



Travanj (April) 2024 Newsletter

Another Successful Consular Services Visit



On Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 of March 2024, the Club hosted Diplomat Marija Haramija from the Croatian Embassy in Canberra Australia, where she received many people requiring Croatian consular services.

Amongst familiar faces there were also many new people, providing us with a wonderful opportunity to welcome them to our society.

The visit concluded on Tuesday evening with a Citizenship Ceremony. Marija welcomed 11 people about to receive their Croatian citizenship and, as family and friends proudly looked on, she gave a brief introduction to the significance of citizenship, and the rights and responsibilities that come with becoming a Croatian citizen. She then invited each person to make their pledge of allegiance and presented them with their Citizenship Certificate.



Thank you to all who lent a helping hand. The next consular visit is expected in June or July of this year.



Upcoming Events

Language Cafés - Saturday, 6 April 2024 and Saturday, 27 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.

Annual General Meeting - 2pm Sunday, 26 May 2024

Save the day on your calendars for this scheduled meeting. The relevant documents will be sent out to members on 25 April 2024 via email or post.

From our President

An Invitation to Serve on the Executive Committee

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 2pm on Sunday, 26 May 2024. In not too many weeks relative material will be sent out. We are currently reaching out to extend a sincere invitation for you to consider stepping forward to serve on the executive committee.

The Club was incorporated in 1938, survived the 20th century and is now needing a younger generation to see us through the 21st century. By joining the executive committee, you will have the opportunity to:

- Influence the direction of our society and shape its future.
- Benefit our community by developing, implementing, and running initiatives to support Club aims.
- Keep the spark that is Croatian alive and thriving in our corner of the world.

When the nomination for committee form arrives in your inbox or mailbox, make the choice to make a difference!

On behalf of the Executive Committee
Lijepi pozdrav svima
Ester Andrijočić

Membership

Membership Applications (članska pristupnica)

Applications for membership in our Club have been received from:

Full Membership

Claudia Begovich

Gina Valentic

Ellen Lucija Harman

Georgia Valentic-Holden

Sonia Mijatov

Nominator: Mary Begovich

Nominator: Ivan Kolich

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Membership Renewal (obnova članstva) 2023/2024

For members who haven't yet paid, the Committee reminds 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 2023, their membership was suspended. They are reminded also that as per Rule 16d.iii, in the absence of payment by 30th April 2024, their membership is automatically cancelled. 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

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With the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May, all members are reminded that to be eligible to attend and vote at the meeting, their subscriptions must be fully paid up.

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

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.



Travanj u Hrvatskoj (April in Croatia)

By Mary Begovich

During travanj (the season of growing grass), the average daily temperatures range from 10°C to 18°C. In coastal regions such as Dubrovnik and Split, temperatures can be slightly higher, reaching up to 20°C. However, in the interior and mountainous areas, temperatures may still be cooler, averaging around 9°C.

Traditions and things to do in Croatia in travanj

Running events for fitness buffs

100 Miles of Istria (4-7 travanj 2024) - This event dates back to 2013 and now gathers more than 2000 participants from all over the world. Entrants can choose from 5 distances – 168.6km, 110km, 69.2km, 42.1km and 21.4km and each event combines every aspect of Istria: difficult and technical terrain, some coastering, old medieval towns, deep forests, city centres, muddy valleys, streams and brooks, canyons and many beautiful panoramas. Believe it or not – for anyone considering this, they are out of luck this year as all races are already fully booked.

Umag Run (14 travanj 2024) - Umag is a city on Croatia's Istrian peninsula. This event sounds like it is more fun and fitting to add to a holiday. Choices can be made to enter a half marathon (21km), 10.5km, 5km fun run where even your furry friends can run with you, a relay where two runners run 10.5km each or kids' runs of 200m, 400m or 800m depending on their age.



<https://coloursofistria.com/en/events/umag-run>

After the race: a pasta party awaits all participants. All registered participants will get their finisher medal, bib number, shirt, chip, refreshment during the race, soft bottle, gym bag.

WRC Croatia Rally 2024 (18-21 travanj) - While this event would appeal to lovers of cars, it shouldn't be ruled out to others. Besides being a sports competition, everyone attending can take in the beautiful landscapes of the regions, explore the numerous castles and churches and enjoy the fabulous food and wine. This year, the Croatia Rally is the fourth race of the World Rally Championship and the world's best drivers will be coming to Croatia with their crews to put their leading-edge cars through 20 demanding high-speed tests. There is a ceremonial start in front of the Zagreb fountains on the first evening followed by speed tests through the Zagreb, Karlovac, Varaždin and Krapina-Zagorje counties over the next 3 days. The itinerary is 1,401.93 km, 283.28 km of which are speed tests.



<https://kumrovec.hr/najava-wrc-croatia-rally-2024-2/>

Jurjevo (St George's Day) 23 travanj - There are many beliefs associated with St George's Day. In pre-Christian times he was named Jarilo but with Christianizing of pagan customs and saints he became St George and presented as a hero on a horse who saved a princess from an evil dragon. St George's Day is celebrated in many countries, each with their own traditions. In Croatia, he was regarded as the patron saint of harvest and fertility, and his day

marked the beginning of spring and the growing season. A young man would be dressed in green as Green George and given a small green tree to carry. He then, with followers, went from house-to-house singing songs about Jarilo, handing out good luck twigs and making large bonfires of straw to symbolically chase winter away. Festivals to celebrate the day are still a big deal in country villages lying north of Zagreb particularly in the Velika Gorica area. Nowadays, the ceremony is done mostly by the members of folklore societies as a form of reliving the heritage, but the Jurjevo bonfire held in Velika Gorica Park and in front of the old Lukavac walls is a popular and important event for the whole area.



Distributing good luck twigs <http://www.visitvelikagorica.com/index.php/content/view/st-georges-festivities-in-turropolje-jurjevo/220/?c=3>



Jurjevo bonfire in Kumrovec <https://kumrovec.hr/jurjevo-u-kumrovcu-zeleni-juraj/>



St Mark's Church <https://drifterplanet.com/is-zagreb-worth-visiting/>
noon.

Festival Sv. Marka (St Mark's Festival) - The festival is held on 25 travanj to celebrate the patron saint of Zagreb. Religion and culture are significant with masses, parades, concerts, exhibitions, and traditional customs taking place during the celebrations. Classical and local folk music performed by national and international artists is highlighted and most concerts take place in Zagreb's St Mark's church. Traditional music and dancing go alongside wonderful feasts throughout towns and villages.

St Mark's Church was built in 1880 and has the medieval coat of arms of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia on its left side and the Zagreb emblem on the right. It is only open at mass times and, from late April to October, there's a guard-changing ceremony outside the church every Saturday and Sunday at

Days of Marulić (Marulićevi) – Croatian Drama Festival - 20-29 travanj - An event for the lovers of theatre. Marko Marulić, Split's most notable playwright, who completed 'Judita' the first truly Croatian literary work on 22 travanj 1501, has been celebrated by this festival each year since 1990. It is held in one of the oldest surviving theatres in Dalmatia - the beautiful Croatian National Theatre in Split (Hrvatsko narodno Kazalište u Splitu) which opened in 1893. This year, in the official festival competition, there are 11 drama performances based on Croatian drama texts with one production from Argentina and rest produced by theatres from Croatia.



Hrvatsko narodno Kazalište https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g295370-d550471-Reviews-Croatian_National_Theater-Split_Split_Dalmatia_County_Dalmatia.html#media-otf/550471/296391907/p?albumid=160&type=0&category=160



<https://www.croatia-expert.com/croatia-boat-show-split/>

Croatia Boat Show - The Croatia Boat Show, held over 8 days in travanj in Split, started in 1998 and is not just for seafaring enthusiasts. It has become a highlight of the social scene in Croatia as well as one of the most important boat shows in the Mediterranean. Local and international celebrities attend and, while the main event is the displaying of resplendent boats, regattas and races, there are also parties and dancing.

