



Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

Your Newsletter

**Vol. 4
August 2010**

Welcome to your community notice board!

This BRMC newsletter provides a forum for you to access information, to share ideas and to add to your enjoyment of life in Ballarat. All BRMC members are welcome to participate by sharing thoughts, feelings, inspiration, motivation and enthusiasm.



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Chair's Report-Talia Barrett

Community Consultations

Since May this year, I have been meeting with cultural groups and members of BRMC to gain input into the future direction of BRMC. Until now, I have gathered extensive feedback from representatives of nine cultural groups and a number of individual members at meetings and also via written feedback. The cultural groups I have met with or received written feedback from are listed below:

Togolese Association
Chinese/Australian Cultural Society Ballarat
Central Highlands Asian-Australian Association of Victoria
Filipino-Australian Association
Ballarat Indian Association
Ballarat Italian Association
NESB Links Inc.
L'Alliance Francaise Ballarat
Polish Association

I will be presenting a preliminary report at the August General Meeting, which will be a summary of the expressed common goals and aspirations of members for BRMC based on the above meetings and feedback. However, I will continue to meet with remaining cultural groups in September and have a final report to present at the Annual General Meeting in October.

At this stage, to summarise some of the key points raised by members, the following were raised by almost all members.

BRMC should:

- be a central contact point for information and referral for new arrivals, established migrants and the community.
- provide access to training and support to assist migrants and cultural associations to become more independent and self-sufficient.
- provide opportunities for cultural groups to interact and learn from each other

Come to the August meeting to see a more extensive summary...



Some Individual & General members at the 15th August Meeting

2010 General Meeting and Annual General Meeting Dates

The next General Meeting is on **Tuesday 24th August at 7.30pm.**

BRMC's **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 26th October at 7.30pm at GPlace.**

Special Members' Meeting to Review BRMC Constitution

Tuesday 28th September, 2010 at 7.30pm at GPlace

The BRMC Constitution is due for its bi-annual review. The BRMC Executive Committee has received professional advice and support from local legal firm, Heinz & Partners, to update the constitution so that it complies with current legal requirements. A draft version of the Constitution will be ready to be put to members by September. So, a Special Meeting is being called for members to attend to vote on the proposed updated Constitution.

All members will be provided with a copy of the proposed Constitution well before the September meeting. All General members are asked to distribute a copy to their cultural group members for their input as well before the meeting.

Updating Members' Details

If you are a member of BRMC, you should have received a new membership form from BRMC's Secretary, Liz Denny. We are attempting to update all our member records properly and check everyone's membership and voting status. If you are an existing member and have not received a new membership form from BRMC, please either email admin@brmc.org.au or call 5332 5941 to receive one.

Use of GPlace Facilities for Cultural Groups

Are you seeking a venue to conduct your cultural group meetings?

Did you know that you can book a room at GPlace to conduct your meetings on a regular basis?

If your cultural group is a member of BRMC, you can book a room at BRMC to use for your group's meetings and/or activities at no charge.

To find out room availability and to book a regular time, email admin@brmc.org.au or ring 5332 5941.

GPlace is located on the corner of English and Dunn Streets, Golden Point.



BRMC Website

The BRMC Website will soon be finished with new features! You will be able to access the following information (and more!) from the website:

- BRMC Newsletter
 - Minutes from BRMC General Meetings
 - BRMC Treasurer's Reports
- Monthly Calendars of Cultural & Religious Events

Also, cultural groups will be able to promote their activities by uploading their own information on upcoming events onto the BRMC website. Check out the website in September: www.brmc.org.au



VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TUTORS AT BRMC

Many of you will know that migrants who are still eligible for government funded English assistance (AMEP) with a volunteer tutor will now be receiving a volunteer tutor through SMB. However, for all of you who do not meet the government's criteria, e.g. you are a spouse of an international student, or your English hours have run out, you can still be allocated a tutor through BRMC with the Volunteer Tutor Enhancement Project. If you need English language support, contact BRMC on 5332 5941, or SMB on 53278163 and your language needs will be assessed.

Reports on Recent Events

Congratulations, Dave!! Winner of the Peter Jacob's Award

Dave Robinson, one of our BRMC volunteer receptionists, has received a special award for Community Volunteer of the Year through the Central Highlands Community Legal Centre. Dave also won the first longest serving volunteer award from BRMC at the Volunteer Recognition dinner this year. Thank you, Dave, for all of your years of service to this organisation. You have been invaluable!



Masako's Column

Multicultural Victoria- Ballarat

By Masako Kennedy



Question 1: Do you know how many people came to live in Ballarat from overseas in the last 9 years from 2002-2010?

I found an interesting article from The Courier, 15th July 2002. The title of the article was "Culture Shock: Ballarat becomes even less multicultural". The BRMC chairman of that time, Dr. Sundram Sivamalai said: "We need to become ... newcomer friendly". Indeed.

In 2010, I believe our City of Ballarat is not the same place anymore. For me, it is fascinating to see different cultural settings and environment, depending on where you live. Before I moved into Ballarat, I used to live in 10 different suburbs in Melbourne. I had "Culture shock" at every place. There was something slightly and/ or significantly different in each suburb.

With the following facts, it explains a lot.

The State of Victoria has been enriched by the presence of people from all over the world. 23.8% of Victoria's population were born overseas.

1. 43.69% of Victorians were either born overseas, or have a parent who was born overseas.
2. Victorians come from more than 200 countries, speak more than 230 languages and dialects and follow more than 120 religious faiths.
3. Most of the overseas-born Victorians came to Australia as migrants hoping to find a better life for themselves and their children.

According to the 3rd point, 'a better life for their children', this is important for all of us in our society. They are our future. Do we, as a community, provide the best educational support for our coming generation? I now would like to talk about parental support.

Question 2: Are you parents? Do you send your children to Primary School? If you are new to the schooling system in Australia, is everything clear?

I would like to introduce valuable information from “Welcome to Primary School: A Parent’s Guide to Victorian Government Primary Schools”. There is English version as well as four other languages available: Arabic, Chinese, Turkish and Vietnamese. (Please download: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/welcomeprimaryschool.htm>)

This information can be useful for all parents on understanding the Australian school system.

Copies are available from:

- **Information Victoria (phone 1300 366 356)**
 - Primary and special schools
- Community venues such as libraries and local government offices.

Further copies can be ordered via email:

In summary, we tend to take for granted that we live in a multicultural country, state and city. I would like to expand the focus of debate from an economic platform to a broader agenda of multicultural communities. More importantly, a multicultural focus should be on the benefits to Australia and Australian people of engagement with cultures and languages.

Resources: <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/population-and-migration>

Coming Events: In Ballarat

Ballarat Indian Association “Celebrate India”

By Mukul Hatwal
*Vice President and Director Marketing, Media & Public Relations,
Ballarat Indian Association Inc*

Ballarat Indian Association Inc. this year, for the first time is organising 2010 Celebrate India Festival on Sunday August 22, 2010 in Ballarat.

This special festival is for persons of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy a day dedicated to Indian arts; culture and food. The festival celebrates the unique and fascinating country of India on display through an art, cultural and culinary experience.

We look forward to you being part of our 2010 Celebrate India.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on mobile 0403 875 838 or e-mail mhatwal@mysoul.com.au for any information that you may require.

**Central Highlands Asian-Australian Association of Victoria
(CHAAV)**

“A Cultural Evening”

Date: Saturday 11th September, 2010

Venue: Mecure Ballarat Hotel & Convention Centre
(Eureka Ballroom), 613 Main Road, Ballarat

Time: 6.30pm

Meal: Asian Style Buffet

Cost: \$45 per person; drinks at bar prices (Fully Licensed)

Dress: Cultural or Semi-formal

Special performances: Flamenco (Andalusian Dance Group)
& local talents

RSVP: Friday 27th August 2010

Vivian: 0407 201 558; bradvb@ncable.net.au

Subatra: 5320 3806 (bh)

Leah: 0409 659 873

NB: Payment is required when booking. Payment not refundable.

Royal South Street Competitions

(July - November 2010)

This is a national iconic event, which involves competitions in drama, speech, dance and a range of other artistic disciplines. It is held over 10 weeks between July and November each year and features performances in Her Majesty's Theatre.

Australian Masters Road Championships

(24 - 28 September 2010)

In September, Ballarat will host the 2010 National Masters Road Cycling Championships. The National Championships will include all three road disciplines of Criterium, Time Trial and Open Road Racing. Hundreds of competitors from around the country will contest the National Championships, with some of Ballarat's famous icons such as the Arch of Victory and Lake Wendouree as the backdrop to what promises to be a fantastic spectacle.

Taste Ballarat Food and Wine Expo

(September 2010)

Tastebuds will be tempted by award winning red and white wines, gourmet sauces, relishes and quality meats, sweet treats and baked goods, olives, a wide selection of oils and much more.

Ballarat by the Glass

(30 - 31 October 2010)

Make sure you visit Ballarat during the annual Ballarat by the Glass wine weekend. The festival offers the chance to sample hard-to-find labels from wineries that do not operate regular cellar doors. The program over the weekend includes an Open Cellar Door Event and dinner with the winemakers.

Ballarat International Foto Biennale

(September 2011)

The Ballarat International Foto Biennale was first held in Ballarat in 2009 and featured photographs released for viewing for the first time, by national and international photographers. This unique photographic event runs for four weeks. Viewings are held in various venues both in and around Ballarat. The biennial event will be held again in Ballarat in September 2011.

Coming Events: In Melbourne

At the Immigration Museum

Australia's Muslim Cameleers

Temporary exhibition – until 19 Sep 2010

Immigration Museum

Bookings & further details 99272754

Survival of a Culture: Kurds in Australia

Temporary exhibition – until 19 Sep 2010

Immigration Museum Community Gallery

Bookings & further details 99272754

Useful Information

The City of Ballarat will soon have its “Multicultural Services Directory” available for viewing on its website. This directory lists all services that are relevant to migrants’ needs and is a reference for the community.

BRMC will also have hardcopy versions of the directory permanently located at its offices as a resource to assist people in the community seeking information on local services for migrants and about multiculturalism. Watch the City of Ballarat website (www.ballarat.vic.gov.au) for announcements.

Calendar of Cultural and Religious Dates

August and September

(<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/a-diverse-australia/calendar-australia/>)

August

August	1 Sun	Ambiwerra Festival, Brisbane ± This festival features leading music acts and stalls from Brisbane's restaurants and wineries.	Festival
August	1 Sun	National Day	Benin
August	1 Sun	Foundation of the Swiss Confederation	Switzerland
August	2 Mon	Constitution Day	Cook Islands
August	5 Thu	National Day	Jamaica
August	6 Fri	Garma Festival, NT (to 10 Aug) ± An Indigenous cultural exchange event of clan groups from north east Arnhem Land, the Garma Festival is a celebration of Indigenous cultures.	Festival
August	6 Fri	Independence Day	Bolivia
August	7 Sat	National Day	Côte d'Ivoire
August	9 Mon	National Day	Singapore
August	10	National Day	Ecuador

	Tue		
August	11 Wed	National Day	Chad
August	11 Wed	Ramadan begins ± Ramadan is one of the most important times in the Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims engage in fasting and prayer and show charity to those in need.	Islamic
August	12 Thu	Darwin Festival (to 29 Aug) ± This festival reflects Darwin's position at the Top End of Australia, its Indigenous and multicultural population, and features local and touring performances and events.	Festival
August	14 Sat	Independence Day	Pakistan
August	15 Sun	Dormition of the Theotokos ± This day commemorates the death and burial of the Virgin Mary.	Orthodox Christian
August	15 Sun	Independence Day	Congo, Republic of
August	15 Sun	National Day	India
August	15 Sun	National Day	Liechtenstein
August	17 Tue	National Day	Gabon
August	17 Tue	Proclamation of Independence	Indonesia
August	18 Wed	Townsville Cultural Fest (to 22 Aug) ± This is a celebration of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the city. Up to 80,000 people enjoy the dancing, music, arts and crafts, street parade and food of many cultures.	Festival
August	19 Thu	Independence Day	Afghanistan
August	20 Fri	Festival Cairns and Tropical Wave Festival (to 5 Sept) ± Festival Cairns is the city's annual celebration of tropical lifestyle, talents and cultural diversity. The Tropical Wave Festival is held on 20 August.	Festival
August	20 Fri	Day of the Foundation of the State of Hungary and St Stephen's Day	Hungary
August	21 Sat	Henley-On-Todd Regatta, Alice Springs NT Teams of 'rowers' race their boats on the dry sandy bed of the Todd River. This unique and long running sporting spectacle attracts many participants, with proceeds going to charity.	Festival
August	24	National Day	Ukraine

	Tue		
August	24 Tue	Raksha Bandhan This Hindu festival honours the love between brothers and sisters and is marked by the tying of a rakhi thread by the sister on the wrist of her brother. Raksha Bandhan means bond of protection.	Hindu
August	25 Wed	Independence Day	Uruguay
August	27 Fri	National Day	Moldova
August	28 Sat	Mareeba Multicultural Festival, Qld The program starts with a parade, followed by traditional cultural performances, food and craft stalls.	Festival
August	31 Tue	National Day	Kyrgyzstan
August	31 Tue	National Day	Malaysia
August	31 Tue	National Day	Trinidad and Tobago

September

September	1 Wed	Battle For Australia Day The first Wednesday in September commemorates those who served Australia during the Second World War, on the frontline and the home front, when our country's safety and freedom were threatened.	Australia
September	1 Wed	National Wattle Day Wattle is Australia's national floral emblem. With nearly 1000 Australian species, wattles symbolise diversity and resilience.	Festival
September	1 Wed	National Day	Libya
September	1 Wed	Constitution Day	Slovakia
September	1 Wed	National Day	Uzbekistan
September	1 Wed	Parkash (First reading) Aadh Granth Sahib The Aadh Granth (Original Scripture) was installed at Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple) Amritsar in Punjab. The first reading ceremony was on 1st September 1604.	Sikh
September	2 Thu	National Day	Vietnam
September	2	Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu

	Thu	This festival is one of the most important events in the Hindu calendar. It celebrates the birth of Krishna more than 5000 years ago. Krishna was one of the incarnations of Vishnu and is one of the most popular deities in Hinduism. Celebrations take place over two days.	
September	3 Fri	National Foundation Day	San Marino
September	6 Mon	National Day	Swaziland
September	7 Tue	Independence Day	Brazil
September	8 Wed	National Day	Andorra
September	8 Wed	Independence Day	FYR Macedonia
September	9 Thu	National Day	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
September	9 Thu	National Day	Tajikistan
September	9 Thu	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year festival, commemorates the creation of the world. A synagogue ritual is the blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. Apples are dipped in honey as a symbol of the sweet New Year that lies ahead.	Jewish
September	10 Fri	Eid al Fitr (end of Ramadan) The Islamic month of fasting, Ramadan, ends with the festival of Eid al Fitr. A celebratory meal breaks the fast and at this time charity and good deeds have special significance. Eid is also a time of forgiveness and making amends.	Islamic
September	11 Sat	Ganesh Chaturthi Ganesh Chaturthi is a popular religious festival. In India, clay statues of the Hindu elephant god Ganesh are paraded through the streets.	Hindu
September	11 Sat	Coptic New Year The Feast of Nayrouz (Feast of the Martyrs) marks New Year on the Coptic calendar. The Copts are the indigenous people of Egypt and have been celebrating this date as a New Year for over 1700 years. The Coptic Orthodox Church is one of the oldest Christian churches in the world.	Coptic Orthodox
September	12 Sun	Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair, Fairfield Sydney Held annually after Ramadan, Muslims and non-Muslims from all backgrounds gather to enjoy a variety of food and cultural programs.	Festival
September	15	Turning Wave Festival, Gundagai NSW (to 19 Sept)	Festival

Wed A celebration of Irish and Australian music and related arts.

September	15 Wed	Torres Strait Cultural Festival, Thursday Island (to 18 Sept) Entertainment, cultural activities, sporting events and Islander art exhibition as well as novelty competitions such as a coconut husking contest. Traditional feast and dance performances.	Festival
September	15 Wed	Independence Day	Costa Rica
September	15 Wed	Independence Day	El Salvador
September	15 Wed	Independence Day	Guatemala
September	15 Wed	Independence Day	Honduras
September	15 Wed	Independence Day	Nicaragua
September	16 Thu	Proclamation of Independence	Mexico
September	16 Thu	Independence Day	Papua New Guinea
September	17 Fri	Australian Citizenship Day The day is an opportunity for all Australians to take pride in Australian citizenship and reflect on its meaning and importance.	Australia
September	17 Fri	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with fasting and repentance. Many Jews will refrain from work and attend synagogue services. It is a day set aside to atone for the sins of the past year.	Jewish
September	17 Fri	OzAsia Festival, Adelaide (to 2 October) This annual festival celebrates Australia's cultural diversity, particularly in relation to the cultures of the Asia Pacific region, and promotes understanding and acceptance.	Festival
September	18 Sat	Oktoberfest (to 3 Oct) Oktoberfest is a German festival celebrated by communities worldwide. It is celebrated with folk dancing, singing, food and drink.	Festival
September	18 Sat	National Day	Chile
September	19 Sun	Independence Day	Saint Kitts and Nevis
September	21 Tue	National Day	Armenia

September	21 Tue	National Day	Belize
September	21 Tue	Independence Day	Malta
September	22 Wed	Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival The Mid-Autumn Festival is a popular East Asian celebration of abundance and togetherness, dating back over 3000 years. The traditional food of this festival is the mooncake.	Festival
September	22 Wed	Proclamation of Independence	Mali
September	23 Thu	National Day	Saudi Arabia
September	23 Thu	Sukkot Sukkot commemorates the 40 year period during which the Jewish people were wandering in the desert. Sukkot were the huts in which they lived during this time.	Jewish
September	24 Fri	Independence Day	Guinea-Bissau
September	26 Sun	Children's Festival, Bankstown, Sydney This festival is for children and their families to share experiences from different cultural backgrounds.	Festival
September	27 Mon	Queen's Birthday (WA) The Queen's Birthday holiday in Western Australia is based on the dates of the Term three school holidays and the Royal Show. The other Australian States have the Queen's Birthday holiday in June.	Australia
September	30 Thu	National Day	Botswana



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Please note that the BRMC does not endorse any goods or service in this newsletter. Details are correct on date of publication. The newsletter is intended for members of BRMC and is purely acting to disseminate information for the use of these members. Articles posted in this newsletter do not reflect the beliefs of the BRMC board or staff.

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