



Croatian Cultural Society
Wellington (Inc)
HRVATSKI DOM

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Veljača (February) 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

**Annual Club Picnic - Williams Park, Days Bay, 10.00 am
Sunday 18 February 2024**

The site will be marked with the Croatian flag. Come and join us for our first event for the year. Bring your friends along to share a picnic lunch and drinks with you and don't forget the sunhats and sunblock. There will be games and prizes for the children and buće for the adults.



Language Café - Our Language Café is starting up again on Saturday, 24 February 2024

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm Language activities for children
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm Language activities for adults
(beginners and intermediate level of knowledge)



Enjoy coffee and cake in a café like atmosphere, chat with other members about Croatian history and culture, browse through our growing library and receive some formal language instruction in a relaxed environment, appropriate to your level, from our amazing language teacher Maja Krtalić.

There is no need to sign up; just come along. There is no cost, but a plate to share for afternoon tea would be most welcome.

Special General Meeting Sunday, 2 pm 25 February 2024

As advised in our last newsletter, this is an important meeting to discuss the changes that are needed for our rules to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. To attend and have the right to vote, members subscriptions must be fully paid up. Copies of the rules for discussion will be emailed to members on 15 February 2024.



**Consular Visit -
from 2 pm Monday 25
& Tuesday 26 March 2024**

in the Croatian Cultural Society Wgtn clubrooms, 32 Hania Street Wellington

Consular services are available by appointment only. For more details and registration form visit <https://www.croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz/> or their website <https://mvep.gov.hr/news-145582/consular-days-new-zealand/259766>

Our club does not manage the appointment bookings. They must be made between 1 March and 19 March 2024 using the registration form on the website or by phoning the Consulate on +61 62866988.

Bereavements/Osmrtnice

Our condolences are extended to Danica Rudelj and family on the recent passing of Andrija, their loved son, brother and uncle. Neka počiva u miru.



Membership

Membership Applications (članska pristupnica)

An application for membership in our Society has been received from:

Ella Vodanovich

Nominator: Mary Begovich

Membership Renewal (Obnova članstva) 2023/2024

For those who haven't yet paid, the Committee reminds you that the subscriptions for 2023/2024 were due for payment on 1st May 2023 and, according to our Rule 16d.ii., as of 1st September, are now overdue. Payment of \$30 may be made via internet banking:

To: Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Inc
Bank A/c: 06-0561-0017339-30
Payment Particulars: insert your initial and surname
Reference: Subs 23/24

If you wish to check your subscription status, contact secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz

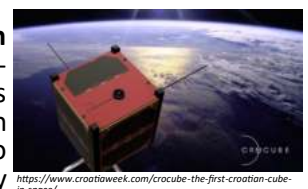
News

"Forgotten Dalmatia"

This looks as if it could be an interesting read and an ideal gift for anyone with Dalmatian roots. There have been multiple editions over the past nine years and a new edition has just recently been released. It has been so popular that copies have reached enthusiasts across the world. It is written in both Croatian and English and has been nicknamed the "Dalmatian Bible". To read more about it, follow this link <https://www.croatiaweek.com/new-edition-of-the-dalmatian-bible-released/>



CroCube: The first Croatian satellite, presented at the Zagreb Fair in November 2023 is to be transported to SpaceX in America to be launched into orbit from Florida in February



<https://www.croatiaweek.com/crocube-the-first-croatian-cube-in-space/>

2024. Croatia is the only country in Europe that does not have its own satellite in space so this is a historic moment for Croatia and its future in space. Read more here <https://www.croatiaweek.com/crocube-the-first-croatian-cube-in-space/>

Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards - Croatia took up a Gold position at the awards ceremony late last year after having been voted as the most desired country by the magazine's readers. The ceremony was held at the British Museum in London, during the World Travel Market, the biggest travel and tourism event in the world.

Croatian resilience inspires Hollywood film '260 Days'

Filming of a high-profile Hollywood film based on Marijan Gubina's autobiographical novel 260 Days is set to commence this coming summer in eastern Croatia in Slavonia and Baranja, including Osijek and Vukovar. The novel reaches deeply into the recent history of Croatia, particularly the traumatic experiences encountered during the Homeland war. Read more about the novel's story here <https://www.croatiaweek.com/croatian-resilience-inspires-hollywood-film-260-days/>



<https://www.croatiaweek.com/croatian-resilience-inspires-hollywood-film-260-days/>

Did you know?

