

MEDIA RELEASE

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BALLARAT CITY COUNCIL TAKES TOP MULTICULTURAL AWARD

Ballarat City Council set a new benchmark, and their efforts were rewarded with the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) 2013 Multicultural Awards for Excellence Local Government Award.

Ballarat City Council received the award at a special ceremony at Government House last night, where more than 70 people and 23 organisations were recognised.

VMC Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan said the awards celebrated the efforts of organisations such as Ballarat City Council, who go above and beyond to help make Victoria a harmonious, multicultural state that is the envy of the nation.

“Through the Local Government Award, the VMC thanks Ballarat City Council for taking the time to listen to their community and address needs quickly and with meaning,” Mr Tan said.

“Ballarat City Council held a Multicultural Summit in 2012, and just three months later implemented practical actions to deliver on the community’s top recommendations for increasing employment, integrating services and creating a community hub.

“The council’s Multicultural Ambassadors spearheaded a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Careers Program and their Cultural Diversity team was moved to Ballarat Library where they formed a Multicultural Information Place.

“Libraries are such important places for new communities and the council can now take a more holistic approach to supporting people’s settlement in the area.

“I’m pleased to see regional Victoria represented by Ballarat City Council, who work hard to make their services accessible by the multicultural communities they represent”, he said.

The awards recognise those who support and celebrate Victorians from more than 200 backgrounds and 135 faiths.

Mr Tan said that the prestigious awards attracted more than 200 nominations, showing the breadth and support of people who make Victoria a great place to live.

“The annual Awards for Excellence confirm the Victorian Government’s commitment to promoting Victoria as a multicultural place, with His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria and the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Denis Napthine presenting awards,” he said.

Awards were also presented by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras, Minister for Education Martin Dixon, and Chief Commissioner of Police Ken Lay.

For a complete list of winners in this and previous years, please visit:

www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

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