



# Your Newsletter

Vol. 1, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**W**elcome 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.



*Chinese New Year or  
Spring Festival is the most  
important of the  
Traditional Chinese holidays*

祝賀  
中國  
虎  
年  
春  
節



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# *A* **WORD FROM TALIA - THE CHAIR OF BRMC**

Welcome everyone to this first BRMC newsletter for 2010 and our first newsletter produced under the new Board!

## ***The New Board of Governance***

In this first edition, you will be introduced to the new BRMC Board members, who make up a fantastic team who will definitely move the organisation forward to become a leading organisation promoting strength in diversity and harmony in the Ballarat region. You will see for yourselves the vast and invaluable experience, knowledge and skills these amazing people bring to BRMC... We have just completed Governance Training (see Liz Denny's article in this edition), which helped us to understand our role and responsibilities in BRMC and now we are ready to move onto the next step of Strategic Planning to identify our priorities for this year at least.

## ***Organisational Change***

In this newsletter, you will also be introduced to our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shigekazu Yamawaki (or 'Shiggy' as he is otherwise known). Shiggy commenced the CEO role in December 2009 and prior to that was BRMC's coordinator. The decision to put a CEO in place was the realisation that, as a Board, we needed to step back from the management role (none of us have true management skills or qualifications) and put the day-to-day running of BRMC into more capable hands. As stated by [ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au): "...in a nonprofit organization, boards primarily govern and staff primarily manage. This means that a board provides counsel to management and should not get involved in the day-to-day affairs of the organization". Within these few months, he has already done a fabulous job, working with the City of Ballarat and service providers to further enhance our community partnerships.

## ***Community Safety Meetings***

BRMC has recently been involved in discussions with the Victoria Police, Ballarat Indian Association (BIA), and City of Ballarat with regard to community safety issues, especially in light of recent attacks on members of the Indian community. Since then, the BIA has held a community forum, where they had a panel of speakers, including representatives from Victoria Police, Department of Immigration, Indian Consulate, Chair & CEO of BRMC, D & M Lawyers and the Anglican Church to answer questions from the Indian community. This was an excellent model for BRMC to adapt for community meetings in the future, where we hope to continue to address security issues for the community as a whole in forums such as this, and in

other ways as well. We welcome your input into how you see BRMC playing a role in making Ballarat a safer place to live for our migrant communities.

### *Where is BRMC going in 2010?*

Aside from involvement in community activities and providing support to our cultural groups, BRMC'S focus this year is on strengthening our partnerships and relationships with, not only service providers, but you - the community members. Our general aim is to assist with promoting education about cultural diversity and also advancing the cause of increased understanding and inclusion of all people in all areas of life. But we also rely on you for feedback on where we should be going and how we can better assist this regional community. So, please contact BRMC if you have any concerns or recommendations on how we could be delivering our services better. My email is: [chair@brmc.org.au](mailto:chair@brmc.org.au) and I would be pleased to hear from you.



### *Community Events in March*

This year, we are looking forward to involvement in the **Begonia Festival Parade** where we will be marching with our members under a BRMC banner on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of March from 3pm. If you would like to join us, please contact Aileen, our administrative officer on 5332 5941 or [admin@brmc.org.au](mailto:admin@brmc.org.au)

Also, we are contributing to the **Cultural Diversity Week** program with our "Harmony BBQ" on Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> to be held at

### **[ Quote of the month ]**

*If you want to be successful, it's just this simple:  
Know what you are doing, love what you are doing,  
and believe in what you are doing.*

*Will Rogers 1879-1935*

## General Meeting Dates in 2010

**Dates**  
Third Tuesday of the month

**Time**  
7:30pm

**Venue**  
Golden Point Centre  
(G Place)

Cnr. Grant & English Street,  
Ballarat

### Schedule

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| February  | 16th |
| March     | -    |
| April     | 20th |
| May       | -    |
| June      | 15th |
| July      | -    |
| August    | 17th |
| September | -    |
| October   | TBA  |
| November  | -    |
| December  | -    |

