st</sup> Hepburn/ Moorabool

Multicultural Program for 2011.

The group's 1<sup>st</sup> event is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the BoatHouse Café.

In collaboration with Centacare we are organising the 1<sup>st</sup> Multicultural Men's Sports Day this year on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

I wish all the very best and you are in good health

Virgie Hocking  
Social Support/Telelink Coordinator

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

#### Ballarat Intercultural Aged Connections (BIAC)

The Community Partners Project (CPP) is promoting and facilitating increased and sustained access by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities with significant aged care needs to aged care information and support services.

The communities currently involved with CPP are Greek, Italian, Dutch, German, Croatian and Chinese/Australian. Each community has volunteers known as Intercultural Facilitators who commit to the project for a two year period.

During this period, the Intercultural Facilitators ensure their communities have increased access to culturally appropriate aged care support services and have great-

er capacity to make informed decisions about aged care support services.

The CPP program also delivers cultural briefings to Aged Care Service Providers to aid the delivery of more culturally appropriate care to older people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Communities.

On the first Friday of every month the Intercultural facilitators invite Health Service Providers to join them at Formosa Nursery at 10:30am for a cup of coffee (please see flyer opposite).

The aim is to develop sustainable relationships between the CALD community leaders and health care service providers.

Kim Romeo  
CPP Coordinator



## COMING TOGETHER

*The Intercultural Facilitators of the Community Partners Program (CPP) at Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC) would like you join them for a free cup of coffee complimented by great conversation.*

*Our aim is to promote sustainable relationships between Ballarat Health Support Services and our Multicultural Community.*

*We would be delighted if you can attend.*

*Please RSVP Kim Romeo on 5332 59 41 or email [cppbrmc.org.au](mailto:cppbrmc.org.au)*



FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2011

10:30 AM

FORMOSA GARDEN NURSERY

104 LEITH STREET



## Recent Activities

30 November, 2010 Launch of BRMC's Multicultural Recipe Book

26 January, 2011 Australia Day

14 December, 2010 BRMC Volunteers Christmas Party

22 January, 2011 Strategy Planning Day

17 December, 2010 BRMC Members Christmas Party

L-R: Jill, Tiff, Virgie opening gifts, Desley Beechy during the planning day, Mayor Judy Verlin & VMC's Michael van Vliet during the BRMC Recipe Book Lunch. (below) Judy, Jeff, Jason, Yin staff Christmas Party



Jeff and the red wine soaked coat.....

### 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 Launch of BRMC's Multicultural Recipe Book

The launch of the long awaited Recipe Book was hosted by the Mayor of the City of Ballarat, Cr. Judy Verlin and was attended by over 40 invited guests. Representing the Victorian Multicultural Committee (VMC) was Mr Michael Van Vleit, Community Strengthening Officer.

Mayor elect Cr. Craig Fletcher was also in attendance, along with BRMC's Chairperson Frank Williams, plus Cultural Diversity Officers Ms Fances Selanga and Ms Liz Hardiman. Mr Doug Sarah and representatives of various cultural associations also attended this great occasion.

The Mayor congratulated Ms Georgina Vagg and BRMC on this terrific initiative as food is so integral to all cultures and people from different backgrounds. BRMC is most appreciative of the generous support of Mr Giancarlo and Gerta Faustini (Eureka Pizza and Restaurant) for defraying the costs of printing the Recipe Books.

Thanks to Cr. Verlin and the City of Ballarat for hosting the launch and providing finger food and refreshments for the occasion. Also, Best Community Development (CEO) Mr Ron Stone and Quickprint Mr Chris Hanrahan for layout of the Recipe Book. A special thanks also to Ms Kim Romeo for word processing and layout of this attractive and easy to follow Recipe Book.

Everyone in attendance was impressed by the quality of the publication and the terrific variety of recipes (including dips, soups, entrées, main dishes, salads and vegetables, cold and hot sweets, biscuits, scones and so on) from throughout the world.

This wonderful recipe book is available from Georgina and BRMC for the price of \$15.00 per copy. As books are selling fast please make sure you obtain a copy of this great collection of recipes as soon as possible.

