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Croatian Cultural Society
Wellington (Inc)
HRVATSKI DOM

September 2023 Newsletter

Recent Social Events

An afternoon at the Movies

Some of our members spent a pleasant afternoon relaxing on the sofas (although not quite up to the Light-house cinema standard) while watching the movie *Murina* and the Countryman documentary. The documentary was excellent and well worth watching. The Committee put on a delicious afternoon tea which was enjoyed by all at half time.



Upcoming Events

- Language Café - Saturday, 23 September 3pm– 5pm**
Please note the change from the last Saturday of the month as Maja will be away on the 30th.
- Eat, drink and be merry - Saturday, 30 September 2pm.**
Emilia Hrstich will demonstrate how to make punjene paprike (stuffed peppers). Come along and learn how to prepare the paprika and then enjoy a meal of the finished product. There will be a cash bar so you can enjoy a drink with your meal and a cover charge of Adults \$10, Students \$5. RSVP to secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz by 25 September.



Membership

New Members/Novi Članovi

We would like to welcome new members **Rebecca and Graeme Hunt (Zderic family)** and wish them a happy association with the Club.

Website

The Committee are pleased to announce the launching of the Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Inc website www.croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz

Stage 1 has aimed to introduce ourselves by sharing our identity, location, news, and providing notification of upcoming events, which includes upcoming Croatian Consular Services offered by the Croatian Consulate in Canberra when they visit Wellington. The Club is happy to be able to host these visits in our Wellington Clubrooms and offer information via our website to enable you to book an appointment to meet with them.

Stage 2 will be aiming to realise an online presence for our Language School, Library, and a special Kids Corner.

Stay tuned as we continue to further develop our online

platform to connect, educate, and inspire all those interested in the richness of our Croatian heritage.

Library

The 8th September was International Literacy Day. Members are reminded of the value of reading, even in other languages, and, when next at Club, to take the opportunity to use some of our great resources for children and adults (in Croatian and/or Croatian authors in English).

Also, we are happy to advise that the 80 odd books kindly donated by Luka Budak have arrived and are on the shelves in the clubrooms. Once they have been catalogued, members are encouraged to come and browse, read and borrow.

Language

Members are invited to help out with some of the language session activities. Our tutors could use people who are willing to get involved and have these skills:

- arts and crafts skills (to help with creating learning activities and resources).
- digital design or programming skills that we could use in creating interactive learning activities.
- anyone with a deeper understanding of linguistics, language acquisition or experience in learning foreign languages.
- experience working with children and teenagers.
- an interest in reading and promoting library material.
- conversational Croatian
- any other ideas are welcome.

Respond to secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz if you are interested in helping.

Practice your language skills - Those of you who love using technology and YouTube might like to try these links to help with conversational language and learning basic Croatian.

[Croatian 101 Lesson](#) will help you learn the basics of Croatian with short, helpful videos.

[Grgo Petrov](#): Interested in hearing the different Croatian dialects? You'll hear sample conversations in several of them on this channel.

[Easy Languages](#): *Easy Languages* offers you a lot of local culture and context. The hosts go out into the streets of Croatia and interview the people they meet there. It's a great way to hear the way people really speak the language, pick up useful conversational language, and practice your listening comprehension.

For anyone preferring paper based learning, there are some textbooks in our library that can be borrowed.

Consular Visit

A Consular visit is scheduled for Wellington on Monday 9 October from 2 pm in the Croatian Cultural Society Wgtn clubrooms at 32 Hania Street. Consular services are available by appointment only. For more details and registration form

visit <http://www.croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz/> or their website <https://mvep.gov.hr/news-145582/consular-days-new-zealand/259766>

News

Bereavements/Osmrtnice



Our condolences are extended to the Sunko family on the recent passing of Ratko, their loved husband, father, dida. Neka počiva u miru.

Another Triumph for Dina Levačić

After completing the Galway Bay and Fastnet Rock swims in July, Dina, on 9th August, swam the 27 km Bristol Channel in 09:51:42 - a total route record. Congratulations Dina!



September in Croatia - Rujan u Hrvatskoj

Contributed by Maja Krtalic

Rujan (September) is a month when many Croats return to their daily lives after summer break and annual leave.

Počinje škola (School begins)

The new school year starts in September. School supplies are on display at supermarkets and bookshops, and you can buy *bilježnica* (notebook), *olovka* (pencil), *ljepilo* (glue), *škare* (scissors), and *flomasteri* (felts).

Dolazi jesen (Autumn is coming)

Rujan is a month when *jesen* (Autumn) starts - officially 23rd *rujna* (23rd September). Days are getting shorter, though not necessarily colder. Some tourist destinations along the coast will offer off-season prices in September, but days are still warm and sunny enough to enjoy the beautiful Croatian seaside. The average daytime temperature is 22°C.



Beach at Split

Jesenska hrana (Autumn food)

The garden is ripe with late summer and early autumn fruit and vegetables: *rajčica* (tomato), *paprika* (peppers), *patlidžan* (eggplant), *tikvice* (zucchini), *gljive* (mushrooms), *jabuke* (apples), *kruške* (pears), *grožđe* (grapes), *smokve* (figs)...and many more.



Do you know what *ajvar* is? *Ajvar* is a type of homemade relish/sauce/spread made of roasted red peppers. There are many recipes online if you want to try making it, or here's a Croatian one available online here in New Zealand <https://merivale.store.freshchoice.co.nz/lines/podravka-ajvar-mild-350g>



Jesenksi festivali (Autumn festivals)

Many traditional festivals take place in Autumn. September is known for Vinkovačke Jeseni, celebrated for more than 50 years in Vinkovci, a small town in Eastern Croatia, but one with an incredible history. Read more about it here: <https://www.croatiaweek.com/2000-kids-show-how-croatian-tradition-is-loved-and-respected-with-folk-costume-parade/>



Jesenska nostalgija (Autumn nostalgia)



Autumn has inspired many poets and composers to write and sing about *žuto lišće* (yellow leaves).

For example, there is a song by a popular Croatian pop singer from 1950s, Ivo Robić, called *Žuto lišće jeseni* (Yellow Leaves of Autumn): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvTMnn-WUYE>

A famous Croatian poet, Dobriša Cesarić, wrote a poem that many children learn by heart in schools *Tiho o tho govori mi*

jesen (Autumn silently speaks to me):

Tiho, o tiho govori mi jesen:
Šuštanjem lišća i šapatom kiše.
Al zima srcu govori još tiše.
I kada sniježi, a spušta se tama,
U pahuljama tišina je sama.

Quietly, oh quietly, autumn speaks to me:
With the rustling of leaves and the whisper of rain.
But winter speaks even more quietly to the heart.
And when it snows, and darkness descends,
Silence is alone in the snowflakes.

Radio



Tune into FM106.1 and listen to *From Croatia with Love* every Sunday from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm. You can also log onto the Access Radio website <https://www.accessradio.org.nz/from-croatia-with-love.html> where you can hear our radio programme, and download it, at any time from anywhere in the world.

Links



You after some more music? Then follow this link to hear the Top 33 Croatian songs/ Hrvatske pjesme <https://www.radiodalmacija.hr/hrvatski-top-33-radio-dalmacije/>

Stay in touch...

You can find us on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CroClubWgtm>

Website www.croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz or

email us on secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz