

# BAV GAZETTE

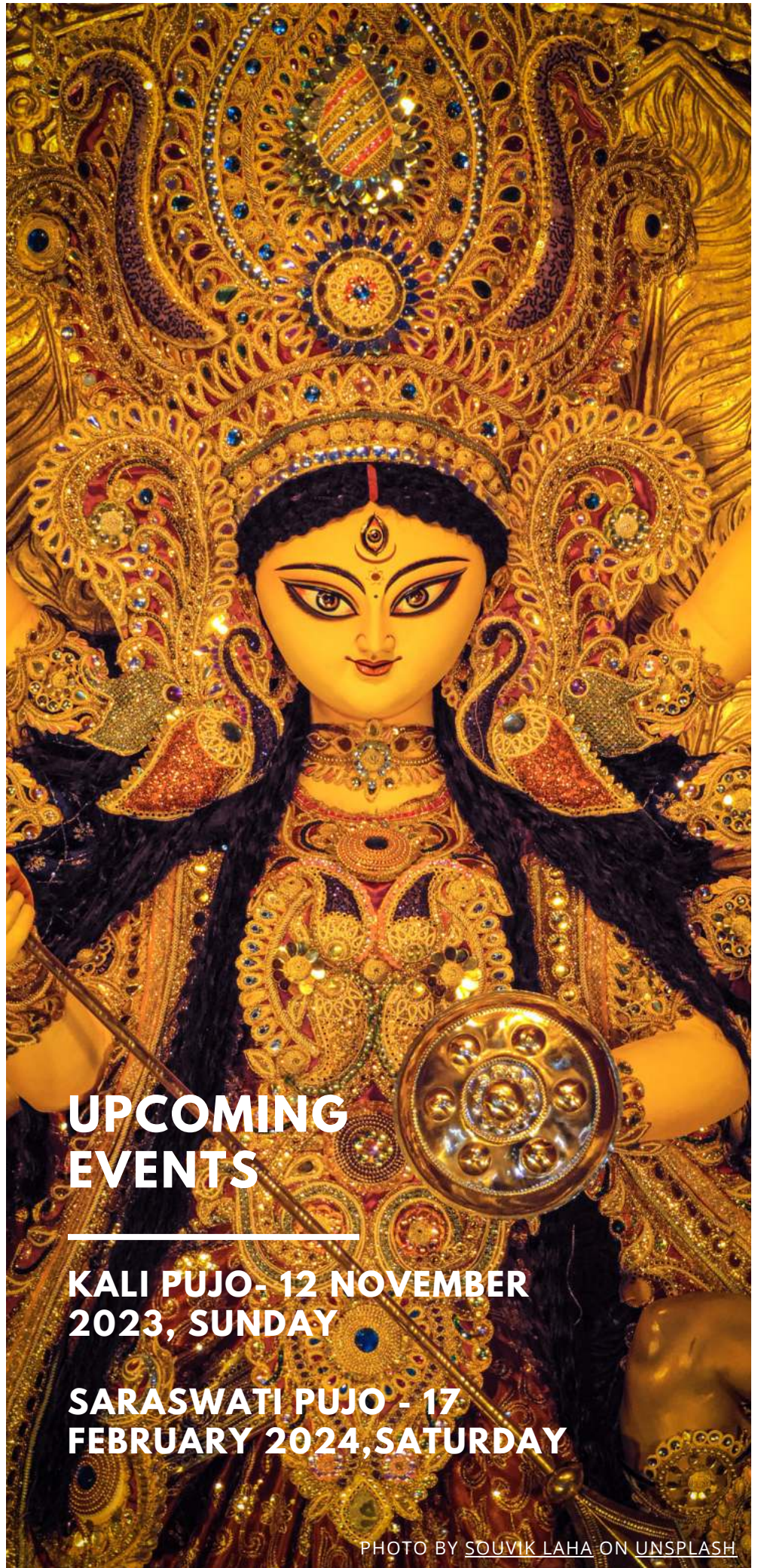
NOV, 2023. ISSUE 1



Bengali Association  
of Victoria



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**KALI PUJO - 12 NOVEMBER  
2023, SUNDAY**

