



Svibanj (May) 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Language Café - Saturday, 25 May 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 - 2 pm Sunday, 26 May 2024

Fully paid up members are reminded of the upcoming Annual General Meeting for which relevant documents were sent on 25 April. Completed documents must be returned by post or email to secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz by -
2 pm Sunday 12 May 2024 - Nominations and Motions
2 pm Sunday 25 May 2024 - Proxies

Membership

Membership Renewal (obnova članstva) 2023/2024

As per our Rule 16.d.ii., membership was suspended on 1 September for members who had not paid their 2023/2024 subscriptions which were due 1 May 2023.

As per Rule 16.d.iii, in the absence of payment by 30 April 2024, club membership of suspended members was automatically cancelled on 1 May 2024.

If membership has been cancelled, the completion of an Application for Membership form, as per Rule 5.a., will be required.

Membership Renewal (obnova članstva) 2024/2025

Subscriptions for 2024/2025 were due for payment from 1 May 2024. 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 24/25

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

News

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

11 March was a big day for Croatia's health system

Surgeries using the robot assistant Hugo took place for the first time on this day at the Clinical Hospital Centre (KBC) in Split. Developed by the Medtronic company at a cost of 5.7m Euro, Hugo is a



state-of-the-art assisted robotic surgery (RAS) system and the first such system to be used in Croatian hospitals. The robot helps surgeons to be more precise as its range of motion is greater than in conventional laparoscopic surgery.

Croatian wines win gold

Out of 33 samples of rosé wines submitted by Croatia at the recent international competition Concours Mondial de Bruxelles, held in Split, 17 won medals. Four wineries from both Dalmatia and Istria won golds and 2 silvers went to Dalmatian wineries, 5 to Slavonia and two to Istria.



Gold for Croatian olive oils

Another success for Croatia. A total of 1244 samples of oil from 28 countries were submitted in the recent World Olive Oil Competition held in New York (NYIOOC). This is the world's largest and most highly regarded olive oil quality contest. Croatia submitted 97 samples, 40 of which won gold and 13 won silver. The total golds awarded at the contest was 205. One of the Croatian winners, Vergal, has been in the elite selection of Flos Olei (a specialised guide on the best extra virgin olive oils) for 10 years and has won golds at NYIOOC 2018-2024.



A significant discovery made in Croatia

Archaeologists have uncovered a well-preserved Greek-Illyrian helmet in the village of Zakotorac on Croatia's Pelješac Peninsula. Watch the actual moment of discovery https://youtu.be/GH_N7n5YkzY. Preliminary dating indicates the helmet could originate from the sixth century BC and is at least 2,500 years old. A similar helmet was discovered at the same site four years ago and they have always symbolized status and authority. A wealth of historical treasure has been unearthed from the 27 burial mounds in Zakotorac - pin, clasps, fibulae, parts of amber and glass necklaces and a bronze band which apparently would have been worn on the head of a woman.



Photo credit: Ivan Pamir

Svibanj u Hrvatskoj (May in Croatia)

By Mary Begovich



Svibanj (May) the time of budding trees and plants. The month derives its name from the plant sviba or svib which blooms in late spring and boasts beautiful white flowers.

It is warming up with areas along the coast getting around 9 to 10 hours of sunshine per day, temperatures ranging from 17°C to 24°C and fairly low levels of rainfall. This makes Svibanj ideal for travellers who aren't keen on the sweltering heat as activities, such as sightseeing, hiking, and generally exploring towns, can be pursued more comfortably. The locals would think we are mad but, as Kiwis, with these temperatures, we could even enjoy trips to

the stunning beaches to soak up the sun and take a dip.

Traditions and things to do during Svibanj

International Workers' Day - 1 May

Međunarodni praznik rada (International Workers' Day) also known as Labour Day or May Day, is a national holiday linked to the history of the labour movement, fighting for workers' rights, fair employment conditions and social justice and honours workers' achievements.

While there are parades, concerts and cultural events organized by workers' organizations, traditionally, it is a day of relaxation, and the people organise picnics and barbecues to enjoy the delicious food and enjoy the community and getting together with friends and family. There is also the tradition of kresovanje (lighting bonfires on the eve of 1 May) which although has pagan origins, has been taken into Labour Day celebrations to symbolise light, hope and the renewal of spring.

Feast Day of St. Domnius (Sveti Dujе)

The feast of Saint Domnius (fjera svetog Dujе or Sudamja) is celebrated every year in Split on 7 May. After a week of social events, a fair on the Riva, performances and awards ceremony held by the City Council, celebrations reach a finale on 7 May with the biggest event of all. It begins early in the morning and ends with fireworks over the harbour and a concert on the Riva. There are huge stalls at the fair for visitors to make purchases from an extensive range of goods, predominantly made of wood. There is a tradition, although nobody can explain why or how it came to be traditional, that if you are only going to buy one thing at the fair, it had to be a wooden spoon.



In the 3rd century at the time of the Roman emperor Dioklecijan (Diocletian, the last famous persecutor of the Christians), Sveti Dujе (Dujam) became the first bishop of Solin (Salona) which was the biggest Dalmatian city. When he refused to give up Christianity, he was tortured and murdered by order of the Roman governor of Dalmatia. Christians began worshipping him as a saint and martyr in 313 and he was believed to be the protector of the city of Split and Archdiocese of Split-Makarska.

In the middle of the 7th century Diocletian's mausoleum was converted into a cathedral and called the Cathedral of Saint Domnius. Later the baroque altar was built in the cathedral and Dujе's relics are now kept there and can be seen on Sudamja. After the fall of Salona, his remains were taken from the ruins of the cemetery and buried in the Cathedral of Saint Domnius.



The oldest mention of the feast is recorded in the Split Statute 1312 which states in chapter 1 "...isto tako određujemo i naređujemo da svatko mora blagdan svetoga Dujma časno poštovati i slaviti." This translates as "... we also determine and order that everyone must honour and celebrate the feast of the Saint Domnius."

Our Lady of Zečevu - May 5th

It is believed that back in 1516, the church and monastery on the island of Zečevu (near the island of Hvar) were set fire by the Turks. The monks were killed, and the statue of the Virgin Mary was thrown into the sea. It is also believed that the statue then made its way to shore at Nin (about 20 km from Zadar) and, shedding tears, appeared before a widow named Jelena Grubišić. This miraculous event (known as the day of Apparition) is celebrated by travellers of Christian faith every year on 4 May. A procession of worshippers, while singing the hymn 'Dobra Majko sa Zečeva' (The Good Mother of Zečevu), as well as other hymns dedicated to the Virgin Mary, carries the statue of Our Lady of Zečevu through the decorated streets of Nin and then by boat back to Zečevu. After mass and celebrations on the island, it is returned to Nin until the next procession.



<https://secretcroatia.blog/2018/08/27/our-lady-of-zecevo/>

Something for connoisseurs of wine - Vinistra Exhibition 11-13 May



Vinistra is an association of Istrian winegrowers and winemakers, and their traditional exhibition is held in May every year in Žatika hall in Poreč which is on the western coast of the Istrian peninsula. It is an international exhibition of wine and winemaking equipment. It is expected that there will be about a hundred exhibitors showing off their wines, oils and brandies. Istria is known for its Malvazija wines, many of which pair well with various seafood dishes, grilled fish fillets, fresh oysters, chicken salads, risottos and pastas.



Adventure Race Croatia 2024 – 13-18 May



For adventure lovers, this is a qualifying team race for the Adventure Race World Series. This is the fifth time this 500 km race over 4 days event has taken place in Croatia and participants get to explore new parts of Croatia while mountain biking, paddling, running, roping, and navigating from the sea, across islands, over mountains to inland rivers and back to the sea.

