

PERTAS LATVIEŠU ZINĀS



Saturs

15. Saeima elections.....	4
Church services	2-3
Editor.....	1, 3
Eurovision	4
FILM (More than a dance).....	4
Calendar.....	1
Sv. Pāvila Congregation	2-3

Nr. 231

The Perth Latvian Newsletter

June/July 2026

CALENDAR

June

- 7 Church service 10:30 am
- 14 Church service 10:30 am
- 14 14 June remembrance
12:00pm
- 37 Film – SkroderDays Silmačos
2:00 pm

July

- 5 Church service 10:30 am
- 19 Church service 10:30 am

August

- 16 Church service 10:30 am
- 30 Church service 10:30 am

October

- 3 Latvian Parliament (SAEIMA)
election

PERKONĪTIS FOLK DANCING REHEARSALS

Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm

Latvija 100

Latvian Honorary Consul in Western Australia

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Ev. Lut. St. Pauls congregation

Pastor: Gunis Balodis

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Pertas Latvian Newsletter

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EDITOR

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

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.



EV. LUT. SV. PĀVILA DRAUDZE

It might be more accurate to describe us as a “little congregation,” considering that only five or six members typically attend our worship services.

For every service, Pastor Gunis, together with Jānis and Sarmīte Vucēns and Inta Robinson at the organ, carefully prepares everything needed for us to participate fully in the liturgy—hymns, Scripture readings, Holy Communion, and the sermon. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, knowledge, and God-given gifts, which enable us to worship and praise God in our native language. We were even able to include Māra in a service remotely while she was in hospital.

Pastor Gunis's sermons are firmly grounded in Scripture, concise, and meaningful. He always selects hymns that complement the theme of the service. Our prayers of intercession regularly include all Latvians in Perth, especially those who were unable or chose not to join us. Inta's organ playing greatly enhances our worship and encourages our congregational singing.

At present, our congregation does not have a treasurer and, as a result, we have been unable to hold our annual general meeting. We would be most grateful if a congregation member would be willing to serve in this important role. To continue operating as a congregation, we must have the necessary office bearers in place. We would not want the future of our congregation to be jeopardized simply because we lack a treasurer.

During the season of Pentecost, we will focus particularly on the work of the Holy Spirit as we read the Scriptures and seek to live out our faith in our daily lives.

Ieva
tālr. 044 719 4080

Vlahov

CHURCH SERVICES JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Date	7. jūnijs 10:30 (Zoom no Yirrkalas)
Day	SVĒTĀ GARA SVĒTKI
Colour	Sarkana
Readings	4 Mozus 11:24-30 Ap. Darbi. 2:1-21 Jņ. Ev. 7:37-39
Hymns	132, 133, 136, 139, 140
Reader	Ieva Vlahov
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Sarmīte Liepa

Aizlūgumi:

Jānis Vucēns Sarmīte Vucēns
Ruta Auziņš Mirdza Balodis
Gunis Balodis Signe Balodis

Date	14. jūnijs 10:30 (Zoom no Yirrkalas)
Day	3. svēt. Pēc Pentekosta svētkiem (Mīrušo Piemiņas Diena)
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	2 Mozus 19:2-8 Rom. 5:6-15 Mt. Ev. 9:35-10:8
Hymns	146, 379, 382, 528, 527
Reader	Sarmīte Vucēns
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ieva Vlahov

Aizlūgumi:

Ilgvars Bergmanis Maiguta Bernšteins
Rita Džonsons Austra Farras
Līga Gemuts Austra Grīnbergs

Date	5. jūlijs 10:30 (Zoom no Yirrkalas)
Day	6. svēt. Pēc Sv. Gara Svētkiem
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	Ceh. 9:9-12 Rom. 7:14-25a Mt. Ev. 11:25-30
Hymns	405, 401, 345, 337, 268
Reader	Mācītājs
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ruta Auziņa

Aizlūgumi:

Māra Hope Sid Hope
Austra Kaķis Juris Liepa, Ruta Liepa

PENTECOST

On the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out with a visible sign. The timid apostles received the courage to proclaim Christ crucified and risen.

Three thousand hearts were touched and received the assurance of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. It was a wonderful time. The new believers did not remain isolated in their own corners but devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to prayer, to the Sacrament, and were of one heart and one soul. The first Christian congregation had been born (Acts 2).

All of this we remember at Pentecost.

God, however, does not want Pentecost to be merely a commemoration of past events. He also desires to grant us the true spirit of Pentecost today. The most essential thing in this festival is recognizing Jesus for who He is.

Many people know a great deal about Jesus, yet they do not truly know Him.

Before we can properly know Jesus, we must first come to know ourselves in the light of God's Law. We must acknowledge the fact that we are sinners who need the sacrifice of God's Son on our behalf. Nothing else could help us. So great are our sins!

Christ suffered for our sins. Therefore, Peter's words also speak to us: "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

Who are the "you" in these words? It is all of us—you and I alike.

Of course, it was the Jews and the Romans who physically carried out the crucifixion, and we are not held responsible for that historical act. Yet the true reason for Jesus' death was our sins. Therefore, we too have reason, like the tax collector, to beat our breasts and pray, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

This prayer reveals another aspect of coming to know Jesus. Jesus obtained God's grace for us, and now God is merciful toward us for Jesus' sake. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit teaches us to know Jesus as the Redeemer of our sins. As a result, we have peace in our hearts.

If we have learned to know Jesus as our Savior from sin, we are truly blessed. We desire to share our faith with others, and this happens in two ways.

First, we gather together in the unity of faith around the pure Word of God as a Christian congregation.

Date:	19. jūlijs 10:30 Zoom no Yirrkalas)
Day	8. svēt. Pēc Sv. Gara Svētkiem
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	Jes 44:6-8 Rom. 8:18-27 Mt. Ev. 13:24-30, 36-43
Hymns	238, 234, 368, 353, 167
Reader	Ieva Vlahov
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Rīta Džonsons

Aizlūgumi:

Zane Lewis Ben Lewis
Silvija Lūks Alan Lūks
Harda Paparde Andris Paparde

Date:	16. augusts 10:30 (Zoom no Yirrkalas)
Day	12. svēt. Pēc Sv. Gara Svētkiem
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	Jes 56:1,6-8 67 Psalms Mt. Ev. 15:21-28
Hymns	171, 173, 214, 313, 155
Reader	Sarmīte Vucēns
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Sarmīte Liepa

Aizlūgumi:

Inta Robinson David Robinson
Aina Timmermanis Astrīda Untiņš
Daina Vārpiņš Ieva Vlahov

Date:	30. augusts 10:30 (Zoom no Yirrkalas)
Day	14. svēt. Pēc Sv. Gara Svētkiem
Colour	Zaļa
Readings	Jer. 15:15-21 Rom. 12:9-21 Mat. Ev. 16:21-28
Hymns	190, 189, 397, 418, 425
Reader	Mācītājs
Duty	Jānis Vucēns
Flowers	Ieva Vlahov

Aizlūgumi:

Jānis Vucēns Sarmīte Vucēns
Ruta Auziņš Mirdza Balodis
Gunis Balodis Signe Balodis

In this way we are strengthened, we encourage one another, and the Holy Spirit sustains us with the bread of God's Word.

Second, we confess our faith in this world and humbly lead others to the source of salvation. In this way the wind of the Holy Spirit can do its work, and hearts may be refreshed and renewed.

Pastor Gunis Balodis
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Church service on the new screen foto JV



DV PERTH BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

ON 8 MARCH

Latvia's freedom did not simply fall from the sky. It had to be fought for and won. We do not even know exactly how much Latvian blood was shed in the struggle for the creation and survival of Latvia. Those battles were fought by Latvian soldiers during the First World War, the Second World War, and continue even today, as our servicemen serve in NATO ranks, representing Latvia and supporting the defence of freedom.

Today we remember, honour, and give thanks for the sacrifices made by soldiers for Latvia. We remember the thousands who fell in battle, were wounded, died in captivity, or suffered the hardships of imprisonment.

We know that approximately 35,000 to 40,000 Latvian soldiers, including the Latvian Riflemen, lost their lives during the First World War. Of these, some 9,000 fell during the Christmas Battles.

According to military records, by 1 July 1944 the Latvian Legion had suffered losses of 2,723 killed in action and 644 deceased from other causes (a total

of 3,367), 2,417 missing in action, and 7,305 wounded. Losses between 1 July 1944 and Germany's capitulation are not precisely known, but are estimated at between 50,000 and 60,000 men. It should be noted that these figures are based on a broader definition of the Latvian Legion, including all Latvian military formations.

At the end of the war, between 25,000 and 30,000 Latvian military personnel fell into Western Allied captivity, while approximately 40,000 were taken prisoner by the Soviet Union.

In Australia, fallen soldiers are honoured on 25 April, ANZAC Day, and on 11 November, Remembrance Day, marking the end of the First World War. In fact, 11 November is internationally recognised as a day of remembrance for those who have fallen in war. It is observed in countries such as the United States, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Kenya, and many others.

For Latvians, however, 11 November is celebrated as Lāčplēsis Day.

Today we mark three dates of special significance in the history of Lat

The first is 6 March, the anniversary of the death of Colonel Oskars Kalpaks. He was only 37 years old when, in 1919, he fell near the Venta River as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Latvian Army. He possessed an unwavering belief that Latvia could win its freedom when the long-awaited opportunity arose to break free from centuries of foreign domination. He is remembered as a hero because his courage and determination inspired former Riflemen, students, university fraternities, and volunteers to take up the fight for their homeland, for freedom, and for the right to determine their own future.

We also commemorate 16 March, when in 1944 the soldiers of the Latvian Legion's 15th and 19th Divisions fought side by side for the first time on the Eastern Front near the Velikaya River. These battles formed part of the campaign later associated with what became known in history as the Courland Fortress.

For this reason, we also remember 8 May. By holding the compressed front line in Courland, more than 150,000 Latvians were able to escape to the West. Those of us gathered here today are part of that exile community which was established throughout the Western world. Without the

resistance in Courland, such an exile community may never have existed.

The Latvian exile community played a vital role in preserving Latvian identity and ensuring that the world did not forget that until the collapse of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, Latvia, the other Baltic States, and much of Eastern Europe remained lands occupied by Soviet Russia. The exile community contributed significantly to keeping alive the cause of Latvian independence and helping to bring about the eventual end of Soviet domination.

The Daugavas Vanagi organisation was founded on 28 December 1945 in the prisoner-of-war camp at Zedelgem, Belgium. This year the organisation celebrates its 80th anniversary. In August, when we commemorate the 77th anniversary of our local branch, an exhibition will also be presented highlighting the work and history of Daugavas Vanagi in Australia.

Thank you.

Ilmārs Rudaks

DAUGAVAS VANAGI FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Donation forms can be found on the final pages of this publication.

Please send donations to:

Mr J. Pelss
29 Gilbert Street
Bayswater WA 6053

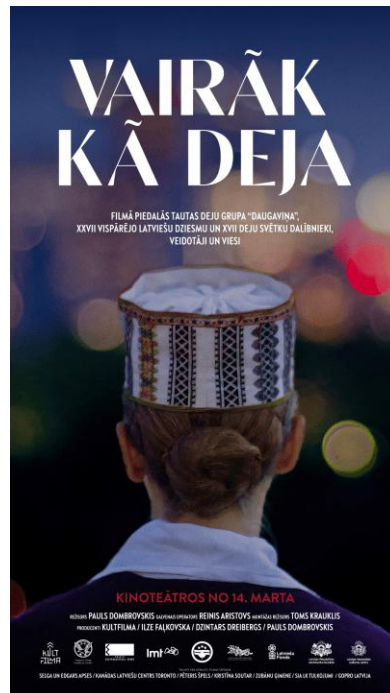
Electronic Bank Transfer

Bank: Westpac
Account Name: Latvian Relief Society
"Daugavas Vanagi" – Perth Branch
BSB: 036 062
Account Number: 562011
Payment Reference: DVAV26 (please include your initials and surname)

If you would like your donation to be directed to a specific project from the list of approved initiatives, please advise us of your preference by email at pelssj65@gmail.com.

Donations that are not designated for a particular purpose will be allocated according to current priorities, as determined by the Daugavas Vanagi Australia Central Board.

Our sincere thanks for your generous support.



MORE THAN A DANCE

**FILM
AFTERNOON
AT THE PERTH
DAUGAVAS
VANAGI CLUB:
MORE THAN A
DANCE**

On Sunday, 3 May,
39 people gathered
at the Perth
Daugavas Vanagi
Club to watch the

Canadian Latvian documentary *More Than a Dance* (*Vairāk nekā deja*). The film follows the journey of the Toronto folk dance group *Daugaviņa* and their preparations for participation in the 2023 Latvian Song and Dance Festival in Latvia.

Among the audience were current dancers from Perth's folk dance group *Pērkonītis*, as well as members of the local Lithuanian dance group, who have recently begun participating in joint rehearsals held on Tuesday evenings at the Latvian Centre. Also attending were former *Pērkonītis* dancers, together with Latvian and Lithuanian friends and family members.

The viewing experience was enhanced by the club's new modern projector and 3.3-metre-wide screen, which transformed the Daugavas Vanagi Club rooms into a comfortable and high-quality cinema venue.



Perth Latvians continued to make use of these new cinema facilities by hosting special gatherings during the final weekend of the Eurovision Song Contest.

the dummy” when Latvian Eurovision star Atvara did not reach the finals — perfectly reflecting the sentiments of many in attendance.

Geņa



Perth Latvian

Eurovision Celebrations.

Perth's Latvian Eurovision celebration was a warm, lively and joy-filled evening, full of laughter, fabulous decorations, delicious sauerkraut and sausages - and even a touch of Riga Black Balsam. The atmosphere was vibrant, with guests embracing the Eurovision spirit in colourful costumes and festive attire. A highlight of the night was beloved dance teacher Daina Jefimovs enthusiastically channelling the Swedish entry in a sauna cap and towel, much to everyone's delight.

Daina Jefimovs, who has injected new energy into Perth's Latvian community through Pērkonītis coordinated the Saturday event with impressive professionalism. The promotional campaign even included live Eurovision correspondent Edgar Vegners reporting directly from Vienna, while the DV Club itself was transformed into a true Eurovision hub.

Adding to the entertainment was a cryptic, ingenious and highly amusing Eurovision quiz written by Indulis Bersteins, who also seamlessly coordinated sound and lighting on the DV Club's

impressive new projector system. The quiz was hosted by the glamorous and talented Alys Daroy, whose energy kept the crowd engaged throughout the evening.

The undisputed star attraction, however, was 12-week-old Ilzīte the newest member of Perth's Latvian community, who famously “spat



15TH SAEIMA ELECTIONS

October 3, 2026

There will be a polling station in Perth at the Daugavas Vanagi club.

To vote, you will need a Latvian passport. Please check whether you have a valid passport or eID card and eSignature.

You will be able to vote at the polling station or by post.

It is expected that we will be able to provide information about candidates and parties closer to the election date.

The PBLA is collecting questions that you would like to ask candidates in debates. If you have a question, please send it to me and I will forward it to the PBLA.

Workshops are also planned to help people who need to register for eSignature.

Jānis Vucēns

LAAJ vicepresident, WA

email: jvucens@ozemail.com.au

BALTIC SOUNDS

On Friday the 17th of April in St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle the Giovanni Consort presented a programme of choral music from the Baltic countries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. All of the works were performed for the first time in Western Australia.

The Giovanni Consort is Western Australia's premier professional chamber choir, led by Nicholas Dinopoulos.

Composers included Maija Einfelde, Nijole Sinkevičiūtė (*Ave Maria*), Arvo Pärt (*De Profundis with organ accompaniment*), Vytautas Miskinis (*Ave Maria Nr. 6 for men*) and Ella Macens' highly moving "*When the world closes its eyes*".

The concert finale was *Missa Rigensis* by Uģis Prauliņš.



DAUGAVAS VANAGU AUSTRĀLIJĀ VALDE (DVAV)
PO Box 73 NORTH MELBOURNE 3051, e-pasts: mjk51688@bigpond.com

Kaut mūsu bijušo leģionāru skaits Latvijā strauji krītās palīdzība Latvijai un latviešiem kā Latvijā tā ārpus tās turpinās un vēl joprojām ir nepieciešama.

Aicinām tautiešus palīdzēt Daugavas Vanagiem turpināt šo nepieciešamo darbu atbalstot Daugavas Vanagu Austrālijā 2026. gada līdzekļu vākšanas akciju. Karš Ukrainā turpinās un ņemot vērā pašreizējo ģeopolitisko stāvokli nezinām kāds būs iznākums. Joprojām pastāv iespēja, ka nevien Ukrainai, bet arī Latvijai būs vajadzīga mūsu palīdzība, gan humanitāra, gan palīdzība mūsu tautas aizsargiem. Latvijas valdība ir paaugstinājusi aizsardzības budžetu, bet vajadzīgs arī atbalsts no mums ārpus Latvijas dzīvojošiem tautiešiem. **Palīdzēsim mūsu Latvijai!** Norādītiem mērķiem ziedotā nauda tiks izlietota tikai šiem mērķiem; „bez sadalījuma” ziedojumi tiks lietoti pēc DV ieskata.

2025. gadā ar ziedojumu akcijas līdzekļiem atbalstījām leģionārus un viņu atraitnes, daudz un audžu bērnu ģimenes, jauniešus Austrālijā un Latvijā, Latvijas zemessardzi, “Vītolu Fondu” un vēl daudz citus mērķus.

Par 2025. gada devumu izsakām ziedotājiem izjustu pateicību!

Ar 2026. gada ziedojumu vēlos atbalstīt:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Bijušos leģionārus un viņu atraitnes | \$ |
| 2. Jauniešu izglītību (Latvijā un Austrālijā) | \$ |
| 3. Daudz un audžu bērnu ģimenes | \$ |
| 4. Fonda „Namejs” atbalsta pasākumus | \$ |
| 5. Lestenes memoriālu un muzeju | \$ |
| 6. Bez sadalījuma | \$ |
| 7. Kopā | \$ |

Nosūtītāja vārds.....

Adrese.....

PALDIES!



**LATVIAN RELIEF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
DAUGAVAS VANAGI (DVAV)**

PO Box 73 NORTH MELBOURNE 3051, email: mjk51688@bigpond.com

Although the number of our former legionnaires in Latvia is rapidly decreasing assistance to Latvia and Latvians, both in Latvia and overseas continues and is still needed. We encourage you to assist the Latvian Relief Society of Australia in continuing this much needed work by supporting its 2026 fundraising campaign. The war in Ukraine continues and given the current geopolitical situation we do not know what the outcome will be. There is still a possibility that not only Ukraine, but also Latvia will need our assistance, both humanitarian as well as for those defending Latvia. The Latvian government has increased the defence budget, but support is also from those of us living outside Latvia. **Let us all help Latvia!** Donations for the specified objectives will only be used for these purposes. Those donations marked unallocated will be used as needed.

In 2025 through donations received we supported former legionnaires and their dependents, large families, foster families, Latvian youth, both in Australia and Latvia, the Latvian Home guard, and "Vitolu Fonds" to support underprivileged youth with university studies, as well as many other causes.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to those who donated in 2025!

I wish my 2026 donation to be allocated as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Former legionnaires & their widows | \$ |
| 2. Youth and youth education | \$ |
| 3. Large and foster families | \$ |
| 4. "Namejs" Foundation support projects | \$ |
| 5. Latvian War memorial "Lestene" | \$ |
| 6. Unallocated | \$ |
| 7. Total | \$ |

Sender's name:

Address:

THANK YOU