**SARASWATI PUJO - 17  
FEBRUARY 2024, SATURDAY**

PHOTO BY [SOUVIK LAHA](#) ON [UNSPASH](#)

# EDITORIAL

## Notun Bhor Notun Prokash Notun Din Notun Akash

As the community Engagement coordinator for the 2023-25 executive committee and the editor for BAV Gazette, I feel extremely honoured to welcome you all to its first edition for this year. As I retrospect to the great success of Durga Puja, I feel humbled and blessed to be a part of this community which is so rich and diverse in art, culture, education and tradition. As Bengalis settled in Australia, our focus is to have continued involvement of our elders, bringing the new generation closer to their cultural heritage and ensuring that the new members of the community feel welcomed.



I hope you will enjoy this edition of BAV gazette, look forward to your suggestions and wish active participation.  
[community.engagement@bav.org.au](mailto:community.engagement@bav.org.au)

*Rumna Mitra Ghara*



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[www.facebook.com/bavaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bavaustralia)



[www.bav.org.au](http://www.bav.org.au)

# FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear BAV Community Members,

On behalf of the Bengali Association of Victoria, I extend a warm welcome to you and your family.

Over the last two years I have persevered to create a culture of warmth and belonging where everyone is heard and feels welcomed.

We have connected with our community by being present and through technology; and at every opportunity we have tried to promote BAV to the wider community.

I feel inspired and encouraged by the community engagement and support that we have experienced for BAV organised events.

In continuing this work, over the next 18 months I endeavour to connect and collaborate with various community organisations.

Most importantly, I want to thank my new executive committee members for their relentless efforts and passion. Once again, I want to thank everyone for supporting our Mahalaya and Durga Puja celebrations and making it such a grand success.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Kali Puja celebrations being held on Sunday, 12th November 2023 at GWCC.



*Surashmi Chatterjee*

# THE BAV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE '23-25'



From Left to Right

Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharjee-Event Cordinator

Mr.Saikat Bhattacharya-Treasurer

Ms. Pallavi Dasgupta- Cultural Secretary

Mr.Niloy Dutta-Secretary

Ms. Britya Sen- Assistant Treasurer

Ms. Rumna Mitra Ghara-Community Engagement Coordinator

Ms.Surashmi Chatterjee- President

Mr. Indranath Modak- Vice President

Dr.Sukanya Roy- Assistant Senior Citizen Convener

Mr.Souvik Bhowmik- Joint Secretary

Apology-Dr Asim Kumar Das- Senior Citizen Convener



# CHOTO DER GOPPO

## The monster in my house

By Tiyasha Bhattacharya (Year 6)

I heard footsteps. They were delicate footsteps, like what a cat's footsteps would sound like. I lived alone, and no one else had the keys to my house, so whoever was in my house had to have broken in. I quickly began to think of a way to escape. If the person in my house was a robber, they would check all the rooms for people, or for valuable items.

Luckily my room was at the end of the corridor, so they would reach it last. The footsteps were closer now. I heard a door open. I cursed myself in my mind, for I had lost the chance to lock the door of my bedroom and hide in another room so that while the person was busy with my bedroom, I would be able to escape.

Deciding not to waste time, I quickly grabbed my pillow and shaped it into a human-like figure on my bed. I covered it with a blanket, so it looked like someone was lying asleep in my bed. I already had a half-formed idea in my mind, but I needed a rope for it to work. I searched for a rope as quietly as I could. I calmly scanned my room for a rope. I knew for a fact I had one. I bit back a sigh of relief as I found a good, strong coil of rope in a bag amongst my things. I tied one end to the leg of my bed, and the other end I threw out the window. I was about to start to go down the rope, but I heard the footsteps come closer. I dove under the bed swiftly and soundlessly.

