

Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Newsletter

March/ožujak 2025



This Issue

This issue includes: upcoming events (ajvar making, family history, maybe football); club news, recent club events; a new club scholarship opportunity; language learning options; a Croatia tour for young people; an Auckland museum exhibit; and news from Croatia.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 23 March (2-4pm), Ajvar (A Taste of Croatia)

- The capsicums are cheap, so it's time to make ajvar!
- Just like with last year's bread session, we'll try a couple of recipes, everyone can have a go, and we'll try some food at the end.
- Josip and Nada Kolic have shared their family recipe (capsicums only) and we'll do another recipe with eggplant to make a comparison.
- There will be no participation cost, as the Executive has decided that A Taste of Croatia is one of the priority sessions, along with Language Cafe, so we want to encourage as much participation as possible.
- Bring a clean jar along with a good lid if you'd like to take some ajvar home, but you'll need to get stuck in peeling and stirring first. If you're keen to cook, drop Dave Guerin a text (021 404 334) or email (admin@croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz), just 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.

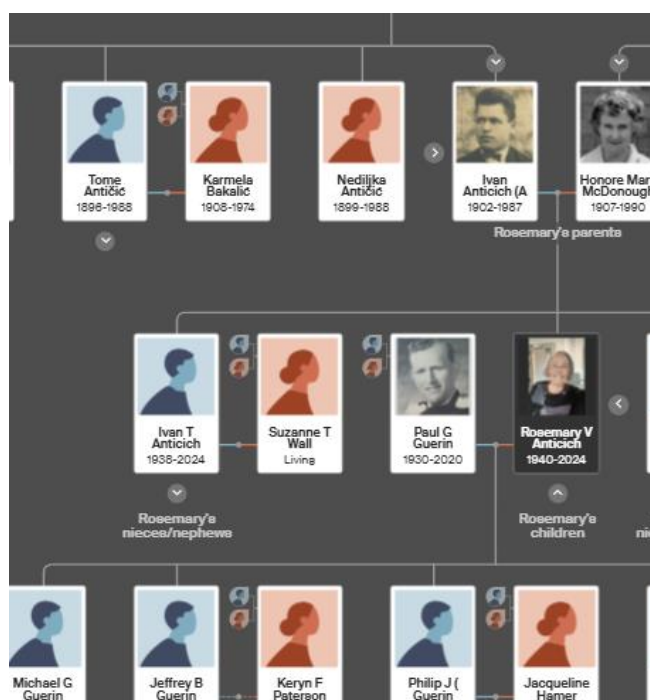


Croatian Cultural Society
Wellington (Inc)
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Saturday 29 March (3-6pm), Family History and Language Café

- **Children's session 3-3.45pm**
- **Adults Language Café 4-5pm**
- **Family History 5.10pm** Phil Guerin has developed a huge family tree and will share a beginner's guide to developing your family tree, including ways to build on your own family knowledge, and avoid too many subscription fees. He'll also be encouraging questions and ideas from attendees, and will show some of the connections between our families at the club.



Football vs France Croatia plays France in the quarterfinal of the UEFA Nations League on Friday March 21 and Monday March 24. Both games are at 8.45am on a weekday. We're not opening the clubrooms at this stage, but if you are keen to watch the games at the clubrooms, let Dave Guerin know at dave@ed.co.nz or 021 404 334.

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

Club News

1. **Consular Issues** Let us know if you have any consular issues to address, so we can let the Embassy know if it is worth making a trip to Wellington, maybe in May-June. It looks like members will have a few citizenship applications to make.
2. **Clubrooms Upgrade** The club has new air pumps, replacing the expensive (and slow to work) wall heaters. There are two wall mounted heat pumps (a big one in the main hall, and a smaller one in the lounge) that are connected to the same base unit. The old heaters are gone, and the walls have been repainted. The fire escape stairs have also been repainted.
3. **New Members** The Executive has confirmed Ivana Barbalich, Daniella Emer-Barbalich, Ivan Tolja and Helen Tolja as new members of the Club. Members were advised on 4 March 2025 of the following membership applications and have 30 days from then to offer any feedback, as per the constitution: Petar Tavich; Samara Volkova; Julianne Harvey; Blair McRae; Willow Dearnley and Frances Dearnley. Further membership applications have also been received from Carlos Bellamy and Mark Goodwin, and the 30 days starts now for them.

4. **Membership Renewal** Memberships roll over on 30th April, and fees are payable from 1st May (no need to pay yet). Members agreed to make the fee \$40 at the last AGM, so that will be the new fee. If you are planning to schedule a payment, please make it to the following account (different from last year) and include your name and “membership”.
- CROATIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY WGTN INC
 - 06-0561-0017339-30

Recent Club Events

There have been several great events since our last newsletter in Nov 2024, so we'll share some words and photos.

Christmas Lunch, 8 December We had a lovely turnout for the Christmas lunch and the leftovers all found good homes. Remember to bring back your plate if you borrowed one!

Club Picnic, 2 February The weather cleared up and attendees had a lovely time at Days Bay.



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First Language Café of 2025 and Citizenship Information Session, 22 February

- The Language Café had its first session for 2025, and we are set to run until November on the last Saturday of each month.
- Jude Urlich held an advice session about gaining Croatian citizenship, based on her own family's journey.

International Women's Day, 9 March 30 women and girls celebrated the day with a high tea, and recognised some of our longest-serving Club members. There was lots of positive feedback on the day. The attendees also raised \$100 for Wellington Women's Refuge. We are sharing a link to a [YouTube video](#) from the Croatian Women's Football team, that was viewed on the day.



Hrvatski Jezik Croatian Language Scholarship

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.

Croatian Heritage

The Croatian Embassy sent through a notice about upcoming language programmes. We've used Google Translate below, but have also shown the original Croatian. The University School of Croatian Language and Culture is the sort of programme for which the club scholarship mentioned above can be used (there are other programmes too).

<p>Poštovani,</p> <p>Hrvatska matica iseljenika i ove godine organizira svoje tradicionalne programe koji podrazumijevaju učenje hrvatskoga jezika i kulture.</p>	<p>Dear all,</p> <p>This year, the Croatian Heritage Foundation is once again organizing its traditional programs that include learning the Croatian language and culture.</p>
<p>a) Sveučilišna škola hrvatskoga jezika i kulture (za polaznike 17+)</p> <p>Sveučilišnu školu dugi niz godina zajedno provode Sveučilište u Zagrebu i Hrvatska matica iseljenika, a ove godine će se održati 23. lipnja – 18. srpnja 2025. u Zagrebu. Škola je namijenjena mladeži hrvatskoga podrijetla i svim drugim studentima koji žele upoznati Hrvatsku, steći ili proširiti svoje znanje o njoj, naučiti ili usavršiti hrvatski jezik.</p> <p>Više informacija nalazi se na ovim poveznicama: https://matis.hr/programi/sveucilisna-skola-hrvatskoga-jezika-i-kulture/ (hrvatski)</p> <p>Detaljne informacije o ostalim programima i aktivnostima Hrvatske matice iseljenika nalaze se na našoj mrežnoj stranici www.matis.hr.</p> <p>Zahvaljujući na suradnji, srdačno pozdravljam.</p> <p>Lada Kanajet Šimić, prof.</p>	<p>The Croatian Heritage Foundation is organizing its traditional programs this year, which include learning the Croatian language and culture.</p> <p>a) University School of Croatian Language and Culture (for participants 17+)</p> <p>The University School has been jointly implemented by the University of Zagreb and the Croatian Heritage Foundation for many years, and this year it will be held from June 23 to July 18, 2025 in Zagreb. The school is intended for young people of Croatian origin and all other students who want to get to know Croatia, acquire or expand their knowledge about it, learn or improve the Croatian language.</p> <p>More information can be found at these links: https://matis.hr/en/news-en/the-university-school-of-croatian-language-and-culture-2/ (engleski)</p>
<p>b) Mala škola hrvatskoga jezika i kulture (za polaznike 9 – 14)</p> <p>Mala škola provodi se od 1993., a podrazumijeva jezične i kreativne radionice te sportske i zabavne aktivnosti namijenjene ovladavanju hrvatskoga jezika i upoznavanju drugih sastavnica hrvatskoga identiteta. Ove</p>	<p>b) Small School of Croatian Language and Culture (for students 9-14)</p> <p>The Small School has been running since 1993 and includes language and creative workshops, as well as sports and entertainment activities aimed at mastering the Croatian language and getting to know</p>

<p>godine će se održati 14. – 25. 7. 2025. Više informacija nalazi se na ovim poveznicama: https://matis.hr/programi/mala-skola-hrvatskoga-jezika-i-kulture-4/ (hrvatski)</p>	<p>other components of Croatian identity. This year it will be held from 14-25 July 2025. More information can be found at these links: https://matis.hr/en/news-en/little-summer-school-of-croatian-language-and-culture/ (engleski)</p>
<p>c) Hrvatski internetski tečaj HiT-1 HiT-1 je prvi sveučilišni početni e-tečaj hrvatskoga kao inoga jezika u Hrvatskoj, a provode ga Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Hrvatska matica iseljenika i Sveučilišni računski centar Srce. Više informacija nalazi se na ovim poveznicama: https://matis.hr/programi/hrvatski-internetski-tecaj-hit-1-3/ (hrvatski)</p>	<p>c) Croatian online course HiT-1 HiT-1 is the first university introductory e-course in Croatian as a foreign language in Croatia, and is implemented by the University of Zagreb, the Croatian Heritage Foundation and the University Computing Center Srce. https://matis.hr/en/programs-en/croatian-internet-course/ (engleski)</p>
<p>Detaljne informacije o ostalim programima i aktivnostima Hrvatske matice iseljenika nalaze se na našoj mrežnoj stranici www.matis.hr.</p> <p>Zahvaljujući na suradnji, srdačno pozdravljam.</p> <p>Lada Kanajet Šimić, prof.</p>	<p>Detailed information about other programs and activities of the Croatian Heritage Foundation can be found on our website www.matis.hr.</p> <p>Thank you for your cooperation, and best regards.</p> <p>Lada Kanajet Šimić, prof.</p>

Domovina Birthright

The [Domovina Birthright Program](#) is another opportunity for 18-30 year olds of Croatian descent to explore Croatia over two weeks, starting in Dubrovnik, and ending in Zagreb. Applications close 31 March, and the trip is 1-13 June. The cost is US\$1,050, and it's subsidised by the Croatian Government, covering hotel, meals and internal transport.

Auckland Museum

The Dalmatian Cultural Society has worked with the Auckland War Memorial Museum to create a [new museum display case on the Dalmatian community in NZ](#). It was launched in January with music from the Tamburica Orchestra and a selection of songs from the Society's Choir, as well as a Tarara Folklore Ensemble kolo performance. Check it out next time you are in Auckland.

News from Croatia

1. **Eurovision** Croatia selected Marko Bošnjak as its Eurovision entry earlier this month. You can check out his [song Poison Cake on YouTube](#). It isn't as catchy as last year's Baby Lasagna effort (Rim Tim Tagi Dim), but he has some time to work on it before the mid-May event.
2. **OECD** Croatia's entry into the OECD has hit a roadblock with the US asking to [defer decisions on one part of the application](#), but it seems to be due to wider trade issues with the US and EU.
3. **Lights** Zagreb's Festival of Lights Svjetla runs from 19-23 March and the planned projections on buildings [look beautiful](#).
4. **Personal Heritage** Croatia Week has a [lovely profile of NZer Ivanka Zonjic](#), and her path to recover her original family name, and gain Croatian citizenship.

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](#).