

LILIKA'S RUSSIAN WEDDING: BRANKA KRINGAS

When my sister Lilika and I, and our mother Majka Nina came to Adelaide, to start a new life, there were no young people in the Serbian community. So, Lilika and I joined the Russian club. We met Viktor. Lilika and Victor fell in love. They had a typical 3-day Russian wedding. On Friday afternoon they married at the Russian church. Zozo was the best man and Olga and I were bridesmaids.

The Russian minister, Bachushka, had a wonderful voice. His singing and the choir were emotionally moving and always lifted our spirits.

From the church we moved straight to the Russian Club. There were lots of people, food, drink and music. It was full of joy. There was an old man who played his own balalaika and sang songs and ballads from before the Russian revolution.

Early the next day with the remaining food we went to Victor's parent's place and continued the celebration. Some people did not sleep at all but continued, eating, drinking and singing. Zozo with his two friends Ivo and Krunchek suddenly appeared with instruments. Entertainment was so loud the whole neighbourhood was enjoying it.

Viktor asked Zozo 'Where did you find the instruments?' To which he answered 'Shhh don't tell anybody. We stole them from the Russian club.'

Majka Nina and I had had enough, so we went home. Six o'clock the next morning there was loud knocking at the door. Without opening it, I already knew who was behind it. It was Zozo, Ivo and Krunchek. Zozo said 'We badly need strong coffee'. I let them in and made coffee for them. In spite of it being very strong they fell in the chair and went to sleep. We all got up before lunch and ate the food that was left from the celebration. Other people, our very close friends, came and we chatted quietly with no singing or drinking.

Someone asked, 'What did you do with the instruments?' Zozo said 'We just walked into the club and there were people staring at us. We left the instruments, said 'spasiba' (thank you) and ran away.' At five o'clock in the afternoon it seemed that everyone had had enough. Just before we said goodbye to each other Majka Nina asked 'Where are Lilika and Viktor?' Zozo said 'I saw them at 2 o'clock this morning. They drove away to their honeymoon.'