

TRIGLAV PANTHERS AWARDS 2005

NSW SLOVENIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR WINNERS OF 2004

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THE WINNERS FOR**



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Slovenian Primary Student

REBECCA KEEN
Slovenian Secondary Student

DANIEL ŠUBER
Highly Commended Secondary Student

ROBERT MIKULETIČ
Slovenian Tertiary Student

DANICA PETRIČ
Slovenian Outstanding Volunteer

MARIA GROSMAN
Slovenian Outstanding Senior Citizen

IZ KLUBA PANTHERS ST JOHNS PARK-TRIGLAV

Piše Martha Magajna

SLOVENIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2005

MARIA GROSMAN

Klub Panthers St Johns Park Triglav je vsako leto pokrovitelj podelitvi priznanj najzaslužnejšim Slovincem preteklega leta v različnih kategorijah.

Naslov NAJZASLUŽNEJŠI "SENIOR CITIZEN" ZA PRETEKLO LETO 2004 si je letos zaluzila MARIA GROSMAN.

Maria Grosman je prispela v Australijo leta 1958 in to v Camp Bonegilla. Že v letu 1959 je začela sodelovati pri organiziranju Slovencev v Newcastlu v Slovensko organizacijo "Tivoli" ki je bila kasneje registrirana pod imenom "Australško Slovensko Društvo Tivoli, Newcastle" in Marija je bila izvoljena za tajnico. Na tem mestu je delala in še dela vse do danes, s kratkim presledkom v letu 1960. To delo združuje tudi z delom blagajničarke društva od zgodnjih let 1970 dalje.

V preteklih 47 letih zgodovine organizacije Tivoli je Maria redno organizirala:

- Obiske in sodelovanja z drugimi slovenskimi organizacijami v drugih krajih kot so Sydney, Wollongong in Canberra in v ta namen tudi pogosto vozila 23-sedežni autobus.
- Organizirala gostovanja Igralske družine Merrylands z gledališkimi predstavami v najetih dvoranah v Newcastlu,
- Organizirala gostovanja skupin in posameznikov iz domovine in pogosto nudila gostujočim prenočišče in oskrbo v svoji hiši.
- Aktivno sodelovala pri programu za pomoč starejšim v območju Hunter regije, s tem, da je dejansko pomagala pri prevozu do zdravnikov, na družabna srečanja in podobno. Pomagala je tudi pri urejanju dokumentov in informacij v zvezi z upokojitvijo in drugimi problemi in na sploh nudila pomoč povsod, kjer je bil pomoč potrebna.
- Pripravljala razstave, dokumentacijo, glasila, poročila za časopise, kot so Misli in drugi in za radio in na splošno pomagala pri vsakem projektu, i je bil večjega pomena za širšo Slovensko skupnost v NSW in še posebno v Sydneyu.

Maria je bila tudi eden od ustanovnih članov HASA (Historičnih arhivov za Australške Slovence v NSW) in zavzema mesto tajnice organizacije. V zvezi s tem delom je tudi obiskala seminar za arhiviste v Sloveniji leta 1999 in kasneje tudi v letu 2003 in deluje kot arhivist za Newcastle regijo.

Leta 1980 je bila imenovana za mirovnega sodnika (Justice of Peace), leta 1999 je prejela Premier's Award kot priznanje za njeno delo za skupnost v NSW. Poleg tega je prejela priznanja tudi od Slovenskih frančiškanov, Slovenskega Olimpijskega Komiteja, Športne Zveze Slovenije in Športne Invalidske Zveze Slovenije, kot tudi od časopisa "Glas Slovenije" za njeno pomoč pri njihovem delu.

Ob vseh priznanjih je ostala skromna in prijazna in je vedno pripravljena nuditi pomoč ali prijazno besedo vsakemu, ki je tega potreben. Ko bi le imeli še nekaj takih, kot je Maria! Upamo, da bo med nami še veliko let in da bo nadaljevala s svojim pridnim delom!

Slika 1 : *Charge d' affairs Republike Slovenije
Bojan Bertonec je podelil Mariji
Grosman priznanje.*

Walter/Branko: presentation of awards 2005

Good afternoon, today the 19th of June, the Slovenian Community in NSW celebrate the 4th NSW Slovenian of the Year Awards.

These awards are in conjunction with the Slovenian National Day, thus becoming a double celebration.

Once again this year, we had most of the categories represented. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who entered their nominations as well as all of you here today for joining us in this celebration.

Last year we had the pleasure of having Mrs Sasa Lajovic as our guest judge. This year we had Mrs Marta Magajna. On behalf of the awards committee thank you for your time and effort in being a part of this years awards.

I would like to ask Mr Peter Kropc- Chairman of the Advisory Board of Directors for St John's Park Panthers to come up to present the plaque to the winner of the NSW Slovenian Primary Student of the Year.

This year the winner is Stephanie Suber.

Stephanie has been an outstanding student academically and also in the sporting field. She received the highest award for academic excellence and also the highest award for her sporting achievements. She represented her school in a number of sports, tennis, swimming, soccer, softball, cricket, athletics, and cross-country. Her results gained her a place in the regional team and also in the state team. She also is a part of an entertainment dance group, attends Slomskova Sola and has other extra hobbies. She is a happy young lady that strives for perfection. Congratulations.

I would like to call on Mr Ivan Koželj- President of Slovenian Association Sydney to assist with the presentation for the Highly Commended NSW Slovenian Secondary Student of the Year.

This year the Highly Commended award goes to Daniel Suber.

Daniel has achieved a high standard academically and has represented his school at the Royal Easter Show, and the Moss vale show with excellent results in the competition. At presentation Day Daniel received a medallion for his hard work and effort throughout the year. He is a part of the Air Force cadets where he also received a trophy for excellence. Within the Air force Cadets he has flying lessons and if all goes well he hopes to have his pilots licence at 16. He enjoys tennis and has won various competitions. He also does community service, one being helping disadvantaged and disabled children. He is an all rounder with a good heart. Congratulations.

I would now like to call on Mr Nick Vickers, President of the Slovenian Australian Institute to present the winner of the NSW Secondary Student of the Year. (*could be a rep from Penrith if they attend*)

This year the winner is Rebecca Keen.

Rebecca a student of Terra Sancta College has achieved a high standard of excellence in all academic areas. She is very much respected by her principal teachers and peers. She participated in the school choir, rock eisteddfod, various school performances and masses and liturgies.

Rebecca has also been involved with many community events such as Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, World Vision 40 hour famine and other worthy charities. She was part of the Slovenian Folkloric dance Group, is a member of the young ladies choir Juzna Zvezda, enjoys being a part of the Slovenian drama group. Rebecca is a tutor for the Kumon learning program for children and also works as a receptionist in a medical centre. Rebecca is a fine young lady who is eager and happy to help, she has a wonderful attitude and a fun loving spirit. Congratulations.

I would like to call on ~~Mr Alfred Breznik, Honorary consul General of the Republic of Slovenia for NSW~~ ^{Andrew Gardner} to assist in presenting the NSW Tertiary student of the Year.

This year's winner is Robert Mikuletic.

Robert is currently in his 2nd year of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) degree with a distinction average. He has already in 2000 completed a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education & Mathematics) degree with a credit average. This sporting knowledge and expertise is also helping him in his other role, as a champion in the typical Slovenian sport of Bocce. Coming from a Slovenian family with a tradition helping in the Slovenian community, Robert grew up connected to this sport. As a junior, he excelled as a champion bocce player representing NSW and Australia, first as a junior, then as an under 23's player and most recently as a senior player. As such, he took part in many international competitions in Australia and overseas. In 2003 in Nice, France, he was placed 5th in the world in singles and he achieved Australian championship status in 3 separate disciplines. He has qualified as Australian Bocce representative 7 times and NSW Bocce representative 10 times, including this year.

In the NSW Bocce federation he is providing a leadership role as a serving member of the committee, as well as training junior teams for national and international competitions also doing demonstrations of throwing disciplines to groups of beginners. Whilst working hard at his studies at university, Robert still demonstrated his commitment by being the manager/coach for the Australian junior team which toured Chile in 2004 for the World Championships. He also spent time in Slovenia training with the Slovenian team. Robert is an outstanding representative of the Slovenian community who we hope continues to excel in both areas. Congratulations.

I would like to call on Mrs Marta Magajna to present the NSW Outstanding Slovenian Volunteer of the Year.

This year's award goes to Danica Petrič.

Only months after her arrival to Australia in 1972, Danica was already active in the Slovenian community where she was the editor of the newsletter 'Novice' at the Slovenian association Sydney. Soon after, she had aligned with Marjan Peršič from Melbourne where he edited the newsletter 'Vestnik' for the Slovenian association there, and formed a joint newsletter 'Vestnik' for both clubs in Sydney and Melbourne. With her reports from Sydney, her poems and prose, Danica has also been writing for "Misli" quite often over the years.

Danica not only has had her writing be her only involvement in the community, but also her voice. For 6 years she was involved in the then known radio 2EA, now SBS, as an announcer as well as helping to prepare the Slovenian programs. She also helped prepare and teach children to sing and recite and perform at numerous cultural programs for Mother's and Father's day and Preseren's day. For many years, Danica has been a member of the Slovenian drama group in Merrylands as well as previously being a member of the Mixed church choir.

At St Raphael's she was an instrumental member in helping establish the prayer group 'Srca Jezusovega' which is already in its 16th year. The group itself is not only about prayer, but also provides assistance to the sick and elderly members of the community. They also organise various get togethers throughout the year with lunch at the St Raphael's church hall as well as visiting the sick and elderly members at their homes and nursing homes. Danica has also organised numerous outings to Bowral, Newcastle, religious outings to Mulgoa, Penrose Park and the Mary Mackillop centre.

Amongst all of this, Danica is still using her most gifted talent, writing poems and prose and is currently preparing her second book. We wish her well in this endeavour as with all the others in the future. Congratulations.

Could I please ask Mr Bojan Bertonec - Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Canberra to come and present the award for the NSW Outstanding Slovenian senior Citizen of the year.

This year the award goes to Maria Grosman.

Maria Grosman arrived in Australia in January 1958 to the Bonegilla camp. Early in 1959, she became involved in the Slovene Association "Tivoli" in Newcastle, later registered under the name "Austral Slovenian Society Tivoli, Newcastle". Maria was elected secretary and has served as such (apart from a short break in the mid 1960's) up until now. She is also serving as the Treasurer since the early 1970's.

Maria was involved as a major organiser to all important events that have taken place over the 47 year history of the Tivoli organisation:

- organising inter-city visits between Slovenian organisations (Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra), including, where necessary, driving a 23 seater bus
- organising visits from the Merrylands Drama group with theatre performances
- organising visits from overseas groups, singers, sportspeople, etc, most often also providing accommodation for visitors
- actively participating in the Slovenian older people program, assisting older members in the Hunter region, providing transport for them to social events, doctor's appointments, etc. Providing assistance with paperwork and information regarding pensions, local government, etc and generally giving help when needed
- designed, compiled and actively prepared chronicles, exhibitions, newspaper reports for the Newcastle region, as well as helping with any major project, exhibition or general work concerning the Slovenian community in NSW and especially Sydney (Building blocks, HASA, etc)
- doing occasional reports for review Misli and SBS Slovenian radio when needed

Maria was also one of the foundation members of the Historical Archives of Slovenian Australians (HASA) in Merrylands and presently holds the position of secretary of HASA. She also attended a seminar for Slovenian archivists around the world in Slovenia in 1999 and again in 2003 and works as a sole archivist in the Newcastle region.

Maria was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1980, was awarded the NSW Premier's award in 1999 in recognition of outstanding service to the community and to NSW. She has also received acknowledgments from Slovenian Franciscans, from the Olympic committee of Slovenia, Association of Sport Federation and Sport federation for Disabled of Slovenia as well as from the newspaper "Glas slovenije". I am sure you will agree with me that she is a deserving winner and we hope that she continues her work for many years to come. Congratulations.