



THE BAV GAZETTE

Your dose of things happening among the Bengalis of Victoria

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Surashmi Chatterjee

Dear BAV Community Members,

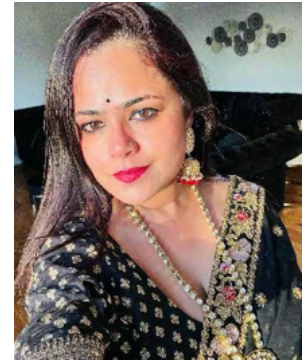
On behalf of the Bengali Association of Victoria, I welcome you and your family to attend the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja 2022. The last 2 years have been difficult for all of us with Covid restrictions limiting the number of activities that the committee could organize.

This year has been a wonderful experience so far and I express my gratitude and respect to the members of BAV who have shown their support and acted with integrity to uphold our values.

Durga Puja reminds us of the fight over the evil in our life and I encourage everyone to find the positive energy in celebrating this auspicious time of the year.

Lastly, but most importantly, I want to thank my executive committee members for their relentless support and cooperation throughout this year.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for giving me this opportunity to serve you by upholding the values of BAV. I wish you all Happy Durga Puja and Subho Bijoya.



OTHER STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- BAV Joint Cultural Secretary's Update
- BAV Joint Secretary's Update
- BAV Seniors' Update
- BAV Events
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FROM THE JOINT CULTURAL SECRETARY'S DESK

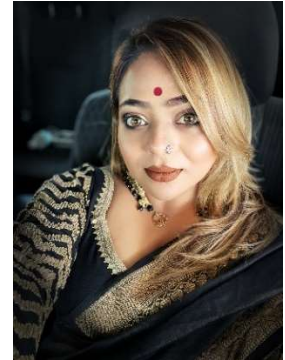
By Poulomi Sengupta

Greetings everyone!

Finally, the time is upon us, after two enduring years of the Covid pandemic, to usher in the festive season with our friends and families. The most sought-after time of the year is here as BAV gears up to celebrate Durga Puja with joyous flair. This year, BAV is thrilled to unveil new idols of Maa Durga and her children, and we wish to welcome hundreds of people to our Durga Puja community event to be held in Keysborough Secondary College, Banksia Campus.

This time BAV is back with a bang as it has decided to celebrate Durga Puja for three days from 30th September till 1st October – a pleasant change from the traditional two-day celebrations in the past. In addition to this, BAV is also going to host a special 'Mahalaya' event which will serve as a 'meet and greet' platform for our community members.

Having grown up in Kolkata, I have been fortunate to experience the rich heritage of Durga Puja celebrations – the ambience, the flamboyance, the glamour and of course the food. Being joint cultural secretary, I wanted to take this opportunity to instill the same flavor for our Durga Puja celebrations; rich in variety with some fun filled surprises.



Durga Puja Schedule and Main Attractions

Mahalaya Event (Shaktirupeno) - 25/09/2022

- ❖ Community meet and greet
- ❖ Merchandise and Food stalls



Durga Puja Celebration Day One Main Attractions - 30/09/2022

- ❖ Sandhi Puja
- ❖ Devi Bodhon – One of its kind rendition by a team of classically trained singers and dancers
- ❖ Tillotoma – Taking a leaf out of Kolkata's Maddox Square's book, for the first time, BAV will host its version of the puja special 'couples' pageant. This event will feature couples – both young and old, showcasing their compatibility and general awareness skills in front of a panel of judges. With funny surprises along the way, the audience is guaranteed to have a fun time
- ❖ Food stalls for dinner

Durga Puja Celebration Day Two Main Attractions - 01/10/2022

- ❖ Saptami and Ashtami Pushpanjali
- ❖ Khichudi Bhog
- ❖ Down the melody lane – A cultural tribute to two stalwarts of Indian music industry – R.D Burman and Lata Mangeshkar. This segment will comprise:
 - A live performance by a group of local music band artists
 - A musical dance drama featuring golden songs from yesteryears
- ❖ Dinner date with 'Mutton Biryani'



Durga Puja Celebration Day Three Main Attractions - 02/10/2022

- ❖ Nabami Pushpanjali
- ❖ Live 'Luchi Counter' for lunch
- ❖ Dhunuchi Naach and Sindoor Khela

I extend my heartfelt greetings for the upcoming festive season and wish to see you all in our celebration of the biggest festival of Bengal.



