



Australian Ambassador, H. E. Susan Cox with Klapa Geta at the Australia Day celebration in Split

Dear readers,

As Australia's Ambassador to Croatia, I am pleased that we are issuing the 70th edition of our electronic newsletter. Throughout the last seven years various topics from Australia have been headlined in our newsletter. I am delighted at the strengthening of the relationship between Australia and Croatia. This newsletter contains information on how Australia Day was celebrated in Split this year.

It is just a year since I took up the position of Ambassador and I am thoroughly enjoying my time here. I have travelled to many parts of this beautiful country, seen some of the wonders and have met some extraordinary people.

Australia and Croatia share strong bonds that go back all the way to the late 1800's. The historical ties based on the Croatian immigrants to Australia provide a sound base to go forward. Now we see changes developed in business and academia, cultural exchanges and over the last several years, increase in tourist arrivals from Australia.

I look forward to discovering more of what Croatia has to offer and seeking new opportunities for cooperation between our two countries.

Hvala!

Susan Cox



AUSTRALIA DAY SPLIT 2014



The Embassy organised "Days of Australia" in Split, the second largest city in Croatia, from 23—24 January. During these days, the three key events were the Australia Day reception, the Australian Aboriginal exhibition "Yilpinji: Love, Magic and Ceremony" and various events for children at the Split City Library "Marko Marulic".

Read more: <http://www.croatia.embassy.gov.au/zgrb/events.html>



AUSTRALIAN—CROATIAN FRIENDSHIP GROUPS SPLIT AND OSIJEK

We are pleased to advise that there are two new Australian Croatian Friendship groups - one in Split and one in Osijek.

A group of Australian expats in Split, with the support of the Croatian Heritage Foundation Split branch, decided that after nine years of casual gatherings and mingling, there was enough interest to formally set up the *Croatian Australian Society and Friends*. President of the Society is Tania Blazevic.

The Osijek group has been gathering interest over the last couple of years and have formally registered and the President of the *Association of Australian-Croatian Friendship Osijek* is prof. dr. Željko Turkalj, Rector of the University of J. J. Strossmayer Osijek.

Both groups are interested in strengthening community ties between Croatia and Australia, encouraging business and education cooperation, and interacting between the Australian and Croatian diaspora.

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