The door opened. The person surveyed the room. If you could call it a person.

The creature had padded, velvety paws. It was covered in fur. It had holes for ears and malicious yellow slits for eyes. Its arms were like normal human arms and so were the hands. Except for fingernails, the creature had knife-sharp, retractable claws. A heavy tail, like the one kangaroos have, trailed it.



# CHOTO DER GOPPO

## The monster in my house

The moment the lizard was right by the bed, about to throw the covers of the pillow, I swiftly scrambled out and started to shimmy down the rope. The lizard was right above me, its tail occasionally brushing my face. I leapt off the rope quickly. The lizard leapt off too. It flicked its tongue at me and hissed angrily. Idly, I wondered where my cat Omelia was.

About five seconds later I got my answer.  
On the lizard's face.

With a great 'Meow!' Omelia had come out of the blue and leapt onto the lizard's face. She scratched the lizard's face, all the while mewling ferociously. The lizard clawed wildly at the thing on its face. I grabbed a cricket bat quickly waiting for the lizard to throw off Omelia.

After a while, it managed to throw Omelia off, but I clubbed it on the head with the bat. I quickly checked for a pulse. Nothing. For a while I stared quizzically at the ground. What on earth was I supposed to do with an oversized, furry, killer lizard? I had no idea, but for now, I'd just like to go to sleep.

I grabbed Omelia and headed back up to my bedroom, thinking that I would give Omelia extra cat treats tomorrow.

And take her to the vet, of course.

# CHOTO DER KOTHA

Lest we forget

By Rishav Sengupta (Year 6)

The anxious, vexing mother  
By the radio  
Sitting, waiting, hoping  
A brief prayer escapes the lips...  
The mourned dead  
In No Man's Land  
Float eerily on blood and tears  
Nothing but the sound of silence...  
The jubilant soldiers  
On the muddy Home Front  
Dance amongst the poppies  
as the treaty is signed...  
A new dawn, a new conflict  
Victory cheers engulf the cry of death  
Battles won but lives lost  
Lest we forget.



# LOCAL TRAVEL TIPS FOR SENIORS



By Dr.Sukanya Roy

Two things I picked up recently before I travelled.

1. Getting the PTV vouchers.
2. Travelling in Sydney / NSW

1. As you all know the free PTV vouchers are not mailed out any more. To get them you have to register online and you can pick them up from a Vline station showing your seniors card.

The same rules apply and the year ends on 31st Oct each year. So claim it before that.

The website to register is:

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/concessions-and-free-travel/free-travel-vouchers/free-travel-vouchers-registration-form/>

So get your typing fingers on and register, whether you collect your vouchers or not, you are registered and it is available when you want to, for pick-up

2. Travelling to NSW.

Did you know that if you have a Victorian seniors card, you are eligible for an Opal Gold card in NSW. It allows you to travel all over the state , including ferries and buses for 2.50 a day.

The catch ?

You have to apply for the card about 3 weeks in advance before you reach NSW/ Sydney to have it processed and delivered to your address.



# LOCAL TRAVEL TIPS FOR SENIORS



The website for application is:

[https://transportnsw.info/document/1435/application-for-interstate-seniors-gold-opal-card-5341\\_0.pdf](https://transportnsw.info/document/1435/application-for-interstate-seniors-gold-opal-card-5341_0.pdf)

Print out the form.

Fill it up and scan it back to them. The card should arrive by post in 14 days.

You then need to load up the card once you land in Sydney.

Once again , worth having it ready,

Enjoy joyful travels.

## Cheesy Chat Potato Snack

Very easy to make mouth-watering recipe which can be served as an appetizer or delicious snack for both adults and children alike.



**Servings: 4**  
**Ready in 30 minutes**

### Directions

- Wash and pat dry the potatoes.
- Parboil the potatoes and pat dry them.
- Mash the slightly with your palms and keep the skin.
- Sprinkle some salts while hot.
- Take a mixing bowl and add potatoes, chaat masala, chilli powder/flakes, cream, garlic butter, and oregano. Mix.
- Arrange the potatoes on a grilling tray or air fryer tray. Add some as a topping.