FROM THE JOINT SECRETARY’S DESK

By Souvik Bhowmik

Greetings Everyone,

In today’s world, Technology plays a very important role when it comes to the growth and smooth functioning of any organization.

BAV being a big non-profit organization, it was important to get it well organised. Our committee members keep changing every couple of years and it is hard to keep track of previous documents and other assets.

One of the priorities set by the current committee was to make sure we start using organization emails diligently instead of personal emails, so that email history is maintained even after the committee changes. We partnered with Google for Non-Profit and now have a cloud-based email service and a central repository to store all our important BAV documents, photos and other assets, which is not only secured but easily accessible by all our committee members. This has made us lot more productive, and all our communication channels are now effectively managed and well organized.



Our next challenge was to provide a fit-for-purpose ticketing experience for our members to address member feedback. With increasing membership, there was a need to provide a seamless ticketing experience and entry at our events. We can now proudly say that we have achieved that goal as well. Today our members can purchase tickets online without any issues. Our ticket validation process will be automated for future events.

We have now launched our new website <https://bav.org.au> where anyone can buy membership and/or donate all year round. Members can login, view membership details, renew membership, purchase event tickets and much more. We are in the process of establishing email ids associated with our new domain name.

I would like to thank our BAV Executive Committee Members for the continuous support they provided.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone during the upcoming events. Please keep the feedbacks coming so that we can help our community grow.





FROM THE SENIOR CITIZEN CONVENOR'S DESK

By Dr. Asim K Das

M: 0499 073 332 | E: seniors@bavwebsite.org.au

Since our Face to Face (F2F) get-together held on 19 March 2022 at GWCC, we did not hold our regular monthly meetings at GWCC until June 2022. BAV seniors took part enthusiastically in the Borshoboron (Bengali New Year) event on 16 April & AGM on 21 May 2022 organised by the Bengali Association of Victoria (BAV). We had three very important events take place for the Seniors up until September this year.

For the first time, we organised a free lunch and some games/activities on 19 June 2022 from 11 am to 4pm at GWCC. It was attended by more than 55 Seniors. Thanks to Monash City Council for providing in-kind hall & cash support under the Positive Aging Grant. The council was represented by a council officer as well.

The day started with pure Bengali Adda followed by sumptuous lunch & finally Bingo games. The organising committee had many other games planned, like Antakshari but the Bingo was so popular that it went on for another round. We all had a great time with great food & wonderful company. A fun-filled day enjoyed by all. We have plans to hold similar events in future or at least make it an annual feature.



The meeting on 14 August 2022 at GWCC featured a presentation by our own Seniors member Dr. Madhu Chatterji on “Breathing Techniques, Yoga & Meditation”. She is a teacher with the Art of Living Foundation. She gave us a glimpse of what the state of bliss was all about. It was a very informative session in relation to Mental & Physical well being of Seniors.



One event that seniors were looking forward to was the Annual Bus Trip on 3 September.

This year we went to the Bellarine Peninsula including a visit to the National Wool Museum, Geelong. Please check out the travelogue written by Mrs. Sujata Modak in this newsletter.

We have a few more events organised by BAV. Mahalaya on 25 September followed by Durga Puja on 30 Sept/1 & 2 October and Kali Puja on 25 October. Please go to the newly restructured website <https://bav.org.au/> for further details.

Our next get-together is scheduled to be held on 6 November from 3pm to 6pm at GWCC. We have some important matters to discuss in this get-together. We hope to see you all.

BAV Seniors is open to anyone from the community. The only qualification is that you have to be 60+ years old. We use the BAV Seniors WhatsApp platform to send out notifications of future programs. Pls contact the convener for further details.

STAY WELL STAY SAFE

BAV SENIORS TRIP TO THE BELLARINE PENINSULA

Saturday 3/9/2022

As I hurry to get ready this morning, I peer out of the window. It looks like a fine day, thank God! After our successful day trip to the Yarra Valley on the 4th of Dec 2021, I am looking forward to a nice day out with our friends in BAV.

