



Newsletter

Q1, 2023
Issue #01

News from our Community - January, February & March

INSIDE

Events

An overview of our summer events and a reminder about our upcoming events.

Survey Results

Members took part in an engagement survey - here are our results

Special Thanks

We couldn't do it without you. Thanks to members.

Federal Council 2022

Resolutions from the 2022 Federal Council Meeting.

Member News

Read about the achievements of some of our members.

Community Cookbook

Interested in sharing your family recipes?

LT News

Lithuanian news you might have missed.



Summer Events

In January, the community hosted our first event of the year alongside the Embassy with a 5km **Freedom Defenders walk** around Lake Burley Griffin to honour the memory of the victims of Soviet military aggression in Vilnius in 1991. Members received a Forget-Me-Not pin from the Ambassador as a symbol of Lithuania's victory in the fight for freedom. Also in January, members Lucy and Ridas Daukus, along with Vida Howe, organised a wonderful **Chinese New Year banquet** dinner, where members enjoyed a feast of Chinese dishes and received a lucky gold coin to remember the occasion.

We started February with a celebration in our Būstinė (pictured above) to commemorate the **Restoration of the State of Lithuania (V16)**, where members heard from our Ambassador, sang the National Anthem and made new friends. The community also organised and ran the Lithuanian stall in the EU Village at the **Canberra Multicultural Festival**, where our volunteers engaged with visitors about all things Lithuanian. On offer were Lithuanian recipes, samples of krupnikas and tourism pamphlets. On 24 February, members continued their support for our Ukrainian friends by participating in the **Ukrainian vigil** to mark 365 days since the Russian invasion.

During March the community celebrated the **Restoration of Independence of Lithuania** with a hike up Mount Ainslie where members enjoyed a picnic breakfast and sang the National Anthem while looking over Canberra. Those who chose not to hike met walkers at the top to cheer them on.

A massive thank you to our Committee for their work organising these events for our community, especially Katharine Moeder and Sophie Kusta. Thank you to our community volunteers who give their time at these events to help set up, pack down and provide wonderful company. If you would like to help organise or assist in a future event, please get in touch with the Committee.

Survey Results

At the beginning of the year the Committee released a short survey to gauge community member preference for events. Just under half of our members responded with the following results. Thank you to those who took part in the survey.

The most popular event respondents suggested they would be interested in attending was dinner at the Polish Club at 68.75%. Coming in second was Lithuanian cooking classes at 64.6%, followed by a mushroom picking event at 47.2%. Other events of interest included Lithuanian art and craft sessions, walks and hikes, and family-friendly events such as picnics and BBQs.

Other events included ladies' coffee catch ups and youth events such as pub nights with interest just under 40%. Formal events and language classes had just over 30% interest. Book clubs and children's Sunday school was less popular at 20% and 10%.



Regarding sport, 40% of respondents were interested in playing sport for the community. Of these respondents, the most popular sport was basketball, followed by mixed netball, tennis, frisbee golf and normal golf.

We will follow up on these events, noting that we have already set up three Polish Club dinners over winter.

For those interested in getting involved in the organisation of a cooking class or joining our men's Vilkas basketball team, please get in touch with the Committee - We would love to hear your ideas.

Upcoming Events

There are a number of events coming up over the next quarter:

Every Sat 10am | **Ukrainian Protest** outside the Russian Embassy

Sun 07 May | **Mother's Day**
Afternoon Tea in the Būstinė (2pm)

Sun 07 May | **Euro Festival** at the Polish White Eagle Club (10am-3pm)

Sun 14 May | **Eurovision Final**

Thu 25 May | Casual Dinner at the **Polish Club** (6pm)

Sat 17 June (TBC) | Event to mark **Baltic Deportation Day**

Thu 29 June | Casual Dinner at the **Polish Club** (6pm)

Keep an eye out for invitations to RSVP - Via email and the community Facebook Group.

Special Thanks

Over the last few months, **Jonas Mockunas** and **Sigita Gailiunas** have been assisting with a stocktake of the books in our Būstinė. During this process, Jonas and Sigita have looked through hundreds of books to determine their most appropriate homes. Many have been sent to the Adelaide Archives, and Canberra members are welcome to look through the excess stock for books to keep. Thank you for your assistance!

Sophie Kusta and **Katharine Moeder** helped transform the community's Būstinė from a storage space into a useable room where the community can gather for events. It now looks wonderful!

Krašto Tarybos/Federal Council

In December 2022, President Elena Kusta attended the Krašto Tarybos/Federal Council Meeting in Sydney (pictured below), where members from Lithuanian communities across Australia met over a four-day period to discuss maintaining Lithuanian identity in Australia, engaging younger generations and the geopolitical environment. This meeting occurs every two years with community representatives nominated at our Annual General Meeting to sit on the Federal Council for the following two years.

Discussions from this meeting included the importance of building friendships within our communities, re-evaluating communication channels and investing in activities that attract people of all ages and interests, particularly the youth of the community. It was noted that it is important to build a community that is viable for future generations. There were a number of resolutions from this meeting which were recently released. The Resolutions pertinent to our community are below.

Resolution 7 - Improve communication channels, including multiple channels such as Facebook and Instagram; publish in both languages; renew/update websites; explore newsletter reporting. The Committee has been working hard to improve communication through the establishment of Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages; advertising events within the community Facebook group; renewing our website; and starting this newsletter. If members would like to volunteer their time to translate messages from English to Lithuanian, please contact the Committee.

Resolution 8 - Communities have succession plans. Planning for this is underway to ensure appropriate handovers are created for various Committee roles.

Resolution 9 - Communities promote the creation of activities based on demographics within communities such as playgroups and camps for the youth, and lunches, book clubs and support groups for older members. The Committee's survey touched on these aspects and are responding to the results. Ideas and volunteers for activities are always welcome.

Resolution 10 - Communities are encouraged to host various styles of events and more engaging activities. This year the Committee started organising various styles of events such as hikes, dinners, picnics and cosy events in our Būstinė. In response to the survey, other various events will be arranged in time. The aim is to ensure a variety of events to suit all of our members.

Resolution 14 - Communities undertake a survey to determine what people want. The Committee released a survey at the beginning of the year and has started organising events to cater to the responses.

Resolution 15 - Communities are encouraged to hold more events with our Baltic friends. As Baltic Deportation Day approaches, an event with our Latvian and Estonian communities will be arranged. The Committee welcomes ideas and volunteers to arrange Baltic events, such as sport, dinner etc.



Supporting Ukraine

Many of our community members have been attending the Ukrainian protest outside the Russian Embassy every Saturday since the invasion. Thank you to those who continue the support. Anyone can attend - The protest takes place every Saturday from 10.00am until 11.30am.

Can't make it? That's okay, there are other ways. There is currently a vodka fundraiser to help purchase metal detectors that will be sent to Ukraine to help with humanitarian de-mining. Click [here](#) to purchase a bottle or two!

LT News

Lithuania made it into the **top 20** (for the first time) of the [World Happiness Report](#).

For its efforts assisting **Ukraine**, Lithuania made it in the [ABC News](#).

Lithuanian **soldiers** [prepared Ukrainian recruits](#) in the United Kingdom.

Further **restrictions** were imposed on all things **Russian**, including harsher punishments for those bringing [Russian cash](#) into the country, bans on Russian citizens [purchasing real estate](#) and suspensions on [delivery services](#) to Russia.

As July approaches and Lithuania [prepares](#) to host the **NATO Summit**, it also [celebrated](#) its 19th anniversary of its accession to NATO.

More Lithuanians [return to Lithuania](#) than leave for the third consecutive year.

The Lithuanian **Special Archive** has published an [online archive](#) of the people who were included in the lists of those to be deported in 1941 and 1945-1953.

Monika Linkytė will [represent Lithuania](#) at the 2023 **Eurovision** Song Contest.

Thank you for taking the time to read our community's first newsletter. Ačiū, Elena Kusta, President.
Contact us via [email](#) and follow the Community's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Member News

The Committee has recently been advised of Community members who have made fantastic achievements.



Rasa Kabaila (pictured left) recently released her book *Put Some Concrete in your Breakfast: Tales from Contemporary Nursing*, which was published through the international publisher, Springer Nature. Rasa has been working on this book for a number of years and

explains that it has been a dream of hers to write and have it published. The book details a comprehensive overview of the modern nursing profession and follows Rasa's "journey from what led her to become a nurse to what convinced her to stay in the profession, despite the many obstacles that she continues to face and overcome in this unique and fulfilling career". For more information, visit the [Springer website](#). Rasa also released the [website](#) for her Nurse Practitioner business. Congratulations, Rasa!

Rasa and Mindaugas Mauragis' grandson **Lucas Mauragis** [made the squad](#) for Australia's under 23 Subway Olyroos soccer team. March saw Lucas travel to Varese, Italy for a training camp to prepare the team for 2024 Olympics in Paris. The team are off to the Aix-en-Provence in France during the month of June to participate in the Maurice Revello Tournament. Wishing Lucas all the best!

If you know of a member achievement or other news which we can share with the community, please get in touch.

Community Cookbook

Food is an important link to our Lithuanian culture and heritage. It ties us to our family, community and traditions, passed on through generations.

To preserve our Lithuanian recipes and ensure they are not lost and forgotten, the Committee invites you to share your favourite recipes for our community repository. Further details on how to participate will be emailed to members shortly.