Ms Georgina Vagg Fundraising/ Women's Officer

## Strategic Plan Meeting

**Saturday 22 January 2011**

A strategic plan meeting was held on the above date and was well attended by the Committee of Management. Our Executive Officer, Staff representatives, Council Representative and Desley Beechy who chaired the major session of deciding on vision and mission statements, values and broad ideas on where we were heading and what our priorities are in the future.

I would like to point out that this is the first major part of a strategic plan and once ideas, etc., are put in place the document will go to all members and stakeholders for comment, the report will then come back to the committee for discussion and once again go to the members for any final discussion before adoption.

The strategic plan is a draft only and still in its infancy and will not be adopted until the entire

process mentioned is completed

The committee on the day believed that we must go forward as the peak multicultural group in Ballarat and we must work in with other stakeholders to ensure each other builds on each others strengths by doing what we all agree we can do best

As stated all funding bodies, other multicultural bodies, local stakeholders will all be able to have their input

However the important people are you the members who must have input and whatever the outcome commit to our interrelations future in the region

David Vendy (Chair of the Day)

## Australia Day



- FAABI Dance Troupe
- Ballarat African Association's Dance Troupe
- Thai Dance Troupe
- Ms. Erica Lapina - Ballarat Idol (2009) FAABI Member

Hundreds of BRMC members and supporters gathered around the Lake to Celebrate Australia Day around 4pm 26 January, 2011. The following multicultural groups performed during the event:

City of Ballarat's Battle of the Bands and the monster fireworks display added more colour to the event.

## Multicultural Senior Men's Sport's Day



WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2011

TIME: 10:30AM- 1:30 PM



Where: Ballarat Italian Association Hall 9-11 Recreation Road, Mt Clear

PARTNER'S WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN IN

FREE ENTRY

MORNING TEA & LUNCH PROVIDED

COME AND ENJOY THE FUN, SHARE A LAUGH, LOTS OF GAMES

ITS NOT ABOUT WINNING ITS ABOUT HAVING A GO AND TRYING OUT SPORTS

Billards

Indoor Bowls

Chess/Checkers

Paid/Snooker

Croquet

Card Games

Quizzes



Please ring on 5332 5941 to register before February 21<sup>st</sup> 2011

Please ring if you require transport

This event is a collaboration between Centcare, CHSA Sports Central and BRMC. The project is funded by the HACC (Home and Community Care) Program. We would also like to acknowledge the City of Ballarat for their financial grant towards this project.



## What Rabbit are You?

(2011 "The Year of the Rabbit")

If you are born on :

**1951 & 2011 Metal Rabbits**—Metal gives Rabbit more strength ,resilience and determination. Metal Rabbits are more intense in their actions, whether they're work-related or romantic.

**1903 & 1963 Water Rabbits**—Like the currents, Water Rabbits prefer to go with the flow, avoiding conflict at all costs even in situations that are bothersome. It's easy to take advantage of Water Rabbits. They are very supportive of others.

**1915 & 1975 Wood Rabbits**—Wood Rabbits occupy their time doing for others, always feeling the need to make others content. This generosity is easy for others to take advantage of and sometimes they don't realise it is happening.

**1927 & 1987 Fire Rabbits**—They add spark to rabbit personality and they love to seek new adventures. Prone to tantrums but they prefer to avoid conflict.

**1939 & 1999 Earth Rabbits**—They are grounded in reality. Their advice can be harsh, but honest. Home life is important to them as are money and material goods.

### Personality

Rabbit symbolizes creativity, compassion, and sensitivity. They are friendly, outgoing and prefer the company of others. Rabbits believe strongly in friends and family.

### Compatibility

Rabbit is most compatible with the Pig and Dog and incompatible with Rooster and Rat.

## Upcoming Activities

**05 February FAABI's Annual General Meeting**—Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Filipino's AGM that will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February at 4.00pm at GPLACE. FAABI is always seeking new members and would welcome anyone who wishes to join the association. Annual Membership is \$10 per person and enquiries can be made by contacting Ms Shirley Hart or Ms Virgie Hocking (Tel: 5332 5941). A light meal will be enjoyed by everyone present following the AGM. We look forward to you attending this important meeting and/or joining our association.

**05 February The Chinese/Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc.** The Society will be performing between 9am and 1pm in the Armstrong Street Mall. The group will also conduct a stall that will include traditional paper cut designs, masks and lantern craft activities for both adults and children alike.

**05 - 06 February The Chinese/Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc.** Sovereign Hill at 9.00am launch of the Chinese New Year at the Joss House (Gold coin contribution for non-members to defray the costs of some pork and other delicacies)

**12 February Freedom as a Defence Dinner** Please see notice on Page 9

**06 February The Chinese/Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc.** At the Inn of Khong Restaurant (7.00pm) celebration of the Chinese New Year. Please contact Jo or Francis at the restaurant for bookings on 5331 4088 for a great Chinese banquet and celebration.

**08 March Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC)-** They will discuss their role in relation to credit regulation, the role of Credit Outreach Team, projects of Team, complaints, resources to consumers regarding credit and consumer protection. **1.30 to 3 pm at BRMC**

**14 March The Chinese/Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc.** Together with Chinese Communities of Melbourne and Bendigo the group will participate in the Annual Begonia Parade at Lake Wendouree at 11am. Everyone is invited to participate in these community activities and add to the festivities.

**14 March Begonia Festival – BRMC's Float in the Procession**—BRMC is pleased to advise all members and cultural associations that we will have a float in this year's Begonia Festival Parade. As a result, we are urging as many members as possible to dress in traditional costumes and join our float in the Annual Parade. Mr. Andreas Litras (Coordinator of the Begonia Festival Parade) has advised BRMC that he has secured a sponsor to support the float. BRMC is especially fortunate to have obtained sponsorship as only four floats have been sponsored for this year's parade.

The theme of our float will be 'Celebrating Ballarat's Cultural Diversity'. We also need volunteers to carry banners and flags, streamers and balloons, etc., to add colour and flair to our entry.

Be sure to put this important community celebration in your diary and be an integral part of BRMC's entry in the Begonia Parade. For more information and advice do not hesitate to contact BRMC (Tel: 5332 5941) Frank Williams (Mobile: 0438 326 384)

**15 March International Women's Day Dinner** – Please see notice on Page 9

## Recipe Book Launch

## Ms G. Vagg's Speech

## Women's Officer/ Fundraising

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of BRMC and myself to stand along side with Mayor Cr Judy Verlin who has always been an inspiration to me. Judy has always been there for most of the functions I have organised and given me great advice and support. When Mayor Judy accepted my invitation to launch our Recipe Book I was very excited and proud.

The Recipe Book has taken two years planning due to many highs and lows, only working on it for one and a half hours of a Friday per fortnight with Kim Romeo and Dave what do you reckon 6 ozs butter, 1 cup self raising flour. Half a cup of cherries, etc., answers that's right Dave). Thanks you are gems.

We obtained recipes from most cultural groups, associations plus individuals. I thank Litsa Chung for helping me to decide on these recipes, we had a great time choosing them.

Food has always had a strong bond and link to every culture. Food brings people together to savour different cultural and linguistically different communities/ favourite popular dishes, adds to the bene-

fits of cultural diversity, strengthens Ballarat and mainstream community.

Being a foundation member of BRMC, I have enjoyed meeting so many great and wonderful people through food, I have so many great friends in different cultural groups. I will always remain true and dedicated and will help all groups and migrants when possible This is where we learn so much from each other.

Very generous support from Mr Giancarlo and Gerta Faustini (Eureka Pasta) who have supported this book, along with the CEO MR Ron Stone from BEST, Chris Hanrahan from Quickprint and a big thanks to Brett from Eureka.

To all you wonderful people here tonight, most of you have patronised so much the functions I've held, I love and thank you all so much. To Cr Craig Fletcher for his advice and coffees together.

