

The Australian Slovenian Review

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Why have *two* Clubs in Sydney?

by Robert Suber

This is a question which has been a source of lively debate within the Slovenian Community for sometime. The position which the Slovenians in Sydney find themselves in should not be considered a problem, but a tremendous opportunity to increase awareness of Slovenia and its culture in Australia.

In order to understand the potential of the two clubs, Triglav and the Slovene Association Sydney, it is important to understand the development of the clubs from their early days to the present. It is also important to see the direction the clubs are taking in the future for a rapidly changing Slovenian community.

Why did the settling Slovenians in Australia need a piece of Australia to represent everything that Slovenia was? The isolation and the lack of understanding of the English language were factors, but the strongest motive was to have a place

where they could meet as Slovenians amongst people with a common background with familiar circumstances, and escape from the realisation that they were 16,000 kilometres from home.

The first Slovenian gathering took place in Queen Street, Woollahra in the 1950's. The meeting point was in a house which was owned by the Croatian Religious Centre, and it was through a relationship which Father Bernard (a Slovenian priest) had with the Centre, that

this premises was made available to Slovenians. This place became pivotal in early relationships which Slovenians developed amongst themselves.

In the late 1950's a significant meeting place occurred once a month in Leichhardt for the sole purpose of meeting Slovenians and enjoying the basics, such as fine food and drink, dancing and singing. This was initiated by six gentlemen which organised and kept the function going until the early sixties. Simultaneously, Father Bernard, Father Odilo and Father Mikola organised monthly dances in Paddington for a similar purpose, that is Slovenians enjoying each other's company.

It was during this period that "Slovensko Društvo Sydney" or what today is known as the Slovene Association Sydney (SAS) was being structured with the charter of providing the Slovenian community with a social and cultural centre in Sydney. In April 1969, the SAS

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The ASR is not a platform for any particular interest group and does not represent any group or organisation within the Slovenian community.

The ASR team believe that there should be a forum available to inform and discuss issues that are of interest to first and second generation Australians with a Slovenian heritage.

Articles for publications are most welcome. They may be presented hand written, typed or preferably on a MS-DOS format floppy disk. Articles can be sent to:

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If you are interested in joining our team or finding out more about the ASR please contact us at the above address or Fax.

ASR

Editorial



Late night, junky TV show distractingly blaring in the background and feeling brain dead after a hard day at work. Not a good combination for creating an editorial for another issue of ASR. However I have just completed my harassing phone calls to writers who are always late with their assignments, and I felt hypocritical when I had not begun on mine! Sometimes (like with anything we take on) it is difficult to keep up the inspiration and commitment that it takes to keep a project like this moving. The ASR team are all very committed to this publication, but more importantly to the growth of our dwindling Slovenian community. We find ourselves called upon regularly to sit on committees, co-ordinate projects and represent the "youth" of Australian Slovenians.

We stretch ourselves as thinly as we possibly can and although we get worn, we continue because we feel that our perspective is fresh and young and sometimes quite innovative. However, recently it has come to our attention that because our opinions are offered in English rather than broken Slovenian, we are offending and in some way alienating organisations that portray themselves as co-ordinators of our sometimes divided community. I don't know how many of you have heard of The Slovenski Narodni Svet (SNS). This organisation claims to have representation from all organisations within our community, and co-ordinate these to ensure that they are working towards common goals rather than pulling it in separate directions. ASR were originally invited to be a part of this group.

We sent representation, offered suggestions, and mingled with other representatives. It seems though, that our invitation was simply tokenistic. Apparently we deeply offended an official of the SNS by not formally introducing them to other delegates at a meeting (even though it was not our role to do so). To make matters worse, we submitted some suggestions in the inferior tongue of ENGLISH! Offence has been so deep that there is some talk of a need for a formal written apology to be sent by us to the President of SNS. I wonder if this editorial will be considered one? If you want to know more, then read the article further on in this issue.

Unfortunately too often our parents' generation asks for our opinion, yet are not willing or able to open their minds to the responses we give. Do we allow this to continue? Do we sit by and say it's too hard to break down the wall? Not any longer! We've aged enough to stand on our own two feet and fight for our rights! IT'S TIME FOR A REVOLUTION! Join the organisations that are controlling the future of the Australian Slovenian community and make change happen!

Well, now I'm well and truly awake, so let's get onto something less controversial and much more interesting. Our community is submitting applications to access some funding! (FINALLY) Yes we can make positive change. Olga Lah's article from a few issues ago inspired a group of young Australian Slovenians to give funding a try. We do not as yet know of the results but if they are successful, our Sydney Drama Group and Folkloric Dance group will stand to benefit from their efforts. With a little more experience the sky will be the limit. If you are interested in being involved with this project (or future ones) let us know and we will put you in touch with the relevant people.

Before I forget why I am in front of this computer, I had better look at what this issue has to offer you. Our feature article is looking at why we have two clubs in Sydney (perhaps some of our Melbourne readers could enlighten us on why they have many more than this?). Robert Suber is multi talented! Not only does he invite our sponsors to advertise in this space, but he can also write a cover article - and on time!!! We also have our regular features (I hope as these are not on time) and some light reading about product cost comparisons (if my husband does his bit). We have an interesting profile on our beloved Father Valerijan which should make interesting reading.

I could go on for hours, but a new junky show is blaring on the TV and it has won the war with my concentration. Enjoy the edition, don't let the winter weather get you down, and remember... join the revolution NOW! ♦

(Continued from page 1)

celebrated its opening at Horsley Park, a property of seven acres in the western suburbs of Sydney.

In the preceding years a split in the SAS as a result of political convictions saw a splinter group grow and become an integral part of today's Slovenian community. It was this group of Slovenians that in the early 1970's formed Club Triglav Limited and purchased a five acre property in St Johns Park in the Western Suburbs of Sydney which consisted of a farmhouse and a shed.

In 1984, Club Triglav opened the doors of its newly built club at Brisbane Road, St Johns Park. This building can accommodate 500 people, has a bar with poker machines, restaurant, a facility built for outdoor bowls and other rooms which can be used as offices or other facilities. Today, Club Triglav accommodates Slovenian functions as well as renting its facilities to the Laotian, Assyrian and Vietnamese communities.

During the decades of the 70's and 80's the Slovenian community was becoming increasingly divided, and this was to prove devastating in the field of developing a united identity in Australia. It became apparent that Slovenians did not frequent both clubs and therefore became isolated from the greater Slovenian community.

During the 1970's and 1980's the SAS continued to come under pressure from the local planning authorities to relocate from Horsley Park which apparently had zoning restrictions. Finally, the club was given an ultimatum to relocate. At the end of 1988, the property was exchanged for five acres in Elizabeth Street Wetherill Park where the SAS is located today. The new club was officially opened in 1989. The SAS has similar facilities as Club Triglav and can comfortably accommodate 450 people.

It is important to note that there have been several attempts to merge the clubs during the relocation period of the SAS. Unfortunately, a common ground could not be reached between the organisations and the decision of a handful has kept the greater community divided.

Here we are half way through 1995, and Slovenians proudly have two significant assets located in the Western Suburbs in Sydney (apart from St Raphael's in Merrylands). The people which have been involved in donating their time and money to achieve the present should be commended.

Both clubs are similar in what they provide. Both offer facilities which cater for weddings, parties, community or business functions, bowling, restaurants and poker machines. The

clubs' social events regularly appear in the social calendar of the Australian Slovenian Review, and they advertise regularly on the Slovenian program on SBS radio.

In the spirit of co-operation, both clubs have been making efforts to ensure that they do not schedule major social events on the same day. However, this has also become a matter of survival, as the enthusiasm of the Slovenian community to support the clubs has dwindled. An aging community finds it increasingly difficult to make its way to the clubs and a demanding new generation has much higher expectations of entertainment and facilities which should be offered at social clubs.

Not long ago I was present at one of these clubs and had a brief conversation with one of its senior members, and of course the topic of the two clubs existing in Sydney was raised. This gentleman immediately identified the "concerns" of sustaining the two clubs; problems in dealing with the aged, the youth, and our small Slovenian



community; issues which have a remedy but need a concerted effort to reach a resolution.

My immediate response was to ask him the simple questions and to note his responses; Is the Slovenian community (which is considered over five thousand) a small community, or is the problem one of geography where Slovenians are scattered all over the Sydney Metropolitan Area, while our Slovenian clubs are located in a small pocket in the western suburbs of Sydney?

How does this affect the aged? Can they drive long distances through traffic, or is public transport an alternative? The answer was negative. Train stations are distant and there is no community minibus to transport our aged, and the public bus system is inadequate. These people have contributed so much to the Slovenian community in Sydney, and they deserve better!

What about the youth? "Where are your adult children?" I asked. He gave me the answer which we all know. The clubs cannot cater for the diverse demographics in our community. To expand on this point we compared other successful clubs and identified that all of them promoted the ideals of continued patronage through the involvement of one's life. For example, child

minding facilities, sporting facilities, dance parties, theatre, restaurants and bars are some of generic features which will ensure continued patronage.

One must appreciate that most of the work carried out at the clubs is done voluntarily, and the people which give up their time should be commended. Unfortunately, voluntary work has a short life span and it is not a strategy which the Slovenian clubs can rely on for the future. In addition, any organisation which is established is created to make a profit, and this is the rationale for one of the clubs renting their premises to other ethnic communities. The irony behind this concept is that the clubs were built to entertain Slovenians, instead other nationalities are sustaining our clubs' existence.

This dilemma was demonstrated during the recent New Year celebrations when the combined attendance of the clubs was less than 450 people. Even though there may have been some logistical problems during the New Year celebrations, the busiest period for the Clubs proved to be unsuccessful because the traditional patrons had other diversions or different interests and there were no new attractions for potential new patrons.

Both Clubs have improvements on their minds, for example the SAS plans to construct a tennis court

which can also serve as a basketball and netball court based on interest which will be expressed in the community. The hard question must be asked, will this increase attendances?

The future can be very positive for the Slovenian Community, but we must face reality: the Slovenian clubs need to be assessed for their contribution to the greater Slovenian community which exists and contains mixed marriages, a population dispersed throughout Sydney, demanding clientele, an aging population and a first and second generation which has been isolated from one another due to differing beliefs amongst the clubs and within the community.

With this charter in mind, a group of focused people should commence building clear and strong solutions to these concerns, in consultation with representatives from both clubs. This group should come up with a solution that will cater for all age groups and interests in a club which can be accessed to all living in Sydney. This Club would represent all things which the original Slovenians settling in Australia longed for, and would serve as a cultural and social centre for all first and second generation Slovenians with their families, who acknowledged a connection with Slovenia regardless of their origins. ♦



Anniversary of Ljubljana Earthquake.

Ljubljana marked the 100th anniversary of the devastating earthquake which on Easter Sunday 14th April 1895, almost completely destroyed the capital and caused unspeakable horror. The Ljubljana earthquake was a historic milestone because in its aftermath, Ljubljana turned into a huge building site and a source of numerous new ideas. Slovenia's capital lies in an area which is earthquake-prone, and at the time of print, 180,000 Slovenian families will have received a brochure on earthquake security and measures to be taken in an emergency. It seems that Slovenia is well prepared if the unfortunate were to happen...

Appointment of Australian Honorary Consul to Slovenia.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, has announced the appointment of Mr Viktor Baraga to the position of Australian Honorary Consul in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The establishment of an Australian Consulate in Ljubljana underlines plans to strengthen relations between Australia and Slovenia. Mr Baraga is a Slovenian citizen who has spent a considerable amount of time in Australia. Prior to his appointment, Mr Baraga was managing director of a major Melbourne-based Slovenian company. He was also closely involved in the establishment of the International Association of Slovenian Development Partners. Mr Baraga's extensive experience in trade matters and his strong links with a wide range of Australian and Slovenian enterprises, mean he is well placed to represent and further Australian interests in the commercial, trade and investment areas.

Alpina - the best in the world.

Alpina can be rightly proud of its business results which, for a country as small as Slovenia, are quite astounding. Last year Alpina sold over 400,000 pairs of boots for cross-country skiing, which was almost 40% of the entire world market share, and soared to the top position among the boot-makers for cross-country skiing. Even before that, they had the largest share of the US market. Since the last proper winter of 1986, some of Alpina's competitors dropped or severely cut the production of boots for cross-country skiing. Alpina, on the other hand, persevered and managed to win over some of the best known names in cross-country for its advertising campaign. This strategy paid off, with the company attaining record output levels.

Microsoft Word now in Slovenian.

Word 6.0 for Windows is now available in the Slovenian language. It was issued by the Slovenian subsidiary of the leading word producer of computer software, Microsoft, which was opened in Ljubljana in October 1994. Word 6.0 for Windows is mainly in Slovenian is mainly a Slovenian product and less a product of Microsoft. Even though Slovenia is the smallest nation with the smallest number of language users, the US company nevertheless decided to translate the program. Microsoft also plans to translate some its other products. The new version of the operational system of Windows '95, which is to be issued very soon, is already being translated as well as Office '95. In relation to the spread-sheet program Excel, only the instruction book is to be translated at this stage. It is anticipated that all Microsoft products are to be translated by 1996.

Womens' Alpine Skiing World Cup.

The end of February saw the city of Maribor play host to this prestigious event. The giant slalom was won by Germany's Martina Ertl, finishing 15 hundredths of a second ahead of Slovenia's pela Pretnar, who led after the first run. The Italian, Deborah Compagnoni, came third. With Slovenia's Urška Hrovat and Mojca Suhadolc finishing fourth and fifth, the local fans celebrated as Slovenians capture three of the top five places.

Success in Barcelona.

The Slovenian team at the World Indoor Athletics Championships in Barcelona scored some notable successes. Ten Slovenian competitors took part, most of whom lived up to expectations. Slovenia again found itself on the medals table. Britta Bila took silver in the high jump and Brigita Bukovec won the bronze medal in the 60 metre hurdles.

Pope to visit Slovenia.

Slovenian President Milan Kučan has received a letter from Pope John Paul II in which the Pope gladly accepted an invitation to visit Slovenia. The Pope's visit will take place in May or June this year.

One Million DM of heroin seized.

The Kranj and Ljubljana police seized 3.5 kilos of heroin worth about 1 million Deutschmarks in early April. The drug was seized in a Kranj-based confectionery shop. The Police successfully tapped into an international network called "the Balkan way" which has been crossing Slovenian territory for several years. The information collected so far shows that the heroin most probably came from Turkey via Macedonia, but it remains a mystery as to how it got to Slovenia. A Macedonian has been charged over the incident.

10,000 Tolar Banknote released.

15 March saw the issue of a 10,000 Tolar banknote, the highest denomination Slovenian banknote, and the 9th note to be issued by independent Slovenia. The new note, which is printed in Germany, carries a portrait of the writer Ivan Cankar, completing the series of note with portraits of distinguished Slovenian figures. Banknotes have now been issued in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 5000, and 10,000 Tolars.

Amnesty International Head visits Slovenia.

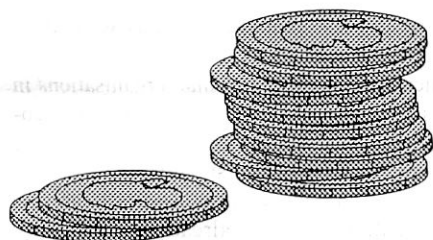
The Secretary-General of Amnesty International, Pierre Sane, arrived on a visit to Slovenia. He announced that the international council of Amnesty International will meet in Ljubljana in August. The Slovenian section of Amnesty is the first from central Europe to be formally recognised by the organisation.

Finance Report

by Ian Makovec

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND SLOVENIA

In a statement released by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Canberra on 7 March 1995, the trade and investment activities of Slovenia and Australia continued to grow with a Slovenian trade



surplus of \$A25.6m (1993 \$A0.3m deficit) and new investment from Australia of \$17.6m.

BILATERAL TRADE experienced a marked turn-around to Slovenia's advantage with exports from Slovenia to Australia increasing 10% to A\$33m primarily from white-goods, aluminium semi-products and furniture. Export trade has been fairly stable for the last twenty years as a result of the long existing presence of Slovenian companies in Australia (Euro International and Gorenje Pacific). The key to the improvement in trade balance resulted for a significant drop in the Slovenian imports of Australian goods (\$A7.4m from \$A30m).

As Slovenia has diminished its trading of commodities such as coal, bauxite, zirconium sands and meat for the former Yugoslav market, Australian exporters have felt the effects of the Yugoslav restructuring.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

| | 22/4/95 | 17/1/95 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| AUD/SIT | 81.179 | 92.87 |
| DEM/SIT | 81.505 | 81.84 |

The first **INVESTMENTS** from Australian companies in Slovenia has been achieved since Slovenian independence through Coca-Cola Amatil (CCA) and Impact International. CCA have entered the Slovenia soft drink market with the purchase of the Slovenian franchise for \$A15.4m. CCA have developed a significant presence in Central Europe (Poland, Ukraine) and more recently Croatia. Extrusion and plastics giant Impact International has selected Slovenia as its manufacturing centre for the European Community and Europe with a direct investment of \$A2.25m for the production of laminated plastic packaging.

A highlight of 1995 was the Slovenian business delegation to Australia in February which showcased Slovenian achievements in a range of fields at the World Trade Fair and business development conferences. Evidently, up to \$A3m worth of new business contracts were negotiated.

Highlights for trade expansion between Australia and Slovenia were seen to be:

- Slovenia as a centre for East-West trade and for developing a base for exporting to Central West and East European countries;
- By processing Australian commodities (meat, coal, wool) in duty free zones in Slovenia;
- With an increase in tourism revenues by almost a third, this sector is yet unexplored;
- Removal of double taxation treaty;
- Slovenian growing experience as a commercially flexible culture with high standards of business behaviour whilst having intimate knowledge of doing business with former communist countries.

With Slovenia's improving economic position, increasing international awareness as a growth prospect in the

Did you Know ...

"The cars that appeared in Schindlers List were restored in Slovenia!"

Steven Spielberg's international film hit *Schindlers List* shook the world. It was showered with Oscars and various international awards and proclaimed *Film of the Year*. But in spite of all these superlatives, the fact that Slovenia also contributed a small part to the success of the film and its creation is little known: all the automobiles that appear in the film are the property of the Technical Museum of Slovenia and kept safely in Bistra Castle near Vrhnika, close to Ljubljana.

From Slovenia Quarterly Magazine Summer

medium term amongst the economies of Eastern Europe, stable currency, improving international trade access via a new four berth container terminal in Koper, and an Australian consulate on the ground - the possibilities of improvements in trade and investment lie in Slovenia's favour. The stage is set for Slovenia to capitalise on the dramatic changes in Europe and secure an important role in selected market opportunities.

With the deterioration of the \$A against the DEM (12% since January 1995), a SIT investment has improved in value by almost the same amount. An SIT investment over twelve months would be worth approximately 17% more today when compared to an \$A investment all other conditions equal. ♦

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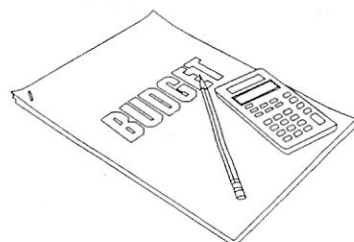
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An ASR Special Report
By the ASR Editorial Team

DOES THE VIEW OF THE

At the invitation of the Slovenian Charge'd Affairs, Mr Aljaz Gosnar, the ASR attended a meeting on 11 October 1994 at the Slovene Association Sydney, Wetherill Park. The aim of the meeting, as we understood it, was to identify the issues of concern for the community, determine the Embassy's role in relation to these issues and to look for opportunities to unite the community.

The meeting was well represented and followed a similar meeting held in Melbourne. Representation included the two Sydney Clubs (Triglav and SDS), Newcastle Club (Tivoli), St. Rafaels Merrylands, Slovenian Schools Committee, the Slovene Australian Graduates Association, the Drama Group, Slovenian National Council of NSW also known as Slovenski Narodni Svet (SNS) and a number of other groups.

Mr Gosnar opened discussion which soon focused on some significant issues. These included poor attendance at clubs, cultural events and other community activities. Overall it was agreed that one of the main problems that faced the community was its ageing population and decreasing numbers of original migrants, coupled with the very limited participation by first and second generation Australian Slovenians.

Having heard other groups' concerns and contributions, ASR offered their input by acknowledging the issues already raised and expanding on some of the reasons why participation of the younger generation is very limited. Reasons offered included the lack of identity, disunity, and irrelevance to their life in Australia. ASR was asked to suggest some solutions.

The ASR proposed the following steps:-

- Each community group, club or organisation would prepare a list of objectives relevant to their own community group.
- Each group would distribute their own ideas in writing to every other group.
- Representatives of each group would then, at an SNS meeting, formulate five or so main objectives common to the whole Slovenian Community.
- The community as a whole would then formulate a plan to achieve these objectives.

Our proposals were well received and it was interesting to hear the suggestions coming from the groups. Some of these were: amalgamating the Sydney Clubs, providing facilities and activities for the aged and establishing lobby groups for the purpose of seeking Government funding.

SNS should not be an organisation above organisations nor in competition with already established Slovenian organisations but should be a united body within which representatives of all organisations would have an equal voice.

Gathering information about suggestions from the wider Slovenian Community would be required and the SNS was suggested as the co-ordinating group for this particular project. The SNS was perceived to be a community spirited group well suited to this role. They appeared to welcome this responsibility without reservation.

So, who is the SNS?

The Slovenian National Council or Slovenski Narodni Svet (SNS) is part of the Australian Slovenian Conference which, has in the past, been heavily involved in supporting the process of independence in Slovenia.

In his letter to all Slovenian organisations in Sydney dated 18/7/94 (translated below), the president Jože Smuk defined the role of the SNS as follows:-

"Over the last year the SNS has worked on establishing itself as a co-ordinating body which would unite Slovenian organisations in issues where it is necessary to have co-operation and dialogue between all organisations. SNS should not be an organisation above organisations nor in competition with already established Slovenian organisations but should be a united body within which representatives of all organisations would have an equal voice. Success will prevail only if the members and representatives of organisations actively contribute suggestions and proposals and not be passive observers."

As agreed at the meeting, the ASR wrote to the SNS on the 28th October 1994, detailing

Fund Raising-

By Walter Suber

If you read Olga Lah's article in Vol 1. Issue 4 on "Government Funding for the Slovenian Community", you may have been, as I was, appalled to learn that our community has failed to take advantage of Government funding.

With a view to rectifying this anomaly, a small committee was formed in mid April this year, on the idea that "the Slovenian community should be getting some sort of funding, either Local, State or Federal".

With this in mind we put together a small group of dedicated people that have commitment to the Slovenian culture, and have enough pride in their heritage to give their time to this idea. It does not matter if the Slovenians put up their hands and say we want funding or not, the money is there for the Slovenian, or indeed any other community that has a need. Our first attempt at a grants submission was with the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (WSAAS) and targeted two areas.

- The Slovenian Drama and Folkloric group; and
- The Community Resource Room at Merrylands

Both submissions were for \$5,000 each and fortunately, we were able to use the existing body of the Australian Slovenian Graduates Association as the platform for our submission. Our reasons for targeting the two areas mentioned were essentially that they were relatively

SECOND GENERATION COUNT??

its proposals and offering assistance in gathering and collating the responses from the various community groups.

Well..... there was silence. Not a word.. not a Fax.. not a phone call. Apparently we offended them.

Although our initiatives have not been formally acknowledged by the SNS, we have heard through several channels that all was not well. Complaints ranged from preparing the proposal in English to not following Meeting protocol.

We were amazed at the criticism levelled at the way in which the proposal was written (ie in English) rather than focusing on its well meaning content. Furthermore, the SNS concentrated totally on their perception that we were unable to write our proposal in Slovenian when this is simply not the case. It is irrelevant what language is used to convey ideas, but the SNS has missed this point altogether...

As for the meeting protocol - omitting to formally acknowledge the SNS President before speaking - was simply an oversight or

should we say an unnecessary formality given that he was not chairing the meeting. Another example of irrelevant divergence from the issue especially when the theme was informal.

Well... there was silence. Not a word... not a Fax... not a phone call.

Apparently we offended them.

It is unfortunate that the SNS, which seeks to represent the views of the wider community, is dismissing the contributions of first and second generation Australian/Slovenians on the basis of language and etiquette. This is especially disappointing when the very limited participation of first and second generation Australian/Slovenians in community activities was identified as one of the main challenges in sustaining the Slovenian community.

This is but one example in a series of events which have led to significant changes within the SNS committee's own internal structure and has posed questions about the

organisation's relevance.

- How credible is an organisation which seeks contributions from its community and then rejects these on superficial grounds?
- How relevant is an organisation when much of the community it claims to represent, doesn't know it even exists?
- Do prominent community leaders, once founding members of the SNS, still support the direction which it has now taken?
- Is such an organisation representing the views of the community or those of a select few?
- Is the SNS actually helping to keep the community divided?

Having posed these questions however, the concept of a co-ordinating body within a community is desirable. In fact, it is a necessity if the community is to gain a credible profile, effectively lobby for government funding and promote the Slovenian culture in Australia. Is there room for change within the SNS to be able to fulfil this role? ♦

The First Step

simple to prepare and they seemed to fit the criteria and guidelines set by the WSAAS.

This was a good learning experience, but more importantly, allowed us to make friends at both Parramatta and Holroyd Councils who are in a position to advise us during further submissions. We Slovenians need exposure, we need to tell the various Government agencies about our community and they should know our needs. Slovenians no longer have an "identity" crisis. We are Slovenian and we have an identity that has a specific location and culture.

With this in mind we must ban together, support each other, have no barriers and no division. United and helping each other, our Slovenian community can grow and enable us to survive into the future.

I have written to a number of leaders in our organisations to provoke conversation on the needs of our Slovenian community. With input from all of our groups, a community forum in August to discuss all the relevant points and prioritise these points will be the next logical step.

May I take this opportunity in asking all of you to contribute, either by writing your suggestions to the Editor, or if you want to be more involved with the Committee contacting me through the Editor. If this is to help us all, we must be united and we must have an agenda that can be presented to any number of people to show the direction the Slovenian community wishes to take. ♦



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Regional Profile

Lake Bled

By Renata Sušanj

Bled, located at the tail end of the Julian Alps, is one of Slovenia's major tourist attractions and it has been a world-class resort for more than a century.

Bled was a favourite watering hole of the 19th century Austro-Hungarian aristocracy. After the second World War, it was often used by the Yugoslav Communist leader, Tito, who entertained the likes of Khrushchev, Nasser and Nehru at his villa by the lake. It is even rumoured that Agatha Christie regularly stopped off there during her many trips. Today, Villa Bled is a hotel.

A visit to Bled is a memorable experience - a mirror lake with a romantic island and a fairy tale castle set on a backdrop of snow-tipped mountains. Bled may be used as a base for trips into the mountains and to the nearby ski resorts of Straza, Zatrnik and Pokljuka.

The lake is not large, taking only two hours to stroll its entire perimeter. In summer the lake is fed by warm water springs that take the water temperature up to 24° C. The lake plays host to many water sports. During winter it freezes and becomes a giant ice-

skating rink, in summer you can swim and fish. If you intend fishing look for the park bench which is located 25-30 metres from shore and surrounded by water.

Gondolas ferry tourists back and forth to Bled's picturesque island. You may even hire your own rowing boat or canoe to go to the island as well as exploring Lake Bled.

Crowning the island is the Baroque decorated Church of Sv Marika Bozja. Under the present building are remains of early graves

and below the north chapel is a very early Roman temple.

The fairy tale Bled Castle was founded in the eleventh century and for the next 800 years was the home of the bishops of the South Tyrol area. The castle now houses a restaurant and a museum. The castellan in the 18th century, Ignac Novak, had a great plan to drain the lake and use the residual clay for a brick factory that he intended to build on the shore. Luckily the council had plans for tourism and turned him down!

Accommodation in Bled basically takes three forms. The luxury hotel, Villa Bled, will cost you from \$150 per

night, but rooms are available in private houses (Bed & Breakfast for approximately \$22 per night) or the youth hostel. Bled is also an easy 1 hour bus ride from Ljubljana. The downside of the tourist industry in Bled is that there are few cheap places to eat. The only budget options are the Gostilna or the local supermarkets for picnic supplies.

A visit to Bled is essential. The lake, icy smooth in the morning mist, casts a reflection of the chapel across its depth - a view well worth seeing.



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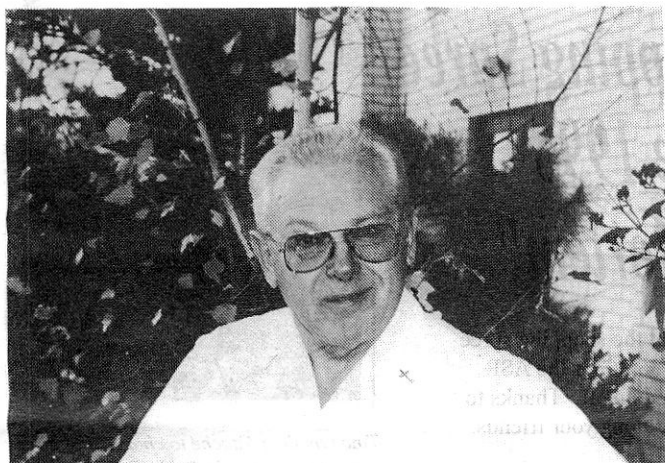
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Father Valerijan



by Mia Lukežič

When our parents and relatives arrived in the 'lucky country' a few decades ago many of them could not speak a word of English. In the days of the assimilation policy, interpreters in government offices and hospitals were unheard of, and many turned to the parish priest for help when dealing with officials. One day a Slovenian woman had to book into hospital to have a baby. Her husband, who was at work, did not speak English, so the woman called Father Valerijan and asked him to come with her to Sutherland hospital, to act as an interpreter. When they arrived at the admissions office the receptionist assumed that he was the father and it was only after a lengthy explanation that they were able to determine that he was a father of a different kind.

Father Valerijan Jenko was born on January 6, 1926. His parents were from the Gorenjska region (north-west Slovenia). His father migrated to the US and worked for several years in a mine in Wyoming, but returned to Slovenia after an accident and bought a house in Ljubljana with the money he had saved. The family of eight lived in a house in the Aka district, where they also attended the local church and school.

During his childhood he served as an altar boy in the local church and recalls feeling a call to walk up the steps and be closer to the altar (as he put it), around the age of twelve or thirteen. His father wanted him to become a salesperson and to learn something practical, so Father Valerijan worked as a labourer maintaining the railway tracks for almost a year. He was also mobilised to join the anti-communist home-guard, but was sent home after three weeks, failing to pass the medical examination.

Despite his father's wishes, he joined the Franciscan Order and lived in Novo Mesto and later moved to the Pleterje Monastery to avoid the bombing. Due to the chaotic situation that occurred after the war and in fear of the communist rule, he moved to Austria where he continued schooling. Father Valerijan's older brother Franc, who was also in the home-guard was not so lucky, he disappeared without a trace and is presumed murdered in the mass killings of 1945 at the hands of Tito's communists.

He finished his schooling in the US and was ordained a priest in Chicago on May 18, 1952. During the 50's he served as the

Slovenian chaplain in Chicago and also assisted in the publishing of the Slovenian magazine Ave Maria, a religious publication for Slovenians in the USA and Canada. In 1959 he moved to Jonestown Pennsylvania, where he continued work as a chaplain. In 1963 a call for help from the parish in far away Australia reached Father Valerijan in Jonestown and he decided to pack his bags and head for the unknown.

Father Odilo and Father Bernard came to meet him at Sydney Cove and when he disembarked from the ship Oreana, Father Odilo exclaimed, "Now you are going to stay in Australia forever!" Although these words scared him at the time, Father Valerijan now admits that Father Odilo was rather accurate in his predictions. The Slovenian priests lived in Paddington with the Franciscans, who donated a small room which was used as a library. They also had a room for choir practice and a hall for special occasions. The Slovenian choir Kerjanek was formed on these premises. Despite the generosity of the Franciscans, Father Valerijan was not happy with the way things were organised for the Slovenian Catholics.

"It is most important that young people remember their heritage regardless of whether they speak Slovenian or not."

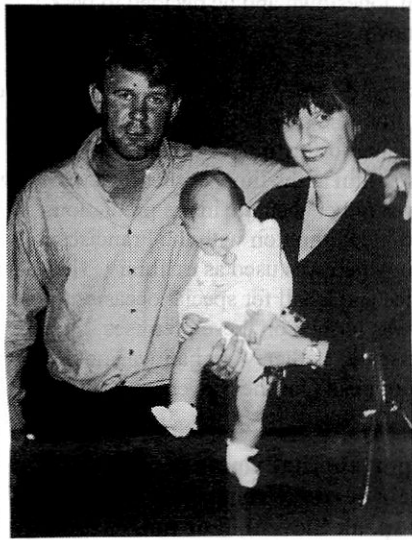
Many of them lived in the newly developing western suburbs of Sydney like Cabramatta, Fairfield, Greystanes and Merrylands. Paddington was an inconvenient location for a church centre. Mass was thus held in different churches every week; first week in Blacktown, second week in the City and Wollongong, third week in Leichhardt, fourth in Villawood. However being a guest in someone else's church had its disadvantages. They were not allowed to decorate or alter the churches appearance in any way, the mass timetable was subject to availability and sometimes the hours were rather inconvenient. A Hungarian priest, who was a very good speaker regularly got a bit carried away, so often the Hungarian mass would run into the time designated for the Slovenians.

Father Valerijan therefore decided that what Slovenians need is a religious centre of their own. He knew that a location in Sydney's western suburbs would be most appropriate, so he sent letters to real estate agents in the Parramatta area, asking whether they know of an unused church that could be for sale. After inspecting several churches in the district he decided to purchase a small and rather dilapidated Presbyterian church on Merrylands Road in Merrylands. The community had raised \$10,000 for the deposit and after borrowing another \$10,000 from the bank the plans for a Slovenian church were well under way. All that was missing was the approval from the Cardinal. Despite the popular disapproval of the establishment of national centres due to assimilation policies, Father Valerijan and Father Ambrose Ryan managed to convince the Cardinal of Sydney that the Slovenian church will be a worthwhile institution. When asked by the Cardinal, how many followers did the church have in Merrylands, Father Valerijan said 10. After hearing this the Cardinal gave the Slovenian church in Merrylands the green light, convinced that Father Valerijan's small congregation of 10 would not threaten the attendance in local Australian churches.

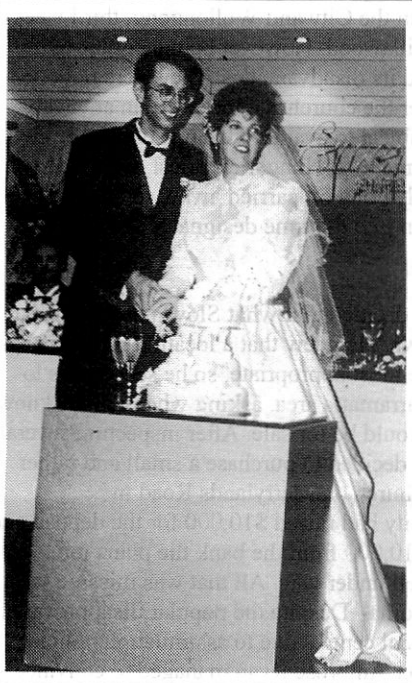
The first Slovenian mass in Merrylands took place on New Year's Day 1970 and the first christening (Mark Tomi) was held that afternoon. At first, some members of the congregation criticised the small, old church with narrow windows and a styrofoam ceiling, but after being reminded that this is now their very own centre

(Continued on page 15)

SLOVENIANS AT PLAY



A couple of our readers from Brisbane Vilma Celin-Alley with husband Laurence & daughter Lauren pictured at the Club Planinka 40th anniversary celebrations.



Robert McAuley marries into the mob via the Bolko family. Marijetica (Marg to her friends) promises to teach him fluent Slovenian by the time the car rally is flagged off from St Rafael's Merrylands. Welcome to the mob Robert.

Bargain Shopping Spree 3 June 1995 "Post Mortem"

Just a short note to advise that the shopping spree was a success! We raised \$736.86 for the ASR and at the same time had fun doing it. Thanks to all who attended and brought along your friends.

Some statistics:

Total number of people in attendance:

38 (4 of whom were of the male gender)

Total amount spent:

\$10,636.70

Total hours shopping :

10 (including travelling time)

Average amount spent per hour:

\$1,063 approx (NOT BAD!!!)

Shopper of the day:

Husband and wife team - Maria and Mirko Lukežic

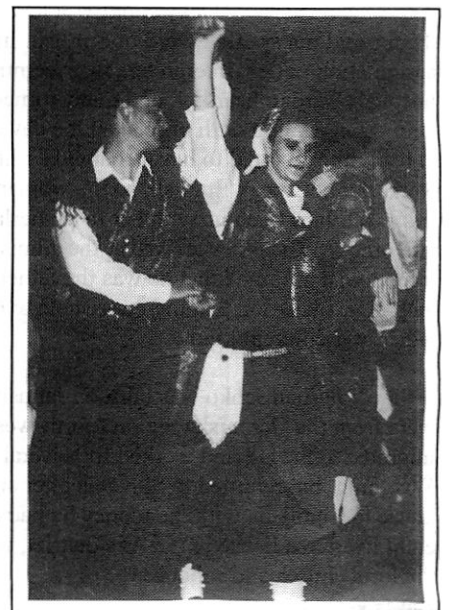
Thanks also for your patience while we waited 30 minutes for a replacement bus, seeing the first one literally "died" just up from the "Three Swallows Hotel" (no we didn't get a drink!) But I am sure the questionnaire distributed by the lads at the back of the bus kept our attention and made the time fly. By the way the most liked response for "who is your favourite actor and why?" was: - "Humphrey B Bear" because I like the sound of his voice". (Thanks guys!)

Hope to see you again next time and hopefully some new faces too!

Jude Bavcar
Convenor



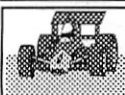
Tina Omahen Attache to chargé d'affaires representing the Slovenian Embassy at the Club Planinka 40th anniversary celebrations in Brisbane.



Robert Fiser and Karen Žižek performing with the SDS Folkloric dance troop at the Mothers day Dance SDS. If you feel in the dancing mood give the dance group a call they would be happy for you to join particularly if your a male.

Sydney based Band "Veseli Gorenjci" travelled to Adelaide and Brisbane recently as part of those clubs recent celebrations of their 40th anniversaries. They are pictured here playing in "Club Planinka" Brisbane.





1995

Car Rally

This is a St Rafaels fund raiser & social event.

Start:

After Mass, Sunday 20th August.
Sheltered BBQ facilities & sausage sizzle at destination.

Please bring with you:

- *clipboard
- *picnic hamper / drinks

To Register:

Send details of Driver, Navigator, Registration No. &
\$10 entry fee (cheque only) to:

St Rafaels Centre
c/o Car Rally '95
PO Box 280
Merrylands NSW 2160

Or

Register in the hall after Masses during July/Aug.

Cost: \$10 / car.

(Cheques payable to : St Rafaels Pastoral Account)

1995 Slovenian Youth Concert

**Will be held at
St Rafaels Church Hall, Merrylands.
On Saturday 30th September.**

This concert has been happening an annual event since 1974. Originally, the concert was organised by the Slovenian priests to allow the Australian/Slovenian youth to show their talent, promote the Slovenian culture and at the same time make new friends.

There are many of us now in our thirties, who were involved in these concerts, and still keep in contact with friends made during these events.

Give your children the chance to find a new network of friends with a similar background in a different state.

Are you interested in performing or helping to stage the event.

Call Fr Valerijan on 637 7147



Out & About The Social Scene in Sydney

| DATE | PLACE | EVENT | DETAILS |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 18th June-Sunday | St Rafaels Church | Corpus Christi Procession | After 9.30am Mass |
| 24th June-Saturday | SDS | Celebration of Slovenian Independence | Program 7:30-8:30pm Band 8:30-12:30pm Music by Veseli Gorenjci |
| 2nd July- Sunday | SDS | Picnic | From Middy Music by Veseli Gorenjci 3-7pm |
| 6th July- Thursday | St Rafaels | Church stall in Merrylands Shopping Centre | Donations of goods for sale, new & second-hand, potplants & cakes most welcome |
| 8th July-Saturday | Triglav | Dance | 2-6pm Music by Veseli Gorenjci |
| 15th July- Saturday | SDS | Annual Ball & Dinner | 7:30pm-1am Music by Black Baron |
| 5th August- Saturday | SDS | Slovenian Hometown Dance | 8-12pm Music by Veseli Gorenjci |
| 20th August-Sunday | St Rafaels | Car Rally | Depart Merrylands after mass approx 10:30am Register with Marijetica & Robert McAuley on 644 7562 |
| 20th August-Sunday | SDS | Picnic | From midday Music by APS Sound 3-7pm |
| 20th August-Sunday | St Stephens Cathedral Brisbane | Ethnic Mass | 2pm |
| 2nd September-Saturday | SDS | Fathers Day | Program 7:30-8:30pm Band 8:30-12:30pm Veseli Gorenjci |
| 3rd September-Sunday | St Rafaels | Fathers Day Concert by children from congregation & Slomškova Šola | After Sunday Mass |
| 3rd September-Sunday | Triglav | Fathers Day Picnic | 2-6pm Music by Black Baron |
| 17th September-Sunday | SDS | Picnic | From Middy Music by Alpski Odmevi 3-7pm |
| 30th September-Saturday | St Rafaels | Youth Concert | For Further details and performance enquiries call Fr Valerijan on 02 637 7147 |

**For more details on the
events listed above contact
the organisers direct:-**

SDS (Slovenian Association
Sydney)
2-10 Elizabeth St
Wetherill Park
(02) 756 1658

St Rafaels Slovenian Catholic
Church
313 Merrylands Rd
Merrylands
(02) 637 7147

Triglav Club Ltd.
80-84 Brisbane Rd
St Johns Park
(02) 610 1627

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Coming Events in 1995:

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|--|--------------------|
| • Jozefovanje | March 19 | BBQ - 12 Noon | Dance - 2 till 6pm |
| • Materinski Dan | May 7 | BBQ - 12 Noon | Dance - 2 till 6pm |
| • Ocotovski Dan | Sept 3 | BBQ - 12 Noon | Dance - 2 till 6pm |
| • Wine Tasting | Nov 12 | BBQ - 12 Noon | Dance - 2 till 6pm |
| • Miklavzevanje | Dec 3 | BBQ - 12 Noon | Dance - 2 till 6pm |
| • New Year's Eve | Dec 31 | Dance - 8pm till late into the New Year! | |

Ph: 610 1627 Fax: 823 2522

Triglav Club Limited (ACN 001 297 927)
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Slovenia Celebrates VE-Day



Ljubljana, 14 May - The Republic of Slovenia celebrated the end of the Second World War and the victory over Nazism and Fascism with four main commemorations:

- the solemn academy in the Cankarjev Dom Cultural and Congress Centre on Saturday evening, at which the President of Slovenia, Milan Kučan, was honorary speaker;
- the solemn session of the Slovene Parliament on Sunday morning, at which the Parliament Speaker, Jožef Školč, addressed the audience;
- a programme entitled "The Triumph", on the Square of the Republic in the centre of Ljubljana, with Prime Minister, Janez Drnovšek as the honorary speaker; and
- a solemn mass for the homeland in Ljubljana's Cathedral led by the Archbishop of Ljubljana and Slovene Metropolitan, Alojzij Šuštar.

President Kučan with an official delegation laid a wreath at the monument in the Memorial Park of Killed Soldiers and Hostages in the cemetery Žale in Ljubljana, and at the monument to soldiers who were killed in the war for the independence of Slovenia. Slovenia thus joined other nations which once more denounced totalitarianism half a century later.

But at the same time, these commemorations, similarly to some other countries, stirred old controversies. Half a century after the Second World War, Slovenia is again facing the unreconciled division between those who collaborated with the aggressors during the war, and the Partisans and the political forces that seized the power after the war, dealt with the collaborators without proper court processes, and introduced a one-party communist system. Even five years after the fall of Communism and introduction of multi-party parliamentary democracy, the collaboration of Slovenians with Nazi-Fascists, and the killing of Slovenian collaborators by the Communist Party immediately after the war, remain the subject of historical discussions and a search for "the ultimate truth". It also has become an issue, which is abused in the current daily political clashes of interests of Slovenian politicians and political parties.

Old parties, which arose from the Communist Party and other political organisations of the past, and new parties (or the self-denominated "parties of the Slovene spring"), did not manage to agree on the minimum acceptability of the contents of the VE-Day commemorations, therefore none of the three main official state celebrations was attended by all the parties.

At the first of the three official commemorations, Saturday's solemn academy at the 50th Anniversary of the end of the World War II in Ljubljana, the President of Slovenia, Milan Kučan, called to tolerance and reconciliation, and denounced both collaboration of Slovenians with Nazi-Fascism and killings committed by the Communist Party after the war. With the words "it is enough" he appealed to those who try to make the divisions of the past seem as present controversies, to stop it.

"The past cannot be our program", he stressed. The President called remedy of injustices for all the victims of the war. "We must take time and seize the opportunity for new national consensus with patient trust in each other. That is how I understand reconciliation", added Kučan. According to him, the turning point and the cornerstone of reconciliation is the founding of the independent Slovenia. "It turned out that consensus among Slovenes on key issues is desired and possible", stated Kučan, stressing that battle against intolerance and war is never over.

The Slovenian Catholic Church commemorated the 50th Anniversary of victory of Fascism and Nazism with a mass for the homeland on Sunday. The Archbishop of Ljubljana and the Slovenian metropolitan area, Alojzij Šuštar stressed that "all Europe celebrated these last days, and all gatherings, both religious and military, were a sign of reconciliation. Europe is aware of the fact that there is no future without reconciliation, therefore we cannot understand why there is so little will for it in certain circles in Slovenia". Some Slovenian politicians attended the mass in the Cathedral of Ljubljana, among them leaders of the Slovene Christian Democrats and the Slovene People's Party, Lojze Peterle and Marjan Podobnik. "Not only old hatred is being revived, but hostilities are deepened and new ones arise, and it is repeated loud and clear that reconciliation is not possible in this country", said the Archbishop. The Slovenian Archbishop Conference adopted a declaration on 19 April, in which it stressed the Christian duty of reconciliation.



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Slovenian troops in World War II were involved in reclaiming land taken by the Axis powers after 1941. Slovenian independence was crushed by Hitler's forces on the 11th of April 1941 when Ljubljana fell. Yugoslavia, the Fuhrer decided, must cease to exist. (1)

Yugoslavia was to be divided into two: an independent Croatia closely linked to the Axis powers, and a diminished Serbia under German occupation (2). Slovenia like the other remaining territories was distributed among her neighbours; Germany, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Albania. The reasons behind Hitler's decision, and the effects that this had on Slovenia, will be the focus of the discussion of Slovenian war time politics. Slovenian history at this time is closely linked to the fate of the larger block of states known as Yugoslavia. The animosity that the conflict between these states aroused can be seen to be the catalyst of civil unrest in the region even today.

The German people, like most Europeans, felt the severe social conditions that the depression brought to the capitalist world. Germany however, had the burden of repatriation payments, a decreased army, loss of territory, and the moral guilt of accepting responsibility for World War I. All of these latter pressures on the economy were part of the Treaty of Versailles, signed by the Weimar leaders in 1919. Adolf Hitler was a man obsessed with the re-emergence of Germany as a world power. Initially using legal provisions in the Weimar Constitution to secure power, he assumed the mantle of leadership upon the death of President Von Hindenburg in 1934. Hitler was never satisfied with compromise after assuming power. He restored German pride with an aggressive foreign policy which violated the Treaty of Versailles: Rebuilding the army, seizing the Ruhr and Sudetenland, and by outlawing Communists and Jews through the Enabling Laws. In 1938 under the guise of polite diplomacy, Hitler negotiated land from Czechoslovakia under the promise that this would satisfy him. The British PM, Neville Chamberlain, believed that this move would "appease" Hitler, and "Peace in our lifetime" would be achieved. Hitler, an evil megalomaniac, was relentless in his pursuit of world dominance. Hitler's policy of a "master race" had no room for the Slavic people in his illogical ramblings. His wrath would be felt in the whole of Yugoslavia, after initial indifference gave way to a vicious struggle for survival.

The story of Yugoslavia's march towards war began in the mid 1930's. King Alexander's assassination in 1934 brought his cousin Prince Paul into the leadership of the country. The Prince ruled as Regent on behalf of the King's teenage son Peter (3). Yugoslavia's position had shifted less and less gradually, away from her traditional friendship with France and Great Britain, and closer to Germany and Italy. (3). Prince Paul courted Hitler at Brechtsgaden, and an increasingly worried Winston Churchill described the

Slovenia became divided north of Ljubljana and the Sava went to Hitler, Ljubljana itself and areas south of the capital was taken by Fascist Italy, and the fertile plains along the river Mura in the North-East went to Hungary. The Germans immediately expelled the intelligentsia, the clergy and some ten thousand farmers who occupied supposed German land. The Nazis banned the Slovenian language in public, schools and churches, destroyed Slovenian books, and gaoled and executed patriots.(6). In Italian occupied

Ljubljana and Ljubljana province Slovenians were allowed to keep the cultural autonomy, and the Italians tried to keep them happy with kindness, and economic persuasion.(7). This was done so that the call to arms against the occupiers could be averted indefinitely. It seems that only the illegal Communist Party was organising any sort of resistance.

Resistance could not be suppressed for long periods of time. As the initial resentment to the Tripartite Pact has indicated a silent majority were opposed to the foreign invasion and rule. The Chetniks (Serbian Royalists), and the Partisans (Communists) organised by Josip Broz (Tito) were two such resistance movements. Draza

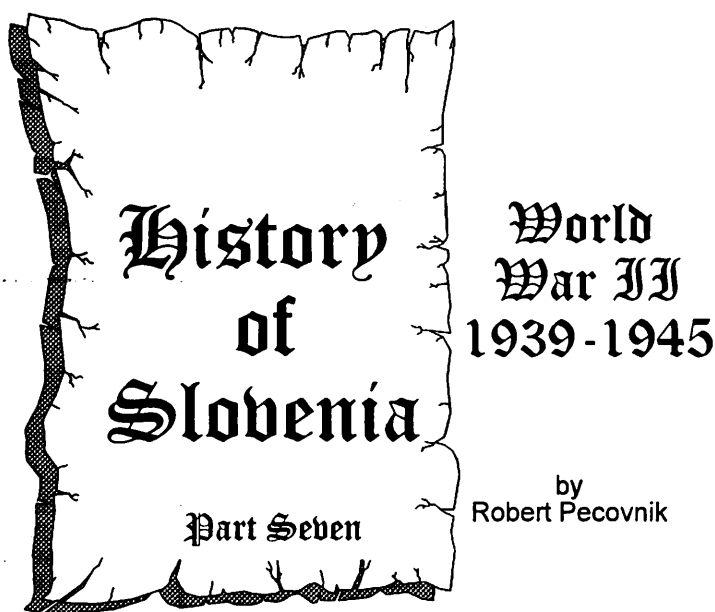
Mihajlovic leader of the Chetniks opposed the foreign invaders, but wanted to avoid open warfare, as ordinary people would suffer. The Chetniks were also opposed to the Communist Partisans. The Nazis punished the Partisans for their defiance with indiscriminate massacres.

There was no simple division of enemies in the Balkans during the second World War. In Australia it was the whole federated country against the Axis powers. In Yugoslavia it was not as clear cut. The oppressive might of the Nazis would have meant that Yugoslav conscripts had to fight for a cause they neither cared for or believed in. On the other hand, there were those only too willing to exploit the situation and to ruthlessly enforce their own political beliefs.

In the next article we will take a look at the Communist resistance movement, and other resistance movements within Slovenia during this most chaotic of times. The war in Yugoslavia has always been a mindless, tangled web of violence and hatred. ❖

Bibliography

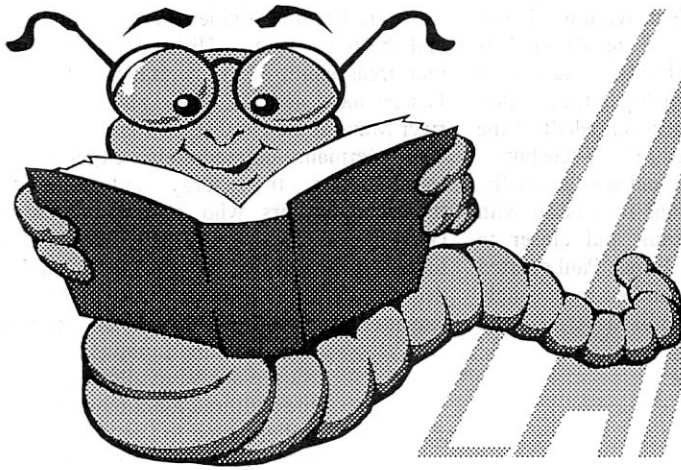
1. Tito Maclean F 1980 London p44)
2. *ibid* p44
3. *ibid* p42
4. p43 *ibid*
5. *ibid* p44
6. Raposa K Discover Slovenia p24
7. *ibid* p24



Slovenian history during this time is closely linked to the fate of the larger block of states known as Yugoslavia

Prince's political gesturing as looking like; "That of an unfortunate man in a cage with a tiger, hoping not to provoke him, while steadily dinner-time approaches" (4). The Tripartite Pact was signed on the 25th of March 1941. Yugoslavia, Germany, Italy and Japan were united. This attachment to the Axis powers was not a popular decision by the Serbian Royal family. The decision was accepted by some, but rejected by the majority of the Balkan peoples. The young King Peter had come of age, and he tried to assume power. Prince Paul and his advisers were placed under house arrest and rule by Royal decree was suspended. The states of Yugoslavia were divided in their loyalty to the Nazi's.

Winston Churchill again saw these events as a morbid ultimatum, but it was better to choose "death than slavery" (5). As Germany and Italy invaded Yugoslavia, both national and civil war plagued the country. Power in the independent Kingdom of Croatia was exercised by Ante Pavelic, and the Ustashi, but ultimately the state was controlled by Italy and Germany.



Slovenians In Australia

by Katrina Vrisk

Irena Birsa was born on 20 August 1961 in Melbourne. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the LaTrobe University in March 1985 and furthered her studies by concentrating her research on a post-graduate thesis on Slovenian immigration to Australia for her Master of Education degree.

In April 1991, Irena travelled to Slovenia for research purposes and on April 24th, sadly passed away in her sleep. Her thesis was unfinished but with the help of many people and the vision and support of her parents and colleagues, the incomplete and complete chapters were tied together and published in a volume called "Slovenians in Australia".

The book was launched in 1994 at the Slovenian Religious and Cultural Centre in Kew and many tributes were said in honour of her dedication and work for the Slovenian community.

As is understandable, the book is not complete and one should not expect that a work interrupted by her untimely death, to be complete in all chapters. She chose an enormous subject for her thesis and much research still had to be undertaken. However, there is much valuable material contained within the pages; chapters included the history of early Slovenian immigration to Australia, with particular emphasis on Victorian settlement although relevant also to other states, the Slovenian Press and Radio in Australia and its future and cultural and religious activities within Melbourne.

Although she based her research primarily on Slovenians in Victoria, she came to the conclusion that settlement patterns were similar in other states. Her research also deals with various achievements in artistic and cultural fields.

Irena's work is a massive achievement as she was the first to undertake such a wide task for a small ethnic group.

It is a pity that most chapters are inconclusive, but nevertheless they make interesting and informative reading. Her enthusiasm and spirit for all things Slovenian is well and truly evident. ♦

CONTACT POINT

*Are you interested in
learning Slovenian?*

N.S.W

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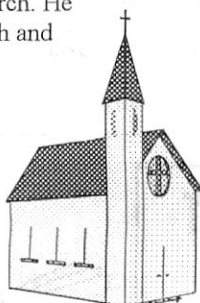
This photo was taken in Christmas 1968. Are you in this photo and if so.. can you tell us where it was taken.

(Continued from page 9)

but after being reminded that this is now their very own centre many Slovenians spent their weekends helping with the renovations. By the time Bishop Lenich from Slovenia visited Merrylands in 1973 there was little left of the original church. He blessed the new church and named it St. Raphael.

Father Valerijan had a number of assistants during this period. Father Lovrenc helped him between 1975

and 79, Father Janez was here for 6 months and then moved to Adelaide, Father Ciril Bozic stayed for 10 years and now, following the wish of Father Valerijan, Father Tomaz is formally in charge of the happenings in Merrylands. According to Father Valerijan it was not only important to step down to someone younger, but by involving the new priest in leading duties persuades him to be more active and responsible.



Father Valerijan sees a bright future for the church in Merrylands. Over the years he has seen an increase in the number of followers, especially since the church also has a role as cultural and social centre. He believes that there will be more and more English heard during the mass, simply due to the change in demand, but that

it is most important that young people remember their heritage regardless of whether they speak Slovenian or not.

Father Valerijan says that he would be happy to move on when he sees that his flock has

been looked after. "If a nice, young, outgoing priest would come to assist Father Tomaz, that would be really good. Young ones can be closer to the young people..."

"On the one hand I'd like to go and spend some time in Slovenia, but on the other hand I know that I could never forget Australia."

Father Valerijan has a special place in our hearts. He married our parents, christened us, confirmed us, married us and christened our children. He stands beside us in bad times and in good and is a true Father to all of us in the Slovenian community. ❖

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Comparing the Costs

by Mark Stariha

Have you ever wondered how well the prices that we pay here compare to those paid by our counterparts in Slovenia? Reading this article should make you quite well informed, and perhaps a little surprised!

Where possible price comparisons have been broken down into four main areas: Food, Entertainment, Accommodation and Transport. Unfortunately, some items were not possible to list as they were not available in Slovenia.

So, let's look first at the costs involved in avoiding starvation. A grocery basket containing the same goods in Slovenia and Australia (see Table A) would cost \$12.50 more in Slovenia. Considering that wages in Slovenia are lower than here, it does seem that feeding the family hordes at the family Christmas gathering is easier to manage here.

| TABLE A | AUSTRALIA AU\$ | SLOVENIA AU\$ |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Butter - 250 g | \$0.76 | \$1.89 |
| Milk - 1 litre | \$1.07 | \$0.73 |
| Eggs - 1 dozen large | \$2.32 | \$2.00 |
| Cheese - 250 kg | \$2.05 | \$2.80 |
| Jam - 375 g | \$1.50 | \$2.32 |
| Yoghurt - natural | \$0.72 | \$0.41 |
| Rice - white 1kg | \$1.05 | \$2.80 |
| Spaghetti - 200 g | \$1.25 | \$1.00 |
| Pork - 1 kg | \$7.49 | \$6.95 |
| Chicken - whole frozen | \$6.09 | \$3.60 |
| Potatoes - 5kg | \$2.99 | \$4.45 |
| Onions - 2kg | \$1.49 | \$2.58 |
| Bananas - 1 kg | \$1.99 | \$1.59 |
| Oranges - 1kg | \$1.49 | \$0.99 |
| Apples - 1 kg | \$1.29 | \$0.99 |
| Grapes - white 1kg | \$2.59 | \$7.89 |
| Strawberries - 500 g | \$2.99 | \$5.49 |
| Mushrooms - 1kg | \$3.98 | \$6.29 |
| Sugar - 1kg | \$1.09 | \$1.31 |
| Flour - 1kg | \$0.79 | \$0.83 |

Now, if you were the typical Australian Slovenian family you would be sure to take lots of family snaps at ANY function. If you have children then you are probably doing a

Steven Spielberg. The costs involved are \$6.40 for a Kodak Gold 100 Film - 24 Exposure film in Slovenia, \$5.50 in Australia, and \$8.79 for a blank TDK VHS Video Tape in Slovenia, \$7.99 in Australia. Going out to the Cinema to see the latest flick is pretty traditional for a first date. In Slovenia seeing the latest flick is much cheaper, with the cost of a ticket being only \$5.00 compared to \$11 here.

Not only is the first date going to be cheaper, but if things progress far enough and you need to rent a residence together, Slovenia is the place to be. Renting a three bedroom house in Ljubljana will only cost you \$120 per month, and a two bedroom apartment as little as \$56 per month. Compare that with Sydney!

Need a car for transport? Check out Table B for some real surprises. Who said that cars here were really expensive? This definitely breaks the myth. Petrol however, is almost identical in price at around 68 cents per litre. LPG though, is much cheaper here at only 29 cents per litre compared to 61 cents in Slovenia.

We win some, we lose some, at least you know now what some costs involved in an extended holiday would be. ♦

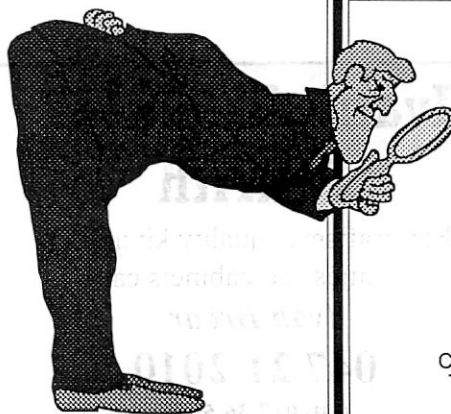
| TABLE B | AUSTRALIA AU\$ | SLOVENIA AU\$ |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| AUDI 2.6 QUATTRO | \$84,250 | \$60,462 |
| BMW 320i 4dr | \$56,950 | \$45,314 |
| CITROEN Xantra Sx | \$37,990 | \$28,599 |
| DAHATSU Applause Xi | \$22,162 | \$27,142 |
| FORD Festiva Gti | \$16,800 | \$21,619 |
| HOLDEN Calibra | \$43,282 | \$48,799 |
| HONDA Civic VTI | \$27,490 | \$23,345 |
| MAZDA Astina 1.8 | \$26,900 | \$41,296 |
| MERCEDES BENZ C180 | \$56,500 | \$52,745 |
| MITSUBISHI Pajero LWB GLX | \$46,536 | \$59,444 |
| NISSAN Maxima 30J V6 | \$41,400 | \$59,933 |
| PEUGOT 405 MI | \$44,500 | \$39,221 |
| RENAULT 19RT | \$26,790 | \$24,474 |
| SUZUKI Swift GTi | \$20,490 | \$21,788 |
| VOLKSWAGEN Golf GL | \$28,990 | \$25,728 |
| VOLVO 850GLE Estate | \$62,500 | \$59,255 |

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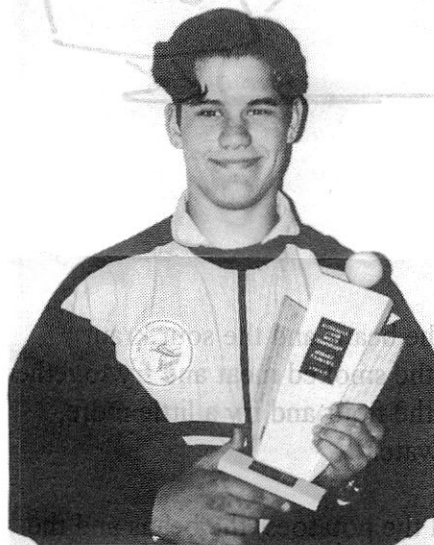
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A Developing World Champion

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT MIKULETIC

By Mark Stariha



An Australian/Slovenian Competitor at the 1995 World Bocce Championships in Croatia representing Australia.

Robert Mikuletic has recently had an article about him in the Fairfax Sun newspaper and appeared at the Slovenian Club in Wetherill Park, SDS, where he was presented with a trophy for his efforts at Bocce. We have also written a profile on him in our 'Summer 94' issue. ASR decided that it was appropriate to interview this outstanding athlete, so here we go.

ASR: Please state your name, rank and serial number.

Robert: My name is Robert Mikuletic, I am 16 years old and a student living in Merrylands.

ASR: How old were you when you began playing, and besides your father, who taught you?

Robert: I began playing at around the age of 13 and when I was 14, I met a man by the name of Luigi Chiumello. Luigi represented Australia five or six times and became my mentor.

ASR: Everybody thanks their mum and dad for their support. Who else contributed to your success?

Robert: Besides Luigi, Steven Chiandotto who is the NSW State junior coach has helped me significantly. He is also young, being only 22, and he has also represented Australia.

ASR: How often do you play or practice, and for how long?

Robert: At the moment, I am playing or

Media Watch

Channel Ten Late Night News (Sydney) 8/5/95

Slavonia pronounced as Slovenia in reference to Croatia battles against Serb onklavs in Croatia.

(Slavonia is actually a region in Croatia and is yet another example of confusion affecting the Slovenian identity)

2day FM Morning Show (Sydney) 9/5/95

In the game Scattories, the letter was 's', the subject was country, the answer given was Slovakia. The DJ said "No Slovakia is not a country - isn't it Slovenia? Yes it is, there's a country called Slovenia."

Comment "Slovakia is a country", But at least Slovenia got mentioned twice on prime time radio. (and another example of mistaken identity)

The Australian 23/5/95

Ljubljana recently hosted an International Athletics meet at which a new world record for women's pole vault was set. Daniela Bartova of the Czech Republic cleared 4.10m.

SBS-TV 12/5/95 Eurovision song contest.

Slovenia was represented at this annual event. From the 24 countries competing, Slovenia attained 7th place. The soloist Darja Švajger was compared to Whitney Houston as she had a very powerful voice, and the commentator added, if the lyrics were translated into English the song would be an international hit! (Abba shot to fame at this contest) Good one Slovenia! ♦



practicing three to four times per week, and each session lasts between two or three hours. Training usually involves playing games and getting tips from other players.

ASR: What is the most difficult part of the game?

Robert: Pointing, that means to roll the ball closest to the jack.

ASR: How old are most of the players you compete against, and how do they treat you?

Robert: Most competitors are over 40, and generally they treat me very well as they like seeing juniors coming into the game.

ASR: What is the highest level you have competed in, where, and how well did you do?

Robert: I competed in the World Championships in Italy last year and finished 5th in both the team and individual events.

ASR: Who funds the costs associated with competing when you are away from Sydney?

Robert: The Bocce Federation pays the costs involved in my competing at this level.

ASR: Are your friends treating you any differently now?

Robert: No, but they are very envious because I will be going to Croatia to compete in the World Championships in July this year.

ASR: Thanks Robert, and we wish you success in Croatia. ♦

A few statistics from our mailing list:

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| NSW: 351 | TAS: 001 |
| VIC: 117 | ACT: 012 |
| QLD: 006 | NT: 000 |
| SA: 012 | Incorrect address: 057 |
| WA: 009 | TOTAL: 529 |

The ASR prints 700 copies of each issue 508 are mailed direct from our mailing list. The rest is distributed amongst the various clubs and organizations around Australia. Our target being mainly 1st & 2nd generation Slovenians. This is estimated to be about 2000 readers each issue.

"Update your details when you change address"



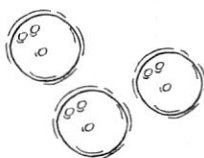
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COOKING SLOVENIAN STYLE

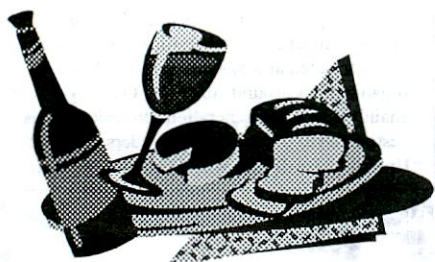
Jota - Sour Kraut Soup

This type of soup originated in the Primorska region and was often served during the winter months, when fresh produce was scarce or expensive. It can be eaten as an entree or even as a meal on its own, especially when accompanied by Kransky sausages and thick slices of home made bread. Our recipe serves 5 persons.



Ingredients

Margarine
1/4 kg or beans (borlotti or red kidney are OK)
1/4 kg potatoes (peeled and diced)
1/4 kg or sour kraut (the one in the tin is fine)
100g of smoked meat (Bacon tit-bits are good)
1 onion (finely chopped)
20g of flour
garlic (Slovenians can't live without it...)
1 bay leaf
tomato paste
salt & pepper



Method

Cook the potatoes, the beans and the sour kraut separately. Chop up the smoked meat and fry together with the onion. Add the flour and fry a little more, then add 1/2 cup of water.

Boil a little, then add the potatoes, the beans and the sour kraut together with the water they have been cooked in (as long as its not too much).

Then add the crushed garlic, the bay leaf and a little bit of tomato paste (about a teaspoon or so). Finally add salt and pepper according to taste and bring the soup to boil. The jota is now cooked - Dober Tek!

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Letters

Dear Editor

I have just read your Autumn 1995 issue of The Australian Slovenian Review and liked it very, very much. I would like to become a regular reader of your paper. Please find enclosed my order form.

I almost couldn't believe the quality of your paper and your discussion of different issues. Straight to the point and unbiased! Please keep it like this. A paper of your quality has been long overdue. Many Slovenians are not in favour of one-sided information. Keep going, you are doing a great job!

I would love to get Issue I of Volume 2. Do you have back numbers, and if so, could you please send me one.

I wish you a lot of success in the future.

With best wishes and regards

Maria Grosman
Cardiff NSW 2285

Maria, thank you for your positive response to our previous edition. Our team was very critical of the quality of the production, so it is very nice to have some words of encouragement to balance our critical appraisals. We are able to supply some back issues, however there is a charge to cover postage and handling. I hope you enjoy future issues as much as the last. Ed

Dear Editor

Firstly, I would like to say what a great and informative publication the "Australian Slovenian Review" really is. I have just collected my second issue from the Triglav

Club and had to read it all before I could put it down, and now I am awaiting my third issue to arrive. (Please include my family on your mailing list).

It is really great to read a publication for the majority of Australian Slovenians who were born or raised here and find it very difficult to read any information on our community in Slovenia.

I wish the ASR a long and successful future. Please if I could be any assistance in helping this publication please do not hesitate to contact me.

Keep up the great work!

Robert Blaskic
Prairiewood NSW 2176

Robert, you may have just made a fatal mistake! Offering your assistance to a group of desperates like us could be the introduction to "The Never Ending Story"!! Just joking! Certainly we could do with fresh blood to help us with the production of this publication. We really are a great bunch of people (just ask us), and we are fun to be around. Our people will definitely be in touch with your people and organise a date. As for your family being added to our mailing list - it's our pleasure! You seem to fit perfectly into our demographic. Ed

Dear Editor

On reading my first "Australian Slovenian Review" I felt a strange sense of community, I rarely get from local community newspapers, etc. I must be Slovenian after all!

The ASR welcomes suggestions and comments. Send correspondence to:

ASR
PO Box KL806
Kings Langley NSW 2147

or Fax: (02) 674 4583

Please if possible, can you send me the current issue and all back issues. I hope it continues to go well for you, I would look forward to contributing in some way in the future.

Mark Kobal
Canberra ACT

Yeah! we seem to be achieving our goal. We are all Slovenians even if we don't seem any different (outwardly) to our Anglo-Saxon sisters and brothers. It's not too hard to keep that cultural thread spinning through our lives - we just need to stay informed about what is happening within our community (both here and abroad). If you are interested in contributing to this spreading of information, then you can either join our team in production, marketing or writing. Even if you are unable to work with us on every issue, we are very grateful for any contribution made. In regard to receiving back issues, a nominal charge will have to be charged to cover costs. Ed ♡

Did you Know ...

Aussie Sugar in Slovenia

The first sale of raw sugar from Queensland was sold to Slovenia recently. The 23,000 tonnes of raw sugar will be processed in Slovenia for the local market.

From Slovenia Weekly, May 1995

Crossword Answers

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| altruism | grotto | michener |
| australiancrawl | harris | murad |
| austria | hungary | piazza |
| berserk | itinerary | planica |
| bohinj | laudaair | pulpfiction |
| bugben | loch | reconciliation |
| dryrot | marlene | ustashi |
| exodus | maui | velikaplanina |

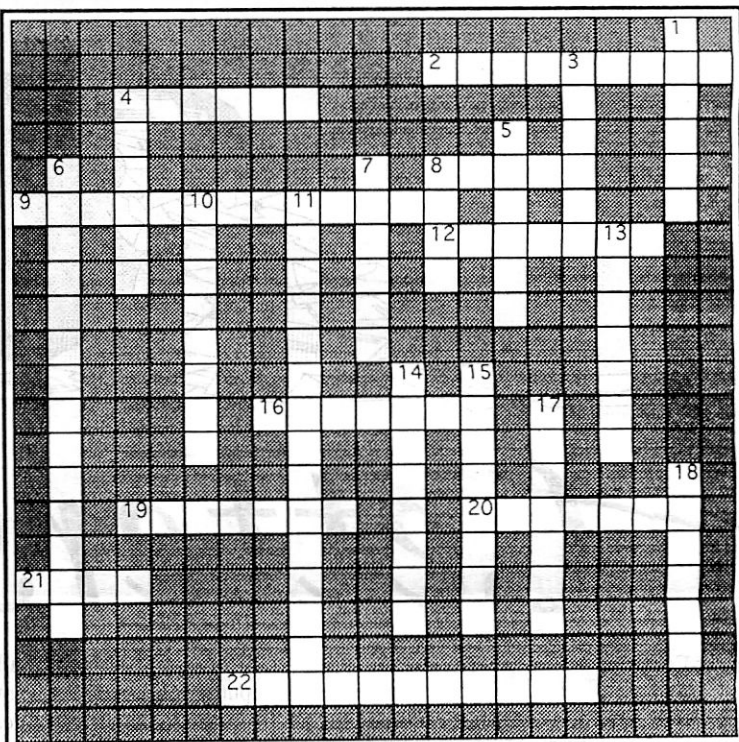
Crossword

Across

2. Detailed plan of places to visit on a trip
4. Slovenian band that toured Australia, also named after a famous clock
8. The Turkish sultan killed in the Battle of Kosovo in 1389
9. Slovenian ski field which is 20 minutes drive outside of Ljubljana
12. The name of the Croatian terrorist group that assassinated the Serbian King of Yugoslavia.
16. Alpine valley that is 7 km from Krajnska Gora and near the border of Italy
19. German actor who refused to do movies for Germany
..... Dietrich
20. One of the countries bordering Slovenia
21. Scottish word for lake
22. John Travolta's latest film

Down

1. Wood decay caused by a fungus
3. A mass departure, also a Book of the Bible
4. Glacial valley formed by the Triglav glacier
5. Small cave or cave like structure
6. Settlement of a dispute
7. In Italy, an open public square usually surrounded by buildings
8. One of the Hawaiian islands
10. An unselfish concern for the welfare of others
11. Australian group who released an album *Sons of Beaches*
13. Country which borders Slovenia and has Romania and Austria as it's neighbours
14. The author of the book *Mexico*
15. The airline owned by a former Formula One racing car driver
17. When a person is frenzied and emotionally upset; they are said to have gone
18. The author of *Silence of the Lambs*, Thomas ❖



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If you know someone else who would be interested in receiving a copy of the ASR, please pass this form on to them.

In the next issue ..

The Ageing Generation

People of all cultures, in all countries eventually need to face the same problem, how to care for an ageing community. Here in Australia, many Slovenians are approaching the time when decisions need to be taken to ensure quality living.

Traditionally the younger family members have looked after their own ageing parents, but this method is becoming more and more impractical in many cases.

As a community, we need to ask what can we do to address the issues of isolation, health, welfare and care.

Property Ownership

Problems and property re-possession in Slovenia

Father Bazil - a profile

The builder of the Slovenian Catholic community in Melbourne

Shopping with my Slovenian mum

Shopping was *never* so much fun