



# Newsletter

Special  
Edition  
2024

News from our Community's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

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## The CLCA Celebrates 75 Years

By Elena Kusta, President

**On Saturday 28 September 2024, the Canberra Lithuanian Community held a special luncheon to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.** The luncheon was held at the Commonwealth Club in Yarralumla. Seventy-five years ago, the community's founding members held their first Kūčios as new arrivals in the Canberra suburb of Yarralumla, so it was fitting that for this event the community celebrated again in Yarralumla.

The Commonwealth Club's head chef created a personalised menu that included šaltibarščiai, cepelinai and medutis (honey cake), which made the day a little bit more special for all. A table of memories was set up with photos and memorabilia for members look back on the 75-year history of the community. It was wonderful to reflect on members and events past and present.

President, Elena Kusta and Event Organiser, Sophie Grecl (nee Kusta), emceed the event. A moment of silence was held for past members, and Elena reflected on her late maternal bobutė, who was one of the early members of the community.

Elena Kusta and His Excellency Ambassador Darius Degutis congratulated the community's two remaining founding members, Pranas Gružauskas and Marija Borumas, presenting certificates of recognition for their 75 years of service to the Canberra community.

Ambassador Degutis congratulated the community for surviving many decades of historical challenges and participating in political actions to protect the freedom of Lithuania. The Ambassador thanked the community for keeping the Lithuanian spirit alive over the years through the Canberra Lithuanian Club, Aušra choir, Vilkas and national dance groups, and wished the community a long and meaningful lifetime.

Members also heard reflections and memories from speakers Ben Katauskas, Rasa Mauragis, Ron Cameron and John Andruska. Extracts from their speeches are copied into this edition.

Thank you to everyone who could make this event possible - Our members for attending, Sophie for organising, Aurora Andruska for securing our venue, Ron Cameron for arranging the string duo, the Committee for their ideas, and our speakers.

As current President of the Canberra community, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the community for keeping the spirit of Lithuania and our forefathers alive. I congratulate our two remaining founding members, Pranas and Marija for their 75-year contribution to our community - without their efforts from the beginning, we would not have our community today. I also recognise the love, dedication, time and effort past and present Committee members have contributed to continuation of the community, which has enabled the community's continuation over 75 years. I look forward to our younger members stepping up to participate and one day take the reins to ensure we are here to celebrate 100 years.



*Elena Kusta with founding members Marija Borumas and Pranas Gruzauskas.*



*Ridas and Lucy Daukus and Albert Klegeris.*



*Jolanta Vilkaite-Samuliene, Rom Katauskas and Vida Howe.*



*Ambassador Darius Degutis presents certificates to Marija and Pranas as founding members.*



*Sigita Gailiunas and Victor Surkus.*



*Nida Degutiene, Ambassador Darius Degutis and Aurora Andruska.*

# Jaunimas Reflections of Growing up in the Canberra Community

*By Ben Katauskas, Committee Member (Extracts from 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speech)*

**I'd like to share reflections and memories of growing up in our community. The things I'm cherishing as part of our celebration revolve around Scouts, Folk dancing, basketball, food and Lithuanian-styled festivities in general, all of which have enriched my life.**

Like many, I took the Lithuanian scouting oath at a very young age as a "white tie" and have had many scouting adventures as I progressed through the ranks of the Red, Yellow and Marone ties whilst representing Canberra's Baltijos Tuntas at stovyklas (camps) making friends with scouts of all ages from all over Australia and the world.

Together with scouts, Traditional Lithuanian folk dancing was also a big thing amongst the Jaunimas of my generation and the community more broadly. Some of my fondest folk dancing memories are dancing in clogs at the national folk festival, Dancing in civic as part of the multicultural festival and performing at the AIS on the same stadium floor the Canberra Cannons Played Basketball on which was very exciting - Many of us will remember our community hosting the 1984 Australijos Lietuvių Dienos (or Lithuanian Days).

