



AUS-NZ Croatian
Women in Leadership

AGM 2023



MAXIMISE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND SUCCESS.

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info@ausnz-croatianwomen.org

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD OF 23/24



Her Excellency Betty B. Pavelich
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
The Republic of Croatia to Australia and New Zealand
LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBER & CO-FOUNDER



CHAIRPERSON/CO-FOUNDER
Sonja Palic



SECRETARY
Natasha Mustac



TREASURER
Antonia Razborsek



BOARD DIRECTOR VIC
Cindy Drake



BOARD DIRECTOR NZ
Angela Batistich



BOARD DIRECTOR SA
Ema Saric



BOARD DIRECTOR WA
Francika Roberts



BOARD DIRECTOR ACT
Miriana Cavic



BOARD DIRECTOR QLD
Nikolina Tully

MISSION STATEMENT

The AUS-NZ Croatian Women in Leadership organisation consists of a group of women of Croatian heritage whose common goal is to support, encourage and inspire each other as they progress through their working lives.

The AUS-NZ Croatian Women in Leadership network represents a number of diverse groups and businesses across Australia and New Zealand, including: Croatian entrepreneurs, female professionals, small business owners, women in the workforce, students and recent graduates. We run regular meetings, workshops and events; facilitate business networking, idea-sharing and personal development with the aim of generating greater business success

THANK YOU TO OUR
SPONSORS AND
PARTNERS



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ACTIVITIES 2023

- Annual summit held 1st time in Croatia July 2023
- Successful grant application for summit for 20,000 euro
- Monthly online events
- State networking events – live in person
- Monthly board meetings
- Mentor program
- Young women's network
- Social media activity weekly – over 1000 connections
- Total membership is 103
- Database just under 700 women
- Collaboration with all Croatian chambers including:
 - Crocham NSW, WACCC, VCCC , SA Croatian Chamber, Croatia House
- Formation of Croatian Women's Alliance (CWA) connecting Croatian Women's Networks globally
- Administration assistant appointed on a paid contract basis – Monique Kostelac VIC
- Ange Susa appointed national YWN leader to oversee YWN program

EVENTS 2023

- Total online events: 3
- Total attendee's: 102
- Summit 2023: over 125
- CWA X 2 online events: 125

LIVE EVENTS

- NSW: 2 live events: 42 attendees
- NSW combined Croatian Community harbour cruise: 100 attendee's
- AUS Embassy combined online event International Women's Day: 20 attendee's
- Mentor Masterclass x 3: 30 attendee's
- VIC: 2 live events: 30 attendees
- WA: 2 live events
- QLD: 1 live event: 40 attendees
- ACT: 1 live event: 20 attendees
- NZ: 2 live events: 32 attendees

- Total participation from all attendees at all events: 749

SECRETARY'S REPORT

WE CONFIRM THAT ALL
LEGAL AND
CONSTITUTIONAL
REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN
MET FOR THE PAST YEAR
TO 30 JUNE 2023

2023 SUCCESS STORIES POLITICAL

Maria Kovacic – previous deputy chair of AUS-NZ CWL becomes Senator September 2023

Tanya Unkovich – previous Board Director for NZ of AUS-NZ CWL becomes New Zealand Member of Parliament Oct 2023

Diana Mislov – Guest speaker at first Summit 2019 and member of AUS-NZ CWL becomes Mayor of Port Lincoln 2023

Bianca Crvelin – member of AUS-NZ CWL is councilor of Northern Beaches Council

YOUNG WOMEN'S NETWORK

NEW APPOINTMENTS 2023/2024

PURPOSE

Building connections & support networks

Building profile

Building knowledge

Getting inspired

REPRESENTATIVES



Ange Susa (QLD)



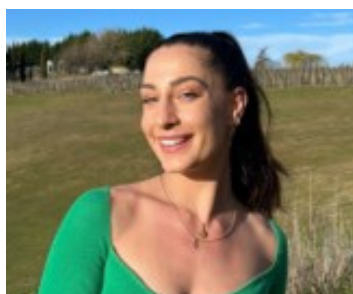
Anastasia McKinnon (NT)



Isabelle Grbin (VIC/ACT)



Natasha Mustac (NSW)



Helena Nuich (NZ)



Jessica Jugovac (ACT)



Monique Kostelac (VIC Melb)



Zoe Mlikota (QLD)



Lucy Edmond (NZ)

NEW APPOINTMENTS 2023

MONIQUE KOSTELAC (VIC)
ADMINISTRATION
CONTRACT PAID POSITION
(APPROX. 3-4 HRS PW)



ANGE SUSA (QLD)
YOUNG WOMEN'S NETWORK
NATIONAL LEADER
VOLUNTEER POSITION



STEMM YOUTH PROGRAM



Bio21 Science Facility



MENTOR PROGRAM 2023

MARIANNE PERKOVIC
HEAD OF MENTOR MASTERCLASS



MENTORS

ELIZABETH MCKINNON (VIC) – LEGAL
ANGELA REZO (ACT) – MEDICAL
IVANA ALFONSO (QLD) – MARKETING
DIANA MISLOV (SA) – POLITICS
NATASHA ZIEBELL (VIC) – ACADEMIA
EVA PEMPER (NZ) – BUSINESS

MENTORING TESTIMONIAL

Marianne Perkovic - Chair, Australian Fashion Council

I feel honoured to be a part of the Australian-New Zealand Croatian Women in Leadership network, it has created opportunities to expand my network with amazing women doing extraordinary things across so many industries, our common thread is our Croatian heritage and because of that we instantly connect and support each other. I have attended two of the annual summits including going to Croatia this year – I returned inspired and motivated. I've also been part of the Leadership Group Mentor Program as a mentor and hosting Masterclasses. This program has given me the opportunity to make a real impact in the lives of talented and aspiring Croatian women leaders. It's incredibly rewarding to witness their growth, provide guidance, and share my knowledge and experiences. The mentorship journey has not only allowed me to give back but has also enriched my own leadership skills and perspective. The sense of camaraderie and shared goals within this program is truly inspiring. I wholeheartedly encourage women of Croatian heritage to join, meet new people and become involved in the many initiatives, Sonja and Betty have created an amazing platform where we can help shape the future of Croatian female leadership

Marianne Perkovic

Chair, Australian Fashion Council

Non-Executive Director, Insignia Super and Investments

Co-Author " Pivotal Career Moments

NSW REPORT

NSW representatives:
Chair - Sonja Palic
Treasurer - Anotnia Razborsek
Secretary - Natasha Mustac

Events:
Raddison Blu High Tea 29th April 2023
27 attendee's

Park Hyatt lunch 9th September
15 attendee's



VIC & NT REPORT 22 MEMBERS

Board Director VIC -Cindy Drake



VIC & VCCC WORKING TOGETHER GALA AND XMAS 22



QUEENSLAND REPORT

Queensland membership has grown since 2022

Queensland appointments for 2023

Ange Susa is the National Youth Leader & Zoe Mlikota Queensland Youth Representative

Queensland Board Member, Nikolina Tully attended the Summit in Croatia this year & presented as a guest speaker on the topic of 'Building Vibrant & Just Societies'

Queensland Event One

Queensland had successful year with it's first event that was held on 26.03.23 at The Matriach.

35 members & non-members attended this event.

Guest speakers - Ivana Strbac Alfonso & Petra Bezic.

Special guests - Ema Saric, South Australia Board Member & Ivica Glasnovic Consul General, for Croatia.



ACT REPORT

Board Director ACT - Mirian Cavic

ACT UPLIFTING STORY

It was an honour to host our recent event at the East Hotel, with H.E. Betty Pavelich along with Sonja Palic reconnecting with our community.

A special highlight from that evening was a guest, undergoing chemotherapy, was sat next to Angela Rezo who is an Oncologist. Without knowing who each other was they made a remarkable realisation that the guest has been waiting to get an appointment with Angela for some time.

The two hit it off and Angela is now assisting in her treatment. This is a remarkable highlight from this event that shows the power of this community.

Since then, Angela came on as a mentor for the group in Canberra.



WA REPORT

Board Director WA - Francika Roberts
2 events



NZ REPORT

Over the last year we have had two fabulous events in Auckland and we were honoured to have her Excellency Ambassador Betty Pavelich in attendance for both of them. Each dinner we welcomed some new faces and had a wonderful evening with lots of connecting, chatting and of course laughter! No surprise for each dinner we were the very last table to leave the restaurant, which seems to have become the tradition with these events! It was fabulous to have such a great representation of women from New Zealand both attending and speaking at the summit this year. We have kicked off the planning for 'Summit 2024' which will be held in Auckland, and we have a some very exciting things planned for it!

NZ Board Director : Angela Batistich

NZ Young Women's Reps: Lucy Edmonds and Helena Nuich



TESTIMONIALS

Tanja Vukasovic (VIC)

BDO | Director, Business Development

"My first introduction to the Australian NZ Croatian Women in Leadership was 2021 when I attended an online event featuring Natasha Stott Despoja – I was blown away. The women were incredibly engaging, intelligent and had a great sense of humour, and I looked forward to the next event. Since then I've attended many dinners, online events and two summits, one in Canberra and more recently in Croatia – both have been life changing.

From an individual perspective, I am in awe by the incredible dedication, resilience, and passion displayed by the women who are part of this group. They serve as inspiring role models, breaking down barriers, shattering glass ceilings and demonstrating anything is possible. Despite different roles, level of seniority, interests etc. there is a common bond we all share with our heritage and journey with our immigrant families. This provides trust and a level of authenticity which is unique and incredibly hard to replicate.

For the community, this group plays a vital role in fostering unity and supporting Croatian women across Australia, NZ and beyond. Their events and initiatives have contributed to a stronger sense of community, empowerment, fostered networks and new friendships. Beyond this it demonstrates the passion and capability of the Croatian community in all facets of society from science, the arts, finance and beyond.

Most important, this group provides positive role models for young Croatian women and future leaders. They provide guidance, mentorship, and a vision of what is possible, encouraging the next generation to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals - creating a legacy of strong, capable, and confident Croatian women."

Diana Tencic (VIC)

Body Be Well | Director

"Well what an incredible group of women we have!!!! Where do I start?"

From The moment I joined the women's group my connections have grown and expanded from Victoria to Queensland Perth and back to Croatia.

The summit this year was such a fantastic event. Hearing from successful Croatian women creating change was truly inspiring.

Plus a chance to visit a Croatia bonus! What I do find motivating is our drive and diverse skill set. From lawyers to academics movie makers and entrepreneurs what an incredible collective!

Thank you for another great year"

MARIA JOCKEL (VIC)

Global and National Immigration Leader | Legal Principal

"I am delighted to be a part of the Croatian Women in Leadership community, where I have had the opportunity to connect and network with fellow Croatian women. I highly recommend this initiative to anyone who shares our heritage and is looking to meet a diverse group of women from different age groups and areas of expertise.

I have had the pleasure of attending various social events such as brunches, lunches, dinners, and catch-ups, and they have always been enjoyable. There is a special sense of connection among us, knowing that we share a Croatian heritage, even though we may be unique individuals in other aspects. I encourage Croatian Women in Leadership to join, as membership offers the opportunity to network as well as warmth and camaraderie."

Katie Murrell (QLD)

Member

"Being part of the Croatian Women's Leadership Group has been an enriching and transformative experience. The camaraderie and support within this community have been instrumental in my personal and professional growth. The QLD group has provided a platform for meaningful connections, invaluable mentorship, and opportunities for leadership development. It's truly a testament to the power of unity and collective empowerment. I am grateful for the inspiration, guidance, and strength that this group has bestowed upon me, and I am honoured to be a part of this incredible network of passionate and driven Croatian women."

Gina Sajko (QLD)

Member

"I'm so delighted that I joined the AUS-NZ Croatian Women in Leadership organisation. I've enjoyed meeting new Croatian women and have developed

TESTIMONIALS

some beautiful friendships as a result. It's such a nice feeling being part of the organisation and building the Croatian community for young women. I've also enjoyed learning about other Croatian's journeys and experiences moving from Croatia to Australia and how they have worked so hard to build a life for themselves and family.. It's been humbling to say the least. ”

Eva Pemper (NZ)

Winemaker & Founder of Eva Pemper Wines

The Aus-NZ Croatian Women in Leadership has been a phenomenal organisation not only for support and learning but also to reconnect, share ideas and get inspired but other women. I have met so many like-minded women through this group who will be my friends forever and that experience is precious. I recommend to everyone to become a part of this incredible community of supportive, successful and kind women who cheer for each other and want the best for each other. The dedication and the time that the women running it put into making things happen is incredible and I am forever grateful to have found this group.

