



# Newsletter

Q3, 2023  
Issue #03

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## Winter Events

The first event of the third quarter was a buffet-style lunch at the Canberra White Eagle Polish Club in Turner to celebrate **Statehood Day**. Members enjoyed a range of European food, including potato and beetroot salads, Polish koldunai and cabbage rolls. The community's local band Kalvelis played music throughout the event, including the Lithuanian National Anthem. There was a lucky door prize - a cookbook *Amber & Rye* with recipes from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It was nice to trial a different venue for our events and support a pokie-free club. Thank you to Kat Moeder, our Committee Event Coordinator for organising this event.

In August, the **Būstinė opened** for members to enjoy a casual coffee catch up. Unfortunately, there was an unplanned car park closure by another tenant's event, which meant some members could not get to the Būstinė. Those who could make it discussed art and craft ideas for community events.

During September we hosted a **Father's Day pizza and beer lunch** (pictured above), where our dads were presented with some lovely gifts: Vida Viliunas made leather key chains embossed with the Columns of Gediminas. Greta Kusta made Lithuanian-coloured crochet bookmarks and bracelets. Thank you Vida and Greta! The event was also attended by our Ambassador, Darius Degutis, who addressed the room. The community also met the Embassy's newest staff, who were in attendance. Thank you to Sophie Kusta, our other Committee Event Coordinator for organising this special event for our fathers.

September also saw the community's basketball team, **Vilkas**, make it to the **Grand Final** of their division. The community gathered for this event to support the team. Read more on page 2.

# Congratulations Vilkas!

By Elena Kusta, Community President and Peter Andruska, Vilkas Captain

**On Monday, 18 September, Vilkas won their division's Grand Final, with a final score of 36-33.**

The first two quarters were close, with only one point separating Vilkas from their opposition, the 'Fakers' throughout - keeping everyone on their toes!

The third quarter saw Vilkas scrape a bit further ahead at 26-19, but the opposition didn't give up - they gave Vilkas a run for their money with 45 seconds left on the clock, the score 34-33 to Vilkas, and two foul shots opening for the Fakers. Spectators held onto their seats as the Faker's top point scorer missed their foul shots that could have won them the game. With 10 seconds before full time, Vilkas Captain Peter came in to seal the deal with a 2 pointer.



Photo: Vilkas and their community supporters after their Grand Final win.

Vilkas has had a strong Winter 2023 season going 10-4 which landed them in 2nd on the ladder. The team is led by a strong back court of team captain Peter Andruska and Paulius Gutauskas. Both Peter and Paulius are known for their up-tempo defensive play style. The front court is led by the man mountain Vyt Vilkaitis and supported by the other big man power forward Ben Katauskas. Rounding out the team in the wing spot we have Matthew Grecl and Joseph Moder who both work the boards



Photo: Vilkas team players Simon, Matthew Grecl, Dale, Peter Andruska, Paulius Gutauskas and Ben Katauskas (missing: Vyt Vilkaitis).

and always find a way to come up with a bucket when needed.

**Did you know** that Vilkas has been the Canberra community's basketball team for over 50 years?

# Upcoming Events

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

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

Wed 25 October | **Pop-Up Memorial** of Russia's attack on Ukraine at International Flag Display (12.30pm)

Sun 5 November | **35th Anniversary of the Eglė Žalčiū Karalienė statue** at Glebe Park (1pm)

Sun 12 November | **Annual General Meeting** at the Būstinė (2pm)

Sat 16 December | **Christmas Party at the Woden Southern Cross Club** (12.30pm)



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

# November AGM

**The Canberra community's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up and scheduled for 12 November at our Būstinė.**

The AGM is when a new Committee is elected. The Committee is made up of four official office-bearers; President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as up to five ordinary members who can form non-official positions of Memberships Coordinator, Events Coordinator and Assistant Treasurer.

If you are interested in joining the Committee in one of these positions, or simply as a member, please reach out to the current President for more information.

# Memorial Against the Attack in Ukraine

By Rimas Kabaila, Community Member



Photo: Rimas Kabaila at a protest with his pop-up memorial and home-made signs against Russia's attack on Ukraine.

I attend the anti-war demonstrations that are held outside the Russian Embassy at 10 to 11.30am every Saturday. At one demonstration, someone suggested a "pop-up" memorial against atrocities being committed by Putin's regime on the people of Ukraine.

Engraved stone plaques have now arrived from overseas. An obelisk has been made to support the plaques. The whole memorial can be transported in the back of a car. It can be set up anywhere in two minutes.

Plaques memorialise six notable atrocities by Putin's regime, and one place in which each atrocity has been committed: Civilian Targeting - Mariupol Theatre; Prisoner Executions - Azov Olenivka; Civilian Torture - Irpin; Infrastructure Sabotage - Kakhovka Dam; Rape - West of Kyiv; Child Kidnapping - Kherson Region.

Part of the pop-up memorial includes an outback tour through Lockhart, Hay, Bourke, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge, Parkes, Cowra and Tangmangaroo, demonstrating the support of remote communities for the people of Ukraine.

Later the memorial will be permanently installed in a peaceful Australian bushland setting, which people will be able to visit. But for now, we need you! We need your ideas for places to set up this pop-up memorial and record the event with a photograph! Please email your suggestion to the Canberra Lithuanian Community.

## Lithuanian Ballooning

In September, members Vida and Geoff Howe attended the 5th FAI [Women's World](#) Hot Air Ballooning Championships in Northam, Western Australia.

There were three Lithuanian pilots participating. Agnė Simonavičiūtė placed 6<sup>th</sup>, Renata Narbutė placed 23<sup>rd</sup> and Julija Romanovskaja placed 28<sup>th</sup> in the competition, with an Australian taking out first place.



Photos: L - Lithuanian pilots Renata, Agnė, Julija and their team. R - Renata's Vilnius balloon.

The Lithuanian team incorporated blue and yellow on their team jackets in support of Ukraine, and pilot Renata showcased an impressive Vilnius balloon. Congratulations to the Lithuanian and Australian ballooners. Thanks to Vida and Geoff for the photos.

## LT News

Behind the scenes of the **NATO summit** in Vilnius – [in photos](#).

More than **70,000 Ukrainians** have [arrived in Lithuania](#) since the full-scale Russian invasion.

**Vilnius named emerging** Europe's most [business-friendly city](#).

Lithuania [marked the 80th anniversary](#) of the **Vilnius Ghetto liquidation**.

The Lithuanian **basketball team** [finished the World Cup](#) in 6th place after losing to Latvia.

Red Army veterans, anti-Soviet partisans: [a story of three Lithuanian brothers](#).

[A story](#) about how an Argentinian-born Japanese man **fell in love with Lithuania**.

August [storm in Lithuania](#) broke over 50,000 trees.

Lithuania needs to [triple its waste recycling](#) and its use in the production of new products to catch up with the EU average.

Lithuania [bans fur farming!](#)

## Our Constitution

**Did you know that the Canberra Lithuanian Community is an Incorporated Association with a Constitution?**

Our Constitution sets our objectives, eligibility for membership, powers and positions of the Committee, rules for meetings and more. Our Constitution was adopted in October 2011 and includes objectives to foster and encourage Lithuanian heritage, culture and traditions, including social and sporting activities; facilitate opportunities for those who want to experience or study Lithuania; raise Lithuania's profile in the wider ACT community; facilitate the flow of information within the Lithuanian community; and assist members in times of need.

**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](#).

## Member News

**Community member Nina Poulton is a local multi-media artist in the Batemans Bay area.**

Currently, Nina's art features in two local galleries - The Market Gallery in Batehaven and The Gallery in Mogo. Recently, [her art](#) was exhibited at the [River of Art Festival](#) on the South Coast and consisted of a variety of subjects and media.

Her work was also part of the Moruya Library Literary Salon where her art "Mystery Lady in Lace" had a short story written about it by one of the Literary writers.

Below are two pictures of Nina's work. Congratulations, Nina!



## Nida Degutienė Launches Fourth Book

**Nida Degutienė, wife of our Lithuanian Ambassador to Australia Darius Degutis, has just launched her fourth cookbook.**

The book is titled Australijos Skoniai – Australian flavours: my discoveries – and is dedicated to Nida's experience of the Australian lifestyle. [Her book](#) contains over 130 Australian recipes, such as lamingtons. More on the book, and Nida's recipes can be found on her [website](#).