



Bonegilla Migrant Experience

April, 2017



Autumn is here and as the leaves start to change, fungi can be spotted among the huts after the first real rain for the year. It is a beautiful time of year to visit the region and, as always, there is so much happening at Bonegilla Migrant Experience. This autumn is no different!

What's happening among the huts?

The Bonegilla Migrant Experience remedial works are nearly completed and the site is busy with teams of contractors, as they complete our urgent works. The BME Remedial Project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Protecting National Historic Sites Program, and we thank them for their generosity. Over the next few months we will be working on an electrical upgrades, re-stumping buildings, improving drainage and



general maintenance. If you are planning a visit between April and July, be assured that the site will remain open. Some exhibitions will be relocated for a short duration but our key exhibits will always remain available.

Beginning Place



The Beginning Place has recently undergone a facelift with the building re-rendered, television and sound system replaced, and new interpretive panels. The popular video still remains. The Beginning Place refurbishment is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Community Heritage and Icons Program.

The Beginning Place is a good place to start your journey through Block 19, where you can listen to the busy voices of Bonegilla through the Whispering Wall, before walking through the original buildings and surrounding sculptures.

Planning a function?

It's wonderful to see the many families returning to the site with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for a family reunion in the function space. Some family groups share photos from their time here, while others take a guided tour. Most importantly the families are sharing stories of their experiences with the younger generations. The function space is a great venue to spend time with the family and share a meal together. Community and commercial groups can hire this space – contact staff at Bonegilla Migrant Experience for more information.



History tour

Staff and volunteers at Bonegilla Migrant Experience were taken on a tour of Block 19 recently with local historian Professor Bruce Pennay. Bruce has a long involvement with the site, is a past member of the Bonegilla committee and was instrumental in preparing the national heritage listing application in 1998. It was wonderful to have Bruce join the team on the tour, providing us with a deeper knowledge of facts and figures associated with the site.



We also gained permission to enter the Latchford Army Barracks, which is normally closed to non-defence personnel. It was very exciting to visit the old Bonegilla theatre and to walk around the remnant foundations of hundreds of buildings still within the grounds. We were all struck by the distance between the blocks and civic area, and were especially surprised to see how hilly the whole camp would have been.

The day finished with a quick visit to Albury LibraryMuseum, where we met with the staff who care for the *Bonegilla Collection*. We have many people who are looking to donate objects and photographs, however we are not able to store them safely on site. By working with the staff at the Albury LibraryMuseum we are able to ensure that our families precious photographs and objects will still be accessible in the future.

The staff and volunteers had a wonderful day visiting all three locations. We were able to take away a great range of information from the day that we are able to share with visitors to Bonegilla.

Autumn and winter events

Events at Bonegilla Migrant Experience will continue through autumn and winter, with our popular Bonegilla roasts set to return. Make sure you check out our [Facebook page](#), as we are always providing updates about our upcoming events. There is something for everyone from tantalising chocolate truffle workshops and tours of the site, to cheese making and fungi workshops.

April 1 to April 23 - School holidays at Bonegilla

Discover and learn more about those who came through Bonegilla with guided tours at 11am daily during the NSW and Victorian school holidays. Children can follow the suitcase trail or engage in pop-up activities, designed to keep the children happy as you explore.



Every Thursday during the holidays, the Recreation Hut will have our staff member Wendy supervising the making and decorating of 'Jumping Jacks'. This will be open from 10am to 3pm. No bookings are required – simply pop in.

Saturday, April 3 - Tantalising truffles

Come and spend time bonding over melt-in-your-mouth truffles. Learn the art of chocolate truffle making with the region's chocolate maker, Maree Roberts. Leave with the sweet treats you have created and instructions to make more at home for Easter gifts.

Two workshops: 10am to noon and 1pm to 3pm

Cost: Child \$15, non-participating parent free

Bookings: The Cube Wodonga on phone (02) 6022 9311 or thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets

Bring along: Apron and container to take truffles home

For children aged seven to 13.



Saturday, May 6 - The art of cheese making: halloumi demonstration

Come along and learn the steps of cheese making with the region's master, Anna Pizzini.

During this two-hour demonstration, Anna will take you through the process required to make your own halloumi cheese, giving you the knowledge to try it yourself at home.

Bookings: The Cube Wodonga or online at thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets

Two sessions: 10am to noon and 1pm to 3pm

Cost: \$45

Bookings: The Cube Wodonga on phone (02) 6022 9311 or thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets



Sunday, May 28 and Sunday, June 25 - Bonegilla Sunday Roasts

Our popular roasts return again this year with a session in May and again in June.

Celebrate the traditional roast and learn about the migrants' first thoughts of an Australian menu. Join the 11am guided tour to explore the site. Then find your place, just like the migrants did, on a communal table for lunch at 12.30pm.

Time: 11am tour (optional), lunch served at 12.30pm

Cost: Adults \$35, children \$20

Bookings: The Cube Wodonga on phone (02) 6022 9311 or thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets

Beer and wine available at bar prices (cash only).



Tuesday, May 30 - Me and Bonegilla

Attention all school groups

Pack your suitcase - we're headed for the 1950s! Join Two Friends Productions as they explore the world of the 1950s residents of Bonegilla Migrant Centre.

Throughout this fun-filled and educational play, audiences will discover what life was like as a newly arrived migrant to Australia. Filled with exciting characters, physical comedy and song.

Me and Bonegilla will take you on a journey you won't forget.



Times: 10am and 11.30am (further times may be offered if shows sold out)

Cost: Children \$7, adult \$10

Group bookings: Bonegilla Migrant Experience on (02) 6020 6912 or bonegilla@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Tours of the site may be available before or after the show; please enquire when booking.

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