

June 2024

Bengali Society of Queensland





My first experience of picnic in Brisbane

Vikrant Ray Pradhan

Joining Bengali Society of Queensland (BSQ) for my very first picnic with them was an exciting new experience. The picnic was at the perfect location, with lush green grass, tall trees providing ample shade, playgrounds for children to play, and the best part—a river right beside us.

The BSQ team had organized a variety of activities, and we started with some fun outdoor games. When it was time to eat, everyone gathered around to collect their food from the buffet. The assortment was impressive, with everything from gourmet mutton curry to dal, paneer, and chutney. I couldn't resist trying a bit of everything. By the end, everyone, including me, was stuffed.

As the afternoon went on, I enjoyed chatting with my BSQ friends, making new connections, and learning more about each other. The picnic gave us a chance to relax and unwind in a way that felt both refreshing and meaningful. The open sky, the beautiful setting, and the company of good friends made for a perfect day.

As the day came to an end, I realized how much fun I had at my first BSQ picnic. Reflecting on the experience, I felt grateful for the wonderful time spent with such a warm and welcoming community. This picnic taught me the joy of spending time outdoors, appreciating nature, and cherishing moments with friends. My first picnic with BSQ was an unforgettable experience that I hope to repeat soon.

LEGO Dadu
Ricky Kundu



The Impact of Evolution and Human Influence on Wildlife

Soham Kapur

The animal kingdom is full of diverse and unique organisms. Despite the variety of habitats and ecosystems on the planet, all follow the same basic food chain: the sun's energy starts at the bottom, and at least one apex predator sits at the top. For example, in the Pacific Ocean, the sun's energy is at the bottom of the food chain as it is consumed by plankton, with cetaceans such as orcas and sperm whales at the top. The way that species differ from each other is by how they evolve to fit their environment over time through natural selection, which allows them to pass on their genes.

Natural selection occurs when a small group of a species has an adaptation that gives them an advantage over the rest, causing them to outcompete and replace them. For instance, peacocks with larger tails are chosen by females more often, allowing them to pass on their genes. Over time, this causes peacocks' tails to increase in size.

Humans also affect animal evolution, especially since the Industrial Revolution. The peppered moth is a real-life example. Historically, these moths were generally white with a few black spots. However, when the Industrial Revolution began, moths living near humans evolved to become completely black due to the coal fires causing sooty air and blackened tree bark. White moths became easier for predators to see, causing them to die off, while black moths were not as easily spotted and could pass on their genes. After pollution levels decreased in the mid-20th century, peppered moths began to shift back towards lighter colors.



Human activities have also affected the evolution of brown bears, causing them to decrease in size due to poaching. Poachers tend to shoot the largest bears, leaving only the smaller ones to pass on their genes. This is an example of how the environment can cause animals to evolve, with humans acting as apex predators and eliminating individuals less suited to their environment. Learning about the natural process of evolution highlights the importance of allowing species to adapt to their natural environment rather than an industrial one created through human activities. By doing so, we can enable future generations to witness wildlife as it naturally is, rather than as we have modified it to be.



Tin Can Bay Trip – 2024

Rishav Mandal

Recently, our family and some friends went to Tin Can Bay, for a 3-day holiday. Tin Can Bay is a coastal town in Gympie, around a 3-hour drive from Brisbane City. The small rural town, with little over 2000 people, is located in the Fraser Coast Region. The calm and peaceful environment make the town appealing to visitors, who may want to relax and enjoy the nature and surroundings. The town is known for its beautiful Rainbow Beach as well as its Dolphin Feeding Opportunities. If you come to feed the dolphins, be prepared to wake up early in the morning, and delve into chilly water!! Another great experience nearby Tin Can Bay is the Mary Valley Rattler Train, which is a beautiful train service, travelling from Gympie to Amamoor and back. It is a three-hour train service, stopping only at Amamoor and Dagon. The Amamoor stop is a beautiful area, with a café, a convenience store and a park. Make sure to watch the process of how the steam engine changes direction here!! On the return route, the train stops at Dagon. Here, you will be greeted by a terrific string ensemble, and will also have the opportunity to purchase handcrafted goods. Furthermore, make sure not to miss the wine and cheese tasting at the station!! If you have spare days on hand, make sure to explore Fraser Island. You can travel to Fraser-island by driving to the car-ferry port in Riverheads, and then hopping on the ferry to Fraser Island. Fraser Island, now K'gari is an extremely big and beautiful tourist spot, and a must-visit if you are near the locality.

Learning Bharatnatyam: My journey of experiencing Bharat through classical dance

Myrah Kapur



"Everything in the universe has a rhythm. Everything dances." Maya Angelou

Learning Bharatnatyam is my joy. I started my journey at four years old and I am continuing now at eleven. Each movement, expression and rhythm connects me deeply to my cultural roots. Performing Bharatnatyam is an even more exhilarating experience. It is an incredible opportunity to connect with fellow dancers and support each other. The intricate footwork and expressive gestures tell timeless stories, creating a powerful emotional bond with the audience. My mum thinks Bharatnatyam transforms little girls into Devi Shakti.

Bharatnatyam is so much more complex than you would think. It is not simply a dance. Consisting of tallas, shapus, shollus and more, Bharatnatyam forces the habit of commitment. After consistent practice, you don't need to think about the dance. Often I find myself drifting away to thoughts while performing the dance. It becomes muscle memory and overflows me with a calming sensation.

Bharatnatyam is a therapy itself. The constant eye movements is used in counselling to help process emotions. The stomping removes aggression and frustration. The passion releases dopamine, the feel-good hormones. After every session, I feel completely refreshed.

My teacher has boosted both my skills and confidence. Taking us 1-on-1 often, she makes sure we individually understand each precise movement which helps us remember better. Another way that benefits my dancing skills is my teacher explaining the meaning of each movement so I have a better understanding. I aspire to have a full Margam later on and if I do, I will have my teachers to thank for.

Once you have danced with adrenaline to that rhythm- a sense of purpose kicks in. It is like doing meditation in motion.

Winter

Abhisri Dasgupta

*A cool breeze rushes past,
With the season arriving, it won't be the last,
Gust after gust,
Enveloping the sky with dark silhouettes the world must entrust
Fogging up the mornings,
At night: leaving many shivering with warnings*

*Warnings of ceaseless, hiemal frost,
However, its soon replaced by understanding; nothing's lost,
For, in the end, there will be a finish to the wintertide,
The spring will come, and the cold will shift aside*

*But for now, in the winter we reside,
Finding sanctuary in the abode you confide,
Retreating into a haven, to safety
Staying in, watching out – it won't be hasty
As you can see: the moments of winter won't be vast,
A cool breeze rushes past.*



Comics Lovay Part 1

Sanvi Sen



A four-generation family has united for the 1st time at a family Christmas gathering. A few confusions arise as they start to chat:-

Great Grandma- Ohhh, how lovely it is to be out of the house again! After about 100 years!

Grandma- Come in, come in! Make yourself comfortable and help yourself to the food laid out on the table.

Great grandma: Okay!

Mum: It's been a long while, hey granny!

Great grandma: Oh it sure has!

Great Grand daughter: Oooh, so that's my great grandma!

Mum: Yep

-The family all meet each other and get comfortable on the couch-

Great grandma: *Points to the multiple phones on the table* What are these black, shiny things?

Great Grand Daughter: These are phones! Duh!

Great grandma: Lovay! These cannot be phones! Phones are the hand-held thing that connect to a type-pad with a wire!

Great Grand Daughter: These are phones! End of story. Phones are necessary and so slay!

Great grandma: You Have a phone! And what does "Slay" mean?

Great grand daughter: Yeah, duh! I obviously need one to live! I can't survive a day without scrolling on Pinterest, doing my Snap-streaks and checking my likes. Also, you wouldn't get what "slay" means.

What do you do to spend time?

Great grandma: I read stories!

Great Grand Daughter: Ohhh, as in eBooks? Cool! Sounds like something a Preppy might do!

Great grandma: Oh, no no no! What are eBooks? What's a Preppy? I read stories in books! Oh, what would I do without books!

Great grand daughter: What are books? I only know about eBooks, but I've never heard of books before. Also, a preppy is someone like me; someone who's into skincare like Sol De Janeiro, Glow Recipe and Clinique as well as Frank Greens!

Great grandma: Oh deary me! Books were my childhood and kids these days don't even know what books are! What a shame.

Great grand daughter: Oh, um-

Grandma: Okay, now, let's switch topics. So, Mum, what's your favourite TV show or movie?

Great grandma: Oh, I'm happy watching anything interesting that comes up on one of the channels, since the channels are very limited.

Grandma: No, as in do you like watching Amazon Prime, Netflix or YouTube?

Great grandma: What are those? I've heard of the Amazon Rainforest and Prime numbers, but I've never heard of those before.

Grandma: They're streaming platforms where you can choose from thousands of shows, movies and videos and pick what you want to watch.

Great grandma: What! You can choose what you want to watch these days! And there are thousands of options! Oh my, oh my, oh my! I would love to watch a knitting documentary!

Great grand daughter: Seriously? A knitting documentary? Do you even know what a documentary is?

Celebreties born in June



Mithun Chakraborty
16th June



R.D Burman
27th June



Leander Paes
17th June



Sonali Bose
3rd June



Vikram Seth
20th June



Dola Banerjee
2nd June

Upcoming events



BSQ Youth Day
Cultural Emancipation
20 July 2024

Albany Creek Community Centre
11 am - 4 pm

The poster features a group of people silhouetted against a sunset, with their arms raised in celebration. One person in the center has their arms raised high, and another person to the left has their arms raised in a 'V' shape. The background is a bright orange and yellow sky over a dark landscape.



BSQ NATTO UTSAB
Cultural Emancipation

14TH SEPTEMBER 2024
6.30-8.30 PM
QUEENSLAND
MULTICULTURAL
CENTRE (QMC)

KOUSHIK SEN
RESHMI SEN
RIDDHI SEN
SURANGANA BANDYOPADHYAY
RAJARSHI NAG

Aandhaar Ghanaay

Scan to book your tickets  

**Early Bird
discount ends soon**

The poster features a group of five people (three men and two women) smiling and posing together. They are dressed in traditional Indian attire. The background is dark with some light spots, possibly representing a night sky or a stage setting.