# *A Word from the CEO*



**Shigekazu (Shiggy) Yamawaki**

## *My Message*

BRMC is owned by the community, not by any one individual. I am determined to work closely with all the stakeholders, focusing on what BRMC can and should do for the benefit of the community. Decisions should be made based on whether or not they are “community-oriented”. I am confident that BRMC can adapt to the ever-changing external environment and evolve into the future by incorporating its valuable history, knowhow and intangible assets. I look forward to working together with you all nurturing innovative and creative ideas. The longer I work with BRMC, the more I believe that BRMC should function not only as a service provider of projects funded by the governments, but also as a Central Coordination Centre in the community which will liaise between CALD communities and various service providers in Ballarat. To build strategic partnerships with stakeholders through open communication is the Key to Success...

## *My Background*

*I worked for Panasonic, a Japanese multinational company being engaged in international marketing & sales for 13 years, 7 years which I was assigned to work at Panasonic East Africa based in Tanzania as Marketing & Sales Director being responsible for East, Central & Southern African countries. As a head of the department, I managed a team of 42 staff. Since migrating to Ballarat in May 2000, I had been running my own business, which facilitated international trade between Australia and Japan, Singapore and East Africa. I joined BRMC as coordinator/ administrator in December 2008. I am also a NAATI certified English/ Japanese translator and was contracted to Ballarat Health Services as a Japanese translator/ interpreter. I speak Japanese (mother tongue), English and Swahili.*



Above: Pictures of Board of Governance Training

## **B**oard of Governance Training - 23 Jan 2010 -

### **Liz Denny – Assistant Secretary**

On January 23 2010 almost the whole Board, as well as three BRMC administrative staff, attended a day of training at Golden Point. We spent from 9 am to 3 pm with Patrick Moriarty of Our Community, an organisation specialising in assisting groups large and small in the non-profit and community sector. The sessions covered such topics as:

- What is governance in a community context
- Legal obligations and duties of committee members
- Incorporation – what it is and what you need to do
- Strategies for effective meetings
- Renewal and succession planning

The sessions were well run and informative. I wanted to find out more on my legal obligations and duties as a board member, and found this session as useful as I had hoped. I thought I already knew about running meetings, but in fact I found the session on strategies for effective meetings very helpful. Patrick offered a wealth of practical advice which included useable templates to make minute keeping accurate, stress-free and timely.

The web page of Our Community is well worth a visit and has a lot of useful resources made freely available to community groups. It's easy to access, just Google [ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au). Not officially on the agenda, but very valuable and enjoyable, was the opportunity to meet and get to know a little more about each other.

I think it was well worth giving up a Saturday to this training, and expect our work for BRMC to be much more effective as a result. Thank you Shiggy for organising this for us all!

## BRMC Board Members-Who are they?

**Khushi  
Maharaj**

**Farhang  
Afshar**

### **Chair Person- Talia Barrett**

Talia has been involved in BRMC both as an employee and committee member since 2001. Talia established and coordinated BRMC's Volunteer Tutor Program 2001-2005 and coordinated the Telelink Program 2002-2004. Talia's board experience has been the following: Assistant Secretary on BRMC's Executive Committee (2007-2009); Chair of BRMC's Employment Subcommittee (2009). Talia was also involved in NESB Links Inc. for a few years where she was President (2004) and Secretary (2003). Talia is currently employed as the International Student Academic Adviser at University of Ballarat (since 1998) where she has been supporting international students and Non-English Speaking Background migrants through their courses and providing assistance with other issues that are relevant to their university studies and settlement in the region. Prior to living in Ballarat, Talia lived and worked in Thailand and Indonesia (1995-1997) as an Australian Volunteer Abroad. Before her overseas experience, Talia was a Melbourne girl where she was involved in teaching English to the Russian Jewish community amongst other fascinating community activities. Talia is also a member of BREAZE and has a strong passion for the natural environment, living on a 20 acre property south of Ballarat with her husband, Martin Scuffins, and their 3 year old son, Patrick.

