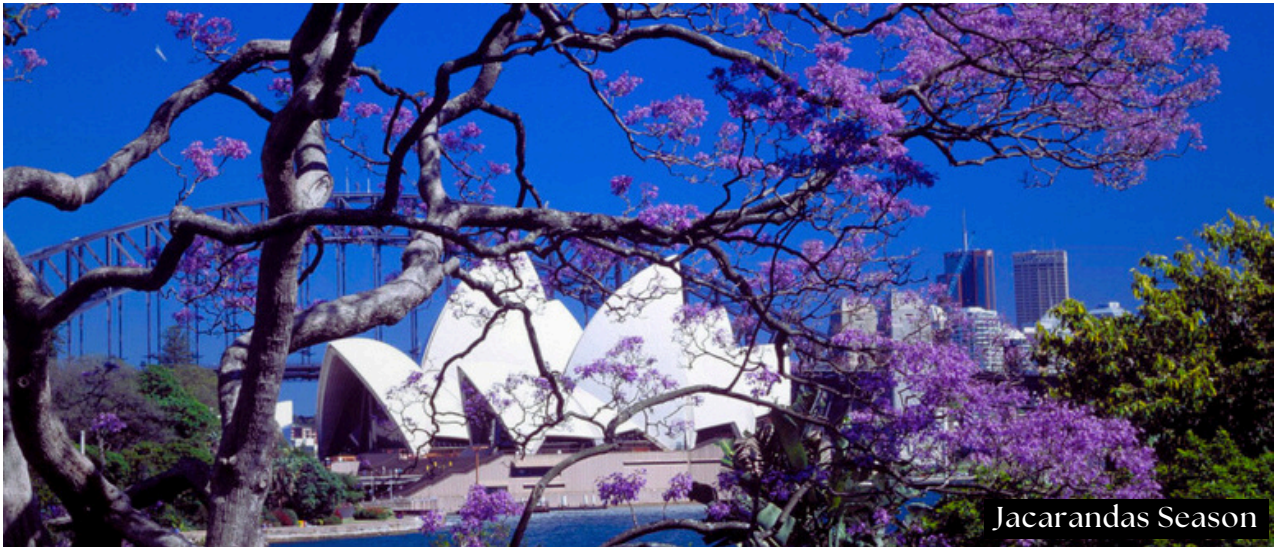


Monthly Newsletter

RODINA

The Bulgarian Cultural and
Social Association



Spring in purple hues brings more events than ever!

As October comes to a close, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the vibrant month we've had together.

We begin with a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the recent elections. Your engagement shows the strength of our community and our shared commitment to the future of Bulgaria, even from afar.

October also brought memorable performances from Bulgarian Rhythms. Our dance group showcased Bulgarian culture at the Serbian Hunting Association "Zastava" Annual Picnic and the Fuse Fest in Burwood. Don't miss the highlights—follow them on YouTube and social media!

Our community was further uplifted by the young students of the Bulgarian Language School at the 26th Children's Festival. Dressed in new traditional costumes, the children proudly showcased their love for Bulgarian folklore.

November promises to be even more eventful, as we prepare for our biggest celebration of the year - the Day of the Bulgarian Revival Leaders. See you all on the 2nd of Nov at Gladesville RSL.

Additionally, Bulgarian Rhythms has been invited by the Willoughby City Council to perform at their annual year-end Get Together event, continuing to strengthen our community's connection with the broader Sydney area.

In the last weeks of spring Sydney's streets are awash in a stunning purple haze. And as the city transforms under the blooming Jacarandas, let's enjoy together the upcoming events and festivals!

Rodina team x

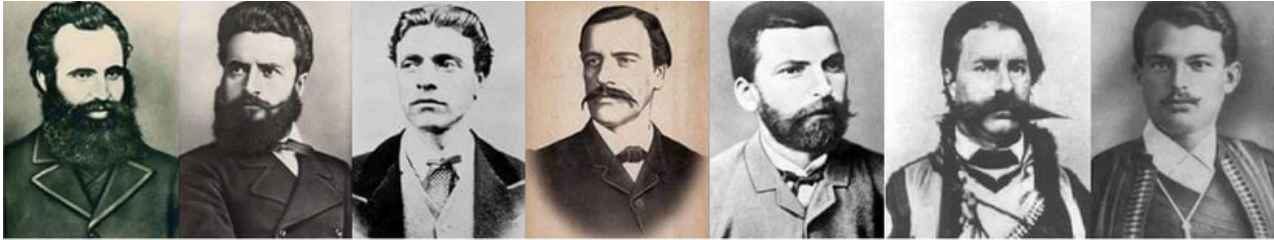
In this newsletter
you can expect:

Upcoming
events for our
community

Once upon a
time...
The story of
Georgi Georgiev

Things to Do
in & around
Sydney

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November



1 НОЕМВРИ



ДЕН НА НАРОДНИТЕ БУДИТЕЛИ

The Day of the Bulgarian Revival Leaders is a day to honor the great Bulgarians who have preserved the light of knowledge and the national spirit throughout the centuries. These revival leaders, who sacrificed so much to protect Bulgarian identity, are a part of our history, yet their example lives on in us today. In today's world, as we are spread across different parts of the earth, each one of us carries a piece of this eternal flame. Our community in Sydney is this small but powerful force that keeps the Bulgarian spirit alive and promotes our unique culture in a globalized

world.

To be a revival leader today means to pass on our culture and values to our children, to introduce locals to the richness of Bulgarian traditions, and to inspire fellow Bulgarians wherever you may be. Let us continue to proudly bear this responsibility together and show that the Bulgarian spirit is alive and strong, regardless of the distance from our homeland. May our small community be as strong as a family and a source of pride for our children and everyone we meet along the way.



Celebration of the spirit

We eagerly look forward to Nov 2nd – a special evening filled with the spirit of Bulgarian culture and traditions. This year, the event will be held at Gladesville RSL, starting at 5:30 PM. The program will feature traditional dance performances by Bulgarian Rhythms, musical performances, and a special appearance by our talented students from the Bulgarian School "Dr. Petar Beron". We look forward to seeing you there!
Follow our Facebook page for event photos and updates!



Bulgarian Rhythms

The dance group "Bulgarian Rhythms" has once again been invited by the Willoughby City Council to participate in their annual **End of the Year Get Together** event! This is not the first event of the council that our group has joined, and we are truly proud to be building strong and lasting connections with the local community. Each participation is an opportunity to showcase the richness of Bulgarian folklore to the Australian audience and to keep our cultural identity alive and accessible to new friends and partners.

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

Georgi Georgiev and the fastest bicycle on the planet

On March 6, 1942, in Varna, a boy was born whose hands would go on to create the fastest bicycle in the world. His name is Georgi Georgiev, and years later, the world would call him a genius and an innovator. Georgi graduated in sculpture from the Academy of Arts in Belgrade, and despite not knowing computer programs, geometric formulas, or aerodynamic analyses, his bicycles from the "Varna" series became a symbol of perfection. His creation, the "Varna Tempest," became the fastest human-powered vehicle, reaching the incredible speed of 133.28 km/h. For the first time, a human-powered engine reached 1/10 the speed of sound.

Georgi emigrated to Canada in 1971 and settled on Gabriola Island, where, in his small workshop in the garage, he began building these futuristic bicycles. Every part, every weld, and every joint was handcrafted by him. His bicycles, named "Varna" as a symbol of his attachment to his hometown, amazed specialists with their incredible aerodynamics. With them, Canadian Sam Whittingham broke the human speed record a total of nine times, and French racer Barbara Buatois became the fastest woman on the planet, reaching 121 km/h.

Georgi's vehicle underwent complex computer analysis in an aerodynamic tunnel at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. They were unanimous: "Varna" is the most perfect aerodynamic shape ever created by humankind.



In 2001, the British invested over a million dollars to defeat "Varna" and return from Nevada with a new world record. World-renowned scientists and laboratories took part in the creation of their vehicle, equipped with industrial-power computer processors and complex programs for graphic and aerodynamic analysis. This led to the creation of the ultramodern bike, named "Blueyonder," which was entrusted to Sydney Olympic champion Jason Queally to secure victory in Nevada. The result? It reached only 103 km/h.

Georgiev does not keep the designs of his models a secret. He shares them openly, and many of his competitors fully copy the "Varna." According to him, talent should be used to make the world a better place, and everyone has their mission on this planet. His motto is: "If everyone on this planet decides one day to do what they are best at, the whole world will change for the better." He declines sponsorships and does not differentiate himself from his competitors - he creates his innovations with the desire and confidence that they will benefit everyone.

Today, Georgi Georgiev remains a legend in the world of speed bicycles. His creations stand not only as technical marvels but also as a symbol of human ability to express oneself and pursue innovation with unwavering determination.



