



Croatian Cultural Society
Wellington (Inc)
HRVATSKI DOM

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Ožujak (March) 2024

Annual Club Picnic - Ester Slee



The annual club picnic at Days Bay Williams Park in Eastbourne started early on Sunday morning, 18 February 2024, with Ivan and Lorraine Sarich and Lyn Bareta securing one of our usual picnic spots under the canopy of one of the old weeping elm trees near the park pavilion. Ivo and Josip Kolić arrived soon afterwards raising our Croatian flag to clearly identify who and where we were. We weren't too sure which direction the wind was blowing from but eventually the wind subsided, the sun shone through as we chatted, shared food, children played, and we enjoyed each other's company. It was wonderful to see people coming and going throughout the day.

Thank you Emilia Hrstich and Pravda Webb for your lovely baking and Ivo for the bag of šljive, a number of people were saving the stones in hopes of seeding their own orchards, though that may have been an excuse to keep eating.

To all those that made the day, thank you.

Language Café - Maja Krtalic

The first Language Cafe for this year was held on Saturday, 24 February 2024. Several new participants joined the children's and adult's classes. Children learned how to introduce themselves in Croatian and played games counting to ten. Adults learned to read the words of the Croatian anthem, *Lijepa naša domovino*, and learned key facts about its history and customs. This was our small contribution to mark Croatian Language month.

High Tea

A big thankyou to all the lovely women and girls that came along and helped make the celebration of International Women's Day such an enjoyable occasion.



Upcoming Events



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia
in Australia

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. Our club does not manage the appointment bookings which must be made between 1st and 19th March.

For more details and the registration form, please visit

<https://croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz/croatian-consular-services/> or phone the Consulate on

+61 62866988

Language Café - Saturday, 6 April 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. While there is no cost, a plate to share for afternoon tea would be most welcome.

Membership

Membership Applications (članska pristupnica)

Applications for membership in our Society have been received from:

Full Membership

Zana Betty
Victor Betty

Nominator: Yelena Anderson
Nominator: Yelena Anderson

Associate Membership

Ivan Jajić
Stipo Šuman

Nominator: Josip Kolić
Nominator: Josip Kolić

Membership Renewal (Obnova članstva) 2023/2024

For members who haven't yet paid, the Committee re-

minds them 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 Wgtn
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@croatianculturalsocietyswgtn.co.nz

Library Our library has received a kind donation from Ozren Radišić. Ozren donated dozens of books, including an encyclopedia series, and fiction books for children and adults. Hvala Ozrene!



News

Water polo, World Championships Doha 2024

Croatia became water polo world champions for the third time on 17 February, winning the gold medal after a 15-13 win over Italy. They had previously won golds in 2007 and 2017. This was their second win this month, having won a silver at the Euros.



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

Craft Cordials earning global acclaim

The Kapronca Family Estate's elderflower, raspberry, and mint craft cordials made in Koprivnica Croatia without any chemical additives or preservatives, have earned recognition around the world, including at the prestigious Great Taste competition in London, which is organised by the Fine Food Association.



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

Hotel Marjan Demolished

The hotel has been demolished and everything is ready for the construction of a new five-star Hotel Marjan which will have 285 accommodation units over 15 floors all of which will be on the upper floors and most will have sea views. There will be a congress hall which will be able to take up to 500 people, a wellness area, an indoor pool, exercise area, spa with saunas, relaxation areas and massage rooms. Read more and see pictures of the proposed new look at <https://www.croatiaweek.com/video-hotel-marjan-demolished-ready-for-new-five-star-replacement/>



Hard to believe, but it is true—Buy a house in Croatia for under €1

<https://www.timeout.com/croatia/news/buy-a-house-in-croatia-for-under-1-012324>

Ah! But there's a catch! You have to be under 45, in a marital or extramarital partnership, can't already own property (although it is not specified if that means in Croatia or anywhere else in the world), and have a clean police record.

Legrad, is a small town situated in northern Croatia near the Hungarian border. Officials are trying to rejuvenate its dwindling population by selling abandoned houses and construction sites for a song.

Back in 2021 when they put up 19 properties for sale at 1 kuna, as the houses are varying states of disrepair, they even offered to contribute towards renovations. It is not clear if this offer will be offered this time.

Croatian language introduced as school subject in Austrian state

An official decision was announced in January 2024 during a meeting between Croatia's Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Gordan Grlić Radman and Werner Amon - the Minister for European, International Affairs, Education, and Human Resources for the Austrian federal state of Styria - that the Croatian language would be introduced as an independent subject in the regular school system of Styria from the 2024/25 school year. Read more at <https://www.croatiaweek.com/croatian-language-introduced-as-school-subject-in-austrian-state/>



King Harmony from Croatia wins silver for world's most innovative ice cream

at the annual conference of the International Ice Cream Manufacturers Association. King Harmony combines the luxurious flavour of pistachio ice cream enriched with a soft pistachio topping, immersed in a rich berry fruit topping and Belgian white chocolate.



