



Our Multicultural Ambassadors

The City of Ballarat Multicultural Ambassador Program aims to enhance community awareness and foster social acceptance for all Ballarat residents. The Program provides leadership in the migrant community and recognises the commitment and contribution of Ballarat's migrants.

The City of Ballarat is delighted to introduce our Multicultural Ambassadors 2016-2017.

Get to know our Multicultural Ambassadors

Alisa Ma (China)



Born in Shanghai, China, Alisa studied accounting, traditional Chinese dumpling making and singing, before relocating to Ballarat with her family in 2005. She fell in love with our beautiful and quiet city, learning English at Federation University and meeting friends at the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC).

In Ballarat, Alisa worked at MaxiTRANS, ran her own business and is now undertaking work experience at a local hotel to become a chef. She is a member of the Happy Birds Traditional Chinese Dance Group and active with the Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Alisa would like to share Chinese culture with the Ballarat community through dance, cooking and arts. She would also like to welcome migrants and support them to fit in with the community.

Contact Alisa via email at alisama@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Maggie Liu (China)



In her hometown of Jinan, Shandong Province, China, Maggie assisted Chinese students to study abroad in Australia, before moving to Ballarat herself to study at Federation University in 2008.

Following graduation in 2010, Maggie and her husband Sam established their own business, Yin's Chinese Traditional Massage with locations in Lucas and Bacchus Marsh.

Maggie is delighted to be a City of Ballarat Multicultural Ambassador. Her vision is to promote her own rich Chinese culture and traditions to people and to support new migrants in Ballarat. She would also like to build strong friendships between her Chinese community and local residents.

Contact Maggie via email at maggieliu@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Nikki Foy (Australia)



Nikki is a proud Aboriginal woman who has lived, studied and worked in Ballarat most of her life. She strongly feels that Ballarat is a place where her Indigenous culture is celebrated and respected, and that the city has become culturally inclusive by welcoming people from diverse backgrounds.

Nikki works for the Department of Education and Training's LOOKOUT Centre as a Koorie Cultural Adviser. She is a member of the Koorie Engagement Action Group (KEAG), Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG), Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-Op (BADAC) and the Aboriginal Community Justice Panel.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Nikki would like to volunteer with her family to support and welcome new migrant families in Ballarat. She strongly advocates that sharing diverse cultures, especially with children, fosters understanding, harmony and builds a safer community.

Contact Nikki via email at nikkifoy@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Rebecca Bol (South Sudan)



Born in Ayod, South Sudan, Rebecca experienced the personal tragedy of civil war before fleeing to Egypt and eventually arriving as a refugee in Melbourne in 2004.

Two years later, Rebecca and her family moved to Ballarat and found the place they call home. A proud mother of five children, Rebecca is an active and happy volunteer and community member.

After learning the English language, Rebecca has completed a Certificate IV in Disability and the City of Ballarat's CALD Education and Employment Pathways Program (CEEP), and is now employed as a Home and Community Care worker.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Rebecca is enthusiastic to bring something back to her Ballarat community through volunteer work. She hopes to inspire others and has taken on a leadership role to support women in her own community.

Contact Rebecca via email at rebeccabol@ballarat.vic.gov.au

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Rod Serojales (The Philippines)



Born and raised in the Philippines, Rod moved to Australia in 2012 with his Australian wife Debbie and two-year-old daughter. Following the birth of their second daughter in Melbourne, Rod and his family moved to Ballarat in 2014 where he was appointed Captain-Corps Officer of the Delacombe Salvation Army. Speaking five languages, Rod drives various programs for preschool to senior members of the community and is an active member of the Salvo Leaders Network.

Rod is proud to represent his own Filipino community and as a Multicultural Ambassador, he hopes to see 'love put to action' by welcoming with open arms new migrants such as asylum seekers and refugees, and proving that here in Ballarat, we truly live by the old saying 'unity in adversity.'