About 1,500 exhibitors fill an area of around 120,000 square metres over the harbour and on land with hundreds of luxury yachts, sailing boats and speedboats for the roughly 50,000 visitors to buy, to dream of buying or simply to stare at.

Something for nature and bird lovers - Take a day trip from Dubrovnik to 70-hectare Lokrum Island. Here one can enjoy admiring and leisurely meandering



Lokrum Island 680 m off the coast of Dubrovnik <https://www.croatianvillas.com/where-the-peacocks-roam-magical-lokrum-island/>

through the beautiful vegetation covering the island and seeing the free roaming majestic peacocks who are oblivious to visitors. There are forests of holm oak mixed with laurel, myrtle, Aleppo, umbrella pines, olive groves and a botanical garden with over 500 plant and tree species all with descriptive signs. At its highest point is Fort Royal Castle which was built by the French in 1806 during their occupation of Dubrovnik and later renamed the Tower of Maximilian.



<https://www.tripadvisor.com/tp/mfr58qd/lokrum-the-cursed-island-of-croatia>

There is also a Benedictine Monastery which dates to the beginning of the 11th century but was deserted at the end of the 18th century and allowed to fall into disrepair. In 1808, 800 years after the monks first came to the island, Archduke Maximilian Ferdinand of Habsburg fell in love with the island when he visited. His wife bought it and he ordered the monks to leave. According to legend, on their last night the monks walked around the island three times with their candles upside down so that wax dropped on the ground, and they cursed the island so that anyone who tried to seek it for their own would meet personal and financial doom. After his move to the island, Maximilian was executed in Mexico, his wife became insane, and it is said their son was bankrupt and committed suicide. Apparently, there is still a strong belief in the legend and so there are no permanent residents on the island. Parts of the monastery were used for filming of Game of Thrones.

Peacocks were originally imported from the Canary Islands by Maximilian and they settled and multiplied to exceptional numbers. With 52 species of birds recorded on Lokrum, of which 12 are resident nesting birds, a visit to the island is ideal for bird lovers.

Did you know that ...

1. there are some interesting (and amusing) world records in the Guinness Book of World Records which are held by Croatia?



https://www.croatiaweek.com/10-world-records-you-didnt-know-croatia-holds/?fbclid=IwAR1-MqWuZoj-xVURr8ajdPHUUpyUIX3gX_6_D2Q2qxZl4WfYl4o3qoyWleU

- a. 2,000 cabbage leaves, 300 kg plus of boneless beef, 410 kg boneless pork, 75 kg dried sausages and 105 kg rice were used back in 2018 at the Zeljarijada festival in the Varaždin County to make and set a record for the **longest sarma** which measured 1,333 m.



- b. In June 2019, using approximately 1,000 kg apples, 500 kg flour, 200 kg sugar, 200 kg margarine, 50 kg powdered sugar and large amounts of cinnamon, lemon and salt, a monster strudel measuring 1,762.45 m long was made and baked in a rotating oven by the Mlin i pekare baker and pastry shop in Sisak to create a new world record for the **longest strudel**. The filling weighed around 1,200 kg and the pastry about 800 kg with the whole process taking about 300 working hours.



- c. In April 2019, four friends from Slavonia made and displayed their 194 kg slanina (pancetta) at the spring festival in Karanac (23 km from Osijek). This surpassed Italy's 150.5 kg slanina in 2002 and set a new record for the **largest slanina**.

- d. Tomislav Lubenjak broke and set a record in Zagreb in April 2019 for **pushing a car the furthest in 24 hours by an individual**. He pushed a smart car and driver for 106,938 km.