What a fantastic event that was in Biograd na Moru!! I don't even know where to start to explain how amazing and special it was! The event helped me so much in terms of some great networking and connections with amazing women who are professionals in many different areas and I left feeling so inspired and motivated to keep going and to continue this journey I am on. The support and love have been incredible and I am very grateful I managed to be a part of this wonderful event. This community will help each other and the future is so bright

SUMMIT TESTIMONIALS

The 2023 Summit in Croatia was a truly remarkable experience that allowed me to connect with my parents' country of origin for the very first time. What made it particularly special was the opportunity to explore and delve deeper into my Croatian heritage in the company of an inspiring group of women leaders. Our shared backgrounds as children of Croatian migrants forged a unique bond and deepened our awareness of how our heritage has shaped us as women in both our personal and professional lives.

The summit was held in the beautiful coastal town of Biograd, near where my parents were born. It was here I was welcomed by my extended family that I had never met before, including aunts, uncles, and cousins. The experience of connecting with family, the land and Croatian culture was an emotional and deeply rewarding journey.

The diverse quality speakers and attendees sparked engaging conversations on a wide range of issues. The warm welcome extended to us by the Croatian Prime Minister and the Australian Ambassador in Zagreb as well as various ministers and business leaders added a special touch to the summit. It created a unique platform for Australian women of Croatian heritage to actively participate in an exchange of ideas and foster stronger relations between the two countries.

The Summit was a transformative experience that allowed me to embrace my heritage, build meaningful connections with family and fellow women leaders

Irena Reiss (NSW) **LAWYER**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



ANA-MARIJA RAJIC – QLD



ANA MARIA CINDRIC - NSW

2023 SUMMIT

**THANK YOU TO OUR
SUMMIT SPONSORS**



**ANA MARIJA FRKOVIC - STATE
OFFICE OF CROATS ABROAD**



**H.E. RICHARD RODGERS -
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
TO CROATIA**



**DAVID TUDOROVIC - ILIRIJA
RESORTS DIRECTOR**



**MARIJANA PRTENJACA -
EVENTS DIRECTOR ILIRIJA
RESORT**

2023 SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS



MEETING WITH CROATIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREJ PLENKOVIC AND CROATIAN MINISTERS

2023 SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY - Meeting with Croatian Prime Minister
THURSDAY- Welcome Reception at Australian Embassy
FRI - Summit commences at welcome reception at Raznjevici Dvore
SAT DAY – Conference all day
SAT NIGHT – Celebration dinner on BROD NADA
SUN – Farewell brunch

SUMMIT 2023- 2,100 EURO (\$3,500AUD) CHARITY DONATION



 **Autonomna ženska kuća Zagreb**
14 Jul · 🌐
Zahvaljujemo se Australian New Zealand Croatian Women in Leadership i online magazinu Luxury Living Croatia na donaciji koja će se iskoristiti za prehrambene i higijenske potrepštine žena i djece smještenih u skloništu Autonomne ženske kuće Zagreb.

We would like to thank Australian New Zealand Croatian Women in Leadership organization and the online magazine Luxury Living Croatia for the donation which will be used for food and hygiene supplies for women and children accommodated in the shelter of the Autonomous Women's House Zagreb.

[Luxury Living Croatia](https://gbtorpedo.com)
[Aus-NZ Croatian Women in Leadership](https://paradisodistria.com)
[https://gbtorpedo.com](https://paradisodistria.com)
<https://paradisodistria.com>

SUMMIT 2024

7-9TH SEPTEMBER 2024

WE ARE GOING TO NEW ZEALAND

MORE DETAILS TBC



**THANK YOU ALL AND WE LOOK
FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT AS MEMBERS AND
SPONSORS IN 2024**

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