Things to do this month

In and around Sydney

- **Five Dock "Little Italy" Food Tour**
When: 9 Nov, 9am
Where: in front of Fred Kelly Place, just back off Great North Road Five Dock
Cost: \$70 (includes 1 coffee & 4 tastings)
- **Sydney Cellar Door**
When: 9 - 10 Nov
Where: Tallawoladah Lawn, outside of Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rocks
- **Japanese Film Festival**
When: 9 - 10 Nov
Where: Palace Norton Street
- **Finders Keepers Market** -
When: 15 -17 Nov
Where: Carriageworks, Eveleigh
Cost: \$6 (kids under 13 free)
- **The Smart Fone Flick Fest (SF3)**
When: 16 -17 Nov
Where: Palace Chauvel Cinema, Paddington



- **Irish Film Festival**
When: 17 Oct - 24 Nov
Where: Dendy Cinema, Newtown
- **Jewish International Film Festival**
When: 27 Oct - 22 Dec
Where: Ritz Cinemas, Randwick
- **Greenwich Village Arts Trail**
When: 17 Nov
Where: Open studios in Greenwich



- **Woodstock Artisans Christmas Market**
When: 17 Nov
Where: Woodstock Community Centre, 22 Church St, Burwood
- **Southeast Aboriginal Arts Market**
When: 23 - 24 Nov
Where: Carriageworks, Eveleigh
- **Luna Lu's Dumpling Masterclass**
When: 24 Nov, 4pm
Where: Luna Lu, 7-27 Circular Quay West, The Rocks
Cost: \$100 / adult, \$50 / child
- **Ocean Photographer of the Year**
When: from 28 Nov onward
Where: Australian National Maritime Museum
- **Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru**
When: Nov '24 - Feb '25
Where: Australian Museum
Cost: tickets on sale soon
- **MOV'IN BED**
When: 29 Nov - 23 Mar '25
Where: Harbour Park, Barangaroo
Cost: Sand tickets \$12, Queen Bed for 2 \$89, King Bed for 3 \$119, VIP Bed from \$150
- **Yoga in the Park**
When: 9:30am, every Sun (all year round)
Where: corner of Lower Fort St. and George St. at Dawes Point Park, right under the Sydney Harbour Bridge
Cost: free

Festivals in Bulgaria in November

- Festival of Young Wine and Fresh Sudzhuk
Where: Kyulevcha
When: 02 Nov
- Walnut Festival
Where: Oryahovitsa
When: 02 Nov
- Dubene Cabbage Festival
Where: Dubene, Karlovo
When: 03 Nov
- Elena Ham Festival
Where: Elena
When: 08 - 10 Nov



- Gourmet Event "Wild Quince Jelly in Sakar"
Where: Oreshnik, Topolovgrad
When: 09 - 10 Nov
- VIII Regional Pumpkin Festival
Where: Dolno Belevo
When: 09 Nov
- Persimmon Festival
Where: Hrishteni
When: 16 Nov
- "Parade of Young Wine" Festival
Where: Plovdiv
When: 22-24 Nov



November: the harbinger of holidays, traditions, and warmth before the year's end

As November arrives, we enter the final weeks of the year. The events of the past months have shown the strength and connection within our community, and the upcoming holidays provide us with yet another reason to come together and celebrate Bulgarian customs and culture. The celebration of the Day of the Bulgarian Revival Leaders is just the beginning of a series of exciting events that will fill our days with joy and shared moments until the end of the year. Coming up soon is also the annual Christmas picnic, organized especially for the little ones.

On November 11, we honor St. Mina the Great Martyr – protector of families and travelers, guardian of orphans and the homeless. According to folklore, St. Mina also protects against wolves, which is why his day marks the beginning of the “Wolf Days.” In some parts of Bulgaria, these days last until November 21 and bring with them ancient customs and prohibitions – women cover the floor around the hearth with clay to “seal” the mouths of the

beasts, and red threads are tied around knives and scissors to keep wolves away from the home. There is also a strict ban on working with wool to prevent threats to the sheep and flocks.

On November 15, the Christmas Fast begins – a time for spiritual cleansing and preparation for the upcoming holidays. Fasting is a tradition that reminds us of humility and unity as we await the joy of Christmas. Whether we fast or not, this time brings us closer to our roots and prepares us for the warmth and comfort of the festive season.

As Christmas and New Year draw near, holiday lights will soon brighten our homes, and we will gather with loved ones to celebrate not only the end of the year but also the new beginning that awaits us. We wish you a meaningful and joyful completion of these last weeks of the year.

Warm regards,
The Rodina Sydney Team

Thank you for reading!

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