

The voice- Of Slovenia

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The Teaching of SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE in Australia 25 years 1977 to 2002

Written by: Aleksandra Ceferin, Melbourne

The major wave of migration to Australia of people of Slovenian ethnic background occurred around 1950. The primary goal of the immigrants was to establish a home, learn English, and to find a comfortable place in the new society.

Parents believed, in common with Australian educational authorities, that knowledge or maintenance of another language would not only prevent the desirable adaptation and assimilation, but also turn children into indifferent speakers of English.

In the late fifties and sixties Slovenes - teachers, priests, academics - began to organize Sunday classes for the younger children. These were for the most part conducted in Slovenian clubs and religious centres.

Slovenian - a secondary school subject in Victoria 1977 - 2002

A major breakthrough for the learning of Slovenian language occurred in 1976, when Slovenian became an accredited school subject in the Victorian School of Languages (VSL). The historical move was occasioned by the perceived need for Slovenian language to become an accredited Higher School Certificate subject for the children of

Slovenian immigrants in Victoria. In 1976 the Slovenian Religious and Cultural Centre in Melbourne conducted several Slovenian classes, including one at the senior secondary level. The issue of HSC accreditation was raised. Aleksandra Ceferin was approached about this possibility. She contacted the Chairman of the Committee for Balto-Slavonic Languages, prof. Jiri Marvan (Monash University) regarding the accreditation, prepared the necessary documentation and received approval. The process was halted due to a moratorium of two years on all new HSC subjects in Victoria. Aleksandra Ceferin explored other possibilities for the interim period and discovered Victorian School of Languages, Education Department of Victoria. To introduce Slovenian language classes a number of requirements had to be met. Aleksandra Ceferin prepared the submission, consisting of syllabi, textbooks and student lists and teaching staff.

The Slovenian Teachers' Association of Victoria (STAV) was established in 1976.

In 1977 six Slovenian language classes were opened at three Melbourne school centres of the Victorian School of Languages. The accreditation of Slovenian as a HSC subject was completed in

1980. In 1981 the first group of students enrolled in Slovenian HSC in Victoria. Slovenian is offered at the VSL centre at Princess Hill Secondary College, in Melbourne, for students from year 6 to year 12.

Slovenian - a secondary school subject in New South Wales 1979 - 2002

Slovenian was accredited by the state school system of NSW in 1979, when it was introduced as a subject in the newly established Saturday School of Community Languages, NSW.

The accreditation process was facilitated by Aleksandra Ceferin, who was asked to prepare a syllabus for the Higher School Certificate in NSW. A Committee of three members was set up: prof. Marvan (Monash University), prof. De Bray (Australian National University) and Aleksandra Ceferin (Manager and Slovenian Course Developer, Victoria). The committee oversaw the first year of Slovenian HSC in NSW, the preparation of the examination paper and assessment in 1979.

The NSW Slovenian School Committee was established at that time. From 1989 to 1996 Slovenian was offered as a tertiary course of studies by the Macquarie University, NSW. It was also offered as a long distance course.

STAV and ISSV: 1976 - 2002

In 1998 STAV was reinstated as the Institute for Slovenian Studies of Victoria. It was established in response to exciting possibilities presented by the advent of Information Technology. The new Web-based learning technologies had a far-reaching influence on the approach to Slovenian language teaching.

The first step in the new direction was taken in 1998, when ISSV received funding from the Department of Education of Victoria, to develop Slovenianlinx Web pages for the use of teachers and students of Slovenian.

ISSV developed the concept of a Web library dedicated to the study of the Slovenian language. The Thezaurus Web site was further envisaged as the focal platform for the projects and activities of ISSV. This includes research of Information Technology and writing and developing Slovenian online courses.

ISSV has contributors and sponsors in Slovenia and Australia. Members regularly visit Slovenia, establishing contacts, gathering resources and undertaking research. ISSV continues to develop Slovenian Course Outlines as required by the Department of Education of Victoria.



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THE ZAURUS

SLOVENIAN CULTURAL ARCHIVES

Thezaurus - Slovenian language and cultural archives on the Web

The Thezaurus Web site <http://www.thezaurus.com> is the focal project of the Institute for Slovenian Studies of Victoria Inc, the pivot for the activities of ISSV. It is published in English, to fulfill its aims of reaching the 'lost generation' of young descendants of Slovenian immigrants and the public interested in Slovenia, its language and its culture.

Initially three ISSV members undertook the project of creating the Web site: Aleksandra Ceferin (B A, Dip Ed, M A), Chiron Morpheus (B A) and Sandi Ceferin (B A). It was launched in January 1999.