### **Deputy Chairperson- Farhang Afshar**

### **Secretary- Pam Anderson**

Pam is a new member of BRMC but was originally involved with the Central Highlands Multicultural Network a number of years ago. Pam is employed as a School Business Community Partnership Broker with Highlands Local Learning & Employment Network Inc. Pam has experience working in education, training, apprenticeships/traineeships and employment. Pam's qualifications are in employment and training and she holds a Diploma of Vocational Education and Training and Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training. Pam's passion is assisting young people to further their education, employment or training. Pam is very excited about being elected as Secretary to the BRMC and looks forward to embracing the multicultural community in Ballarat. Pam's goal as representative of the BRMC is to ensure that all members of our community have a voice and are treated with respect, honesty and justice. Pam would like to see a future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the

history of this great country, Australia. Pam considers herself very lucky to have Liz Denny as Assistant !!

### **Assistant Secretary- Liz Denny**

Liz has been a member of BRMC for four years and was a volunteer in the BRMC office before the move to G Place at Golden Point. Liz supports the role of BRMC in promoting harmony and understanding, and in celebrating the many cultures which make up the community of Ballarat. Liz has a lot experience working on and with committees of management of community organisations and looks forward to working with the new BRMC Executive Committee. Before moving to Ballarat Liz was a kindergarten teacher in inner Melbourne, working in and for a multicultural community. Liz enjoyed developing home-language support programs and community-language programs in Early Childhood settings. Liz now works in the Ballarat Archives Centre. Liz is currently a member of the Ballarat Italian Association, the Chinese Cultural Association of Ballarat, the Ballarat and District Genealogical Society, Slow Food Ballarat, BREAZE and U3A.

### **Treasurer- Chris Wright**

Dr. Christopher S. Wright has a multi-disciplinary PhD in Fisheries Management & Accounting Systems, has taught Accounting, Economics and Fisheries at the Undergrad and Post-grad university level for over 30 years. Dr Wright is currently a visiting researcher with the *Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness* (CRIC; University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia) and was the Professor of Accounting for Lincoln University (NZ). Dr. Wright was, also, an internal auditor with a large international forestry company for five years and worked in agriculture, fisheries, and services. Dr. Wright owned and operated three SMEs, has served on the boards of many NGOs, and has been extensively involved in applying for, receiving, reviewing, and granting research-focused government grants.

### **Assistant Treasurer- Xiaoli Jiang**

Senior lecturer and program coordinator of Bachelor of Arts (International Studies), University of Ballarat. Teaching and research in cross-cultural studies and international studies, specialised in cross-cultural self-esteem, global migration and multiculturalism. Xiaoli has a sound understanding of cross-cultural issues and issues immigrants may face in their settlement and adjustment. She also has a good knowledge regarding physical health, nutrition, physical activity and mental health, in particular in immigrant population. Xiaoli has been to many seminars

organised by the Victorian Transcultural Psychiatry Unit. Supported Chinese international students at the University of Ballarat between 2004-2006 as a project officer and operates a Cross-Cultural Support Network for supporting Chinese International Students since 2006.

### **Youth Officer- Mehrdad Razmjoo**

I have only recently joined to BRMC and It is privilege for me, to have the opportunity to become Youth Officer at BRMC. This is a big honour for me. I enjoy being social, and for the past 4 years have organised a Persian New Year celebration at a private venue in Buninyong. I am looking forward to being more active in community life through my roles as a Multicultural Ambassador “City Of Ballarat “ and Youth officer at BRMC. I have studied master of IT at University Of Ballarat and my bachelor degree at AIT University in Electronic Engineering. I was a mentor at AIT University, and also worked as a tutor for secondary students in mathematics. For many of my group assignments during my Masters of IT at UOB I was the team leader. As a multicultural ambassador with new knowledge, I bring my life experiences – having lived and worked in two countries, my enthusiasm for learning, and my acceptance of all cultures.

