



**Bayanihan Australia Community
Network Inc.**

PO Box 618
East Melbourne VIC 8002 AUSTRALIA

Email: secretary@bayanihanaustralia.org
Website: www.bayanihanaustralia.org
ABN 28 053 461 899

27 July 2008

Chairperson's Annual Report 2007-2008

Ladies and gentleman, distinguished guests and friends

May I acknowledge the traditional owners of country on which we stand and I pay respect to the people of the Kulin Nation, custodians of this sacred land.

Thank you for joining us today and I warmly welcome you to the home of the Bayanihan Australia Community Network.

Every generation has a story to tell, a migrant community a journey to share. My name is Mila Cichello and I have the responsibility of reporting to you the journey of the Bayanihan members in the last 12 months.

In the Philippines, bayanihan is the age-old practice where townspeople voluntarily help a family move their hut or house from one part of the village to another. Men would arrive with long bamboo poles, work out together how to secure the hut on a platform of linked poles, hoist the hut on their shoulders and with much jostling, adjusting and loud merriment, carry the hut through the village to the new location. This is accompanied by lots of talking, singing, festive moods and later, eating. The essence of bayanihan therefore connotes community spirit, working together and a new beginning.

History tells us that the first few Filipinos in Australia in the early 1900 were the pearl divers working in the pearl industry of WA and Far North Queensland, and merchant sailors in the shipping industry. In Victoria, there were some 11 Filipinos registered during a 1930s census- they were exchange students, members of the diplomatic corps or sailors. The fledgling community maintained Filipino celebrations, met regularly, formed the group The Filipino Circle and held their Filipino balls at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall.

Some of you will know of the story of Lt Lorenzo Gamboa, a Filipino American national who married an Australian. He battled Eurocentric immigration policy for years to be allowed to join his family in Melbourne- and it was the Aussies who campaigned on his behalf. Then there were the Cruzado and Lawas families- the son Don Lawas later founded Silayan Dance Academy.

When the Australian government recruited Filipino nurses and tradesmen in the 1970s, Melbourne remained the central meeting place and I suspect many a romance bloomed in sight of the Flinders Street Station clocks or the Melbourne Town Hall clock. Many of our nurses worked in regional Victoria, warmly welcomed by rural Australians. The 1980s was the peak of Filipino migration to Australia, characterised by grandparents coming over to look after their *apos* and Filipinas migrating for intercultural marriages. It is for this reason that many of our first and second generation families are in fact multicultural.

The majority of Filipino social associations in Victoria were formed in the 1980s. Many of these clubs successfully met the social needs of the community in the 1980s but failed to respond to the changing needs of Filipinos living in Victoria. The second generation needs more than charity queens, ballroom dancing, dinner dances, karaoke nights, the Filipino way, political personalities and remittances to keep the Philippines afloat. **As migrants who made the choice to stake our future in Australia, we urgently needed to find a way to support generational change in good organisations, build community connections and pass the baton to the emerging leaders of Filipino Australians.**

“Do not let the past determine your future; but take the past with you to the future.” (from My Big Fat Greek Wedding)

For instance, Silayan Dance Academy started teaching folk dance in 1968; Melbourne Integrated Sports began as a basketball club in 1976; Filipino Australian Friendship Association of Geelong Inc was formed by Filipino and Australian rural families in 1981, and Pilipino Elderly Association of South East Region began in 1993. We have been volunteers for these associations which have been informally supporting one another over the years -and saw their struggle with declining membership, no funding and no community resources.

So a small group of us individuals and organisations decided to formalise our volunteer links by forming a network of support as anon-profit incorporated community organisation. **The highlights of the organisation for 2007/08 are:**

1. We agreed to apply the bayanihan spirit so we **incorporated as Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc** (BACNI) in April 2007. Our **logo** depicts this spirit.
2. Members abide by our **Code of Conduct** “to do right thing and to do things right”.
3. We developed our own **organisational structure** linking mentors, elders and partnerships.
4. We committed to giving the community venture a fair go for 3 years and agreed that if at review we find that we did not deliver on our goals or if there is no longer a need for BACNI in the community, we would dissolve the organisation willingly; hence, the **3-year Strategic Plan 2007/2010**. The **BACNI Constitution** provides for dissolution (see BACNI website).
5. Our **Annual Plan 2007/08** focused on leadership training and skills sharing - 90 %of the strategies were delivered on timeline.
6. **Communication links** with members exceeded our expectations- two organisations now have fax links, most have email links through their individual mentors and our **website** is up.
7. **BACNI Calendar of Events**- exceeded every one’s expectations. The overflowing calendar shows that with some support, small organisations are viable and can deliver to their local communities.
8. **BACNI Home City Village** - we are grateful to the City of Melbourne for approving us for City Village. This to us as Filipino Australians holds a special meaning because we are the generational link begun in Melbourne by the Filipino Circle.

To my fellow members, to the organisation Presidents who joined us in this journey, to the individuals who inspired us to attempt the harder path, to supporters and the departments who guide our steps, to the kindness of strangers- marami pong salamat and God bless!

- Mila Cichello (BACNI Chairperson) 27 July 2008

**Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc (BACNI)
Calendar of Events 2007/08**

Legend:	<p>FAFAG- Filipino Australian Friendship Association of Geelong Inc (in Geelong) MISCI- Melbourne Integrated Sports Club Inc (in Sunshine) PEASER- Pilipino Elderly Assoc of South East Region Inc (in Clarinda) SDA/ Silayan - Silayan dance Academy (in Nunawading) BACNI- Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc (in the City of Melbourne)</p>
<u>March 2007</u>	
9 March 07	MISCI meeting- basketball players, families and volunteers 7 pm, Riego's house, Sunshine
16 March 07	MISCI Fundraising Dinner Interstate Sports , 7 pm Happy Receptions Ascot Vale
24 March 07	FAFAG Karaoke Night at the Clubhouse, Geelong
25 March 07	MISCI and group volunteers meeting 6 pm, Sunshine
<u>April 2007</u>	
5 April 2007	Group meeting re City Village Project, City of Melbourne
6-8 April 07	MISCI Interstate Team to 31st NASAA Easter Sports, Gold Coast
15 April 2007	FAFAG monthly meeting, 2-4 pm, Geelong
17 April 2007	Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc (BACNI) , incorporated with Consumer Affairs VIC. BACNI celebration dinner, Lebanese House Melbourne
24 April 2007	City Village Meeting & info Session: City of Melbourne, Melb Town Hall City 11am -12:30 pm. BACNI EOI application registered.
<u>May 2007</u>	
7 May 2007	BACNI meeting, La Trobe Uni (City Campus) Logo and Website designs
26 May 2007	FAFAG Rural Women's Seminar, all day. With Geelong City Council and DIAC.
31 May 2007	Prime Minister Invitation to BACNI: President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo luncheon, Australian Parliament House Canberra
<u>JUNE 2007</u>	
3 June 2007	Silayan folk dance rehearsal, 3:00 pm at Lawas' home, Nunawading
7 June 2007	Leadership Seminar: Leadership skills , 6- 8 pm
9 June 2007	FAFAG Philippine Independence Day Dance , 8 pm at FAFAG Club House
16 June 2007	PEASER: Charity Cultural Concert at 7 pm, Glen Eira Hall, Caulfield
17 June 2007	FAFAG Exec Committee monthly meeting 2:00 pm, FAFAG Club
20 June 2007	Leadership Seminar: Planning for your future , 10- 11:30 am

22 June 2007	MISCI meeting, 6:00 pm at Riego's place, Sunshine
<u>JULY 2007</u>	PEASER (weekly meeting Sundays in Clarinda)
3 July 2007	BACNI meeting: finalise Strategic Plan 2007-2010, McDonalds
8 July 2007	BACNI meeting: LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6–8 pm. Chinese take-away
15 July 2007	FAFAG Exec Committee monthly meeting 2pm, FAFAG Clubhouse (Mila)
15 July 2007	PEASER AGM (Roseanne to attend)
20 July 2007	BACNI Submission lodged: Dept of Vic Communities- Stronger Community Organisations Project
21 July 2007	FAFAG Karaoke Night, 7:00 pm at FAFAG Club House
22 July 2007	PEASER weekly meeting, Clarinda (Mila & Chito)
<u>AUG 2007</u>	
14 Aug 2007	BACNI meeting: LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6–8 pm. Filipino food
19 Aug 2007	FAFAG Exec Committee monthly meeting 2:00 pm, FAFAG Club House
<u>SEPT 2007</u>	
11 Sept 2007	BACNI meeting: LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6–8 pm (Riego food)
15 Sept 2007	FAFAG 26th Anniversary Dance at 8:00 pm at the Clubhouse BYO Nibbles.
16 Sept 2007	FAFAG Exec Committee monthly meeting 2:00 pm, FAFAG Club House
23 Sept 2007	Silayan performance, Chinese Association of Vic 25 th Anniversary, in Wantirna.
<u>OCT 2007</u>	
3 Oct 2007	PEASER Monash Seniors Forum at Glen Waverley Secondary College
6 Oct 2007	MISCI Fundraising Dinner at Oriana Receptions, Maidstone 6:30 pm- 12 midnight
6-7 Oct 2007	PEASER week-end trip and performance at Jamieson Valley (stay overnight)
9 Oct 2007	BACNI meeting: LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6–8 pm (bring a plate).
10 Oct 2007	FAFAG Seniors Week Concert and afternoon tea (with Council Greater Geelong)
26-28 Oct 07	PEASER day trip to Balnarring.
21 Oct 2007	FAFAG BBQ and AGM 12:00 pm, FAFAG Club House
27 Oct 2007	FAFAG Spring Reunion for old and new members , Buffet 6 pm at Clubhouse.
<u>NOV 2007</u>	
3 Nov 2007	Silayan & FAFAG: St Leonards 150th Town Anniversary (overnight stay St

	Leonards)
13 Nov 2007	BACNI meeting: LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6–8 pm.
18 Nov 2007	FAFAG Exec Committee monthly meeting 2:00 pm, FAFAG Club House.
24 Nov 2007	PEASER Clarinda Multicultural food and music festival. 10am-4pm.
27 Nov 2007	BACNI meeting. LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6-8pm.
<u>DEC 2007</u>	
8 Dec 2007	BACNI PASKO SA NAYON Cultural Show Melbourne Town Hall 7:00 pm
11 Dec 2007	Dept Immigration & Citizenship Christmas Function 5 pm, Hilton Hotel
11 Dec 2007	BACNI Committee feedback dinner, Dragon Boat Rest., Lonsdale Street 7:30 pm
12 Dec 2007	VicHealth Awards Night , Plaza Ballroom Regent. 5:30 pm Melbourne.
14 Dec 2007	PEASER. Christmas CAMP (Culturally accepted meals programme)
15 Dec 2007	Silayan dance perform at Crown Coaches Christmas Party , 7 pm Nunawading
15 Dec 2007	PEASER Christmas Party, Community Hall City of Kingston
16 Dec 2007	FAFAG Exec Committee meeting and Christmas BBQ lunch, FAFAG Club House
	2008 2008 2008 2008
<u>JAN 2008</u>	
26 Jan 2008	PEASER Cultural Performance, Australia Day Globe to Globe Multicultural Festival (Namatjira Park, Clayton)
Jan 2008	MISCI basketball training in Sunshine - Filipino Interstate Team, U18 Mixed Junior team (Maltese, Chinese, Australian, Sudanese)
<u>FEB 2008</u>	
12 Feb 2008	BACNI Pizza & Planning Night: LTU Franklin Street Campus. 6–8 pm.
17 Feb 2008	PEASER's Kultura Pilipino dance: Fairfield Festival
18 Feb 2008	FAFAG Exec Committee start monthly meeting from 2:00 pm Geelong at Clubhouse
23 Feb 2008	Silayan perform at Pako Multicultural Festa , Geelong - Meet & lunch with FAFAGEelong at Clubhouse 11 am. Hosted by FAFAGEelong Inc and visiting guests Filipino Australian Golden Age Association Inc (Footscray)
28 Feb 08	Community OnBoard Seminar: Maintaining Law & Order , Camberwell 7- 9 pm
24 Feb 2008	MISCI Interstate basketball training Sundays – West Sunshine Community Centre 3:30- 5:30 pm (plus 2 March, 9 March, 16 March)
<u>MAR 2008</u>	
11 March 08	BACNI Committee Working Dinner, Kew at 6 pm

15 March 08	Victorian Multicultural Commissions' Diversity Week Gala Dinner , The Palladium, Crown Entertainment Complex; 7 pm start (BACNI tables x 2)
16 March 08	Last MISCI Interstate Basketball Training, 3:30- 5:30 pm followed by BBQ at Riego house (Sunshine)
18 March 08	Community OnBoard Seminar: Annual Community & Business Networking Event , Hawthorn Town Hall 7- 9 pm
21-23 March 08	MISCI travel to 31st Filipinos Global Sports & 32nd NASA Easter Sportsfest 2008 Kevin Betts Stadium Mt Druitt in Sydney . MISCI two basketball teams
29 March 08	FAFAGeelong Karaoke Night, 7 pm at the Clubhouse \$5 per head BYO nibbles
<u>APRIL 2008</u>	
8 April 2008	BACNI Meeting at McDonalds: Evaluate BACNI 2007 Strategic Plan, start Annual Workplan 2008, review members' list, mentoring and community partnerships.
April 2008	BACNI Submission to <i>Australia2020 Summit</i> lodged.
13 April 2008	MISCI basketball post-Easter meeting & BBQ celebration Sunshine at.5.30pm.
15 April 08	Community OnBoard: Everything you need to know about food handling , Hawthorn 7- 9 pm
<u>MAY 2008</u>	
1 May 2008	City Village Committee Meeting, 11 am. Finalise Lease.
8 May 2008	Community OnBoard Seminar: How to source grants, meet the providers . 7- 9 pm
27 May 2008	Community OnBoard: Grant writing that gets results , 7- 9 pm
<u>JUNE 2008</u>	
5 June 2008	City Village Committee meeting, 10 am
6 June 2008	BACNI Committee meeting, 6-8 pm
8 June 08	FAFAG Phil Independence Day Lunch at the Clubhouse
12 June 2008	City of Melb Community Training: Successful community Boards , 6-8 pm, Docklands
24 June 2008	Community OnBoard: Meet the Press , Camberwell 7- 9 pm
28 June 2008	PEASER 15th Anniversary Dinner Dance , Clarinda Community Hall.