

Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Newsletter

November/studeni 2024



This Issue

This issue includes: our last three events of 2024 (Xmas Lunch, Croatian Mass, and Language Café); great info from Maja on the library resources; a book review from Deanna; and much more. The summer picnic will be on 2 February 2025 – hold the date.

Xmas Lunch & Children's Party

Our annual Christmas lunch is being held on **Sunday 8th December**, starting at 12pm (midday) at the Club. Please book and pay by **Saturday 30th November**.

- 12.00pm - kids face-painting with Rainbow Circus, and then a visit by Father Christmas (parents, don't forget to bring a named and wrapped gift for your child to pop under the tree)
- 1.00pm, a delicious Christmas Lunch will be served.
 - Mini dinner loaves served with whipped herb butter
 - Roasted pork loin with apple, mustard and cider sauce (df, gf)
 - Rolled turkey with pancetta, with a pecan nut stuffing
 - Roasted beetroot, creamy feta and rocket leaves, drizzled with balsamic glaze (gf)
 - Green beans tossed with citrus and chives (gf, vegan)
 - Mixed leaves with artichoke, cherry tomatoes and toasted pinenuts (gf, vegan)
 - Rosemary roasted potatoes with lemon, herbs and garlic gremolata (gf, vegan)
- Members, please bring some dessert to share, we welcome traditional Croatian sweet treats!

The costs are listed below and booking details are over the page.

\$30	Financial and Life Members of the Club
\$15	Young people aged 12-17 years
\$0	Children under 12 years
\$50	Non-members or non-financial members



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How to Book for Xmas Lunch

- Please transfer your payment to our bank account:
 - 06-0561-0017339-00, ref: Xmas, code: your surname.
- Please email: secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz with the names of those attending and the amount paid.

Croatian Language Mass – Sun 24 Nov

All members of the Croatian and Wellington Catholic community are welcome to come to Mass on Sunday 24 November at 11.00am, St Anne's Church, 22 Emmett Street, Newtown.

Father Danko Bizjak from Croatia will say the Mass in the Croatian language. He is based in Auckland and is visiting us in Wellington over the weekend.

Join us afterwards at the Club, 32 Hania Street, Mt Victoria for a cup of tea and a light lunch. Members, feel free to bring a sweet treat to share.

The Croatian Catholic Mission, which Fr Bizjak heads, will [celebrate its 120th Jubilee](#) in Auckland on 1 Dec. Our president, Ivan Kolich, will attend.

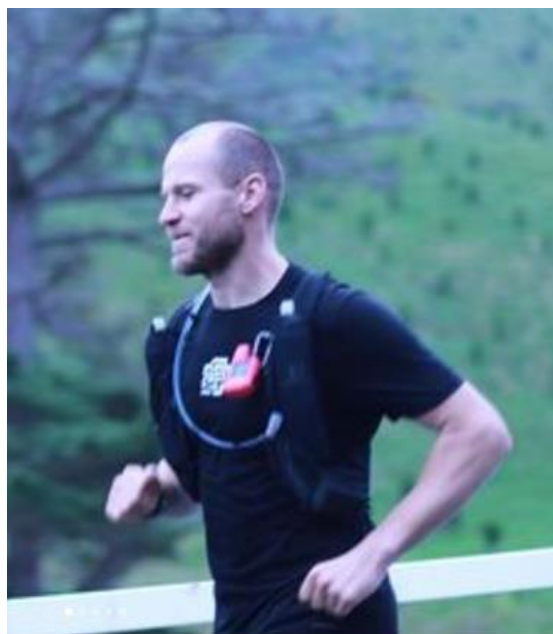
Stefan Ozich's Run

Our member Marica Sevelj let us know about her nephew's effort to run the length of NZ (both ways!) to raise awareness of men's mental health, and funds for Last Chance Project - a Men's Mental Health charity. His brother took his won life last year, which inspired Stefan to take this journey.

Stefan Ozich has already made it from Cape Reinga (leaving on 1 Oct) to Wanaka and we hope to welcome him at the Club when he comes back through Wellington.

You can find out more about Stefan's efforts, and follow his progress, at www.stefanozich.com

The club will give Stefan's cause a donation, and we encourage members to consider doing so too. His [Givealittle page](#) has raised over \$100,000 so far.





Congrats Ivan Sarich!

Ivan Sarich was recognised for his contribution to the club and the community on 28 Sep, being granted life membership at a Special General Meeting. Members stayed on to celebrate his efforts.



New Members

Toby Barach has been approved as a new member.

New member applications have been received from Ivana Barbalich, Daniella Emer-Barbalich, Ivan Tolja and Helen Tolja. They will be considered at the last Executive meeting, and are being advertised here to members, as required by our constitution.

Cooking at the Club

The first cooking session went well, with six people enjoying making three different versions of a filled bread. The next session will be in January or February 2025, making the most of summer produce. Dave Guerin covered the cost of the first session's ingredients, but future sessions will have a small fee. If you'd like to help run a session, or have any suggestion, contact Dave at dave@ed.co.nz or 021 404 334.



