

Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Newsletter

April/travanj 2025



This Issue

This issue includes upcoming events (language café, cevapi, and AGM); club news, recent club events, a new club scholarship opportunity, and news from Croatia.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 26 April (3-5pm), Language Cafe

- 3:00pm – 3:45pm – Fun and learning for the children
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm – Language class for adults of all abilities.

Sunday 27 April (2-4pm), Ćevapi (A Taste of Croatia)

- We had 25 people join us for ajvar in May, so it's time to make some ćevapi to enjoy with it!
- We'll be making two different types of cevapi, and maybe some bread to go with it, along with ajvar and sliced onions.
- There will be no participation cost, as the Executive has decided that A Taste of Croatia is a priority, along with Language Cafe, and we want to encourage as much participation as possible.
- If you're keen to cook, drop Dave Guerin a text (021 404 334) or email (admin@croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz), so he has an idea of numbers.
- The club will be open on the day, so if you just want to come along for a chat, and taste the goods at the end, you are very welcome.



Croatian Cultural Society
Wellington (Inc)
HRVATSKI DOM

32 Hania St, Mt Victoria, Wellington
admin@croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz
www.croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz

Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Newsletter

Sunday 25 May (2-4pm), AGM (details to come)

The Executive Committee is pleased to invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Incorporated, which will take place at our Clubrooms, 32 Hania Street, Wellington at 2pm on Sunday 25 May 2025. We will send out more information soon, including relevant forms.

Club News

1. **Embassy Visit**

- The First Secretary, Marija Haramija and her team are holding their next Consular day in Wellington on **Monday 19th May 2025, from 2pm - 6pm in the clubrooms**. They will also hold a Pledging ceremony at 6.30pm, and those eligible will be invited directly by the Consular Team.
- For those wanting to access consul services, you **MUST** make an appointment via email with the Consul Team, as they manage the booking process. An information sheet and the Consular Service Request form has been sent with this newsletter. Please send your completed Service Request form directly to them at: crocons.auckland@mvep.hr. Please note that bookings are on a first in - first served basis!

2. **Membership Applications** New membership applications have been received from: Alison Pavlovich, Marija Vidovich, Zdravko Mihotich, Kay Bacica and Philip Zander, and the 30 days for current members to offer any feedback on their nomination starts from today.

3. **New Members** Following the 30-day feedback period, the Executive Committee has confirmed Petar Tavich; Samara Volkova; Julianne Harvey; Blair McRae; Willow Dearnley and Frances Dearnley as new members of the Club. Dobro došli and congratulations to our new members and we know they will all be a great addition to our Kiwi-Croatian community!

4. **Membership Renewal**

- Our membership year runs from 30 April to 1 May of the next year, and so it is nearly time to renew your annual membership with the Club. Your membership subscription for the 2025/2026 year falls due on **1st May**. As agreed at the last AGM, subscription fees have increased from \$30 to \$40 per annum. Please reach out to a Committee member or email us at: secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz if you need to talk about payment of this fee.
- It would be helpful if all members could pay their fees between 1st May and before 20th May 2025. Hvala puno.

Account details for payment are as follows (please note the account suffix)

Account Name: Croatian Cultural Society Wgtn Inc.

Account No: 06-0561-0017339-30

Amount: \$40

Code: Initial and Surname

Reference: 25.26 Subs

Recent Club Events

Ajvar

The **ajvar-making session** on 23 March was a great success, with 25 people coming down to the club. We had 18 join in the making, and another 7 who came to help, or to taste the final product. It was great to see the club full of people chatting and making new connections.



Nada, Josip and Dave had roasted the capsicum the night before, with Dave using his woodfired oven. Everyone then got involved in picking the skin off many, many capsicums, and a few eggplants. A long cooking process followed giving people a chance to chat and have a drink.



A tasting was done with Nada's recipe up against a commercial ajvar, enjoyed on freshly baked bread. Nada's recipe won the day! We also filled many jars of ajvar for people to take home and enjoy.



Family Tree

Phil Guerin presented his tips on building a family tree on 29 March, after Language Cafe. His presentation is available [on our website](#), and is a good read. Phil has built a large online family tree that includes many Croatian families in New Zealand and their Croatian ancestors (he found a link to pretty much everyone at the session). He is happy to share information to help you trace your own family and he may already have details of some of your family to help you build your own tree. He can be contacted at phil@hague.co.nz

Hrvatski Jezik Croatian Language Scholarship – Closes 30 April

This year we would like to offer a scholarship to a young Club member to attend a Croatian language summer school in Croatia. These are typically mid-July to early August each year and there are several Croatian Universities offering these courses.

Who can apply?

You need to be a financial member aged 18-35 years old.

How do I apply?

Email the Committee (secretary@croatianculturalsocietywgtm.co.nz) **no later than 30 April 2025**. In your email, please include a short paragraph about yourself, and please confirm that you have attended at least one Language Café and one other Club event over the past 12 months, so we know you're an active and committed member.

If you are granted the scholarship, you will need to agree that when you return you will provide a short article to be published in our newsletter, as well as commit to attend the Language Café for 12 months following your return from Croatia.

What does it cost?

The Club will pay directly to the University of your choice, the cost of tuition to a maximum value of €600, and the cost of a single hostel room and services to a maximum value of €1000.

You will pay your own airfares, local transport and any other costs.

What's the benefit?

We want to build a modern language capacity amongst our membership, so our Croatian language learning is strengthened.

How is the scholarship awarded?

Once we receive your application, we will check your eligibility and answer any questions you might have. If there is more than one eligible applicant, we will hold a draw to select the lucky winner! One of our Life Members will make the draw directly after the Annual General Meeting on 25 May 2025. The person selected will have to confirm acceptance and enrol in an appropriate summer school language course within two years.

News from Croatia

1. **Conscription** The new conscription scheme started this month, with a [registration scheme for potential conscripts](#). The Government is targeting 18–27-year-olds, from which a small pool of people will be required to do two months of training. [This link](#) has more detail, but it doesn't answer all questions.
2. **Population Projection** A Croatian academic projected that [ethnic Croatians might make up under half of the Croatian population by 2050](#), based on high numbers of foreign workers currently entering (alongside low birth rates and high emigration).

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](#).