

SREBRNI JUBILEJ V ZAVETJU VSEH SVETNIKOV

**SILVER JUBILEE in the
SHELTER of ALL SAINTS**

(Front cover picture: Belmore Basin Wollongong)

Margaret Hatežič

Srebrni Jubilej
V Zavetju Vseh
Svetnikov

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Shelter of All Saints

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UVOD

9. Novembra 2008 bomo obhajali 25. obletnico od kar imamo slovensko cerkev in klubske prostore v Figtree (Wollongong NSW).

Namen te knjige je, da se zahvalimo Slovensko avstralskemu klubu Planica, takratnemu predsedniku Ivanu Rudolf, vsem odbornikom in vsem Slovencem, ki so pripomogli, da so se klubski prostori in cerkev lahko kupili. Tudi vsem, ki so delali in vodili klub zadnjih petindvajset let, da se je lahko dolg poravnal in tudi, da so se zgradila balinišča in povečala dvorana.

Zahvala gre tudi slovenskim duhovnikom, ki redno prihajajo med slovenske vernike v Wollongong že od leta 1951, ko sta prišla prva dva slovenska duhovnika iz Amerike med avstralske Slovence, pa do danes (2008). V lepem in slabem vremenu jim ni težko priti 100km daleč, da lahko imamo slovensko službo božjo.

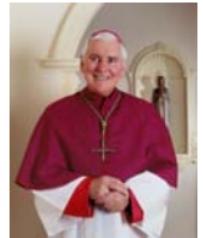
PREFACE

On 9 November 2008 we celebrated 25 years since the establishment of All Saints Slovenian Church at Figtree (Wollongong NSW).

The aim of this book is to thank the members of the Slovenian Australian Club Planica, their president at that time, Ivan Rudolf, committee members and all Slovenians who helped with the fundraising, donations, and all the voluntary work they put into the project to buy the property. Furthermore it serves to thank the hard working people who worked diligently over the last 25 years and to the Slovenian priests who regularly come from Sydney to celebrate mass.



A Message from Bishop Peter Ingham



I am pleased to be associated with you as you celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the All Saints Church in the Wollongong suburb of Figtree in 1983.

As you celebrate the Silver Jubilee of your worship in All Saints Slovenian Catholic Church, as Bishop of Wollongong, I honour with affection the Slovenian Catholic Community in the Diocese. May I join the many who are congratulating you, praying for you, your families and your Pastors as well as giving thanks to God with you for the commitment of faith, hope and love with which Slovenian Catholics have enriched the Illawarra.

After the horrible dislocation of World War II, Slovenians were among the many Europeans who migrated to Wollongong in search of work and a new life. With the arrival of Slovenian clergy from the USA in 1951, Mass for your community was celebrated firstly at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, then at the former Villa Maria Chapel behind the Nursing Home in Corrimbal Street, before the Slovenian Australian Club Planica, was able to purchase the former Anglican church premises at Figtree.

My predecessor, Bishop William Murray, rejoiced with your community as he celebrated the blessing and official opening of the Slovenian Catholic Church of All Saints on 27 November 1983.

I have witnessed the affection you have for your long-serving and dedicated priest, Fr Valerian Jenko OFM OAM, who has been a pastor and friend to generations of Slovenian Catholics since his arrival at St Raphael's Mission, Merrylands in 1963.

His successor, Fr Darko Žnidaršič, is now able to build on the legacy of Slovenian Catholic faith and culture that you and your forebears have bequeathed.

The Slovenian Community not only has integrated very successfully into the local community and into our parishes and schools, but you have also enriched our Diocese with your distinctive contribution of faith and culture.

Every blessing and best wish for the future

Ad multos annos

Gratefully yours

Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD

BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Sporočilo škofa Petra Inghama

Z veseljem se pridružim vašemu praznovanju 25. obletnice otvoritve slovenske cerkve Vseh svetnikov v Figtree leta 1983. Ko vi slavite vaš srebrni jubilej katoliške cerkve Vseh svetnikov, jaz kot vaš škof spoštujem slovensko skupnost v wollongongski škofiji. Pridružim se vsem tistim, ki vam čestitajo in molim za vas, vaše družine in vaše duhovnike. Zahvalim se Bogu za vašo vero, upanje in ljubezen s katero so slovenski katoličani obogatili Illawarro.

Po strašni drugi svetovni vojni so Slovenci bili eni od mnogih novih naseljencev, ki so prišli v Wollongong, da najdejo delo in si ustvarijo novo življenje.

S prihodom slovenskih duhovnikov iz Amerike leta 1951 so se začele slovenske maše v Wollongonu. Prvo so bile v St Francis Xavier katedrali, potem pa v Villa Maria kapeli v Wollongongu, preden je Slovensko avstralski klub Planica kupil cerkev v Figtree. Moj prednik, škof William Murray se je veselil z vami, ko je blagoslovil vašo cerkev Vseh svetnikov 27.11.1983.

Vidim vašo ljubezen do požrtvovalnega patra Valerijana OFM OAM, ki je vaš duhovnik in priatelj cele generacije katoliških Slovencev od njegovega prihoda leta 1963. Njegov naslednik pater Darko Žnidaršič lahko sedaj gradi na slovenski katoliški veri in kulturi, ki ste jo vi in vaši predniki dali. Ne samo, da se je slovenska skupnost dobro vključila v lokalno skupnost v naših farah in šolah, tudi je obogatila našo škofijo z značilnim prispevkom kulture in vere.

Blagoslov in najboljše želje za bodočnost.

Vaš škof Peter W. Ingham DD

V Zavetju Vseh Svetnikov

Ob praznovanju 25. obletnice blagoslovitve cerkve Vseh svetih, Figtree – Wollongong NSW, november 2008

VESELEMU PRAZNOVANJU srebrnega jubileja blagoslovitve cerkve Vseh svetih v Figtreeju se pridružujem s hvaležnostjo Bogu, da sem mogel nekaj let delati skupaj z vami, dragi rojaki in ljudje drugih narodnosti, ki ste doprinesli svoj velik delež, da je anglikanska cerkev Vseh svetih postala najmlajše slovensko katoliško svetišče na tleh Avstralije.

Bila je sobota, 11. septembra 1982, ko sem v modrini pomladanskega dne prvič pristal v Sydneyu. Naslednji dan je bil seveda slovesen sprejem pri sv. Rafaelu v Merrylandsu in po kosilu je odpeljal poln avtobus mladih družin za srečanje s slovensko skupnostjo, ki je imela takrat nedeljsko mašo v kapeli Villa Maria v Wollongongu.

Prvo srečanje z vami je bilo že na razgledni točki Bulli. Spomnim se, da je sedaj že pokojni Ciril Škofic, doma z Brezij, prinesel tja domačega vina rekoč: "Brezjan Ciril za Cirila Dolenjca. Brez cvička ne gre!" Zanimivo, kako gre potem naša življenska pot: Tudi Ciril Dolenjec je postal za šest let brezjanski Ciril! Toda to je druga zgodba.

V življenju se ponudijo priložnosti in če jih posameznik, družina, skupina ali narod zamudijo, se ne povrnejo več. Tako je tudi skupina Slovencev v Wollongongu, zbrana v klubu Planica, zvedela, da je na prodaj dvorana, cerkev in hiša, kajti anglikanska župnija, ki je to upravljala, se je selila v večje in nove prostore. S predlogom so prišli seveda tudi k p. Valerijanu in meni, ki sem se šele razgledoval po novih razmerah, kaj drugačnih od Slovenije: Da bi navdušili slovensko skupnost v Wollongongu in okolici za nakup vseh teh prostorov. Srečali smo se na domu Ivana in Marinke Rudolf. Po spominu obujam srečanje – tam so bili še pokojni Milan Sirc, Marica in Karlo Kerčmar, Ema Mailow in morda še kdo. Seveda so bili pomisleki, ki so prihajali z različnih strani. Sam zase vem, da sem po srečanju s skupino, ki je bila pobudnik, našel dovolj razlogov za to, da sem jih lahko podprl. Vse nastajanje boste seveda popisali kronisti in ljudje, ki ste bili ves čas aktivni soustvarjalci, zato tega seveda ni treba meni.

Zapišem naj le, da se z veseljem spominjam živahnega, mladostnega utripa pred 25. leti in še potem: Obnova cerkve, sodelovanje z vami in umetnikom Cvetom Mejačem iz Queenslanda, ki je ustvaril čudovite podobe za vašo cerkev: Marijo Pomagaj, sv. Frančiška Asiškega, zadnjo večerjo. Spominjam se naročila za krono za Marijo in Jezusa v Sloveniji, ki sem ju osebno prinesel s seboj, skupaj s Križanim, ki ga je naredil iz gline kartuzijanski pater v Pleterjah.

Cesto iz Merrylandsa do Figtreeja sem poznal do potankosti in z letalsko točnostjo sem pri vsakem kilometru vedel za prihod v Figtree. Kako lepo se je razvijal verski, kulturni in družabni utrip občestva!

Uvedli smo sveto mašo vsako drugo in četrto nedeljo v mesecu, kar je še danes. V adventnem in postnem času smo imeli sv. maše ob petkih zvečer, prav tako v maju in oktobru. Pa še za vse praznike. Vstajenjsko procesijo na veliko noč sem obhajal trikrat: zjutraj v Merrylandsu, sredi dneva v Figtreeju, zvečer v Canberri. Nepozabna mi je bila vsakoletna pot na sveti večer v Figtree, kjer sem imel ob polnoči polnočnico.

Pater Valerijan je predlagal in zaživel je navada, da smo vsako mašo in vse dogajanje kronološko zapisovala v poseben zvezek. Vedno sva zabeležila tudi obisk. In zanimivo je verjetno danes pogledati zapiske izpred 25 ali 20 let.

Sodelovanje je bilo vedno zgledno. Pevovodinja Barica Brodnik, ki sem jo klical za mojo avstralsko mamo, je vedno našla mlade organiste, ki so s skupino pevcev vadili pred mašo in po maši: njena hčerka Mojca, Vesna Hatežič, Andrew Žičkar, ki še danes tako zavzeto dela. Mladi romarji iz Slovenije s Svetovnega dneva mladih v letošnjem juliju ga niso mogli prehvaliti! Zaživel je tudi mladinski zbor!

Potem je prišla sestra Francka Žižek, ki je še dodatno obogatila lepoto bogoslužja in pestrost kulturnih nastopov v Figtreeju in seveda v Merrylandsu, pa tudi po drugih krajih, ki jih oskrbujemo iz Sydneysa. Mežnar Hans Konrad in potem Ciril Škofic – sedaj oba že pokojna - sta vzorno skrbela za cerkev. Nenehno aktivni pobudnik in še sedaj zaslužni predsednik kluba Planica Ivan Rudolf z ženo Marinko je zgledno in potrpežljivo vodil razgibano delovanje. Planica Wollongong je edini slovenski klub, ki ima svojo cerkev! Verjetno je moral kdaj tudi kakšno slišati na ta račun; najprej pomisleki z ene strani, potem pa tudi kaj z druge strani.

Zaslužni pa ste vsi, ki ste sprejeli razne odgovornosti v upravnem odboru kluba, pri raznih dejavnostih, od kuhinje, od koder je bila vedno prinešena večerja patru, sestri in drugim; vsem, ki ste skozi vseh 25 let z veseljem in ponosom oživljali to svetišče in ta slovenski prostor med goro in morjem, kar menda pomeni aborigenska beseda Wollongong.

Hvala vsem, s katerimi smo pred četrt stoletja in še potem do leta 1992 skupaj zavzeto ustvarjali podobo tistega časa in to zavzeto delate še danes. V molitvi se spominjam tolikih, s katerimi smo se takrat srečevali, pa so že v družbi vseh svetih.

Hvala neumorni Margaret Hatežič, ki sedaj dokumentira preteklost in sedanjost in me je povabila, da lahko z vami delim tudi ta lep, praznični čas – srebrni jubilej blagoslova vaše cerkve.

Čestitke. Naj še naprej zlati!
Lepo pozdravljeni in Bog živi!

pater Cyril A. Božič OFM,
sedaj pri sv. Cirilu in Metodu v Melbournu, ki v letošnjem letu praznujeta 40. obletnico blagoslovitve naše prve slovenske cerkve v Avstraliji.
Melbourne, 25. avgusta 2008

In the Shelter of All Saints

I would like to join with gratitude in the celebration of a silver jubilee of the All Saints Church in Figtree. I am grateful that I was able to work a few years with you dear fellow-countrymen, you have worked very hard so that the Anglican Church became the smallest Slovenian Catholic centre.

I arrived in Sydney on Saturday 11 September 1982. On the next day, a Sunday, I met you all in Wollongong at the Slovenian mass in Villa Maria Chapel. On our way to Wollongong we stopped at the Bulli lookout where we were met by some of you. I remember the late Cyril Škofic from Brezje met us there. He brought some home produced wine and said “Ciril from Brezje brings this wine for Ciril from Dolejnska, we can’t go without having cviček! (dry wine from Dolejnska region)”.

At that time the Slovenian Club Planica was in the process of buying the property of the Anglican Church in Figtree and they were trying to get support from the Slovenian people. I was present at one of the meetings which was held at Ivan and Marinka Rudolf’s place. Also present were the late Milan Sirc, Marica and Karlo Kerčmar, Ema Mailow and a few other people. After the meeting I was of the opinion that the project had merit and I would support it.

Once the sale of the property was finalised, the renovations and hard work began. The artist Cveto Mejač donated three beautiful paintings for All Saints Church; The Last Supper, St Francis of Assisi and the icon of Mary Mother of God. I remember the ordering of the crown from Slovenia, and bringing it back with me, along with the cross which was made from clay by a Carthusian priest in Pleterje.

I knew the road from Merrylands to Figtree as accurately as an aviation route. I could pinpoint every kilometre and I knew exactly what time I would arrive at All Saints Church.

We celebrated mass every second and fourth Sunday in the month. In Advent, Lent and during the months of May and October we also had mass every Wednesday. There was also mass for Easter and Christmas. On Easter Sunday, I would celebrate my first mass in Merrylands, then Figtree at midday and Canberra in the evening. And every Christmas Eve there was the unforgettable journey to Figtree where we celebrated Midnight Mass.

The participation of the congregation was always impeccable. The choirmaster Barica Brodnik (I called her my Australian mother) always found young organists who practised with the young group of singers before and after mass. Sakristans John Konrad and Cyril Škofic diligently attended to their duties.

All of you who have taken on the duties of the upkeep of the church and Club's premises for the last 25 years deserve praise. You are always in my thoughts and prayers.

Father Ciril Božič, St Cyril & Methodius Slovenian Mission in Melbourne, August 2008.

25 Let Slovenske cerkve Vseh svetih in kluba Planica Figtree

Leto 1983 je bilo za slovenski klub Planica in rojake v Wollongongu važna prelomnica. Dobili smo cerkev in klub z dvorano. Tamkajšnji klubski odbor je že nekaj časa načrtoval, kako bi prišli do svojih prostorov, kjer bi se družili rojaki. Ponudila se je lepa prilika, da je bila na prodaj anglikanska cerkev vseh svetnikov v Figtreeju. Cerkev je za anglikanske vernike postala premajhna in so načrtovali novo, večjo v sosedstvu. Takratni predsednik Kluba Ivan Rudolf je sklenil: "Sedaj ali nikoli!" - In kupčija je bila sklenjena.

Za nakup se je poleg nas zanimalo še več drugih interesentov, vendar so anglikanci cerkev in prostore raje prodali nam, ker so imeli zagotovilo, da bo cerkev naprej služila svojemu namenu. Tako je po sklenjeni pogodbi odbor Kluba dobil ključe in začel pripravljalna dela v klubu in cerkvi, pri katerih so rojaki velikodušno priskočili na pomoč. V nedeljo, 24. julija 1983, smo cerkev blagoslovili, obhajali prvo sv. mašo in nato vsako četrto nedeljo v mesecu. Na drugo nedeljo v mesecu pa je bila še naprej služba Božja v kapeli Villa Maria na Corrimal Street (cnr Corrimal Street and Gipps Street Wollongong), poleg doma starejših, ki so ga vodile frančiškanske sestre.

V začetku novembra 1983 smo imeli tridnevno kot duhovno pripravo na odprtje cerkve in Kluba. Na 1. adventno nedeljo, 27. novembra 1983, je tedanji krajevni škof dr. William Murray blagoslovil našo na novo pridobljeno cerkev. Škofu smo assistirali slovenski duhovniki: p. Ciril A. Božič, dr. Ivan Mikula, dr. p. Maurice West OFM in podpisani. Po kropljenju z blagoslovljeno vodo in molitvi smo obhajali slovesno sv. mašo.

Prvi začetki slovenske službe Božje segajo v petdeseta leta, ko sta občasno prihajala sem patra Beno Korbič in Klavdij Okorn, pozneje dr. Ivan Mikula, p. Bernard Ambrožič in p. Odilo Hajnšek. Kakor se spominjam, je bila takrat naša služba Božja nekaj časa v katedrali sv. Frančiška Ksaverija v Wollongongu. Marsikdaj je bil pri sv. maši navzoč škof Thomas McCabbe. Ko

so vpeljali večerno nedeljsko mašo, smo se umaknili v kapelo Villa Maria. Tam je bil leta 1973 tudi sprejem škofa Leniča in sv. maša, slavje je izvrstno organiziral zdaj že pokojni Pavle Arhar, ki je postavil slavolok pred cerkvijo in poskrbel za večerjo za škofa in duhovnike.

Hvaležni smo vsem rojakom, ki sodelujejo, pomagajo patrom pri slovenskih sv. mašah, nekateri že dobrih 50. let, nekateri boste šele obeležili tega »Abrahama«, vsi pa delamo za Božjo čast. Med njimi ste pevci in pevke mešanega pevskega zbora pod vodstvom Barice Brodnik, organisti Mojca Brodnik, Vesna Hatežič, Andrej Žičkar in sedaj že pokojna Sonja Žabkar, mežnarji Ciril Škofic in Hans Konrad (oba že pokojna) bivši ministranti Toni in Lojze Brodnik, Filip Hatežič, Peter Murko in Pavel Tehovnik, rojaki, ki skrbite za čiščenje in krašenje cerkve in kluba, pripravljate večerje, skrbite za razna dela in popravila.

Naj bo naša obletnica spodbuda za vse, da bomo še naprej skrbeli za to, kar je naše, in delali za Božjo čast.

P. Valerijan Jenko OFM, OAM

25 Years of Slovenian Church in Figtree

For the Slovenian Club Planica and all Slovenians in Wollongong, the year 1983 was a very important turning point. The Anglican Church and adjoining property was bought by the Slovenian Club Planica. As soon as the deal was finalised, the renovations began.

On the fourth Sunday in July 1983 we celebrated mass at All Saints Church in Figtree for the first time. Every fourth Sunday mass was celebrated in Figtree and every second Sunday in Villa Maria Chapel. The official blessing of the church was held on 27 November 1983 by Bishop Murray, Father Ciril, Dr Ivan Mikula, Dr P. Maurice and I.

The beginnings of Slovenian mass in Wollongong go back 50 years when Father Beno Korbič and Father Klavdij Okoren and later Dr Mikula, Father Ambrožič and Father Odilo Hajnšek periodically came to Wollongong. At that time mass was celebrated at the Wollongong cathedral. Quite often Bishop MacCabe was present at our Slovenian mass.

We are thankful to all who have helped us with the celebration of the mass, some for the last 50 years. We are all working for the glory of God. Amongst them are our choir and choirmaster Barica Brodnik, organists Marija Brodnik, Vesna Hatežič, Andrej Žičkar and Sonja Žabkar (deceased), sakristans Hans Konrad and Ciril Škofič (both deceased) the former altar boys Tony and Lojze Brodnik, Filip Hatežič, Peter Murko and Pavel Tehovnik and to all who take care of cleaning and decorating the church and many other jobs that have to be done.

Let our jubilee be an inspiration for continuous participation and involvement at All Saints Church.

Slovenci med morjem in gorami Wollongonga

Za Avstralijo sem prvič slišal, ko sem bil star kakih 10 let. S starejšo sestro sva se učila za šolo, ona geografijo, jaz pa predmet "spoznavanje družbe". Učila se je ravno o Avstraliji, mi pa smo se učili o zamejskih Slovencih. Ko smo naslednji dan pisali šolsko nalogu, sem na vprašanje, kje živijo koroški Slovenci, podzavestno napisal odgovor, da živijo v Avstraliji. Učiteljica je sicer zardela, napako prečrtala, vendar se na srečo ni dosti poznalo v oceni.

Ko sem kasneje bral in slišal o Slovencih v Avstraliji, naših patrih in duhovniku dr. Ivanu Mikuli, ki je bil doma s Koroške, sem se sam pri sebi namuznil - pa sem vendarle takrat imel prav, če samo pomislimo, kako je še bolj kot drugi sorojaki doživljal bolečino svojega naroda in jo tudi upodobil v znani pesmi Rož, Podjuna, Zilja. Danes, ko so marsikatere pregrade padle, naj bo naš jubilej priložnost, da doma ali po svetu Slovenci bolj zadihamo "enega srca in duha".

Wollongong – v jeziku domorodcev kraj »med morjem in gorami« - je mesto, ki ga marsikdo doma ne pozna, vendar enako kakor velika mesta ali znameniti kraji v Avstraliji skriva v sebi zaklade, ki jih ne pozabimo, naravne lepote, doživetja in duhovne sadove. Kakor so pred več kot 150. leti šli v daljno deželo kopat zlato in opale, tako imamo danes ljudje iz različnih krajev možnosti za iskanje novega zaklada, bogastvo, ki ga prinaša vsak od doma, iz svoje dežele, pri tem pa ne smemo pozabljati na bogastvo, ki je v Bogu, na zaklad vere in duhovne sadove. *“Ne le za vsakdanji kruh, / človek je telo in duh. / Saj še gora in drevo / raste v zemljo in v nebo.”* (Alojz Gradnik)

O tem mestu med morjem in gorami in skupnosti rojakov mi je prvi pripovedoval p. Ciril, ki je bil naš magister po prihodu iz Avstralije in ni mogel skriti navdušenja in nepozabnih doživetij. Skupaj sva sestavljala članek o življenju in pastoralnem delu med Slovenci v Avstraliji in vprašanj, ki smo mu jih postavljali bogoslovci, še ni takoj zmanjkalo. Pred osmimi leti, novembra in decembra 2000, sem prvič obiskal Avstralijo in s p. Valerijanom sva obiskala Figtree in skupnost rojakov ravno za žegnanje. Čez pet let se je zgodba ponovila »v daljši obliki« in traja do danes.

Četrto stoletja – srebrni jubilej – v primerjavi z drugimi večjimi obletnicami ni ravno veliko. Vendar ima svoj pomen, ko se s hvaležnostjo oziramo na prehojeno pot, na vsa desetletja in doživetja, s katerimi smo kot posamezniki in skupnost vtisnili svoj pečat in še bolj v tem, kolikor smo gradili našo skupnost z Gospodom. Upamo in želimo, da naše korenine in sadovi v Gospodu, ki je “glavni in vogelni kamen” (prim. Ef 2,20), ne bodo izostali danes in v prihodnje.

V Gospodu je naša moč. Z Njim začnimo vsako delo, da bo dober tek imelo!

p. Darko Žnidaršič OFM,
Predstojnik slovenskega katoliškega misijona v Sydneyu
Merrylands NSW, 27.8.2008

Slovenians Between the Mountains and the Sea

The first time I heard about Australia I was ten years old. My sister and I were both studying. Her subject was Geography and I had to learn about Slovenians living abroad. The next day at school I was asked where Carinthian Slovenians live. My subconscious answer was Australia. The teacher corrected me that it was Austria.

