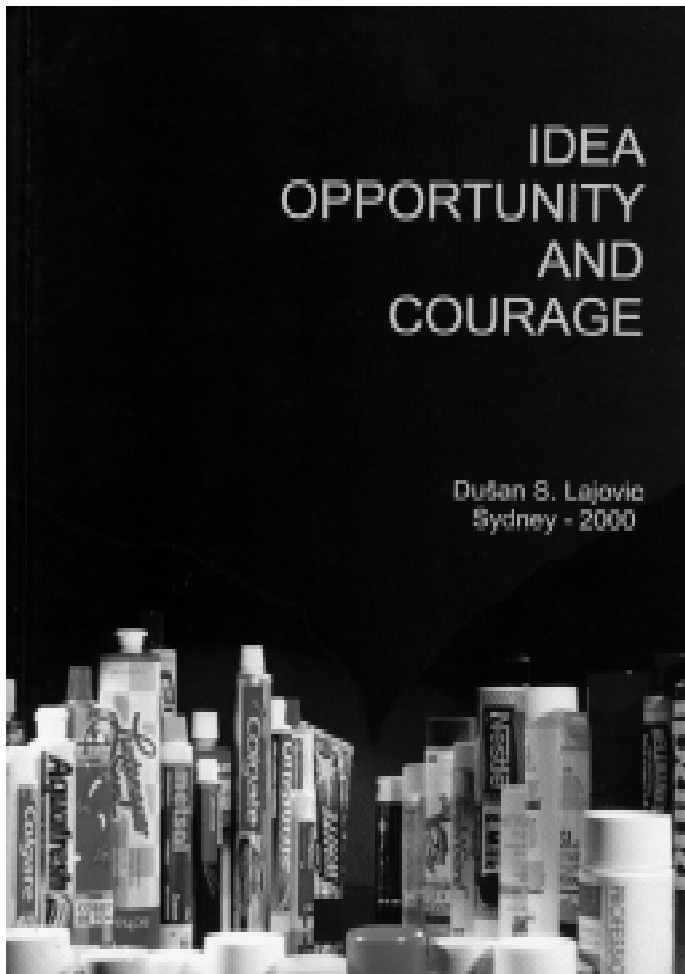


# The voice- Of Slovenia

Year 2 / No 12 - May 2001

## New book by Dušan Lajovic



### IDEA OPPORTUNITY AND COURAGE

Dušan S. Lajovic  
Sydney - 2000

IDEA,  
OPPORTUNITY  
AND  
COURAGE  
HISTORY OF THREE GENERATIONS OF THE  
**LAJOVIC FAMILY**  
IN THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY 1920 -2000  
INCLUDING  
WORLD HISTORY OF TUBE MAKING  
INNOVATION TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED  
AND ITS PARTICIPANTS

## INTRODUCTION By Dušan Lajovic

Originally, the idea to write a book about Impact International was inspired by my grandchildren. I only had in mind to write something simple in relation to Impact's history in Australia. The difficult task was finding a balance between the different readers' interests.

The fact remains that our forty one year history is seen not only by myself but also by my contemporaries as being based on mutual trust and respect of each player. Indeed, there was always an overall desire to achieve success by playing the game fairly.

Impact International (starting as Impact Containers in 1959) developed from a single aluminium tube line to more sophisticated areas, which formed the base for further expansion outside Australia. This book will help show our families, children and grandchildren what has been achieved by Impact. On behalf of my family and myself, I would certainly like to record Impact's deepest appreciation of the loyalty, support and dedication that we have experienced between client and supplier and between employer and employees. This is one of the fundamentals of building successful, long term business relationships.

Everyone employed in the past or still employed by Impact International has taken a part in this and we should all be proud. In expanding my thoughts about this publication, I realised that it would be incorrect to record only the chronological details of Impact's growth. I felt that I should also elaborate on the progress we achieved by implementing our own production techniques and develop I therefore decided to include technical descriptions of the processes we use compared to those used elsewhere.

After considerable reflection I came to the conclusion that I should also present a macro view of the industry and include a section on the history of metal tubes, starting in North America where the invention was



*Dušan Lajovic, well known  
businessman,*

made, switching to Europe where the invention was put into practice and rounding out the story by including details of further developments in Japan and Australasia. Such an overview shows the rise of the metal tubes and then their replacement by laminated tubes. I felt it would be proper to start with the main events and happenings in the industry.

It was my father and his business activities in Slovenia that taught me the industry and the maxim that I should never have only one product line. He also taught me, after we lost all our possessions, not to have an interest in only one country. These have been my guiding principles in the re-establishment of the Lajovic industrial tradition.

A chance meeting in 1957 with Joe Langley, then Managing Director of Colgate Palmolive, gave me the opportunity to re-start the family tube business although I must concede that we did have a head start as I carried the knowledge and had the necessary connections in Europe to establish a tube manufacturing plant in Sydney.

Good fortune smiled on me again when my lawyer, friend and ultimately, my partner, Mr. David Graham Thomson saw the opportunities ahead. David had the confidence to invest with me in my new venture. He was even kind enough to let my father have 20% of the company as I wished to repay him for giving me, an 18-year-old, a 20% share in the Lajovic family company in Ljubljana in 1947. After Mr. Thomson's death, the Lajovic family became the sole owners of Impact International after the share transfer from his family. One could not wish for a better partner and trustworthy friend. Even though he was not engaged in the day to day running of the business he believed in Impact International and its people.

Another milestone was passed in 1980, when Colgate Palmolive Company decided to switch from aluminium to laminate tubes.

Maybe you didn't know that Slovenn TV 31 - Sydney is broadcasting the program in Slovenian and English every Monday at 6.00 PM

The then Chairman and C.E.O. Mr. Keith Crane, made sure that his executives did not exclude Impact International as a supplier of this new product. The change in technology from aluminium to laminated tubes opened up new horizons for Impact.

I met Keith Crane for the first time in 1968 and, over all the years, I have had immense respect for him. He is a visionary and a good counselor. When I complained that we would have to change most of our aluminium tubes to laminated tubes and that we would have to invest heavily in new technology, his response was "Dusan, do not forget that with every change there are new horizons and new gains to be made". He was indeed right, so we invested in new technology. First we bought unprinted laminate from other manufacturers, then turned it into printed laminated tubes. We also moulded our own caps, shoulders etc. Later, we started to produce our own laminate and, at that stage, there were only a few companies in the world with the technology to do so.

I am quite sure that a number of people were skeptical about our ability to develop the required technology and to produce such a sophisticated laminate but we did it and with exceptional success. I must state that this was due mostly to my son Dimitri's interest and dedication to the project.

With all these efforts, we were able to produce a full range of tube products under one banner. This was unique in the world and, early in 1962, when we started exporting, we put Impact's name and Australia's name on the world map for this activity.

Later chapters of this publication tell how we started by producing aluminium tubes only for Colgate in Australia, Philippines, Malaysia and New Zealand, although we also serviced other companies outside Australia, such as Unilever, to a small degree.

Impact Group has now over 600 customers worldwide for its finished and semi-finished products. To finish our exports of semi-finished Australian products we built the necessary plants in different countries around the world.

Business philosophy has now changed due to the new buzz word "globalisation" and initially Impact's sales dropped because of this fundamental change. However, with our resilience, flexibility and innovative approach to business, we have now largely regained our original position and will expand.



# 2001 Cans of the Year Awards

## Aerosols



## Gold

Impact Manufacturing Ltd, New Zealand  
The "Innovation" can



**ALLAN SAYERS**  
Publisher - The Canmaker



**JOHN NUTTING**  
Editor - The Canmaker

Impact International is built on the understanding and enthusiasm of a young group of people with different backgrounds - either born in Australia or migrants. When we first started in Sydney, our relationship was one of comradery rather than boss/employee and with this relationship and immense goodwill, we worked hard to succeed and contribute to a new, friendly and free country - our home. This was done with a spirit of adventure and great satisfaction. As in any community or working location where a number of people are employed, there are always happy moments and tragedies. All of us have known both but we have survived and overcome these with reason and dignity. Fortunately, in all 41 years of Impact manufacturing, we have never had a really serious on the job injury or death. Without the support, loyalty and commitment of my 'mates' at Impact Sydney, the Impact group would not be possible. I still look forward to, going to the factory on Monday morning and greeting everyone on my rounds.

I would like to mention at this point that during the 41 years history of Impact, there has been absolutely no disruption - not even for a minute - of our business through industrial disputes. We have communicated change clearly and ahead of time and settled issues through negotiation.

Also, we have personnel of 14 different nationalities and not a signal dispute, which shows that people from different ethnic backgrounds can work happily together in a free and just country.

We have assembled a set of photographs which are reproduced throughout this book. They are mostly from the first decade of our business. Unfortunately, some of our photos were destroyed in the fire in 1978, however, Hans, Rudi, Charlie and Matthew kindly searched their own drawers and albums and came up with their old photographs ensuring a good variety.

I apologise for not mentioning everyone by name in this book.

There have been so many people involved in our success it would be impossible to list everyone. This book is dedicated to my father from whom I inherited a passion for the tube business. It also provides me with an opportunity to formally express my gratitude to my employees, past and present, to our clients - especially Colgate, and all our suppliers. With over forty years of successful operation, our interest in developing new products and the dedication of our team I am certain we have a very bright future ahead of us.

These have been very successful and happy years for me personally. It gave my father great pleasure to see the family back in the tube business and I know that everyone associated with us, one way or another, also has fond memories.

How better to express myself than with one sincere "THANK YOU!"

**DUSAN S. LAJOVIC**

## PREFACE

Dusan Lajovic's association with Colgate-Palmolive in Australia goes back about 40 years to one of those unbelievable happenings in life. Dusan and the then Colgate Australia Managing Director, unknown to each other, were not only seated together in an aircraft talking pleasantries and sharing a brief capsulation of their respective business interests, but in so doing they recognised the possibility of perhaps being able to help one another satisfy an important business problem - different for each of them but mutually beneficial.

As a result, Dusan had the courage and the support to found the Impact International Group which provided Colgate with the opportunity to purchase quality dental cream tubes from an alternate supplier to the then only and therefore monopolistic supplier. This relationship grew during the 1960's to see the establishment of Impact International joint ventures in Malaysia and the Philippines where similar monopolistic and sub-standard quality supplier situations existed.

Dusan is living proof that the day of the entrepreneur, and indeed, the inventor, had not vanished in the 1950's nor had it in the 1980's when Colgate took the worldwide decision to change from aluminum tubes to laminate. Dusan instantly recognised the dangers to his business. He met the challenge with a forthright move into the then somewhat unknown area of laminates. His instincts and foresight also saw him invest in a laminator in Smithfield which allowed him to control quality and costs to a far greater extent.

Always a most creative individual, Dusan established the first continuous cast aluminum line in Australia and then the latterday laminator. He has always been willing to take risks to assist in market development for Colgate and other suppliers and has seized every opportunity to help Colgate, even if it meant travelling to other countries in which he did not then have a presence. Whilst the tube industry worldwide, at about 20 billion tubes, is a somewhat smallish part of the total packaging market - tubes have always been the preferred means for dispensing paste-type products..

He has built a good team behind him. He has encouraged Dimitri and others to search for innovation and to stimulate constant improvement. He has taught them to recognize the need to keep abreast of vital changes in the Global consumer products business environment, as the Impact International Group are an important link in today's world-wide supply chain.

These introductory words are a Preface to Dusan's book in which he also hopes to capture some of the history surrounding the invention of the tube, its innovative production methods and its continual diversification in materials utilisation.

His is a great example of a true partnership between supplier and manufacturer and of course, to each others benefit - he has indeed been an outstanding, devoted and tenacious partner for Colgate around the world - a pleasure to work with, balancing a keen sense of humour, with a drive for business excellence.



Keith Crane  
Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Colgate-Palmolive-Company  
New York USA

25 October 2000

## The Australian Tour of prominent Slovenian writers and poets

Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide,  
Melbourne, Canberra  
July 22 – August 15

**TOMAŽ ŠALAMUN** – author of over 40 collections of poetry, widely translated, winner of many awards, visiting professor of poetry at a number of American universities, one of the leading European poets

**EVALD FLISAR** – bestselling author of novels and short stories, internationally performed playwright, editor-in-chief of Slovenia's main literary magazine *Sodobnost* (*The Contemporary Review*), current president of *The Slovene Writers' Association* (and as a matter of interest a member of *The Australian Society of Authors* in 1973-74, when he lived in Sydney and wrote plays for ABC Radio)

**ANDREJ BLATNIK** – novelist and short story writer with quite a few awards and translations to his name, regarded by most as the leading writer of his generation, fiction editor at Cankarjeva založba, the third largest publisher in Slovenia, editor-in-chief of the monthly magazine *Literatura*

**MAJA VIDMAR**, born 1964, regarded by many as the finest author of erotic poetry writing in the Slovenian language today, winner of a prestigious German award, translated into several languages

Australia is of a special interest to them, not only because of its migrant Slovenian population, but also and perhaps especially because of its vibrant contemporary literature, which should (and could) be far better known in Central Europe than it is at the moment. In the same way they feel that Slovenian literature should be better known in Australia. The typical tour will consist of public readings at universities, writers' centres, literary festivals, book fairs, cultural centres and other places where there is sufficient audience for poetry and prose. They may be able to solicit the help of the Australian Slovenes to.

## Welcome to Event's world!

Our mission is to design, develop and build, safe, custom-tailored, boats and yachts of the excellent performance, highest quality and distinctive in their beauty for the people with vision all around the world.

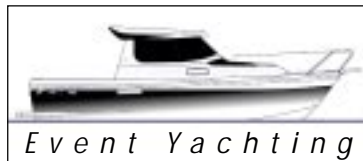
Event-Yachting company started by a group of sailing enthusiasts and experts in yacht building that wanted to design and build a perfect racing yacht. Naval architect Andrej Justin made the designs and the whole team started to create the moulds for 40 feet long racer named Light Wave 40. Just a year later the first LW 40 won her first regatta.



(Event-Yachting is a modern shipyard founded in Slovenia which is known for its long traditions in the art of boat building and quality craftsmanship)

We are fulfilling our mission by using the most recent technology in combination with dedicated and experienced team of people that have been constructing, building and living with or on the boats all their lives. All boats are built according to specifications from Germanischer Lloyd and CE regulations for the highest possible safety category.

## Letter to the SLOVENIAN MEDIA HOUSE Glas Slovenije



Dear Sir/Madam!

*Almost a year had passed since when we decide to come into very interesting Australian market. We collected a lot of information and those given by you also appears to be very useful. Therefore we wish to thank you again and want to inform you that you are very welcome to see our first two models (motorboat E 750 and sailing boat E 34) coming in Australia. The great premiere will be held by our authorized dealer for Queensland - Leisure Marine on the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show between 24. and 27. of May. We also already strat negotiations with potential dealers for Victoria and New South Wales, but we want to find others to cover the rest of Pacific region with our network, too.*

For detail informations please visit our web side:  
[www.event-yachting.com](http://www.event-yachting.com) or send us

E-mail: [Zoran@event-yachting.com](mailto:Zoran@event-yachting.com)

We are fully at your disposal for any other information.

**Best regards,  
Zoran Grom  
Event Yachting d.o.o.**



## LAUDA IN 2001

Lauda has just begun it's 5<sup>th</sup> weekly service from Australia to Vienna. We now offer direct one-stop services to Europe on all our flights, with seamless connections to over 100 destinations in Europe

**Prices to Slovenia start from  
AUD \$1,455**

\*Price varies depending on seasonality



## Why Fly Lauda?

**5 times a week direct to Europe  
Connections to over 100 European cities  
Our state-of-the-art Boeing 777 aircraft  
Our "Supernatural Service" reputation  
Membership of the Star Alliance  
Your "Restaurant in the Sky"**



**Lauda....Supernatural**

# NEWS

STA  
Slovenia Weekly

**Ljubljana/Washington, 18 May (STA/AP)** - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell announced in Washington that **U.S. President George W. Bush and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are scheduled to meet in Slovenia** on either 16 or 17 June. The news was also confirmed by the Slovene Foreign Ministry.

The Slovene Embassy in Washington received a communication from the White House in which it was written that President Bush will visit Slovenia at the end of his tour of Europe in mid-June, where he will also hold his first meeting with President Putin. Bush is also expected to meet the Slovene leadership during his stay in Slovenia.

Slovene Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek expressed satisfaction over the fact that presidents Bush and Putin have chosen Slovenia as the place where they will hold their first ever meeting, it was written in a press release from Drnovsek's office. The selection of Slovenia for the meeting is the expression of excellent relations that Slovenia holds with both the U.S. and Russia. The host Drnovsek has met twice with Putin this year: in St. Anton in February and Moscow in March. He also met with Bush in 1999, when the latter was still the Governor of Texas.

Slovenia is placing considerable importance to this summit, since it hopes that the meeting will assist to greater stability and the consolidation of peace in the world. The visit of the U.S. and Russian presidents will also be an opportunity for further strengthening in Slovene relations with both of the world's superpowers, the Prime Minister's office added.

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel told Slovene national radio that Slovenia found out about the meeting several days ago, when the Prime Minister was addressed a question, asking him whether the country is willing to host the summit. Drnovsek answered that Slovenia would be only too happy to host such a summit. "This is an important event, which will be spectacular, as it will place Slovenia at the centre of the world for at least several hours," thought Rupel.

According to Rupel, President Bush is scheduled to meet with Slovene Prime Minister Drnovsek and President Milan Kučan. The talks will focus on bilateral relations and Slovene interests for membership in Euro-Atlantic organisations. Slovenia has the capacity to hold such a meeting, while preparations for it will begin in the upcoming days, added Rupel.

**Maribor, 18 May - Events in Pekre**, on the outskirts of Maribor, ten years ago were the first armed tests of the decisiveness of Slovenia to defend and implement its decision on independence. They were also a sign of things to come at that time, during which Slovenia succeeded: it now stands as a mature and credible country, awaiting membership in the EU and NATO, said Slovene President Milan Kučan in Pekre while addressing a celebration to mark the Slovene Armed Forces day and the tenth anniversary of the independence war.

Armed Forces' Chief-of-Staff Ladislav Lipic and Maribor Mayor Boris Sovic also addressed the crowd numbering in their thousands and consisting of soldiers participating in the 1991 struggle to protect Slovenia from Yugoslav aggression and famous Slovenes from all walks of life. Among the attendants were also Defence Minister Anton Grizold and Speaker of Parliament Borut Pahor. A book "*It All Started in Pekre*" (*Začelo se je v Pekrah*), marking the occasion, was presented to the public. At the presentation, an official of the Maribor municipality, which had released the book, said that in 1991 citizens of Maribor said "no" to the Yugoslav People's Army, who worked in the favour of a great Serbia.

In the book, the most respected politicians from Maribor and officers from the territorial defence of that time, tell their stories of the events that occurred in Pekre ten years ago, when the Yugoslav People's Army (JLA) sought to prevent Slovenia's attempt to become independent with a show of force. The citizens of Maribor spontaneously and unitedly opposed the attempts of the stronger JLA. By gathering in numbers in Pekre and before the barracks of the JLA, they prevented the JLA soldiers from leaving and showed that the will of the Slovene people, which was expressed at the independence referendum, cannot be suppressed through military aggression.

**Tbilisi, 18 May** - Slovenia was unanimously elected to the **European Committee of Interpol** for a four-year term, on the final day of the European regional conference of Interpol, an international organisation of criminal police. The conference was held in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi from 16 May. Slovenia applied for membership last February, the Slovene Police reported. The regional conference, attended by 45 Interpol members, focussed on combating organised crime in Europe, on police co-operation in fighting drug-trafficking, car thefts, smuggling of people, terrorism and illegal migrations. Interpol associates 178 member states, with Slovenia being its member since 4 November 1992.

**Koper, 18 May** - The disunity of the Italian centre-left as well as the majority voting system have opened the door to Silvio Berlusconi's ascent to power. The centre-right coalition now has the opportunity to radically reform the country on the basis of Berlusconi's "social agreement" as outlined during the election campaign: less taxes, extensive public works, and more security, a Slovene paper comments Friday on the election victory of Italian right-wing parties.

On the other hand, the election has exposed that the centre-left's platform had no substance, with the Left Democrats as the core of the Olive hitting their lowest point in history, Primorske novice, a Koper-based paper, observes.

Berlusconi's foreign policy is something that is of particular interest to Slovenia. Some possible shifts have been hinted at by a candidate for a new economics minister, Giulio Tremonti, when he announced that Italy would adopt a more prudent policy on the EU enlargement towards the East. His statement has partly denied Slovene Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek's optimism about the "European orientation" of the Berlusconi coalition.

Slovene and Italian police forces launched a tighter co-operation in supervising the state border under the centre-left government. However, some are now wondering whether Umberto Bossi's threat to erect a 325-kilometre wire mesh along the border to fight illegal immigration would come true.

Those Italian citizens who left the former Yugoslavia after WWII have voiced their opinion too, stating that Slovenia's integration into the EU should be made conditional upon the restitution of the property they were deprived of in Istria. Furthermore, Milos Budin, a new Senator and a member of the Slovene minority, is concerned that the implementation of a law to safeguard the minority could be delayed. It is more than obvious that nothing will be like it used to be in the shade of the Olive, even if some in Slovenia would like it to be, Primorske novice conclude.

**Ljubljana - Slovene Dnevnik:** Italian voters were seduced by Berlusconi's promises of lower taxes, higher pensions, new jobs, new motorways. Important reforms and Italy's full integration in Europe, something that the former government coalition focused on, did not seem important enough for the voters to get afraid of Berlusconi's wild liberal capitalism. Berlusconi's victory and a disastrous defeat of the Italian left do not mean that the voters were naive. All internal conflicts and the lack of a credible leader ruined the left. One wonders what kind of government in Rome would be better for Slovenia: an unstable one that would not last long and would

need the support of the extreme right, Bossi's Northern League, or a stable one without Bossi that might carry out most of the tasks. Although Slovenia's experience with Berlusconi seven years ago was quite bad, one must admit that Berlusconi said nothing against Slovenia during the election campaign.

**Ljubljana - President Milan Kucan addressed a letter to Pope John Paul II congratulating him on his 81st birthday.** "I take this opportunity to express my respectful recognition of your bravery, wisdom and commitment to the understanding of all people, nations and countries, regardless of their religious, cultural and spiritual differences, which you demonstrated during your recent visit to Greece, Syria and Malta," the Kucan wrote, according to the President's Office.

**Velenje** - Slovene home appliance manufacturer, the Velenje-based **Gorenje Group**, consolidated sales revenues at SIT 123.4 billion (571.5 million euros) in 2000, which is up 18.4 percent over 1999. The group's net profit amounted to SIT 2.7 billion (12.5 million euros) in 2000, up nine percent over 1999.

**Koper** - A Koper-based regional **TV station, RTV Koper - Capodistria, is celebrating its 30th anniversary** of broadcasting this month, an occasion to be marked by a jubilee ceremony to be held in Portoroz and broadcast live on the Slovene national television on Thursday. 30 years of broadcasting has also been marked by the opening of a new studio, financed by Slovenia's public television, RTV Slovenia, and the Italian government. The ceremony is also to be attended by Slovenia's President Milan Kucan.

**Ljubljana - Slovene Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel spoke on Slovenia's current foreign affairs** for Saturday's issue of the Maribor-based daily *Vecer*. Rupel revealed his expectations about EU enlargement and Slovenia's accession to NATO, the country's relations with Croatia, the FRy, as well as those with Italy and Austria. As regards long-term relations with Yugoslavia, Rupel believes that they will be better than those with any other country in the region.

Rupel rated Slovenia's relations with the U.S. as very good, while the country also has very friendly ties with France and Great Britain. Germany also pays a lot of attention to Slovenia, said Rupel, pointing to the upcoming visit of German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at Slovenia's tenth anniversary of independence. In Rupel's opinion Slovenia could become a full EU member in 2004. Waiting for Poland would prolong the matter even further to 2005, which is a likely scenario.



**JANKO GRIVIC** †  
(1922-2001)

*Janko Grivic was born in Celje Slovenia on the 19th of August 1922. He was very well known within the Slovenian community of Wollongong where he lived since coming to Australia in 1956. He passed away peacefully on the 20th of May 2001 amongst family and friends. Janko's friendly character and the words of encouragement, he always shared amongst those closest around him, will be sadly missed. Janko is the grandfather of Peter Grivic who is well known as a master of the diatonic and piano accordians and member of the group Domači Fantje. He was the major inspiration behind Peter's love and passion for his music.*

*We send our deepest sympathy to the whole Grivic family and to all his many friends who loved and respected this special and grate man!  
Dragi Janko, naj vam bo lahka avstralska zemlja!  
Lenti Lenko and friends*

#### GLAS SLOVENIJE

Še ne tako dolgo nazaj smo srečali našega naročnika, Janka Grivica v Wollongongu in na njegovem domu posneli z njim intervju. Takrat je tudi izrazil svojo veliko ljubezen do vnuka Petra, ki ga je naučil igrati na harmoniko. Bil je poln energije in ponosa da je Peter postal "Kralj avstralske polke". Petru in vsem njegovim naše najgloblje sožalje. Vemo kako zelo je ljubil svojega starega očeta, ki mu je nadomestoval tudi očeta. Janko, počivajte v miru!  
Uredništvo

## 5-th Anniversary of GLAS SLOVENIJE

*Dear Stanka and Florjan!*

*I remember at one of our SNS (Slovenski narodni svet Viktorije) meetings at Kew in 1993 that Stanka Gregoric bought a 'rough copy' of the 1st issue of Glas Slovenije for everyone present to see and comment. Before this time, the Australian Slovenian Community was sadly lacking a weekly or bi-weekly newspaper which many other fellow nationalities had organised years before. It was time that someone in our community took the initiative and began producing something which the community needed. Stanka was a person with many years experience in producing other kinds of periodicals such as 'Slovensko Pismo' as well as working on ethnic radio for a number of years so it made sense that such an individual would be behind such an idea- that of producing a paper which was aimed at the whole Slovenian community dealing with issues concerning Slovenians in Slovenia and around the world.*

*8 years seems a long time and yet time has passed so quickly!!!! Over this time Glas Slovenije has reported on a number of very important events which have happened in our community as well as witnessing the massive changes occurring in our Free and Independent Slovenia over this time. Much has happened - to much in fact to mention in a short article!!!!*

*From time to time, I have had the pleasure of writing articles in English for this newspaper- indeed so many 'hard core' Slovenians believe that it is not appropriate that English pages be included in such a newspaper such as Glas Slovenije! Indeed we could not disagree more with this statement! The English pages of Glas Slovenije have allowed the 2nd and 3rd generation youth who may not be able to read and understand Slovenian to show an interest in and appreciate what is happening in Slovenia and in Slovenian communities living around the world.*

*Glas Slovenije has done much over the last 8 years to promote Slovenia and the Slovenian community in Australia in a positive light, not only in the written word but also in supporting various projects being undertaken by Slovenians here in Australia and in Slovenia.*

*Congratulations to Stanka Gregoric and Florjan Auser for reaching this milestone - 8 years of Glas Slovenije - a newspaper very well known not only throughout the Australian Slovenian community but also in Slovenia and throughout the world. We hope that Glas Slovenije prospers for many long years as it's our Slovenian community and Slovenia itself that are benefitting for the hard work put in by these two individuals.*

*Iskrene čestitke za Vašo in seveda tudi našo obletnico!  
Lenti Lenko  
Melbourne, 21. 5. 2001*

**Slovenian World Congress is organising:  
"Science as a Path Towards  
Unity of Slovenians"  
Second World Congress of Slovenian  
Scientists and Researchers  
University of Maribor  
September 20-22, 2001**

## Pred izidom ...

**Op.u.:** Po zaključku redakcije Glasa Slovenije, je prispelo nekaj pisem in sporočil za objavo. Zaradi tega so objavljeni slovenski teksti v angleški prilogi.



**Veleposlaništvo  
Republike Slovenije  
Canberra**

### OBVEŠČA

Spoštovani,

Urad za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu nas je obvestil o možnostih glasovanja na zakonodajnem referendumu o zakonu o spremembah in dopolnitvah zakona o zdravljenju neplodnosti in postopkih oploditve z biomedicinsko pomočjo, ki bo izveden 17. junija 2001. Na referendumu imajo pravico glasovati vsi državljani Republike Slovenije, ki bodo najpozneje 17.06.2001 dopolnili 18. let starosti in imajo volilno pravico.

Glede na določbe Zakona o referendumu in ljudski iniciativi bodo volišča organizirana samo na območju Republike Slovenije. Izseljenci oz. drugi državljani R Slovenije, ki se nahajajo v tujini, bodo lahko glasovali samo, če se bodo na dan glasovanja 17. junija 2001 (oz. na dneve predčasne glasovanja 12., 13. in 14.06.2001) nahajali na območju Republike Slovenije. Izseljenci (torej osebe, ki nimajo prijavljenega stalnega prebivališča na območju R Slovenije) bodo lahko glasovali na podlagi potrdila, ki ga bo na dan glasovanja volilcu izdala upravna enota, zato tudi ni potrebno, da bi se posebej prijavljali za glasovanje oz. vpis v volilni imenik. Za dodatne informacije se lahko obrnete na naše veleposlaništvo.

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Komisija Državnega zbora Republike Slovenije za odnose s Slovenci v zamejstvu in po svetu pripravlja ob podpori predsednika državnega zbora g. Boruta Pahorja srečanje Slovencev vsega sveta, tako slovenskih narodnih manjšin v sosednjih državah kot tudi drugih Slovencev, ki živijo v evropskih in neevropskih državah. Srečanje bo sovpadalo s praznovanjem 10. obletnice samostojnosti Republike Slovenije, kar mu bo dalo še poseben pomen. Srečanje bo v torek, 3. julija 2001, v prostorih Državnega zbora R Slovenije, od 10.00 do predvidoma 17.00 ure. Pripadniki slovenske skupnosti, ki bodo v tem času v domovini, so vabljeni, da se srečanja udeležijo. Veleposlaništvo programa srečanja še ni prejelo, vendar ga pričakujemo v kratkem. Zainteresirane prosimo, da da se za dodatne informacije obrnejo na veleposlaništvo.

*S spoštovanjem,  
Helena Drnovšek Zorko  
Odpravnica poslov*

*/Op.u.: Več o referendumu v tej številki Glasa Slovenije na strani 6/*

## Objava

Društva dr. France Prešeren – Moskva

V tisku:

### SLOVENSKA ZGODBA

avtorja Andreja Lenarčiča  
Zgodovinski esej na 80-tih straneh  
Primerno darilo!

Če želite biti na seznamu podpornikov projekta, ki bo objavljen v obeh knjigah, je dovolj vsaka vsota, ki se vam ne zdi prevelika.

Vsem sponzorjem pripada po en izvod knjige.

Knjiga v slovenščini in angleščini bo izšla septembra.

V počastitev

10. obletnice neodvisnosti Republike Slovenije,

30. letnice Ruske slovenistike in

100. obletnice prve knjižne izdaje poezij

dr. Franceta Prešerna v ruščini,

bo v Moskvi 25. junija 2001

svečano predstavljen

### SLOVENSKO-RUSKI ALMANAH

Na 288. straneh, formata A 5, v nakladi 3000 izvodov je okoli 60 prispevkov in, preko 100 ilustracij. Almanah je sestavljen iz publicistično-jezikoslovno-zgodovinskega bloka in bloka slovenske leposlovne literature, zaokroža pa ga splošna informacija o Sloveniji.

Na naslovni strani bo barvni odtis umetniške slike "Hipotetično srečanje Prešerna in Puškina".

Kam se lahko obrnete?

E-mail: drpreseren@bigfoot.com.

tel.: 7 (095) 202-27-24, fax.: 7 (095) 200-12-37,

Naslov: Društvo dr. F. Prešeren

p.p. 17, 103104 Moskva, Rusija

### What is new in Adelaide – South Australia

**Victoria Zabukovec** has written a book titled *In Their Own Words*. The text is about the history of the South Australian Country Women's Association (SACWA) from 1979 to 1999. The book was published in 2000 at Kent Town.

\*

The book *From Many Places: The History and Cultural Traditions of South Australian People* covers the mix of cultural communities that comprises South Australia. The Slovenian entry is from page 433-439. The book is published by the Migration Museum.

\*

**Ashley Hribar** has performed at the Recitals Australia program on April 29. The recital was held at Maugham Church. Ashley has a First Class Honours Music Degree from the *Elder Conservatorium of Music* and he has won numerous prizes and awards for his piano playing. Ashley was recently awarded the *Dame Ruby Litchfield Scholarship*, enabling him to continue further studies in Europe.

**Slovenian Club Library** has a rich and varied collection of books catering for everyone's tastes. Tourist information makes a visit to the bookshelves a must for anyone planning a trip back to the motherland. The library is administered by Mrs **Cilka Petrena**.

\*

**The Festival of the Coast** is a new community festival (Ed.: in the beginning of the year) initiated by the City of Charles Sturt to provide a voice for music, song, poetry, story-telling and visual arts. From Aboriginal heritage to reconciliation and continuing efforts to protect the coastline the Festival is a snapshot of the past, present and future. The Slovenian Choir Adelaide participated in the Festival too.

\*

A New Style of Parade, *Carnival of Adelaide*, in conjunction with the Come Out Festival, was held in March. The Slovenian Choir Adelaide was invited to take part and they enjoyed at the parade as always.

/Slovenia-South Australia Newsletter/

## NEWS

STA  
Slovenia Weekly

**Ljubljana** – Leader of the largest opposition party, the Social Democrats (SDS), **Janez Janša congratulated Prime Minister Janez Drnovšek and the Slovene diplomacy** on Slovenia's exceptional promotion opportunity at the upcoming June meeting between the U.S. and Russian Presidents George Bush and Vladimir Putin which will be also in Slovenia.

Earlier Janša held a news conference at which he stressed the opportunity for Slovenia's promotion at the event. Jansa said that this is an opportunity the Slovene government should take, particularly now that Slovenia is in the final stage of EU and NATO accession. Jansa said that those who contributed to the meeting taking place in Slovenia deserve to be paid a compliment.

**New York** – Slovenia became one of 11 new **members of the executive committee of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)**. This is after elections for 18 UN organisations and agencies were held at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Slovenia's bid for membership in UNICEF's executive committee was endorsed unanimously.

Slovene Ambassador to the UN Ernest Petric stressed that the election of Slovenia is a result of a good bid, as well as the good work of the Slovene UNICEF. Petric added that the three year term in UNICEF's executive council (2002 - 2005) means that Slovenia will have its say on the activities of this important international organisation.

**Portorož/Slovenia Weekly/** – The sixth international boat show, Internautica 2001, was held from 8 to 13 May in the Portorož Marina. A total of 134 exhibitors from 26 countries presented vessels, nautical equipment and services over a surface area of 22,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Nova Gorica – HiT Gorica became the Slovene football Cup winners** with a 4:2 (1:0) win over Ljubljana's Olimpija in Thursday's second leg of the final. Gorica thus triumphed 4:3 on aggregate.

**Ljubljana** – An international **meeting of writers was held from 23 to 27 May at the Slovene Alpine resort of Bled**, with participants coming from 30 countries. The 34th gathering was organized by the Slovene Writers' Association (PEN) in co-operation with the association Writers for Peace, with this year's topic being the role of literature in the third millennium.

**Ljubljana** - Ljubljana is expected to host its **49th Summer Festival** between 14 June and 13 September featuring more than 70 acts performed by 3,500 artists from a total of 25 countries. The Festival, which became a member of the European Festival Association last autumn, is one of the oldest annual festivals of its kind in Europe.

This year's festival will be divided into four sections: June will witness a theatre programme at Ljubljana Castle, July will be marked by Opera performances, with special emphasis on Giusseppe

Verdi, August will run to the tune of chamber music at the Castle, while a special promenade, the path between the district of Trnovo and the Krizanke Open Air Theatre, with a total of five music events is to be seen in September. The instrumental-vocal project by Rok Golob "Funk & Latin Jazz Are in Town", performed by the Radio Slovenia Big Band with guests, is expected to mark the gala opening of the 49th Ljubljana Summer Festival on 14 June. The Festival will close on 13 September with a concert "From Klezmer to Astor Piazzolla" performed by the Radio Slovenia Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Lior Shambadal and featuring soloist Giora Fiedman on the clarinet. Eight theatre productions were chosen by Boris Kopal to be performed in June, including a premiere of a single-actor play, "Homeland, Look, an Artist in the Castle Prisons". The leitmotif of July's shows will be five Verdi's operas (Nabucco, Traviata, Ri-goletto, Aida, Macbeth), marking 100 years since his death. Requiem will be conducted by Krzysztof Penderecki. A concert of John McLaughlin featuring Shakti will take place on 3 July.

Eight Slovene and foreign painters have been invited to attend the fourth international gathering of painters from 3 to 6 August. Further information and the box office for the festival can be found at the Internet site [www.festival-lj.si/](http://www.festival-lj.si/)

**Rome - Pope John Paul II received all the Slovene bishops** who were paying a week-long visit to the Vatican. During his address to the bishops, which he recited in Slovene, the Pope said that from the reports on the conditions in the Slovene diocese and the Catholic Church he could see the great apostolic zeal which is the inspiration behind the Slovene bishops and clergymen. In his speech the Pope also touched upon the development of society in Slovenia: "Efforts for the whole advancement of men and women of your country is a part of the Church's mission," the Pope said and added that "during the fulfillment of its own mission the Church comes across the state; this opens new potentials for beneficial bilateral co-operation, with the full respect of the legal autonomy of both sides."

**Rome - Slovene rowers won three golden medals at an international regatta in Italy's Pielduco.** Slovene Olympic gold-medalist Luka Spik was first in the skiff competition, Jani Klemencic, Milan Jansa, Grega Sracnjek and Miha Pirih came in first in the coxless four part of the regatta, while Matija Pavsic and Andrej Hrabar won gold among coxless pairs. The Slovene team had already won two gold medals on Saturday. Again Spik was the fastest skiff and Klemencic and Jansa were the first coxless pair. Sracnjek and Pirih were third in coxless pair competition. Slovenes Ziga Galicic and Bostjan Bozic were also third among double scullers and so were Tomaz Pirih, Anze Poljanec, Andrej Hrabar and Matija Pavsic among coxless fours.

**Ljubljana - Southeast Europe Children's Rights Action Network (SEECRAN),** a Slovenia-based international organisation, was founded. Numerous non-governmental organisations from Southeast Europe, which have analysed the status of children in their countries, have co-operated on the project over two years and prepared plans for further co-operation and lobbying on local, national and international levels. SEECRAN is being founded by six regional non-governmental organisations, while all non-governmental organisations in the region are invited to join the network. The interest for SEECRAN has been growing recently, with recognition by UNICEF and support coming from abroad.

**Ljubljana -** A poll published in the daily *Dnevnik* reveals that 55.1 percent of Slovenes support the changes to the act on **in-vitro fertilization**, which allow single women to have test-tube babies. 34.1 percent reject the changes, while 10.7 percent of the polled persons were undecided on the issue. Only 29.4 percent thought that a referendum on this issue is needed, while the large majority (60.4 percent) saw it as unnecessary. Over half of the polled persons indicated they would participate in the referendum, while 27.6 percent expressed that they will not. A total of 700 people participated in *Dnevnik's* poll. The referendum is scheduled for 17 June.

**Novo Mesto /Slovenia Weekly/ -** The 2001 **Plecnik Award** for outstanding achievement in architecture was conferred on the architects **Aleš Vodopivec and Nena Gabrovac** and the landscape architects Dušan Ogrin and Davorin Gazvoda for their work on the Srebrnice Cemetery near the Novo mesto.