Thezaurus was developed as a Web destination point for conceptually selected and organized sources, links and content; a treasury of cultural and language archives, cultural and linguistic links. It is a Web library for the study of Slovenian, dedicated to Slovenian studies and a broader presentation of Slovenia, its culture, its language and its people.

Thezaurus is a leading Slovenian resources Web site. Monthly visits from 53 countries have surpassed 55,000. It is an expanding, dynamic Web site, consisting of the following projects:

- **Slovenian Language Resources**
- **Galeria Sloveniana online**
- **Sloveniana Webzine**
- **Slovenian Webclassroom**
- **Discussion Forums**
- **Careerlink/Slovenian Connection**
- **Selected links on Slovenia, country and culture**
- **Selected educational and linguistic links**

Textbooks and References

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SLOVENIA'S NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY, 25.

JUNE 2002

SPEECH BY ALFRED BREZNIK, HONORARY CONSUL
GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The Hon. John Murray, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, representing the Premier of NSW, The Hon. Bob Carr, MP; The Hon. Dr. Meredith Burgmann, MLC, President of the Legislative Council; The Hon. Michael Egan, MP, Treasurer and Minister for State Development; The Hon. James Samios, MLC, representing the Leader of the Opposition, The Hon. John Brogdan, MP; The Hon. Kerry Chikarowsky, MP The Hon. Deirdre Grusovin, MP The Hon. John Johnson, former MLC The Hon. John Jobling, MLC The Hon. Helen Sham-Ho, MLC The Hon. Henry Tsang, MLC The Hon. Max Willis, former President of the Legislative Council; The Hon. Brian Vaughn, former MLC; Councilor Dominic Sullivan, Mayor of the City Randwick; Mr Marko Polajzer, from the Slovenian Embassy in Canberra; Father Filip Rupnik, St. Raphael's Slovene Mission, Merrylands; Mr. Peter Kane, National Manager Central Europe – Australian Trade Commission; Representatives of: The Department of State and Regional Development, State Chamber of Commerce, Slovenian Organizations, Dean and colleagues of the Consular Corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Today, eleven years ago, 25th June 1991, Slovenia declared its independence. That meant: Slovenia decided to join all the other freedom loving nations, as an independent free and democratic state. It also wanted to tell the world that the Slovenian people's thousand year dream had finally come true.

And, almost immediately one after the other, countries started to recognize the new state. Croatia first in mutual recognition on 26th of June 1991. Soon after followed by our Baltic friends, who were in a similar predicament as Slovenia. First Lithuania, then Latvia and Estonia. Germany, Iceland and Belarus also recognised Slovenia in 1991. And finally on January 15, 1992, some six months later, the EU recognized Slovenia. And I am proud to repeat, here today, the words of the then Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Bob Hawke, to our Slovenian – Australian community: "As soon as EU recognizes Slovenia, Australia will follow". His successor, Prime Minister Paul Keating, kept the promise. The Australian Government recognized Slovenia one day after the EU, on the 16th January 1992. Australia was the first non-European nation to recognize the new state. The Slovenian people will always remember that and appreciate Australia's help in those crucial days. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary, in January of this year, I sent a note to the Speaker of the Australian Parliament and the President of the Senate, expressing our gratitude for the Australian Government's action ten years ago.

Australia's example was picked up by many nations. Recognition by NZ came the following day. Finally on May 22, 1992 the UN recognized Slovenia. This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of this important event when Slovenia became a full member of this international body.

It may be worthwhile mentioning that three days ago was ten years since the Slovenian government declared to open the first ever Slovenian Mission, in Australia - a Consulate in Sydney headed by an Honorary Consul. Thus our Consulate, and myself as the head of the Mission since its opening, are also celebrating our 10th anniversary.

Slovenia has in this first decade established an international position and reputation as a democratic, stable and successful Central European country. A member of most international organizations: CEFTA, Partnership for Peace, a foundation member of WTO and an associate member of EU, to mention but a few. Slovenia's main aim now is to achieve full membership of EU and NATO, thus guaranteeing the future safety and well being of the country and its citizens. Slovenia has high hopes to be invited to join NATO at the Prague meeting later this year.

Slovenia also has high hopes to be invited to join EU by 2004 and is working towards this goal. The economic growth has stabilized at around 4%. GDP has reached 73% of the European average, which is around US\$10,000 per head of population – according to 2001 figures. Exports, some 70%, are still orientated towards Western Europe. However, exports to other countries are on increase, particularly Eastern Europe and the former states of Yugoslavia.

In the latest European Parliament's assessment of EU candidate countries, Slovenia is expected to join in the shortest time possible. The report also points out that Slovenia needs to speed up denationalization, privatization of the insurance sector, administrative reforms and regional development. However there are only three chapters of the *acquis* remaining: agriculture, regional policy and budget. All expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Slovenia has also become a popular spot for international conferences and meetings. Even the Presidents of the two greatest powers chose Slovenia for their first summit – Presidents George Bush and Vladimir Putin. Only three weeks ago 16 Central European Presidents gathered in Slovenia for their 9th summit. No wonder, as most of these meetings are held around our spectacular Lake Bled.



The Post-Olympics relationship with Australia has reached a new high. Which proves that the Olympic Games were not exclusively the world's greatest sporting event. Slovenia used the opportunity to stage two business conferences, one in Sydney and one in Melbourne. Slovenia also used the opportunity to promote tourism. As a result of these initiatives, Slovenian exports to Australia have doubled and the number of Australian tourists to Slovenia has increased by 53%.

Also, in the last 12 months cultural exchanges, particularly in the field of visual arts, have mushroomed. We had five Slovenian writers visiting Australia's Eastern states, where they read their works at various institutions - in English of course. The exhibition 'Shoot the artist' has been featured in many Galleries across Australia, including "Sir Herman Black" Gallery at Sydney University. Two Slovenian artists participated at the recent "Francophone Festival" in Sydney, where sculptor Luj Vodopivec exhibiting his big horse. He also exhibited in the TIN SHED at Sydney University Gallery. The "Gallery of Contemporary Art" from Celje, Slovenia, participated at the "Biennale of Sydney". The Sydney Film Festival showed an internationally awarded Slovenian film "Bread and Milk". And right now you can view a joint painting exhibition by a Slovenian artist Eva Heimer and an Australian artist Liz Coats at the "Sir Herman Black Gallery". These exhibits will later in the year travel to Slovenia, for exhibition. In July another Australian artist, Gavin Chriton, will also open an exhibition in Slovenia. Since I have devoted so much time to the arts today, allow me to thank Mr. Nick Vickers, (who is here today), Curator of Sir Herman Black Gallery at Sydney University and President of the Slovenian-Australian Institute for all his hard work and enthusiasm in organizing most of these exhibitions.

I was going to say a few words about Slovenia's achievements or rather participation in the word cup, but have remembered talking to a colleague from the Consular Corps, on an occasion like this one today, commenting on the length of speeches, he said: "That the smaller the country the longer is the speech". To prove him wrong I will skip the subject.

In conclusion, and I hope that I am not breaking any protocol rules here, I would like to, on behalf of the President of the Slovenian Parliament, Mr. Boris Pahor, publicly invite the Speaker of the NSW Parliament, The Hon. John Murray, MP, and a Parliamentary delegation, to visit Slovenia. I am sure that the visit would further enhance the already good relationship between our countries and contribute to a better understanding of each other.

Celebration of Slovenian Independence in Melbourne

By Lenti Lenko

As every year the Slovenian National Council of Victoria organised a special celebration for the 11th anniversary of Slovenian Independence on Sunday June 23rd at the Slovenian Religious and Cultural Centre in Kew.



It was a very special occasion with representatives present from most of our Slovenian organisations in Victoria. Special guest from Slovenia was Dr Zvone Zigon from the ministry for Slovenian living abroad.

The day began with a special mass for Slovenia followed by the traditional raising of the Slovenian flag in front of Dom Matere Romane. All guest and visitors were then invited into the hall for an excellent cultural program featuring the cream of talent from Melbourne's Slovenian youth. Lunch was then served which was enjoyed by all present. Our hard working ladies and gentlemen in the kitchen and behind the bar deserve special mention for their outstanding effort!

Dr Zvone Zigon took the opportunity to also visit all the Slovenian clubs in Melbourne and Geelong, to see their excellent facilities and the valuable contribution they make to our Slovenian community in Australia. Dr Zigon's visit has given our community leaders the opportunity to meet and discuss issues which effect our Slovenian community, particularly that of keeping the Slovenian language alive amongst our 2nd and 3rd generation Slovenians. These discussions are particularly appropriate owing to the fact that Dr Zigon is from the Ministry for Slovenians living abroad!

It must also be mentioned that on Saturday June 22nd, a very successful function was also held at the Slovenian Association Melbourne to celebrate Slovenian Independence with Dr Zigon also being present.

Special thanks must go to all those who contributed to make the weekend of celebration in Melbourne such a success. There are simply too many names to mention here but everybody knows who they are!

Let us hope to see many more opportunities when our Slovenian community can come together to celebrate and enjoy! The weekend of the June 22nd and 23rd was just such an opportunity and we can rest assured that our 'skupnost' will remain 'alive and kicking' for a very long time! I am proud to be a part of our lively Slovenian Community in Australia!

A First for Australia-NSW Slovenian of the Year Awards 2001

We are pleased to announce that for the first time in the history of Slovenian migrant settlement in Australia, a state wide competition was implemented in an effort to acknowledge and reward present and future outstanding Australian Slovenians in various categories of endeavour.

The Awards Ceremony took place at St John's Park Community Club-Triglav (now officially known as St John's Park Panthers/Triglav) on the afternoon of Sunday 30 of June.



The ceremony was also in honour of the Slovenian National Day and was preceded by a barbecue lunch and followed by a traditional Slovenian afternoon of dancing. St John's Park Panthers were the sponsors of the lovely and substantial plaques that were awarded to each winner and appropriate highly commended recipient of the four categories included in this year's awards.

Originally seven categories were open for nominations for this year's awards. And these were: Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year, Entrepreneur and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Apprentice of the Year and Tertiary, Secondary and Primary Student of the Year. The judging panel, based on the most appropriate match made between the information provided by each nominee and criteria which was made available to most Slovenian Clubs and other organisations in NSW through either the internet or by mail, decided this year to award four Slovenian of the Year Awards and two Highly Commended Awards. On behalf of the judging panel I wish to thank all nominees for their applications and encourage them to apply again next year. And the winners this year were:



Danica Sajn

Mrs Eleonora White - Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year
Mr Drago Ostric - Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Ms Brigita Bezjak - Tertiary Student of the Year, and
Ms Stefanie Suber - Primary Student of the Year.
Highly Commended plaques were awarded to **Dr Sean Parsonage - Young Entrepreneur of the Year** and **Mrs Milka Stanic - Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year.**

It is hoped that in the following edition of Glas we can provide readers with a more comprehensive profile of this year's winners.

So why was this done one might, quite rightly ask?

A number of people in our community have felt that for some time now Australian Slovenians have been far too modest about their achievements and also about the hours and hours of largely unpaid effort that many people have and still put in to the Slovenian Australian community. Criteria for each award category was carefully selected and decided upon to reflect both achievements and involvement in community activities, where appropriate. We felt that it was time (in fact it is long overdue) for these people to be identified, recognised, and celebrated. Furthermore we are hoping that we are moving towards an Australia wide association that will in the future present such awards as these, and help lift the profile of Australian Slovenians in the wider Australian community just that little bit further. We look towards the Slovenian communities of the other states of Australia with this in mind.

We apologise to anyone in NSW and ACT who may have not heard of these awards or had time to suitably reply, but assure the readers that substantial effort was made to inform as many as possible, time as always being in short supply. Plans are already underway for next year's awards and we encourage all enquiries and look forward to adding to and/or changing our judging panel as per feedback that we receive from the community. With more comprehensive planning and constructive feedback we look forward to awarding winners in all categories next year and improving on this year's planning and implementation. As always assistance would be much appreciated and highly regarded. We wish to thank the management of SJPP for their support and Ms Tania Smrdelj for the assistance given that went beyond her usual employment responsibilities.

Danica Sajn on behalf of SJPP Slovenian of the Year Awards Sub-Committee (Walter Suber, Chairman; Ross Treyvaud, Dorothy Kobal and Denise Grzelj).



Dear parents,
**Slovenian Association
Sydney needs help. As we
are celebrating 45' anniversary
of our club in September
2002 we need some
more folkloric dancers.**

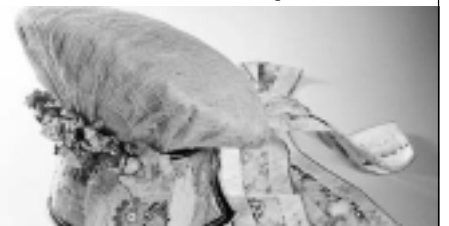
**Age open i.e. children from
kindergarten to high school
welcome.**

**Facilities in our club are
great, therefore your partici-
pation would be also much
appreciated.**

**Time of practice, Friday
nights 7.30 or it could be
negotiable.**

**During a break of practice
refreshments are served for
participants and also when
they are doing performance
on various occasions, we
serve them with meal and
drink.**

**Club also has some folkloric
costumes if required.**



**COME AND SEE US, YOU
AND YOUR CHILDREN
WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.**

**COME AND HELP US KEEP
SLOVENIAN HERITAGE AND
CULTURE ALIVE !**

**Phone: 02 9756 1658
Committee of Slovenian Associa-
tion Sydney**