### **Interfaith Officer- To be announced**

### **Publicity Officer- Masako Kennedy**

I am a passionate education professional, qualified LOTE (Language Other than English) Japanese & TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) teacher, who has worked in various countries and in many levels of education, including University, an International School, Government and non-Government Secondary Schools, Primary Schools and Pre-schools. I am also a qualified and experienced Year 12 Japanese examination assessor in Victoria. Prior to my current job, I taught Japanese in Melbourne (St. Kevin's College in Toorak and St. Albans Secondary College in St. Albans) and in Ballarat (Ballarat High School and St. Patrick's College). I have also taught at Patana International School in Bangkok where I lived in 2005.

After 10 years of teaching Japanese, I am currently developing and delivering programs, which foster cultural awareness/ internationalisation, as a lecturer/educational developer at the University of Ballarat. At UB, I am also teaching LOTE curriculum for the Diploma in Education to students who want to be language teachers in secondary schools.

I enjoy learning, teaching, travelling, cooking and playing the piano and saxophone.

Having spent my childhood and youth in Japan and having experienced life in Australia as an international tertiary student and teacher, I now wish to act as a “bridge” between people of all nationalities.

### **Women’s Officer- Georgina Vagg**

Georgina has been a foundation member of BRMC and helped to form the committee when BRMC operated out of Norman Street. Georgina has been a member of the executive committee at Mair Street and is now on the committee at Golden Point. Over this time Georgina has planned and arranged many successful events such as Film Nights, Wine and Cheese Nights, Christmas Break-ups, Raffles and Lucky Draws, Bus Trips, Winter Warm-Up Dinners, several International Ladies’ Nights and recently a great Gala Ball. She has also arranged many functions for the Chinese/Australia Group. Georgina also organised two big functions for Royal Melbourne Hospital’s Renal Unit where her husband had a kidney transplant to buy needed equipment for the patients. Georgina attends as many functions as possible, including the FECCA Conference at Shepparton, and keeps in close contact with VMC. Georgina is a member of the Chinese Australian Cultural Society, the Ballarat China Community Committee (City of Ballarat) and the Victorian China Friendship Society (Melbourne). Cooking and entertaining is Georgina’s great. Georgina takes pride in cooking for the Film Evenings and is also compiling a recipe book, which should be out soon. Georgina has always been a proud and dedicated member of BRMC, she believes it is where she meets such great friends of different cultures. Georgina is also joining Kim Romeo’s (BRMC) program for age.

### **Community Representative- Russ Cartledge**

I have been running my own Financial Planning practice since 1989. Since those early days we have grown the business to include accountancy, financial planning, insurance and mortgage broking. My friendship with Shiggy and an existing student home stay relationship with Inagawa kindled a desire to become involved with Multicultural issues and I first joined CHAAVI and then last year stood for election to BRMC. I am enjoying the tasks presented and look forward to being a valued associate of BRMC. On a personal level, apart from the enjoyment my wife Lyn and I get from our home stay students, I am manic about golf and am currently serving as President of Creswick golf Club for the second time. I also enjoy developing our 5 acre property in the Creswick bush and hope to create something unique as far as a combination native and deciduous planting is concerned.

## **Community Representative - Yin Toe**

Yin was born in China and educated in Australia. Yin has worked as an economist in both the private and the public sector. He has also been a successful restaurateur and brings this experience to the BRMC Multicultural Tucker Lunch Program where Yin has been the Food Coordinator for 4 years. Before Yin moved to Ballarat, he was involved in the administration and coaching of junior cricket at both club and association levels for over 10 years. Yin served on the BRMC committee in 2007 - 8 and worked to develop the Golden Point kitchen into a functional commercially-accredited community facility. Yin is currently on the committee that manages the Golden Point premises. Yin is a member of several community groups in Ballarat and is also a committee member of the Ballarat Italian Association and Slow Food Ballarat. Yin's other memberships include BREAZE and of U3A.