- e. A sailing ship built by Croatian shipyard Brodosplit in Split, has the record of being the world's **largest sailing vessel**. Named Golden Horizon, it is a huge five-mast barque weighing 8,770 tons and measures 162.22 x 18.6 m. With two diesel-electric engines, it can cruise at 16 knots (29.63 km/h) and its 36 sails stretch over 26,000 sq ft. A crew of 159 operate the vessel and it can take 272 passengers.



2. that Croatians, instead of using the proper names for months, often refer to them by number. So, for January they might say *prvi* being short for *prvi mjesec* (first month) – for February, *dru-gi* (second) – March, *treći* (third) - April *četvrti* (fourth) and so on – *peti*, *šesti*, *sedmi*, *osmi*, *deveti*, *deseti*, *jedanaesti*, *dvanaesti*.

3. that Croatia has its own leaning tower similar to the one Pisa. The bell tower stands next to the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary in the village of Završje in Istria. It is 22 metres high and leans by 40 centimetres.



<https://putnikafer.hr/en/places/istria-leaning-tower-in-village-of-završje/>

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

Croatian shipyard building first luxury eco-residential ship



Split's Brodosplit shipyard has a contract to build the first private residential ship that is environmentally sustainable. It will be named MV Narrative, 233 m long and use liquefied natural gas propulsion making it a leader in sustainable maritime transport. The ship's design is exclusive for life at sea so an extensive range of amenities and facilities will be incorporated – a post office, school, solar hydroponic garden, coastal marina and a 10,000 sq m wellness center offering spa treatments, fitness and holistic health services. Luxury living will be provided for the 531 private residences ranging in price from 1 to 8 million dollars with some co-ownership options available starting from \$598,000. Read more about it and take a peek at proposed facilities here

<https://www.croatiaweek.com/croatian-shipyard-building-first-luxury-eco-residential-ship/>.



Film being shot in Croatia

The shooting of a film based on children's fantasy novel "Momo" by Michael Ende which started in February in Pula has moved to Rijeka. Filming will mainly take place in the market area in late afternoons and early evenings. The use of Croatian locations is part of a Filming in Croatia programme between the Croatian Audiovisual Centre and the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia.



Croatia makes history

The Croatian men's deaf chess team has achieved an extraordinary sports success at the Winter Deaf Olympics, gaining Croatia's first-ever Olympic gold in classic chess. The 20th Winter Deaflympics were held in March 2024 in Ankara and Kayseri, Turkey.



Free public transport for over 65s



Zagreb has announced that residents over 65 will be provided free transport on Zagrebački električni tramvaj (ZET), the transit authority responsible for public transport in Zagreb. This will cover approximately 159,000 people which is comparable to the total population of Split. To take advantage of this, residents will need to apply to a free ZET pass as from 15 April and the service is expected to commence on 1 June.

Language

Please molim
Thank you hvala
Yes da
No ne
How do you say? kako se kaže
Speak slowly govori sporije
Repeat please ponovi, molim te
Again opet
Word for word riječ po riječ
Slowly polako
What did you say što si rekao/što si rekla*
I don't understand ne razumijem
Do you understand razumiješ li
What does it mean što to znači
I don't know ne znam
Do you speak English govoriš li engleski
Yes, a little da, malo

Hello zdravo
Good morning dobro jutro
Good afternoon dobar dan
Good evening dobra večer
Good night laku noć
What is your name kako se zoveš
My name is moje ime je
Sorry, I did not hear you oprost, nisam te čuo/oprosti, nisam te čula*
Where do you live gdje živiš
Where are you from odakle si
How are you kako si
Fine, thank you dobro, hvala
And you a ti
Nice to meet you drago mi je
Nice to see you drago mi te vidjeti
Have a nice day ugodan dan
See you later vidimo se kasnije
See you tomorrow vidimo se sutra
Goodbye doviđenja

**rekao* and *čuo* are masculine - *rekla* and *čula* are feminine

Stay in touch...

You can find us on

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

Website www.croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz or

email us on secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz