



The winter landscape at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience (BME) is green and lush but the low temperatures and frosts make us think of those who lived here during these months, sleeping on their wire beds, when they first arrived in Australia.

### **Archival Survival Award goes to Bonegilla!**

We've shrugged off any winter doldrums when we were named the winner of Museums Australia Victoria - Archival Survival Award for best Small Museum for 2016!

We are extremely proud to win this hotly-contested award for outstanding dedication over three years in developing and implementing the Bonegilla Migrant Experience master plan. The plan included the creation of the Welcome Centre, an interpretation and branding strategy, conservation works, and commissioned public artworks.



The judges were impressed with the scope of the project and in particular, the use of

first-hand interpretation from people's experiences. The judges admired the strategic planning that extracted unhurried, good quality information across the site. They said Bonegilla Migrant Experience "has achieved a great outcome with a strategic directional plan that has been broken into stages to benefit a really important historical site".

*IMAGE: Angela Henrickson of Archival Survival, Simone Nolan - BME Curator, Bernadette Zanet - BME Team Leader, Christine Thorpe - BME Site Coordinator.*

## Special celebration for Ilona

Since our last newsletter we have had many visitors to the site, several events and school tours. Our visitor numbers continue to grow with many ex-residents returning for the first time since they left.

One such visitor was Mrs Ilona Bardy who returned to the BME this week after 67 years to celebrate her 100th birthday with her daughter, Martha Bardy and Wodonga Mayor Cr Anna Speedie.



Mrs Bardy arrived at Bonegilla from Budapest in 1949. After a short stay, she and her young son George, were moved on to the camp at Uranquinty where they lived while her husband completed his two years of contracted work to the Australian Government. This week, Cr Speedie took Mrs Bardy on a tour of the BME and enjoyed an afternoon tea to celebrate her birthday.

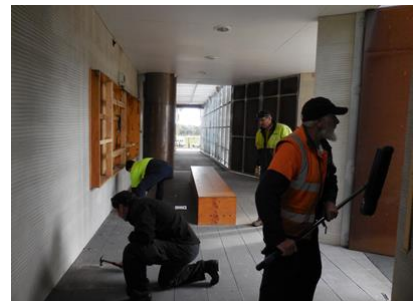
## Updating our Beginning Place

One of the first buildings that visitors to the site enter is the Beginning Place.

This interpretative building was built over 10 years ago and has just been closed for a well earned face-lift.

We are dedicated to maintaining the site for future generations.

The Beginning Place Refresh project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Community Heritage and Icons Grants programme.



## The Green Army

The rest of the site is also getting a spruce up as we welcome the Green Army team. This fantastic program sees environmental and conservation volunteers working on various tasks to both grounds and buildings. The Green Army team will be with us until November.



The team is putting in anti-rabbit under-wire to protect building stumps, cleaning out the old concrete spoon drains, tidying up the grounds, cleaning out the old huts, fencing, planting new vegetation, and sorting out store rooms.

## Everyone knows ...

It looks like our secret is out! Now everyone is seeing the amazing job our volunteer team does at BME.

The dedicated, tireless work of our team was recently recognised by Wodonga Council at a ceremony dedicated to all of the city's volunteers.

The Bonegilla Migrant Experience team continues to grow as does the collective skills of the group which benefits the site in many ways.



## Take a piece of Bonegilla home with

Our merchandise stand has been brightened up by two brilliant books, which are now available for sale - *The Young at Bonegilla* and *Receiving Europe's Displaced*.

Both have been written and compiled by local historian Professor Bruce Pennay.

Other items for sale include a large range of books, china cups, Bonegilla oil, various cards, hats, and tea-towels with ship names printed on them.



## Our function space

Proving popular with groups and families is the beautiful modern function space for hire that is set within the historic grounds.

The function space offers kitchen facilities, barbecue, heating and cooling, and is complemented by large glass doors which open directly onto the patio and landscaped area.

This is a perfect venue for private functions, family reunions, weddings, community events, corporate meetings and Christmas parties.



## What's coming up?

Our exciting events program continues to grow and entice new visitors to the site.



Over the past couple of months we have seen people dine together at communal tables for our popular roast events, learn about the curious world of funghi, and a big favourite with the kids – a truffle-making workshop.



Coming up we have an amazing, great, fun play by Two Friends Production called '**Bonegilla and Me**'. This fast paced, fun-filled, production will take you back to the world of the 1950s residents at Bonegilla and on a journey you won't forget.

If you're looking for something special to do this Father's Day, why not join our **Father's Day Sunday Roast** event that will be held on Sunday, September 4 from 11am to 2pm.

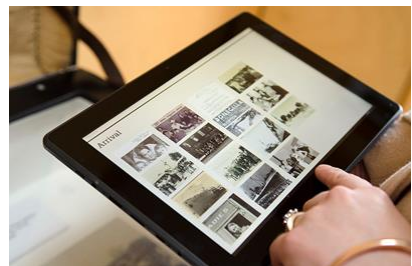
Also in the wings we have an important and beautiful World Peace Day event, and our ever-popular Sausage Making and Meat Smoking workshop.

For further information on all our events please visit [bonegilla.org.au](http://bonegilla.org.au) or our **Facebook page**.

Bookings can be made at The Cube Wodonga box office in person, via phone (02) 6022 9311, or online at [thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets](http://thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets)

## **The suitcase trail and school holidays - a winning combination**

All our events are combined with our regular school holiday program where we invite you to bring a picnic, enjoy an 11am guided tour, and let the children explore the site. A tour cost does apply or you can take your own free self-guided tour.



The fun and educational Suitcase Trail is always available in both an electronic version (pictured below) and a paper-based version for the youngsters. The trail weaves its way around the site with each curated suitcase providing a glimpse into life in the camp.

Hosting school tours at BME is always a pleasure for us. We believe in educating the young about the Bonegilla Migrant Camp and explaining the role of immigration in Australia's history.

Primary and secondary teaching resources are designed to complement a site tour. Resources are available on our website [bonegilla.org.au](http://bonegilla.org.au). School groups are encouraged to extend their visit to work in our education space and truly immerse themselves in the migrant experience.

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