



**AUSTRALIJS
LIETUVIU
JAUNIMO
SAJUNGA**

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AUSTRALIAN LITHUANIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

**C/O MELBOURNE LITHUANIAN CLUB
44 ERROL ST NORTH MELBOURNE
VIC 3051 AUSTRALIA**

WWW.ALJS.ORG

AUSTRALIAN LITHUANIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

17/11/2013
Chairman's Report
ALJS Annual General Meeting

Although I am unable to be here in person as I am currently overseas, I'm pleased to inform that ALJS has been significantly more active in the last financial year than those preceding it. This can be attributed to our enthusiastic committee! We've started some new traditions and continued some old ones.

Firstly, a bit about what's been happening in 2012/13:
At the start of November last year we organised the 1st annual ALJS Halloween Party. We enjoyed some creepy themed snacks and punch, face painting and an after-dark tour of the Litho Klubas! The party was enjoyed by all who attended and successfully set a precedent for Halloween celebrations to come – the new tradition was continued with the second ALJS Halloween event held just 2 weeks ago!

In early December a small group of young Lithos went on a tour of the Mountain Goat Brewery in Richmond, organised by ALJS. I can personally testify that eating pizza and tasting different (and super fresh!) beers in an actual working brewery is a great way to spend an evening with friends!

In April The Melbourne Lithuanian Club organised an open day to showcase some of the activities that take place there. ALJS invited people to stay on afterwards for a get-to-know-you night in order to meet some new people - any excuse for a party!

On a Friday night in May we gathered once again at the Klubas to cheer on the Lithuanian entrant in the semi-final of our favourite Euro Song contest – Eurovision! It was the second 2nd Eurovision Party organised by ALJS (the first in 2011) and a huge success with more than 50 people coming along! The number of terrible songs heard was only outweighed by the amount sauerkraut devoured with our delicious kranskys! Hopefully Lietuva has some better luck in the competition next year!

In June the library at the Klubas became a venue for knitting, sewing and other crafty activities at the first ALJS 'Crafternoon.' It was a nice afternoon for young and old!

I'm pleased to say that we've made some new friends this year! In September of last year a small group of ALJS members enjoyed an afternoon of barefoot bowls organised by the Latvian Youth Association at the Brunswick Bowls Club.

ALJS hopes to cooperate with our neighbours more often and we've seen some young Latvians attend our events since... hopefully we can organize some joint functions in the future!

Perhaps the most important event on the ALJS calendar in the last year was the biennial Australian Lithuanian Days Festival (Australijos Lietuviu Dienos), held last December in Adelaide. During this week of festivities I attended the national Lithuanian community (ALB) executive meeting (suvažiavimas) and reported on ALJS activities from the previous 2 years.

Also in this week elections were held for the ALJS committee. Holding these elections in Adelaide provided a greater opportunity for many more people to participate from all over Australia.

The elected committee was as follows:

Executive Committee:

Chairman/Pirmininkas – Myself

Vice Chairman/Vice-Pirmininkas – Aisvydas Sadauskas

Treasurer/Iždininkas – Darius Pranckūnas

Secretary/Sekretorė – Andrea Cusack (Also Geelong rep.)

General Committee Members:

Aldona Brewster (Gaylard) (Melbourne)

Dana Kabaila (Melbourne)

Darius Mockus-Lane (Melbourne)

Emilija Rupšytė (Sydney)

Geoff Vaitkus (Adelaide)

I thank the committee for their efforts in this past year!

Now, some other highlights to note from 2012/13:

We've sold the remaining red Vytis water bottles, which were ordered in two batches since 2011, bringing the total number sold to 200!

Also, we launched a new website for ALJS last September, which has surprised by its popularity, receiving almost 1200 views from 32 countries all around the world since then!

Finally, I would like to inform that, from today, I am resigning from my position on the ALJS executive committee. I have left Australia for at least 2 years to study in Denmark, and I would be unable to fulfill my duties for this reason. I have enjoyed my time as chairman over the last 3 years and would like to stay on as a general committee member for the next term. Thanks again to all who've helped out these last years and I wish all the best for the new committee!

M. Didzys