

PERTAS LATVIEŠU ZINĀS



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Nr. 226

The Perth Latvian Newsletter

July/August 2025

CALENDAR

September

- 2 Daugavas Vanadzies meeting 11:00am
- 14 Church service 10:30 am
- 28 Church service 10:30 am

October

- 2 Daugavas Vanadzies sanāksme plkst. 11:00
- 5 Church service 10:30 am
- 19 Church service 10:30 am
- 26 Church service 10:30 am

November

- 6 Daugavas Vanadzies sanāksme plkst. 11:00
- 8 18 November visiting speaker **Valda Liepiņa** 1:00 pm
- 16 Church service 10:30 am
- 18 **LATVIAN NATIONAL DAY**
- 23 Church service 10:30 am

December

- 4 Daugavas Vanadzies sanāksme plkst. 11:00
- 14 Church service 10:30 am
- 21 Church service 10:30 am
- 24 Church service 6:00 Pm

Latvija 100



Latvian Honorary Consul in Western Australia

Imants Kīns +61 401 034 541
e-mail imants@tewal.com.au

LAAJ Vicepresident Western Australia

Jānis Vucēns 9398 1958
e-mail jvucens@ozemail.com.au

Pertas Latviešu Center

60 Cleaver Terrace,
Belmont, WA 6104

Ev. Lut. St. Pauls congregation

Pastor: Gunis Balodis 040 904 8863
President: Ieva Vlahova 044 719 4080

Latviešu Association of Western Australia

President: Ivonna Danbergs
e-mail ivonna@westnet.com.au

Daugavas Vanagi Pertas branch

Secretary: Jānis Purvinskis 9582 5221

Pertas Latvian Newsletter

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EDITOR

Please send items for publication to the editor by the 15th of November.

Thank you to everybody who donated to the publications of the Perth Latvian Newsletter. If you wish to donate, please make out your cheque to:

LATVIAN SPECIAL FUND

because Pertas Latvian Newsletter does not have a separate bank account.

18. NOVEMBRA SVINĪBAS PERTĀ

In Perth, we will celebrate the national holiday over two days (everything will take place at the Perth Latvian Centre):

- **Saturday, 8 November at 1:00 PM** – Latvia's honorary guest **Valda Liepiņa** will give a speech: *"We Are an Inseparable Part of Latvia."*
- **Saturday, 8 November at 2:00 PM** – Valda Liepiņa will deliver another speech titled *"Whitlam Betrays the Baltics."* The speech will address the Whitlam government's decision to accept the incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union as legitimate.
- **Monday, 18 November at 7:00 AM** – Flag-raising ceremony.
- **Monday, 18 November at 6:00 PM** – Flag-lowering ceremony and festive event. The folk dance group *"Pērkonītis"* will perform. A speech titled *"Defiance"* (*"Svešo varai spītējot"*) will be given by **Jānis Vucēns**. The speech will be in English.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN HONORARY GUEST FROM LATVIA

The national holiday celebration is now the main event on the calendar of the Latvian community in Perth. There are people who only come to the Latvian Centre for this event. We have experienced that the visit of a special guest "recharges our Latvian batteries," and for many, especially the older generation, it is the only connection they have left to their homeland – a country they will never see again. **In essence, the visit of Latvia's honorary guest shows that we have not been forgotten and that we still have a connection to Latvia.**



**LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
IN AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND**

**Commemoration of the 107th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia
in Australia and New Zealand**

Keynote Speaker

Valda Liepiņa

*Chair of the Board of the Latvian Museum
of Occupation Society, journalist,
translator, and public figure.*

Holiday Address:

**"We as an Inseparable Part
of Latvia – The Past,
Present, and Future"**

PERTH – Saturday, 8 November at 1:00 PM
In the Daugavas Vanagi Club
An English translation will be available.

At **2:00 PM**, Valda will present her speech:

**"Whitlam Betrays the
Baltics"**

The speech will be delivered in English.