Lithuanian basketball in Canberra is represented by the VILKAS sports club and its legendary basketball team. Our community, through VILKAS has facilitated and funded many a community member's participation in Sporto Šventė (or sports festivals) over many years. I discovered these events in the 80's through basketball and found them to be amazing sporting and social events and for many years this was my favourite time of year. When I was growing up most basketball kids wanted to be Michael Jordan but my idols were Arvydas Sabonis and Šarūnas Marčiulionis and there was no prouder moment as a young freedom fighting basketball fan like me than watching my heroes play for the newly free Lithuanian national basketball team and watching them defeat the Russians to win the bronze medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics - a victory that most will agree was sweeter than winning Gold.

Whilst my hunger may have come from sport and dancing my love of Lithuanian cuisine originated with my močiutė who would cook me koldūnai - at least once a week I would walk home from high school past her house and as an afternoon snack she would make me 20-25 koldūnai with sour cream and butter sauce and a sprinkling of fried bacon. My love of the Lithuanian dumpling grew from there almost into a life's purpose and dream of sharing this dish with all Australians. This dream first came to reality in the form of a multicultural festival stall where the CLCA president at the time Vic Martisius entrusted me with several thousands of dollars of community money to buy several thousand koldūnai, several kegs of beer and as much Krupnikas as we could get our hands on. Partnering with the late great Tony Cibiras, and with the help of many volunteers from our community we brought the Lithuanian dumpling to the masses in the centre of Canberra via our community's multicultural festival stall with great success, much festivity and a very healthy financial return.

I'll always remember and celebrate the goodwill that we generated within the broader Canberra community with all of our festival stalls as we proudly put our Lithuanian brand of hospitality and cuisine on display.

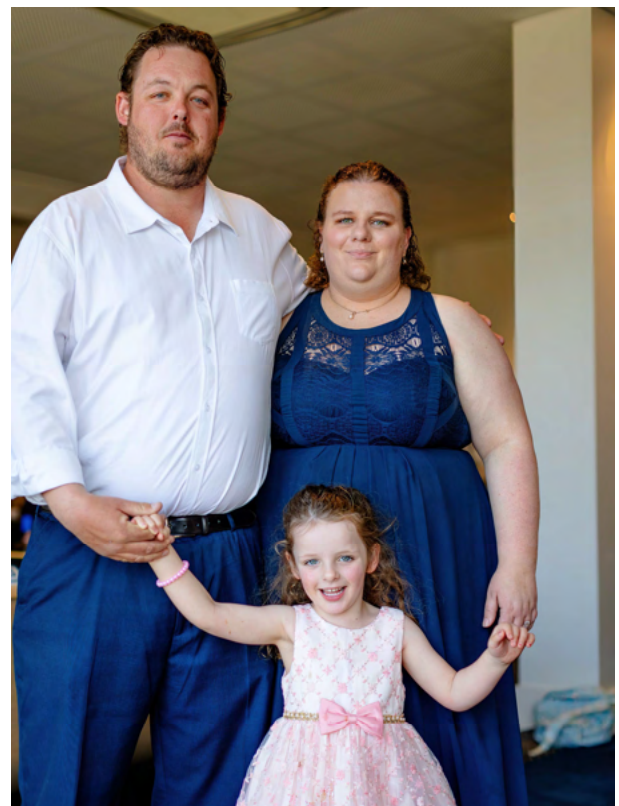




*Aidan Murphy, Alina Murphy, Rom Katauskas, Grazina Katauskas, Ben Katauskas, Kristina Hopkins, Paul Hopkins, Joshua Hopkins and Laura Hopkins.*



*Michael Calkavicius with Zydre and Bob Pember.*



*Ben, Steph and Rosemarie Cibiras.*

# Three Waves of the Canberra Community

By Rasa Mauragis, President, Federal Executive, Australian Lithuanian Community Association and Canberra Community Member (Extracts from 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speech)

**Who would have believed in 1949 when they gathered at the Capital Hill Hostel to form Canberros Lietuvių Komitetas that this community would still be going today and that two original members Pranas and Marija would be in our midst.**

On reflection one can see three distinct waves in the life of the community and then waves within each. Even as a small community it has contributed significantly at national level.

