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Q2 & Q3, 2024
Issue #06

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Autumn & Winter Events

We started the middle of the year with our annual **Easter lunch** at the Būstinė which included a few traditional Easter games and chocolate eggs. The Vilkas basketball team, led by Ben Katauskas, organised the community's first **Lithuanian beer tasting** event, where guests enjoyed a variety of light and heavy beers deep fried rye bread, pickles and basketball entertainment on the TV.

Mother's Day followed in May with an afternoon tea that included Lithuanian-themed lucky door prizes, including a 'labas' welcome mat, Lithuanian scarf, Lithuanian keychains and rue (ruta) plants - Thank you to Vida Viliunas for crafting the welcome mat and keychains and providing the rue to make our mums feel special!

Baltic Deportations Day was commemorated with our Baltic friends at the Būstinė due to poor weather. Guests enjoyed many Baltic cultural dishes, including blinai, tinginys, and fish, and listened to speeches on the history of this day with linkages to what is currently happening in Ukraine.

To celebrate **Statehood Day**, the community gathered at the Southern Cross Club for a sit-down lunch (pictured above). Rimas Kabaila presented certificates to members who had donated to the Best Student Award at the Military Academy of Lithuania (read more on page 2).

We ended the third quarter celebrating our fathers with a **Father's Day** sausage sizzle lunch, more Lithuanian beer and all the trimmings. We also held a formal lunch at the Commonwealth Club to celebrate our community's **75th anniversary**, where members reminisced and our two founding members were acknowledged.

Military Academy Update

Member Rimas Kabaila has taken the initiative to personally raise money for a financial award to the Dux of Generolo Jono Žemaičio Karo Akademija (Military Academy of Lithuania).

Over a number of months, Rimas liaised with the Military Academy to formalise an agreement and lobbied for individual donations for an overall prize of 1,000 euros. The winner of the 2024 prize was lieutenant Ignas Vytautas Kargaudas.

Rimas gave his heartfelt thanks to the generous donations of private supporters and presented those who attended the Statehood Day lunch with a certificate of gratitude. A special applause was given to Mr Julius Žentalis, who donated the largest amount, and has been a supporter since the award began some 21 years ago.



Photo: Julius receives his certificate for his personal donation.

Rimas provided a snapshot of the sources of 2024 donations:

- 60% from Canberra-Australian Lithuanians
- 30% from the Melbourne-Australian Lithuanians
- 10% from Australian friends of Lithuanian communities

"I am writing to extend my heartfelt thanks for your generous donations to the Lithuanian Military Academy Best Student Prize. Your support has been instrumental in making this initiative a success. I am pleased to inform you that, despite a few initial delays, we successfully drafted an agreement with the Lithuanian Military Academy for the prize. The cash prize has now been sent to Lithuania, ensuring it will be ready in time for the preparations for the 2024 graduation ceremony."

If you would like to donate to the 2025 prize, please email Rimas at peterkabaila1@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

There are a number of events coming up over summer:

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

Sat 14 Dec | **Christmas lunch** at the Woden Southern Cross Club (12pm)

Sat 11 January | **5km Freedom Defenders Walk** with the Embassy at Lake Burley Griffin (10am)

Feb/March | **Restoration of the State and Restoration of Independence** joint sit-down lunch

72nd Sporto Švente

This year's Sporto Švente will be held in Adelaide on 27-31 December. The hosts invite Australian-Lithuanians of all ages and skill levels to participate in a variety of sports including:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Golf
- Billiards
- Futsal
- Netball
- Swimming
- Chess
- Tennis
- Table Tennis
- Darts
- Children's Orienteering

Register your interest via AdelaideVytis@gmail.com.

While the Canberra Community hasn't been involved in Sporto Švente for many years, it would be great to see future participation in 2026 and beyond.

Dainų Šventė (Song Festival)

From 29 June to 6 July, Lithuania held a centenary celebration of Lithuanian songs at its Dainų Šventė.

An Australian delegation, including Canberra member and Australian-Lithuanian President Rasa Mauragis, hosted a stall at the *Let's Connect Lithuania* event in the Australian pavilion. The Australian delegation running the stall were lucky enough to get a visit from President Gitanas Nausėda and the Ministers of Culture and Vice Ministers.

The Australian stall provided visitors with an opportunity to taste Vegemite, enjoy Tim Tams and smell Australian eucalyptus oil and leaves. It also presented Aboriginal artifacts and information about all Australian-Lithuanian communities.

In the below picture, President Nausėda is signing an eco-printed cloth made by Rasa, which was on display for visitors to write greetings and congratulatory messages to the Australian Lithuanian Bendruomenė ahead of its upcoming 75-year jubilee in 2025.



Photos of the ALB stall courtesy of the ALB's Facebook.

Mūsų Pastogė turns 75

MŪSŲ PASTOGĖ

This year the Australian-Lithuanian community's beloved newspaper, Mūsų Pastogė, turns 75. It held its celebrations in Sydney

Mūsų Pastogė, or "Our Haven", was founded by Antanas Bauže and first published on 26 January 1949 to coincide with Lithuania's 70th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuania's freedom, and on the Australia Day weekend. The newspaper has outlasted the founders and subsequent editors but helped keep a community alive with its language, its culture and its life.

Canberra member, Greta Kusta, has reflected on her memories of Mūsų Pastogė.

"I have great childhood memories of Mūsų Pastogė, which always reminds me of my mother, Angelica Schaffer (nee Miniotas). My mother would eagerly wait for the arrival of Mūsų Pastogė in the mail and sit in her favourite chair to read it. Because I couldn't read Lithuanian, I loved looking at the pictures, knowing it was my Mum's favourite thing. This was special to me because of my mother."

You can read more about Mūsų Pastogė's 75th [here](#) or visit its website [here](#). If you would like to subscribe to a hard copy or electronic copy of the newspaper, please email mpastoge@bigpond.com.

LT News

Gitanas Nausėda [wins re-election](#) as President. See election results [here](#).

"**What does Lithuania look like** in the eyes of the world?", [and it's not basketball](#).

Go on a new **audio tour of Vilnius**, complete with [secrets about anti-Soviet resistance](#).

After the second attempt to **change Lithuania's constitution** and allow dual citizenship failed, a [lawyer gives her take](#) on what could be done next.

Vilnius has finished building its **new, shiny departures terminal**. Here's a sneak [peek](#).

[Seven out of ten Lithuanians](#) believe that **Russia poses a real threat** to Lithuania's national security.

The number of **Ukrainians living in Lithuania** is decreasing, as some war [refugees are returning home](#).

Vilnius plans to renovate the [Soviet high-rise apartment block](#) surrounded by glass boxes on Konstitucijos Avenue.

Ever wondered what **Russian propaganda** [says about the Baltic states](#)?

Here are the **top 10 unique locations** for you to [visit in Lithuania](#).

Back to nature: **Lithuania's rural farmhouses** [undergoing a renaissance](#).

[Find out more](#) on other **Lithuanian diasporas**.

Ačiū for taking the time to read our community newsletter. Regards, Elena Kusta, President.

Contact us via [email](#) and connect with the community's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Website](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Pink Soup Festival

Did you know that our Motherland celebrates šaltibarščiai (pronounced: Shal-ti-bar-sh-chay) with a festival each year? The "[Pink Soup](#)" Festival returned to Vilnius for the second time in 2024 to celebrate šaltibarščiai, with more than 42,000 Lithuanians taking part.

It's a colourful time of year in Vilnius, where the city marks the start of summer and gets a pink makeover. The festival celebrates with costumes, activities, music and eating events. This year, a giant 50 metre slide (pictured below) was set up on Bastion Hill where Lithuanians could slide themselves down into a giant soup bowl.

Lithuanians also marked a record with the longest table of cold pink soup at 362 metres, and for the most people eating cold pink soup at the same time - 1,200 people for 2 minutes.

And if you missed it this year, don't worry, it's back in 2025 on 31 May. Book your flights now!

Watch the festival's video [here](#) or read more in an article by Adventure.com [here](#). See below for a recipe.



Photo: 50 metre slide courtesy of LRT.lt.

ALB's tried and tested recipes

The Australian Lithuanian Bendruomenė has tried and tested recipes ready for you to make!

A mouth-watering, potato heavy cepelinai recipe can be found [here](#). Or if you would like something cooler for the hot Australian summer, try cooking cold beetroot soup (šaltibarščiai) [here](#).