*Travel expenses for guest speakers are covered by
the Latvian Association in Australia and New
Zealand (LAAJ).*



EV. LUT. SV. PĀVILA DRAUDZE

As the season of Advent and Christmas draws near, we await and remember the joyful message – the birth of Christ. Our daily routines and hurried lives often take us away from deeper spiritual reflection on the true meaning of Christmas in our lives.

In recent years, it has become clear that these holy days are celebrated and emphasized far less as spiritual festivals, as worldly entertainment, holidays, and the buying of gifts tend to take priority. Schools no longer teach Christmas hymns, in shops we rarely hear familiar Christian songs, and nativity plays have become much less common.

This “diminishing” of Christianity is felt most strongly at funerals, where the time is often filled with accounts of the departed’s achievements and experiences, without mention of God’s Word or of faith.

Our faith gives us strength to accept life as a gift from God, and it eases our sorrow when loved ones are called away. We are called and taught to believe in and to trust the Triune God to guide our lives.

As I was writing these words, my thoughts turned to some of my favorite hymns:

- *Nearer, My God, to Thee*
- *Take My Hand and Lead Me*
- *Nearness and Distance*
- *Silent Night, Holy Night*
- *Teach Me to Believe, Lord*
- *The Star Upon Which I Gaze*
- *You Are the Vine*
- *Jesus, You Are My Life*
- *Bow Before the Cross*
- *Praise the Lord*

I encourage you as well to revisit your own favorite hymns.

- We look forward with interest to the renewal of the Latvian Society, so that our Perth Latvian Centre may continue with the support of Daugavas Vanagi, the Congregation, and the Latvian Society.

- Māra’s health is slowly improving, and we keep her in our prayers.
- We will celebrate November 18 with speeches, the raising and lowering of the flags, and a commemorative program (on November 8 and November 18).

Ieva Vlahov
tālr. 044 719 4080

CHURCH SERVICES SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 2025

Date	14. septembris 10:30 (Zoom no Yirkalas)
Day	14. svēt. Pēc Sv Gara Sv.
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	Ecech. 34:11-24 1 Tim. 1:5-17 Lk. Ev. 15:1-10
Hymns	301, 328, 325, 433, 104
Reader	Ieva Vlahov
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ieva Vlahov

Prayers:

Gunis Balodis	Signe Balodis,
Nina Bauskis	Ilgvars Bergmanis,
Maiguta Bernšteins	Rita Džonsons

Date	28. septembris 10:30 (Zoom no Yirkalas)
Day	16. svēt. Pēc Sv Gara Sv.
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	146 Psalms 1 Tim. 6:6-19 Lk. Ev. 15:1-10
Hymns	434, 220, 218, 286, 377
Reader	Mācītājs
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Sarmīte Vucēns

Prayers:

Austra Farras	Harda Paparde
Andris Paparde	Inta Robinson
David Robinson	Aina Sprancis

Date	5. oktobris 10:30 (Zoom no Yirkalas)
Day	17. svēt. Pēc Sv Gara Sv.
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	62 Psalms 2 Tim. 1:1-14 Lk. Ev. 17:1-10
Hymns	262, 193, 421, 388, 427
Reader	Sarmīte Vucēns
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ruta Auziņš

Aizlūgumi:

Aina Timmermanis Astrīda Untiņš
 Daina Vārpiņš Ieva Vlahov
 Jānis Vucēns Sarmīte Vucēns

Date	19. oktobris 10:30 (Zoom no Yirkalas)
Day	19. svēt. Pēc Sv Gara Sv.
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	1 Mozus Gr. 32:22-30 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5 Lk. Ev. 18:1-8
Hymns	214, 140, 502, 92, 195
Reader	Ieva Vlahov
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Rita Džonsons

Aizlūgumi:

Ruta Auziņš Mirdza Balodis
 Gunis Balodis Signe Balodis
 Nina Bauskis Ilgvars Bergmanis

Date	26. oktobris 10:30 (Zoom no Yirkalas)
Day	VISU SVĒTO DAY
	(Mirušo piemiņas Day)
Colour	Balta
Readings	Atkl. 7:2-17 149 Psalms Mat. Ev. 5:1-12
Hymns	496, 537, 285, 286,
Reader	Mācītājs
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ieva Vlahov

Aizlūgumi:

Maiguta Bernšteins Rita Džonsons
 Austra Farras Līga Gemuts
 Austra Grīnbergs Māra Hope, Syd Hope

Date	16. novembris 10:30 (Zoom no Yirkalas)
Day	23. pēc Sv Gara Svētkiem
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	Mal. 4:1-6 2 Tess. 3:1-13 Lk. Ev. 21:5-28
Hymns	59, 60, 193, 233, 325
Reader	Sarmīte Vucēns
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Sarmite Vucēns

Aizlūgumi:

Austra Kaķis Juris Liepa
 Ruta Liepa Ben Lewis
 Zane Lewis Silvija Lūks, Alan Lūks

Date	21. decembris 10:30
Day	4. Advente
Colour	Zila vai Violeta
Readings	Jes. 7:1-11 24 Psalms Mt. Ev. 1:18-25
Hymns	13, 15, 19, 21, 20
Reader	Mācītājs
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ruta Auziņš

Aizlūgumi:

Astrīda Untiņš Daina Vārpiņš
 Ieva Vlahov Jānis Vucēns
 Sarmīte Vucēns Ruta Auziņš

Date	24. decembris 10:30
Day	ZIEMSVĒTKI
Colour	Balta
Readings	Jes 7:10-14 1 Jņ. 4:7-16 Mt. Ev. 1:18-25
Hymns	27, 30, 34, 36, 3 8
Reader	Mācītājs
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Sarmite Vucēns

Aizlūgumi:

Gunis Balodis Signe Balodis
 Mirdza Balodis Ilgvars Bergmanis
 Maiguta Bernšteins Rita Džonsons

OVERCOMING THROUGH INTERCESSION

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Every Christian has their own circle of people who have asked for intercession or for whom they feel called to pray.

First and foremost, those with whom we must live daily.

In this way, we draw near to the living heart of the entire Christian congregation. Christian fellowship lives through mutual intercession — or it perishes.

A brother for whom I pray is someone I can no longer condemn or hate, no matter what he has done to me. His face, which may have seemed strange or unbearable to me, is transformed in prayer into the face of a brother — a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner.

This is a blessed discovery for Christians who have begun to pray.

There is no antipathy, no personal tension or division that cannot be overcome through intercessory prayer.

Intercession is the purification that both the individual and the community must undergo daily.

Pastor Gunis Balodis
PO Box 857 Yirrkala NT 0880
0409048863
gunis.balodis@gmail.com

LATVIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Latvian language classes are twice monthly at the Perth Latvian Centre.

- 13. un 27. July
- 18. un 24. August
- 14. un 28. September
- 12. un 26. October
- 9. un 23. November

Further information:

Juris Martinskis

epasts: toheaven@iinet.net.au



DV PERTH BRANCH

On August 24, Honorary Consul of Western Australia, Imants Kīns, spoke about his visit to Latvia, where he participated in the World Latvian Economics and Innovation Forum 2025 in Riga.

He also spoke to those present about Latvia and Latvian identity, emphasizing the importance of Latvian culture.

DAUGAVAS VANADZES

Daugavas Vanadzēs will meet again on Thursday 6 November at 11:00 am in the DV clubrooms.

R.Dž.



Indulis repairing the Club chair

PERKONĪTIS

Everyone is invited to join in the fun!
Learn to polka, skipo and hop. Learn new folk dances.

Rehearsals every Tuesday at 6:30pm

Contact Dainu Jefimovs, to get further information.

DMs or d.jefimovs@hotmail.com



LBRA LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting of the Latvian Association of Western Australia was held on the 21st of September, 2025 in the Daugavas Vanagi clubrooms.

The meeting elected Jānis Vucens as chair of the meeting and Ivonna Danbergs as secretary.

The meeting elected the following committee members for the next year:

- Ivonna Danbergs (chairperson)
- Jānis Purvinskis (vicechairperson)
- Juris Martinskis (treasurer)
- Indulis Bernšteins

The committee still requires a secretary.

The principal task given to the committee for the next year is to develop a new constitution for the Association, so that the Association can continue its work into the future, such as its role as shareholder in the Latvian Centre.