1. Croatia has an indigenous chicken. The breed was established through cross-breeding of local hens with Leghorn roosters in 1917 in the village Torčec. Following some refinement processes, the breed was recognized in 1937 and earned the nickname Hrvatica, also known as Dudica.
- 
- <https://www.croatiaweek.com/meet-hrvatica-the-indigenous-croatian-chicken/>
2. In Croatia blonde haired people (*plavuša* or *plavojka*) are described as having blue hair! Apparently the word plavo originally meant pale so it was used to describe pale hair and still is even though word meanings have changed. *Plavo* and *modro* both mean blue. Pale in Croatian is *blijeda*.
 3. Croatia has so many dialects that people from town to town have trouble understanding one another. For example, **Bean** - *gra* in Slavonia but *fažol* in Dalmatia; **Cucumber** - *krastavac* in Slavonia but *kukumar* in Dalmatia; **To talk** - *pripovedati* in Zagreb but *čakulat* in Dalmatia; **Sheet** - *plahta* in Zagreb but *lancun* in Dalmatia.
 4. Dubrovnik still uses its medieval sewers from 1296.

If you are not a subscriber to Wellington's 'The Post', you may have missed this interesting article on the Karori property that previously housed the Yugoslav Embassy.

Slice of Wellington, owned for years by a country that doesn't exist

Tom Hunt February 1, 2024



A Wellington house, owned for years by Yugoslavia, is now up for sale. DAVID UNWIN / THE POST

An eight-bedroomed, two bathroomed, sprawling-lawned slice of Wellington — which just spent years owned by a country that no longer exists — could now be yours.

Twenty-four Hatton St, Karori, has gone on the market. Its seller is the Republic of Croatia but its former owner was the Government Of The Socialist Federal Republic Of Yugoslavia, which once had its New Zealand embassy there.

But there is an odd catch. Property records show it only passed from Yugoslavia to Croatia on November 25, 2022. Yugoslavia ceased to exist in the early 1990s and separate states, including Croatia, took its place.

It seems a caveat was put on the property in 1992, soon after Croatia broke away from Yugoslavia, and remained in place until one day before Croatia took ownership in 2022.

But, by then, 24 Hatton St had spent roughly three decades in the ownership of a long-gone socialist government of a country that ended in a previous millennium.

The grand house has clearly seen more pristine days but echoes of its history still peek through. In the foyer, the current tenant has stuck up a framed picture of the former socialist Yugoslavian president, Josip Broz Tito.

In 2017, a right-leaning Croatian political party labelled Tito a dictator and successfully lead a charge to change the name of square in Zagreb, the capital, from Marshal Tito Square to Republic of Croatia Square, [The Guardian reported](#).

The current tenant also talked of finding a filing cabinet filled with historic files of New Zealanders applying to go to Yugoslavia. But that went after the new owners took over the property in late 2022, he said.

According to the listing with real estate agents Tommy's, the house has eight bedrooms and two bathrooms, with a 370m² floor plan and vintage fixtures. It is also sold as-is-where-is, with enquiries over \$2.395 million. The section, which gets all day sun, is 1600m².

But there is one further twist. At least one of the looming front lawn macrocarpa trees, one which has a rope swing hanging from a bough, is listed as a heritage tree. —The Post

Veljača u Hrvatskoj (February in Croatia)

By Mary Begovich

The names of the months in Croatian originate from very old Slavic words and phrases which describe the changing of the seasons and/or the work related to the season. Some say that Veljača may have come from the word *velja* or *velji* (meaning longer) in order to describe the time of the year when the days start to get longer.

Veljača is the second coldest month of the year with snow still around inland and rain in coastal areas. Average daily temperatures run from 1°C to 9°C and the days are getting longer with around 10 hours of daylight.

Things to do and Traditions in February

The winter sport attractions from December and January are still very popular but, as it is still regarded as offseason, crowds are few and it's a great time to travel.

Spring is coming and Veljača sees the start of the Mardi Gras celebrations over the country.

Carnivals

The **Rijeka Carnival** (*Riječki Karneval*) usually starts on 17 January which is when St Anthony the Great is remembered. His horn is resounded throughout the city to officially mark the start of the carnival season and lasts through to Ash Wednesday which is 14 February this year. The carnival is one of the most acknowledged and largest in Europe and is said to be one of the top ten events in Europe. The Sunday Times rank it as one of the 24 most exotic events in the world. It attracts around 150,000 spectators and 10,000 masked participants from all over the world.

Rijeka's mayor hands the keys to the city over to the Master of the Carnival for the duration of the carnival as a symbolic gesture of handing over the rule of the town to the masks and they are returned on Shrove Tuesday, marking the last official day of the carnival.