<https://arc.remarkable.events/media/>

Spring Break Season

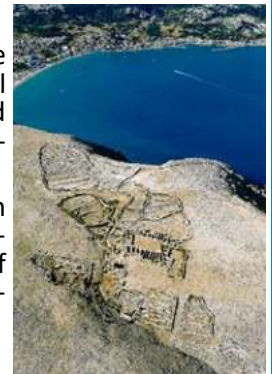
Read on if you are young or very young at heart. While this festival, held at Zrće Beach on the island of Pag, has become Europe's largest spring break party destination, offering beach parties, club nights with top DJs, party boat and many other events from afternoon to the next morning, oldies (recommended age 20-30) most likely wouldn't be able to handle it. The season starts with Spring Break Europe – 17-20 May 2024 and is followed with Papaya Spring Break 24-26 May, Big Beach Spring Break 30 May-2 June, Beach.Bites.Beats 5-9 June and finally, Wild & Free Weekend 13-15 June.

Black Sheep, or Crna Ovca – 17-19 May

A festival of lamb, creativity, culture and sport is held in Baška on the island of Krk. There are performances by top Croatian rock musicians, workshops such as mrgari sheepfolds, wool felting, creating local culinary specialities, sailing regatta, hiking, football, cultural lectures and theatrical performances and exhibitions. As lamb is the pride of Baška, it is on offer for gourmets in all restaurants and in the form of street food.

Ten mrgari sheepfolds, tens of metres in diameter and multicellular, decorate three areas on the southern tip of Krk and the use of three of them to this day, maintains the traditional custom of communal sheep round-up to sort out the sheep of various owners. The largest of them can accommodate up to 1500 sheep. They are rare and impressive examples of the ancient building technique of dry-stone walling in which only stones are used, no binding material, mortar or concrete.

<https://www.croatia.org/crown/articles/10332/1/Mrgari-flower-shaped-dry-stone-sheepfolds-on-the-island-of-Krk-in-Croatia-studied-by-Dr-Berislav-Horvatic.html>



Spring Procession of Ljelje/Kraljice (Queens), Gorjani Pentacost Sunday 19 May 2024



<https://irresistiblecroatia.eu/2024/03/05/spring-procession-of-kraljice-queens-or-ljelje-from-gorjani/>

Gorjani, is known for the spring procession of Ljelje (queens), a unique tradition declared an intangible heritage item and, in 2009, protected under UNESCO. Every year on Whitsunday (the seventh Sunday after Easter), young unmarried women and girls (ljelje) dressed in rich folk costumes gather at mass in Gorjani, and then dance the circle dance "kolo" at the village centre and head door-to-door where they are greeted and treated by the hosts.

The older participants (known as 'kraljevi' or 'kings') wear tall, elaborate hats and carry sabres and the younger girls ('kraljice' meaning 'queens') wear tiaras in their hair.

Legend has it that when the Turks invaded the village Gorjani and captured all the men, the wives dressed up in colourful clothes and men's hats decorated with artificial flowers, armed themselves with sickles and scythes and went to the Turkish camp. The soldiers thought they were ghosts and fled. To commemorate this event, the spring procession of Ljelje is still carried out in its original form except for the sickles and scythes having been replaced with sabres. The custom which originally spread throughout Slavonia, Syrmia and Baranja, started disappearing by the end of the 19th century but has been preserved in Gorjani.

Sea Star Festival 23-26 May

An 18+ electronic music festival in Umag, Istria at the beautiful beach of the Stella Maris Resort. Music fans from all over the world are drawn to the festival by its exceptional lineup of regional and international DJs. As well as dancing the night away, attendees can take part in a range of activities such sporting events and art exhibits.

Strawberry Festival 27-28 May

A delicious food festival with the main ingredient in any recipe, from drinks to desserts, being strawberries. There is live entertainment while attendees purchase strawberry products and try the food and drinks. It is held in Selce which is about 34 km from Rijeka.

Language - words/phrases that could be helpful if you intend travelling and are new to the Croatian language.