Later in life I heard and read a lot about Australia and about Slovenian priests that worked in Australia.

Wollongong is a city that is not well known in Slovenia, but it has its hidden treasures which we can't forget, including natural beauty and spiritual experience. People from many different places who are seeking their fortunes and wealth here, have brought their spiritual wealth with them.

The first time I heard about this city between the mountains and the sea and the Slovenians living here, was when Father Ciril returned to Slovenia. He could not hide his enthusiasm and his unforgettable experiences he had while living in Australia.

My first visit to Australia was in November 2000. With Father Valerjan, we visited Wollongong on All Saints day. Five years later I returned for a longer visit which has been extended into the future.

Quarter of a century – a Silver Jubilee. In comparison with other larger jubilees it is not very big, but it has its meaning. We are able to look back and be grateful for all the years that we were able to build our community with the grace of God.

Darko Žnidaršič OFM

Administrator Slovenian Catholic Mission Sydney

Merrylands NSW 28 August 28, 2008

Where is the Slovenian All Saints Catholic Church?

The All Saints Slovenian Catholic Church in Figtree is one of only a few places of Catholic worship in the Diocese of Wollongong dedicated solely to an ethnic group of people.

The suburb of Figtree, located close to the heart of the City of Wollongong, is found nestled at the base of the Illawarra foothills approximately 80km south of Sydney on the south east coast of Australia.

The All Saints Church is located four kilometres by road from the centre of Wollongong, very close to the site of the original giant fig tree landmark. The giant fig tree that originally grew here gave rise to the name of the township. The fig tree was located at a very important road junction, and thus became a well known landmark. This landmark was found on the original road developed from 1821 that linked Sydney to Wollongong. The fig tree was cut down in 1996 due to disease and only a portion of the trunk remains.¹

The Illawarra, which contains the three local government municipalities of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama is a geographically long, wedge shaped coastal region bounded by mountain escarpment. The escarpment is a readily identifiable landscape that maintains a significant aesthetic value between the mountains and the sea. The 160km region expands where the mountain forms a cliff at the sea to a wide plain that reaches approximately 45km in width. In the heart of the region, Lake Illawarra forms a bay type feature surrounded by many suburbs. The area brings a mixture of coastal, urban and country lifestyles.

The name Illawarra lends itself from an Aboriginal description ‘Alowrie’ meaning from the high place to the sea.

The Illawarra became a very important focal point for Australia’s post World War II reconstruction and development.

¹ Place Names of the Wollongong Region

It was a region that suffered a labour shortage with the development of many competing heavy industries in the area such as the steel works, electrolytic refining, smelting industries and the expansion of coal mining. These industries were also competing with other major projects throughout Australia such as the Snowy Mountain Hydro-Electric Scheme, National Railways and many significant mines. In 1947 the Australian Government embarked on an immigration policy that brought many people from Europe. These people included war refugees, displaced persons and people dissatisfied with the inception of new communist governments throughout eastern and southern Europe.

The location of the beautiful Illawarra coastline and the lure of Illawarra became one of the major settling centres for Slovenians outside metropolitan Sydney.² Available work brought many Slovenians to the district.



Cerkev Vseh svetnikov na prodaj 1983
All Saints Church for Sale 1983

² Written by Frank Sirc

Zgodovina naše cerkve Vseh svetnikov v Figtree

Leta 1788 je prispela prva angleška posadka v sydnejsko pristanišče in Richard Johnson, kolonijski anglikanski kaplan je imel prvo bogoslužje na avstralski zemlji. Bogoslužje za kaznjence in vojake je bilo v senci “velikega drevesa Morton Bay Fig tree”.

Točno sto let pozneje, ko so meščani Wollongonga praznovali sto let naselitve, se je začelo delo male kmečke skupnosti anglikanske cerkve v Figtree. Sto metrov vstran je rastlo 600 let staro figovo drevo (Morton Bay Figtree), po katerem je dobil ta kraj ime.



Slovenska cerkev Vseh Svetnikov v Figtree NSW 2008

Slovenian All Saints Church in Figtree NSW 2008

Prva anglikanska cerkev v Figtree

Gospod Tomas Chapman, strojvodja z eno nogo , je bil vodja za zgraditev cerkve Vseh svetnikov. Ta cerkev je bila njegovo življenje. On je bil vodja gradbenega odbora.

Temeljni kamen je položila gospa Margaret Jessie Lee, 13. maja, 1911. Bila je ena od glavnih voditeljev cerkvenega dela v župniji Vseh svetnikov v Figtree. Novembra leta 1911, je cerkev posvetil glavni diakon Gunther, Rev Lampard je bil njegov pomočnik.

Kraljevski verniki v Figtree

Leta 1947 so vojvoda Gloucester, takratni Governor-General Avstralije, vojvodinja, in njihovo kraljevo visočanstvo William in Richard bili gostje v "Greenhill", na hribčku pri cerkvi in so se redno udeleževali bogoslužja v cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree.

V farnem listu (Messenger) je bilo objavljeno, da je bila cerkev vedno polna v času njihovega bivanja v Greenhill. Ljudje, ki so se spoznali s kraljevsko družuno, so prišli do sklepa, da je kraljevska družina zelo verna, zato gredo v cerkev, ker hočejo, ne pa zato, ker morajo.

Drugi pomemben gost je bil Evangelist Billy Graham leta 1959. Njegov obisk je rodil obilo sadu, saj se je takrat pridružilo veliko novih vernikov, ki niso pred tem zahajali v cerkev. Počasi je cerkev postajala premajhna za vse farane. Začeli so iskati, kje bi lahko zgradili novo cerkveno središče. Leta 1970 je bilo kupljeno zemljišče na Gibson cesti v Figtree, od gospoda Lyndsy Mayenes.

Stara cerkev Vseh svetnikov je bila prodana Slovensko avstralskemu klubu Planica. V veliko zadovoljstvo jim je bilo, da se bo cerkev še naprej uporabljala za bogoslužje.³

³ Podatki vzeti iz knjige "Zgodovina anglikanske cerkve Vseh svetnikov v Figtree"

The First Anglican Church in Figtree

The most prominent layman, Mr Thomas Chapman, a locomotive driver with one leg, was known as ‘the Verger’ because the Figtree Church was his life. He was the chairman of the building committee.

The foundation stone was laid by Margaret Jessie Lee on 13 May 1911. On 14 November 1911, the Church was opened and dedicated by Archdeacon Gunter, assisted by the Rev. Lampard. Mrs Lee was one of the main organisers of all the work that was done in the parish of All Saints in Figtree.

Royalty in Figtree

In 1947, the Duke of Gloucester, the Governor-General of Australia, the Duchess, and their Royal Highnesses William and Richard, stayed at ‘Greenhill’ on the hill above the Church and became part of the congregation.

The Kembla Parish Messenger reported on the event: The Church was always well filled when the Royal party were present, but those who have been at all intimate with them, have led us to the conclusion they are both devoted to their Church and worship because they love to worship rather than because they must do so.⁴

Slovenci v Wollongongu

Po drugi svetovni vojni, ko je moralo toliko ljudi zapustiti domačo zemljo in odpotovati v neznani svet, je bila tudi Avstralija ena tistih dežel, ki je sprejela ljudi brez domovine. Med njimi so bili tudi Slovenci, begunci pred komunistično diktaturo, ki je objela našo domovino.

⁴ Information taken from “*The History of All Saints Church Figtree*”

Wollongong, veliko industrijsko mesto na južni obali Novega Južnega Waleza je potrebovalo delavce za železarno, Australian Iron Steel Mills. Veliko Slovencev se je zaposlilo v železarni in si tudi tukaj ustvarilo novi dom. Življenje je bilo zelo težko od začetka. Brez znanja jezika, najtežja dela v železarni, dela, ki jih domačini niso hoteli delati so bila dodeljena emigrantom. Tudi domotožje je bilo veliko. Tako so se od vsega začetka tudi Slovenci zbirali skupaj, da si pomagajo med seboj.

Že leta 1947 zasledimo prve Slovence v Wollongongu. Po prihodu slovenskih duhovnikov v Avstralijo leta 1951 iz Amerike, se je pričelo organizirano dušnopastirske delo v Avstraliji. Tudi v Wollongongu smo imeli sveto mašo. Pater Klavdij Okoren in pater Beno Korbič sta prihajala med nas od leta 1951 pa do 1953. Njuno delo je nadaljeval pater Rudolf Pivko. V Avstralijo je prišel po izgonu iz Kitajske, še preden sta se pater Beno in Klavdij vrnila v Ameriko.

Pater Bernard Ambrožič je prišel leta 1955 v Sydney. Od tu je obiskoval vse naselbine v NSW in Canberri kjer so živeli Slovenci. Urejal je tudi mesečnik Misli od njegovega prihoda, pa do njegove smrti leta 1973.

Slovenians in Wollongong

After World War II there were many displaced people in Eastern Europe. Slovenians were amongst them with refugees fleeing the communist dictatorship of their country. They had to leave their homeland and find a new place to live. Australia was one of the countries which accepted the refugees.

The industrial city of Wollongong needed workers for their heavy industry. Life for the newcomers was very hard from the beginning. Even without the knowledge of the language and the sheer hard work required at the steelworks, they were determined to make the best of their situation. From 1947, when Australia started to accept migrants from non English speaking countries, Slovenians started to arrive in this region. There was a need for

the Slovenian clergy to take care of their religious beliefs. In 1951, two Slovenian priests arrived from the USA. They were Father Beno Korbič and Father Klavdij Okoren. From this time onwards there was a better social life for the Slovenians and they were able to attend Slovenian mass periodically. A Slovenian monthly newspaper ‘Misli’ (Thoughts) was established as well. Father Beno and Klavdij were editors of this newspaper.

In 1953 Father Beno and Klavdij returned to the United States. Their place was taken by Father Rudolf Pivko. He was working as a missionary in China for a period of five years prior to arriving in Australia. In 1956 he became seriously ill and in 1957 he left the order.

Father Bernard Ambrožič arrived in Sydney in 1955 and was responsible for NSW and ACT. He was also the editor of ‘Misli’ from his arrival until his death in 1973.

Spoznajmo patra Bernarda, njegovo duhovitost, natančnost, skrb za Slovence in dobro voljo:

Med rojaki v Wollongongu

Bila je peta nedelja v mesecu. Pater Rudolf ni mogel v Wollongong, zadelo je mene. Vlak me je odpeljal že v soboto zjutraj. Pričakoval me je “Sprejemni odbor” Pavle s Klanca, ki se mu tudi Arhar pravi, zvečer bomo krstili Klančarjevo Angelico. Ludvik - odslej bo moj dvorni šofer, me odpelje takoj k nekaterim rojakom na obisk, kolikor bo pač čas dopuščal in nasvidenje.

Prva postaja je bila v Corrimalu pri Brodnikovih. Imajo mater vdovo in štiri velike, večje in največje fante. Vsi so pred nekaj leti prišli iz Francije. Viktor vodi pevski zbor za ves slovenski Wollongong. Obiskali smo še Dermoteve, Faturjeve, Kettejeve, pa Marjana Marolta, pri Žičkarjevih in bratih Hvalica, Miranu in Slavko Žvab in krstili Angelico Klančarjevo (Arhar). No in po

svetopisemsko naj povem: naredila se je noč in naredil se je dan – Nedelja.⁵

Na željo patra Ambrožiča, je prišel na pomoč dr Ivan Mikula, ki je od leta 1952 delal v Zahodni Avstraliji. Tudi on je obiskoval rojake v bližnjih in daljnih krajih. V Wollongongu je bil zelo dobro poznan in priljubljen.

Slovensko mašo smo imeli takrat vsako peto nedeljo v mesecu, v St Frances Xavier katedrali v Wollongongu ob petih popoldan. Lepo je bilo srečati druge Slovence, ki so živeli tukaj okrog in najti nove prijatelje. Domačini nas niso sprejeli z odprtimi rokami in nam nudili prijateljstva. Večina njih se je smatrala, da so boljši od nas. Angleščine še nismo dobro obvladali, in tudi domotožje je bilo veliko.

Amongst Fellow Countrymen in Wollongong

It was the fifth Sunday in the month. Father Rudolf was unable to go to Wollongong, so I had to take his place. I made the train journey on Saturday morning and was met by Pavel Arhar. Ludvik - my official chauffeur - took me to visit some fellow countrymen. We visited the Brodnik family. They arrived some years ago from France. They had four sons and one of them, Viktor, was a Choirmaster of the Slovenian Choir Škrjančki (Larks). Then we visited families Dermota, Fatur, Kette, Marolt, Žičkar, brothers Hvalica, Miran and Slavko Žvab and then we went to the Arhar family. Their daughter Angelina was baptised.⁶

Tukaj je še eden članek, ki ga je napisal pater Bernard:

Wollongong se vedno izkaže

Vsako peto nedeljo v mesecu imajo rojaki v Wollongongu med seboj slovenskega duhovnika za svojo službo božjo. Še vselej

⁵ Pater Bernard Ambrožič, *Misli*, September 1956

⁶ *Misli*, September 1956 Father B. Ambrozic

sem jih moral pohvaliti. Vedno lepo pridejo in tudi spovednico radi obiščejo. Žal je pa tudi res, da se sestra smrt rada ustavi med njimi. No pa si vzamimo k srcu: smrt je najboljša misijonarka.

Navadno po službi božji povabim vernike v dvorano h kakšnemu primernemu programu. Tokrat je bila proslava letošnjega jubileja Sv. Cirila in Metaoda. Videl sem, da sem jim zelo ustregel. Bilo je marsikaj čisto novega, saj mladi niso bili poučeni kaj prida o svetih bratih, starejšim pa je že mnogo šlo iz spomina. Tako je bilo prav, da smo tudi v Wollongongu imeli vsaj skromno proslavo.⁷

Wollongong Always Excels

Every fifth Sunday in the month, Slovenians have their Slovenian mass. I always have to praise them, as they are regular church goers and they go to confession as well. After mass I usually invite them to the hall to listen to a program. This time the program was about St Cyril and Method. They were the missionaries who brought Christianity to the Slovenians one thousand years ago.⁸

Smrtna kosa v Wollongongu

Kmalu za svojo ženo, ki ji je rekел samo “mama”, je odšel v večnost mož Anton Dermota, gotovo najbolj popularen Slovenec v Wollongongu. Ni bilo presenečenje zanj. Že ob pogrebu žene, mi je rekel: “Kmalu pojdem tudi jaz”. 11. septembra 1963 ga je zadela možganska kap in naslednji dan ji je podlegel. Pokopali smo ga 14. septembra iz stolne cerkve s sveto mašo. Velika množica žalujočih se je udeležila pogreba in pevci so mu zapeli žalostinko.

⁷ *Misli*, September 1963

⁸ *Misli*, September 1963

Rajni je bil doma iz Žirov. V Avstralijo je pršel iz begunstva na Koroškem, od tam pa leta 1952 z vso družino v Avstralijo. Kmalu se je za stalno naselil v Wollongongu, kjer je bil duša organizatoričnega delovanja med Slovenci.⁹



Gospod Dermota (prvi od leve) organizira izlet v Sydney
Mr Dermota (first from left) organised a trip to Sydney

Death Scythe in Wollongong

Soon after his wife's death, Anton Dermota departed from this world. He was one of the most prominent and active Slovenians in Wollongong. At the funeral of his wife he told me that he will follow her very soon. On 11 September 1963 he suffered a stroke and died on 14 September 1963. Many people attended his funeral. The Slovenian Choir sang at his graveside.

Mr Dermota was born in Slovenia and emigrated to Australia in 1952 settling in Wollongong.¹⁰

⁹ *Misli*, September 1963

¹⁰ *Misli*, September 1963

Pater Odilo Hajnšek

Pater O. Hajnšek je prišel v Avstralijo leta 1961. V Sydneyu je deloval dve leti, potem pa je šel v Melbourne pomagat patru Baziliju.

Tudi v Wollongong je prišel maševat. Ostal nam je v spominu kot dober pevec in pridigar. Bil je dober organizator, v Sydneyu je ustanovil pevski zbor, dramsko skupino, organiziral ustanovitev knjižnice in bil učitelj v Slomškovi šoli. Njegova dramska skupina je nastopala tudi v Wollongongu in nas razveselila s kulturnim programom.

Leta 1965 se je vrnil v ZDA, od tam pa kmalu v domovino, kjer je leta 1971 umrl v samostanu pri Sveti Trojici v Slovenskih goricah.

Father Odilo Hajnšek arrived in Australia in 1961 and was stationed in Sydney helping Father Ambrožič. Whilst working in Sydney he visited Wollongong as well. He was a good organiser. He established a Slovenian library, Slovenian choir and a drama group in Sydney. After two years in NSW he went to Melbourne to help Father Bazilij Valentin.

Novi pater pride med nas

Dne 23. oktobra 1963, nam bo barka iz Amerike pripeljala novega patra. Ime mu je pater Valerijan Jenko in je po rojstvu Šiškar, torej pol Ljubljjančan. Zadnja leta je deloval v župniji Svete Terezije v Johnstownu, Pennsylvania. Pred leti je bil pomočnik patra Bazilija pri urejevnu lista Ave Maria. Od kar je pater Bazilij odšel v Avstralijo, sta imela dogovor, da tudi pater Valerijan pride – kadar bo dobil dovoljenje od predstojnikov, kar je zavzelo sedem let.¹¹

¹¹ Misli, Oktober 1963

New Priest arrives in Australia

On 23 October 1963, the long awaited Father Valerijan Jenko sailed into Sydney Harbour. He was born in Ljubljana and after World War II emigrated to the United States, where he completed his studies in the priesthood. His last posting in the USA was in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He also helped Father Bazilij edit the Slovenian Catholic Monthly Ave Maria.



Pater Valerijan na Sydneyskem letališču pozdravlja Vesno Hatežič
Father Valerijan greets Vesna Hatežič at Sydney airport

Še eden pater pride v Sydney

V Petek 11. julija je končno prišel v Sydney težko pričakovni pater Lavrencij Anžel OFM. Mladi pater je bil rojen v Zg. Verjanah, župnija Sveta Trojica v Slovenskih goricah. 29. junija 1968 je bil posvečen v mašnika v Mariboru. Novo mašo je imel pri Sveti Trojici.

Patra Lovrenca smo pozdravili v Merrylandsu v nedeljo 13. julija 1975, ko je imel prvič med nami nedeljsko mašo.

Sedaj se pater uvaja v novo okolje in delo. Dela mu ne bo zmanjkalo. S tem si bo najlažje preganjal začetnikovo domotožje.¹²

Tudi v Wollongongu smo bili veseli patrovega prihoda. Glas je imel kot slavček, pri mladini je bil priljubljen, in njegove pridige je bilo veselje poslušati.

Slovensko mašo smo sedaj že imeli enkrat na mesec in to je bila vsaka druga nedelja v mesecu, za Božič, Veliko noč in kadar smo dobili cerkveni obisk iz domovine. Kraj, kjer smo imeli slovensko mašo se je spremenil. Preselili smo se iz katedrale v majnšo cerkev in bolj primerno za nas, Villa Marija kapelo, ki je bila v Corrimal St. Wollongong.

Začela se je tudi slovenska šola. Pouk je bil vedno tri ure pred mašo, v katoliški osnovni šoli v Wollongongu. Poučevala je sestra Miriam Horvat. Pomagala pa sta ji p. Valerijan ali p. Lovrencij, kateri je pač prišel maševat v Wollongong. Otroci slovenske šole so nastopali za materinski dan in za Miklavžovo.

Pater Lavrencij Anžel je bil med nami štiri leta. 28.8.1979 se je poslovil od nas.

¹² *Misli*, Avgust 1963



Gospod Maks Mali in pater Lavrencij Anžel
Mr Maks Mali and Father Lavrencij Anžel

Another Father for Sydney

Finally Father Lavrencij Anžel arrived in Sydney on Friday 11 August 1975. He was born in Zgornje Verjane near Sv. Trojica in Slovenske Gorice, and was ordained in Maribor on 29 June 1968. We greeted Father Lavrencij in Merrylands on Sunday 13 July 1975 after Sunday mass. Now he is getting used to his new surroundings and work. In this way he will not be homesick.¹³

In Wollongong we were glad that we had another priest amongst us. He was very popular with everybody. His sermons were beautiful and he was an excellent singer. By this time we had Slovenian mass every second Sunday in the month and the venue had changed from the Cathedral to a smaller church in Corrimal Street, Wollongong Villa Maria Chapel.

Slovenian school was established and classes were held three hours before Slovenian mass in the Catholic primary school in

¹³ Misli, August 1975

Wollongong. The teachers were Father Valerijan or Father Lavrencij and Sister Miriam Horvat. The children were taught reading and writing. For Mother's Day and for St. Nicholas they staged a concert.



Poslovilni piknik v Merrylands za patra Lavrencija Anžel
Nada Marinič, Margaret Hatežič & Gino Grželj
Farewell picnic in Merrylands for Father Lavencij Anžel

Pater Janez Tretjak

Pater Janez Tretjak je prišel v Sydney prvega februarja 1980, da bi pomagal patru Valerijanu. Med nami ni bil preveč poznan, ker je po šestih mesecih bivanja v Sydneyu odšel v Adelaide, da tam prevzame vodstvo Svetе družine.

Pater Valerijan je zopet ostal sam za vsa dela v NSW, ACT in Queenslandu.

Father Janez Tretjak was the next priest to arrive, taking Father Lavencij's place. After working at Merrylands for six months he decided to work in Adelaide at the Holy Family

Slovenian Church. Father Valerjan lost his co-worker and had to manage NSW, ACT and Quensland by himself.

Pater Ciril Božič

Pater Ciril Božič je prišel na pomoč v Merrylands 11.9.1982. Med nami je delal do 23.4.1992. Tudi on je delal veliko z mladino, organiziral koncerte, potoval po Avstraliji, in imel svete maše vsepovsod kjer so živeli Slovenci. Organiziral je tudi likovne razstave slovenskih umetnikov v Avstraliji. Poznal je slovenske umetnike in tudi izprosil nekaj umetniških del od njih. Za našo cerkev Vseh svetnikov v Figtree je posredoval, da imamo kar tri velike slike (olje na platnu) podoba Brezijanske Marije pomagaj z Jezusom, svetega Frančiška Asiškega in zadnjo večerjo, delo in dar umetnika gospoda Mejača.

V Wollongong je pater Ciril rad prihajal. Rekel je, da se počuti kot da se pelje domov, kadar gre v Wollongong. Saj je tudi precej Slovencev iz Dolejske tukaj doma in vsi drugi smo ga tudi radi imeli.

Father Ciril Božič came to help Father Valerjan on 11 September 1982. His workload was enormous. Much of his time was dedicated to the younger generation, organising youth concerts and an art exhibition. The art exhibition was held in the church hall at the Slovenian church in Merrylands. He knew all the artists that were exhibiting as they were his friends. Through his friendship with the artists our church of All Saints at Figtree received three oil paintings from Mr Mejač, his gift to our church. Father Ciril Božič adopted Wollongong as his second home. He said that when he went to Wollongong, it felt like going home. On 23 April 1992 he returned to Slovenia.



Pater Tomaž Menart, sestra Francka Žižek in pater Ciril Božič
Father Tomaž Menart, Sister Francka Žižek and Father C. Božič

Pater Tomaž Menart

Pater Tomaž Menart je prišel v Sydney meseca marca, leta 1994. Tudi on je redno prihajal v Wollongong. Od začetka je bil bolj sramežljiv in se ni dosti družil z ljudmi. Ko nas je bolje spoznal, se je počutil bolj domače med nami. Takrat je še bila sestra Francka Žižek v Merrylandsu, ki je vodila cerkveni pevski zbor pri nas. Pevske vaje smo imeli eno uro pred mašo, pater Tomaž pa je porabil tisti čas za rekreacijo. V klubski dvorani so moški igrali biljard ta čas, ko so bile pevske vaje. Pater Tomaž se jim je rad pridružil.

Škoda, da si je zlomil nogo, ko je pripravljjal jaslice pri Svetem Rafaelu v Merrylandsu leta 1995. Noga se mu dolgo ni zacelila, tako se je odločil da se meseca junija 1996 vrne domov. Pater Valerijan je naslednje dve leti delal sam in oskrboval vsa mesta kjer živijo Slovenci v NSW, ACT in Queenslandu.

Father Tomaž Menart arrived in Sydney in March 1994 to carry on with pastoral work and help Father Valerijan at St. Raphael's Slovenian Mission in Merrylands. He was also a frequent visitor to Wollongong. From the beginning he was a little shy, but later when he made friends with the local Slovenians he joined them in a game of pool in the church hall.

At that time sister Francka Žižek was in Merrylands, filling all sorts of jobs from being the choirmaster to cook and anything else that needed attention. She was also the designated driver and choirmaster of our church choir. While the singers were rehearsing in the church, the men played pool in the hall. Father Tomaž always enjoyed a game of pool.

In December 1995 while setting the crib for Christmas at St Raphael's Slovenian church, Father Tomaž had a nasty fall and broke his leg. Recovery of his injury was very slow. By the month of June 1996 he had not fully recovered. He decided that it was best for him to return to Slovenia.

For the next two years Father Valerijan was on his own again.

Pater Metod Ogorevec

Pater Metod Ogorevec je prišel v Sydney, da bi pomagal patru Valerijanu februarja, 1997. Tudi v Wollongngu smo ga srečali, pa nas je kar hitro zapustil. Po nenadni in prehitri smrti patra Bazilija v Melbournu, je prevzel vodstvo Svetega Cirila in Medoda v Kew. Tako je pater Valerijan zopet ostal sam za vsa dela.

Father Metod Ogorevec arrived at St Raphael's Slovenian Mission in Merrylands in February 1997 to replace Fr. Tomaž Menart. His stay in Merrylands was very brief. Father Bazilij Valentin died suddenly and Fr. Metod had to take over the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovenian Mission in Melbourne.

Pater Filip Rupnik

Pater Filip Rupnik je prišel v Sydney 15. avgusta 1995 in začel z dušnopastirskim delom. Bil je vnet pridigar o našem krščanskem poslanstvu. Poznal je skoraj vse župnije v Sloveniji. Dolga leta je bil asistent za Frančiškov svetni red. V nedeljo 25. avgusta 1998 je bil prvič med nami v Figtree. Pater Filip se je dobro vživel v delo med Slovenci na peti celini. Pridružil se je igralski skupini in pevskemu zboru, saj je imel lepi glas za petje in v igrah je dobro nastopal. Po sedmih letih delovanja med nami se je vrnil v Slovenijo.

Father Filip Rupnik arrived in Sydney on 15 August 1998 and started his pastoral duties. He had the gift of good communication with his parishioners. In Slovenia he was an assistant of the World Order of St. Francis of Assisi. His first visit to All Saints Slovenian Church in Figtree was on 25 August 1998. After seven years of hard work in Australia, he returned to Slovenia.

Pater Darko Žnidaršič

Po odhodu patra Filipa, je na njegovo mesto prišel mlad in navdušen pater Darko Žnidaršič, da je prevzel vodstvo pri Slovenskem misijonu Sv. Rafaela v Merrylandsu. Ni mu dolgo zavzelo, da se je privadil avstralskemu načinu življenja. Organizira in spodbuja vse, da je vse dobro narejeno. Sedaj je že sprejel avstralsko državljanstvo. Z veseljem nam je povedal, da je odlično napravil izpit za državljanstvo. Marsikdo od nas, ki smo že stari Avstralci, ga ne bi napravil tako dobro.

Father Darko Žnidaršic is the latest addition to the Slovenian community in NSW. He took over the running of St Raphael's Slovenian Mission in Merrylands from Father Valerijan Jenko. It did not take him long to adapt to his new environment and he received his Australian citizenship in 2008. He is a frequent visitor to All Saints Church in Figtree. He also attends to the Slovenian church communities in Canberra, Newcastle and Queensland.

Slovenske sestre Frančiškanke Brezmadežne

Slovenske sestre Frančiškanke Brezmadežne, ki so bile med nami zelo dobro poznane so bile sesta Miriam Horvat, (bila je učiteljica v slovenski šoli v Wollongongu), sestra Ksaverija Šanc, sestra Marija Kadiš in sestra Francka Žižek. Sestra Francka je vodila naš cerkveni pevski zbor in bila za šoferja našim patrom kadar so prišli v Wollongong.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception were part of the St. Raphael's Slovenian Mission in Merrylands. As Wollongong is an extended mission of St Raphael, the sisters also came to Wollongong. When Sister Miriam Horvat was stationed at Merrylands, we had Slovenian mass at Villa Maria Chapel. She was one of the teachers at our Slovenian school at the Catholic Primary School in Wollongong. Sister Marija Kadiš and Sister Ksaverija Šanc sometimes visited Wollongong. Sister Francka Žižek was the choirmaster of our church choir.



Igra za materinski dan Barbara Oder in Vesna Hatežič
Mother's Day play with Barbara Oder and Vesna Hatežič



Otroci slovenske šole nastopajo za matrinski dan 1978

Children from Slovenian school at the Mother's day concert

Obisk prvega slovenskega škofa v Wollongongu

Čeravno smo zamudili rok za dopis v prejšnjem mesecu, naj ne ostane neomenjen obisk škofa dr. Jenka pri nas. Slovenci v Wollongongu smo mu zelo hvaležni, da je prihitel tudi med nas, čeprav le za kratek obisk. Pred slavolokom ob cerkvi ga je pričakalo lepo število rojakov, tudi v narodnih nošah. Pozdravno deklamacijo sta lepo izrekla Suzana Šinko in bratec Harry. Šli smo v cerkev in prisostovali ginjeni škofovi maši in pridigi. Po končani službi božji ni bilo časa za sestanek kje v dvorani, pa smo kar na prostem pred cerkvijo po domače pokramljali z visokim gostom. Škofova preprostost in domačnost nam bo ostala v neizbrisnem spominu. Prav gotovo se bomo o njem pomenkovali zopet za starega leta večer, ko se bomo zbrali za pričakovanje Novega leta v St. Mary's dvorani v Berkeley. Le pridite, rojaki in rojakinje, takrat bo med nami "vse po domače" tudi odsotnemu prevzvišenemu bomo voščili srečno Novo leto 1969.¹⁴

¹⁴ Pavel Arhar, *Misli*, December 1968

Slovenian Bishop Jenko Visits Wollongong

We were too late with our story regarding the visit of Bishop Jenko in Wollongong for the November edition of Misli but hopefully it will make it in the December edition.

This was the first visit from a Slovenian bishop to come to Wollongong. At the triumphal arch in front of Villa Maria Chapel in Wollongong, a large number of Slovenians awaited his arrival. Suzana and Harry Šinko greeted the bishop. Among the congregation there were many dressed in Slovenian national costume. After the mass, we had the chance to meet our guest and talk to him. He will be remembered for his down to earth manner when conversing with his fellow countrymen. Pavel Arhar was responsible for the preparation and the program of the bishop's visit.¹⁵



Pavel Arhar, Škof Jenko, Angelina Arhar in Ivanka Grmek
Bishop Jenko, Pavel and Agelina Arhar and Ivanka Grmek

¹⁵ Pavel Arhar-Klančar, *Misli*, December 1968

Materinski dan v Wollongongu

Misli junij 1969. Drugo nedeljo v maju, prav za materinski dan so tudi v Wollongongu pripravili mamicam lepo glasbeno akademijo. Vsa zasluga za to gre predvsem prijetni zakonski dvojici: to sta g. in ga. Thuma.

Uvodni govor je imel g. Thuma, ki je poudaril, da je akademija posvečena materam, ker so imele glavno zaslugo, da so spodbujale otroke in pazile nanje, da so se učili. Obenem pa smo se spomnili druge matere, to je domovine, vsaj v mislih. Nastopili so učenci glasbene šole, ki jo vodi ga. Thuma šele šest mesecev. Program je obsegal 22 točk. Začela sta ga dva harmonikaša, Herman Grmek in Bruna Iskra s prleško himno. Herman je bil najmlajši harmonikaš. Sledili so jim Dragi Brelih, Lilijana in Nadja Kesmič, Lilijana Tuljak in Renata Preac. Baletne točke je tudi koreografirala ga. Thuma. Videli smo dve baletki: najmlajša je komaj štiriletna Silvica Razon, za njo šestletna Anica Vavpotič.

Med klavirskimi točkami je bilo nekaj solov in nekaj duetov. Naj naštejem nekaj učencev: Inge in Maudi Lazarotto, Zlatko Brelih in Zdenka Baloh. Na žalost smo slišali samo eno pevsko točko, ki sta jo izvajali ga. Ivanka Kariž in ga. Barica Brodnik. Za konec nam je ga. Selma Thuma sama zaigrala Lizstov "Ljubavisen".

Zaključno besedo je imel p. Valerijan, ki je po domače povedal, da je važno, da se otroci uče glasbe: to je nekaj, kar človeka spremlja skozi vse življenje in mu obenem pomaga graditi bolj mil in prijeten značaj.¹⁶

Mother's Day Concert in Wollongong

On Mother's day we staged a musical academy in Wollongong. Mr and Mrs Thuma have a music school in Wollongong and their students performed at the concert.

¹⁶ Tončka Vodopivec, Sydney

Mr Thuma started the program with a speech, emphasising that the concert is dedicated to the mothers, as they are mainly responsible for their children's musical education. That was followed by two accordion players, Herman Grmek and Bruna Iskra. Herman was the youngest performer. Other accordion performers were Dragi Brelih, Lilijana and Nadja Kesmič, Lilijana Tuljak and Renata Preac. Musical items were followed by dancing performers. The youngest dancer was Silvica Razon aged four years and Anica Vavpotič aged six. Inge and Maudi Lazzarotto, Zlatko Brelih and Zdenka Baloh played the piano. There was only one singing item: Mrs Ivanka Kariž and Mrs Barica Brodnik sang a song. The last item was a piano solo by Mrs Thuma.

To conclude the program, Father Valerijan Jenko emphasised that it is important for the children to learn music, as music is a good companion through your life.¹⁷

Izlet v Wollongong

Bilo je v nedeljo 13. decembra 1970. Avtobus je odrinil po maši v Merrylandsu. Ura je bila enajst. Komaj smo prevozili prvi ovinek, že sta na zadnjih sedežih začela preizkušati svoje prijetne glasove Jože in Marica. Poprijeli smo za njima in nismo odnehali do kratkega postanka, na izletniški točki Bulli Look Out. Tu se nam je prilegla dobra malica. Mlada grla so tudi obmolknila. Začele so se resne skrbi, kako bo uspel nastop pri službi božji pod vodstvom Vinka Kobala.

V St Francis Home for the aged (Villa Maria kapeli) v Wollongongu se je nabralo veliko rojakov iz Wollongonga in okolice. Kapela je bila polna. Bili so nam v zaled. Naši pevci so se dobro odrezali. Naj jih naša javna pohvala še bolj navduši, da bodo vedno radi sodelovali pri naših službah božjih.

¹⁷ Tončka Vodopivec, Sydney

Po maši smo hiteli na Miklavževanje v dvorano ob stolnici. Miklavž je bil velikodušen tudi do otrok iz Sydneysa. Lepe darove je izročal angelčku, ta jih je oddajal naprej. Parkelj se je seveda tudi razkazoval, opravka pa ni imel kaj prida – kako neki med samimi pridnimi, kot smo mi — ha! Nazadnje so nas pa še dobri rojaki iz Wollongonga prijazno pogostili. Veselja ni hotelo biti konec, še s seboj na avtobus smo si ga lepo merico vzeli.

Hvala za ta prijetni popoldan patru Valerijanu in rojakom v Wollongongu. Priporočamo se za naprej. Večkrat kaj takega!¹⁸

Excursion to Wollongong

It was Sunday 13 December 1970 and our bus departed from Merrylands after mass. As soon as we came around the first bend, Jože and Marica started to sing. We joined them and sang until we reached Bulli lookout where we had our lunch. From this point on we were quiet as we were a bit worried how we will perform at the Slovenian mass in Wollongong.

The church (Villa Maria Chapel) in Wollongong was full as many Slovenians from the region attended the mass. Our singers sang well, to the delight of all present.

After the service we were invited to pay a visit to St. Nicholas at the Catholic School in Wollongong. St Nicholas was giving presents to the children including us from Sydney, with the help of an Angel. The Devil was also present, but he did not do much, as we were very good for the whole year.¹⁹

¹⁸ Angelina Lilija, Sydney

¹⁹ Angelina Lilija Sydney



*Miklavž obdaruje otroke v Wollongongu
St. Nicholas bearing gifts for the children in Wollongong*

Obisk škofa dr. Stanislava Leniča v Wollongongu

V soboto 13. januarja 1973 je bila škofova maša in pridiga za rojake v Wollongongu. Z njim je tudi maševal pater provincial Marijan Valenšek, dr. Ivan Mikula in pater Valerijan Jenko. Vse za sprejem je zgledno lepo organiziral splošno poznani **Pavel Arhar**. Pripravil je na svojem domu za škofa in spremstvo kosilo. Pred kapelo kjer je bila služba božja, je postavil slavolok z mlaji in napis **“DOBRODOŠLI”**; imel je pozdravni govor in v njem poudarjal, da je slovenski duhovnik velik dobrotnik za vse naše rojake, ki so se naselili v Avstraliji. S šopkom rož pa je pozdravila gospoda škofa Vesna Hatežič.

Zbral se je veliko ljudi, da prisostvuje pri sveti maši. Slovenska pesem je mogočno odmevala in tudi precej narodnih noš je bilo videti. Po maši smo imeli priliko srečati goste in se malo pogovoriti, preden so se odpeljali na kosilo k Pavletu Arhar.

To je tudi bila zadnja slovesnost, ki jo je organiziral Pavle Arhar. Stari pregovor pravi: “Človek obrača, Bog pa obrne”. Tako je vendar božja prvidnost hotela in poklicala Pavleta iz tega sveta.

Bishop Lenič Visits Wollongong

Bishop Lenič from Slovenia visited Wollongong on 13 January, 1973. The mass was held at the Villa Maria Chapel in Wollongong. Co-celebrants were Father provincial Marijan Valenček, Dr. Ivan Mikula and Father Valerijan Jenko. Pavel Arhar was responsible for the organisation of their visit and for catering. He put a lot of effort into the preparations for this mass. He made all the decorations for the church and he wrote a speech to greet the visitors.

On their arrival he read the speech, and Vesna Hatežič greeted them with flowers. At the conclusion of the mass, we had the chance to speak with the bishop

This was the last festive occasion that Pavel Arhar organised. One month later he was tragically killed in a car accident in Penrith.

Članek ki ga je pater Valerijan napisal za Misli februar-marec 1973

V petek 23. februarja okrog druge ure popoldne je v bližini Penrith-a preminul a avtomobilski nesreči komaj 44 let star dobro poznani in priljubljeni rojak Pavle Arhar. Rojen je bil 9.1.1929 v vasi Zminec pri Škofji Loki. Leta 1949 je zapustil domovino in naslednje leto prišel v Avstralijo.

Pavel je bil dolga leta v rezervni vojaški službi kot narednik-kuhar. Tudi tri tedne pred svojo smrtjo je prebil pri vojakih v letnjem vojaškem kampu v Singeltonu. Ko so se vračali domov, je Pavleta (kot potnika v enem od vojaških jeepov) doletela smrtna nesreča.



Zadnja vrsta. Back row: Father Valerijan Jenko, Toni Brodnik, Margaret Hatežič & Filip, (škof) bishop Lenič. Pavel Arhar

Prva vrsta. Front row: Margaret Justina Hatežič, Vesna Hatežič, Silvija Groznik, John Brodnik, dr Ivan Mikula.

Pogrebno sveto mašo smo imeli v sredo, 28 februarja v St Francis Xavier katedrali v Wollongongu. Maševal sem skupaj z vojaškim kuratom Dr. J. Duck-om. Pokopan je bil z vojaškimi častmi na livadnjem pokopališču v Kanahooka.

Pavel je bil dolga leta aktiven in vodilen član tamkajšnega slovenskega društva Danica. Znan je bil mnogim rojakom in od vseh spoštovan. Vsako leto je organiziral in tudi sam predstavljal "Miklavža" v cerkveni dvorani v Wollongongu. Zato je za njim v Wollongongu nastala velika vrzel, ki je ne bo mogoče nadomestiti.



Škof (bishop) Lenič, pater Valerijan in Vesna Hatežič

Father Valerijan wrote this article for Misli February/March Edition

On Friday 23 February 1973, Pavel Arhar, well known amongst the Slovenians in Wollongong, died in a car accident near Penrith. He was born 9.1.1929 in the village of Zminec near Škofja Loka in Slovenia. In 1949 he left Slovenia and in 1950 arrived in Australia.

He was a sergeant-cook in the Army Reserve. At the time of his death, he was at the Singelton Army Base. On their journey to the camp, the jeep in which he was a passenger was involved in an accident and Pavel was killed instantly.

The funeral was held at St Frances Xavier Cathedral in Wollongong. He was laid to rest at the Kanahooka Lawn Cemetery.

Pavel Arhar was one of the leaders of the Slovenian community in Wollongong. Loved by everybody, he was the foundation member of the Slovenian Society Danica. He was greatly missed.

Ansambel MINORES v Avstraliji

Ansambel duhovnih popevk gostuje v Avstraliji. Spet so zdrsela letalska kolesa po sydneyškem letališču in nam pripeljala šestorico skromnih, mladih in nasmejanih minoritskih patrov pevcev (med njimi trojico novomašnikov) pod okriljem modernega provinciala, častnega patri Martina Vidoviča.

Poleg močno razgibanih cerkvenih slovesnosti imajo "Minores" za seboj tudi že tri zelo uspele koncerne modernih duhovnih in narodnih napevov v Paddingtonu, Wollongongu in Auburnu.

Po Slakih in Posavskih fantih je to sedaj tretja skupina, ki pa je po sestavi, po sporedih in zlasti po notranji čustveni napetosti bistveno drugačna. Kakor prejšnim, tako naj tudi tej vrli slovenski duhovni skupini veljajo naši vdani pozdravi. Kako

rastrešeni Slovenci po tej brezmejni celini cenijo njihovo poslanstvo in hude napore, bodo zapisali v dnevниke in radi prebirali še v poznejših letih, ker je večina od njih po tej turneji zaključila nadaljno življensko pot. Nam pa bo ostala pravtako v lepem spominu, ker je izpolnila kar tehten namen.²⁰

V Wollongongu so Minores imeli drugi koncert. Z veseljem in navdušenjem smo dočakali njihov nastop. Tokrat je prevzel skrb za organiziranje koncerta pater Valerijan, z pomočjo družin Božič, Brodnik in še nekaj drugih pridnih rok.

Koncert je bil 14. julija 1974 v mestni dvorani (Town Hall) v Wollongongu ob 6.30 zvečer. Dvorana je bila nabito polna, mnenja vseh gostov so bila, da so odlično peli, odigrali male igrice za smeh in zelo lepo igrali. Cela dvorana se je smejava njihovim šalam, ob njihovem petju pa je bila popolna tišina, kar je izjema za slovenske nastope.

V Wollongongu so še potem nastopali v Fraternity klubu v Fairy Meadow, v Warrawong Community Hall in poljski dvorani v Gwynneville. Kar štiri krat so nastopali v Wollongngu. Vsak njihov nastop je bil dobro obiskan, sedaj so že postali **“MINORES”**. Tudi kadar so nastopali v Slovenskem društvu Sydney in v klubu Triglav, se je veliko Slovencev iz Wollongonga udeležilo njihovih koncertov.

Pater Miha Drevenšek (vodja Minores) nas je po dolgih letih zopet obiskal in daroval sveto mašo v naši cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree. Po maši smo se zbrali v dvorani in obujali spomine na njihovo koncertno potovanje po Avstraliji.

Povedal je tudi, kako težko jim je bilo dobiti dovoljenje od takratnega režima Jugoslavije, da so lahko prišli v Avstralijo. Obljubiti so morali, da bodo na vsakem koncertu izpostavili jugoslovansko zastavo, obvestili jugoslovanski konzulat o programu njihovih nastopov, tako da se bo lahko uslužbenec

²⁰ Ludvik Klakočer, *Misli*, avgust 1974

konzulata udeležil vsakega koncerta, da se prepriča, da izpolnjujejo državna navodila.

Ko je pater Miha povedal patru Valerijanu, kar jim je bilo naročeno, mu je ta rekel, z jugoslovansko zastavo ne morejo tukaj nastopati, ker bi ljudstvo protestiralo. Minores so potem igrali na vseh koncertih brez jugoslovanske zastave in tudi od konzulata ni nobeden prišel kontrolirat, če so Minores izpolnjevali njihova navodila.

Minores Ensemble is touring Australia

The aeroplane has landed at Sydney airport and brought us six smiling priests of the Minorite Order who are members of a musical group that performs spiritual and folk songs. The name of the group is "MINORES" and they had started their concert tour of Australia. Their first performance was in Paddington which was very successful. Next on the list was Wollongong, with a concert on 14 July 1974 at the Wollongong Town Hall.

The Slovenian public in Wollongong awaited their concert with real enthusiasm. Father Valerijan Jenko was responsible for the organisation of the concert with the help of the Božič and Brodnik families along with a few other helpers.

The Town Hall was packed to the rafters. Opinion amongst all patrons was that their performance was excellent. They had four concerts in the Wollongong region: Wollongong Town Hall, Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow, Warrawong Community Hall and the Polish Hall in Gwynnnville.

Father Miha Drevenšek (their leader) revisited Wollongong recently and celebrated mass at the Slovenian All Saints church in Figtree. He told us how difficult it was for them in 1974 to organise their concert tour, as Slovenia was then part of Yugoslavia and the regime at that time was very much against religion. To obtain permission for the tour they had to promise that they would display the Yugoslav flag at all of their concerts.

In addition, an official from the Yugoslav government would attend their concerts to inspect if they were fulfilling their obligations. There was opposition to this requirement from the public and the flag was not exhibited at their concerts.



Minores, ansambel duhovnih povevk gostuje v Avstraliji
Milan Križan, Franc Čuček, Mihael Drevenšek, Lojze Klemenčič, Janez Antolič, Stanko Zadravec

Minores Ensemble of spiritual songs touring Australia

Obisk nadškofa Alojzija Šuštarja

V Wollongongu smo imeli slovensko službo božjo v Villa Marija cerkvi decembra 1983. Cerkev ja bila nabito polna, in slovenska pesem je mogočno donela, kar gre zahvala cerkvenemu pevskemu zboru. Pred mašo sta v narodnih nošah pozdravila častnega gosta Mojca Brodnik in Robert Šuber. Po maši smo se lahko srečali z visokim gostom v dvorani zraven cerkve pri obloženih mizah. Hans Konrad je prosil v škofijskem uradu, če nam dovolijo, da se po maši zberemo v dvorani. Gospodinje pa so napekle dobrot da so bile mize polne.

DOBRODOŠLI GOSPOD NADŠKOF



Marija Brodnik, nadškof (Archbishop) Šuštar, Robert Šuber



Slovenski verniki ob obisku nadskofa Šuštarja v Wollongongu 1983
Slovenian congregation with Archbishop Šuštar in Wollongong 1983

Archbishop Šuštar visits Wollongong

In December 1983, Archbishop Alojzij Šuštar was the guest of the Slovenian community in Wollongong. On his arrival, Marija Brodnik and Robert Šuber greeted the distinguished guest. High mass followed at the Villa Maria Chapel in Wollongong. At the conclusion of the mass, the congregation was invited to the church hall to meet and talk to Archbishop Šuštar.

Slovenska cerkev v Wollongongu

Slovenskemu klubu "Planica" iz Wollongonga so se letos uresničile dolgoletne želje. Ponudila se je izredna prilika, da kupi prostore anglikanskega verskega središča v Figtree: cerkev, dvorano in družinsko hišo, ki je bila bivališče njihovemu ministru. Ti prostori so postali za anglikansko skupnost premajhni in sklenili so, da jih prodajo ter si na drugem kraju sezidajo novo središče.

Ivan Rudolf, sedanji požrtvovalni predsednik kluba, si je dejal: sedaj ali nikoli! Odbor ga je podprl, začeli so zbirati denar in 6. maja 1983 so dobili ključe. Prostori so sedaj slovenski. Čeprav je bilo več resnih interesentov za nakup prostorov, je anglikanska skupnost to prodala Slovencem, ker jim je zaupala, da bodo poskrbeli tudi za cerkev, ter da bo cerkev še naprej služila svojemu namenu. Škof William Murray je dovolil, da se v tej cerkvi opravlja slovenska služba božja in se je celo ponudil, da bo rad prišel med Slovence in cerkev blagoslovil, kakor hitro se bo vrnil iz Rima.

Ko je klub "Planica" postala lastnik prostorov, so se začela velika dela. Obnovili in opremili so dvorano in kuhinjo, ko so dobili še cerkev, so stekla prenovitvena dela tudi v cerkvi. Prestavili so oltar, napeljali dodatno razsvetljavo, očistili in polakirali klopi, da izgledajo kakor nove, kupili križ in križev pot, na vrhu strehe še postavili jeklen križ, obnovili lesene oblage, in z lesom obložili spodnji del sten v cerkveni ladji. V načrtu pa je še

ometanje notranjosti cerkve, položitev preproge po vsej cerkvi, ter barvanje celotne strehe.

Cerkev ne le da ima zelo lepo logo, ampak je tudi izredno lepa, topla, domača in prijetna. Kot kakšna slovenska podeželska podružnica. Vse je čudovito ubrano v eno samo "harmonijo" lesena obloga v prezbiteriju, oltar, prižnica in masivno stojalo, klopi v cerkvi in kamnit krstni kamen z lesenim pokrovom. Zaenkrat je še ob zadjni steni, pa ga bomo prestavili v prezbiterij, kjer bo še bolj nazorno govoril, da se božje življenje v nas začenja s svetim krstom.

V nedeljo 24. julija 1983 smo opravili preprost blagoslov cerkve in v njej darovali prvo sveto daritev. In zgodilo se je nekaj, kar ni nihče pričakoval: ne midva s p. Valerijanom, ne predsenik kluba Planice. Že prvo nedeljo je bila cerkev premajhna! Prinesli so stole iz dvorane in še so morali mnogi stati. Zares prijeten občutek ob polni cerkvi in zavzeto sodelovanje ter lepo petje, kar je sploh značilno za Wollongong.

Izgleda torej, da res lahko pozabimo na razlike, ki so med nami in se vsaj v cerkvi zberemo pod eno streho. Priznanje vsem, ki ste prišli. Dokažite to tudi v nedeljo, 14. avgusta, ko bo maša v Villa Maria kapeli: da pridete tudi tja, da zares dokažemo samim sebi, da zmoremo biti skupaj!

Spet smo doživeli nekaj lepega – je bila soglasna ugotovitev vseh prisotnih in čutili smo enako, da je cerkev naša, slovenska, domača, kot materina beseda. In da naj bo ta cerkev versko središče Slovencev, ki živijo v Wollongngu in njegovi okolici. Ovce enega pastirja imajo en hlev. In v svetem jubilejnem letu našega odrešenja naj ne omaguje naš korak.²¹

²¹ Pater Ciril Božič

Slovenian All Saints Church in Wollongong

Slovenian Australian Club Planica was able to purchase the All Saints Anglican Church in Figtree as this church became too small for the Anglican parish's needs.

Ivan Rudolf, president of the Slovenian Australian Club Planica said "now or never". The Board of Directors of the Club Planica agreed with him and they started fundraising for the deposit. On 6 May 1983 the keys of the property were received. There were other buyers interested in this property, but the Anglican parish chose the Slovenian Club as their preferred buyer. This way the church would still be used for religious purposes.

Bishop William Murray gave permission for this church to be converted into a catholic church.

As soon as Club Planica received the keys to the property, renovation work began. The hall and the kitchen were renovated, followed by the church. After the renovations the church resembled a small village church in Slovenia. The interior of the church was beautifully renovated. A new altar, pulpit, christening stone with wooden top and solid pews greeted the parishioner.

A simple blessing of the church was performed before the mass on 24 July 1983. Attendance on that day was very good. It is a nice feeling when the church is full and everybody participates at the mass.

We experienced something that was beautiful, the feeling that the church is ours and it is a meeting place for all Slovenians in this region.²²

²² Father Ciril Božič



Preprost blagoslov cerkve Vseh Svetnikov v Figtree 24.7.1983
A simple blessing of the church was performed on 24.7.1983.

Slovesni blagoslov cerkve Vseh svetnikov v Figtree

Prva Nedelja 27. novembra 1983 – začetek novega cerkvenega leta. Ta dan pa je pomenil tudi nov začetek za rojake v Wollongongu. Dr. William Murray, škof v Wollongongu je namreč na to nedeljo slovesno blagoslovil novo pridobljeno slovensko cerkev na Princes Highway Figtree.

Pot do tega uspeha ni bila lahka. Saj so morali predsednik, odborniki, člani kluba Planica in rojaki v Wollongongu veliko žrtvovati, da so prišli do lastnih prostorov: do cerkve, dvorane, stanovanjske hiše. Žrtev pa še ni konec, saj bo treba sedaj vračati banki posojilo, ki ga je dala za omenjeni nakup. Toda, če bomo složni in požrtvovalni ter zavedni rojaki in verniki, to breme ne bo pretežko.

Slovesnost blagoslovitve se je pričela ob štirih popoldan s slovesnim sprevodom škofa in njegovega spremstva iz dvorane v cerkev. Najprej je Rebeka Rudolf izrekla škofu dobrodošlico in mu dala šopek nageljnov v imenu celotne skupnosti. Nato je škof blagoslovil cerkev in začel s sveto mašo. Pri pridigi je govoril, da nas mora cerkev napraviti boljše ljudi in kristjane. Pri maši je lepo prepevala cela cekev, po obhajilu pa so mladi pevci zapeli venček angleških cerkvenih popevk.²³

Prvi krst v cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree je bil 13.11.1983. Krščen je bil Wayne Daniel Groznik, sin Roberta in Tanje, rojene Besednjak. Krst je vpisan v Unanderri, **in prva poroka** je bila v tej cerkvi ob štirih popoldan 25.11.1983. Zakonsko zvestobo sta si obljuila Jože Celin in Maryanne Spada. Bila je polna cerkev.²⁴

Solemn Blessing of the All Saints Church in Figtree

A new beginning for the Slovenian community in Wollongong commenced on 27 November 1983. On this day the newly acquired church of All Saints was blessed by Bishop William Murray. To reach this goal, members of the Slovenian Club Planica and other Slovenians had to make many sacrifices and had to work hard to achieve it. For the next few years the Slovenian community will have to work very hard to repay the loan and be involved in many fundraising activities. Hopefully with the help of all of us we will succeed.

The solemn blessing commenced at 4pm. Rebeka Rudolf greeted Bishop Murray with a bunch of carnations. The blessing of the church followed after which the mass began. During the mass the church choir sang. After Holy Communion the youth choir sang several songs in English.²⁵

²³ Pater Ciril and pater Valerijan, *Rafael*, 1983

²⁴ Pater Valerijan

²⁵ Father Ciril Božič and Father Valerijan Jenko

The first baptism at All Saints Church in Figtree took place on 13 November 1983. Wayne Daniel Groznik, son of Robert and Tanja (Bessednjak) was christened on this day. The first marriage was performed on 25 November 1983 between Jože Celin and Maryanne Spada



Škof William Murray pri blagoslovitvi cerkve 27.11.1983
Bishop William Murray at the blessing of our church

Slovesnost odkritja in Blagoslovitev spominske plošče na Pročelju Cerkve 22.7.1984

Slovesnost je vodil gospod župnik iz župnije Podzemelj, Jože Ovinček. Iz Sydneys smo prispeli z enim avtobusom. Ob treh popoldan (deževno vreme) je g. Ivan Rudolf, predsednik kluba, z izbranimi besedami povedal, kaj naj pomeni nam tu ta cerkev. Gospod Jože Ovinček je odkril ploščo in jo blagoslovil. Nadaljevali smo v cerkvi s slovesno sveto mašo.

Pred mašo je bil tu novinar lokalnega časopisa, pa smo se postavili, da nas je slikal. Po maši so v dvorani nastopili mladi.²⁶

Naša slovenska skupnost praznuje danes pomemben dogodek, ki bo pripovedoval vsem, ki se bodo kdajkoli mudili v bližini naše cerkve, da tudi na tem koncu sveta živijo ljudje in nadaljujejo z delom in običaji, katere so nas naučile naše matere in očetje v naši stari domovini. Čeprav nas ni veliko po številu, pa vendar smo bili toliko močni in pogumni, da smo pred dobrim letom tudi mi prišli do svojega cilja, ki ga v preteklosti še ni bilo mogoče uresničiti. Skoraj vsak mesec se odpirajo vrata društev in klubov širom po Avstraliji, toda le poredko se odprejo vrata nove slovenske cerkve tako daleč v tujini. Prav zaradi tega smo lahko ponosni in hvaležni vsem tistim, kateri so imeli toliko poguma, da so žrtvovali svoj prosti čas in denar za naše Slovenstvo, na območju Wollongonga.

V sredo 25. julija 1984 bo prva obletnica, odkar smo imeli prvo sveto mašo v tej naši skromni cerkvi. Vsi, kateri ste bili takrat prisotni, se dobro spominjate v kakšnem stanju je bila ta naša cerkev. S ponosom jo lahko prenovljeno in urejeno pogledamo danes. Čeravno se nekateri še ne morejo sprijaznit z dejstvom, kdo je lastnik cerkve, pa naj vam povem s par besedami. Lastniki cerkve so verniki. Dokler bodo verniki prihajali v cerkev in se bo v njej obhajala služba božja, bo to ostala cerkev: če pa seveda ne bo ne vernikov, ne službe božje, bodo to pač

²⁶ Pater Ciril Božič

samo štirje zidovi in prebivališče pajkov. Na nas je torej sedaj, da pokažemo, da smo zvesti svoji cerkvi in veri.

Prav danes hočem izkoristiti to priložnost, kot vaš voditelj in predsednik, da se prav vsem iz srca zahvalim za vse, kar ste žrtvovali za nas in za sebe. Hvala tudi Hansu Konrad, ki z ljubeznijo skrbi za notranjost in okolico cerkve.²⁷

Po slovesnosti so nas v dvorani presenetili mladi z lepim kulturnim sporedom: z igranjem na orgle, violine in kitare, pa flavte, pevci pa z lepo slovensko pesmijo: Po jezeru bliz' Triglava, Nova mladina in Dan ljubezni. Nadaljevali smo z domaćim veseljem in petjem. Sydneyčanom je popoldne kar prehitro minilo, članice Društva sv Ane pa so takrat sklenile, da bodo slovenski skupnosti v Wollongongu podarile tisoč opek za razširitev društvenih prostorov, vsekakor pohvalna poteza.²⁸

Solemn blessing of the Memorial Stone 22.7.1984

Father Jože Ovinček from Slovenia (parish Podzemelj) performed the solemn blessing of the memorial stone at our Church of All Saints in Figtree.

Ivan Rudolf, president of Slovenian Australian Club Planica, greeted our visitors and made a short speech about what it means to have our own Slovenian church. In this region there are not many Slovenians but they had enough courage to buy this property. We have a few clubs and societies, but there are not many Slovenian churches. We can be proud of our achievements. On 25 July it will be one year since we had mass here for the first time. A lot of work was done in this time and the church looks much better now. As long as the Slovenian community will come to Slovenian mass at All Saints Church and help with the running of the centre, it will prosper.

²⁷ Ivan Rudolf, predsednik

²⁸ Misli, avgust 1984



Gospod Vlado Zupančič na obisku v Figtree in p. Ciril Božič
Fr. Vlado Zupančič visiting Figtree and Fr. Ciril Božič

Slovesnost blagoslovitve podob Marije pomagaj in sv Frančiška Asiškega 5.5.1985

Iz Sydneys smo priomali z enim avtobusom in še najmajn desetimi osebnimi avtomobili. Ob dveh popoldan je bil pričetek slovesnosti. V asistenci so bili: akolit Toni Šajn, in kantonja Franci Rajk in Andrej Sušnik. Petje je bilo mogočno! Dan čudovit. Po štirinajstih dneh nalivov je bila sobota in nedelja lepa, topla in sončna. Po sveti maši smo zapeli litanije Matere božje. Bila je zares lepa domača, mogočna slovesnost. Sledil je piknik.²⁹

Blessing of the Image of Holy Mary and St Francis of Assisi 5.5.1985

A busload of pilgrims arrived from Sydney and another twenty pilgrims arrived in their cars. The festivities started at 2pm.

²⁹ Pater Ciril Božič

*Father Ciril Božič blessed the icons with the help of his assistants Toni Šajn, Franci Rajk and Andrej Sušnik. The church choir sang well. It was a very nice celebration. A picnic followed the mass.*³⁰

Materinski dan 12. 5.1985

Maševel je pater Ciril, pater Valerijan je asistiral. Igrala je Vesna Hatežič, ministranta sta bila Lojze Brodnik in Filip Hatežič. Drugo berilo je brala Mojca Brodnik. Darovanjska procesija: Blanka Košak in Peter Murko. Pred mašo je bila v dvorani pevska vaja za mladinski pevski zbor Zlati glas. Po maši je bila v dvorani materinska proslava. Udeležba je bila okrog 90.³¹

Mother's Day 12.5.1985

Father Ciril Božič celebrated the mass. Father Valerijan assisted. Vesna Hatežič was the organist, and the altar boys were Lojze Brodnik and Filip Hatežič. Mojca Brodnik read the second reading. Offering procession: Blanka Košak and Peter Murko.

*Zlati Glas (Golden Voice) choir had rehearsals before mass and after mass there was a concert in the hall which 90 people attended.*³²

Sprejem gostov, škofa Jožeta Kvasa in patra provinciala Miha Vovka O.F.M

Pater provincial Miha Vovk je vodil duhovno obnovo v naši cerkvi na dan Vseh svetih, prvega novembra in drugega novembra, dan vernih duš, 1985, ob sedmih zvečer.

³⁰ Father Ciril Božič

³¹ Pater Valerijan

³² Father Valerijan

V nedeljo tretjega novembra, ob treh popoldan pa je bila slovesna maša, kronanje podobe brezjanske Marije Pomagaj, blagoslovitev podobe zadnje večerje in pa novega križa, ki je bil izdelan v kartuziji Pleterje, ter ga je iz domovine prinesel in podaril naši skupnosti pater Ciril Božič. Po končani slovesnosti v cerkvi smo se vsi zbrali v dvorani, kjer je sledil kulturni program in pogovor z gosti.

Visit of Bishop Jože Kvas and Father Provincial Vovk

Father provincial Miha Vovk was conducting religious renewals in our church, 1 and 2 November 1985. Solemn mass was celebrated on Sunday 3 November by bishop Jože Kvas. Before the commencement of mass, the bishop crowned the icon of Holy Mary, blessed the painting of The Last Supper and of the cross which was made in Carthusian Pleterje which Father Cyril brought with him from Slovenia. At the conclusion of the festivities in the church, we attended a cultural program in the church hall and met our guests.



Kronanje podobe Marije Pomagaj in blagoslovitev Zadnje večerje in križa

Blessing of the painting of the Last Supper, the Cross, and crowning of the icon of Mary Mother of God



Pater Ciril Božič, škof Jože Kvas in Hans Konrad. Kronanje podobe brezijanske Marije pomagaj

Father Ciril Božič, bishop Jože Kvas and Hans Konrad. Blessing of the painting of the Last Supper, the Cross, and crowning of the icon of Mary Mother of God

Obisk salezijanskega misionarja g. Mirka Žerjava, 2.8.1987

V Merrylandsu je imel gospod Žerjav štiridnevni misijon. Po končanem misijonu in po nedeljski maši pa je imel njegovo rokohitersko predstavo.

V Figtree smo bili deležni njegovega obiska v nedeljo, drugega avgusta 1987. Pred mašo ga je pozdravil predsednik Ivan Rudolf, Rebeka Rudolf pa mu je podarila ciklamen. Gospod Žerjav je imel misijonski govor in sveto mašo. Pridiga je bila ganljiva, da so marsikomu prišle solze v oči. Po bogoslužju, je bila v dvorani rokohiterska predstava. Prisotnih je bilo veliko ljudi, saj je to bilo nekaj izrednega: duhovnik, misijonar in pa še čarovnik, vse v enem. Predstava je bila zelo zanimiva, kako je zajčke iz klobuka lovil in delal različne čarovnije. Cela dvorana se je smejala, ko nas je zapeljal v čarobni svet. In zopet so bile solze v očeh, tokrat od smeha.

Missionary Father Mirko Žerjav at All Saints Church

Father Mirko Žerjav had a four day mission at St Raphael's Slovenian church in Merrylands.

He came to Wollongong on 2 October 1987. On arrival he was greeted by the president Ivan Rudolf and his daughter Rebeka and he then celebrated mass. His sermon was about the work of a missionary. After the mass we had the privilege to see his magic show, this being his hobby. It is unusual to find a priest, missionary and magician all in one. His performance was very good and we all had an enjoyable afternoon.

Spis za zrelostni izpit in opis življenja v slovenski družini

Ime mi je Margaret Justina Hatežič. Stara sem 17 let in živim v Lake Heights, ki je blizu Wollongonga. Bila sem dijakinja St Mary's College v Wollongongu. Moja mama je doma iz

Maribora, ata pa iz Reke na Hrvatskem. Imam tudi sestro Vesno staro 21 let in bo to leto končala študij glasbe na konservatoriju v Sydneju. Brat Filip pa je star 16 let in še hodi v šolo v Edmund Rice College v Wollongongu. Pred dvema letoma sem se odločila, da bi rada študirala slovenščino za veliko maturo, zato sem se vpisala v slovensko šolo v Bankstown. Tudi moj brat Filip in sestrična Blanka Košak sta se takrat vpisala v slovensko šolo.

Pred nekaj leti smo tudi v Wollongongu imeli slovensko šolo. Pouk smo imeli enkrat na mesec in to je bilo takrat, kadar smo imeli slovenko mašo. Tri ure pred mašo smo se zbrali v katoliški osnovni šoli v Wollongongu. Šolo so vodili sestra Miriam, pater Valerijan in pater Lovrencij. Učili smo se brati in pisati. Za materinski dan in za Miklavžovo smo nastopali in smo pokazali kaj smo se naučili. Navadno smo se naučili kakšno igro in zapeli smo nekaj pesmi, potem je lahko vsak sam nastopal z glasbenimi točkami. Takrat smo še imeli slovensko mašo v Villa Maria kapeli. Leta 1983 je tukajšni klub Planica kupil bivšo anglikansko cerkev Vseh svetnikov in posestvo v Figtree. Od takrat imamo vse prireditve v slovenski dvorani, mašo pa imamo vsako drugo in četrto nedeljo v mesecu. Tudi slovenska mladina v Wollongngu ni pozabljena. Imamo mladinski pevski zbor Zlati Glas. Osnovni člani tega zbora so bili učenci slovenske šole, potem so se pa pridružili tudi drugi pevci. Začeli smo z desetimi pevci, sedaj pa imamo 22 pevcev in upamo, da se bo pridružilo še več mladine, še posebno zato, ker upamo, da bomo imeli 14. mladinski koncert v Wollongongu. Starost naših pevcev je od sedmega leta, pa do 25. leta Pevske vaje imamo vedno eno uro pred mašo. Zbor vodi moja sestra Vesna. Od začetka, večina od nas smo šli, ker so nam starši rekli, da moramo iti, sedaj pa gremo, ker sami hočemo. Saj spremljajo vaje veselje, petje in nastopi. Skupaj smo že nastopali na mladinskih koncertih v Merrylands, Adelaide, Canberri in Melbourne. Tudi nastopamo v naši dvorani, pri sveti maši v Figtree in pa na maturantskih plesih v Sydneju smo bili gostje. Tudi letos bomo nastopali na maturantskem plesu. To leto smo tudi ustanovili folklorno skupino. Meseca avgusta sta nas obiskala plesna učiteljica in

ljudski muzikant iz Slovenije. Od takrat naprej mladina in odrasli nadaljujejo s plesom. Vadijo vsaki petek zvečer.

Žalostno je, da mora naša mladina iz Wollongonga potovati v Sydney, če se hoče naučiti slovenščine. Ampak, če se kateri mladenič zanima za materin jezik, je res vredno hoditi v šolo. Učimo se pisati pravilne slovenščine, zgodovino, zemljepis in literaturo. Še ena prednost slovenske šole je, da srečaš nove prijatelje, ki jim je materin jezik slovenski. Čeprav živimo v Avstraliji, ima Slovenska mladina priliko zvedeti o njihovi dediščini, lahko se pridruži različnim skupinam, kot so folklorne skupine, pevski zbori ali pa, da se vpišejo v slovensko šolo.

Končno bi hotela povabiti vsakega, posebno pa ljudi iz Wollongonga, na naš maturantski ples, ki ga bomo imeli pri klubu Triglav v St. John's Park 28. novembra 1987. Upam, da se bomo tam videli.³³



Pevski zbor Zlati glas nastopa na maturantskem plesu 1986
Golden Voice Choir performing at graduation dance 1986

³³ Margaret Justina Hatežič, Lake Heights

Slovenian Essay for the HSC, 1987

My name is Margaret Hatežič. I am 17 years old and I live in Lake Heights near Wollongong. I was a student at St Mary's College in Wollongong. My mother was born in Maribor, Slovenia and my dad was born in Rijeka in Croatia. My sister Vesna is 21 years old. This year she will finish her Bachelor of Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. My brother Phillip is 16 years old and is a student at Edmund Rice College in Wollongong.

Two years ago I decided that I will study the Slovenian language as one of my electives for the HSC. I enrolled at Bankstown Girls High School for Saturday language classes. My brother Phillip and my cousin Blanka Košak also enrolled. We had Slovenian school in Wollongong as well (1977 –1982). Classes were held when we had Slovenian mass. Three hours before mass we attended the Slovenian classes at Wollongong Catholic School. The teachers were Sister Miriam Horvat, Father Valerijan Jenko and Father Lavrencij Anžel, and we were taught to write and read. For Mother's Day and St. Nicholas' Day, we staged concerts and performed to display what we had learned. Usually we performed a play and our choir sang some songs. After a group performance, there were individuals performing. At that time we still had Slovenian mass at Villa Maria Chapel.

In 1983 the Slovenian Australian Club Planica bought the property from the Church of England parish in Figtree, which consisted of the All Saints Church, a hall and a house. Since then we have Slovenian mass every second and fourth Sunday in the month. The Slovenian youth is not forgotten. We have a youth choir Zlati Glas (Golden Voice). The original members of this choir were pupils of the Slovenian school in Wollongong. Now other singers have joined our choir. We started with ten singers, now we have 22. We hope more singers will join us as we hope to stage the 14th Youth concert in Wollongong. The age of our singers ranges from seven years to 25 years. Our rehearsals are always one hour before mass. My sister Vesna is Choirmaster.

From the beginning we attended the choir because our parents insisted, but now we are enjoying the choir. As a group we have performed at the Youth Concerts in Merrylands, Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne, and at graduation dances in Sydney. We have concerts in our hall as well. This year a folklore group was established. In August (1987) a folklore teacher and a musician came to Australia to teach folk dance.

It is a pity that our students have to travel to Sydney if they want to learn the Slovenian language, but it is worth the effort. You make new friends with other young people with Slovenian roots.

*Finally I would like to invite everybody, especially people from Wollongong to attend our graduation dance which will be held at Club Triglav in St Johns Park on 28 November 1987.*³⁴



Igra slovenske šole za materinski dan 1980 Margaret Hatežič
A play for Mother's Day Slovenian School 1980, Margaret Hatežič

³⁴ Margaret Justina Hatežič, Lake Heights.

Sestra Francka Žižek

Sestra Francka Žižek je prvič prišla med nas v Figtree 24. aprila 1988. Na začetku svete maše jo je pozdravil predsednik Ivan Rudolf in ji podaril cvetje.

Redno je prihajala med nas, kadar smo imeli slovensko mašo. Bila je za šoferja, vodila je cerkveni pevski zbor in tudi organistinja je bila, kadar ni bilo domačih organistov. Zelo rada je imela živali in njena velika želja je bila, da bi lahko imela psička. Pater Ciril in pater Valerijan pa sta bila mnenja, da bi pes odganjal vernike od cerkve, zato nimajo psa pri sv. Rafaelu v Merrylands. Po njenem odhodu je bila zelo pogrešana, saj je poprijela za delo vsepovsod, kjer je bilo potrebno.



Cerkveni ženski zbor pod vodstvom setre Francke Žižek
Olga Žičkar, Tereza Kropič, Giza Mlinarič, Margaret in Vesna Hatežič,
Marica Pirnar, Barica Brodnik
Church choir, choir master Francka Žižek

Sister Francka Žižek came to Figtree on 24 April 1988. Ivan Rudolf greeted her with an arrangement of flowers. From this time onwards she was a regular visitor to All Saints Church in

Figtree. Her duties included being an unpaid driver, chorister and organist when our regular organists were unavailable. She loved animals and her great wish was to have a dog at St. Raphael's Slovenian church in Merrylands. Unfortunately Father Ciril Božič and Father Valerijan Jenko were afraid that if they had a dog at the church premises, the dog would deter parishioners from the church. After her departure she was greatly missed by all.

Obisk nadškofa Ambrožiča

V soboto 23.7.1988 je bil med nami visoki gost iz Kanade, nadškof Ambrožič, nečak pokojnega patra Bernarda Ambrožiča. Pred mašo sta ga pozdravili Leoni in Vanessa Marinič. Po maši je bilo srečanje z visokim gostom v dvorani.

Visit of Archbishop Ambrožič

Archbishop Ambrožič from Canada visited our church on 23 July 1988. He is the nephew of the late Father Bernard Ambrožič. Leonie and Vanessa Marinič greeted the Archbishop before mass. After mass we had the opportunity to meet our guest in the church hall.

14. Mladinski koncert v Wollongongu 1. oktobra, 1988

Odbor kluba Planice se je odločil, da bomo to leto imeli mladinski koncert pri nas v Wollongongu. Organizirali smo delovne skupine, ki so bile odgovorne za določena dela, ki jim je bilo dodeljeno. Bilo je treba veliko organizirati, saj smo imeli goste iz Adelaida, Melbourna, Sydneys in Canberre dva in tri dni med nami. Naša dvorana ni bila dovolj velika za takšen koncert, tako smo prosili RSL klub v Woononi, če lahko rabimo njihovo dvorano. Z veseljem so nam dovolili. Sveti mašo drugi dan v nedeljo pa smo imeli v naši dvorani, tudi naša cerkev je bila

takrat premajhna, da bi sprejela pod svojo streho toliko vernikov, zato smo imeli sveto mašo v dvorani.

Kako nam je uspel koncert, pa nam bo povedal Filip Hatežič, član mladinskega pevskega zbora Zlati Glas. To je bil njegov spis za veliko maturo iz slovenštine za zrelostni izpit.

Naša lipa naj cveti

Letos smo imeli v Wollongongu 14. koncert slovenske mladine v Avstraliji v priredbi slovenskih verskih središč. Geslo letošnjega koncerta je bilo "Naša lipa naj cveti", s katerim hoče zarisavati v srca nas vseh najprej veselje nad tem, kar smo, kar imamo – Vi starejši in mi mladi.

Naša lipa naj cveti pa izraža tudi željo po novi pomladji: po rasti in cvetju v prihodnjih letih – po živem spominu na Slovenijo, deželo mojih staršev. Prav o tem bi rad govoril. Že na začetku šolskega leta začnemo s pripravami za koncert. Precej časa porabimo pri izbiri pesmi, ki morajo biti lepe in nam mladim pri srcu, da jih radi pojemo. Potem hodimo redno na vaje. Občutek, da se koncert prehitro bliža, nam vzbuja strah, da se ne bomo pravočasno naučili. Najlepši del priprave je organiziranje potovanja. Dalje gremo, lepše je. Saj tako vidimo več Avstralije in spoznamo več svojih slovenskih sovrstnikov. Res je nekaj posebnega, da se srečujemo enkrat na leto in spoznavamo še druge mlade Slovence, s katerimi nas veže skupna dediščina slovenske matere. Naši starši pa imajo priložnost, da se ponovno srečajo s starimi znanci, ki jih morda že leta niso videli. Ker je bil letos koncert pri nas v Wollongngu, nam je izlet odpadel. Zato smo pa morali več delati, da bi pripravili vse potrebno za koncert in sprejem gostov. Želeli smo se jim oddolžiti za vsakokratno prisrčno gostoljubnost. Kjerkoli smo gostovali, nam je bilo lepo. Srečanja nam bodo ostala v trajnem spominu. Največ težav smo imeli pri iskanju primerne dvorane. Skrbelo nas je, če bo dvorana dovolj velika. Na drugi strani pa, kaj če bo prevelika in na pol prazna. No, strah je bi res odveč. Še sedežev je zmajnkalo, čeprav dvorana lahko sprejme okrog 550 ljudi.

Mislim, da je koncert uspel vsem v zadovoljstvo. Peli in plesali smo tokrat še s posebno hvaležnostjo domovini Avstraliji, da moremo tukaj ohraniti in gojiti besedo, pesem in ples dežele pod Triglavom – Slovenije.

Koncert je bil posvečen patru Valerijanu Jenku za negovih 25 let delovanja med nami. Saj patra Valerijana vsi dobro poznamo. Vemo koliko naredi za nas vse, mlade in starejše. Večino nas mladih je krstil. Učil nas je slovenski jezik v nižjih razredih dopolnilne šole v Wollongongu. Lahko bi rekli, da je pater Valerijan del vsake slovenske družine, saj deli z nami veselje in žalost.³⁵



Pevski zbor Zlati glas Wollongong 1988
Choir Zlati Glas (Golden Voice) 1988

14th Youth Concert in Wollongong 1.10.1988

The Committee of Slovenian Australia Club Planica decided that the 14th youth concert would be held in Wollongong. Working groups were organised for the planning of this event. Visitors from Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra visited

³⁵ Filip Hatežič 12. razred

Wollongong for two to three days. Our hall was not big enough for such a large concert so we held the concert at the Woonona – Bulli RSL Club auditorium, which had the capacity to seat 550 people. Mass the next day was held in our hall, as our church was too small.

Phillip Hatežič tells how successful our concert was in his essay, which he wrote for his final assessment for his HSC. Slovenian was one of his elective subjects.

Let our Linden Tree Bloom

This year we hosted the 14th youth concert of young Slovenians in Australia, which is organised by the Slovenian religious centres. The slogan for this concert was “Let the Linden Tree Bloom”. With this slogan we wish to draw into our hearts happiness of our being and what we all have – you the older generation and we the younger generation. The slogan, “Let Our Linden Tree Bloom” expresses the wish for the new spring - growth and blooms in future years and the sacred memory of Slovenia, the land of my parents.

I would like to describe how we started to organise our youth concert. At the beginning of the new school year we started with the planning of the concert. It takes a while before the songs for the concert are chosen. We have to choose the songs that are popular and nice to listen to. Then, we attended regular rehearsals. Sometimes we had the feeling that we would not be ready in time. The nicest part of organising the concert is the journey to the concert - the further away we are going the better it is. We see more of Australia and we meet more young people of Slovenian origin. It is something special that we meet once a year and renew our friendships from previous years, and our parents have a chance to meet with friends they have not seen for ages.

This year we were staying at home. We missed the fun of the journey. But we had to work a bit harder this year to prepare

everything for the concert. The hardest part was to find a suitable venue for the concert but we managed to get everything ready on time.

I think that the concert was a success. We sang and danced into the night. We are grateful to our country Australia for the privilege of learning and appreciating the language of our parents.

The concert was dedicated to Father Valerijan Jenko for his 25 years of work amongst the Slovenian community. He is well known to every Slovenian and we know and appreciate how much work he does for the older and younger generations. He baptised most of us and he was our teacher in Slovenian school in primary classes in Wollongong. We could say that Father Valerijan is part of every Slovenian family as he shares with us happy and sad events.³⁶

Prihod škofa Metoda Piriha med nas

V Petek 30. avgusta 1991 je prišel v Sydney škof Metod Pirih v spremstvu patra Cirila in patra provinciala Miha Vovka. V soboto 31. avgusta se je gospod škof srečal z verniki v Wollongongu, kjer je imel sveto mašo v slovenski cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree. Predsednica kluba Planice, Marica Kerčmar je pred mašo pozdravila visoke goste s šopkom cvetja in jim zaželela dobrodošlico. Po sveti maši je bila v dvorani večerja, nato je sledila zabava za očetovski dan.

Bishop Metod Pirih's Visit

Bishop Metod Pirih and Father Provincial Miha Vovk arrived in Sydney on 30 August 1991. On Saturday 31 August 1991 they were our guests at All Saints Church in Figtree where they celebrated mass. The president of the Club Planica, Marica

³⁶ Phillip Hatežič Year 12.

Kerčmar greeted them with a bouquet of flowers. At the conclusion of the service a dinner dance was held.

Praznujemo deseto obletnico

Kar hitro so leta minila, dela je bilo vedno na pretek, in tudi pridnih rok nam ni zmajnkalo. Za deseto obletnico našega kluba Planice in cerkve Vseh svetnikov v Figtree, ki smo praznovali leta 1993 je Marica Kerčmar napisla to pesem.

Deset let minilo je

Let deset minulo je to leto,
Ko smo se prvič zbrali pod to streho,
Takrat tukaj smo sklenili,
Tu bo naš dom, tu bomo vsi se skupaj veselili.

Slika nekdanje, naše te dvorane ni bila prav lepa,
Postala lepša je iz leta v leto,
Polno tukaj je bilo skrbi, še več pa dela,
Mnogo krat od jutra ter do poznega večera,
Hvala ti Slovenec tisočkrat,
Tvoje roke več so vredne kod zaklad!

Vse kar bilo je potrebno, smo si uredili,
Da bomo naši mlajši generaciji pustili.
Na žalost čas nam tisti že postaja,
Dvorana prazna nam ostaja. Mladina naša gre po drugi poti,
Naš dom ostal bo tukaj sam v samoti.

Če kedaj bo tukaj roka gospodarila od tujca
Ena sama želja hrepeni od mojga srca,
Prosim Te, nikoli ne pozabi tega
Da dom je bil nekoč Slovanca.



Gradnja nove dvorane v Figtree.
Building of the new hall at Figtree



Tako se je gradilo pri slovenskem klubu Planica v Figtree
We are busy building at our Club Planica in Figtree



Sedaj bomo pa počivali Franc Koprivec and Milan Sirc
Now it is time for rest

Obisk iz domovine: škof Alojz Uran

Vodstvo cerkve v Sloveniji skrbi tudi za slovenske vernike v izseljenstvu. Vsakih nekaj let dobimo obisk od vodstva cerkve, da ne izgubimo povezave z rodno domovino. Do sedaj je bilo že med nami šest slovenkih škofov in trije redovni predstojniki.

Na misijonu Svetega Rafaela v Sydneju je bil škof Alojz Uran od 6. do 19. decembra 1995 in je obiskal vse postojanke, ki spadajo pod misijon Sv. Rafaela v Merrylandsu.

Tudi v Figtree smo bili počaščeni z njegovim obiskom. Ostal nam je v spominu, kako lepo je pridigal in tudi odličen glas ima. Po slovesni maši smo se zbrali v dvorani, da ga srečamo in bolje spoznamo. Pozno v večer smo z njim kramljali in peli. Nobenemu se ni mudilo domov, ne gostom in tudi ne nam, ko pa je bilo tako lepo v škofovi druščini.



Slovenski verniki v Figtree po masi z škofom Uranom

Bishop Uran with the parishioners after the mass in Figtree

Visit from Homeland - Bishop Uran

Church leadership in Slovenia takes care of the spiritual needs of Slovenians abroad, and every few years we are treated to a visit from the church leaders.

This time it was Bishop Alojz Uran's turn to visit us. He was in NSW from 6 to 19 December 1995. He visited all the cities Slovenians live, including All Saints Church in Figtree. Celebration of holy mass was followed with meeting the bishop in the church hall.

Praznovanje 50. letnice slovenskega dušnega pastirstva v Avstraliji

V petek 31. avgusta 2001 sta prišla v Sydney visoka gosta iz Slovenije, mariborski škof dr. Franc Kramberger in pater provincial Zore. V soboto 1. septembra 2001, ob štirih popoldan

sta visoka gosta maševala za rojake v Wollongongu, v slovenski cerkvi v Vseh svetnikov Figtree. Pred mašo je predsednik kluba Planice, Ivan Rudolf pozdravil goste, nato se je začela slovesna maša. Pri maši je navdušeno prepeval ženski zbor, pod vodstvom Barice Brodnik in organista Andreja Žičkar.

Po maši smo se vsi zbrali v klubski dvorani, kjer je sledila večerja in pogovor z gospodom škofom in patrom provincialom.



P. Valerijan Jenko, škof (bishop) Kramberger, p. provincial Zore

Celebration of 50 Years of Pastoral Work in Australia

For this occasion, Bishop Franc Kramberger from Maribor and Father Provincial Zore paid a visit to Australia. In Figtree we were honoured with their visit on Saturday 1 September 2002. Holy mass was celebrated at 4pm. On their arrival Ivan Rudolf greeted them. Celebration of mass followed. At the conclusion of the mass we were invited to meet our guests in the hall.



Škof Kramberger in Ivan Rudolf
Bishop Kramberger and Ivan Rudolf

Frančiškov svetni red – FSR

Meseca februarja in marca 2002 sta bila na dopustu v Avstraliji Alenka in Milan Fras iz Maribora, da nam predstavita Frančiškov svetni red, ki ga je ustanovil sv. Frančišek Asiški. V Wollongong sta prišla s patrom Filipom Rupnikom, ko je bila pri nas redna sveta maša. Tudi pater Boris Markež je prišel z njimi. Patra Borisa smo že poznali od prej, ko je nadomeščal patra Valerijana v njegovi odsotnosti in bil med nami tri mesece. Gospa Alenka je po maši predstvaila red Svetega Frančiška in razložila kako je njena družina vključena v to družbo in kaj njim to pomeni.

Franciscan World Order

Mr and Mrs M. Fras from Maribor visited Australia in February and March 2002 to introduce the Franciscan World Order to us. St Francis of Assisi was the founder of this order. Father Filip Rupnik brought the Fras Family with him when we had our

regular Slovenian mass at All Saints Church. Father Boris Markež also paid us a visit. This was not the first visit to our church for Father Boris as he had previously taken Father Valerijan's place whilst he went on holidays.



Nada Marinič, Marica Pirnar, Giza Mlinarič, Angela Fatur, Hedvika Košak, p. Boris Markež, Alenka in Milan Fras, Margaret Hatežič

Zlatomašnik bod' pozdravljen

Leto 2002 je bilo leto zlatih jubilejev in praznovanja. Misli so dopolnile 50 let, pater Valerijan Jenko je slavil zlato mašo meseca maja in tudi pater Filip Rupnik je bil zlatomašnik v avgustu.

Prvo slavljenje zlate maše patra Valerijana je bilo v slovenski cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree 15.5. 2002, ko je bila redna slovenska služba božja v Figtree. Prvič je mogočno zadonela pesem Zlatomašnik bod' pozdravljen, saj je prepevala polna cerkev, ob spremljavi orgel.

Po maši smo se vsi zbrali v dvorani, da tudi tam počastimo našega ljubljenega zlatomašnika s kratim kulturnim programom in večerjo.



Ženski pevski zbor in pater Valeijan Jenko po zlati maši v Figtree
Father Valerjan Jenko celebrates 50 years of priesthood

Golden Jubilee for Father Valerian

The year 2002 was the year of golden jubilees. Father Valerian Jenko and Father Filip Rupnik celebrated their golden jubilees of pastoral work. The first celebration for Father Valerian was at All Saints Church in Figtree on 15 May 2002 when we had our regular Slovenian mass in Wollongong.

Dvajset let slovenske cerkve v Figtree

V nedeljo 23 novembra 2003 smo praznovali dvajseto obletnico naše cekrve Vseh svetnikov v Figtree. Ob peti uri popoldan se je začela slovesna sveta maša, ki jo je daroval škof Peter Ingham, skupaj s patrom Valerijanom, patrom Filipom in zlatomašnikom, minoritskim patrom Martinom Vidovič, ki je bil v tistih dneh na obisku v Avstraliji.

Predsednik kluba Planice, Ivan Rudolf je pozdravil gospoda škofa in vse navzoče, se zahvalil patru Valerijanu Jenko in patru Cirilu Božič za vso podporo zadnjih dvajset let in za njihovo delo za slovensko skupnost v Wollongongu.

Po maši so bili vsi povabljeni v dvorano, kjer se je še slavje nadaljevalo.



Hans Konrad, p. Filip Rupnik, škof (bishop) Peter Ingham, p. Valerjan Jenko, november 2003

20 Years of the Slovenian Church in Figtree

On 23 November 2003 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our church in Figtree. Bishop Peter Ingham celebrated the mass with Father Valerjan Jenko, Father Filip Rupnik and Father Martin Vidovič, a visitor from Slovenia. President Ivan Rudolf thanked Father Valerjan and Father Cyril Božič for all their support over the last 20 years.

Novice iz Wollongonga

Naša škofija v Wollongongu organizira vsako leto multikulturno sveto mašo. Za to priložnost povabijo vse katoliške narodne skupine, da sodelujejo pri tej sveti maši. To leto se je te svete daritve udeležila tudi slovenska skupnost iz Wollongonga, pod vodstvom patra Valerijana in kluba Planice.

Slovesnost je bila v nedeljo 29. avgusta 2004 v župnijski cerkvi v Albion Park. Bilo je veliko dela z organiziranjem. Da je bilo vse tako dobro organizirano, gre zahvala multikulturnemu odboru in vsem sodelavcem, ki so pomagali pri delu.

Sveta maša se je začela s procesijo, v katrej je bila predstavljena zastava vsake narodnosti, opis in njen pomen. Slovensko zastavo sta nosila Ivan in Marinka Rudolf, oblečena v narodne noše. Prošneje v slovenskem jeziku je brala Blanka Košak.

Sveta maša je trajala eno uro in pol, pa mi je prišlo na misel, kako je misijonar Miha Drevenšek iz Zambije pripovedoval, da se pri njih ne gleda na uro, koliko časa traja maša, da vsi pojego in plešejo v cerkvi, pa če traja maša tri ure, je tudi prav. Takšno vzdušje je bilo pri tej sveti daritvi, kjer je sodelovalo vse občestvo.

Škof Peter Ingham je imel lepo pridigo. Vedno se potrudi, da se seznanji z zgodovino vernikov, za katere pridiga. Tako je tudi bilo, ko je imel sveto mašo v naši slovenski cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree meseca novembra lansko leto in je opisal slovenko zgodovino bolje kod kateri od nas.

Po multikulturalni maši smo bili povabljeni v dvorano na koncert, ogled stojnic in pokušnino hrane, ki so jo pripravile narodnostne skupine. Slovenska skupnost je imela dve stojnici. Ena je bila obložena s slovenskimi dobrotami, druga pa s slovenskimi predmeti, ki so značilni za Slovenijo. Tudi naše cerkvene pevke so nastopile ob spremljavi Andreja Zičkar. Hvala vsem, ki ste

pomagali, da je slovenska udeležba pri multikulturalni maši tako lepo uspela.³⁷



Slovenska stojnica za multikulturalno mašo, Margaret Hatežič, Hedvika Košak, Barica Brodnik, Olga Žičkar, Ivan Košak

Slovenian stall at the multicultural mass

News from Wollongong *Misli* - October November 2004

The diocese of Wollongong organises a multicultural mass every year to which all catholic nationalities are invited to take part. This year the Slovenian community was also participating. Celebration of the mass was on Sunday 29 August 2004 in Albion Park Parish church. The multicultural committee was responsible for organising this event.

Celebration of the mass started with the procession of the flags of all nations. Ivan and Marinka Rudolf, dressed in national costume, were our flagbearers. Bishop Peter Ingham was the main celebrant with migrant chaplains assisting him. The bishop's sermon was excellent. He always takes great care in preparing his sermons. Blanka Košak read the Prayers of the Faithful.

³⁷ Margaret Hatežič, *Misli*, oktober 2004



Marinka and Ivan Rudolf - procesija zastav pred mašo
Procession of the Flags

At the conclusion of the mass, we were invited to attend the concert and tasting of the food that was prepared by different nationalities. The Slovenian Community had two display tables, one with food and one with Slovenian ornaments and literature. Our church choir sang two songs, accompanied by Andrew Žičkar. The time and effort of all involved in the preparation of this event was greatly appreciated.



Maša narodov leta 1980 v Wollongongu
Multicultural mass in Wollongong 1980



Margaret Hatežič, Brigita Brodnik, Mojca Brodnik in Filip Hatežič *Multicultural Mass in Wollongong 1980*

Pater Valerijan je praznoval osemdeseti rojstni dan

V nedeljo, osmega januarja 2006, smo imeli v slovenski cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree slovesno sveto mašo ob 80. letnici našega patra Valerijana. Slovenska skupnost v Wollongongu mu je za to priliko hotela napraviti malo slavje. Lepo je bilo videti tri generacije pred oltarjem: pater Valerijan, ki je slavil osemdeseti rojstni dan, naš škof msgr. Peter Ingham, ki se bliža šestemu križu, in pater Darko Žnidaršič, ki še nima sivih las.

V pripravi na to praznovanje je Andrej Žičkar predlagal, da vprašamo našega škofa, da bi napisal zahvalno pismo patru Valerijanu, ki že toliko let skrbi za slovenske vernike v Wollongongu in okolici. Škof Peter Ingham je bil vesel te prošnje, pa je dejal, da bo prišel kar osebno in daroval sveto mašo, da se zahvali patru za vso delo, ki ga opravlja za slovensko skupnost v Wollongongu. Želeli smo, da bi bil škofov obisk presenečenje za našega slavljenca in upam, da smo uspeli. Andrej Žičkar in Barica Brodnik sta s pomočjo patra Darka pripravila bogoslužje in program po sveti maši. Dolžnost patra Darka je bila, da pripelje patra Valerijana v Wollongong na drugo nedeljo v januarju. Sveta maša je bila slovesna. Hvaležni smo gospodu škofu, ki je tako lepo pridigal, patru Valerijanu, da je že toliko let med nami, patru Darku, da je prišel med nas, našim pevkam in pevcem, organistu, bralcem beril in tistim, ki redno krasite cerkev, ali pomagate v kuhinji, da je cekrev pripravljena za službo božjo in da so klubski prostori odprti.

Pred sklepnim blagoslovom je Marica Kerčmar deklamirala pesmico, ki jo je napisala za našega patra Valerijana. Kar solze so bile v nekaterih naših očeh, ko smo jo poslušali!



Po sveti maši smo se vsi zbrali v dvorani, kar poglejte kako smo vsi veseli in nasmejani, kisle obraze smo tokrat pustili doma.³⁸

Celebrating Father Valerijan's birthday with Bishop Peter Ingham. We were happy - sour faces were left at home.

Father Valerijan Celebrates his 80th Birthday

On Sunday 8 January 2006 we celebrated Father Valerijan's 80th birthday with a special mass. For this occasion we invited Bishop Peter Ingham. It was nice to see three generations at the altar. Father Valerijan celebrating 80 years, Bishop Peter Ingham, approaching his sixth decade and Father Darko Žnidaršič whose hair has not yet changed colour.

Andrew Žičkar asked Bishop Ingham if he would write a thank you letter for Father Valerijan for all the work he had done for our congregation. Bishop Ingham was happy to oblige and came in person. We hoped that the bishop's visit would be a surprise for Father Valerijan and we succeeded. Andrew Žičkar and Barica Brodnik, with the help of Father Darko Žnidaršič prepared the program for the celebrations.

³⁸ Margaret Hatežič, *Misli*, januar/februar 2006

We were grateful to Bishop Ingham for his attendance, to Father Valerjan for all his work for our community and to Father Darko Žnidaršič for deciding to come to Australia and work for the Slovenian communities. Appreciated also are all who are involved with the smooth running of the All Saints Church and Club Planica.

Za patrov rojstni dan!

Marica Kerčmar

Po celem bi svetu lahko prehodila
Še dalj kod na onkraj sveta bi odšla.
Tu bi iskala, ljudi spraševala,
Na vrata nebeška potrkat bi šla
Rada bi Bogu se tu zahvalila,
Da k nam je poslan bil gosop Valerjan.
Stotisočkrat hvala, bi Bogu dejala!

Kako smo mi srečni, da nam ga je dal!
Vsi smo hvaležni, ki tukaj smo zbrani.
Hvala, gospod, Vam za trud in pomoč.
Bog naj Vas čuva, kjerkoli Vas more,
Naj bo po dnevi ali ponoč'.



Andrej Žičkar, škof (*Bishop*) Peter Ingham, Margaret Hatežič, p.
Valerijan Jenko, p. Darko Žnidaršič



Srečaje ob križu v Unanderri
Greeting the WYD cross and icon

Svetovni mladinski dan (WYD)

Naše srečanje ob križu prijateljstva in ikone matere Božje v Unanderri pri Wollongongu.

Zbralo se nas je približno 35 rojakov, nekateri pa so bili še z nami v duhu in molitvi. Cerkveni pevski zbor naše cerkve in občestva Vseh svetih v Figtree je navdušeno zapel v pozdrav križu prijateljstva in ikone Matere božje, ko so ju v cerkev prinesli učenci katoliške osnovne šole sv. Pija X v Unanderri. Vsi navzoči so zelo pohvalili navdušeno petje naših pevcev. Navzoči smo bili še: p. Darko in p. Valerijan, wollongongski škop msgr. Peter Ingham, domači župnik Mark O'Keefe, hrvatski verniki in patra Ivo in Andrija, poljski rojaki s svojim duhovnikom Fr. Thomasom, italjanski rojaki in seveda domači farani. Hrvati so vodili molitev rožnega venca med češčenjem križa. Po končanem slavju smo se zbrali k prigrizku in klepetu v naši dvorani kluba Planice pri cerkvi Vseh svetih v Figtree.



Slovenski verniki v cerkvi v Unanderri

Slovenian parishioners at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in Unanderra

World Youth Day (WYD) is the largest single international mobilisation of young people the world has ever seen. Held every three years, it has been hosted in cities all over the world including Rome, Buenos Aires and Manila. The Manila WYD alone attracted more than five million pilgrims. At the most recent WYD in Cologne in 2005, an incredible 1.2 million people attended the final mass. Now it was Australia's turn to host this amazing event.

The All Saints Slovenian Church choir welcomed the WYD Cross, Icon and Message Stick on Wednesday 2 April 2008 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Unanderra. They sang near the Cross, as the Cross was held in the porch of the church while all the people touched, embraced and kissed the Cross and Icon as they walked into the church. The journey of the Cross, Icon and Message Stick are the start of celebrations for World Youth Day 2008. This journey started its way around Australia on 1 July 2007 and continued until 15 July 2008 for World Youth Day.³⁹

Svetovni dan mladih v Wollongongu

Že eno leto se dosti piše in govori o Svetovnem dnevu mladih, kako bo vse organizirano in kaj vse se bo dogajalo po škofijah v NSW. Veliko nasprotja je bilo, po radiju so se vsaki dan oglašali nasprotniki, godrnjali, da mora država toliko denarja porabit za to katoliško slovesnost in kako bodo drugi ljudje utrpeli škodo.

In glej čudo: nasmejani in veseli romarji so začeli prihajat v Sydney, njihovi veseli in nasmejani obrazi so bili naštezljivi. Kar na enkrat so Sydneyčani in drugi spremenili mnenje o Svetovnem dnevu mladih. Vsepovsod vlada veselo vzdušje, nevolja nasprotnikov se je obrnila na pozitivno stran. Tudi po radiju se sedaj sliši samo dobro in tisti, ki so prej bili veliki nasprotniki, sedaj nimajo nič slabega povedat.

³⁹ Andrew Žičkar, *Misli*, May June 2008

Škofija v Wollongongu je imela program, "Dnevi v škofiji." To je bilo eden teden preden so se začele slavnosti v Sydneyu. Tako so bili v Wollongngu romarji iz celega sveta, med njimi tudi Slovenci. Pri naši cerkvi Vseh svetnikov v Figtree smo imeli 21 slovenskih romarjev. Organizator romarjev je bil Andrej Žičkar. Preskrbeti jim je moral prenočišča, kar ni bilo težko, saj so slovenske družine v Wollongongu in okolici z veseljem sprejele slovenske romarje. Prvo skupino romarjev je Andrej dočakal (ozioroma so romarji njega dočakali, promet na cestah se je ustavil) v nedeljo zjutraj 6. julija 2008. Drugo skupino je pričakal v podedljek 7.7.08 (tokrat je prišel dve uri preden je letalo pristalo) in je on čakal na romarje. Cariniki so ta dan bolj natančno pregledovali vse potnike. Nekaterim so celo čevlje razkužili, da nebi prinesli kakšne bolezni v Avstralijo. To je zavzelo več časa preden so prišli skozi carino. Do dvanajst ure so le prišli do kluba Planice v Figtree, kjer so imeli sveto mašo, potem pa kosilo. Družine, pri katerih so romarji prenočevali so že tudi bile v klubu, da spoznajo in odpeljejo goste domov. Spored aktivosti je pripravil Anderej Žičkar. Za postrežbo je bila odgovorna Ema Mailow.

V torek so imeli sveto mašo, blagoslov, spoved, in češceneje svetega rešnjega telesa. Sledilo je kosilo in pogovor vseh navzočih. V sredo 9. julija so se odpeljali v Jamberoo Abbey, kjer so imeli sveto mašo in ogled samostana. Potem so se odpeljali v Kiamo in Nowro. Domov so prišli utrujeni in zadovoljni kaj vse so videli. V četrtek 10. julija so obiskali Penrose Park Monastery in si ogledali slovensko kapelico. V petek 11. julija so se udeležili seminarja "Živimo pravično" (Living Justly). V soboto zvečer je bila slovesna maša v Entertainment Centru v Wollongongu. Prisotnih je bilo 6000 ljudi. V nedeljo 13. julija pa je bilo slovesno v naši cerkvi Vseh svetnikov. Svetu mašo je daroval mariborski pomožni škop Štumpf, somaševali pa so pater Darko Žnidaršič, gospod Ivan Krajnc in gospod Iztok Mozetič. Pred mašo je častne goste pozdravila Blanka Košak. Po maši je bila skupna večerja v dvorani in kratek kulturni program.

Naši gostje so se nam vsem zahvalili za gostoljubnost, za Andreja pa so napisali posebno zahvalo ki se glasi: **Dragi Andrej!** Se spominjaš prvega dne na letališču, kjer je bilo ljudi kot mravlj na mravljišču. Ti zamujal si zaradi prometne sydnejske konice, a kljub vsemu ohranil si vse živce. Sedli smo na bus, vso pot peljali se odprtih ust. Nasmejal si nas namreč do solznih oči, ker vseskozi razburjal si se zaradi rdečih luči. Res posrečen si vodič, zato zaslužnik si desetih petic. Naj petice spominjajo te na dni, ko bedel vse dni si do trde noči. Srečanje pri Vas, v Wollongongu je res nepozabljivo, saj se veliko super stvari je zgodilo. A žal, z fotoaparati nisi imel sreče, ker zmeraj toliko smo naložili jih na tvoje pleče. Želimo ti čimveč zelenih luči, predvsem sedaj, ko bomo šli, pa naspanih in sanjavih noči. Naj Te spremlja sreča saj Ti v življenju se veliko lepe stvari obeta.

Pozno v noč smo se razšli. V ponedeljek dopoldan so se naši romarji odpeljali v Sydney.

Eden teden so preživeli v Wollongongu. Upam, da so se imeli lepo med nami in , da bodo imeli lepe spomine na preživete dni v Wollongongu. Tudi mi imamo lepe spomine na njihov obisk. Hvala vsem, ki so pomagali z delom v klubu, darovali denar in pecivo in tudi vsem družinam, ki so sprejele romarje v svoje domove.

Svetovni dan mladih je za nami. V ponedeljek dopoldan, 21. julija 2008 se je sveti oče vrnil v Rim. Na sydneyškem letališču je bilo naročeno kontrolorjem zračnih poletov (Air Traffic Controllers), da morajo dati prednost letalu svetega očeta, da ne bo letalo čakalo na dovoljenje za polet. Čast, kdo bo napotil letalo na pot je bila dodeljena moji hčerki Margaret, ki je kontrolorka zračnih poletov na sydneyškem letališču.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Poroča Margaret Hatežič

World Youth Day in Wollongong

For some time there was a lot of talk regarding WYD - how it was going to be organised and what programs the Dioceses in NSW will have. Every day on talk back radio opposition to this event was voiced. People feared the inconvenience and questioned why the government should assist the event financially.

Finally the happy pilgrims started to arrive. Their smiling, happy faces and good spirits were contagious, leaving many of those previously disgruntled to change their attitude to the event.

The Wollongong Diocese's program "Days in the Diocese" was held one week prior to celebrations in Sydney. Pilgrims from all parts of the world visited Wollongong. The Slovenian All Saints Church in Figtree and Slovenian families were hosts to twenty one Slovenian pilgrims. Coordinator for the pilgrims was Andrew Žičkar. He arranged home stays with Slovenian families and he collected the pilgrims from Sydney airport.

The first group arrived on Sunday 6 July 2008, but unfortunately, due to traffic problems, the pilgrims had to wait for their transport. The second group arrived on Monday 7 July 2008 but this time Andrew ensured he was there two hours prior to their arrival, just to be on the safe side. As luck would have it, the pilgrims were late. They arrived at the Slovenian Club in Figtree by midday. They had lunch and then the host families took them home. Andrew Žičkar prepared activities for the pilgrims and Ema Mailow was responsible for the catering at the Club.

On Tuesday there was mass, benediction and reconciliation. After lunch they had time to get to know each other. On Wednesday 9 July they visited Jamberoo Abbey and went sight seeing to Nowra and Kiama, returning home tired but happy. Penrose Park Monastery was on their itinerary for Thursday. Friday they attended a seminar "Living Justly" at the University of Wollongong, and Saturday 12 July they attended mass at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre with 6000 other pilgrims. On

Sunday 13 July we had a festive mass at All Saints Church in Figtree. Celebrants were Bishop Štumpf from Maribor, Father Darko Žnidaršič, Father Ivan Krajnc and Father Iztok Mozetič from Slovenia. Blanka Košak welcomed the visitors from Slovenia before mass.

After mass, dinner was served and a short concert followed. Pilgrims thanked their host families and the Slovenian Club Planica for their hospitality.

After spending one week in Wollongong, the pilgrims departed on Monday 14 July. We hoped that they would take away pleasant memories of their stay with us. We will cherish their stay in Wollongong.



*Blanka Košak pozdravlja častne goste
Blanka Košak welcomes the special guests*



Barica Brodnik, mariborski škof Štumpf, Mojca Resnik, Andrej Žickar,
p. Darko

Naseljevanje Slovencev v Wollongongu

Po drugi svetovni vojni, je bila tudi Avstralija ena tistih dežel, ki je sprejemala ljudi brez domovine. Med njimi smo bili tudi Slovenci, begunci, pred komunistično diktaturo, ki je objela našo drago domovino Slovenijo.

Wollongong, znano industrijsko mesto v NSW, je sprejelo veliko izseljencev, med njimi so tudi bili Slovenci, ki so dobili zaposlitev v železarni.

Začetek je bil težek, brez znanja angleškega jezika, domotožje, drugačna hrana in tudi drugačne navade. Pater Bernard Ambrožič je takrat rekel, da bi bilo v Avstraliji veliko boljše, če bi tukaj ukinili "črkovanje in skodelico čaja". (Angleška pisava bi bila veliko lažja za nas in nebi se toliko časa zapravljalo ob pitju čaja).

Za Avstralce, tisti čas je skodelica čaja ozdravila vse bolezni in tudi pregnala vse skrbi.) Pogrešali so slovensko besedo in slovensko pesem. Ko pa so tudi slovenski duhovniki prišli med avstralske Slovence, je postalo veliko lepše in domače.

Tisti čas, glavna organizatorja Slovencev v Wollongongu sta bila gospod Anton Dermota iz Corrimala in Pavle Arhar iz Warrawonga.



Slovenci iz Wollongonga na poti v Sydney
Slovenians on their way to Sydney

Škrjančki so peli

Misli Novmber, 1955 podpisani: Škrjanček torej eden od pevcev.

Obletnico smo imeli. Dne 24. oktobra 1954 je bil v Wollongongu ustanovljen slovenski pevski zbor "Škrjančki". Ni bilo lahko začeti. Ničesar nismo imeli, samo grla in dobro voljo. Uslužni g. Krevh nam je napisal note. Gostoljubno so nam odprli vrata Dermotovi v Corrimalu in g. Pavle Arhar "na klancu" v Warrawongu. Povrhу so nam še postregli in nas spodbujali. In je šlo.

Kakor poslan iz nebes je prišel mladi in energični g. Viktor Brodnik med nas. Bog Te živi, pevovodja! Molče je prevzel breme nase, kakor da se vse to samo po sebi razume. Ni tako lahka stvar za rudarja, ki utrujen po težkem delu v jami, piše note, uči petje, misli in se muči. Upoštevajmo, za zgled si ga vzemimo!

Kritika? Gotovo! Vsak začetek je težak. Ali ste kaj pomislili koliko so žrtvovali ti fantje, ki vsi težko delajo? Dejstvo je tudi da "Škrjančki" bolje pojejo kot vsi drugi pevski zbori v Avstraliji.



Pevski zbor Škrjančki v Wollongongu
The Larks Choir 1954

Larks Were Singing – *Misli* 1955

We celebrated our first anniversary. In October 1954 the Slovenian Choir, the Larks was established in Wollongong. It was not easy to start at the beginning. All we had was good voices and determination. Mr Krevh wrote the music. The Dermota family in Corrimbal and Pavel Arhar in Warrawong

provided their homes for rehearsals and refreshments afterwards.

As if he was sent from heaven, a young and energetic Viktor Brodnik arrived in Wollongong. He was given the position of Choirmaster. It was not easy for a hard working miner, after a hard day's work in the mine, to write music, prepare for the rehearsals and take care of the Choir. He has set a good example to us all.

Criticism – certainly. Every beginning is difficult. You have to take into consideration how much these young men sacrificed to be involved in a Choir. The fact is that The Larks are singing better than any other Choir in Australia.

Slovensko društvo “Danica” v Wollongongu

Leta 1958 je bilo ustanovljeno prvo slovensko društvo “Danica” v Wollongongu. Glavni pobudnik in organizator je bil gospod Dermota, ki je tudi bil predsednik tega društva. Pisal je igre, organiziral izlete in nastope v Sydneyu in tudi uprizoril igro doma v Wollongongu. Naslednji predsedniki društva Danice so bili: Jože Iskra, Andrej Obleščak in Toni Pirnar.

Gospod Dermota je bil aktiven član slovenske skupnosti vse do njegove smrti leta 1963. Po njegovi smrti, je bil glavi organizator društva Danice Pavle Arhar. Organiziral je s pomočjo pridnih delavcev slovenske zabave in tudi slovesni sprejem za škofa Jenka in škofa Leniča. Miklavževanje smo imeli vsako leto. Pavle je prevzei vlogo Miklavža.

Leta 1973 se je Pavle Arhar smrtno ponesrečil in z njegovo smrtno je tudi društvo Danica prenehalo delovati. Po njegovi smrti je pater Valerijan bil glavni organizator, da smo obdržali proslave kot so materinski dan, Miklavževe in tudi organiziral cerkvene obiske iz domovine. Z začetkom slovenskega pouka v Wollongongu, je tudi sestra Miriam Horvat pomagala pri

kulturnih prireditvah, ki so bile navadno po slovenski maši, v dvorani katoliške osnovne šole v Wollongongu.



Herman Grmek bo dobil darilo 1964

Herman Grmek receives a gift from St. Nicholas



Pavel Arhar je Miklavž, Lojze Šinko parkelj, Andreja Čič in Margareta Mali sta angela leta 1964

Pavel Arhar is St. Nicholas, 1964

Settlement of the Slovenians in the Wollongong Region

Post World War II Australia accepted many of the refugees from Europe. Slovenians were among them and Wollongong was one of the cities that offered jobs and new beginnings to the refugees. It was very hard to start a new life in a foreign country without the knowledge of the language and to adopt a new way of life. To overcome the barriers that the immigrants faced, Slovenians established the Slovenian Association Danica (Morning-star, Venus) where they could meet and exchange their stories. The first Slovenian Choir in Wollongong was established in 1954. Their Choirmaster was Viktor Brodnik. The most prominent organisers of the Slovenians at the beginning of the Slovenian settlement in this region were Anton Dermota and Pavel Arhar.

Anton Dermota founded the first Slovenian association “Danica” in 1958 and he was the first president of this association. He was followed by Jože Iskra, Andrej Obleščak and Toni Pirnar. After the death of Mr Dermota, the most active member of the Association Danica was Pavel Arhar. He was responsible for the organisation of the visit of bishop Jenko and bishop Lenič, organising the arrival of St Nicholas for the children and playing the part of St Nicholas.

In 1973 Pavel Arhar was killed in a car accident. With his death, the Association Danica ceased to operate. From this time onwards, Father Valerijan Jenko became the main organiser in order to ensure that we still had a St. Nicholas concert every year. He also organised any other church visit from Slovenia.



Miklavž obdaruje Rosano Kerčmar 1964

St. Nicholas gives Rosana Kerčmar a present, 1964

Kakšen je bil začetek kluba Planice

Leta 1958 je bilo ustanovljeno prvo slovensko društvo Danica v Wollongogu. V tem društvu v poznejših letih (1965) so se porajale nove ideje in je nekaj odbornikov društva Danice odstopilo z namenom, da ustanovijo novo društvo.

V mesecu januarju leta 1970 so se zbrali v kleparski delavnici našega rojaka Slavka Vavpotiča in ustanovili slovenski klub, katerega so poimenovali po največji slovenki smučarski skakalnici "Planica". To ime smo zadržali vse do danes klub temu, da smo se uradno registrirali šele leta 1983, ko smo se odločili za nakup naših društvenih prostorov v Figtree.

Prvi predsednik je bil Jože Komidar leta 1970. Drugi predsednik je bil Zvonko Groznik, od leta 1971, pa do leta 1979. Nato je prevzel vodilno mesto Ivan Rudolf od leta 1979 pa do leta 1989. Naslednji predsednik je bil Karlo Kerčmar od leta 1989 pa do 1990. Marica Kerčmar je bila prdsednica od leta 1990 pa do leta 1993. Tudi Milan Sirc je bil predsednik za nekaj časa leta 1993. Za Milanom je zopet postal predsednik Ivan Rudlolf. To pozicijo ima še sedaj.

Že od vsega začetka smo Slovenci sanjali po nečem, česar nam ni bilo mogoče uresničiti vse do leta 1983, ko nam je uspelo, da smo se dokopali do svojih društvenih prostorov – dvorana, cerkev, hiša in 2500m² zemljišča. Tukaj moramo dati vso priznanje za podporo in složnost takratnemu enajstčlanskemu odboru s predsednikom Ivanom na čelu.

Velika zasluga gre tudi našemu patru Valerijanu Jenku in patru Cirilu Božič, katera sta nas podprla v našem projektu. Osebno sem bil prepričan, da je prav mladi pater Ciril (prišel je namreč takrat v Avstralijo) imel veliko besedo, da je prepričal patra Valerijana, da take priložnosti ne smemo zanemariti. Naj še omenim, da je bil v tistih časih naš pater Valerijan zelo strog in natančen.

Vse dokler Slovenci nismo imeli svojih društvenih prostorov, smo se velikokrat na leto dobivali na različnih zabavah in prireditvah. Posluževali smo se vseh mogočih prostorov in dvoran na območju Wollongonga in okolice. Bili smo zelo dobro poznana in priznana etična skupina tudi pri avstralskih oblasteh. Imeli smo zelo dobre stike s takratnim županom mesta Wollongong Frankom Arkell, kateri nam je dal veliko moralne podpore, ko smo se odločevali za nakup centra v Figtree. Tudi ostali politiki so bili navdušeni, kako smo bili sposobni skrbeti zase.

Leta 1975, v mesecu maju smo priredili v Wollongongu prvo kmečko ohcet s procesijo po glavni ulici Crown Street, na kateri sta se poročila dva para. Na ulicah se je zbralo več tisoč ljudi, kar je bila prava senzacija ne samo za Wollongong, ampak tudi za Avstralijo. Kar se je dogajalo na ohceti, so na veliko poročali tudi v Women's Weekly, slika ohceti je bila celo na ovojni strani revije. Glavne ceremonije pa so se odvijale v mestni dvorani – Town Hall.

Že leta 1977 smo organizirali drugo kmečko ohcet, na kateri so se poročili kar trije pari. Tudi o tej ohceti so poročali avstralski časopisi. Obe kmečki ohceti smo posnemali po ljubljanski KO.

V letih našega obstoja smo bili gostitelji številnih delegacij iz Slovenije s političnega in cerkvenega področja. Med nami smo imeli vsaj enkrat na leto kakšno glasbeno skupino ali ansambel iz Slovenije. Prva glasbena skupina med nami je bil leta 1973 ansambel Lojzeta Slaka in Fantje s Paprotna. To so bili nepozabni trenutki, še posebaj za tiste, ki so mislili, da ne smejo več nazaj, zaradi političnih razlogov takratne Jugoslavije.

Slovenski glas iz Wollongonga

Drugega aprila 1995 smo Slovenci v Wollongongu na radiju 2VOX FM dobili pol ure časa za slovenski program na lokalnem community radiju. To je bila ena od večjih pridobitev za našo skupnost na območju Wollongonga in Illawarre. Že po nekaj mesecih so nam dodelili celo uro za slovenski program. Naš slovenski program je na sporedu že 13 let.

Prva urednica programa je bila Snežana Brdnik. Po nekaj mesecih sta prevzela odgovornost Tereza in Vinko Kropič, nato so se pridružili Rebeka, Robert in Ivan Rudolf in za nekaj časa Bernardette Sirc. Pred tremi leti pa še Marica in Karlo Kerčmar.

Veliko stvari se je dogodilo v the letih našega izseljenstva, pa ni dovolj prostora, da bi vse napisal, morda pa drugič kaj več. Sedaj smo postali zaskrbljeni, kaj se bo zgodilo z našimi klubi – društvi

in cerkvami, ker nimamo dovolj podpore od naše druge generacije. Prepričan sem, da moramo gledati optimistično še naprej, seveda čas pa bo naredil svoje.

Odbor za finančno leto 2007–2008 je sledeči: Ivan Rudolf predsednik, Ema Mailow podpredsednica, Margaret Hatežič tajnica, Tereza Kropič blagajničarka, odborniki so: Franc Tehovnik, Andrej Žičkar, Vinko Kropič, Frank Sirc, Peter Stepančič, Božo Biletič in Jože Železnik.

Odbor za finančno leto 1982–1983 je bil: Ivan Rudolf predsednik, Bogo Franetič podpredsednik, Karlo Kerčmar tajnik, Marica Kerčmar blagajničarka. Odborniki so bili: Anton Godec, Janez Herneč, Franc Koprivec, Ema Mailow, Albin Obal, Milan Sirc in Stanko Vučko.⁴¹



Odborniki kluba Planice za leto 2007-2008: Andrej Žičkar, Vinko Kropič, Božo Biletič, Franc Tehovnik, Frank Sirc, Ivan Rudolf, Jože Železnik, Peter Stepančič, Tereza Kropič, Ema Mailow, Margaret Hatežič

Committee members of Slovenian Club Planica 2007-2008

⁴¹ Sestavek pripravil predsednik Ivan Rudolf



Povorka na Crown St. v Wollongongu

Country style wedding in Wollongong, 1975, Families Žakelj, Groznik and Kerčmar



Povorka na Crown St.v Wollongongu NSW

Country style wedding street parade in Crown St Wollongong NSW

Folkorna skupina leta 1988 v Wollongongu

Minulo je že 38 let od kar je bil ustanovljen Slovensko avstralski klub Planica v Wollongongu in to leto praznujemo srebrni jubilej naše cerkve Vseh svetnikov. V tem času je bilo veliko prireditev organizirano za Slovence v Wollongongu in okolici. Za nekaj časa je klub Planica tudi ustanovil slovensko šolo in folklorno šolo. Ena od učiteljic je bila Nada Vučko, ki je takrat prišla iz Slovenije in je doma bila učiteljica. Če primerjamo sliko odbornikov od tega (2008) leta in slike začetnih let, vidimo koliko smo se postarali in koliko nas je bilo takrat. Sedaj nas je majn, mnogi so se odselili, nekateri v večnost drugi pa v druge kraje. Bili pa smo in tudi še sedaj vedno zavedni Slovenci, ki si upamo s ponosom reči, da smo avstralski Slovenci.



Slovenska folkorna skupina
Slovenian Folk Dancing group

It is 38 years since the Slovenian Australian Club Planica was established. This year we are celebrating the silver jubilee of our

All Saints Church. During this time we staged many concerts, dances and other activities in Wollongong region. As well, Club Planica was responsible for organising classes for the Slovenian language and folklore classes. One of the teachers was Nada Vučko when she came to Australia. In Slovenia she was a school teacher. The Slovenian school lasted approximately three years in the seventies.



Folklorna skupina leta 1988 v Wollongongu

Slovenian Folk Dancing group 1988

Formation of Club Planica

In 1958, the first Slovenian Society, Danica (Morning Star) was formed in Wollongong. Some members had different ideas and they left this organisation with the intention to create a new organisation.

In January 1970 they had a meeting in a panel beating workshop that belonged to Slavko Vavpotič and a new club was formed. They named their new club Planica, the name of the famous ski resort in Slovenia. This name still stands today, the name being registered in 1983 when the property in Figtree was purchased. The first president of Club Planica was Jože Komidar in 1970.

The second president was Zvonko Groznik (1971–1979). Next was Ivan Rudolf for the duration of ten years (1979–1989). Karlo Kerčmar was the next president for one year (1989–1990). From 1990 to 1993 Marica Kerčmar was the president. For a while in 1993 Milan Sirc had the position of the president. In 1993 Ivan Rudolf was voted in again as president. As of 2008 he still holds this position.

From the beginning Slovenians were dreaming of owning their own property, but until 1983 we were unable to realise our dreams. In 1983 we bought the property which consisted of a hall, a church and a house with 2500 square metres of land. We have to acknowledge the help we received from our eleven Board of Directors at that time, with Ivan Rudolf as the president. Thanks too to Father Valerijan Jenko and Father Ciril Božič for their support in our project. Personally I am of the opinion that it was Father Ciril Božič that persuaded Father Valerijan to support us.

Before we had our property at Figtree, we had to meet at different locations for our dances. We were a well known national group in the region, and we had good networking with government officials, especially with the then Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Frank Arkell. He gave us a lot of moral support when we were buying the property. Other politicians praised our efforts regarding how well we were able to take care of our community.

In May 1975 we staged the first Country Style Wedding in Wollongong with the street parade along Crown Street. Over five thousand people watched the street parade. It was a sensation, not only for Wollongong but for the whole of Australia. Women's Weekly magazine wrote a story on this event and the wedding also made it to the cover of Woman's Weekly. The main part of the wedding was staged in Wollongong Town Hall where two couples exchanged their wedding vows. Two years later the second country Style wedding was held in Wollongong. This time three couples were married. It was reported in the newspapers once more.

Since the formation of the Slovenian Australian Club Planica we were the hosts of numerous political and church delegations from Slovenia. The first musical group that made a concert tour of Australia in 1973 was the Ensemble of Lojze Slak and The Lads from Paprot.

The radio program Slovenian Voice in Wollongong became a reality in April 1995 when we were allocated a half hour program on the 2VOX FM community radio. This was one of the major achievements for our community in the Illawarra. Within a year our program was allocated one hour. Our Slovenian program is now thirteen years old. The first co-ordinator was Snežana Brdnik. After a few months Tereza and Vinko Kropič replaced Snežana. Rebeka, Robert and Ivan Rudolf joined the co-production team and Bernardette Sirc was also involved for a few months. Three years ago Marica and Karlo Kerčmar replaced the Rudolf family.

Many things happened in these past years since our immigration. Now we are concerned about what will happen to our clubs and churches as the younger generation does not show much interest in joining our clubs. We have to be optimistic and hope for the best.

The Club Planica committee for the financial year 1982-1983 was: president Ivan Rudolf; vice president Bogo Franetič; secretary Karlo Kerčmar; treasurer Marica Kerčmar. Committee members were: Anton Godec; Janez Hernec; Franc Koprivec; Ema Mailow; Albin Obal; Milan Sirc and Stanko Vučko.

The committee for the financial year 2007-2008 is: president Ivan Rudolf; vice president Ema Mailow; secretary Margaret Hatežič; treasurer Tereza Kropič. Committee members are Vinko Kropič, Jože Železnik, Franc Tehovnik, Andrew Žičkar, Frank Sirc and Božo Biletič.

Spomini preteklih 50 let

Ravno to poletje mineva 50 let, kar smo dom zapustili in šli v tujino. Takrat so živelji v Angliji moja sestra Ludmila in brat Gustel, v Nemčiji pa sestra Tončka. Doma v Sloveniji so nam štiri leta odbijali prošnjo, da bi šli v Avstralijo. Moja sestra Ivanka je takrat že živela v Avstraliji z možem Tonetom in štirimi otroki. Tudi brat Vilibald je že bil eno leto v Avstraliji. Potovali smo z ladjo Flamenija, mama, brat Franc in jaz Albina. V Sydney smo prišli julija 1958.

Že drugi dan nas je obiskala družina Brodnik. Eden dan kasneje pa slovenski duhovnik dr. Ivan Mikula. Še bolj čudno je bilo, da nas je obiskal eden mlad fant, Johan Konrad, ki je pri sosedu živel. Ta me je vprašal kako se mi tu dopade: "Rečem, nevem, sem šele prišla", seveda po nemško, ker slovensko ni znal, jaz pa ne angleško. Po enem tednu me vpraša, če bi šla z njim. Rečem ne, bom šla nazaj. Šest tednov potem sva bila poročena. Poroka je bila v katedrali v Wollongongu, poročil naju je dr. Mikula. Poročni obred je bil v dveh jezikih, nemški in slovenski. Malo gostijo smo imeli v garaži kjer sva stanovala. Bilo nas je okrog 20. Vsi so bili veseli. Po nekaj mesecih sva se selila v Corrimal v hišo od Lojzeta Brodnik. Tam je bil naš prvi sin John rojen. Leto dni kasneje sva se zopet selila v hišo mojega brata Franca Tehovnik v Cringili. Naš drugi sin Edi je bil tukaj rojen. Po štirih letih smo se preselili v Dapto, v svojo hišo. Končan je bil samo spodnji del hiše. Voda in elektrika še ni bila napeljana, pa je vseeno bilo boljše v svojem. Tukaj je bila naša hčerka Sylvija rojena. Po štirih letih je tudi naša hiša bila končana. Vzelo je precej časa, ker so moj mož Johan, brata Vili in Franc sami gradili. To je bila zelo velika pomoč.

Ko smo bili še brez vode, sem patra Ambrožiča prosila, da bi mi napisal prošnjo, ko se je pri nas oglasil s patrom Valerijanom in Pavletom Arharjem. On je šel sam do ministra in voda je bila priključena. Hvala njim. Takrat so prvo zgradili cesto, potem prodali vso zemljo, čez nekaj let pa so napeljali vodovod in elektriko. Mi smo bili prvi stanovalci v naši ulici.

Moj pokojni mož Hans ni znal slovensko, jaz pa ne angleško, tako smo doma vedno nemško govorili, še danes z otroki govorim nemško.

Od vsega začetka smo hodili k slovenski maši, prvo v katedralo, potem pa v Villa Maria cerkev. Ko so klub Planica kupili cerkev v Figtree, smo začeli hoditi k maši v slovensko cerkev Vseh svetnikov.

Naši otroci so hodili v katoliško šolo. Oba sina sta bila ministranta v domači fari (Dapto). Mož Hans je bil v cerkvenem odboru v župniji Dapto in eden od delilcev obhajila, vsako nedeljo in petek je pomagal pri maši.

Ko so otroci odraščali, smo imeli v Wollongongu kokošjo valilnico. Bilo je veliko dela in skrbi, vsi so pomagali, tudi oba brata in sestra, za kar smo vsem hvaležni.

Sin Edi je kovinski tehnik (Metal Engineering) in učitelj v Tehnični šoli (TAFE). Deset let je bil vojak. Tudi je bil dober muzikant. Igral je v slovenskem ansanbelu SABRE. Drugi člani tega ansambela so bili slovenski fantje Frank Tull, John Mailow, Dušan Markočič in Bruno Komel. John je zaposlen pri Dairy Farmers, Sylvija pa je po poklicu uradnica za potrošniške zadeve (Consumer Affairs).

Zelo veliko smo potovali, ko smo imeli dopust. Udeležili smo se slovenskih mladinskih koncertov v Adelaide, Melbourne, obiskali patra Bazilija v Melbournu in pogosto gremo v Merrylands. Tudi na walkathon smo večkrat šli v Merrylands.

Sedaj pa naj nekaj napišem o Slovensko avstralskem klubu Planica v Wollongongu. Ko so zbirali denar za nakup cerkve, hiše in male dvorane, je tudi Hans nekaj daroval. Ko je škof Murray blagoslovil cerkev pred 25. leti je bila cerkev polna. Od takrat naprej je Hans pomagal pri nabirki, bil mežnar in naredil vse v cerkvi in okrog, kar je bilo potrebno, dokler ni zbolel. Nato je prosil Cirila Škofic, da bi prevzel njegovo delo, ker Ciril je tako bil vedno pri maši. Ciril Škofic je potem opravljal delo

mežnarja vse do njegove smrti leta 2001. Sedaj je Hansovo zdravje bilo malo boljše in je on zopet prevzel vsa dela v cerkvi in okrog. Šest mesecev preden je Hans umrl, je še opravljal vsa dela pri cerkvi.

Veselili smo se vseh slovenskih patrov, ki so delali med nami. In tudi vseh škofov in redovnih predstojnikov in duhovnikov, ki so nas obiskali, Hans se je z vsemi lepo razumel, čeprav ni znal slovensko.

Hans je rad pomagal, kjer je mogel. Odločil se je, da posodi klubu \$3150.00 za tri leta brez obresti (takrat so bile obresti 18%), da se bodo zgradila balinišča. Potem pa je bilo treba zbirat denar, da se da nova streha, ker stara je bila dotrajana. Tudi pater Valerijan je daroval \$1000.00. Tako sta septembra 1990 šla predsednica Marica Kerčmar in moj brat Franc Tehovnik kupit novo streho. Naslednji teden pa so Franc, njegov sin Eric in Hans položili novo streho. Eden dan jim je prišel pomagat Janez Marinič. Tudi hišo je takrat Hans celo prebarval, ko je najemnik pustil stanovanje v zelo slabem stanju. Eno leto je bil tajnik kluba Planice, jaz pa blagajnik eno leto. Nekaj krat je tudi vlogo Miklavža igral. Mnogo prostovoljnega dela je naredil za cerkev in klub

Žal je sedaj bilo že tri leta (umrl je leta 2005) od kar sem sama. Imamo lepe in težke spomine teh pedeset let. Jaz že od leta 2000 hodim z berglami. K slovenski maši še vedno rada grem, sedaj me pripelje moj brat Franci, čeprav oba živima v Dapto, je pet km razdalje med nama.⁴²

Memories of the Last 50 Years

This summer it was 50 years since I left my homeland and came to this foreign land. At that time my sister Ludmila and my brother Gustel lived in England and my sister Antonia in Germany. In Slovenia we had to wait four years for permission

⁴² Albina Konrad, Dapto

to leave Slovenia. My sister Ivanka was already living in Australia with her husband Toni and four children. My brother Vilibald also lived in Australia at that time. My mother, brother Franc Tehovnik and I Albina sailed on the ship Flamenia and arrived in Sydney in July 1958. On our second day after arriving at my sister's place in Cringila, the Brodnik family visited us.



Tako so prenovili streho
We have a new roof on our church

One day later Slovenian priest Dr Ivan Mikula paid us a visit. Then we had a visit from a young lad from next door. He asked me what I thought of Australia and if I liked it here. I answered in German, as I did not speak English. He was Austrian. I answered that I don't know as I had just arrived. After one week he asked me if I would go out with him. My answer was "no, I am returning to Slovenia". Six weeks later we were married. Dr. Ivan Mikula married us in Wollongong's cathedral. The ceremony was in Slovenian and German as I could not understand English yet. We had a small reception in the garage where we lived. About 20 guests attended and everybody was happy.

After a few months we moved to Corrimal. Our first son John was born there. One year later we moved again, this time back to Cringila into my brother Franc's house. Our second son Edy was born there. Four years later we moved into our own house in Dapto. Only the bottom part of the house was finished when we moved in. Electricity and water was not connected yet, but it was better than paying rent. Our daughter Sylvia was born here. After four years our house was finished. My husband Hans, brothers Vili and Franc were the sole builders of our house. This was a great help to us. When we were still without water, I asked Father Bernard Ambrožič to write a letter on our behalf to the Water Department to connect water to our property. Father Ambrožič had a meeting with the minister responsible for water and the water was connected to our property. I was very grateful to Father Ambrožič. At that time developers built the road, sold all the land, then you had to wait a year or two for the electricity and water to be connected.

At home we always spoke German as my English was very basic and Hans could not speak Slovenian. I still speak German with my children.

We always attended Slovenian mass when we had it in Wollongong. At first our Slovenian mass was every fifth Sunday in a month and was held at Wollongong Cathedral. Later we moved to Villa Maria Chapel in Corrimal St and by this time we had Slovenian mass every second Sunday in a month. When the Slovenian Australian Club Planica bought the All Saints Church in Figtree, we attended mass there.

Our children attended catholic school. My sons were altar boys at our Dapto parish, and my husband Hans was a member of the parish committee. When our children were growing up we had a chicken hatchery in Wollongong. Running the business was very hard on us, but we had a lot of help from family members.

Our son Edy is a metal engineer and a teacher at TAFE. For ten years he was in the regular army. In his youth he was a member of the Slovenian band Sabre. Other members of this band were

boys of Slovenian origin - Frank Tull, John Mailow, Bruno Komel and Dušan Markočič. Our son John works for Dairy Farmers and our daughter Sylvia works for Consumer Affairs.

We travelled a lot. We attended the Slovenian Youth Concerts in Adelaide, Melbourne and Merrylands, and we go to Merrylands frequently.



Ansambel (Band) Sabre Frank Tull, Dušan Markočič, Edy Konrad, Bruno Komel, John Mailow

Now I would like to say a few words about the Slovenian Australian Club Planica in Wollongong. When they were collecting money to buy the property, Hans gave a donation as well. When bishop Murray blessed the church 25 years ago the church was packed. Since then Hans helped with the collection of money, he took on the duty of sacristan and was responsible for all jobs in and around the church. He held this position until he got sick. Ciril Škofic then became a sacristan until his death in 2001. By this time Hans was better and he was the handy-man and sacristan again until his death in 2005.

We were glad to see all the Slovenian Fathers that have worked at All Saints church. As well all the bishops and church leaders

that visited us from Slovenia. Hans had no problem working with them even if he did not speak Slovenian.

Hans was always willing to help where he could. He lent \$3150.00 to the club without interest (at that time the interest was 18% per annum) for the bowling ally to be built. Then the roof of the church needed replacing. A collection for the roof was made and Father Valerijan donated \$1000.00 towards the new roof. In September 1990 the president Marica Kerčmar and my brother Franc Tehovnik bought material for the roof. The following week Hans, my brother Franc and his son Eric changed the roof on the church. Janez Marinič helped them one day. At that time the house had to be repainted. Hans painted the house by himself. He was the secretary of the Slovenian Club Planica for one year. A few times he also played the role of St Nicholas for our St Nicholas concert.

It is now three years since his death (he died 2005). I have many happy memories and some sad memories from the past 50 years. Since the year 2000 I have to walk with crutches. Attending the Slovenian mass at All Saints is still a pleasure for me. Usually my brother Franc Tehovnik gives me a lift to the church.⁴³

Vokalni kvartet Planica

Leta 1988 se je par Slovencem porodila misel, da bi si ustvarili slovenski moški pevski zbor v Wollongongu. Čeprav ni bilo ljudi in glasov, ki bi bili pripravljeni žrtvovati čas za vaje, se je vseeno zbralo šest ljudi: Maks Vočanec, Jože Komidar, Janko Grivec, Franc Koprivec, Lojze Šturm in Pepi Mezgec. Lepo so se shajali in vadili, toda še jim je bil potreben eden glas in tega jim je dodal Janez Marinič, ki je vstopil v zbor pozneje. Seveda tudi muzikanta je bilo treba poiskati. Mladi Rudi Črnčec je kot študent se trudil, da je prihajal vsaki teden več kot 100km daleč. To se vidi, da je imel veselje za glasbo in pa za družbo. Kmalu so tudi izdali kaseto kot sekstet, na katero so bili zelo ponosni.

⁴³ Albina Konrad

Radi so zahajali vsak teden v klub Planica v Figtree, kjer so vadili in se družili. Radi različnih razmer so nekateri odstopili in pridružil se jim je Janez Stajnko, ki je bil zelo navdušen pevec. Nastopali so po več krajih po slovenkih klubih in društvih, tudi v slovenski cerkvi v Merrylandsu. Povsod so želi lepe uspehe. Ljudem so bili priljubljeni, ker so prepevali slovenske narodne in domače pesmi in Rudijeva harmonika je bila odlična.

Prišlo je do tega, da so ostali samo štirje. Smrt ja zahtevala Jožeta Komidar in Jankota Grivec, Franc Koprivec in Lojze Šturm pa sta pustila. Ostali so Maks Vočanec kot vodja, Pepi Mezgec, Janez Marinič in Janez Stajnko.

Ravno na dan, ko se je začela vojna v Sloveniji, so bili povabljeni v Canberro, da nastopajo pri Slovenskem društvu. Nihče ni imel veselja peti in tudi poslušalci so bili vsi prizadeti. Hvala Bogu, da se je vse dobro končalo in, da smo sedaj svobodni Slovenci.

V tem času je tudi Rudiju bilo daleč in šolske dolžnosti so bile velike, tako, da se je moral posloviti od zборa. Spet je bilo treba iskati muzikanta. Srečni smo, da je Peter Grivec tako navdušen za glasbo, da se jim je pridružil. Peter je seveda kralj harmonike v Avstraliji in tako so spet z njim nadaljevali. Maks Vočanec se je zelo trudil, da je vedno našel nove primerne pesmi. Niso peli po notah, pač pa po poslusu in s pravim slovenskim srcem. Izdali so tudi zgoščenko pod imenom Slovenija je domovina Tvoja, na katero so bili zelo ponosni. Leta so tekla, kot stari pregovor pravi: vsega dobrega je enkrat konec. Tako so tudi oni zaradi različnih razmer končali leta 2001. Čeprav se več ne zbirajo, so še vedno povezani z imenom. Kvartet Planica, naj se še dolgo slišijo Vaše pesmi, ki so razvedrile toliko ljudi. Lahko smo ponosni, da tako daleč od Slovenije radi pojemo slovenske pesmi. Sedaj smo že stari Avstralci, v srcu pa smo še vedno Slovenci.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Nada Marinič, Windang

Slovenija je Domovina Tvoja



Vokalni Kvartet "Planica" Wollongong
Na harmoniko spremlja - Peter Grivic

Vocal Quartet Planica

In 1988 a few Slovenians thought it would be a good idea if they could establish a men's choir in Wollongong. There were not many who wanted to sacrifice their time, but six men came forward: Maks Vočanec, Jože Komidar, Janko Grivec, Franc Koprivec, Lojze Šturm and Pepi Mezgec. They still needed another singer and Janez Marinič joined the group. They also needed an accompanist and they found him in Sydney. His name was Rudi Črnčec and he travelled 100 km each way every week to attend the rehearsals at the Slovenian Club Planica. They soon released a cassette of Slovenian songs. After a while some singers departed and Janez Stajnko joined the group. They often performed at Slovenian functions in NSW and in the ACT. Their

performances were always very good and they were very popular as they sang Slovenian folks songs and other popular songs.

After a while, only four singers were left in the group. Two members died and two members left. Now they were called Quartet Planica. Their members were Maks Vočanec as their leader, Pepi Mezgec, Janez Marinič and Janez Stajnko.

On the day the war began in Slovenia (June 1991) they were invited to perform at the Slovenian Society in Canberra. They had no will to sing and the audience was not interested in their singing. We were thankful that the war did not last long and Slovenia secured its independence from Yugoslavia.

Rudi Črnčec, the accompanist had to leave the Quartet because of his studies and the long distances he had to travel to attend rehearsals. Peter Grivec, a very enthusiastic musician with the title “King of Polka” in Australia, was the new addition to the group. Maks Vočanec always put a lot of effort into choosing the songs for their performance and as they did not read music, they simply sang the songs as they heard them. They also made a CD titled “Slovenia Is Your Homeland” which they were very proud of.

In 2001 they stopped singing but the name Quartet Planica still holds a bond between them. They are proud that although they are so far away from Slovenia, they still sing Slovenian songs. “We are now old Australians but in our hearts we are still Slovenian.”⁴⁵

Moji vtisi med Slovenci v Figtree

Ime mi je Ivanka Žabkar, rojena 1930. leta blizu Rake pri Krškem na Dolenskem.

⁴⁵ Nada Marinič, Windang

Moj obisk v cerkvi Vseh svetnikov in klubu Planica v Figtree se je začel nekako pred desetimi leti. Obojno, cerkev in klub je vedno lepo urejeno in to od tukajšnjega slovensko požrtvovalnega našega ljudstva, nam naredi lep vtis. Slovenska skupnost lepo napreduje, iz cerkvenega pogleda in klubske strani, aktivnosti so vsaki teden. Srečaš prijazne ljudi in tudi postrežba je dobra, kar gre zahvala našim zvestim kuharicam in pomočnicam.

Kako se je začelo pred 25. leti, tega mi ne vemo, nismo bili prisotni pri blagoslovitvi pred 25. leti zaradi razmer, zato je moje pisanje o tem skromno. Zanima pa me, kako napreduje versko središče in slovendki klub in kaj vse je potrebno, da lahko slovenski center in cerkev obstoja. Veliko dela in denarja je potrebno za vzdrževanje klubskih prostorov. Naša družina rada prihaja k slovenski maši, že od nekdaj sem rada pela, tako sem se tudi pridružila cerkvenemu pevskemu zboru in po naših močeh tudi finančno podpiramo cerkev Vseh svetnikov v Figtree.⁴⁶

My Impressions Amidst Slovenians in Figtree

My name is Ivanka Žabkar. I was born near Raka–Krško in Slovenia. My association with the All Saints church in Figtree and the Club Planica started approximately ten years ago. Club Planica and the church premises are always well looked after by the Slovenian community in this region and they are prospering. We often attend the concerts of the visiting musicians from Slovenia. Sporting activities are also available at Club Planica and you can meet many friendly people. The catering and service is always impeccable, due to the good cooks and their helpers.

We do not know how it started 25 years ago as we were not active members of Club Planica at that time. Now we take an interest in how the church and Club Planica are progressing. Overheads for running the property are enormous and require a lot of hard work. It is a pleasure for our family to attend Slovenian mass and any other function held at Club Planica. I

⁴⁶ Ivanka Žabkar, Barrack Heights

*am a keen singer and now I have joined the church choir. Financially we contribute to the All Saints church and the Slovenian Club Planica as much as our finances permit us.*⁴⁷

Slovenska radijska oddaja – Glas iz Wollongonga VOXFM 106.9mg

Preteklo je že 13 let od kar se je na območju Wollongonga prvič preko radijskih valov zališala tudi slovenska beseda in glasba.

Dobili smo priliko lažjega in hitrejšega obveščanja v naši slovenki skupnosti in ostati v rednem stiku z našimi poslušalci.

Vsako leto imamo tudi radioton za našo radijsko uro, za kar smo hvaležni naši slovenski skupnosti v Wollongongu. Uredniki slovenske oddaje smo še vedno Tereza in Vinko Kropič in Marica in Karlo Kerčmar. Naša oddaja se sliši vsako nedeljo od desete do enajste ure dopoldan, na valovni donžini 106.9 mg. Naj še omenim, da sem aktivna v Slovensko avstralskem klubu Planica v Wollongongu in sem blagajničarka že 13 let.⁴⁸

Slovenian Radio Program - Voice of Wollongong

It is thirteen years since the first Slovenian program was heard on the Community Radio VOX FM, where you could hear Slovenian news and music. With our new radio program it was easy to transmit all the current news to the Slovenian community and be in constant contact with our audience. We have a radiothon every year to raise money for the upkeep of the radio station VOX FM. We are thankful to the Slovenian community for all the financial donations we have received.

⁴⁷ Ivanka Žabkar, Barrack Heights

⁴⁸ Tereza Kropič, Dapto

Coordinators of the Slovenian program are Tereza and Vinko Kropič and Marica and Karlo Kerčmar. You can listen to our program every Sunday from 10.00am to 11.00am.

My other involvement with the Slovenian Australian Club Planica includes being one of the directors of the Club, and for the last thirteen years I have held the position of treasurer and am still treasurer at present.



Naši radijski delavci. Vinko in Tereza Kropič, šef od SBS, Marica in Karlo Kerčmar

VOX FM presenters with SBS representative: Vinko and Tereza Kropič, SBS representative, Marica & Karlo Kerčmar

Moje delo v Slovenskem centru in na radio VOX FM

Namenila sem se, da tudi jaz napišem majhen članek, kaj delamo Slovenci v Wollongongu.

Moje ime je Marica Kerčmar. V Wollongongu živima z možem že 47 let. K slovenskemu društvu sva se pridružila leta 1979. Takrat sem tudi prevzela delo blagajnika, ki sem ga delala devet let. Nekaj let kasneje pa sem tudi bila pri našem društvu predsednica. Dela je bilo vedno ogromno, kar se še nadaljuje vse do danes. Vidi se, da smo Slovenci pridni ljudje. Jaz sem še vedno aktivna, moj šport je balinanje, rada tudi igram biljard. Pred nekaj leti sem v balinanju dobila prvo mesto za NSW in to v dvojicah. Kadar mi čas dopušča, pa napišem kakšno pesmico, tako se potolažim, saj mi je še vedno draga pri srcu moja domovina Slovenija.

Aktivna sem tudi na radijskih valovih slovenskega programa na VOX FM. Zadnja tri leta sva moj mož Karlo Kerčmar in jaz s Terezo in Vinkom Kropič odgovorna za slovenski program. Seveda so tu skrbi in veliko dela, saj smo odgovorni, da poteka program v redu. Lahko bi rekla, da je Slovencev v tem delu Avstralije zelo malo, zato smo pač mi bolj aktivni. To naj bi bil na kratko opisan majhen del mojega življenja ter delo pri našem društvu.

Na koncu mojega članka pa naj dodam, da dobi velkilo pohvalo gospa Margaret Hatežič za požrtvovalno delo, ki ga je vložila v to knjigo, da jo je pripravila za tisk. Hvala Margaret, ter še veliko uspehov v bodoče.⁴⁹

My Involvement at the Slovenian Centre and at Radio VOX FM

My name is Marica Kerčmar. My husband Karlo Kerčmar and I have lived in Wollongong for the past 47 years. We joined the Slovenian Club in 1979 and at that time I was elected treasurer, a position which I held for nine years. A few years later I held the position of president. There was always an enormous amount of work to be done and it continues to this day. It is common

⁴⁹ Marica Kerčmar, Mangerton

knowledge that Slovenians are hard working people. I am still active at Club Planica and am playing bocce and billiards. Some time ago I won the Bocce championship doubles of NSW.

My husband and I are co-producers of the Slovenian radio program on the community radio station VOX FM. We have joined the broadcasting team and have worked at the station for the past three years. We take alternative weeks with Mr and Mrs Kropič as they are part of the Slovenian team, to prepare the programme, as it takes a lot of work and responsibility.

There are not many Slovenians in this region therefore we have to be more active. This piece of writing describes a small part of my activities at our Club Planica.

To conclude I would like to add that Margaret Hatežič should be praised for her work in getting this book published as it takes a lot of work to accomplish this task.⁵⁰

V tujino!

Tam v Salzburgu sem prvič vstopila v letalo,
Srce kakor burja je divjalo,
Tja bom odšla, tja na onkraj sveta,
V tisto čudežno deželo, ki pravijo ji celina peta,
Vsega dobrega se tamkaj meni obeta,
Pohiti eroplan pohiti,
nestrpna so mi moja mlada leta!

Leta hitro so minula zavžila sem se vseh dobrot,
Domov bi rada se vrnila, da vidim moj slovenski rod,
Iščem pot a jo ne najdem, zakaj si sled izbrisala,
Edine želje sem imela, iz srca so ukradena.

⁵⁰ Marica Kerčmar, Mangerton

Priznanja - Slovenec leta

V klubu Panthers Triglav St John's Park podeljujejo vsako leto od leta 2001 dalje ob praznovanju dneva državnosti in neodvisnosti republike Slovenije priznanja posameznim Slovencem za njihove zasluge in delo v slovenski skupnosti. Imajo več kategorij. Tako je Leta 2005 dobil priznanje študent leta Robert Rudolf, leta 2006 je dobil priznanje prostovoljni delavec leta Ivan Rudolf. Za leto 2007 pa so kar tri priznanja bila dodeljena Wollongongu. Barica Brodnik je prejela priznanje prostovoljna delavka leta, Robert Groznik je bil imenovan poslovnež leta in Katelin Koprivec študentka leta. Leta 2007 pa je dobila priznanje za vso delo, ki ga naredi za slovensko skupnost Ema Mailow.

Vsi dobitniki priznanj si zaslužijo poхvalo za delo, ki ga opravlјajo za dobrobit slovenske skupnosti, kakor tudi vsi drugi, ki vedno delajo in pomagajo, da je slovenski klub redno odprt, da je prijazna postrežba, cerkev vedno počiščena in okrašena za svete maše in da je vse lepo urejeno od znotraj in zunaj. Zato je potrebno veliko pridnih rok, hvala bogu, da do sedaj jih še imamo, da se vse naredi, kar je potrebno, da ohranimo kar smo zgradili.

Awards - Slovenian of the Year

Since the year 2001 the Panthers Club in St John's Park has been organising the Slovenian of the Year Awards in recognition of all the volunteers for their voluntary work amongst the Slovenian communities in NSW and ACT.

These awards are given on Slovenian Independence day each year in June.

Robert Rudolf from Wollongong received the 'Student of the Year' award for 2005. Ivan Rudolf received the 'Volunteer of the Year' award for 2006. In 2007 the following awards were received in Wollongong: Barica Brodnik 'Volunteer of the year';

Katelin Koprivec ‘Student of the Year’; and Robert Groznik ‘Businessman of the Year’. Ema Mailow was chosen as the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ in 2007.

All the recipients deserved acknowledgement for their work in the Slovenian Community. We also say thank you to all the other volunteers who help at the Slovenian Australian Club Planica on a daily basis, to all who regularly take on the duty of opening, catering and cleaning the club’s premises, and decorating and cleaning the church each time we have Slovenian mass. Thank you also to the church choir, readers, organists and all others who contribute their time and money, so that the Slovenian Club and All Saints Church is able to prosper.

We are grateful that up until now we have enough people to take care of all that is required to keep the premises at Figtree in good financial and working order.

Moje delo v slovenski skupnosti

Ime mi je Ema Mailow, dekliško ime Sostarič. V Wollongong sem prišla leta 1959. Pri slovenski maši sem bila prvič leta 1963. V poznejših letih sem se pridružila Slovensko avstralskemu klubu Planica. Od takrat pa do sedaj sem aktivna članica tega kluba. Moja hčerka Diana in sin John sta obiskovala slovensko in folklorno solo, ki je bila organizirana pod vodstvom slovenskega kluba Planice. John je dolga leta bil član tukajšnjega ansambela Sabre. Vsi člani tega ansambela so bili fantje slovenskega porekla.

V odboru kluba Planice sem že od leta 1979. Zadnjih dvanajst let sem podpredsednica. V odsotnosti predsednika nadomeščam predsednika.

Dolga leta sem bila zaposlena v pekarni. Tako sem lahko dobila kruh po znižanih cenah za naše zabave in prireditve, zato mi je

naš predsednik Ivan Rudolf dal ime “krušna mati”. V klubu sem vedno pripravljena prijet za vsako delo, ki išče pridnih rok.⁵¹

My Work at the Slovenian Club Planica

My name is Ema Mailow. I came to Wollongong in 1959, and I attended the Slovenian mass for the first time in 1963. In later years I joined the Slovenian Club Planica and I have been an active member ever since. My daughter Diana and son John were pupils of the Slovenian school and the folklore dancing group which was organized by the Slovenian Club Planica. As well, John was playing in the band Sabre. All members of this band were of Slovenian origin.

I have been elected in to the committee of the Slovenian Club Planica in 1996. For the past 12 years I have been elected vice president of the Club. In the absence of our president I take on responsibilities of a president.

*I was employed at a local bakery for many years. As an employee of the bakery I could buy bread at a discount price for our functions. Our president, Ivan Rudolf, gave me a nick name “Bread Mother”. At the Club I am always willing to take on any job that has to be done.*⁵²

Izgnanstvo iz Slovenije

Po drugi svetovni vojni je naša pet članska družina oče, mama sestra Fani brat in jaz Olga Habor bila izgnana iz Slovenije. Štiri mesece smo bili v taborišču. Moj mali brat je med tem časom umrl. Čisto zastradane so nas 22. septembra 1945 odpeljali na avstrijsko stan, in nas tam pustili. Bilo nas je približno 400.

⁵¹ Ema Mailow, Unanderra

⁵² Ema Mailow, Unanderra

Pet let smo živelici v Avstriji, kjer se je rodila moja mlajša sestra Anne-Marie. Leta 1949 je oče vložil prošnjo, da bi lahko šli v Ameriko. Prošnja je bila odbita, sprejeti pa smo bili, da lahko gremo v Avstralijo. Zavzelo je še potem eno leto preden smo dobili vse dokumente za naselitev v Avstralijo. Meseca oktobra leta 1950 smo odpluli z ladjo ss Brazil iz Bremen Haffen v Nemčiji. V Sydneju smo pristali novembra leta 1950. V Bathurst taborišču je bil naš prvi dom v Avstraliji. Od tu smo vsaki dan šli na sezonsko delo obirat grah in fižol. Vsako jutro nas je kmet prišel iskat s tovornjakom, večer pa pripeljal nazaj. Zaslužili smo dva do tri funte na dan. Včasih tudi več. Sonce nas je ožgalo, da smo bili čisto rjavi. Takrat se še ni govorilo o kožnem raku.

Moj oče je dobil delo v tovarni Lysaghts, jaz pa sem dobila delo pri dr Price v North Wollongongu. Tukaj sem tudi spoznala mojega moža Franca Žičkar. Moj oče je potem dobil delo v Canberri, tako se je cela družina preselila v Canberro. Kupil je zemljo in zgradil hišo. V Canberri sem delala v pralnici pet let. Leta 1956 sem se poročila in se vrnila nazaj v Wollongong. V Bellambi smo si zgradili hišo, kjer so bili naši štirje otroci rojeni. Otroci so obiskovali katoliško šolo v Corrimalu. Pridružila sem se pevskeu zboru v farni cerkvi v Corrimalu potem pa še k slovenskemu cerkvenemu pevskemu zboru.

Doma mi ni bilo dolgi čas, ker sem vedno imela veliko dela. Otroci so se učili glasbo, večkrat sem jih jaz spremljala na vaje. Imeli smo veliki vrt, da smo imeli vso zelenjavno doma, pa tudi domače živali smo imeli. Mleko, maslo in sir je bila domača pridelava. Kadar mi je čas dopuščal sem pa šivala. Nisem hodila v službo, pa sem veliko prištedila z vsem kar sem sama pridelala in naredila.

Slovenski skupnosti se je naša družina pridružila od kar smo prišli v Avstralijo. Radi smo šli na slovensko zabavo ali koncert in slovenskih maš smo se vedno udeležili. V veliko veselje je bilo otrokom prihod svetega Miklavža. Vsako leto so ga z veseljem pričakovali.

Leta 1978 je moj mož Franc nenadno umrl. Težko mi je bilo po njegovi smrti.

Od kar imamo slovensko cerkev v Figtree, rada grem med rojake, da malo poklepetamo in popijemo kavo. Sem član kluba Planice. Pred leti sem tudi bila v odboru in prevzela večkrat dežurstvo. Sedaj pomagam, kadar je potrebno, in se z vsemi lepo razumemo. Tudi pri ženskem cerkvenem zboru pojem. Meseca julija (2008) smo imeli slovenske romarje v Wollongongu. Ema Mailow in moj sin Andrej sta imela glavno odgovornost za romarje. Vsi skupaj smo se imeli zelo lepo. Ob slovesu smo vsi imeli solzne oči.⁵³

Andrew Žičkar's Story

I started playing the organ at mass in 1979 when our Slovenian masses were celebrated once a month at the Villa Maria Chapel on Corrimal Street in Wollongong. Back then there were four organists in our community; Vesna Hatežič, Maria Brodnik, Sonia Žabkar and myself (Andrew Žičkar). Through the years Vesna moved away with her work, Maria married and moved away and sadly Sonia passed away at a very young age.

After moving to our Slovenian Church in Figtree we started a children's choir named "Zlati Glas", originally directed by Vesna Hatežič and then when Vesna moved away, by me. Zlati Glas performed in many concerts and sang in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Canberra, and of course, here in Figtree. Unfortunately, as children became older they dropped out of the choir and eventually with no younger children to replace the older ones, the choir ended.

Sadly, over the years I have noticed that the younger generation has distanced itself from the Slovenian Church. Like an endangered species, we see them occasionally at funerals and possibly Christmas. It would be wonderful to see some of the

⁵³ Olga Žičkar, Corrimal

younger generations attending mass in Figtree on a regular basis. It doesn't matter if they don't understand Slovenian, I don't understand everything. It's being together with other people of the same heritage and celebrating God's love for us all.

For several years now I have been setting the altar for mass and cleaning away after mass. From January this year I have also been mowing the lawns. It would be great to have some other young people helping out.

Now in 2008 we celebrated World Youth Day (WYD2008) in Sydney with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. Approximately 120 young pilgrims from Slovenia travelled to Australia for WYD2008. Twenty of these pilgrims were allocated to stay with us in Figtree for one week leading up to WYD2008. Somehow, I ended up with the job of being the Pilgrim Coordinator for Figtree Slovenian Church and worked in conjunction with the Days in the Diocese program for Wollongong Diocese.

My job included arranging accommodation, transport, some meals, a mix of a spiritual program and some local sightseeing as well as raising money to fund the meals and transport. Thankfully, the majority of our Slovenian community was very supportive, some by offering their homes for accommodation; others offered donations of money and help. Special thanks to Ema Mailow, Barica Brodnik, Angela Sirc and Olga Žičkar for all their help in the kitchen and many thanks to all who helped in so many ways.

Yes, it was lots of work organising everything but it was all worth while as we all had a fantastic week. The pilgrims enjoyed their stay and we all made new friends. During the week we celebrated mass every day. We visited the Benedictine nuns at Jamberoo Abbey where Sr. Hilda amazingly had the right words to say to each of us and touched our hearts, then we had lunch on Kiama harbour. Another day we celebrated mass at Penrose Park Monastery where we walked in the Australian bush and looked through all the international chapels including our own

Slovenian chapel. We ended the week with a special mass on 13 July celebrated by Bishop Peter Štumpf from Slovenia.

The Slovenian Pilgrims that visited Wollongong before WYD2008 were: **p. Iztok Mozetič, Rok Hočevar, Marta Jagodic, Klemen Kebe, Katarina Korenčan, Nataša Ličen, Mojca Resnik, Irena Verbič, Rok Hrast, Andrej Kramar, Urška Rutar, Nina Vidmar, Nika Zdjelar, Maja Marijana Zorc, Darja Bečan, Alenka Bajd, Katja Brvar, Mateja Verbuč and Lucija Lapuh.**

Thanks to the generous donations from our Slovenian community in Figtree to feed and transport our Slovenian pilgrims for WYD2008. There was some money left over from our pilgrim's visit which was spent on a new gold plated Chalice, Ciborium and 2 altar candle stands for our church, especially in time for our church's 25th anniversary. The new Chalice, Ciborium and altar candle stands will be blessed for the 25th Anniversary of the All Saints Slovenian Catholic Church Figtree. Andrew Žičkar raised over \$4,000 from our small community.



Slovenski romarji v Wollongognu
Slovenian Pilgrims coming to Wollongong



Slovenski romarji pri slovenski kapelici v Penrose Parku
Slovenian Pilgrims with a few locals at the Slovenian Chapel at Penrose Park Monastery

Thankfully, I had a chance to spend some time with our Slovenian pilgrims in Sydney during WYD2008 and we celebrated a few birthdays and had a good time. Sadly, it all happened too quickly and it wasn't long before we found ourselves at the airport in tears bidding each other farewell.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Andrew Žičkar, Corrimal



Slovenski romarji na morju v Wollongongu
Slovenian pilgrims at Wollongong Beach



Bishop Peter Štumpf (Centre), Slovenian Priests and Slovenian Pilgrims
for WYD2008
Photo taken at St. Raphael's Slovenian Church, Merrylands

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All Saints Slovenian Church Figtree would sincerely like to thank the Slovenian Australian Club Planica for its continued financial support throughout the years. Many thanks also to the Slovenian Government which has provided much welcomed financial grant.

On a personal level I would like to thank a number of people who contributed to the construction of this book. Thank you to Vesna Hatežič for assisting with the set up and formatting of the book. To Hedvika Košak, Blanka Košak and Margaret Justina Hatežič the time spent editing and proof reading is greatly appreciated. To all of you who contributed articles, anecdotes and photos, thank you.

I hope you enjoy reading about our church's 25 year history and the history of Slovenian immigration to Wollongong region.

Margaret Hatežič

Občestvo cerkve Vseh Svetnikov v Figtree se iskreno zahvaljuje Slovensko avstralskemu klubu Planica v Wollongongu za vso pomoč zadnjih 25 let. Hvala tudi uradu za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu za denarno pomoč za natisk te knjige.

Osebno bi se rada zahvalila Vesni Hatežič, Margaret Justini Hatežič, Blanki Košak in Hedviki Košak za ureditev in pregled knjige in za vso pomoč, ki so mi jo nudile, kadar sem potrebovala. Hvala tudi vsem ki so prispevali dopise.

Upam, da vas ne bo dolgočasilo branje te knjige.

Margaret Hatežič

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SLOVENSKA CERKEV VSEH SVETNIKOV, FIGTREE NSW
SLOVENIAN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, FIGTREE NSW



MLADINSKI PEVSKI ZBOR ZLATI GLAS WOLLONGONG
YOUTH CHOIR ZLATI GLAS (GOLDEN VOICE) WOLLONGONG