

Monthly Newsletter

RODINA

The Bulgarian Cultural and Social Association



Happy Easter!

Autumn beats and the smell of kozunak - April gathers us yet again!

March was filled with emotions, traditions, and meaningful events for the Bulgarian community in Sydney. At the beginning of the month, the children at the Bulgarian school exchanged martenitsi, wishing each other health and good luck. "Rodina" had the honour of being part of the Premier's Harmony Dinner 2025—an impressive evening dedicated to cultural diversity and inclusion. At the end of the month, we welcomed representatives from the Faculty of Economics at Sofia University, who shared inspiring opportunities for education and international exchange.

Unfortunately, March also brought us sadness. We said goodbye to Kostas Djambazis—a respected and beloved member of our community and the Management Committee of "Rodina." The memory of his dedication and kindness will remain alive in the hearts of all who knew him.

April arrives with exciting events that promise unforgettable experiences. First, we are in for a night of rock and adrenaline—Milena Slavova Live with the bands ABD & Plan BG. Shortly after, we will gather once again, this time under the open sky, for our traditional Easter picnic. We will share delicious kozunak, organize an Easter egg hunt for the little ones, and dance horo together with "Bulgarian Rhythms."

Let this month be a time for new connections, joy, and togetherness.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events!

Rodina team x

In this newsletter you can expect:

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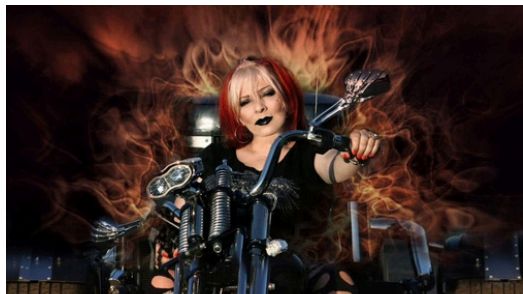
Easter Picnic

This year, Easter is even more special because Orthodox and Catholic Christians are celebrating it together! That means double the time with loved ones—Sunday at home and Monday, April 21st, at our traditional Easter picnic. Join us at St Leonards Park, North Sydney, from 11:00 AM, where we'll enjoy the autumn sunshine, great company, and our favourite Bulgarian traditions.

What is Easter without kozunak? That's why we're organizing a homemade kozunak tasting and inviting all baking masters to bring their culinary masterpieces!

We'll share them with the entire community and indulge in the sweet flavours of the holiday. Feel free to bring other delicious treats to share as well.

For the little ones, there will be an Easter egg hunt, and for those who love music and dancing—an afternoon horo with the dancers from Bulgarian Rhythms. The picnic is completely free and open to everyone, so bring your good mood, a blanket, and a basket of goodies—we're in for an unforgettable festive day together!



Milena Slavova LIVE in Sydney

Don't miss Milena Slavova Live—a rock night on April 5th, when the legend of Bulgarian rock will shake the stage at Five Dock RSL! Get ready for an unforgettable performance by Milena and the two amazing bands, ABD & Plan BG.

If you haven't got your ticket yet, hurry up—time is flying, and spots are limited! Don't miss this night of true Bulgarian rock, high energy, and great vibes! We can't wait to see you there!



Buddha's Birthday Festival

We are honoured to once again be invited to represent Bulgarian folklore at this inspiring two-day festival in Darling Harbour. Join us on May 3rd to enjoy the performance of Bulgarian Rhythms and feel the magic!

Alongside them, you'll experience a vibrant program—from traditional dances to contemporary performances, taste delicious vegetarian dishes, and explore unique handcrafted goods.

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

The Secret Code of the Statue: The Bulgarian Who Left a Mark in Rome

Once upon a time, not so long ago, in a small house in Sofia, a boy was born who would leave his mark on the world. His name was Assen Peikov. Born in 1908, he grew up in difficult times that led him to sculpture. His talent was undeniable, and his ambition—unstoppable. He graduated from the State Academy of Art with a gold medal but knew that the real challenge lay beyond the borders of his homeland.

With a one-way ticket to his dreams, Peikov left Bulgaria. Paris, Madrid, New York—these were cities of art, but his heart found a home in Rome. Among the artistic bohemia of Via Margutta, he became one of the leading figures in Italian sculpture. His companions in the bohemian life included Vittorio De Sica, Federico Fellini, and Ava Gardner.



The Bulgarian sculptor was a skilled and insightful portraitist, capable of capturing and conveying the complex psychological states of his models. He turned portraiture into his signature theme, bringing to life world-famous personalities and distinguished Italian intellectuals. He sculpted busts and painted portraits of Sophia Loren, Gina Lollobrigida, and prominent cultural and scientific figures, including the great Italian director Federico Fellini and the discoverer of penicillin, Alexander Fleming. After World War II, he gifted Bulgarian Prime Minister Georgi Dimitrov a unique chess set, where each piece was an original sculpture, different from the rest. Over a thousand of his works are now scattered across galleries and private collections in the United States, Europe, and South America.



Yet, one of his greatest works is seen by millions of people, many of whom have no idea who created it. At the entrance of Fiumicino Airport, the first thing that greets travellers is a colossal statue of Leonardo da Vinci—Peikov's masterpiece. The nine-meter-tall Renaissance genius stands with one hand pointing toward the sky and the other holding an aerial screw, symbolizing the flight of the human spirit.

Years later, during a restoration, workers discovered a small hidden compartment inside the statue. Inside, they found two parchments—one detailing the history of the area and the other listing the attendees of the statue's unveiling. Were they left there by Peikov himself? No one knows for sure.

Today, a square in Rome bears his name, and his sculptures are spread across 16 Italian cities. His story is proof that borders are nothing more than lines on a map, and true artists live on in the hearts of those who experience their art.



Things to do this month

In and around Sydney

- **The Royal Easter Show**

When: 11 – 22 Apr

Where: Sydney Olympic Park

Cost: starts from \$41

- **Sydney Family Show**

When: 12-27 Apr

Where: Moore Park

Cost: child \$15, adult \$30, family \$75



- **Anzac Day Dawn Service**

When: 25 Apr

Where: Martin Place

Cost: free

- **Sunset Series jazz & funk**

When: 13 Apr,

2pm - 6pm

Where: St Leonards Park

Cost: free

- **Q Station Easter Egg Hunt**

When: Q Station Sydney

Where: 19 Apr

Cost: child \$15, adult \$25

- **Sydney Comedy Festival**

When: 21 Apr- 18 May

Where: Enmore Theatre,
Riverside Theatre,
Concourse Theatre,
Joan Sullivan Performing
Arts Centre
Bondi Pavilion

- **Family Sunday: Music in Art**

When: 6 Apr

10am-12:30 pm

Where: State Library NSW,
Paintings Gallery

Where: child \$10,
free for
accompanying adult

- **Camden City Show**

When: 4-5 Apr

Where: Camden
Showground

Cost: \$8-32

- **Wansolwana Film Series**

When: 6-7 Apr

10:30am - 4:15pm

Where: Australian Museum
Theatre, Upper Ground

Cost: free
(registration is required)



- **Alice in Wonderland in the Garden**

When: 12-27 Apr

Where: Pioneer Garden,
Royal Botanical Garden

Cost: starts from \$25

- **Great Laughs at the Park Sydney Comedy Festival**

When: 26 Apr

Where: Tumbalong Park

Cost: free

Festivals in Bulgaria in April



- II Ancient Festival "Diocletianopolis – Crossroads of Time" VIA GASTRONOMICA ROMANA
When: 04 Apr
Where: Hisariya City

- Banitsa Festival
When: 19 Apr
Where: Kotevovtsi Village

- Festival of Gabrene-style sarma and butima
When: 26 Apr
Where: Gabrene Village

- Festival of the Yellow Dock
When: 26 Apr
Where: Bryagovitsa Village

- II Spring Culinary Festival of Strandzha dyado and Strandzha cabbage pie
When: 26 Apr
Where: Kosti Village

- Celebration of the cabbage pie and the sweet temptations
When: 27 Apr
Where: Zhabokryt Village





Together, we blossom and grow...

April in Sydney embraces us with its soft autumn light, reminding us that every time of change carries its own beauty. The leaves fall in golden and crimson hues, urging us to slow down, take a moment for reflection, and recharge. Autumn is not just the end of summer; it is an opportunity for renewal, a time to channel our energy into meaningful and creative moments.

Just as nature transforms, so do we as a community—we grow and strengthen together. At the heart of every united group are the people who share their time, knowledge, and energy. Our community relies on each of you—whether through small acts of support, volunteering, or taking the initiative to organize events. When we give a piece of ourselves, we not only build a stronger community but also create meaningful connections that last over time.

Our events, like the upcoming Easter Picnic on April 21st at St Leonards Park, are wonderful opportunities to spend time together, share traditions, and enjoy the warm atmosphere of the Bulgarian community. The invitation is open to everyone—whether you come to taste homemade kozunak, join in the dancing, or simply enjoy the company of fellow Bulgarians. It is the small initiatives, backed by our big hearts, that make these moments unforgettable.

If you would like to contribute more, help organize events, share ideas, or become a member of the community, we welcome you with open arms. Let's embrace autumn not only as a time for rest but also as an opportunity for a fresh start—to engage, to inspire, and to build our future together.

Warm regards,
The Rodina Sydney Team

Thank you for reading!

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