### Ingredients

- Chaat Potatoes - 500gms
- Cream - 1 teaspoon
- Grated cheese - As much you want.
- Chaat masala - 2 teaspoon
- Salt - As per taste
- Chilli powder or Flakes - As preferred
- Garlic Butter - 2 tablespoon
- Oregano - 1 teaspoon
- Coriander leaves - 2 teaspoon
- Tomato Sauce - for garnishing

### Directions

- Grill/Air fry for 10 minutes, until the cheese melts. The potatoes will become semi-crisp. You can bake more if you wish.
- Add some tomato sauce on top and garnish with coriander leaves. Again, sprinkle some chaat masala.
- Crispy and yummy Cheesy Potato Snack is ready to be served!

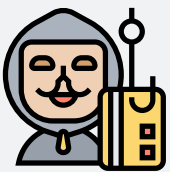
NOTE - Please adjust the taste of salt as cheese and chaat masala also have some salt in them.

**Recipe by A Dear Friend/ Community Member**

# SHABDHAAN

During these times when fraudsters try to scam people of their hard-earned money, it is extremely important to stay alert and vigilant. Australians fall prey to the different types of scams everyday and face a lot of financial losses.

## Few Types of Scams



### Phising

This refers to emails, SMS or phone calls that trick people into giving out their banking and personal information like account numbers, credit card details, passwords.



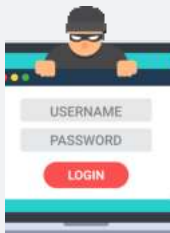
### Family Impersonation Scam

Also called as 'Hi Mum Scams', Victims are contacted via Whatsapp by scammers posing to be a family member asking for funds.



### Investment Scams

Scammers use convincing marketing and new technology to make their investment sound too good to miss. They promise you big payouts with little or no risk. They often use pressure tactics to get you to act fast, so they can steal your money.



### Product and Service Scams

Scammers set up fake websites or profiles on actual retailer sites and then offer products or services at prices that are too good to be true. They post fake ads and fake reviews along with using stolen logos, a .com.au domain name and Australian Business Number (ABN). These scams are hard to spot.

Steps to protect yourself-

1. Refrain from giving your personal information to anyone if unsure.
2. Never click a link in a message or email. Visit official websites if information is needed.
3. Contact your bank if you notice any suspicious account activities.

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams>

# SENIOR'S CORNER



Bendigo trip  
10th Sept, 23



# SENIOR'S CORNER



Senior's meet  
23rd July, 23  
6th Aug, 23

# MAHALAYA



Meet and Greet  
14th Oct, 23



# S E E G B E E R K I N G W O



# BRAVE GIRLS MEET



# VEERA

AT GWCC BY SHEEBA SINGH AND MANNI KAUR  
WITH SENIORS ON 29TH SEPT, 23



# PURANO SHEI DINER KOTHA



Photo from 2007 Durga Puja held at Wellington Secondary College. Live Luchi bhaja done by the community members.

Dr Pratish Bandhopadhyaya and Mr Mouli Ganguly performing Durga Puja in 2007





**35** *years*  
**Of Durga Puja**









# EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS



**SAT**



Surashmi Chatterjee, President BAV, addressing the gathering welcomed Somen Debnath, praising his big effort and courage. She called the effort an ‘incredible journey’ and praised his mission of creating awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Among those present included Mr. Shiv Kumar, Consul Indian Consulate, representing the Consul General Dr. Sushil Kumar and Mr. Sury Soni, President. FIAV was also present. Vote of thanks was given by the President of Orio.

# EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS



FIAV Independence day celebration 2023







*“Where the mind is  
without fear and the  
head is held high Where  
knowledge is free”*

**Guru Deb er eyi kotha  
niye Iti korlam.....**