

# Regional Report for ECCV Board

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## Loddon- Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS)

LCMS Bendigo has successfully placed 24 migrants in an organic apple farm on a 3 month full-time work contract at Yarrowalla (85kms from Bendigo) through the Sustainable Employment Program (SEP) that was funded by a philanthropic trust. On completing the 3 months, the same workers will move to another farm that will offer further full-time employment for a specified period.

The Project Officer (through the SEP) educates and networks with potential employers for such work opportunities for the ever willing to work migrants. With bilingual worker support, LCMS is very pleased with 3 of its migrants obtaining their driving license, with another 3 waiting for their test date. It is anticipated that migrants with a driver's license should become mobile to reach out for work opportunities in the outskirts of Bendigo.

## Sunraysia and Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC)

SMECC in Mildura proudly hosted their Cultural Open Day on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to recognise their new premises (an old primary school acquired through the support of the Department of Education). The Open Day was attended by 1,000 people to enjoy the multicultural cuisines, shows, arts and crafts. At the celebration the local Nepali Community raised \$1,800 for the Victims of the Earthquake in Nepal.

The recently introduced project "Racial Profiling Receipt System" (that identifies how many times the **same** individual had been issued with a receipt in **one day**) in Mildura is closely monitored by SMECC and the local police. SMECC is utilising the skills and experiences of its Community Shed volunteers to promote Certificate III courses in Construction and in Warehouse Operation.

## North-East Multicultural Services (NEMA)

NEMA has been successful in their \$45,000 Innovation Funding from Commonwealth Government for their Mental Health Pilot Project that will be completed in April 2016.

## Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc (BRMC)

The Victorian Minister for Multicultural Services and Finance - Hon Robin Scott MP was welcomed by BRMC, City of Ballarat and Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. Forty community leaders and dignitaries attended the morning tea and enthusiastically heard the Minister talk about his support for rural and regional Victoria.

Ballarat was extremely busy during Refugee Week: The St Patrick College Pavilion held a Public Forum "Sanctuary Ballarat - Welcoming the Stranger" on 14 June, with speakers from Human Rights Legal Centre, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Amnesty International and local groups; Welcome Film Festival at MADE: "With Courage Let Us All Combine" raised funds for Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seekers and Support Network; several other local activities also had different events to raise funds for refugees and asylum seekers.

Despite the employment challenges, migrants from African communities held their joint celebration (of 400 Africans) on 27<sup>th</sup> June for The Africa Day.

It was a real treat for the local 'Ballaratians' who enjoyed the cuisines prepared by the culinary experts from South Sudan, Togo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Morocco, with highly talented traditional acts and music. On 4<sup>th</sup> July Ballarat creative talent was showcased via live performance "Breathe, Women!" an aftermath of migration on how women progressed in the country.

The joint event by BRMC, VCA and MCM at the Grant Street Theatre, Southbank, with 120 audiences (with seats pre-booked well in advance) with mainly Melbournians supporting the evening performance from Regional Victoria.

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### **Further Contact Information**

This report is presented to the ECCV board each month to highlight the key issues, events and projects within each of Victoria's ECCs. For further information please contact ECCV on [eccv@eccv.org.au](mailto:eccv@eccv.org.au).

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