Contact Rod via email at rodserojales@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Sadiki Mukasa (Congo)



Sadiki was born in the democratic republic of Congo, a beautiful and peaceful place before war brought destruction. His mother and sisters fled their homeland while Sadiki, his father and brothers moved around Congo to avoid being recruited by the army. They eventually arrived at the Malawi Refugee Camp where they were unexpectedly reunited with his mother and sisters. Sadiki's family spent four difficult years at the camp, often without enough food and long walks to clean water.

Sadiki and his family feel extremely blessed to gain refugee status in Australia and have enjoyed living here for 10 years.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Sadiki would like to give back to young people in the community.

Contact Sadiki via email at sadikimukasa@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Yvonne Paulina Davis (The Netherlands)



Yvon, as she is known, hails from Rotterdam, the Netherlands. After living in Australia from 1958 to 1961, she returned permanently to Ballarat in 1974 with her parents and brother.

Yvon's role as a Dutch radio program presenter at the local Voice FM Community Radio led to her appointment as Executive Producer Dutch at SBS Radio for 20 years and her involvement in the organisation of two annual Dutch events: The Holland Festival and Dutch Orange Day.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Yvon hopes to set up a Dutch group to celebrate and share their culture, and also share her multimedia skills to help promote Ballarat's diversity.

Contact Yvon via email at yvonedavis@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Syed Muhammad Sami (Pakistan)



Sami grew up in Karachi, Pakistan, and travelled the world, living in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia before choosing the perfect home in Ballarat, Australia.

A qualified Computer Network Engineer with degrees in computing and management, Sami found it difficult to find work in his career area. Referred to the City of Ballarat's CALD Education and Employment Pathways Program (CEEP) by the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC), Sami met friends, undertook training and volunteer work, all leading to him securing employment at IBM Ballarat.

Sami believes cultural exchange with diverse people results in a brilliant future, and feels fortunate to live in Ballarat where people value diversity, growth and meaningful projects for the community.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Sami would like to engage with the community through simple and practical projects that promote harmony and understanding, resulting in a socially cohesive Ballarat community.

Contact Sami via email at syedmuhammadsami@ballarat.vic.gov.au

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Tuyet Yeardeley (Vietnam)



Tuyet was born in Hanoi, Vietnam and grew up in Vungtau, a peninsula in southern Vietnam. In 2012, she moved to Australia and loves the fresh air and peaceful countryside at Dereel with her daughter and husband who come from England.

Tuyet learned English and how to drive in Australia, before embarking on a Bachelor of Education degree at Federation University, to fulfil her dream of teaching and inspiring children through her life experiences. She is also involved in fundraising activities to support the Community Emergency Response Team in Dereel and loves cooking international food for her family and friends.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Tuyet would like to be engaged in community development work and service, share her Vietnamese culture, warmly welcome migrants at the Library - Migrants Morning Teas and support people to settle down in Ballarat. She is looking forward to intercultural sharing and would like to meet more Australians and people from different cultural backgrounds.

Contact Tuyet via email at tuyetyeardeley@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Sid Tegally (Mauritius)



Sid is from Mauritius and first arrived Ballarat in 1998 as an international student at the University of Ballarat, now Federation University. After completing his psychology and social sciences degree, he went back to his homeland and returned to Australia on a skilled migrant visa in 2005. After working in Adelaide and completing a post graduate management degree, Sid settled in Ballarat.

A proud Australian Muslim, Sid observes that the Ballarat population has shown a great level of acceptance of the Muslim community including the meaningful Open Day at the Mosque that demonstrated the blending of faith and cultures. Sid is a member of the Ballarat Interfaith Network, Vice President of the Islamic Society of Ballarat and a life member of the Ballarat Rugby Club.

As a Multicultural Ambassador, Sid would like to bring the Muslim and greater Ballarat communities together, clearing ignorance and prejudice through education. He believes that working together is the key to enhanced understanding, harmony and an inclusive community.

Contact Sid via email at sidtegally@ballarat.vic.gov.au



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