

Monthly Newsletter

RODINA

The Bulgarian Cultural and
Social Association



February – New Energies, New Gatherings, and the Last Days of Summer

January flew by so fast, it felt like just a moment since the start of the new year! But what an exciting month it was—filled with laughter, rhythm, and new friendships. Our dance workshop with Prof. Gergana Panova not only brought together Bulgarians from all over Sydney but also welcomed friends from the Macedonian, Russian, Croatian, Hungarian, and Greek communities. Everyone who attended shared how inspiring it was to meet and learn from Prof. Panova.

As we dive into February, we are greeted by the Chinese New Year of the Wood Snake. According to Chinese astrology, the snake symbolizes change, transformation, and new beginnings - reminding us that even if January didn't start the way we planned, there is always time to reset and move forward. All those New Year's resolutions we made - whether we accomplish one or a hundred - aren't the most important thing in the end. What truly matters is

living mindfully, allowing ourselves time to rest, and never losing sight of the bigger picture. And February is the perfect time to find our rhythm again, as summer slowly fades, the children return to school, and life settles back into its usual pace.

February also sets the stage for some of the most beloved Bulgarian holidays in March—Baba Marta, Liberation Day, and International Women's Day. In the spirit of these celebrations, we invite you to a very special event—"Traditions and Holidays in Song: A Special Evening" featuring the incredible singer Dimana Boyanova.

The last days of summer are here - let's make the most of them together, with smiles!

Rodina team x

In this newsletter
you can expect:

"Traditions &
Holidays in
Song" with
Dimana
Boyanova

Upcoming
events

Once upon a
time...
Viktor Lilov



Sydney welcomes the magic of Bulgarian folklore with Dimana Boyanova

On February 21st, the Bulgarian community in Sydney will come together for an unforgettable March-themed evening filled with music, traditions, and festive spirit. Our special guest will be the incredible Dimana Boyanova – a singer from the prestigious "Pirin" ensemble, who, together with her husband, instrumentalist Boyan Boyanov, will bring the spirit of Bulgarian folklore to the heart of Australia. After performances in New Zealand, Canberra, Brisbane, and Adelaide, they will make a stop in Sydney to share the magic of Bulgarian folk music with our community.

Organized by the Bulgarian Association "Rodina," this event will celebrate the beauty of the traditional March holidays – Baba Marta, March 3rd, and International Women's Day. Expect traditional folk songs, stories about their origins, festive music, and a wonderful atmosphere. This will not just be an event, but a true journey through time, reconnecting us with our roots and reminding us why Bulgarian culture is so unique.

Save the date and be part of this special celebration!



Upcoming Events

The Bulgarian community in Sydney will have the opportunity to experience the most successful Bulgarian film in our modern history – Gundi – Legend of Love! With over 800,000 viewers worldwide and the recognition as the "Cultural Event of 2024", this film tells the inspiring story of football legend Georgi Asparuhov – Gundi.

When: February 3rd

Time: Doors open at 6:00 PM, screening starts at 6:30 PM

Where: Dendy Cinemas, Newtown

Price: \$40 (last seats available)

Experience the emotion on the big screen together with the Bulgarian community in Sydney!

Zdravei Bulgarian Festival

At "Zdravei" Festival

"Bulgarian Rhythms" will take Part in the 8th edition of the "Zdravei" Festival in Adelaide! This annual event, organized by the Bulgarian Cultural Association in Adelaide, promises music, dance, delicious food, and entertainment for all ages.

"Bulgarian Rhythms" has proudly represented the Bulgarian community in Sydney at this festival multiple times. This year, we are honored to share the stage with Dimana Boyanova and reconnect with the Bulgarian community in Adelaide, bringing the magic of traditional Bulgarian dance to life once again!

When: February 3rd

Where: Fulham Gardens, Adelaide

"Once upon a time..." - legends in the making

Viktor Lilov - the alchemist of modern science

Once upon a time, there was a boy who loved mathematics. While other children ran outside to play, Viktor spent hours preparing for his entrance exams to the Sofia Mathematics High School. His curiosity was like an endless experiment. In sixth grade, he took part in his first serious science Olympiad and discovered that natural sciences were not just school subjects but an infinite universe he could explore for a lifetime. He realized that chemistry and biology fascinated him, and he wanted to delve deeper into them.

But Viktor was not just an inquisitive student. He was extraordinary. He became a true legend in science. In a single year, he won a gold medal at the prestigious Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiad in China, then became the only European to win gold at the International Biology Olympiad in Kazakhstan. And just 16 days later, at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Saudi Arabia, he achieved the second-highest ranking in the world and secured his third gold medal of the year. With his sharp mind, unwavering focus, and relentless dedication, Viktor carved his name into history.



In 2024, Viktor achieved something no student in the world had ever done before—he won gold medals in both the International Chemistry Olympiad and the International Biology Olympiad in the same year. Winning in just one science is an extraordinary feat. In two? Almost impossible. To claim two gold medals within a single year was a record unlikely to be broken anytime soon.

The recognition soon followed. He was awarded the Honorary Badge of the President of Bulgaria, and the world began talking about the young Bulgarian who had conquered international scientific peaks. But Viktor knew this was only the beginning.

At just 17, he embarked on his studies at Trinity College, Cambridge—the university that gave the world Newton and Darwin, as well as 34 Nobel laureates. Inspired by the greatest minds in history, Viktor is already following in their footsteps, working alongside one of the top researchers in organic chemistry, Professor Steven V. Ley.

And when asked what advice he would give to a child dreaming of changing the world through science, Viktor simply says: "Never give up and keep striving!"





Moments of Light: Glimmers, Hygge, and Ailyak

As February gently unfolds, we take a moment to reflect on those small but meaningful sparks that fill our days with light – they call them glimmers – those delicate little moments that remind us the world can be beautiful, cozy, and full of meaning.

The Scandinavians have long embraced this philosophy – they call it hygge. It's the warmth of a candle on a winter night, the sound of soft laughter around the table, the feeling of a blanket wrapping you in its softness.

In Bulgaria, we have our own version – ailyak. The art of enjoying life without rushing, without unnecessary stress, sipping coffee in the sun, laughing for no reason, letting go of worries, at least for a little while.

As the year unfolds before us, let's learn to notice the glimmers – when the street smells like spring after rain, when children's voices fill the park with laughter, when the melody of a beloved Bulgarian song brings back childhood memories.

These small moments are the threads that weave warmth into our daily lives. Let's seek them, let's share them, and let's allow ourselves to live with more hygge, more ailyak, and even more glimmers in our hearts.

Until we meet again, with even more reasons to smile!

Warm regards,
The Rodina Sydney Team

Thank you for being with us!

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