'Hurry up, I don't want to be late' calls out Indra as I examine the coat cupboard for the right garments. I prudently pick up an extra layer, not quite trusting the forecast. We park at the designated pick-up location and happily scamper in to bag a nice window seat.



The bus has one more stop in Kensington to pick up those who live on that side of town and then we hit the freeway. Soon everyone is chatting away with their fellow day-trippers. Someone starts a game of Antakshari and there is a happy sing-along of Hindi and Bengali songs. I notice with an internal laugh that the songs are all from our era, nothing from the last 20-25 odd years! It is good fun, and I am interested to note that there are a number of good singers in this group!



Our first stop is at the National Wool Museum in Geelong. I have not visited this before, so I am quite interested. It is overcast and there is a slight drizzle. We shuffle out of the bus and gather in front of the museum.



A tour guide has been assigned to us and he gives us a very good introduction to the wool industry. There are many interesting exhibits. The 100-year-old loom is particularly interesting; they claim it to be one of history's first computers! The sock knitting machine is another eye-catching exhibit.



By the time we finish, we are all ready for lunch. We drive to the Geelong RSL Bistro. It is a cheerful, large venue which seems very busy indeed. There is a happy atmosphere in the air, and no wonder – Geelong is to play in the Finals tonight! Soon we are seated at two large tables with drinks in our hands. My meal is quite good and those sitting close to me confirm likewise. This is really a good venue for a large group. Good choice! We all pile back into the bus and head towards Queenscliff.



I have been to Queenscliff many years ago, but I have quite forgotten about it. It is cold when we get off and I am glad for my extra layer. There is a nice boardwalk on which we stroll towards the lighthouse. There are also a few shops and cafes, but many are closed and there aren't many people around.



I'm not sure what I had expected but I am rather disappointed. There is a lighthouse but the view from its base is not very interesting. A few people wander off for coffee and warmth inside a cafe. We don't stay very long.

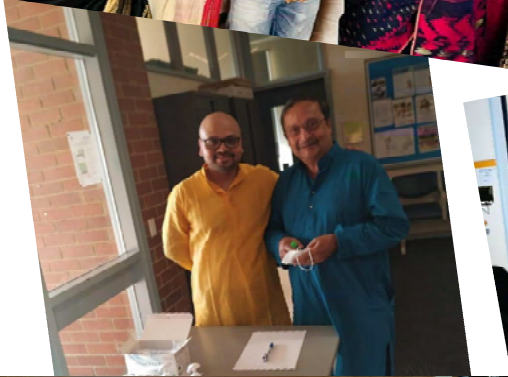


I am happy to get back into the bus and head back to Melbourne. The trip back takes ages! After we drop a few friends at Kensington, the driver finds it hard to reverse and get back to our road. We drive through all kinds of dark and dingy streets until we are finally on the freeway again. It all takes far too long. I am tired by the time we get back to our car and drive home. It was a good day trip and except for the long drive back, I have no complaints! My thanks to all the organisers! So.....where to next?

Sujata Modak

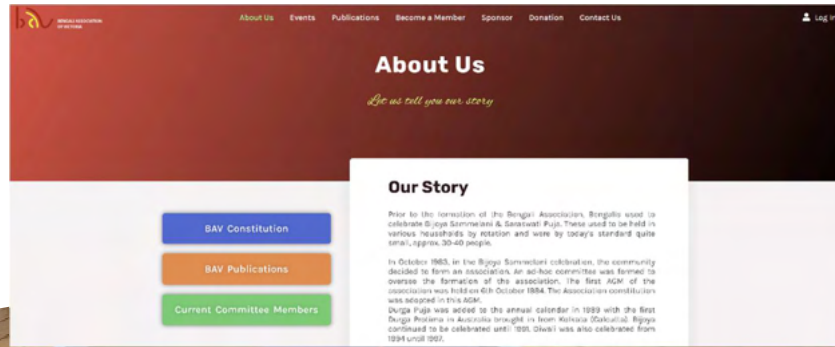


BORSHOBORON (16th APRIL 2022)





AGM (21 MAY 2022)





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PREPARATIONS



GET ENGAGED

- BAV DURGA PUJA 2022:
 - 30 SEPTEMBER, 1 and 2 OCTOBER

- BAV KALI PUJA 2022
 - Date: 25 October



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