

BAYANIHAN TIMES

SUMMER NEWSLETTER (December 2009)



Your friendly BACNI Committee 2009-2011:

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As the year draws to an end, I marvel at what a busy time we have had together working on different activities. This Summer Newsletter comes as a way of winding down the year for the Organisation members in Sunshine, Clarinda, Geelong, Eastern suburbs and Dandenong.

Snapshots in the last 6 months:

❖ **The Network's** second AGM on 5 July 2009 **introduced new members and a new set of officers who accepted the responsibility of progressing the bayanihan vision (What):** *“strong community partnerships that deliver benefits to the Filipino Australian community”*. **(How):** *“skilled leadership, intergenerational mentoring and community partnerships”*. **As practice, for transparency reasons, the 2008/09 Chairperson's and the Treasurer's Reports were posted on the BACNI website for public information.**

❖ The **BACNI Strategic Planning Weekend** was held on 28- 30 August 2009 at **Janssen Centre for Spirituality and Cross-cultural Relations** located in Boronia. Our thanks to the many people who participated in discussing opportunities and the future of Filipino generations in Victoria; to Dr Luigi Soccio (DIAC) for Filipino stats in Australia; to Lyndon Medina (RMIT Counselling) for the workshop on generational relationships; to young John for helping us with the powerpoint showing research findings on the needs of elderly Filos in Australia; and to Sr Mila Sandoval for looking after us so well. The retreat gave us possibilities of supporting civic-minded Filos who want to make a difference in the community. Participants also agreed to a **long-term strategy to develop Filo aged care services** in the South Eastern Metro Region.

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time.

Vision with action can change the world.” - Joel Barker

❖ From humble beginnings in 2005, BACNI has always aspired to keep abreast of government policies and through **ongoing discussions**, to identify changing needs in the wider Fil- Australian community. Thus, we have been able to provide strong **submissions and offer possible solutions** to relevant government departments. Our submissions were included in the VIC Strengthening Communities Reports (2007, 2008), at the annual VMC community consultations and published on *Australia2020* Summit website (2008). BACNI has become an active conduit of information from government to local community associations and vice versa.

❖ On 19 Sept 2009, BACNI was again the only Filo organisation at the **Futures Summit for the Not-for Profit Sector** where demographic data and future directions for 2030 were discussed. BACNI believes that we need to grow beyond fundraising, dinner dances, karaoke, beauty quests, religious camps, etc. in order to build a strong place in Australian society- we as Filipino Australians must participate at government round tables to champion the community's cause **because our own and our children's future depends on our action now.**

“Any one who fights for the future, lives in it today.” - Ayn Rand

❖ **Website development** – thanks to Pio, Carmelle and Peter for their hard work after hours and between exams, the BACNI website has been upgraded. They will keep enhancing the site during Christmas.

❖ The Network Organisation Members have been busy with their own activities and I commend the BACNI individual mentors for assisting the older organisations: the 28th **FAFAG** Anniversary Dance in Geelong on 3 Oct 2009; the Annual **MISCI** Fundraising Dinner Dance in Sunshine on 17 Oct 2009, the **CPCA** AGM in Dandenong on 23 Oct 2009, the **PEASER** Cultural Show in Glen Eira on 14 Nov 2009 and the **FSDA** Cultural Dance at BUS Art Gallery on 3 Nov 2009. Well done one and all!



2009 Pasko sa Nayon Concert (Christmas in the Village):

BACNI's 3rd **Pasko sa Nayon Concert 2009** highlighting the theme "**gen2gen-generations together**" was a brilliant success! We received a \$1000 VMC Grant to stage the event at BMW Edge Theatre on 12 Dec 2009. **Every year we introduce an innovation: the 2009 Pasko featured community talents, the Pasko Community CD Project and the Cultural Ambassadors 2009. What a fantastic hit it was!** Everyone who attended gave glowing feedback; some performers have been invited to media interviews and to other performances. Pasko is not a fundraiser; its objective is

building community cohesion through groups and generations working together on the project. This was realised with **78 performers**, many volunteers and various groups working since March. Ticket and *meryenda* prices were kept low for families. Around 400 people attended on the night and from the proceeds alone, the event broke even. A detailed Financial Report has been emailed to performers and volunteers- it will also be posted on our website.

I thank the performers and volunteers who brought us Pasko and outstanding Christmas joy: Sheralyn Hill and family, Kathleen Wright, Barry Buckle, Zeny Wiles, Aurora & Irene Bosmans, Sanghimig Choir, Backyard Boyz Band, Summer Notes Band, PilipinOz Hiphop, Tunog Kawayan, Young Generation Filipino Senior Citizens Club, Center for Philippine Concerns Australia, BACNI members, Terry Apines & Circulo Capizeno Club, Judy & Michael Wright & Pampangueno Club, Councillor Jennifer Kanis, Dr Luigi Soccio, Federation Square staff, AV MicroHire Technicians, City Village, media reps and all other volunteers that night.

Maligayang Pasko at manigong Bagong Taon po sa inyong lahat,

Mila Cichello (Chairperson)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mila Cichello', written over a light blue horizontal line.



IMPORTANT NOTES AND DIARY DATES:

BACNI Calendar of Events - remains a very good planning tool as it prevents date clashes for organisations and enables us to take turns in supporting one another's events. Please call, fax or email updates to the Committee so we can pass them to Website Admin, BACNI members, other groups and the media. We draft the 2010 BACNI Calendar at the Feb and March meetings.

BACNI Monthly meetings (2 x12) – meetings are open to the Committee, all members and interested non-members, including government officers. All we ask is you **invest 2 hours a month** by attending meetings.

Confirmed Future activities in 2010:

- Leadership Training – recommences on 18 Feb 2010- Fundraising, 7-9 pm, Hawthorn Town Hall.
- Diversity Week Multicultural Fiesta led by BACNI – Dandenong, 21 March 2010 (in collaboration with Filipino, Cambodian, Timorese, Liberian, Fijian community groups; with DNRE and City of Casey)
- BACNI teach and help Organisation Members apply for grants - March & April 2010
- MISCI Trip to NASA Global Sports Fest Perth- April 2010
- BACNI Review of the 3-year Strategic Plan 2007-2010- May 2010
- BACNI Draft the next 10-year Strategic Plan 2010-2020- May 2010
- BACNI Constitution Review- May 2010
- BACNI AGM- July 2010.