

# Monthly Newsletter

RODINA

The Bulgarian Cultural and  
Social Association



Seven Bridges Walk

## Celebrating Community and Looking Ahead!

Welcome to our second edition of the Rodina Sydney newsletter! As we step into October, we're excited to bring you all the latest updates and community highlights. This edition is packed with recaps from our recent events and details on what's coming next.

A big thank you to everyone who has subscribed to our newsletter and supported us! Your positive feedback has been incredibly encouraging.

September was a month of achievements and meaningful connections! We successfully launched our first edition of the Rodina newsletter. The Bulgarian Dance Group "Bulgarian Rhythms" had a wonderful performance at the 30th Greek-Serbian Friendship Day, strengthening ties with neighboring communities. Additionally, Rodina proudly participated in the Children's Festival Fundraising Dinner, a festival we've been involved with for many years.

Looking ahead, October is packed with exciting events! "Bulgarian Rhythms" will be taking the stage at the 3rd edition of Fuse Fest in Burwood, bringing Bulgarian culture to a wider audience. Meanwhile, the children from our Bulgarian Language School "Petar Beron" are invited to participate in the 26th Children's Festival in Bankstown, showcasing their talents. Finally, don't forget the upcoming parliamentary elections on October 27th - a key date for our community.

As always, we're grateful to have you with us! We can't wait to see you at our upcoming events. Here's to another fantastic month ahead!

*Rodina team x*

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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October

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# Mark Your Calendar: Important Dates for October!

## Don't Forget to Spring Forward!

On October 6th, it's time to move our clocks one hour forward as daylight saving begins! This means we'll gain extra daylight in the evenings, but our time difference with Bulgaria will temporarily increase to 8 hours. The time difference will further grow to 9 hours on October 27th, when Bulgaria adjusts their clocks back by one hour. Make sure to update your schedules and enjoy the extended daylight!



06 Oct 2024

## 07 Oct 2024



## Labour Day Long Weekend

The first Monday of October is Labour Day in Sydney, and this year it falls on October 7th! This public holiday celebrates the achievements of workers and offers everyone a well-deserved long weekend. It's the perfect time to relax, spend time with family, and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Don't miss out on the celebrations and events happening around the city!

## Bulgarian Rhythms at Fuse Festival

Get ready to dance! On October 20th, our very own **Bulgarian Rhythms** will be performing at the 3rd edition of Fuse Festival in Burwood. Entry is free, and everyone is invited to join in on the fun! Come and experience vibrant Bulgarian folk dances, and don't forget to follow the group on their social media for the latest updates



20 Oct 2024

## 27 Oct 2024



## Children's Festival

The 26th edition of the Children's Festival will be held at Playford Park, near Padstow Railway Station, and we're thrilled to announce that students from the **Bulgarian Language School "Petar Beron"** will be performing. Bring your family and friends to support our talented children and enjoy a day filled with free attractions and entertainment!

## Parliamentary Elections

Mark your calendars for the upcoming parliamentary elections on October 27th. Your vote is important! The polling station will be located at The Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt. Let's show our commitment to the future by casting our votes and making our voices heard!



27 Oct 2024



02 Nov 2024

## Sneak Peek: Nov 2nd – Денят на народните будители

Looking ahead to November 2nd, we will come together as a community to celebrate Денят на народните будители (Day of the People's Enlighteners). This annual event honors Bulgarian educators, scholars, and cultural leaders. It's a tradition that brings us together, and this year will be no exception! Make sure to mark the date in your calendars and stay tuned for more details on what promises to be an unforgettable celebration.

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

### Radostin from Barutin: The Boy Who Programmed His Dreams

Once upon a time, in the picturesque village of Barutin, nestled in the Rhodope Mountains, a young boy named Radostin Cholakov was growing up. His father was a carpenter, and his mother was a seamstress, but Radostin's passion was something entirely different. While other kids played outside, Radostin was curious about a magical world that he could not yet fully access—the world of computers.

"I started programming when I was in 4th grade," Radostin said. "Before I even had a computer, I always wondered what people with computers could do. And when I finally got one, I not only wanted to learn what I could do with it, but also how I could help others use it too."

And so, a journey of self-discovery and innovation began. With most of his knowledge coming from the internet, Radostin was almost entirely self-taught. He would search for information online, devouring every article and video he could find. It wasn't long before he realized that you could learn just about anything online - as long as you had the passion and determination.

By the time he was just 10 years old, Radostin had already begun programming. Before finishing school, he had created "Azbuki.ML", a machine learning platform, and was already working for a software company while winning awards at national and international competitions. But for Radostin, the journey wasn't just about learning—it was about building.

Radostin had always dreamed big. He applied to a prestigious program run by Google, where he developed a voice language program—a project so impressive that he was recognized by the tech giant. But while many would have jumped at the chance to work for a company like Google, Radostin had a different dream. He wanted to create his own software company, one with an experimental spirit that could bring innovative technology to society.

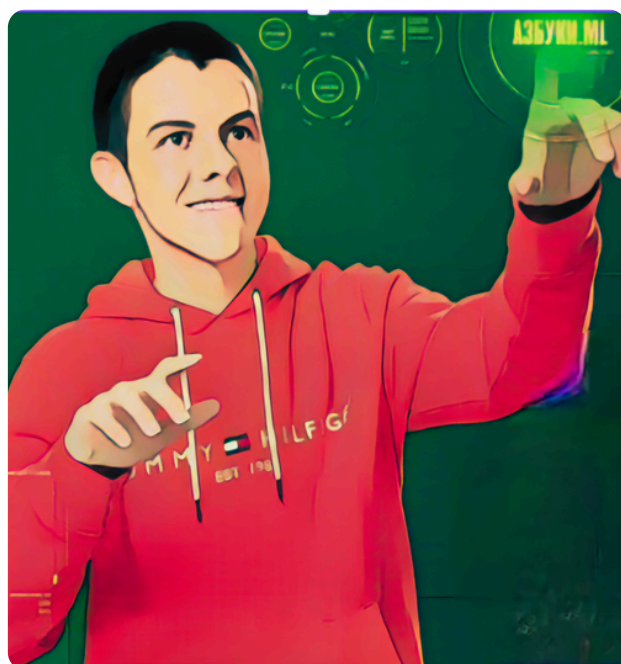
In 2021, Radostin's hard work and vision paid off. He became one of the youngest people in "Forbes 30 under 30" and received the prestigious "John Atanasoff Award" for his achievements in IT.

He even became the first Bulgarian to rank in both categories - written and oral presentations - at the "Research Science Institute" hosted at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the most renowned technology institutes in the world.

Through all of his accomplishments, Radostin remained humble. He gave advice to other young people, especially those who were unsure of what direction to take in life: "Don't be afraid to dream, and don't let the obstacles stop you," he said. "The most important thing is to set big goals and work hard to achieve them. Along the way, there will be unexpected difficulties, but also unexpected successes. Some people give up of both."

Today, Radostin is continuing his journey, having graduated with honors from Mathematics High School "Acad. Kiril Popov" in Plovdiv. He was accepted into Stanford University on a scholarship, where he continues to explore the world of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and language models—always with the dream of creating something that would help the world.

Radostin from Barutin is living proof that no dream is too big, and no village is too small for genius to grow.



# Things to do this month

## In and around Sydney

- **Pinot Palooza** - for wine lovers  
When: 4 - 5 Oct  
Where: Carriageworks  
Cost: \$65
- **Leura Gardens Festival** - the prettiest village in the Blue Mountains  
When: 5 - 7 Oct  
Where: Leura, Blue Mountain
- **Festival of Food at The Streets of Barangaroo**  
When: 10 - 25 Oct  
Where: Barangaroo dining precinct
- **Griffith Spring Fest** - citrus sculptures, open garden, music & food  
When: 13 - 17 Oct  
Where: Corner Banna & Jondaryan Ave
- **SXSW Sydney 2024 Public Program** - creativity, innovation and entertainment  
When: 14 - 20 Oct  
Where: Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour  
Cost: Free
- **Granny Smith Festival**  
When: 19 Oct, 9am- 8:30pm  
Where: Eastwood Plaza  
Cost: Free
- **Hunter Valley Uncorked Balmoral**  
When: 20 Oct  
Where: Rotunda at Balmoral beach  
Cost: from \$35
- **Seven Bridges Walk** - 28km across iconic bridges  
When: 20 Oct  
Where: choose your starting point  
Cost: \$59 - \$99
- **Parramatta Lanes** - music, food & art  
When: 23-26 Oct  
Where: Parramatta Square & surrounding laneways



- **Sculpture by the Sea** - the world's largest free outdoor sculpture exhibition  
When: 18 Oct - 4 Nov  
Where: Bondi to Tamarama Coastal Walk  
Cost: Free



- **Grafton Jacaranda Fest**  
When: 25 Oct - 3 Nov  
Where: Across Grafton
- **Octoberfest in the Garden**  
When: 26 Oct  
Where: The Domain  
Cost: \$79.90
- **Norton St Italian Fiesta** - music, food, shopping  
When: 27 Oct  
Where: Leichhardt

## Festivals in Bulgaria in October



- Gorna Oryahovitsa Pot Festival  
When: 4- 6th Oct
- XIX Pumpkin Festival Sevlievo  
When: 7 - 14 Oct
- XXII Smilyan Bean Festival  
When: 18 - 20 Oct
- Fish Festival "Autumn passage" - Nesebar  
When: 18 - 20 Oct
- Balkan Skariada Zlatograd  
When: 19 Oct
- Walnut Festival Golyamo Dryanovo  
When: 19 Oct



- **The Makers and Shakers Market** - 120 stalls of Australian made goods  
When: 26 - 27 Oct  
Where: Rozelle  
Cost: Adults: \$5, Kids (0-12 yrs) free
- **Ghost in The Rocks: Halloween Festival** - the Rocks transforms into a ghost town  
When: 31 Oct - 3 Nov  
Where: The Rocks



## Stay connected and get involved...

Before we wrap up this edition of the Rodina newsletter, we'd like to remind you to **subscribe** if you haven't already! Stay connected with our community by receiving the latest updates directly to your inbox. You can also view all past editions of the newsletter on our website.

Exciting news - our website will be getting a revamp in the coming months! As part of this update, we're introducing a new section dedicated to promoting **businesses run by Bulgarians in Sydney**. This platform will increase visibility not only within our community but also among external partners that Rodina interacts with. If you're a business owner, this is your chance to increase visibility and connect with new customers. Imagine your business being highlighted on a trusted platform that reaches new potential clients and partners.

To make it easy, here are a few simple questions to help us present your business:

1. Business name & logo
2. Brief description of what your business offers
3. Contact information, such as website link, phone, email, social media handles

If you're interested in having your business listed on the Rodina website, simply send your details and images to **admin@rodinasydney.org.au**

Thank you for being part of this journey with us, and we can't wait to share even more exciting updates with you soon!

Warm regards,  
The Rodina Sydney Team

*Thank you for reading!*

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