Transportation and travelling

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|
| Airplane | zrakoplov | Airline | zračna linija |
| Taxi | taksi | Train | vlak |
| Trolley..... | trola | Tram..... | tramvaj |
| Bus..... | autobus | Car..... | auto |
| Truck..... | kami | Ferry..... | trajekt |
| Ship..... | brod | Helicopter | helikopter/zrakomlat |
| Bicycle | bicikl | Motorcycle..... | motocikl |

Common Signs

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Open..... | otvoreno | Closed | zatvoreno |
|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|



| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------|
| Entrance..... | ulaz | Exit..... | izlaz |
| Push..... | gurati | Pull..... | povući |
| Toilets..... | nužnik/WC | Men..... | muški |
| Women..... | ženski | Forbidden..... | zabranjen |
| Hospital..... | Bolnica | Pedestrian zone..... | Pješačka zona |
| Danger..... | Opasnost | Dobrodošli..... | welcome |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| How much is a ticket to _____? | Koliko košta karta za _____? |
| One ticket to ---- _____ please? | Molim vas, jednu kartu za _____? |
| Where does this train go?..... | Kamo ide ovaj vlak? |
| Where does this bus go?..... | Kamo ide ovaj autobus? |
| Where is the train to _____? | Gdje se nalazi vlak za _____? |
| Where is the bus to _____? | Gdje se nalazi autobus za _____? |
| Does this train stop in _____? | Zaustavlja li se ovaj vlak u _____? |
| Does this bus stop in _____? | Zaustavlja li se ovaj autobus u _____? |
| When does the train for _____ leave? | Kada polazi vlak za _____? |
| When does the bus for _____ leave? | Kada polazi autobus za _____? |

When using a taxi

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Take me to _____ please..... | Molim Vas, odvezite me do _____. |
| How much does it cost to get to _____? | Koliko košta vožnja do _____? |
| Take me there, please..... | Molim vas, odvezite me tamo. |

Get directions

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| How do I get to the train station?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do željezničkog kolodvora? | | |
| How do I get to the bus station?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do autobusnog kolodvora? | | |
| How do I get to the airport?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do aerodroma/zračne luke? | | |
| How do I get to the ferry port?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do trajektne luke? | | |
| How do I get downtown?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do središta/centra grada? | | |
| How do I get to the youth hostel?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do hostela? | | |
| How do I get to the _____ hotel?..... | Kojim putem mogu stići do _____ hotela? | | |
| Where are there a lot of hotels?..... | Gdje se nalaze hoteli? | | |
| Where are there a lot of restaurants?..... | Gdje se nalaze restorani? | | |
| Where are there a lot of bars?..... | Gdje se nalaze barovi? | | |
| Where are there a lot of sites to see?..... | Gdje se nalaze znamenitosti? | | |
| Can you show me on the map?..... | Možete li mi pokazati na zemljovidu/karti? | | |
| Street..... | ulica | Square..... | trg |
| Turn left..... | skrenite ulijevo | Turn right..... | skrenite udesno |
| Left..... | lijevo | Right..... | desno |
| Straight ahead..... | ravno | Towards the _____..... | prema _____ |
| Past the _____..... | pokraj _____ | Before the _____..... | prije _____ |
| Watch for the _____..... | potražite _____ | North..... | sjever |
| Intersection..... | raskrižje | South..... | jug |
| East..... | istok | West..... | zapad |
| Uphill..... | uzbrdo | Downhill..... | nizbrdo |



Did you know that...

