



September, 2018



The wattle trees are out in blossom, kangaroos are letting their new joeys out of the pouch and the sunshine is warming up. Yes, spring is here and we have some exciting news to share at Bonegilla Migrant Experience since our last update.

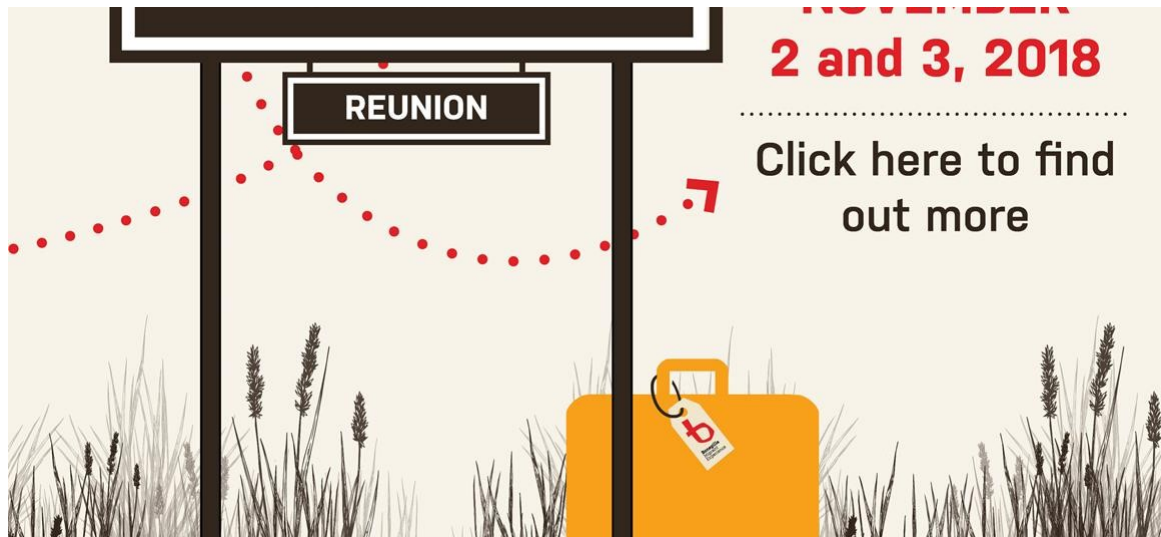
Bonegilla Reunion 2018 bookings now open!

We are excited to release the full program of activities for the 2018 Bonegilla Reunion. The Bonegilla Reunion on November 2 and 3 will celebrate 71 years since the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre was established.

Click [HERE](#) to view the full program.

Download the booking form by clicking [HERE](#).





Daughter's journey to discover family history

Plans to attend November's Bonegilla Reunion will be an emotional journey for Janine Arkinstall whose late father (Milos Tvrznic) arrived at the camp in 1950 and, ultimately, began a new life.

Mrs Arkinstall knows little about her father's early life in Czechoslovakia or his time at Bonegilla but hopes to uncover more on her upcoming visit that she hopes to attend with her sister Elizabeth.



The Mildura resident does know Milos put his date of birth up by two years so he could go into the adult camp. He was 16 years old when he left home, telling his mum he was going fishing with a friend – he never got to see his family again.

Milos drifted for almost two years before getting on board the ship to Australia. Following his death in 2004, due to his date of birth correction, Mrs Arkinstall discovered he has a third daughter who lives in Finley.

"Looking into my father's journey to Australia has been an emotional experience for me," Mrs Arkinstall said.

"I had been planning to visit Bonegilla on Father's Day but I can't get there then, so I am determined to attend the November reunion."

Read more [here](#)

The Bicycle Baker welcomed to Bonegilla

Popular micro-bakery The Bicycle Baker has found a new home, nestled among some magnificent gum trees and adjacent to Bonegilla's Block 19.

Set up in the commercial kitchen adjoining the Function Space at Bonegilla Migrant Experience, the aroma of freshly baked bread now wafts through the place.



Making their move from Albury on July 15, The Bicycle Baker are a traditional sourdough micro-bakery with owner and operator Nicky Bruce, a former environmental scientist, thrilled with the bakery's new home.

The baking has kicked off with their new oven and they are continuing to supply their sourdough creations to Albury Wodonga outlets.

We are looking at ways we can help raise the profile and bring this food experience into our site through workshops and activities in the future. Their bread will be available to purchase at the site on Saturdays.

Building Better Regions Funding

We are very pleased to announce our plans to upgrade and improve the experience for visitors as a result of \$534,177 in funding from the Federal Government's *Building Better Regions Fund* and \$100,000 from VicRoads. Wodonga Council will contribute \$434,177 in funding for the project that will see refurbishment works to the site as well as infrastructure enhancements, wayfinding signage and connections to prominent regional rail trails.



School holidays guided tours

School holidays are just around the corner and a great time to visit the site for a guided tour of Block 19.

The tours run each day of the NSW and VIC holidays (September 22 to October 14) at 11am and 2pm.

Bring a packed lunch and sit at the picnic tables enjoying the surrounds and passing wildlife.



New sculpture welcomes visitors to Bonegilla

A large sculpture now takes pride of place along the High Country Rail Trail at the Mahers Road crossing, marking the start of the Bonegilla journey.

The sculptural work, titled *Welcome*, features silhouettes of migrants being greeted to the Bonegilla Migrant Centre by the much-loved Colonel Guinn, Director of the Bonegilla Migrant Camp.



The project serves as a memorial to the integral role that Army personnel played in settling and caring for families and individuals who arrived in Australia seeking a new start in peacetime.

It's location on the rail trail signals the movement of thousands of people along Victoria's rail system and to the Bonegilla siding.

Artist Ken Raff worked on the sculpture between eight and ten hours a day for just over a month.

"I was excited to add to the series and I am very happy with how it turned out," he said.

Read more [here](#)

New merchandise now available for purchase on site

The ships tea towels are always a popular purchase at the Welcome Centre. They are now back in stock and in new colours too.

We have also added a few new additions with a local tea towel featuring names and points of interest from the local area, and a fun wooden puzzle featuring an image of the Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre with Australian themed cut outs.



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We look forward to welcoming you to Bonegilla Migrant Experience soon.



We'd love to hear your feedback

Have you recently visited us at Bonegilla Migrant Experience?

We would love to hear your feedback. [Click here to complete the online survey.](#)

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