The celebration has a long history, filled with ancient and loved traditions that chase away evil spirits and prepare the city for a brighter future. It combines colour, tradition, loud music, confetti, costumes, dancing and delicious food. There are parties, parades, masked balls, concerts, rituals, charity events, exhibitions cultural and sporting events. The main carnival activities and celebrations take place on the four days before Ash Wednesday and the International Carnival Parade, which is the most popular event, takes place on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

The Rijeka Paris Rally, Carnival Snowboard Session, Carnival DJ Session, Children's Carnival Parade, are just some of the other big events of the carnival.

The Zvončari (Bell Ringers), dating back to the region's pagan roots and having come through pre-Christian times, is one of the oldest and original traditions of the carnival. Groups of people dress up in animal skinned costumes with scary masks and dance around the villages while ringing huge, ear blasting bells which are believed to drive away evil spirits. In 2009, Zvončari were added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Check out this video of the Zvončari strutting their stuff at a past carnival <https://youtu.be/tHVq4YloTFw?feature=shared>



Zvončara <https://www.halubajski-zvoncari.com/>

Two other carnivals which are also very good are **Poklad**, **Lastovo's** winter carnival, which dates back to 1483 and the **Samobor Fasnik** carnival celebrating a tradition that is over 150 years old.

Pokladno jahanje, held in Osijek for the 17th time in early February, is a traditional Slavonian carnival dating back to the 18th century. The tradition was maintained in some villages until after the Second World War and returned after the Homeland War as a cultural and tourist event with many more riders joining every year in an effort to preserve the tradition and identity of Slavonia. Horsemen dressed in traditional costumes ride through villages on well-groomed and trained Lipizzaner horses. They stop at certain houses and are treated with Slavonian food and drinks and on leaving they sing a song. The breeding of the Lipizzaner horses in eastern Croatia is an important part of Croatian cultural heritage and is inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.



<https://www.croatiaweek.com/the-200-year-old-tradition-of-pokladno-jahanje-comes-alive-in-the-croatian-city-of-osijek/>

Feast of St Blaise is unique to Dubrovnik and goes back as far as 1190. St Blaise (Sv Vlaho) is the most beloved saint and historical figure of Dubrovnik. Festivities start on 2 February (the Virgin Mary Candlemas) in front of the Church of St Blaise when white doves are released and the St Blaise flag is raised. There is a morning mass the next day, followed by a procession through the main street of priests and the church congregation carrying caskets of the saint and banners. When they return to the church, the banners are lowered and twirled in an involved display of skills. The locals dress up in traditional costumes. Believers are blessed by the priests using two intertwined candles around the throat which are said to prevent throat problems. A traditional lunch of pasta and meat sauce is put on, followed by hrostule donuts. St Blaise Feast Day is also inscribed on UNESCO's List of Intangible Heritage.



Dubrovnik's St Blaise
https://www.croatiatraveler.com/southern_dalmatia/Dubrovnik/Festivals.htm

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is about customs related to St Valentine and, as in many other countries, it is celebrated in Croatia on 14 February but it isn't a big commercialized holiday.

Food plays a big part on the day. As animals, particularly birds, feature markedly in Croatian Valentine's Day beliefs and traditions, birds made out of dough are baked and given as gifts in some parts of Croatia. Licitars, the colourfully decorated biscuits are used as an ornamental gift and given as a celebration of love on Valentine's Day and at weddings.



There are many St Valentine's Day superstitions in Croatian folk tradition, such as:

If a girl sees a robin on St Valentine's Day, she will marry a sailor.

If a girl sees a sparrow on St Valentine's Day, she will marry a poor man.

If a girl sees a goldfinch, she will marry a rich man.

Achievements - <https://www.croatiaweek.com/>

Croatian named world's best open water swimmer

Croatia's Dina Levačić has been selected as the Swimmer of the Year by the World Open Water Swimming Association for 2023.

Her achievements were recognised by both the public through their votes and by the expert commission, predominantly composed of open water swimmers from around the globe.

Dina's crossings of Cook's Passage, Galway Bay, Fastnet Rock, and the Bristol Channel in 2023 received the highest acknowledgment and once again placed Croatia at the top of this selection ahead of the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland and other nations.



Croatian swimmer Dina Levačić has achieved another impressive success, this time in South Africa.

Dina has swam across False Bay in South Africa. Despite very challenging weather conditions, large waves, and wind, she successfully conquered the distance from Miller's Point to Rooi Elsa, spanning 33 kilometres.

With this successful swim, Dina became the 19th person in the world and the first person from Croatia to swim across False Bay.

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.

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You can find us on

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Website www.croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz or

email us on secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz