



# THE BAV GAZETTE

Your quarterly dose of all things happening among the  
Bengalis of Victoria



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Surashmi Chatterjee

Dear BAV community members,

I welcome you all to the first newsletter of the year. I am honoured to serve and bring forward our community together as we soar to new heights of success in various directions.

My vision is to:

- Create a culture of warmth and belonging where everyone is heard and feels welcomed.
- Connect with my community by being present and through technology
- To enhance and promote BAV to the wider community

I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to be a part of the journey. Feel free to share new ideas, news and updates with us. You can also contribute by writing short posts and stories which can be featured in the newsletter (we will send out expressions of interest processes soon - stay tuned!). Lastly, I am open to receiving constructive feedback - get in touch at [info@bavwebsite.org.au](mailto:info@bavwebsite.org.au).



### OTHER STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Executive Team
- BAV Seniors' Update
- Events
- BAV Community News
- Other Updates

# EXECUTIVE TEAM 21-23

The new Executive Team has started its two year term and is already excited about bringing together a program of events and community engagement opportunities for the Bengalis in Victoria.

**President:**

Mrs. Surashmi Chatterjee

**Vice President**

Mr. Indranath Modak

**Events & Community Engagement**

Dr. Dakhina Mitra

**Secretary**

Mrs. Pallabi Basak

**Joint Secretary**

Mr. Souvik Bhowmik

**Treasurer**

Mr. Narayan Banerjee

**Asst. Treasurer**

Mr. Saikat Bhattacharya

**Cultural Secretary**

Mrs. Soma Bhattacharya

**Joint Cultural Secretary**

Mrs. Poulomi Sengupta

**Senior Citizen Convenor**

Dr. Asim K Das

**Asst. Senior Citizen Convenor**

Mr. Siddhartha Majumder

The group has started to meet regularly to plan the upcoming events and celebrations.

To know more about the members, [click here.](#)



# FROM THE DESK OF BAV SENIORS

by Dr Asim Das - BAV Senior Citizen Convener

In March 2021, just after the Covid restrictions were lifted, a dinner conversation with friends led to the topic of “The Royal Commission on Aged Care System” and its recommendations. The typical Bangali Adda quickly turned into a discussion on importance of social interaction for mental & physical well-being of elderly people. We then talked about our role as citizens who can assist & improve the system. The result – a revival of the BAV Senior Citizens Club which was originally formed in September 2013.

We harnessed the power of a WhatsApp group, which started with about 80 members and has since grown to 130. It is called “BAV Seniors”, the Seniors’ arm of the Bengali Association of Victoria Inc.

The first meeting of the BAV Seniors, held at Jells Park on 22 March 2021, was a resounding success. The parkland and a light breeze on a unusually humid **late afternoon**, was the perfect setting for the inaugural meet of 28 members. The group’s enthusiasm sparked more ideas to support a Bengali seniors’ forum and brought forth some significant issues. A decision was made to meet monthly at the Glen Waverley Community Centre (GWCC) & Mount Waverley Community Centre (MHWC), both of which have been booked until June 2022 via the Monash City Council Positive Ageing Grant (PALS).

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@ Jells Park



@ Jells Park



We have had two more meetings since then. At the 15 May session, Anand Shome & Saleha Singh provided some insights into “IndianCare”, an NFP organisation looking at the interests of Indians in Victoria. **We planned another one on Physical Movement Therapy using Music but it was cancelled due to the recent lockdown.**

**We have also organised a day-trip to visit Yering Station Winery for a Private Wine Testing, the Art Gallery, and lunch at Yarra Valley Grand Hotel, on 11 September 2021. The last stop will be the Yarra Valley Chocolatery & Ice Creamery. The tickets for the trip were sold out in 2 days.**

Anand Shome and Saleha Singh @ GWCC



# FROM THE DESK OF BAV SENIORS

Continued

**2nd meet at MWCC**



**3rd meet at GWCC**



An online survey is being developed to identify ideas about organising various activities relevant to the community seniors. It will be shared via the WhatsApp group. Once the data has been analysed, the Core group will use and share the results to inform the future development of activities.

## **Latest Session - Wednesday 14 July 2021 at GWCC (2.30pm to 5.30pm)**

Mr Vasan Srinivasan, Chairperson Mental Health Foundation Australia, Chair CIAA & Past President FIAV provided information on various projects for the benefit of the Indian Community. Details and pictures will be shared in the next newsletter.

To join the BAV Seniors' WhatsApp group for latest updates, or participate in any of the BAV Seniors Sessions, contact **Dr. Asim K Das, BAV Seniors' Convener on 0499 073 332.**

## EVENTS



**SAVE THE DATE**

### **Independence Day Celebration**

**Date: 15 August**

**Time: 2pm to 5pm**

**Place: Glen Waverley Community Centre**

Join our "Swatantrata Divas" event to celebrate the Indian Independence Day on the 15th of August. It will be a day we can all sing our favourite Deshbhakti songs and give opportunity to the little children to know more about India's Independence journey.

### **Anondo Mela**

**Date: 28 August**

**Time: 3pm to 7pm**

**Place: Mulgrave Community Hall**

For the first time, BAV brings to you Anondo Mela - experience a shopping extravaganza and enjoy some lip-smacking foods, live performances, magic, face-painting and much more. We are sure you will feel nostalgic too with this 'Mela' experience.

### **Blood Donation Camp**

**September (place, date and time to be decided)**

After the successful Blood Donation Run in 2020, Bengali Association of Victoria is geared up to arrange another Group Donation run in September 2021. However, due to Covid if you are not comfortable in a group activity, and still want to donate, then you can do this individually and have your donations count towards BAV team's tally as long as you have signed up to our team! You can do this by:

- Calling 13 14 95 and asking to be added to Bengali Association of Victoria Lifeblood Team
- Adding yourself to the team via your account on the Donate Blood App for iOS and Android or online at [don8blood.com](http://don8blood.com)
- In centre when you go to donate, by letting them know when they check in that you would like to be added to the BAV team.

For any queries please call LIFE BLOOD on 1300 886 524.

### **BAV Membership opens on 1st August**

The BAV website link will be valid from 1st August 2021 onwards (a separate email will be sent with all relevant details).

# BAV COMMUNITY NEWS

## Welcoming new little ones

Pritom and Pallavi welcomed their first child, Priyanshi, on 25th March 2021. Due to Covid, no family could visit from India but their Melbourne friends showered lots of blessings to the little angel.

The happy parents shared a beautiful note for Priyanshi.

"Dear Priyanshi, May you always know, little one, that you were wished for, longed for, prayed for, and will be forever loved. And a big thank you to all our friends and well wishers for supporting us through this time. We feel blessed to have you in our life." - Pritom & Pallavi Dutta



Pritom, Pallavi and Priyanshi

## Bengalis in Victoria achieving new heights

The Supreme Court Prize, first awarded in 1864, honours the top student at each of Victoria's eight law schools. This year Supreme Court Prize one of the recipients is Priyanka Banerjee, from University of Melbourne.

BAV congratulates Priyanka! Read more about her achievement [here](#).

## BAV President's interview by Dandenong City Council's Community Funding Team



BAV Pujo Team at 2019 Durga Puja

BAV's Durga Puja'20 was partly funded by Greater Dandenong Council grants. For their latest newsletter (June'21 edition), the council's Community Funding Team spoke to BAV President, Surashmi Chatterjee, about the importance of community in building connections with and celebrating culture. During this discussion Surashmi highlighted, "It feels great when we see the community members, especially the younger generation, participating in cultural activities, retaining not only our core values but also the shared values of a multi-cultural society. Secondly, we showcase traditional aspects of our culture to the wider community, creating a space for intermingling of communities – this is a really important aspect of our activities as it transcends into the broader community."

## OTHER UPDATES

### BAV's involvement with wider Indian communities in Victoria

BAV frequently joins hands with other Indian and South Asian communities in Victoria for cultural and social initiatives that benefit the wider community. It is also one of the key agencies that is invited by the Consulate General of India to participate in celebrations that showcase Indian culture and traditions.



#### Pandemic Food program

BAV is a member of the Federation of Indian Associations Victoria (FIAV). FIAV, formed in 1989, is an umbrella organisation that brings together all the individual Indian organisations as a unified body. It aims to strengthen the community and provide improved services to the Indian origin population in Victoria.

During Aug-Dec 2020, FIAV, Mental Health Foundation of Australia, and other partner organisations (including BAV) delivered/fed thousands of needy Victorians and international students.

More details about FIAV available in their [website](#).



Pandemic Food Program with BAV members Pallabi Basak, Anuradha Das, Goutam Basak, Chandrajit Biswas and Pritom Dutta



#### Next Newsletter:

- Information about upcoming events and Durga Pujo
- A guest column about life of a Bengali in Victoria

**Stay tuned!**

#### Get Involved:

If you want to contribute, share a news with the wider community, take part in an event or learn more about our activities, feel free to write to us at

**[info@bavwebsite.org.au](mailto:info@bavwebsite.org.au)**

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)