Enjoy our Library!

New books in the library!

Again, this year, our library received support from the State Office for Croats Abroad. We purchased several new books, including Croatian cookbooks, language textbooks, and fiction and nonfiction books by Croatian authors in Croatian and English translations. We also purchased several copies of a digital textbook for learning Croatian (A2 level). If you are interested in trying it out, please contact the Club. If there is a book you would like to see in the library, please let us know and we will try to purchase it next time.

Did you know?

- Reading in Croatian can help you improve your language skills. Even if you are a beginner, trying to make sense of a Croatian text can be a rewarding learning experience.
- Reading exposes you to a vocabulary far richer than the one in everyday conversations, and it's a seamless way to pick up the grammar.
- Reading fiction novels (in English and Croatian) can tell you a lot about Croatian culture, society, and contemporary life as viewed through the eyes of writers.
- Reading to and with your children can be a nice family activity and open space for conversation about your heritage. We have many picture books to use (physical books and CDs).

How you can use the library

Anytime the club is open, just come browse and pick up a book. With summer coming, give it a go! There is a simple sign-up sheet, so we know that you borrowed a book and a return box where you can drop them off. You can loan books for a month or two, even longer if you need to. If you are not sure what to borrow, talk to Maja Krtalić, anyone from the committee or other members who have used the library. If you can't come to the library in person but would like to read something, let us know, and we will find a way to deliver it to you.



How you can help promote the library

If you used the library, help us promote its value. You can:



- Write a little summary and/or a comment about the book you read, and we will insert it into the book, so others know what it is about.
- Write reviews for our Facebook page and/or newsletter (this can be anonymised if you prefer).
- Help us start a reading club or a reading challenge!

Any other ideas? We'd love to hear them!



Book Review

Chasing a Croatian Girl – A Survivor's Tale

By Cody McClain Brown

Review by Deanna Barbalich

This book caught my eye, and I certainly wasn't disappointed. It is about an American, Cody who meets his future wife who is Croatian and his experience as an outsider coming to terms with Croats and how they live. I loved his humour, his insightfulness.

He discovered that Croats are very communal, very social, a cup of coffee at a café can last hours as it's about the social connection not the coffee, their pure joy of living, how much they enjoy food, wine, hosting guests no matter what time of the day, and how it's considered rude to be the first one to leave a party.





He discovered that Croatians are obsessed with “drafts” and even in peak summer temperatures you cannot have two windows open as this may cause a “boli glava” (sore head), and it’s a big no-no to go around with bare feet even in summer, you should have slippers or socks on!

I loaned it to my mum Joan who read it twice as she enjoyed it so much. She said she wished she had read it years ago to give her an insight to how Croatians live and to understand her husband better. If anyone is planning on marrying a Croatian, they need to read this!

Language Café – Sat 30 Nov

The last **Language Café** for 2024 will take place at 3-5pm on Saturday 30 November in the club rooms.

- 3:00pm – 3.45pm - Learning activities for the children
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm - Language class for adults.

After 5pm we will celebrate a great year of lessons with the amazing Maja, and the bar will be open for a chat and a drink. Please feel free to bring some food to share for the Language Café.

Tarara Rugby

Radio NZ covered the [Northland Tarara rugby team’s tour of Croatia](#), which started on 21 Oct. All the players were descended from Dalmatian settlers, and the Tarara name was given by local Māori, based on the sound of the language used by the Dalmatians.

The team had a Facebook page for their tour, and you can [check it out here](#), including the result of their last game against the Croatian national team in Makarska, a meeting with the Croatian Prime Minister, and visits to family villages. It looks like they had a great time.

RIP Rosemary Guerin

Rosemay Guerin (née Anticich), mother of club members Phil and Dave Guerin (and three other sons), died on 26 Oct. Dave is the newsletter editor, and was busy with family matters, which is why there was no October newsletter.

News from Croatia

1. Croatia’s Minister of Foreign and European Affairs spoke about [opening new embassies around the world](#), including in Wellington. The opening was mentioned last year, and the old Yugoslav Embassy site in Karori was sold this year (having been transferred to Croatia under a settlement of former Yugoslav embassy property). We’re not aware of any timeline on the new embassy.
2. The Canary Black movie, a spy action/thriller, was [filmed in Zagreb](#) and was released on Amazon Prime on 24 October. There are some good car chase scenes, but a couple of scenes



were filmed by the river in Ljubljana, so don't get confused if you've never seen that part of Zagreb 😊

3. A [statue of a fisherman](#) has been unveiled by the wharf in Makarska, recognising the key traditional profession before tourism became the town's focus.
4. A [new toll collection system on Croatia's motorways](#) will use numberplate recognition or electronic toll collection devices on the dashboard – but not till after summer 2026.
5. A tax relief system will see Croatian citizens returning from at least two years abroad [not paying income tax for five years](#) (it seemed to be an announcement of a new policy, not the passing of legislation). Apparently, it also applies to members of the diaspora, but do seek your own tax advice.

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](#).