REPUBLIC OF LATVIJA HONORARY CONSUL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAS ON THE MOBILE PASSPORT STATION TRIP TO ADELAIDE

The Embassy of Latvia invites Latvian nationals to express interest in the opportunity to submit passport and eID card applications during the **60th Australian Latvian Cultural Days in Adelaide**, from **December 26–31, 2025**.

Please inform the Embassy of your interest by **October 16, 2025**, by sending an email to:

✉ consulate.australia@mfa.gov.lv

NATIONAL DEFENCE SERVICE

In 2025, Latvia's **reinstated conscription system**, the **National Defence Service**, is in its second year of operation. Citizens aged **18 to 27** are eligible to participate in the **11-month service**, which can be completed in the **Land Forces**, **National Guard**, or **Air Force**.

- **Mandatory for men**, voluntary for women.
- Importantly, conscription of **Latvian citizens permanently residing abroad** has been **postponed until 2027**.

Here is a more detailed breakdown:

- **Conscription for diaspora:** Latvian citizens living abroad are currently **exempt** from conscription; the **postponement lasts until 2027**.
- **Deferral and impact:** This delay aims to address challenges in calling up and integrating individuals with minimal or no connection to Latvia.
- **Dual citizenship:** Some dual citizens may consider **renouncing Latvian citizenship** to avoid conscription, which raises concerns.
- **Strengthening ties:** On the other hand, the 11-month service could be a way to **strengthen ties** between the diaspora and their homeland.
- **System renewal:** The National Defence Service was **reinstated in 2023** after a period of suspension.
- **Public support:** Public support for conscription has **fluctuated**. Initially high, recent polls show a **decline** in support.
- **National Guard:** The **National Guard** remains part of the Latvian Armed Forces, with members serving **part-time** while holding **civilian jobs**.

NATIONAL LIBRARY PROGRAM “BOOK START”

Gints Stīpnieks (Canberra) made a significant donation to the National Library of Latvia (LNB). I have served as the executor of his will.

I met with the LNB during my visit to Riga in July 2025. A large portion of Gints' donation was directed toward developing an LNB program encouraging children to read books and parents to read to their children. The LNB created a special

creative space for children and parents to enjoy reading together.

LNB runs the program “Book Start”, which seeks donations.

Every contribution is important to help “Book Start” thrive. You can support the tradition of family reading and foster a love of books in children by donating:



- by credit card:
via www.gaisma.lv
- by bank transfer:
*Latvian National Library
Support Society*
Reg. no.: 50008034971
Bank: AS Swedbank

Account no.: LV84HABA0551006763188

- By scanning the QR code

*Imants Kīns
Latvijas Republikas
Goda Konsuls Rietumāzijā*



Latviešu Apvienība Austrālijā un Jaunzēlandē
Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand

ZIEDOJUMU AKCIJA 2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING



*Annas Ziedares Vasaras Vidusskolas koris Mezaparka estrādē
Anna Ziedare Summer High School Choir at the 2025 Song Festival*

Kopš 1951. gada Latviešu apvienība Austrālijā un Jaunzēlandē ir atbalstījusi un sadarbojusies ar vietējām latviešu organizācijām, lai nodrošinātu kultūras un izglītības programmas un pasākumus. LAAJ ir arī nozīmīga loma Pasaules Brīvo latviešu apvienības (PBLA) valdē un Diasporas konsultatīvā padomē (DKP) Latvijā.

Pēc 70 gadiem latviešu kultūras mantojums ir saglabājies vairākās pēckara iebraucēju paaudzēs, un to pēdējos gados vēl vairāk bagātinājušas arī ģimenes no Latvijas.

Svarīgi, lai LAAJ un tās veidojošo vietējo organizāciju darbs turpinātos. Mēs ļoti novērtējam jūsu nenogurstošo dāsnumu gan mūsu ikgadējās ziedojumu akcijas laikā, gan caur testamentāriem novēlējumiem. Aicinām jaunus ziedotājus pievienoties LAAJ atbalstītāju saimei!