## **Community Representative- Khushi Maharaj**

*~ This is YOUR Newsletter ~*

**Dear Cultural Group Representatives  
and BRMC members**

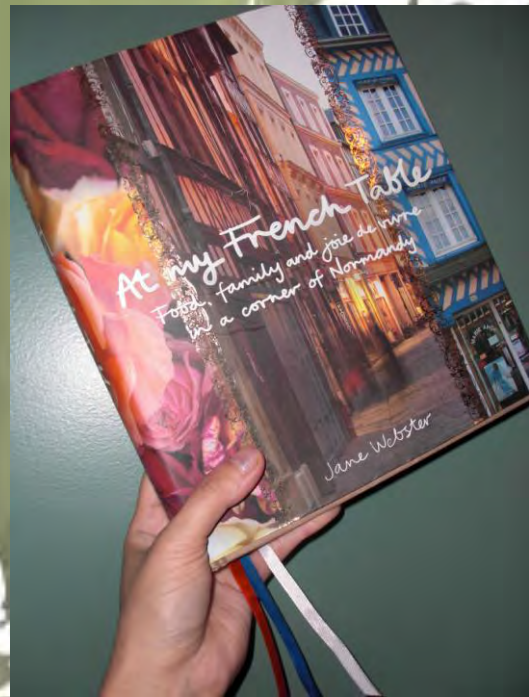
**Your support is very important for BRMC's  
future.**

**We welcome information from you on any activities  
and/or events you are running. Your stories to  
share about your experiences living in Ballarat and  
your suggestions about newsletter are also  
welcome.**

**Please send any articles/ information to:**

**Masako Kennedy - BRMC Publicity Officer**  
[brmcballarat@gmail.com](mailto:brmcballarat@gmail.com)

## Masako's Column



### My day celebrating cultural diversity

The other day, I met a man who comes from Korea. He said his work motto is “to be happy”. This reminded me of my friend (who came from Togo) who said “Living in Australia is paradise”. To live in Australia is to be very lucky. One of the main reasons is, I think, that Australia has cultural diversity which makes one feel comfortable and gives one a sense of belonging and the opportunity and confidence to express one’s feelings.

Last Sunday, I decided to take a trip to Melbourne to experience the rich culture of a big city. Firstly, I went to Lygon Street, a good example of multicultural society, to watch a Spanish movie at the Nova Cinema. After being immersed in the Spanish language for 2 hours, I wandered into a large bookshop. Finding good books is like meeting new friends. Books I „met“ were:

1. „At My French Table“ by Jane Webster (about French cooking)
2. „The Artful Nuance“ by Rod L. Evans, Ph.D. (about “the most easily confused words in English”)
3. „Macquarie Australian Slang Dictionary“ (about commonly used slang)

I left the bookshop with my three new friends, caught a tram down Swanston Street where I found a Chinese Restaurant to have my lunch. While waiting for my order, the artistic cover of the French cookery book beckoned and on opening it I was transported through its beautiful photos to Normandy, France. The author and her family decided to leave Melbourne to live in France, exporting Australian culture to Europe. Their friends could not comprehend the move and their first question was: “Why? Why uproot a perfectly happy family from their native Australia for an uncertain future in France?” Frequently, this family felt confronted by their friends’ questions, but the author decided to follow her heart. Sometimes in life, it is nice to follow one’s heart not one’s head.

