

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4003

Petkovich, Merica (Maria) Zaknich

(1949 -)

Born	1 January, 1949, Blato Croatia
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Occupation	Business owner, Red Cross Worker
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Summary

Maria Petkovich arrived in Broken Hill, New South Wales, in 1961. With her husband, Petar, she owns and runs South Dry Cleaners and Wilson's Dry Cleaners in Broken Hill, New South Wales. Maria is a volunteer with the Australian Red Cross.

Details

Maria Zaknich travelled from Croatia to Melbourne on the *Orsova* with her mother and sister in May 1961 to be reunited with her father, Tony, after six years apart. The family settled in Broken Hill, New South Wales, where Tony was working and living with his parents. Maria and her sister Katie were enrolled at Broken Hill's Alma School and attended English language classes at the Napredak Club. As teenagers they helped their mother to look after her twin baby boys, and worked on the weekends to supplement the family income. Both girls left high school after two years to work full time.

Maria married a fellow Croatian, Petar Petkovich, who came from the same town as the Zaknich family. They had two children, Miroslav and Inga. Petar and Maria ran the Okeh Café in Argent Street for nine years before buying two dry cleaning businesses in Broken Hill.

Published resources

Book

Sharing the Lode: The Broken Hill Migrant Story, Adams, Christine, 2004

Site Exhibition

Unbroken Spirit: Women in Broken Hill, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/bh/bh-home.html>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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