King Harmony ice cream produced by Croatia's Ledo <https://www.croatiaweek.com/>

Did you know?

1. That there is a Croatian island where only one person lives? It is called Otak Života (Island of Life). Prospera Pavić has spent more than 80 years on the island and she has no plans to leave.  <https://www.croatiaweek.com/the-croatian-island-where-only-one-person-lives/>
2. That the longest Croatian word has 31 letters. The word is **prijestolonasljednikoviččinima** which means little heiress apparent to the throne.
3. That in 1892, Ivan Vucetic who was born on the island of Hvar and later emigrated to Argentina, created the first method of recording the fingerprints of individuals on file.
4. That the women on the island of Susak hold the title of having the only national costume in Europe that sits above the knee.  <https://www.chasingthedonkey.com/random-facts-about-croatia/>
5. That the Maglite flashlight was designed by Croatian Ante Maglica. It has become standard issue gear used by police officers in the USA.

Language

Croatian words for family members and extended family. However, depending on where you are in Croatia, because of the different dialects the word used may be quite different. This list is more in line with usage in Dalmatia.

Parents roditelji
 Child dijete
 Children djeca
 Mother majka
 Father otac
 Son sin
 Daughter kćerka or kći
 Brother/s brat/braća
 Sister/s sestra/Sestre
 Stepmother pomajka
 Stepfather očuh
 Stepsister polusestra

Stepbrother.....	polubrat	Female cousin.....	rodica/rođakinja
Son-in-law.....	zet	Male cousin.....	rođak
Daughter-in-law.....	nevjesta	Nephew.....	nećak
Wife.....	supruga	Niece.....	nećakinja
Husband.....	suprug	Father-in-law.....	svekar
Grandfather.....	djed	Mother-in-law.....	svekrva
Grandmother.....	baka/baba	Brother-in-law.....	djever
<i>although one needs to be careful when using baba as it is considered an offensive word in parts of Croatia.</i>			
Granddaughter/s.....	unuka/unuke	Sister-in-law.....	šogorica
Grandson/s.....	unuk/unuci	Relative.....	rodbina/svojta
Grandchild.....	unuče	Godmother/Bridesmaid.....	kuma
Grandchildren.....	unučad/unuci	Godfather/Bestman.....	kum
Aunt.....	strina/teta/ujna	Godson/Goddaughter.....	kumče
Uncle.....	stric/tetak/ujak	A nickname for an older unrelated person..... barba/teta	
<i>Aunt and uncle are tricky as it depends on whether they are related by blood or by marriage. Strina is married to your father's brother and ujna is married to your mother's brother. Tetak is married to your father's or mother's sister.</i>			
		Language for Easter	
		Happy Easter..... sretan Uskrs	
		Happy and blessed Easter..... sretan i blagoslovljen Uskrs	

Ožujak u Hrvatskoj (March in Croatia)

By Mary Begovich

It is believed that as the weather in March is very unstable/unpredictable, the name ožujak was probably derived from the noun laž (a lie) - o(la)žujak (a lying month). The days are starting to warm up and spring is well on its way towards the middle of March with average daily temperatures along the coast falling between 3°C-12°C.

Things to do and Traditions in March

Hiking or Cycling

The temperatures aren't warm enough to swim or sunbathe, but they are perfect for hiking or cycling and the Dalmatian coast has some ideal options. Above Makarska, depending on your fitness level, there is a 5-6 hour trek to Sveti Jure which is the highest peak of Biokovo or a 3-4 hour but steeper climb up a path to the top of Vošac.

A must do visit if you are in this region is the Biokovo Skywalk - a curved, glass-bottom walkway on the mountain ridge at an elevation of 4,000 feet. It can be reached during your trek or cycle path or by car. From here there are stunning views of the Makarska Riviera and the nearby islands of Hvar, Brač and Vis.



https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g303814-d21142297-Reviews-Biokovo_Skywalk-Makarska_Split_Dalmatian_County_Dalmatia.html#media-otf/21142297/592750399/g/7a0bumid=-160&type=0&category=-160

Days of Asparagus, Istria

If you are a lover of asparagus then Istria is the place to be mid March when picking of the wild plant varieties starts. Chefs prepare delicacies such as fritaja (omelettes), soups, homemade pasta, risottos and creative combinations with meat and fish along with delicious desserts.

Holy Week (24-30 March 2024)

Since around 90% of Croatians are Catholic, Easter is the holiest time of the year and cities all over the country go all out decorating their squares and streets with Easter themes just as they do for Christmas. The week starts on Palm Sunday and there are different customs throughout Croatia. There can be ceremonies and processions where it is customary for people to carry a palm branch, rosemary twig or olive branch to the church for blessing and then hang it in their homes.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2019-es_to%K3%A1sok_1_kopronca.jpg

In some regions bread, ham and eggs are taken to church on Holy Saturday to be blessed ready for breakfast on Easter morning. Good Friday is considered a fasting day and so traditionally there may be an abstinence of meat and bakalar, a codfish stew made from dried cod and potato, is popular instead.