Let’s go back to the story about my books. The „Artful Nuance Book“ is “a refined guide to imperfectly understood words in the English Language”. Imperfectly understood words by native speakers? So, then, *how possibly can they be understood by non-native English speakers?* - That was my question. Nuance..... My biggest enemy to master when I learn English (I can write whole article about nuance!). After my cultural excursion through Melbourne I caught the train back to Ballarat. On leaving the station I was happy to see people from diverse cultural backgrounds ending their journey here too. As I approached the rail-crossing I turned to look back at this beautiful historic building and noticed, inscribed on the wall, "Est. 1862" I wonder *how many people this old station has witnessed taking their first steps in the city of Ballarat?*

In the evening my Australian husband, while leafing through my new dictionary on Australian slang, said to his Australian father: " Gee, it's amazing how many slang words we understand. No wonder people with non-English speaking backgrounds get confused!"

My culturally eventful day had ended successfully.



## **Music** Sun 28th March

Apollo Bay Music Festival/ Grande Finale Concert

Plus drum and dance workshops

<http://www.apollobaymusicfestival.com/>

King Marong  
Master Percussionist  
The Gambia , West Africa  
Melbourne, Australia  
Ph: 0430 465 133  
E-mail:[kingmarong@yahoo.com](mailto:kingmarong@yahoo.com)



## **Italian Conversation Group**

**Day: Tuesdays in the  
school term**

**Time: 3.45 - 4.45pm**

**Place G1 Gplace,  
English Street Golden  
Point.**

**Maura McCabe**

**[mauramc@bigpond.com](mailto:mauramc@bigpond.com)**

**Tel 5341 2910**

## **International Women's Day Dinner**

March the 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 Inn of Khong Restaurant 7.30pm.

\$25 Entry Pre paid Ticket

BYO Wine

Guest Speaker Ms Margaret Smith C.E.O

Children First Foundation (Donations Welcome)

Lucky Draw to be held on Night

All Proceeds to the Children's First Foundation

RSVP Georgina Vagg - Women's Officer

0408109471



**Ballarat Italian Association**



**Bocce, Pétanque & Pasta!**

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**

The Ballarat Italian Association has joined up with the Croatian community for a day of Bocce and Pasta!

They invite you to join them for a delicious lunch and a game or two of bocce/pétanque to celebrate Cultural Diversity.

A great event for the whole family commencing at 11 am to 4.00 pm at 19 Recreation Road Mount Clear.

3 course lunch \$10.00 per adult (Children U10 free, 11-16 half price).

Booking for lunch essential, contact Evie: 0438 290 751 or 5341 3571

The venue is wheelchair accessible.

Thanks

Evie Dichiera

# メルボルン夏祭り

## 2010

**Japanese Summer Festival at the Docklands**

**Saturday 27 February**  
4:00-8:00pm

Admission: Free

Waterfront City Piazza Docklands  
Melway: 2E D4  
City Circle/Tram 30 Stop Harbour Esp.  
Tram 70/86 Last Stop

ORGANIZER:

SUPPORTERS:

MEDIA PARTNERS:

SPONSORS:

## **BRMC's Harmony Day Sizzle & Cricket**

**March 21 (Sun) 11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

### **Venue**

**The Wendouree Oval and function rooms (Entrance off Norman St., near the Dowling St round-a-bout)**

- 1) There will be a 20/20 fun cricket match between Victoria Police Team and CALD community Team (mainly from Indian community).**
- 2) The Victorian Police will arrange "The Bus" for the young.**
- 3) Lions Club will help us doing Sausage Sizzles.**
- 4) Some other foods will be also available, i.e. vegetarian foods.**



## **Multicultural Ambassadors - City of Ballarat**



Mel Razmjoo –Youth Officer

Multicultural ambassadors at City of Ballarat can help new arrivals and youth immigrants to interact with our community. One of the main roles of Multicultural ambassadors is to encourage groups to be open and to interact so that all Australians may learn and benefit from each other's heritage. The lack of newly arrived migrants in management positions in the settlement services sector deprives them of the opportunity either to share their practical experiences in order to support their fellow refugees, or to help themselves through learning how to manage their community associations.