I rely on you all so much with my networking. I want to also thank the staff at BRMC who have helped in anyway, also to Doug Sarah and David Vendy, Bazzani's Luigi and Frances.

Grateful thanks to the City of Ballarat CEO and Council for their help always and allowing me to have our launch in this grand building.

My special guests here tonight from VMC (who is always there for me) Mr Michael Ven Vleit, representing Mr George Lekakis VMC. I cannot thank you both enough. I love my trips to VMC.

I see my colleagues here tonight from the Chinese/Australian Cultural Association. Grateful thanks to owner of I Do, Ms Leanne Westlake from I Do Stationary, always helping me to come up with new ideas, well done!

May I wish our new Board a great and successful 2011. They are a great group, along with our new Chair Mr Frank Williams and Executive Officer Mr Jeff Langdon.

To Frank, my grateful thanks to you, you are a wonderful secretary to me and helper. Once again, thank you all for coming we are proud of our Recipe Book. Please come to our exciting functions next year, First off the rank, International Ladies Night in March.

Books on sale now for \$15.00.

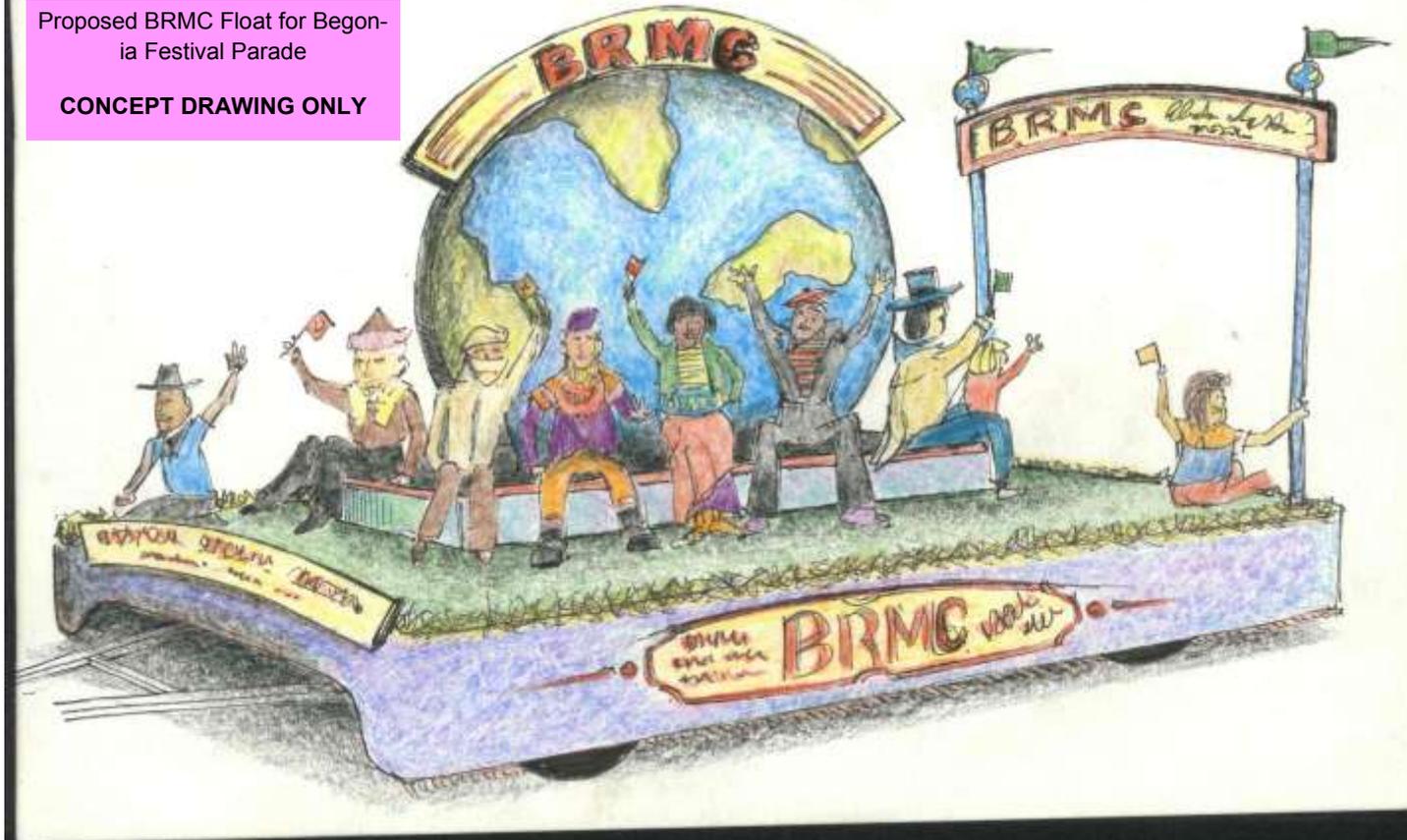
I would like to dedicate part of the Recipe Book to my late husband John. He would have loved it.

Love,

Georgina (Madam Butterfly 36)

Proposed BRMC Float for Begonia Festival Parade

CONCEPT DRAWING ONLY



## Community Corner

### BRMC Website

Check out the Events calendar on the BRMC website regularly for updates on what's happening around Ballarat's multicultural community.

### City of Ballarat's Intercultural Calendar for 2011

Have you obtained a copy of the City of Ballarat's Intercultural Calendar for 2011? This great resource has many important cultural events / celebrations of each of Ballarat's migrant groups included in this publication. Copies of this giant calendar are available from BRMC's office or from the City of Ballarat. Congratulations to Ms Frances Salenga, Ms Liz Hardiman and all the Cultural Groups who have contributed to this great resource. Any feedback on the Multicultural Calendar would be most welcome and can be forwarded to the City's Cultural Diversity Officers.



### Information Sheet

#### 2011 Census – Apply now for a field position

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will conduct its next national Census of Population and Housing on Tuesday 9 August 2011. The Census aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census night, their key characteristics and the dwellings in which they live.

Working on the Census is more than just a job. It is a great community-based activity and makes a real difference in helping to define who we are and what your community will look like into the future. Data col-

lected by the Census supports planning, decision-making and funding at all levels of government and is behind the local services and facilities you use every day.

Census workers are vital to the success of the Census and the ABS are looking for field staff that can connect and communicate with, and encourage participation from their communities. The key to a successful Census is the strength and quality of field staff and the ABS expects to be recruiting 43,000 field staff nationally including approximately 8,000 in Victoria.

If you are interested in joining the Census, you can register your interest at [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)

Applications for Area Supervisors open 12 February 2011

Applications for Collectors open 09 April 2011

## Proposed BRMC Social and Fundraising Events 2011

### Theatre Night

### Red Faces

### Concert

### Play

We look forward to all members support for these activities to enable BRMC to provide an array of equipment for the use of all cultural groups.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Georgina at her mobile 0408-109-471.

**“Non scholae sed vitae discimus — We learn not for school, but for life”**

**Proverb**

### Become part of the solution

Lead On Ballarat are looking for 30 mentors who can help our disadvantaged youth gain their P's. Using our little red L2P car, each mentor works with a young person, supervising their 120 hours of driving practice.

The L2P Learner Driver Mentor program is a community based volunteer program designed to provide young learner drivers who face significant barriers to successfully obtaining their license with the opportunity to access driving practice under the supervision of a fully licensed driver.

Our youth have diverse backgrounds and can be disadvantaged for many reasons, yet they all have two things in

common: no access to a licenced driver and no car to practice their driving skills.

By providing a disadvantaged learner driver with access to a mentor from the wider community, our youth participants are exposed to a person who has a positive influence in their lives, someone who becomes their friend, role model, listener and in some cases may become a lifelong mentor to them.

To become an L2P mentor, you need a full licence, be over 21 and obtain a Working With Children check (we pay for this). Full training is provided to mentors over 3 sessions, with the next training commencing on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**.