**Dolenjske Toplice - The European League for School Quality (ELSQ)** was established in Dolenjske toplice, Southern Slovenia. The founding meeting of the league, a initiative of the headmaster of the St. Gregorius College from the Netherlands Bob van de Ven, was partaken by representatives from around 15 European schools. More than 20 schools have already applied for membership in the ELSQ. The league aims to educate teachers and students for a joint and tolerant life in a united Europe, irrespective of political, economic and opinions. Member schools will co-operate in joint project and exchanges of teachers and students. The meeting was organised by St. Stanislav college, a Slovene Catholic High School.

**New York/Houston - The Slovene video-artist Ema Kugler** received the award for best short-film screenplay at an international independent festival of film and video in New York. She also received the **Platinum Remi award** for best experimental short film for *Homo Erectus* at the 34th Worldfest, an international film festival carried out from 20 to 29 April in Houston, Texas. The 46 year-old Ema Kugler is the author of numerous video films, performances and art installations. She received a Bronze Bear for her video film *The Visitor* at the Austrian Festival of Nations (Festival der Nationen) in 1996. She has also received the Sphinx award for her entire video opus at VideoMedeja, an international festival in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

**Ljubljana - Tourism-generated** foreign currency inflow totalled US\$ 956.8 million in 2000, up 13 percent in real terms from 1999 and a rise of 1.8 percent in real terms over 1998, figures released by the Bank of Slovenia show. On the other hand, Slovene citizens spent US\$ 517.2 million on travelling abroad, an increase of four percent in real terms from 1999 and of 14.5 percent from 1998. Thus, the foreign currency surplus from tourism amounted to US\$ 439.6 million in 2000, up 22.4 percent in real terms from 1999, but down 7.3 percent from 1998, according to the latest edition of *Macroeconomic Mirror*, a publication issued by the Government Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD). A total of 1,957,116 tourists spent their holidays in Slovenia last year, of which 1,089,549 were foreigners. The total number of tourists increased by 11.9 percent from 1999, with the number of foreign guests rising by as much as 23.2 percent.

**Ljubljana -** Slovene mobile telecommunications customers prefer telephones made by **Ericsson, Nokia and Siemens**, according to a survey taken by some 7000 visitors that visited the Eon Mobile web page in March. The three telephone makers received 64 percent of all votes. The survey also shows that Slovenes like to purchase new mobile telephones; two-thirds of the respondents are planning to purchase a new phone in the next year.

**Ljubljana - Dejan Srhoj, a 23-year-old member of the Ljubljana Opera and Ballet House's ballet company,** is this year's winner of the **Lidija Wisiak Ballet Award** for his extraordinary artistic interpretation of the role of King Kashchei in Igor Stravinsky's "Fire-Bird" in the 1999 and 2000 seasons. Srhoj will receive the award, conferred by the Slovene Society of Ballet Artists and named after the Slovene ballerina and pedagogue Lidija Wisiak (1906-1993), before the evening ballet performance on stage the Ljubljana Opera and Ballet House on 26 April, which was World Dance Day.

The president of the ballet society Dr. Henrik Neubauer read the official address at World Dance Day, written by director of the Frankfurt Theater am Turm, William Forsythe. According to the commission conferring the award, Dejan Srhoj surprised over and over again with his natural dance "charm", receiving well-deserved applause from the audience in addition to most favourable critical reviews. In his role of *Kashchei*, he has demonstrated that he has developed into an extremely suggestive dancer with an extraordinary technique, a dancer acquiring dance culture, someone the ballet art can count on.

**Ljubljana - France Rotar, a sculptor** and an associate professor of the Ljubljana-based Academy of Fine Arts, died in Ljubljana aged 68. After graduating in Ljubljana he continued studies in Verona as well as Paris. Rotar, who had received several prestigious awards for his work at home, was a master of bronze sculpture, and was a strong influence on the Slovene arts scene in the 60s.

**Krško -** A project to establish a University of Southeastern Slovenia is being carried out under the Valvasor Research Centre from Krško, with mayors of three municipalities already signing an agreement on the co-operation of the Posavje region in the project's execution. The project anticipates that at least two faculty curricula could be set up by the academic year 2002/2003. Chairman of the Valvasor Re-search Centre, Martin Bratanic, is convinced that a university centre would serve to increase overall knowledge and speed up the region's development. Bratanic believes that the project could attract established experts from Slovenia and abroad, and that the university would help keep young experts in the region. The seat of the future university is to be the town of Kostanjevica na Krki, which offers enough opportunities for quiet research work, post-graduate studies, conferences and social activities. Kostanjevica could also be the seat of the proposed faculty for global co-munication, while the facilities of the technical vocational school in Krško could be the seat of the university college of technology and the faculty of logistics systems. Other faculties and colleges are to be set up in the towns of Sevnica and Novo mesto, in the Kozjansko region, as well as in the region of Bela Krajina. Officials in the Posavje region are well aware that a project like this requires years of hard work, this is why they have already started collecting data on experts from the region who would be willing to participate in the project. They also aim at attracting retired professors and experts from abroad, especially Croatia and Bosnia. This is to be a fourth university centre in Slovenia, along with the existing Universities of Ljubljana and Maribor and the Koper Higher-Education Centre, where several faculties are to be set up in the following couple of years.

**Ljubljana /Slovenia Weekly/ -** Slovenia's economic risk outlook is very firm, in fact it is the lowest in the region, according to the May issue of the Dun & Bradstreet International Risk & Payment Review. Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) has for some time been predicting that a slowdown in the EU, which is only expected to record growth of 2.7 percent, will result in Slovenian exports falling and companies shifting from foreign to domestic demand. However, Slovenian exports to the EU are currently still on the increase. D&B expects Slovenia's economy will expand by four percent, rather than by 4.5 percent as predicted by the Slovenian Government. The reason for such an outlook, according to D&B, is that Slovenia's small and relatively open economy will be unable to insulate itself fully from the envisaged downturn in EU demand.