1. ... Croatia has a famous stork lovebird



Klepetan and Malena
<https://www.croatiaweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/klepetan1.jpg>

Two long-legged stork lovebirds, Klepetan and Malena made their nest on a chimney in the eastern Croatian town of Brodski Varoš and their love story spanned over 19 years. They are migrating birds and Malena couldn't fly due to an injury but Klepetan flew from Africa to Croatia every spring for 19 years to be with his injured partner. Malena who was looked after by a local, Stjepan Vokić, for almost 30 years, died in 2021 and he says that Klepetan is now 35. Klepetan now has a new companion named Mlada and she arrived this year 10 days before him, probably due to his age and his needing to rest more frequently. As soon as he arrived in Croatia he went to where his late partner was buried (as he has done every year) and then got down to preparing a nest for

their offspring. There is a lovely documentary about the lovebirds that you may enjoy, *Starac I roda, priča o Malenoj I Klepetanu* - <https://www.croatiaweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/klepetan1.jpg>

2. ... a Croatian company created the world's first rice chocolate

The leading Croatian confectionery manufacturer Zvečevo has a very interesting company history which dates back over 100 years. The company didn't start operating under its current name until 1951 and since then has been through some major changes with its line of products. Eventually, in 1963/64, a group of enthusiasts,



directors, and female employees designed the first chocolate with rice in the world. It was made of expanded rice and 90% milk chocolate, milk from its own dairy.

3. ... **the Walls of Ston** in southern Croatia are the longest preserved fortification system in the world apart from the Great Wall of China. The series of walls, construction of which began in 1358, were originally more than 7 km long and surrounded and protected the city of Ston. It was completed in the 15th century, along with its 40 towers, of which 20 have survived, and 5 fortresses. Some parts of the wall were demolished for various reasons and today it stands at 5.5 km.
The Walls of Ston https://www.croatiaweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Visiti-Ston_Stonske-zidine_06.jpg
4. ... **King Tomislav** was Croatia's first king, crowned sometime before 925 A.D. you'll find his name all over the country.
5. ... **Croatians settled on the Adriatic coast** around the seventh century on the ruins of the Roman Empire.
6. ... **a Croatian named Ruđer Josip Bošković** suggested placing five concentric iron bands on the dome of St. Peter's in Rome when a crack had been discovered. In 1772, his suggestion was adopted and saved Michelangelo's work from being ruined.
St Peter's Dome <https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/484559241133968458/>
7. ... **Croatia is ranked 4th** in the world for alcohol consumption per capita.
8. ... the critically **endangered Mediterranean monk seal** finds refuge on some of Croatia's remote islands but spotting one is a rare privilege. Research has shown that currently, only 600-700 individuals remain.
https://www.mmc.gov/wp-content/uploads/shutterstock_273252421.jpg
9. ... there are **more Croatians living outside the country** than in Croatia.
10. ... **Croatia has a renowned term 'Fijaka'** for a relaxed state of body and mind best described as the 'sweetness of doing nothing' or being in a 'day-dreamy state'.
11. ... the **oldest lighthouse in Croatia**, the Savudrija Lighthouse which is located at the northern end of the Istrian peninsula, was completed in April 1818 and is now 206 years old. It is the oldest operational lighthouse on the Adriatic coast. Originally, the lighthouse had a two storey principal keeper's house and a 19m tower built from local stone. Another single storey building was added in 1821 and the tower increased to 29m in the late 19th century. The lighthouse is still manned and the rooms within have been available for holiday accommodation rental since 2000.
Savudrija Lighthouse
Photo credit: [Mihael Grmek](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mihaelgrmek/) [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)
12. ... **Croatia has an indigenous food product** which is registered and protected in the EU common market. It is the Lički krumpir or simply potatoes from Croatia's Lika region which is situated between the Velebit and Plješevica mountains. They stand out for their elevated dry matter content, translating to increased levels of starch, vitamins, minerals, and fiber and has been ranked 6th out of the 10 top varieties globally by Taste Atlas.
13. ...Croatia boasts the **first European hydroelectric power plant**. Built in 1895, it is located on the river Krka, located in the county of Šibenik-Knin. Nikola Tesla was involved in its design and there is an interesting write-up on its history here <https://buffaloah.com/a/virtual/croatia/sibenik/KRKA/tesla.html>.



Radio



Tune into FM106.1 and listen to *From Croatia with Love* every Sunday from 12.30pm–1pm. 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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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CroClubWgtn>

Website www.croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz or

email us on secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz