

Croatian Cultural Society Wellington Newsletter

May/svibanj 2025



This Issue

This issue includes upcoming events; club news, recent club events, a meeting on a language scholarship, New Exec, an email from Croatia, and news from Croatia.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 31 May (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.

Saturday 31 May (5.15pm), Dan Državnosti - Statehood Day

- From 5:15pm - Statehood Day celebrates the first modern multi-party Parliament that met on 30 May 1990. (Croatia declared independence on 25 June 1991, and that day is marked as Independence Day, or Dan neovisnosti).

Sunday 8 June (11.30am), Catholic Mass in Croatian, St Anne's Church, Newtown

Club News

- 1. Membership Applications** New membership applications have been received from Rebecca Gaelic, Barnaby Nicholls, Malina Momčilović, Renee Urlich, Nicholas Urlich, and Stephanie Matich. The 30 days for current members to offer any feedback on their nomination starts from today.
- 2. New Members** Following the 30-day feedback period, the Executive Committee has confirmed Alison Pavlovich, Zdravko (Derek) Mihotich, Kay Bacica, Philip Zander, and Marija Vidovich 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!
- 3. Membership Renewal**
 - Our membership year runs from 30 April to 1 May of the next year, and so it is time to renew your annual membership with the Club (thanks to the 85+ people who



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have already done so). Membership subscription for the 2025/2026 year was 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.

Account Name: Croatian Cultural Society Wgtm Inc.

Account No: 06-0561-0017339-30

Amount: \$40

Code: Initial and Surname

Reference: 25.26 Subs

Recent Events

The AGM was held yesterday, and we have covered some items elsewhere in this newsletter.

Embassy Visit

The Croatian Embassy's First Secretary, Marija Haramija, visited the clubrooms from 2pm-6pm on Monday 19th May to carry out consular work, and then held a citizenship ceremony at 6.30pm. Well over 40 people came through the clubrooms across the afternoon – thanks to the Committee members who supported Marija and our guests.



Ćevapi

Our April Ćevapi session drew about 20 people to the club. Nada and Dave each made a ćevapi recipe the night before, and the participants got their hands (or their gloves) dirty rolling some of them out. The cooking process was quick, which allowed us to move on to eating!

Since we made ajvar the month before, we had that with the ćevapi, along with onions, bread rolls and fresh lepinje. The food was enjoyed, as the photo shows.

As with all the cooking sessions, the chats between the cooking were a very important part of the day. It's great to see people enjoying each other's company at the club!



Croatian language scholarship - meeting

We advertised a new Hrvatski Jezik Croatian language scholarship in the March and April 2025 newsletters, to support a younger person to study the Croatian language in Croatia, and come back to help with our Language Café. We had a big discussion about this at the AGM and while pretty much everyone at the meeting liked the idea of the scholarship, there were some reasonable concerns about process. The meeting agreed unanimously to work through the details before awarding a scholarship.

The Executive Committee invites all members who have an interest in the process for awarding the Club's Hrvatski Jezik Croatian language scholarship to help us develop a robust process.

Please come to a meeting at the Club on Wednesday 4 June at 7.30pm. If you can't come, please send us your thoughts and questions. We'll be reopening nominations again soon so watch this space!

New Executive

The previous Executive was re-elected unopposed, which left two Committee positions open for nominations at the AGM. Phil Guerin was the only person nominated at the AGM, and was elected.

This year's Executive is listed below. Detailed roles will likely be assigned at the next Executive meeting.

- Ivan Kolich (President)
- Nick Barbalich (Vice-President)
- Jude Urlich (Treasurer)
- Kay Parker (Secretary)
- Dave Guerin (Executive)
- Phil Guerin (Executive)
- Katrina Henderson (Executive)
- Josip Kolic (Executive)
- Ashley Tvrdeic (Executive)

If you would like to help out with something, touch base with any Exec member or the Secretary. The club succeeds when people get involved.

Email from Croatia

We had an enquiry from a Croatian student keen to visit NZ – contact the editor if you have any suggestions for him (admin@croatianculturalsocietywgtn.co.nz).

- Hi, I'm 21 year old Computer Engineering student from Varaždin studying in Rijeka. I'm close to finishing my bachelors degree, so I'm planning to come to New Zealand in September to travel a bit while also working. Last year I did internship in Italy and now I'm in Poland as an exchange student. I'm looking for student-appropriate jobs, e.g. working in a hotel, resort, at a pool...
Jobs in tourism would suit me the best, although I wouldn't prefer bartending.
Although a long shot, if You know any IT firms looking for interns, I would be grateful to give them a call.
Regarding visa, I can obtain a working holiday visa pretty quickly, which would allow me to stay in NZ for up to 12 months.

News from Croatia

1. Croatia has World Cup football qualifiers against Gibraltar (7 Jun) and Czechia (10 Jun), both at 6.45am.
2. Changes to property tax rules, which target holiday rentals, have led to a [drop in tourist beds in Zadar](#), and a record number of people [changing their legal address](#) (possibly to ensure that a property isn't charged tax as a holiday rental...).
3. Ćevapi prices [are rising](#) in Croatia.
4. [Digital nomad visa durations](#) are increasing in Croatia, which might be a good option for people who don't have citizenship, but want to try living in Croatia.
5. Dalmatian grape varieties [are being grown inland](#) as climate changes.

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](#).