The first wave starting in 1948 with the arrival of the first Lithuanians and very quickly they progressively organised basketball teams, a folk dancing group, a language school, scouts, a theatre group, a double men's quartet that developed a reputation in and outside of Canberra. This community from the beginning recognised the need to have a high profile. They were politically astute and instigated regular interactions with the greater Australian community and in particular with politicians of both parties and foreign diplomats. Following the recognition of Soviet occupation of Lithuania in 1974, Canberra was the first to respond with an immediate weekend demonstration and by the following Monday over 80 telegrams had been sent by members of the community to ministers, parliamentarians and drew the attention of local media to this issue setting the precedent for other communities to follow.

The second wave started as more young families arrived. The scouts were revived, the radio program took off, there were children's, teenage and adult folk dancing groups. Political activism was intense. During the 80s and 1990s it was a very active community and the biggest that it ever was. We again participated at ALD not only in sporting events but in folk dancing and youth concerts. In 1991-1992 the Federal executive was entrusted to Canberra. This was an extraordinary development in history of ALC coming at a very crucial time as Lithuania regained independence. From the start of 2000s the young had grown up again and with few families left with young children the community started to lose its purpose. The community has left their physical mark on the Lithuanian legacy in Australia by playing important role in the Australian Lithuanian community gift to mark Australia's bicentenary - the sculpture of Eglė in Glebe Park. The embroidered tapestry by members that hung in the club and is now part of the Canberra Museum and Gallery collection. And Trakai at Cockington Green, sponsored by our scouts.

In the last 10 years there was a sense amongst many in this community that it was coming to its end. But one needs to look at things with a glass half full not half empty. The Vilkas sports club has resurrected. The committee has been taken over by the second and third generation. There are more young families and after a long hiatus there are language classes for the children. The youth is proving this thinking to be truly and totally wrong. It has always been a small community but a community that can be proud to have the highest percentage of registered membership compared to numbers in the area.

The third wave has started. The community is not same and cannot be the same as what it was 75, 45 or 10 years ago. We are proud of those now stepping up to lead, to organise and as those did in the past. There is a future thanks to the younger members. On behalf of the federal executive, I wish the community the energy and stamina to maintain many more years of active life as you rally together, continue working together, share responsibility, take turns in leading and supporting those leading you as you keep our heritage alive and pass it on to future generations.





*Georgina Lithgow and Rasa Daukus.*



*Seph, Katharine and Izabella Moeder with Aurora and John Andruska.*



*Elena with Elizabeth Havas and Gytis Danta.*



*Roma Gocentas and Danguole Zentelis.*



*Mindaugas Mauragis, Pranas Gruzauskas and Rasa Mauragis.*



*Ambassador Degutis and Ron Cameron.*

# Kaimelis

*By Ron Cameron, Past Secretary (Extracts from 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speech)*

**In January 1952, many of the first Lithuanian refugees, who had been sent to Canberra for their two-year work placements and who founded the Canberra Lithuanian Community, had by then completed their commitments and had residency.**

Due to the shortage of houses in Canberra, they were still mainly living in rented rooms or government hostels and were looking for more permanent places to live. As it happened, Towns Crescent in Turner, which at the time was on the northern outskirts of Canberra had just been completed. The street was comprised of fifteen government two or three-bedroom houses, most of which were of the prefabricated 'monocrete' style and available for rental. Of the fifteen houses, eight were allocated to Lithuanians, and these were mainly congregated together in one half of the street near David Street in Turner



As soon as the houses were handed over to the Lithuanian tenants, they were quickly filled up, not only by the Lithuanians who signed the tenancy agreements, but other Lithuanian families and friends who were brought in to fill spare bedrooms and other available space. In time there were also sheds built in the backyards, typically adjoining a garage, that were also let out to Lithuanians.

For example, 10 Towns Crescent was rented to my father Bruce Cameron, who was a member of the Lithuanian community and my mother, his wife Marija Kučinskaite. As soon as they moved in with their two children (myself and Janetta) they also brought in mum's family - her father Vincas Kučinskas, stepmother Konstancija, and her three sisters Zeneta, Anele, Regina, and brother Jurgis. This was more or less repeated for all the Lithuanian houses in the street as they quickly filled up with babies, young children, teenagers, married couples and single boarders.

