

Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Newsletter

July/srpanj 2024



CLUB EVENTS (INCL COOKING!)

The club thrives when we get together and share experiences, so the Executive discussed cultural and social events programme ideas at its last meeting. The next newsletter should have a draft programme, which will require your ideas and help to implement.

We tried a few things last month. The Euros football game had a small crowd, and we weren't able to cheer the boys on to a win against Italy, but the Fistonich/Čuvar wine tasting had a good turnout (see photo). The Language Café had its best turnout ever in June, with over 20 people attending (we kept getting out more tables and chairs!). We also had new membership applications from the Café.

Food is one of the best ways to get people together and we'd like to have more cooking sessions at the club. **If ANYONE wants to run a session to share your favourite recipe, or suggest a dish to cook**, then contact Dave Guerin at 1021 404 334 or dave@ed.co.nz.

One idea that came up is that many favourite dishes have multiple versions, so we might choose two recipes of the same dish and compare them at the end (e.g. should ajvar have eggplant or not?). That could be a lot of fun, and give us the chance to try different things. Either way, we'd like to do 6 or more sessions a year.



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THIS ISSUE

- *Club Events (incl Cooking!)*
- *27 Jul (3pm): SGM*
- *Life Membership Nominees*
- *News from Croatia*
- *27 Jul (3-5pm): Language Café*
- *Membership applications*

SGM – 3PM SATURDAY 27 JULY

There will be a Special General Meeting this Saturday at 3pm, covering two issues.

1. Tidying up some minor issues raised by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies when we submitted the new Constitution to them. Everyone did a great job putting together the changes, but we have some issues to tidy up. The details have been sent out already.
2. Nominating Milivoy Hrstich and Joan Barbalich for life membership.

We need a quorum of 25% of Full Members to come along, so please make the time. It shouldn't take long, and we'll have an afternoon tea afterwards (if you are able, please bring a plate to share).

LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINEES

This note and the biographies that follow are from the Executive and are part of the information for the SGM on Saturday 27 July at 3pm.

Life membership is a chance to recognise people who have made a major contribution to the Society, but we have not conferred life membership for a long time, if ever. When a proposed change to life membership criteria was voted down at the latest AGM, several members asked for the Executive to start nominating people for life membership, which has now been done.

Life members are nominated based on the following parts of the Constitution.

- 4.b.ii. Full members may be admitted to life membership, as a mark of respect or honour or in recognition of service to the Club or to Croatia or the Croatian Community. Upon attaining the status of life membership, a member shall have no further liability to pay subscriptions.
- 5.c. Life Membership can be conferred and an invitation to Honorary Membership issued only by resolution of the members of the Club in general meeting following nomination by the Executive Committee

The Executive has nominated Milivoy Hrstich and Joan Barbalich to be life members. Their contributions to the Society are detailed below.



Milivoy and Joan are being nominated first, but there are others who have made a major contribution. The Executive hopes that other people will be suggested as life members. If you have a suggestion, send it to secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz), including some details about why you think the person meets the criteria. The Executive hopes to nominate further life members at the AGM in 2025.

Motions for SGM

That we approve inviting Milivoy Hrstich to become a life member, based on his service to the club and the community, as noted in the biography presented at the meeting. Membership will be confirmed once the invitation is accepted by the nominee.

That we approve inviting Joan Barbalich to become a life member, based on her service to the club and the community, as noted in the biography presented at the meeting. Membership will be confirmed once the invitation is accepted by the nominee.

Milivoy Hrstich

Mili is the oldest member of our Club, having been a member through all the various forms of the Club for over 70 years.

Mili remembers when he was new to NZ and knew very little English, the Club was a haven where he could connect with other Croats and reconnect with his language and culture. He was Club President during the early 1990's and along with others, helped guide the Club through the turmoil of the Homeland Wars.

He continues to be a proud Croatian, and made an effort to help others accept the transition from Yugoslavia to the new nation of Croatia. He believes it is important that the Croatian Club continues for the generations, so they have somewhere to appreciate their Croatian heritage.

Joan Barbalich

Joan has spent all her adult life alongside her family at the Croatian Club and has contributed to the Club in all its forms over many, many years.

Joan remembers first falling in love with the Croatian music that her husband Vlado played in their coffee bar. Croatian music and dancing became her passion and for more than two decades she was tireless in organising displays of Croatian dancing, as well as convincing dance instructors to come to Wellington from the Auckland Clubs to teach both young & older people traditional dances.

Joan supported her husband Vlado with setting up and running the Access Radio programme, From Croatia with Love.

Joan for many years has been a stalwart supporter of Club social functions, baking and cooking whatever was needed. She also worked to promote the Club and would encourage and bring along new members in order to keep growing the Club.



NEWS FROM CROATIA

Croatia's 73-strong Olympics team is [ready to compete in Paris](#). Sports Illustrated picked six individuals and teams as [likely medal recipients](#).

[New trains have been ordered](#) for the Zagreb-Split route, arriving in 2026.

The sea temperature [reached 26.7C in Dubrovnik](#) on 15 July, a Croatian record.

LANGUAGE CAFÉ

The much-loved Language Café will take place at **3-5pm on Saturday 27 July** in the club rooms.

- 3:00pm - 4:00pm - Learning activities for the children (in the back room this month)
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm - Language class for adults.

The Language Cafe is run by language teacher Maja Krtalić.

This is a great opportunity to try learning the Croatian language in a relaxed and informal environment. Our library will also be open for you to browse, read and borrow novels, cookbooks, children's books, CDs and language resources.

Language Café has been running since 2021, and it usually takes place every last Saturday of the month from 3 to 5 pm. 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. The bar will be open at 5pm, after the adults session, so please stay and have a quiet drink together.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Membership applications must be notified to members one month before being decided by the Executive. The Executive has received membership applications from:

- Nicholas Busalacchi
- Tom Croskery
- Rebecca Elmslie
- Andrew Henderson
- Jade Johnston
- Rose Moke
- Anna Shaw

Theresa Shaw and Donna Vitasovic have been approved for membership, after their applications were advertised last month.

KEEP IN TOUCH

1. Follow our [Facebook page](#)
2. Listen to *From Croatia with Love* every Sunday from 12.30pm-1pm at FM106.1, or access episodes at the [Access Radio website](#).