

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

## LATIN STORIES AUSTRALIA

INSPIRING IMMIGRATIONS STORIES

2017-18



## ABOUT US

Latin Stories Australia was established as an incorporated association in 2016. In 2017 we were granted the status of charity and in 2018 we were granted the status of fundraiser.

## OUR VISION

To advance multiculturalism and social cohesion in Australia in a way that is respectful for both the Latin American migrants and the wider Australian society.

## OUR MISSION

To provide platforms that

1. Increase the sense of belonging, acceptance and legitimacy of the Latin American migrant community
2. Create awareness of the Latin American contribution to Australia's social capital and diversity
3. Build opportunities for social cohesion for Latin American migrants, especially for those in need.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. We collect and publish the stories/voices of the Latin American community where immigrants share their personal journey and their insights for succeeding in Australia.
2. We organise, and/or participate in, different events around Australia that either advance culture and/or help to the social or public welfare.

# MESSAGE FROM CO-FOUNDERS

We are pleased to present Latin Stories Australia's 2017-18 Annual Report. This is a great opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the organisation's achievements with the Latin American community in Victoria and, in this particular year, with those affected in Mexico after the 2017 earthquake.

This year Latin Stories Australia achieved several milestones:

Initiated and fundraised over AUD\$13,000 through the "Help us help Mexico" campaign created to provide disaster relief aid to those affected by the 2017 earthquakes in Mexico and engaged with a local community-based organisation for distribution of funds to Indigenous communities.

Awarded a AUD\$14,997 grant from the "Local History Grants Program" Public Record Office Victoria, Victorian Government to collect stories and develop an exhibition on the contributions of the Latin American migrants to the history of Victoria. For this project we created a partnership with two independent curators.

In addition, we created partnership with seven non-profit organisations, a community engagement company and SBS Radio to work together towards a public program for the exhibition "Building Bridges" (to be reported in the next financial year).

Strengthened our community engagement by co-hosted an event for our community and launched our new website.

We will continue to work together with the community to increase social cohesion and for the community to create awareness of the Latin American contribution to the Australia's social capital and diversity. Thank you all who have shared your story with us. We believe that by sharing our voice, we strength our identity and strength relationships.

Cristina & Trini

# OUR PEOPLE



Cristina Abela & Trini Abascal  
Co-founders

# OUR 2017-18 STORIES



October 30, 2017

## Libertad Cordero Ocon

Country of Origin: Costa Rica.

State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: Mt. Buller in Victoria. Upon arrival: Surprised by how cold the weather was!



July 28, 2017

## Mario Gordon

Country of Origin: Panama.

State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: Tasmania. Upon arrival: Surprised by the fact that I was able to wake up everyday in this amazing country.



June 29, 2018

## Elizabeth Deserbelles

Country of origin: Brazil.

Occupation: Community Support Worker. State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: Uluru, because it represents the essence of Aboriginal culture, their spirituality and tradition. Biggest surprise when arriving to Australia: The Australian



October 1, 2017

## Martin de los Rios

Country of Origin: Peru.

State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: Anywhere on the Victorian coast Upon arrival: Surprised by the fact there is snow here. Photo by Michael Beranovic, Melbourne 2013



May 31, 2017

## Ivan Aristeguieta

Country of Origin: Venezuela.

State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: Adelaide Hills. Upon arrival: Surprised by how he easily connected with Australians



June 28, 2017

## Chachy Peñalver

Country of Origin: Venezuela.

State of Residency: NSW. Favourite place in Australia: The Gap lookout in Watsons bay. Upon arrival: Surprised by the peculiar sound of the local birds. Photo by Octopus Studio.



August 30, 2017

## Willmer Perez Ronderos

Country of Origin: Venezuela.

State of Residency: QLD. Favourite place in Australia: The Red Centre. Upon arrival: Surprised by the cleanliness of the cities.



June 15, 2018

## La Niña Project: When stories connect, reconnect, destruct and recreate.



November 29, 2017

## Vivian Carolina Lardi

Country of Origin: Bolivia.

State of Residency: NSW. Favourite place in Australia: Milla Milla Falls, North Queensland. Biggest surprise when arriving to Australia: Tree kangaroos, they are adorable! Photo by Marta Ziefinska de Opazo at La Rinconada Ecoparque, Bolivia



February 28, 2017

## Juan Pablo de Anda

Country of Origin: Mexico.

State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: Byron Bay. Upon arrival: Surprised by how dark it was at 4:30pm in a Melbourne winter day



March 30, 2018

## Rafaela Lopez

Country of Origin: Spain.

Occupation: Historian and Social Researcher. State of residency: Victoria. Favourite place in Australia: The Australian bush, it gives me a strong sense of belonging. Biggest surprise when arriving to Australia: the sense of endless space I found in this country.



July 30, 2018

## Denise Frizzo

Country of origin: Brazil.

Occupation: Journalist and Researcher. State of Residency: VIC. Favourite place in Australia: My beautiful Melbourne. Biggest surprise when arriving to Australia: the language.

# COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA

This year we launched our new website with a refreshed look.



This year has seen strong growth in our online engagement as we have begun to connect with the community through Instagram and twitter. We are also sharing information in our Facebook page regarding Latin events around Australia.

## Our followers



FB Reach - 2017-18  
297,475



Instagram 2017-18  
497



Twitter 2017-18  
125

# HELP US HELP MEXICO CAMPAIGN

On September 8, 2017 thousands of people in Mexico experienced the most powerful earthquake in a century. Few days later a second earthquake hit Mexico again. It is estimated that around 3 million people have been affected. Stories have emerged of those in Oaxaca who lost everything and are now sleeping on the streets. Latin Stories Australia created the fund 'Help us Help Mexico'.

We raised AUD\$13,328 and partnered with local community-based organisation "Una mano para Oaxaca" to help transform the lives of people affected by the earthquake in Oaxaca, Mexico.



Number of donors 212

- BD** **Beatriz Davila**  
Con mucho amor para mi querida gente de Mexico desde Australia
- Jen Donati McWilliams**  
Praying for restoration in your hearts and homes. ❤️
- Salsa on the Border Luisa Perez**  
Salsa on the Border and the Albury Wodonga Dance Centre are happy to donate this to help rebuild Oaxacan towns.
- Mayi Cervantes**  
Sending it with all my love to my fellow Mexicans. You got this! You will recover from this. Los amamos y admiramos tanto #FuerzaMexico
- Hector Ordonez Rdgz**  
Animo Mexico! Hermanos Oaxaquenses Dios me los bendiga y proteja siempre. #fuerzamexico
- RS** **Raul Sanchez**  
Thanks for your hard work please share more about this campaign :) how can we help more?
- SF** **Solange Foley-Dawson**  
Fantastic initiative Latin Stories Australia, every bit helps!
- Lauren Angelique**  
Thoughts and prayers for the people of Mexico.
- AR** **Ann Randles**  
Frightening for all those affected and their families. Congratulations on doing something positive.

# HELP US HELP MEXICO CAMPAIGN

## OUTCOMES



Lidio has been a baker for over 20 years. He learnt from his aunt and later he taught other members of his family. His family even bakes cakes! His oven was destroyed in the earthquake and he was unable to bake over 6 months. Thanks to the support of the campaign he was able to recover his main source of income.



Francisca is from Espinal, Juchitan Oaxaca. Her specialty are the "quesadillas de arroz". She rented or borrowed ovens to keep providing for her family until our support allowed the organization to rebuild an oven for her.



Anais Iris Ojeda is 39 years old and she is from Rincón Moreno, Tehuantepec. For many years she supported herself and her 5 kids by selling food which she cooked in her oven. She lost her kitchen during the earthquake. Her specialties are the stuffed pork and chicken in the oven. Now, with our help, she is cooking again and teaching her older daughter.



Ignacio and Eleuteria have been married for over 30 years and they both work in the oven and teach their children. Eleuteria is famous in the town for her cakes; however, she is also well known for her "capricho and yema" breads. (people in the photo from left: Emiliano and Vitelio (Builders), Ignacio and two volunteers).



A community centre has been built as a space for the community to come together to learn new things and support each other. We supported a very durable ceiling which is recommended for the community (due to weather conditions).



Like in many communities in Mexico, women are key for family wellbeing, not only in terms of mental support but also economic support. After the earthquake women started to suffer post-traumatic stress. This resulted in health detriment and increase of weight. We are supporting a six-month well-being program to help these women. The program includes fitness sessions 5 times a week and appointments with a nutritionist.



# CO-HOSTED: DWELLING POETICALLY- MEXICO CITY

In coordination with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) we organised a private viewing of the exhibition Dwelling Poetically: Mexico City, a case study on 26 May 2018.



*Facilitating social cohesion and community connectedness*



*Increase awareness of the Latin American contribution to art*

# BUILDING BRIDGES

Latin Stories Australia in conjunction with two independent curators will launch the exhibition From Latin American Stories to Victorian History: Building Bridges on November 2018 at No Vacancy gallery in QV building, Melbourne.

This year we have collected over 180 stories which will inform the exhibition (to be reported in the following 2018-19 period)



*Gained support from the Victoria Government  
Created partnerships with Social Pinpoint and SBS Radio  
Attracted media coverage*





# JOIN US

Our ongoing success relies on our engagement with the Latin American community across Australia. Keep up to date with stories and events relevant to the Latin community by:

Joining our emailing list

Register to volunteer with the organisation

Get social with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

Incorporated Association (VIC) No. A0097599L

ABN 9755 8392 056

latinstoriesaustralia@gmail.com

<https://www.latinstoriesaustralia.com/>