Anita Andersone
LAAJ prezidija priekšsēde

Since 1951, the Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand (LAAJ) has collaborated with local Latvian organisations to provide cultural and educational programs and events. LAAJ also plays an important role as a member of the World Federation of Free Latvians (PBLA) and the Diaspora Advisory Council in Latvia.

After 70 years, Latvian cultural heritage survives into the 3rd and 4th generations of the post-war migrants, enriched further in more recent years by the arrival of families from Latvia settling in our region.

It is important that LAAJ and its constituent local organisations continue their valuable work. We very much appreciate the continued generosity of past donors both during our annual appeal and through our bequest program and look forward to the support of new donors.

Anita Anderson
Chair, Executive Committee
Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand

LŪDZU, ZIEDOJIET!

Latviešu kopienas Austrālijā un Jaunzēlandē ir apzinīgi turpinājušas atbalstīt mūsu kultūras mantojuma saglabāšanu un brīvas neatkarīgas Latvijas pastāvēšanu. Jūsu ziedojumi ir nepieciešami, lai LAAJ varētu sniegt finansiālu atbalstu daudzām programmām un projektiem, tostarp:

- Latviešu skolām un valodas apmācībai
- Anna Ziedares Vasaras vidusskolai jauniešiem
- Tērvetes bērnu vasaras nometnei
- 3 x 3 saietam visām paaudzēm
- Austrālijas latviešu Kultūras dienām un Jaunatnes dienām
- 18. novembra goda viesu apmeklējumiem.

Katrs jūsu ziedojums ir sirsnīgs apliecinājums mūsu kopējam mērķim – saglabāt latvietības liesmu Austrālijā un Jaunzēlandē!

PLEASE SUPPORT US!

The Latvian communities in Australia and New Zealand have resolutely maintained their commitment to the nurturing of our cultural heritage and supporting a continuing free independent Latvia. Your generous donations each year make it possible for LAAJ to provide financial assistance to many programs and projects, including for:

- Latvian schools and language training
- *Anna Ziedare Summer High School* for youth
- Children's summer camp *Tērvete*
- 3 x 3, a camp for all generations
- Australian Latvian Arts Festivals and Youth Festivals
- Visiting Independence Day guest speakers

Each of your donations serves as an affirmation of our common goal - to preserve the flame of Latvianness in Australia and New Zealand!

3 ZIEDOŠANAS VEIDI / 3 WAYS TO DONATE

BANKAS PĀRSKAITĪJUMS/EFT PAYMENT

Saņēmējs (Account name):	Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand
BSB:	704 235
Account number:	00017455
Apraksts (Reference):	Vārds un pavalsts (Name and State/Territory)

PAYPAL

Atveriet LAAJ mājaslapu: laaj.org.au Sāku lapā ritiniet uz leju; uzklikšķiniet uz 'Donate' pogu, kura atrodas zem sirds attēla. Sekojiet tālākām norādēm. Lūdzu, dariet zināmu, ja vēlaties, ka jūsu ziedojums paliek anonīms, rakstot: info@laaj.org.au	Visit our website: laaj.org.au . Scroll down and click on 'Donate' under the encircled heart image. Please email info@laaj.org.au indicating whether you would like your donation to remain anonymous.
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ČEKS VAI NAUDAS PĀRVEDUMS / CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER

Lūdzu, aizpildiet šo veidlapu un kopā ar čeku/naudas pārvedumu izrakstītu par labu 'Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand' nosūtiet:		
Please complete this form with your cheque or money order made out to 'Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand' and post to:		
Pielikumā ir čeks/naudas pārvedums par Attached is a cheque/money order for		LAAJ Ziedojums PO Box 273 Maddington, WA 6109
\$.....		mans 2024. gada ziedojums LAAJ. being my 2024 donation to LAAJ.
VĀRDS/NAME:	UZVĀRDS/SURNAME:	
ADRESE/ADDRESS:	Lūdzu, atzīmējiet, ja vēlaties lai Jūsu ziedojums paliktu anonīms. Please tick if you would like your donation to remain anonymous.	
E-PASTS/EMAIL:	☐	

AKCIJA SLĒGSIES 8. DECEMBRĪ / THE APPEAL CLOSES ON THE 8th OF DECEMBER 2025