For more information about the program refer to the VicRoads website: <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/Licences/GetYourPs/PreparingForYourLicenceTest/L2P.htm>

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, call Rebecca on 0417 304 782 .



## Project Raise & Save

This is a **BRMC and LESS** fundraising and environmental project. If you want to save Energy & Water you can book for your Consultation through BRMC. Part of the energy and water consultation LESS is able to advise householders about certain energy-saving products.

**Who is Eligible:** If you have 5 or more incandescent /old fashioned lights (not sensors/timers/dimmers, or 2 old showerheads, or 3 bulbs and 1 showerheads.

### Benefits:

- Reduced energy and water bills, reduced (or no ) replacement cost for light bulbs

- Decreased water and hot water usage.

**Where & When:** The program runs from 17 November 2010 in Greater Ballarat and will be extending into new areas throughout 2011.

By mentioning BRMC we benefit too!



L-R : Georgina Vagg, Michael van Vliet, Judy Verlin , Frank Williams during the BRMC Recipe Book Launch

## International Women's Day Dinner 2011

Our outstanding guest speaker, Ms. Namila Benson (from Papua New Guinea) is an ABC TV feature presenter , a DJ broadcaster on radio and is involved in creative arts, music and cultural dance performances.

This evening is dedicated to the achievement of ordinary women throughout the world for over a century and is recognised by the UN and most countries; and is celebrated as an integral part of cultural diversity week in March each year. All proceeds from this evening will be donated to Hospice Drummond Street to continue their vital work both within Ballarat and throughout the region. See the flier for further details related to this important celebration and for women to enjoy each other's company.

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

# International Women's Day Dinner

Tuesday  
**March 15th**  
**Inn of Khong 2011**  
7.30pm  
Restaurant  
Main Road Ballarat

**\$30** per head (Ticket entry only)  
Drinks @ bar prices

Guest speaker  
**Namila Benson**  
...aka Sista Seleka  
...ABC TV/Arts/soul/global/hiphop/DJ & Broadcaster

Door Prize & Special effort raffle....  
All proceeds to Hospice Ballarat  
.....(donations welcome).....

Tickets: Ph Georgina Vagg  
0408 109 471  
Women's officer/fundraising coordinator

**Major Sponsors: VMC & I Do Invitations.**  
Sponsors: BRMC, Stems, Inn of Khong

# INTERNATIONAL DINNER NIGHT

(Sri Lankan cuisine)

*"From Small things Big things grow"*

In support of Migrant/Refugee project  
**'Freedom as a Defence'**

**ON FEBRUARY 12, 2011 AT 6.30PM**  
**VENUE: ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL**  
(STURT STREET WEST, BALLARAT)

Entry by ticket only and BYO drinks  
**\$15.00 per person**

Tickets available at Bean Barn (beside Town Hall)  
Enquiries 0401175045 (Carmel), 0432661469 (Shammika)

Highlights of the event...

- ❖ Delicious Sri Lankan food
- ❖ Guest Speakers
- ❖ Entertainment

Organised by

**NESB LINKS Inc.**  
Non English Speaking Background Links

# Multicultural News

## INDIA

Ballarat Indian Association celebrated Indian Independence Day and Australia Day on 26 Jan 2011. Cricket has long united Australia and India, and it was used to celebrate both countries with

a special event in Ballarat. The Ballarat Indian Association hosted its Australia Day/ Indian Republic Day Family Cricket and Picnic for about 100 members at Victoria Park, Ballarat. The event not only celebrated Australia Day and Indian Independ-

ence Day, but also aimed to promote community harmony and inclusiveness in Ballarat. On January 26, 1950 was the day when India became a sovereign, democratic republic. Similar to when Australia celebrated its federation. Gold coin do-

nations from the event went to support the Flood Relief Appeal.



**A coward is incapable of exhibiting love; it is the prerogative of the brave.**

**Mahatma Gandhi**

### Let's Get to know BRMC's MCT Food Coordinator Lorraine McGinniss

Lorraine McGinniss has recently joined BRMC and is looking forward immensely to contributing to a successful year in 2011, working with members and the community.