Passions processions are a well established tradition on Good Friday (veliki Petak) with regions incorporating their own local customs. Of particular note is the Za Križen (Following the Cross) Procession on Hvar where, having lasted for more than 500 years, it is of significant importance to their religious and cultural identity and in 2009 was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under the protection of UNESCO. Za Križen starts around 10pm on Maundy Thursday and passes through 6 villages, stopping at each of their churches and covering 25km in around 8 hours.



<https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/454863631093431461/>

During the week before Easter, it is traditional in some parts of Dalmatia for young girls to wash their faces with water infused with petals of different spring flowers picked from the fields or around their homes. It is believed this is a symbol of rebirth and will keep the girls fresh in mind and appearance.

Hard boiled and hand painted Easter eggs are a must in Croatia. They are called pisanice or Uskrsnja jaja (Easter eggs) and using natural pigments from vegetables and other plants, and fresh flowers and leaves, is the traditional way to colour and decorate them. Eggs are gifted to family, friends and neighbours as a symbol of love and respect. An interesting Dubrovnik tradition still followed by some, is an engaged girl giving her fiancé a pisanice and her future mother-in-law then baking a braided dough in which she has embedded the egg.



<https://www.liveincroatia.com/en/event-site/easter-all-over-croatia>



<https://www.chasingthedonkey.com/croatian-easter-in-croatia/>

On Easter Sunday the whole family has fun using their painted eggs to play a traditional tucanje jaja (egg tapping) game which can be traced back to the 14th century in Zagreb. Two people choose their best egg and hold them vertically. The person holding the upper egg lightly taps the end of their egg against the lower egg to see whose will crack. The egg that cracks is the loser and the uncracked egg is the winner. The holder of the winning egg then challenges the others around the table and whoever holds the uncracked egg at the end is the overall winner.



<https://www.camping-simuni.hr/en/blog/easter-in-croatia-interesting-egg-traditions-and-sayings/>



<https://thecroatiakitchen.com/2020/04/07/dalmatian-easter-bread-sirnica-pinca/>

The baking of pinca (or sirnica in Dalmatia, jajara in Zagorje), an Easter bread, is also traditional in Croatia. It is usually shaped like a small ball with a cut on the top in the shape of a cross to symbolize the suffering of Christ and is soft, sweet, flavoured with lemon and orange zest and may include raisins and candied fruit soaked in rum. If you haven't already tried making it yourself, have a go now. Here is a traditional, authentic recipe <https://www.196flavors.com/pinca/> or this one with rum infused fruit <https://travelhonestly.com/croatian-easter-bread-pinca/>

Zagreb Festival of Lights

The festival, running this year from 20-24 March, is in its sixth year. Spectacular light installations, projections and animations created by local and foreign artists will bring life to the streets, parks, squares and other popular locations throughout the city.

Two installations from the 2023 festival



<https://www.festivalsvetlozagreb.hr/media/28/7515075-ed44-4bd7-9ebf-c36ba/cb795e.jpg>



<https://www.festivalsvetlozagreb.hr/media/28/e47105c1-b349-4012-a936-c4a3fo463805.jpg>

Oyster Festival - Mali Ston and Brijesta

If you are a lover of oysters then this is where you should be. Oysters are fullest and most delicious in March, when St Joseph's Day is celebrated. Food experts are adamant that oysters are best served freshly opened with just lemon juice but the event also offers them in various other ways - soups, fritters, roasted, fried or baked. As a cold dish they can be served as a cocktail, a salad, oyster mignons, in fish jelly and canapé sandwiches. Visiting oyster beds by boat can also be booked. While enjoying the oysters alongside a glass of first class Pelješac wine, guests are entertained with Dalmatian music and folklore performances.

Meštrović Gallery

Lovers of art should not miss visiting this museum gallery in Split. It houses an extensive collection of works by the celebrated sculptor Ivan Meštrović. There are two floors occupied by permanent exhibits and many more of his sculptures can be seen in an outdoor park within the gallery grounds. Many of you will no doubt be familiar with the 8.5 metre statue of Gregory of Nin erected in Split in 1929, but did you know that Ivan Meštrović was the sculptor? It is said that rubbing the statue's toe brings good luck, hence the toe has been worn smooth and shiny as a result.



<https://img.atlasobscura.com/SVtm86z8w8ewRfw45vldoMHYDKlPH63ewXHaBFwQpw/r/fj/w:1200/q:81/fm:1/scp:1/ar:1/aHR0CHM6Ly9hdGxhcy1kZXYuc2MuYV11h/em9uYXZlLmNv6S91/cGxvYWRzL3B5WmNj/X2IYVWdicy82NTc5/Mm1zNy1m2ThLTQ1/NWQlODN1Y1M2U2/YWwM2YzYwNTY1NmMw/ZmUzZmQyYjkaMWV2/MTFMjFjU3BsaXQu/SiBH.jpg>



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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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Website www.croatianculturalsocietysocietywgtn.co.nz or

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