

Our Golden Years

Welcome from the editor

Dear Our Golden Years Readers

I wish all seniors a good, happy, and healthy start into this spring.

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) has been consulting with ethnic seniors clubs and culturally diverse seniors groups on issues that are important to seniors groups and their members.

Ethnic seniors' clubs and culturally diverse seniors group help seniors stay healthy and remain connected with people. There are approximately 735 ethnic and multicultural seniors' clubs and associations in Victoria.

This spring edition includes a story from a senior who grew up in India, information on the Seniors Card, and an article from Victoria Police on the Seniors Festival.

I hope you enjoy reading the spring edition.

All the best

Nikolaus Rittinghausen, Editor

Our Golden Years is a newsletter for multicultural older people, produced by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, jointly supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments.



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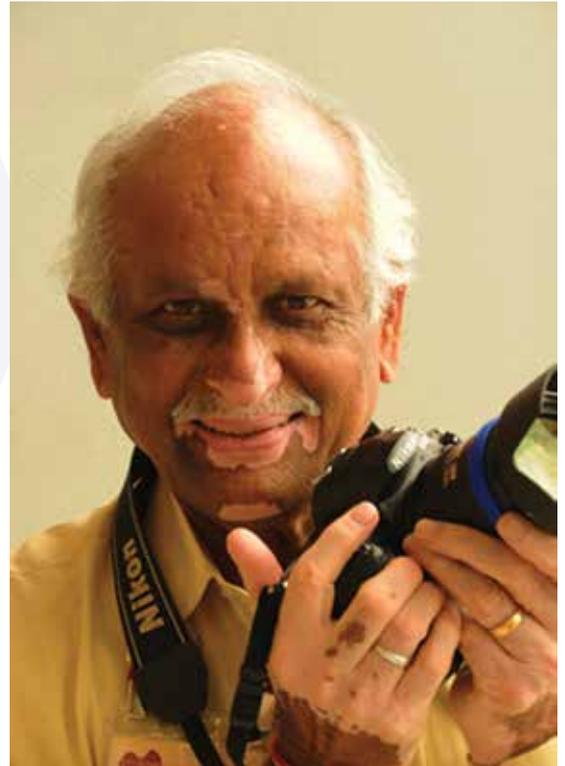
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Being a photographer

In my childhood days in India, only Kodak Brownie was available. That was in 1954. I used to take photos with that camera. Then in 1956, my friend had an Isolette III camera from West Germany, with an eye view. That was fantastic, and I took a lot of photos. In 1957 I started with an Airesflex medium format camera. That was also nice to take pictures with it.

In 1961 I started to take photos of my friend's marriage. Three photos only. In those days I took photos with a flashgun. It was "one bulb, one photo". After that you had to remove the bulb and fix another one before you could take the next photo. It was very difficult to remove a hot bulb!!!

In those days, normally everybody would go to a photo studio for taking photos. I learned photography from a book received from the Ferrania photo company through my penfriend. Then I started to make prints in my house. In those days I used to take nature photography. I used to go to the village to photograph people at work in the field, early morning sunrise, children, etc.



In 1972 I joined the Army Postal Services in India as a 'Warrant Officer'. Then I started to take photos for the Army Postal Services up to 1990 at so many functions: International functions, seminars, parades, stamp exhibitions, etc. In 1990, I joined the civil Postal Department. There I also started to take photographs at all department functions, until my retirement in 1990.

In 1996, I became a member of the Delhi Journalist Association.

Before that I started to work for the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in South of India. In that period, I met and took photos of many Chief Ministers, Presidents, Prime Ministers, leaders, religious leaders, film stars, Miss Worlds, Miss Indias, and world leaders.

I also took photos for the school 'NOIDA' of the Apeejay Education Society and the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation of India.



I cannot forget some of the people I photographed. People such as Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Phoolan Devi, Microsoft's Bill Gates, and India's Presidents R. Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma and Dr A. P J. Abdul Kalam.

Recently I settled here in Melbourne. I would like to start photographing again.

A.P. Guruswamy

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Information in relation to Seniors Card and seniors travel

All questions relating to Seniors myki need to be directed to Public Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007.

There is no longer a Seniors Weekend Travel Pass as the Seniors myki gives Seniors Card holders concession fares and free weekend travel on public transport.

Benefits of Seniors myki include:

- 50% discount on travel
- Seniors daily cap at \$4.10 when travelling in zones 1 and 2 in 2017
- Free weekend travel in any two consecutive zones

The Seniors Card contact details are:

Tel: 1300 797 210

E-mail: seniorscard@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Victoria Police join Seniors Festival fun

Victoria Police joined the Seniors Festival celebrations with a dedicated stall at Federation Square on Celebration Day on 8 October.

Acting Commander of the Victoria Police Priority Communities Division David Jones said Victoria Police was excited to be part of the festival.

“We received positive feedback from the community last year, so we came back to chat to the community, provide crime prevention tips and promote the organisation as a great place to work,” Acting Commander Jones said.

Acting Commander Jones said the festival also provided an opportunity to hear first-hand the needs of older Victorians.

“We know that older Victorians have specific needs and potential vulnerabilities that must be considered for them to be protected from harm and to maintain their wellbeing and dignity as they age.

“We are committed to protecting older people’s safety and wellbeing, enabling older Victorians to lead dignified lives, as equal members of society.

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