Lorraine has enjoyed a long involvement in the food industry. She has been innovative in combining her food experience with her commitment to the well-being of recently arrived refugee and migrant women.

This resulted in the ongoing success of the well known *Women Together* group, established by Lorraine in Perth in 2001 which has expanded to a number of cities across Australia, where community organisations have adopted her model to enhance the lives of newly arrived women and their families.



### 99.9 Voice FM Ethnic Programs

Language Group	Program Name	Day	Time
Chinese	Dragon Time	Monday	1-2 pm
German	Klaudia's Cocktail	Wednesday	1-3 pm
Greek	Greek Connection	Wednesday	8:30- 10pm
Dutch	Tulips from Amsterdam	Thursday	1-3 pm
Filipino	Filipino Program	Saturday	3-5 pm
Indian	TBA	Saturday	7-9 pm *soon
Italian	Carosello Italiano	Sunday	2-4 pm
Chinese	Dragon Time	Sunday	4-6 pm
Thai	Sawasdee	Sunday	6-7 pm
Japan Night	Japan Night	Sunday	7-8 pm

### Migrant English Program

About 20 tutors and 25 clients are being serviced in the Migrant English program. Judy Brumby is available on a part time basis to support where necessary and to supervise/attend to requests for help with English.

Following requests for tutors and/or classes, a 2 hour Conversation class has commenced, and/or clients have been referred to other providers as appropriate, e.g . SMB (if AMEP eligible). The classes have been conducted by Frank Williams, Pam McKean, Dawn Manning and Judy. As the participants display a range of English Language proficiency we have been splitting into small groups and this is proving very effective. This class of 2 hours is on Fridays .

## INDIA

A musical performance was hosted by Ballarat Indian Association in November 2010 as a part of Pre-Diwali function featuring a puppet show, traditional Rajasthani music, dances like kachhi ghodi, tehra taali and banjara, and more. At various points throughout the show, the troupe's musicians and dancers could be seen me-

andering around and dancing and interacting with the audience.

The people of State of Rajasthan, India know the real art of living life to the fullest with total enjoyment in spite of hard weather conditions and rough terrain. The Fascinating Rajasthan Dances reflect the culture, geography, customs and nature of the people of Rajasthan. Each re-

gion of Rajasthan has its own folk dance forms. The Fascinating Rajasthan Dances are vibrant and dynamic with graceful body movement. The colourful costumes of the dances combined with lively folk music transform the harsh barren land into myriad hues of colour. This dance troupe has performed all over Australia in various festivals this year, courtesy of the Indian Coun-

cil for Cultural Relations, an agency within the Indian government.

Mona Hatwal  
Multicultural Ambassador  
Ballarat



### Are you **READY** for digital TV ?

Analogue TV signals are being switched off around Australia, region by region, between 2010 and 2013. After May 5<sup>th</sup> this year, Ballarat and regional Victoria will receive digital TV signals only.

For everything you need to know about this change, an Australian Govt Information resource booklet is available to you.

In addition to English, the infor-

mation is available in the following languages: Albania, Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Spanish, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Please drop by the Phoenix Building for your copy of this booklet, if you need one.

Elizabeth Hardiman

Cultural Partnerships Officer

### Chairs Message

#### Continued from Page 2

This is always a great social occasion ; so be sure to to book your tickets . Given all these significant community events let us all come together to share our rich cultures and showcase our cultural diversity within the City of Ballarat. We certainly look forward to your support for all of these celebrations as well as all BRMC's cultural association activities to make 2011 the biggest and the best year for Ballarat.

Frank Williams

### New changes at ASIC – Introducing the Credit Outreach Team

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission have made some positive changes over the past two years. A national financial literacy strategy is now in place since taking over responsibility from the Financial Literacy Foundation in 2008. Adding to this, from July 1 2010, ASIC became the national regulator of consumer credit. This new legislation, the National Consumer Credit Protection Act, aims to increase consumer protection for all Australians. An important part of this new change has been the implementation of the national Credit Outreach Team. The team consists of Credit Outreach Educators, in each state and territory, who develop and deliver credit education strategies. These strategies will help you, and the multicultur-

al groups you deal with, make informed choices about credit. They will also guide you to information about how to get help if things go wrong. ASIC's credit education materials (available on [www.fido.gov.au](http://www.fido.gov.au)) are to be translated into a variety of languages.