With so many Lithuanians in the street there were always other Canberra Lithuanians visiting someone and then moving from house to house to have a chat with others living in the street. As a result the rest of the Lithuanian community in Canberra referred to Towns Crescent in Lithuanian, as 'Kaimelis' - the little village Life in Kaimelis at that early stage seemed to be a constant parade of Lithuanian neighbours and other visitors and their children dropping in, food being prepared, and inevitably bottles of beer and spirits being consumed.

A party would start in one house and then sometimes move to another house, accompanied by a lot of Lithuanian singing as they went, to the amusement and sometimes consternation of the non-Lithuanian families in the street. My mum says that sometimes the Lithuanians would make a real spectacle of their merriment to stir up the Australians. Over time some Lithuanian families and individuals moved out and into their own places elsewhere in Canberra, but then other Lithuanians would move into the vacant houses or rooms.

During the sixteen years I lived in the street, the family names which I can connect to the eight individual houses in the street were Kučinskas, Borumas (Feliksas Borumas married my mum after my father was killed in a work accident) Weberas, Daubaris, Misevičius, Augutis, Baltaragis, Venslovas, Gruzas (Gruzauskas) Sipavičius, Kinas, Kovalskis and a number of single men and women boarders such as Gasiunas and others who I only remember by their first names.

Eventually, as the children grew into adults and left home and others passed away or left to live elsewhere, the Lithuanian community in Towns Crescent slowly dwindled away. My mother, at 95, is now the only surviving Lithuanian still in the street, living with her memories of those days and of her friends who are now all gone, in an apartment block that looks across the street to her old number 10; which is now an apartment block.



*Albert Klegeris, Georgina Lithgow, Paul Klegeris, Regina Klegeris, Ron Cameron, Anne Cameron, Marija Borumas, Janetta Cameron, Alina Murray, Geoff Howe, Victor Gocentas, Rita Gocentas, Paige Murray, Nick Doornboss, Vida Howe and Karin Hollings.*



*Seph and Katharine Moeder (nee Andruska).*



*Rasa and Mindaugas Mauragis.*





*Laura Hopkins and Paul Hopkins.*



*Alma Quick, Sebastian Blakemore and Greta Kusta.*



*Ben Katauskas, Elena Kusta and Sophie Grecl.*



*Zydre and Bob Pember.*



*Victor Surkus wins a lucky door prize - Gira!*



*Elena Kusta and Julius Zentelis.*



Members looking through the memorabilia.



Entree - Šaltibarščiai (cold beetroot soup).



Main - Steak with a cepelinai.



Table memorabilia.



Members looking through the memorabilia.



Dessert - medutis (honey cake).

# Reflections of the Canberra Community

*Summary of speech by John Andruška, Vice-President*

John Andruška spoke about the initial post WWII immigration policy of identifying migrants of Baltic origin as initial preferred candidates for settlement and the Federal initiative of establishing the Good Neighbour Council to coordinate various charities and church groups to assist the initial arrivals in navigating the settlement process.

He spoke about the objectives of the Canberra Lithuanian Community Association and activities undertaken to attain objectives which benefited the Canberra and Australian communities. These activities included scouts, choir, folk dancing, the Canberra Lithuanian Club, old soldiers and social clubs.



The objects of the Canberra Lithuanian Community Association Incorporated are to:

1. foster and encourage Lithuanian heritage, culture and traditions;
2. provide, foster and support cultural, social and sporting activities;
3. assist Lithuanian organisations, locally, nationally or internationally;
4. facilitate access to opportunities and support for those who want to experience or study;
5. Lithuanian heritage, culture, traditions or language;
6. raise Lithuania's profile in the wider ACT community;
7. represent Lithuanians from the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding areas at
8. local, national and international events;
9. facilitate the flow of information within the Lithuanian community in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding areas and to and from other Lithuanian communities and organisations in Australia and around the world;
10. assist Members in times of need.

John noted the achievements of Canberra Lithuanians and who made significant contributions to our community and the establishment of what it is today. This includes members who have achieved great things outside the community and found themselves in successful senior positions within the Australian Public Service.



*Members listening to speeches.*



*The Ambassador makes a toast to the Canberra Lithuanian Community.*

# Messages from Lithuania and Beyond

**The Canberra Lithuanian Community received several congratulatory messages from Lithuania and the World Lithuanian Community. Copies of each letter can be found at the end of this newsletter.**

Ambassador Degutis read congratulatory letters from Dalia Asanavičiūtė, Member of the Seimas and Chair of the Commission of the Seimas and Lithuanian World Community; and Lina Žukauskaitė, Director of the Department of Global Lithuania. Ms Asanavičiūtė thanked the community for preserving Lithuania’s national identity, language, customs and connection with the motherland over many decades and hopes this 75th year be the beginning of many more long and successful years of activity, full of fellowship, solidarity and pride in who we are. Ms Žukauskaitė thanked the Canberra community for its dedication to the preservation of “Lithuanian-ness”, for cherishing Lithuanian traditions, and for the bridges that connect Australia and Lithuania created by our activities. Ms Žukauskaitė recognised the community has always been an important force of fostering culture.

Rasa Mauragis read a congratulatory letter from Dalia Henke, Chair of the World Lithuanian Community (Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenė - PLB) who congratulated and thanked the community, including current and former leaders, for their long-term work to maintain cultural activities. Ms Henke believes we can maintain the spirit of Lithuania by working together to unite Lithuanians and friends of Lithuania.



*Sebastian Blakemore, Elena Kusta, Greta Kusta, Algis Kusta, Sophie Grecl and Matt Grecl.*



*Ron and Anne Cameron, Alina Murray, Paige Murray, Regina Klegeris, Marija Borumas and Janetta Cameron.*



*Rasa and Mindaugas Mauragis, Danius Mauragis, Nida Degutiene and Ambassador Degutis.*



*The 2023-24 Committee: Ben Cibiras, Sophie Grecl, Vida Howe, Algis Kusta, Elena Kusta, Kat Moeder, John Andruska and Ben Katauskas.*

# Opening a time capsule...

Looking back at the Canberra Lithuanian Community over the last 75 years.

























2024 m. rugsėjo 28 d.

Mielieji Kanberos lietuviai, *Briciūnai;*

Nuoširdžiausiai sveikinu Jus su 75-uju Kanberos lietuvių bendruomenės jubiliejumi. Jūsų bendruomenė, įkurta 1949 metais, išgyveno įvairius istorinius iššūkius ir per daugelį dešimtmečių išlaikė gyvą lietuvišką dvasią toli nuo gimtosios žemės. Kanberos lietuviai nuo pat pirmųjų dienų aktyviai dalyvavo ne tik lietuvių kultūrinėje veikloje, bet ir politinėse akcijose, siekiant apsaugoti Lietuvos laisvę. Jūsų bendruomenės pastangos, ypatingai organizuojant protesto demonstracijas prieš Baltijos šalių aneksijos pripažinimą, įėjo į Australijos lietuvių istoriją kaip ryškus pasipriešinimo sovietinei okupacijai pavyzdys.

Per 75 metus Jūsų bendruomenė augo ir vystėsi, sukūrė tvirtą lietuvišką salą Australijos sostinėje. Kanberos lietuvių klubas, Aušros choras, sporto klubas „Vilkas“, tautinių šokių grupės ir kitos organizacijos prisidėjo prie lietuvių kultūros puoselėjimo. Kanberoje iškilo ir svarbūs lietuvių bendruomenės simboliai – skulptorės I. Pocienės „Eglės žalčių karalienės“ paminklas bei M. Mauragio kurta Trakų pilies miniatiūra. Visa tai yra ne tik Jūsų bendruomenės, bet ir visos lietuvių diasporos Australijoje pasididžiavimas.

Jūsų bendruomenės indėlis į lietuviškos tapatybės saugojimą ir puoselėjimą užsienyje yra neišmatuojamas. Dėkoju Jums už ištikimybę lietuviškoms vertybėms, už stiprų ryšį su Lietuva ir už kultūros bei tradicijų perdavimą ateities kartoms.

Šiandien linkiu Jums visiems ilgų ir prasmingų veiklos metų, vienybės ir naujų įkvėpimų. Jūsų darbai – tai neįkainojama dovana Lietuvai ir visai lietuvių bendruomenei pasaulyje.

Su pagarba ir nuoširdžiais linkėjimais, *ir labai šiltais;*

Darius Degutis

Ambasadorius



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SEIMAS

# GREETINGS

*Lithuanian community of Canberra.*

*Dear members of Canberra's Lithuanian community, dear compatriots,*

*I congratulate you all and send my best wishes on this special occasion! The 75th anniversary of your community is not only a beautiful date, but also a long journey, which has been enriched by your fellowship, devotion and love for Lithuania, even though you are far from your homeland.*

*Canberra's Lithuanian community has preserved our national identity, language, customs and connection with the Motherland for many decades, which is a great merit of yours. Although you are perhaps the most distant Lithuanian community from Lithuania, you are the living proof that even thousands of kilometers away, Lithuania can live in hearts, in daily work and in the life of the community. Each of you contributes to the creation of our common history and supports Lithuanian culture, which you pass on to future generations.*

*By celebrating this holiday, be proud of the path your community has taken, be proud that you protect and nurture Lithuanian traditions and values, and that regardless of time and distance, you are an integral part of our nation.*

*Let this 75th year be just the beginning of many more long and successful years of activity in your community, full of fellowship, solidarity and pride in who you are.*

*Let the light of your community continue to shine, spreading light both to yourself and to those around you and reminding you of our common origin and values. Thank you for nurturing Lithuania and our national identity every day!*

*I wish you all health, harmony and many meaningful moments together!*

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*Member of the Seimas, Chair  
of the Commission of the  
Seimas and the Lithuanian  
World Community*

*Dalia Asanavičiūtė*





LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SEIMAS

# SVEIKINIMAS

## *Kanberos lietuvių bendruomenei.*

*Mieli Kanberos lietuvių bendruomenės nariai, brangūs tautiečiai,*

*Sveikinu Jus visus ir siunčiu nuoširdžiausius linkėjimus šia ypatinga proga! Jūsų bendruomenės 75 metų sukaktis – tai ne tik graži data, bet ir ilgas nueitas kelias, kurį praturtino Jūsų bendrystė, atsidavimas ir meilė Lietuvai, nors esate toli nuo savo gimtinės.*

*Kanberos lietuvių bendruomenė per ilgus dešimtmečius išlaikė lietuviybę, kalbą, papročius ir ryšį su Tėvyne, o tai – didžiulis Jūsų nuopelnas. Nors esate bene labiausiai nuo Lietuvos nutolusi lietuvių bendruomenė, esate gyvas įrodymas, kad net už tūkstančių kilometrų Lietuva gali gyvuoti širdyse, kasdieniauose darbuose ir bendruomenės gyvenime. Kiekvienas iš Jūsų prisideda prie mūsų bendros istorijos kūrimo ir palaiko lietuvių kultūrą, kurią perduodate ateities kartoms.*

*Šią šventę švęsdami didžiuokitės savo bendruomenės nueitu keliu, didžiuokitės, kad saugote ir puoselėjate lietuviškas tradicijas bei vertybes, ir kad nepaisant laiko bei atstumo, Jūs esate neatsiejama mūsų tautos dalis.*

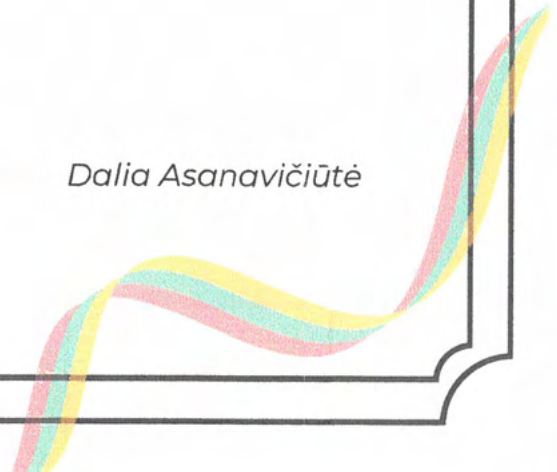
*Tegul šie 75-eri metai bus tik pradžia dar ilgiems ir sėkmingiems Jūsų bendruomenės veiklos metams, kupiniems bendrystės, solidarumo ir pasididžiavimo tuo, kas esate.*

*Tegul Jūsų bendruomenės žiburys ir toliau šviečia, skleisdamas šviesą tiek Jums patiems, tiek aplinkiniams ir primindamas apie mūsų bendrą kilmę ir vertybes. Ačiū, kad kasdien puoselėjate lietuviybę ir mūsų tautinį identitetą!*

*Linkiu Jums visiems sveikatos, darnos ir gausybės prasmingų akimirų kartu!*

—◆—  
*Seimo narė, Seimo ir Pasaulio  
lietuvių bendruomenės  
komisijos pirmininkė*

*Dalia Asanavičiūtė*





2024 m. rugsėjo 28 d.

*Mielieji Kanberos lietuviai,*

*nuoširdžiai sveikindama Jus visus Kanberos lietuvių bendruomenės 75-mečio proga, noriu Jums padėkoti už Jūsų pasišventimą lietuviybės saugojimui, už puoselėjamas lietuviškas tradicijas, už Jūsų veikla kuriamus tiltus, jungiančius Australiją su Lietuva.*

*Kanberos lietuviai visuomet buvo svarbia kultūros, lietuviškumo ir tautinės savimonės puoselėjimo jėga. Organizuodami šventes, paminėdami svarbias sukaktis ir skatindami tautinę bendrystę, Jūs ne tik išsaugojote, bet ir praturtinote lietuvių kultūros paveldą.*

*Šiuo metu, kai pasaulio geopolitinės įtampos kelia grėsmę stabilumui Europoje, Jūsų pastangos stiprinti saugią Lietuvą ir ginti demokratines vertybes yra nepaprastai svarbios. Jūsų ryžtas ir solidarumas, rodytas aštuntajame praėjusio amžiaus dešimtmetyje priešinantį Baltijos šalių inkorporacijos į Sovietų Sąjungą pripažinimui, ir dabar, prisidedant prie protestų prieš Rusijos agresiją Ukrainoje, yra gyvybiškai svarbūs Lietuvos saugumui. Negalime sau leisti pavargti - ir toliau aktyviai telkime paramą, įsitraukime į demokratinių vertybių puoselėjimo veiklą. Būkime vieningi vardan mūsų Laisvės.*

*Dar kartą dėkoju už Jūsų nuoširdžią veiklą Lietuvai ir lietuvybei. Vertiname ir didžiujamės Jumis – Lietuvos salele Australijoje!*

*Ilgų ir prasmingų veiklos metų!*

Lina Žukauskaitė

URM Globalios Lietuvos departamento direktorė



Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenė  
Lithuanian World Community

## **SVEIKINIMAS**

### **KANBEROS LIETUVIŲ BENDRUOMENEI ŠVENČIANT 75 – METŲ VEIKLOS JUBILIEJŲ**

*Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenės valdybos vardu  
nuoširdžiai sveikinu ir dėkoju Kanberos lietuvių bendruomenės  
esamiems bei buvusiems lyderiams už ilgametį, nuoseklų ir  
pasiaukojantį darbą kultūros, švietimo, visuomeninėje, socialinėje,  
sporto ir kitose veiklose!*

*Tikiu, kad kartu veikdami šiuo nelengvu laikmečiu, mes įgyvendinsime  
savo prasmingą misiją - išlaikyti lietuvių dvasią, vienyti lietuvius ir  
Lietuvos draugus ir stiprinti Lietuvą!*

*Linkiu visiems susitelkimo, geriausios sveikatos, neblėstamos energijos  
ir visokeriopos sėkmės.*

*Tik dirbdami kartu galime pasiekti daug daugiau.  
Vienybėje esame stiprūs!*

*Dalia Henke*

*Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenės pirmininkė  
2024 m. rugsėjo 26 d.*

Greeting

To the Canberra Lithuanian Community celebrating its 75 year jubilee

On behalf of the Board of the World Lithuanian Community

I sincerely congratulate and thank the Lithuanian community of Canberra

current and former leaders for long-term, consistent and

self-sacrificing work in cultural, educational, public, social,

in sports and other activities!

I believe that by working together during these difficult time, we will implement

our meaningful mission - to maintain the spirit of Lithuania, to unite Lithuanians and

Friends of Lithuania and strengthen Lithuania!

I wish everyone to rally together,

the best health, undiminished energy,

and all the best.

We can only achieve so much more by working together.

We are strong in unity!