BRMC and City of Ballarat have done a fantastic job about those matters to demonstrate accountability of all residents in striving to achieve the goal of a diverse, equitable and inclusive society. Our goal is to build an inclusive society, serve as a model of diversity, and to celebrate the cultural, economic and social successes of our diverse communities.

## ***HARMONY CRICKET MATCH 26 JAN 2010***

### **AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS. VICTORIA PARK, BALLARAT**

Organised by: Ballarat Indian Association Inc.

Supported by: City of Ballarat. Coordinated by: Mona Hatwal, Multicultural Ambassador, City of Ballarat.





## Calendar of Cultural and Religious Dates

The Calendar aims to raise awareness of key cultural and religious events, festivals and national days.

Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger) ±

|          |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |           |
|----------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| February | 14<br>Sun | Chinese New Year festivals in many communities feature traditional cultural activities, food stalls, arts and crafts, fire crackers, lion dances and dragon parades. | Festival  |
| February | 15<br>Mon | National Day                                                                                                                                                         | Serbia    |
| February | 15<br>Mon | Nirvana Day ±<br>This day is an observance of the death of the Buddha (Mahayana tradition).                                                                          | Buddhist  |
| February | 16<br>Tue | Independence Day                                                                                                                                                     | Lithuania |
| February | 16<br>Tue | Shrove Tuesday ±<br>Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent, a time of fasting and devotions. Pancakes are traditionally eaten on this day.                            | Christian |
| February | 17<br>Wed | Independence Day                                                                                                                                                     | Kosovo    |

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins [±](#)

|          |           |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| February | 17<br>Wed | Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. It begins with Ash Wednesday.                            | Christian             |
| February | 18<br>Thu | National Day                                                                                                                                                                                | Gambia                |
|          |           | Adelaide Fringe (to 14 March) <a href="#">±</a>                                                                                                                                             |                       |
| February | 19<br>Fri | This is an annual arts festival that takes place over three weeks across Adelaide.                                                                                                          | Festival              |
| February | 22<br>Mon | National Day                                                                                                                                                                                | Saint Lucia           |
| February | 23<br>Tue | National Day                                                                                                                                                                                | Brunei<br>Darussalam  |
| February | 23<br>Tue | National Day                                                                                                                                                                                | Guyana                |
| February | 24<br>Wed | Independence Day                                                                                                                                                                            | Estonia               |
| February | 25<br>Thu | National Day                                                                                                                                                                                | Kuwait                |
|          |           | Adelaide Festival (to 14 March) <a href="#">±</a>                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| February | 26<br>Fri | This two-week festival features opera, theatre, dance, music, cabaret, outdoor entertainment and more.                                                                                      | Festival              |
|          |           | Prophet Muhammad's Birthday <a href="#">±</a>                                                                                                                                               |                       |
| February | 26<br>Fri | This date marks the birthday of Muhammad, regarded by Muslims as a messenger and prophet of God.                                                                                            | Islamic               |
| February | 27<br>Sat | Independence Day                                                                                                                                                                            | Dominican<br>Republic |
|          |           | Purim <a href="#">±</a>                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| February | 27<br>Sat | Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.                                     | Jewish                |
|          |           | Pako Festa, Geelong <a href="#">±</a>                                                                                                                                                       |                       |
| February | 27<br>Sat | Pako Festa is a celebration of cultural diversity and attracts thousands of people to enjoy food, folk dancing, art exhibitions, films, craft, activities for children and the Pako Parade. | Festival              |



Enquiries about newsletter: BRMC Publicity Officer: Masako Kennedy  
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Please note that the BRMC does not endorse any goods or service in this news letter. Details are correct on date of publication. The newsletter is intended for members of BRMC only and as a means to disseminate information for these members. Articles posted in the newsletter do not reflect the beliefs of the BRMC or staff.

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