#### What is the Credit Outreach Team doing to increase consumer awareness?

One of the key roles of the Credit Outreach Educators is to work in partnership with Government and community agencies so they can inform their clients about these new changes. This will in turn empower consumers to make informed choices in relation to credit. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities can often be confronted with many different types of credit and be unaware of their rights and responsibilities with this. For this reason, we are focusing on this community to increase their understanding about credit

and debt. Another area of focus for the Credit Outreach Team is mortgage stress and the credit related issues within this.

#### Making complaints to ASIC about Credit Providers

The Credit Outreach Team also takes complaints whilst in the field about misbehaviour or illegal activity from credit providers. You can also contact ASIC's Infoline on 1300 300 630 to make a complaint.

#### Who to contact?

If you would like more information or to inquire about your workers receiving training in the new credit regime, contact your state Credit Outreach Team member on the number listed below:

Michelle Bonardi 03 9280-3447 or  
Hannan Amin 03 9280-4220

## Behind the Scenes

### BRMC Executive Committee

**Chairperson:** Frank Williams  
**Deputy Chairperson :** Sulaika Dhanapala  
**Secretary:** Pam Anderson  
**Asst. Secretary:** Carmel Kavanagh  
**Treasurer:** vacant  
**Asst. Treasurer :** vacant  
**Interfaith Officer :** Fr. Gerald Loos  
**Publicity Officer:** Gwendoline Blake  
**Women's Officer :** Georgina Vagg  
**Youth Officer:** Lucien Assogba  
**Community Representatives:**  
 Ugo Vito Lolacono  
 Khushi Maharaj  
 David Vendy

### Staff

**Executive Officer :** Jeff Langdon  
**Admin Coordinator :** Regina Bautista  
**Volunteer Coordinator :** Nenita Drough  
**HACC Coordinator :** Tiffany Gardiner & Jason Shorter  
**MCT Food Cordinator:**  
 Lorraine McGinniss  
**CPP Coordinator:** Kim Romeo  
**Telelink/ SSG Coord:** Virgie Hocking  
**Migrant English Program:** Judy Brumby

## VOLUNTEERS Corner

We say Thank You and Farewell to two of our volunteers who have contributed greatly at BRMC during the past few months.

Chris Hearn started volunteering with us last year helping us in Admin and Reception. She will be commencing a course in Community Work beginning of this year.

Dung Lam came to us late last year to also assist us doing Admin and Reception Duties. She is moving to Melbourne to start her University studies.

We truly appreciate the contribution and support these committed ladies have given

BRMC. We wish them both a very successful year in their studies and all their endeavors.

As we say goodbye to Chris and Dung, we gladly welcome Lucy Kaval who started volunteer work with us in January. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in Welfare and admin work. She is presently assisting some of our program staff and also in admin/reception.

We continue to appreciate Dave Robinson's invaluable help and work in Admin and Reception.

We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to ALL our

volunteers working hard and faithfully CONTRIBUTING greatly to the different programs and activities of BRMC. Our programs and activities are running well because of your great commitment and support. We are achieving what we have set out to do with your help. Thank you very much to all of you!

We look forward to working with you all again this year as we seek to make a contribution to the care and welfare of our intercultural community.

Nenita Drough  
 Volunteer Coordinator

## North Melbourne Footballers Visit BRMC

Members and friends of BRMC are cordially invited to attend a morning tea for a number of North Melbourne Footballers who are in Ballarat for a couple of days in early February.

At BRMC Feb 10th from 11 am. Please let Nenita know if you would like to come for catering purposes. Phone : 5332-5941



Changes to your Credit Card

Come to a

discussion at  
 BRMC on March  
 8th at 1.30 pm

## BRMC Financial & Program Supporters:

