

POLISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016





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FOREWORD

The 2015 - 2016 Annual Report provides detailed information regarding the services and activities the Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc. organised last year. The Annual Report sets out to create new goals and objectives to improve all services and events.

The Polish Community Council concentrates on activities such as:

- Polish Language Schools Program
- Polish Care Services Bureau

and also concentrates on events such as:

- 26th Polish Seniors' Day in Rowville
- Picnic for Polish Seniors in Berwick
- PCCV Gala Dinner
- 43 Debutante Ball in Malvern Town Hall
- Polish Sports Festival

Workers at the Polish Community Council of Victoria are bilingual and are aware of customs, culture and religious needs that are significant and valued by clients. Thus the services provided by the Polish Community Council, are carefully planned and delivered to address clients' individual needs.

SERVING THE POLISH COMMUNITY

The Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc. (Federacja Polskich Organizacji w Wiktorii) was established in 1962 as the state's peak Polish organisation or federation of Victoria's Polish associations, organisations and individual grouping of Polish migrants. The Council represents the concerns, needs, aspirations, achievements and interest of the Polish community of Victoria. Its constituency through Victoria comprises over 40 Polish regional and special interest associations.

The role and functions of the Council could be summarised in terms of three key activities:

- Coordination and advocacy
- Information dissemination and exchange
- Community welfare, relations and development

MISSION STATEMENT

The Polish Community Council's mission is to enrich and enhance the well-being of the Polish-Australian community within the multicultural context of the Victorian community. It aims to achieve this through the fullest participation and involvement of all people of Polish background and establishing relations with relevant organisations in the wider Australian community.

PURPOSES

- To represent the Polish-Australian community of Victoria before all tiers of government in Australia
- To contribute to the formulation of policy on issues affecting the Polish community in accordance with the Access and Equity Strategy of the Australian Commonwealth
- To foster a sense of membership within the Australian multicultural community and to endeavour to develop Polish-Australian cultural and economic cooperation

OBJECTIVES

- To cooperate with and assist in the activities of member organisations
- To initiate and organise social, as well as charitable activities and to conduct community services to assist people in need within the Polish-Australian community
- On behalf of the Polish community, to assist other public benevolent institutions in their endeavours
- To represent the needs, aspiration and achievements of the Polish-Australian community
- To promote and address the issues of the Polish-Australian community within the context of the wider Australian community
- To act as an effective advocate and to analyse government policies on matters relevant to the Polish-Australian community
- To identify new issues requiring further research related to the needs and aspirations of the Polish-Australian community
- To develop strategies to implement the results of research where it will assist the Polish-Australian community
- To facilitate and encourage greater participation in Polish cultural and community activities
- To enhance mechanisms to assist State and Federal bodies in the formulation of their policies, programs and services which affect the Polish-Australian community.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015 – 2016



Mr Marian Pawlik OAM
President



Dr Sylwia Greda-Bogusz
Vice President
Honorary Secretary,
Public Officer
Polish Care Services Liaison
Officer



Ms Teresa Koronczewski
Deputy President



Mr Jerzy Wojtkowski
Vice President
Honorary Treasurer



Mrs Stanislaw Bialy
Social Events Coordinator
Seniors Clubs Coordinator



Rev Artur Botur TC
Pastoral
Representative



Mrs Eva Hussain
Media/ Member



Mrs Irena Janus-Olchowik
Cultural Events
Convener



Mrs Edyta Szmyd
Member



Mr Rafal Kaplon
Youth Liaison Officer



Mr Roman Sawko
Polish School Coordinator



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have the great pleasure in presenting the 2015-2016 Annual Report.

The Executive Committee of the Polish Community Council of Victoria (PCCV) instructed last year by The Congress of Delegates, start organised significant improvements and changes in the operations of our Social Support Bureau. Next year, Bureau will convert it states as Benevolent Organization. The Manager with support of the Liaison Officer to the Executive Committee worked very hard to prepare Bureau and to be ready for new changers announced by the Federal Government. Our brokerage program was very successful and again we manage to expend it considerably. Currently, we are still the only Polish organisation in Melbourne providing care services for Polish senior citizens. However, we have a very good relationship with other ethnic Organizations providing the same support and services.

This year in Melbourne was organised Polish Art Festival "POL - ART". PCCV provide as much support and help as was requested by Organising Committee of the "POL - ART".

The annual Polish Seniors Day was celebrated this time in Rowville and as usual was very successful. Several hundred seniors took part, enjoying artistic performances presented by different Polish Seniors Clubs and poem competition followed by a traditional Polish lunch.



The Polish National Day, the 3 May was celebrated at the Marian Shrine in Essendon. The traditional commemorative concert was organised by our Polish Schools Coordinator.

The Annual Sports Festival, held, as every year, at the Polish Club Albion, and was a great fun for everyone. We were especially pleased to have among our VIP guest's members of the Diplomatic Corps including the Polish Consul General.



The Polish Language Schools Coordinator (PLSC) organised conference in Canberra. Patrons of the conference were invited to the Polish Embassy for a lunch and a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland.

We maintained a very good relationship with the broader community in Victoria. The PCCV had regular contact with: The Victorian Multicultural Commission, Federal and State Government Departments, State and Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Our contacts with other ethnic groups were largely facilitated through the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, the Victorian Multicultural Commission and other institutions. We were also actively involved in Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition, a lobby group, to promote improvement of government services for pensioners.

We met regularly with the Polish Diplomatic and Consular representatives accredited in Australia.

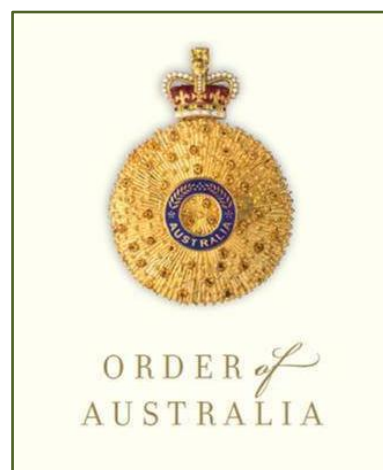
Our annual Gala Dinner was again a big success, and all profit was allocated to help our Social Support Bureau in purchasing a Minibus.



In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee for their invaluable work, the Polish Care Services Bureau staff, for their commitment and professional approach, our member Organisations and the community at large for their support, and especially a group of volunteers who worked on various task, dedicating their own time and effort to help other people in need. I thanks our clergies to provide a spiritual and moral support to our organisations throughout the year.

Mr Marian Pawlik OAM

President





POLISH CARE SERVICES BUREAU

The last twelve months were very busy for all PCCV staff. All programs plans and documents were revised and as a part of continuous improvement being constantly monitored and adapted to the requirement of various funding departments. Currently we are working hard and preparing for forthcoming changes into our industry particularly for HACC transition to CHSP.

It has been another busy and exciting year for Polish Community Care Services (PCCS) as an organisation and for me personally. We continue in delivering great outcomes for our all our strategic objectives as per 2016-2020 strategic plan.

The most important factor that has kept me motivated and enthusiastic over the year is supporting role of the Committee of Management, and the Polish Care Services Bureau Staff, as well as all volunteers at Polish Community Care Services (PCCS).

The Polish Community Care Services (PCCS) is proud to acknowledge the support of the following organisations for their assistance and contribution towards the ongoing development of the service and the Polish community it serves in 2015-2016.

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Department of Social Services
- Ethnic Community Council of Victoria
- Seniors Right Victoria
- Carers Victoria
- Palliative Care
- Turning Point
- City of Knox
- City of Monash
- City of Melbourne
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Casey
- Australian-Croatian Community Services
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Jewish Care
- Polish Consulate in Sydney

We are proud to acknowledge our numerous community partners.

- Eastern District Polish Association.
- Albion Club
- White Eagle Club in Geelong
- Polish Charity Association in Ardeer
- Polish Weekly
- 23 Polish Seniors Citizen Clubs in Victoria
- Polish Educational Society in Victoria

As well as many more community groups and organisations who share our vision and values.

2015-2016 has been a fantastic year,

just how I like it – full of challenges,

new ideas, new people and fun.

My role is very diverse with lots of management work, in terms of planning, evaluating and reporting; delivery of training and assessment, direct involvement in community development projects and working with our community partners. This mix of work varies every year, so that no one year is ever the same.

This year I have been responsible for managing:

- [Social support Program \(Friendly Visiting Program & Telelink\)](#)
- [Carers Group](#)
- [Young Disability Group](#)
- [Youth Group](#)
- [Women's Group](#)
- [Presidents of Polish Senior Citizens Clubs Group](#)
- [Community Visitors Scheme](#)
- [Home Care Packages](#)
- [Planned Activity Groups](#)
- [Brokerage](#)
- [SARDAC Program \(Caching Up\)](#)
- [Elder Abuse Educational Program](#)

In this financial year we received new funding from Department of Social Services for CVS program – community visitor scheme for volunteers visiting Polish clients in residential care.

We are started few new projects for example Seniors IT Group.

We also continue work together with our partners Turning Point and Multicultural Centre for Women's Health under Catching up program – supporting Dual Diagnosis Responses in AOD and CALD Sectors. We're able to deliver seven training session to different groups, Polish brochure has been established and distributed to Polish community members. We also have new Elder Abuse educational project together with ECCV and Seniors Right – new Polish resources has been released.



We keep receiving positive feedback from our clients, funders and stakeholders for our programs and services. The positive results inspired Polish Community Care Services (PCCS) team further explore our creativity, use our industry networks and continuously improve what we do.

Polish Community Care Services heavily relies on volunteer work and support.

The organisation is managed by a committee of volunteers. Polish Community Care Services community programs and the social support programs are run by volunteers, volunteers help with fundraising and assist in all areas of office administration.

I would like to thank all people who guided, supported and helped me over the years.



Polish Community Council of Victoria (PCCV) Committee of Management, as a team and each and every person who have served on the Committee over the last 4 years – thank you so much for all your support and encouragement along the way.

Polish Community Care Services (PCCS) team of staff and volunteers – thank you for working together building up and sharing professional values and standards at Polish Community Care Services (PCCS).

Bozena Iwanowski

Manager of Polish Care Services

Home Care Packages (HCP)



Over the course of my working life I have held a few positions, but none have given me as much satisfaction, pride and sense of achievement as being the Senior Case Manager of Polish Community Council of Victoria.

We are an organisation that strives for excellence and to show leadership and innovation in our field. We have achieved this with happy and satisfied clients and with competent professional staff who are proud of where they work and what they achieve.

Home Care Packages Program (HCP) operates within an environment that is rapidly changing. There is a constant need to respond to new community issues and expectations. The manner in which governments interact with the sector and provide

funding for programs is also changing. In response, PCCV constantly reviews its programs and support structures in order to maximise the delivery of high quality services when needed. We are entering an era of significant change and reform within the aged and disability sectors as we prepare for an unprecedented community care demographic.

These changes will bring new challenges – increased competition, changed funding models, increased demand, increased client choices and need for greater flexibility. There are opportunities for new models of care, increased partnerships, new relationships, and innovation.

Feedback from clients and prospective clients across the sector is that people want to have the choice to stay living at home in the community for as long as possible.

Achievements in 2015/16

In the 2015/16 financial year Home Care Packages Program (HCP) provided services to 42 clients across the Eastern and Southern region of Melbourne. We provided approximately 6,300 hours of service to clients living in the areas of: Armadale, Ashburton, Beaumaris, Bentleigh, Berwick, Doveton, Dandenong, Doncaster, East Malvern, Elwood, Endeavour Hills, Ferntree Gully, Glen Waverley, Hampton Park, Hughesdale, Lysterfield, Silvan, Moorabbin, Mount Waverley, Murrumbeena, Noble Park, Prahran, Springvale, and Windsor local government areas.

We continued to focus on empowering lifestyle choices; being person centred and consumer focused; encouraging independence; promoting wellness and healthy ageing; preserving dignity; working in partnership with our clients to achieve outcomes that meet their goals and aspirations. We continue to provide personalised services. We have continued to maximise our funding to ensure the most effective level of care and support is delivered to our clients and maintain high occupancy rates on HCP program.

We have made system improvements which more efficiently and effectively focus our staff and other resources towards high quality service delivery.

We have once again provided significant training and development opportunities to our staff at all levels. The training and development of our staff is essential in ensuring that clients receive the kind of service they expect are happy to receive and that skills keep pace with expectations and needs. We completed the first round of competency assessment and skills observation processes for direct care staff.

We work with each other and clients as a team to fulfil the organisation's mission and vision. Each part of that team is critical to its success. Thank you for the skills, ideas and diversity that you have contributed.



Some of the positive feedback received about what we do well includes:

- *The service is very good. I could not fault the respect & courtesy I received from field workers.*
- *You people are angels without wings, you're all great.*
- *Everything that we needed was done very well. I can't speak highly enough of you & your support.*
- *Very approachable, helpful, understanding & caring. It made me grateful to know that mum was being looked after by such amazing people.*
- *I have to say your carers were a joy & mum eagerly anticipated her Mondays. My bonus was the carers would clean up the messes I didn't have time to do. It was like having a good fairy once a week.*
- *We are very happy with all your services & organisation. Congratulations for an excellent organisation.*
- *The level of friendliness & professionalism was excellent & made my recovery easier & more pleasant. Thank you.*
- *The whole organisation is very good & your workers are pleasant & professional & a pleasure to have in our home. The assistance & help was valuable to us.*
- *Caring for those that really need the help; is an excellent service & it's great to know that there are still people who care. Thank you.*
- *Very polite & helpful. Would recommend your services always.*
- *It was a pleasure to have your community care staff in my home.*
- *You show how much you care for people & you have respect for all your clients.*
- *The best help ever. I have never had help before & I cannot speak more highly of your help. Thank you.*
- *Your service was great just keep up the great work you do.*
- *Staff very well trained and aware of client's needs, clean, respectful. An excellent service to people who are sick & disabled.*

Our Appreciation

I wish to acknowledge the following people who make Home Care Packages Program (HCP) the success that it is.

- Our Clients – for choosing us as your service provider and for trusting us with your care and support. Community care can only be achieved in partnership and with trust and we will continue to seek your feedback and participation in providing quality services to meet your needs.
- Our Staff – the Board acknowledges and thanks you for the commitment you make to our clients, putting their care foremost. Community care can be challenging due to the range of complex environments and client needs. Your commitment in bringing issues to the attention of management, to team work, and your professionalism, is applauded. It allows us to ensure a well planned and coordinated range of options for our clients.



Thank you to our Board of Management who offer their time, diverse skills and experience to support and aid in directing the organisation in a strategic direction.

A big thank you to our Manager Bozena Iwanowski for bring strength and leadership to PCCV Team. Your empathy, commitment and loyalty is outstanding. Thank you all for your wonderful efforts.

Also thank you to the Office Team Joanna, Malgorzata, Mariola, Ewa and Marzena for their hard work and leadership. I appreciate all your efforts and thank you sincerely.

Personal Care Workers (PCWs) are the faces of our organisation. Our PCWs interact with clients on a daily basis and help them preserve their dignity and sense of independence. You have the most important role of all and fulfil it supremely. All the PCWs have done a fantastic job, always going above and beyond. What a fantastic job you all do!

Monika Krajewski

**Senior Case Manager
Home Care Packages Program**



PLANNED ACTIVITY GROUPS



I am very proud to be managing The Planned Activity Groups in Polish Community Care Services.

The Planned Activity Groups program has been running for 23 years and we are very popular in the Polish community. Our PAGs provide the opportunity for Polish people who are socially isolated due to disability or age related issues to come together in a supportive environment and participate in fun activities which are designed to support their ability to remain living at home in their communities.



PAGs provide physical, emotional, social and intellectual stimulation, encourage independence and promote the well-being of our Polish clients.

PCCV currently runs five Planned Activity Groups:

1. PAG Rowville (every Tuesday)
2. PAG Brunswick East (every Wednesday)
3. PAG Oakleigh (every Thursday)
4. Sport PAG Rowville (every second Wednesday)
5. Relax PAG Rowville (every second Thursday)

This year, over 80 clients took part in the PAG program. We have a long priority needs register of clients waiting for available places in every PAG.

Our PAG programs encourage participation in activities that cater for individual interests and abilities within a person centred care model. The activities are aimed at encouraging independence and are underpinned by the principles of active living and positive ageing.

Regular activities include:

- facilitated discussion on a matter of current news ;
- light exercise , the emphasis of the activity is an encouraging movement, flexibility and balance within the client's capacity;
- playing board games, dominion and bingo,
- singing and craft,
- education and information sessions,
- watching Polish movies and documentaries,
- activities that acknowledge polish-specific customs, traditions and religious celebrations;
- transport and meals are provided.



The Planned Activity Groups is run by 8 staff members and 3 volunteers.



The staff and volunteers under my management ensure the highest possible standard of service delivery.

I would like to thank our Committee of Management, my Manager Bozena Iwanowski and all staff and volunteers for making PCCV a great organisation to work.

I am looking forward to the future opportunities and challenges next year.

Malgorzata Zuchowska

PAG Coordinator

PLANNED ACTIVITY GROUPS



During our program we celebrate Australia Day, Valentine's Day, Fast Thursday, Easter, 3 of May Constitution Day and Polish Flag Day, Mother's Day, Christmas in July, Uprising Warsaw, Seniors Day at Geelong, Picnic in Akoonah Park in Berwick, Independence Day, Melbourne Cup, "Andrzejki", Christmas.



SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM



In the **2015/2016** financial year, the Social Support Program continues to provide services that help frail older people and younger persons with disabilities for them to improve their quality of life and empower them to lead an independent life and remain at home as long as possible.

The program promotes self-esteem among clients by enabling them to use their skills and lifetime experience.

Social Support Program provides a range of services:

Friendly Visiting Program – Polish-speaking trained volunteers visit elderly people and younger people with disability at their home. The program operates in the Eastern, Southern and Northern regions of Melbourne.

Telelink – is a form of teleconferencing where up to ten people chat together as a group. Telelink provides valuable social support, interaction and “phone friendship” for isolated older people. They are linked every Tuesday for one hour.

Carers Group – provides education and development as well as emotional support and counselling for carers of a Polish background.

Social Support Program provides information, assistance and advocacy for the Polish elderly, their carers and younger people with disabilities, for them to better access services relevant to their needs. It also helps community development and provides assistance to 24 Polish Seniors Clubs. Presidents of Polish Seniors Clubs attend meetings every two months.

The meetings are also organized for volunteers and carers every two months. They have opportunities to undertake training, and exchange information and experiences. They also spend social time together.



During the 2015/2016 financial year we looked after 49 clients. Assistance was provided according to their cultural and linguistic needs and it was based on a person centred care approach that underlines the Polish Community Care Services quality of service. With the support of 50 dedicated volunteers, the Polish Community Care Services is able to have a positive impact on clients' lives. Volunteers assist the lonely and isolated elderly and younger people with disabilities by visiting them regularly at home. Their commitments and dedication has made a significant difference in the clients' lives.



Social Support Program's Annual Events:

- **XXVI Seniors Day in Geelong**
- **XVII Seniors Poetry Competition**
- **Christmas Party in Rowville**
- **International Volunteer Day**
– excursion to Sorrento
- **Polish Seniors Picnic at Akoonah Park, Berwick**
- **National Volunteers Week**
– special lunch in Lynbrook Hotel



I would like to thank the volunteers for their dedication and commitment. Without the volunteers' involvement, the Social Support Program would not be successful.

I would like to thank our Committee of Management, my Manager Bozena Iwanowski, and all staff of the PCCV for their cooperation and support; and I look forward to working with them again next year.

Ewa Kizewski
Social Support Program Coordinator



As a volunteer of the PCCV Inc. care service bureau, I have been visiting Esthia Health Ardeer residents with Polish background.

Loneliness, trust issues, sadness and deep missing of family and mother language where the main characteristics displayed by the care recipients during my first few visits. With time the residents would open and they could talk about their past experiences. Some of them could even share their memories during the second visit.

The most pleasant conversations were on the topic of Poland and how beautiful Poland is. Watching albums and reading polish books brought back many cheerful memories which was represented by following questions: „Do poppy flowers still grow in fields?”; „Do bears and goats still live in mountains?”.

The care recipients’ interest of what was currently happening in Poland was a great conversation topic which gave me motivation to do some research and gather more quality information.

Seeing the residents’ tears of happiness and knowing those visits were so valuable for them was a great reward for the volunteer who could felt satisfied.

CVS Volunteer

COMMUNITY VISITORS PROGRAM

Volunteers are the fundamental aspect of the Community Visitors Program.

Volunteers of our community generously give up their time, skills and energy to support our clients (who are residents of Polish background) at home and in aged care residential homes.

The biggest benefit of the Community Visitors Scheme Program is reduced loneliness and isolation of Polish speaking residents in various aged care facilities as well as clients receiving HCP (Home Care Packages).

2015/2016 was a big challenge for our organisation. From July 2015, the Community Visitors Program has been broadened to include the CVS Group Visit Program (this entailed the expansion of our clients and volunteer’s database and network). This year, we have focused on the South-East region.

Having said that, the PCCV is in the process of building a base for volunteers in the North-West Region. We have contacted different aged care facilities, receiving referrals. Currently, our volunteers visit residents in Victoria. Stemming from this research, we have found that there are many individual clients of Polish background.

All of our staff and volunteers speak Polish and English; therefore, we can cater to recipient's linguistic requirements, especially clients with dementia. We also have far-reaching knowledge of the Polish culture and can cater to cultural requirements.

New residents in aged care facilities assimilate faster if they have the opportunity to participate in Residential Group Visits of the same linguistic and cultural background. Volunteers regularly visit residents in order to develop a good relationship based on mutual trust and friendship.

Typically, one of the biggest problems of Polish speaking clients in aged care facilities stems from the language barriers (loss of English skills/very limited English). Conversations with Polish speaking volunteers are very beneficial; often the only opportunity for sharing their memories with someone who they can relate.

Clients and volunteers were invited to attend all cultural and spiritual celebrations organised by the Polish Council of Victoria. They were also informed by quarterly bulletins about important events in the Polish Community.

Events organised by the PCCV for the CVS volunteers and clients include:

- Seniors Day on October 14th 2015 and Seniors Picnic on March 16th, 2016.
- International Volunteers Day by attending the Scenic Sorrento Cruise in December 2015.
- National Volunteers Week. They had Lunch in Lynbrook Hotel - 12th April 2016.
- The CVS program organised a Traditional Polish Christmas Lunch.
- Easter traditions were also upheld. Easter eggs were painted for the residents of the aged care facilities. The residents received Polish calendars and Polish chocolates.
- A Concert of Polish traditional songs was organised by volunteers and their families at the Ardeer Aged Care facility.

We have **dedicated volunteers** who provide the best service and uplift in the quality of life of our clients. Correspondingly, I would like to express thanks to the volunteers for their devotion and commitment.

Without their contribution, the CVS program would not be successful. Lastly, I want to thank the Committee of Management, my Manager, and the staff of the PCCV for their assistance and dedication.

Joanna Golebiowska

Community Visitors Scheme Coordinator



CULTURAL CONVENORS REPORT 2015 - 2016

Victoria's Polish Community is the largest in Australia and has made significant contribution to our Australian Multicultural Community as well as preserving and promoting our rich Polish Heritage and Culture.

The highlight of our cultural events for 2015 has to be the 13th National PolArt Polish Arts Festival which is held every three years amongst each of our capital cities. This year it was held in Melbourne. I was privileged to have performed at the very first PolArt Festival held in Sydney at the newly built prestigious Sydney Opera House in 1975 – performing with the very well known and popular singer Danuta Wolczko-Smolucha as well the Polish Song and Dance Group 'Polonez' where I was musical director for quite a few years.

The PolArt Festival was preceded by the Polish Festival at Federation Square. It was a marathon festival where all our cultural groups and societies from Victoria, Interstate as well as visiting artists from overseas participated. It was 'Absolutely Fabulous'

The Polish Choir 'Chor Syrena' under its conductor Irena Janus-Olchowik performed at both events as well as at the special Polish Carols Spectacular together with a High Mass at St. Patricks Cathedral on New Year's Day. The beautiful and imposing cathedral was absolutely packed, the singing by the choir and soloists was angelic and the congregation just sang their hearts out!

The organist was Irena Janus-Olchowik who has been the organist serving the Polish community since 1980 and is the principal organist at St. Ignatius Church in Richmond.

Our PCCV affiliated organizations of 'The Katyn Victims' Families Association Melbourne,' 'Polish 1st. Armoured Division Association in Australia,' 'Polish Branch Air Force Association Victoria Division,' 'Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association Sub-Branch No.3,' 'Polish Home Army Ex-Servicemen & Women Association,' 'Polish Rats Of Tobruk Carpathian Club Melbourne,' and 'The Sybiraks' Association In Victoria.' are the organizations involved in the continuing commemoration and celebration of our war heroes and of Poland's fight for freedom and from oppression throughout the ages. Their ranks are



diminishing but their tradition lives on. They are ever present at the annual solemn commemorative Mass and laying of The Wreath Ceremony by the Katyn Memorial and Sybiracy Plaque on August 15 known as 'Dzien Zolnierza' and November 11 - not only Poland's Independence Day but Remembrance Day as well. These services take place at the Polish Marian Shrine in Essendon 'Sanktuarium Maryjnym' in the presence of invited dignitaries, members of parliament, families and friends. These organizations also participate in varying degrees at the official Anzac Day Services and The Battle of Britain Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. Their tradition is honoured, upheld and continued through The Polish Scouting Association in Victoria 'Hufiec Podhale.

The Polish Choir 'Chor Syrena' performed at both of the above events with the performance and singing of stirring patriotic songs and solemn hymns. The choir is conducted by Irena Janus-Olchowik. The choir also sang at The Shrine of Divine Mercy in Keysborough at the commemorative Mass and Ceremony.

The Polish tradition of Christmas and Easter was again honoured with the special Christmas Carols Concert and Mass at St. Ignatius' Church, Richmond and the singing of the Passion at the Good Friday Service at the Marian Shrine in Essendon followed by the singing at the 'Resurrection Mass' on Easter Sunday at St. Ignatius Church.

I also organized together with the Polish Parish Committee of St. Ignatius and Klub 'Stigs' the Annual Christmas Concert at St. Ignatius' Richmond which brings the community together in joyous and festive Christmas celebrations both for young and all.

The Polish Scouting Association in Victoria 'Hufiec Podhale' assists in promoting our national cultural events by forming a Guard of Honour at Polish National Commemorative Ceremonies and participating in events and concerts by performing patriotic and scouting songs. I assist them musically and artistically in this. Hufiec Podhale ZHP is an integral part of our Polish Community and Culture working throughout the year with enthusiastic young people instilling in them service to the community and living life under the motto 'Bog, Honor i Ojczyzna'.



The 'Trzeci Maj' or 3rd of May Celebration is an annual event in our Polish Calendar celebrating Poland's Constitution dating back to 1791 and is celebrated at The Polish Marian Shrine with a High Mass followed by a Concert. The concert features performances by Primary School Students attending the Polish Saturday Language Classes run by the PCCV, as well as by the Polish Song and Dance Ensemble 'Polonez'.

This year representing the Frederic Chopin Society of Victoria, the 3rd of May concert was opened with a stirring rendition of Ignacy Paderewski's 'Menuet Celebre' by a very talented and enthusiastic young performer Victoria Chapman together with Vinh & Trinh Ngyuen presenting a selection of popular Polish Folk Melodies playing both Solo and Duet.

The 10th Annual Polish Festival at Federation Square in November saw both Chor Syrena and pianists representing The Frederic Chopin Society of Victoria perform at the stunning Deakin Edge Theatre presenting a varied and exciting musical feast! The Frederic Chopin Society of Victoria with its president Irena Janus-Olchowik

promotes the music of Chopin as well as other composers and encourages young musicians to develop their music skills and present them with performance opportunities.



Our Polish Centres Klub Syrena Rowville and the Polish Centre in Ardeer and Polish Centre in Albion promote our Polish Culture and Traditions by presenting performances and concerts throughout the year by our outstanding local artists as well as international musicians and groups. These include pianists Alan Kogosowski, Konrad Olszewski, Konrad Dorecki, Sarah Wierzbicka, the Syrek Family Musicians, popular vocalist Jolanta Mielczarek, guitarist Pawel Czubyj to name but a few.



I wish to acknowledge and express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Executive Committee of The Polish Community of Victoria, to the Executive Board of The Frederic Chopin Society of Victoria and to all our member organizations for their ever forthcoming invaluable advice and assistance in the organization and presentation of these and other events that promote and celebrate our Polish Traditions and Culture within our Polish and Australian Community. I would especially like to acknowledge the handful of persons within our organizations and community who are always there, willing to contribute in any way they can, whenever called upon to assist, and assist where they see assistance is needed. Some of these persons have worked tirelessly in this role for over sixty years and continue to do so. These are the people that make our Polish Australian Community what it is. Words cannot express my gratitude to them.

Irena Janus-Olchowik

**Cultural Events Convenor
Polish Community Council of Victoria**

POLISH SCHOOLS



In 2015 we celebrated year of John Paul II and we organised art and writing recitation competition "Saint John Paul the II".

Additionally, an exhibition of school children's art works with all 18 students taking up prizes was a great success.

Many other wonderful events took place during the year for example: In the month of September Essendon was the host of the finals in "What you know about Poland". M.Konopnicka's School of Essendon was the overall winner of this competition, however in the younger section the group from J.Pilsudski School from Rowville took

up the prize. All schools took up prizes as all were great. School from Essendon took up a Challenge Cup 2015 prize.



Additionally, eight of our teaching staff participated in the conference of Australian Ethnic Schools where they could exchange ideas and learn valuable skills.



In October we organised Workshop and Teachers Conference in Balnarring.

In November, all Polish schools participated in School Concert at Polish Festival at Federation Square.

In the year 2016, 167 students were enrolled in Polish language classes, as well as we organized a couple of classes for mature age students.

Overall student numbers were less than year ago and as a result of closing after two years – School for Today which operates on Friday and classes are conducted in the evening.

In March 2016, the Polish Language Matriculation ceremony took place whereby all completing students received their Diplomas from Consul General RP Mrs Regina Jurkowska. The ceremony took place at Polish House "Syrena" in Rowville.



Students from three of ours schools prepared the 3rd of May Academy which took place in Essendon. The Academy was a great success and concluded with a dance performance from the Polish Dance Group, Polonez Mały i Średni, Polish Scouts and performance students of F. Chopin Society.





We also organise 3 days conference in October for teachers and leaders of Polish Community in Balnarring. We had lectures of management, social media and finance. Conference was successful thanks to ODN Wspólnota Polska.

This year we also purchased many interesting and useful teaching materials, and books. This will certainly enhance our teaching and learning.



All of the above mentioned events could only take place with the

generous contribution of staff and many organisations. We are very grateful to „Endowment Fund of Poles in Australia”, Consulate RP, ODN “Wspólnota Polska”, and Victorian Multicultural Commission.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney for their financial help without which many projects would have been not possible.



I thank everyone for their generous help in the realisation of many projects and ideas, representatives of the PCCV Executive Committee for their assistance and guidance. Last but not least, warmest thanks to all teachers, PCCV employees and school committee volunteers for all their help, hard work and your much appreciated dedication and commitment. Thank you.

Bozena Iwanowska

Polish Debutante Ball - 2016



The 43rd Polish Debutante Ball was held on Saturday 28th May 2016 at the Malvern Town Hall.

The 2016 Ball was organised in conjunction with Friends of Polonez, the Polish Community Council of Victoria and Polonez Song and Dance Ensemble.

The 6 debutantes were presented on the night to Mrs Regina Jurkowska, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney and The Hon Nicholas Wakeling MP, Shadow Minister for Education.

The 250 guests and dignitaries were entertained by the debutantes performing the Polonez and waltz, as well as a performance by Polonez Song and Dance Ensemble. The evening was enjoyed by all.

The 44th Debutante Ball will be on Saturday 26th May 2018

Elizabeth Dziedzic

President of Friends of Polonez

TREASURER'S REPORT

I wish to present the Annual financial report for the year 2015/2016. PCCV is a not for profit organisation funded from Membership fees, grants and subsidies from Government Departments, donations and fundraising activities. The most significant grants for PCCV's Polish Care Services Bureau are funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and State Department of Health and Human Services also by Local Government – Knox City Council, Greater Dandenong City Council and Melbourne City Council.

I can also report that substantial financial support is given by the Victorian Multicultural Commission such as the Organisational Grant, Educational Grant, Festival and Events Grants and Department of Education and Early Childhood funding for Polish ethnic schools. At this point I want to thank the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland for their most generous contribution towards Polish Seniors' Day, Sport Festival and Polish School Committee events. Also thanks to Wspólnota Polska, Polish Fund in Australia, ODN Wspólnota

Polska for sponsoring events Teacher's Conferences .

I want to thank all our staff at the office for their service.

In conclusion thanks to my colleagues at the Executive Committee for their support in all tasks connected with our services and events.

Audited financial statements for year ended 30th June 2016 is printed separately and copies have been distributed to funding bodies and members.

Jerzy Wojtkowski

Honorary Treasure

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
POLISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC**

We have audited the attached financial report, being a special purpose financial report of POLISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC which comprises the Consolidated Revenue Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2016. The Association's Committee is responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The association's committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the financial statements are appropriate to meet the needs of the members and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from misstatement.

We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the association. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

Our procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements are properly drawn up:

- (a) So as to give a true and fair view of:
 - (i) the state of affairs as at 30th June 2016 and the profit and cash flows for the year ended 30th June 2016 and
 - (ii) in accordance with the provisions of Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012.
- (b) In accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



BRUCE T. HYDON
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor (7998)
28th September 2016

PCCV AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB POLONIA INC.

AUSTRALIAN-POLISH BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

Polish Retirement Home
5 Percival Street
Bayswater 3153

EASTERN DISTRICTS POLISH ASSOCIATION (MELBOURNE)

Polish House "Syrena"
1325 Stud Road
Rowville Vic 3178

FREDERIC CHOPIN SOCIETY IN VICTORIA

FRIENDS OF "POLONEZ"

KATYN VICTIMS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION MELB.

KOSCIUSZKO SOCIETY INC (inc Strzelecki Holding - Polish Weekly)

Polish House "Millenium"
296 Nicholson Street
Footscray Vic 3011

"LECHIA" VOLLEY BALL SPORTS CLUB

"LOWICZ" POLISH DANCE ENSEMBLE MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE POLISH CHOIR "SYRENA"

"PODHALE" POLISH GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

"PODHALE" POLISH SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

"POLONEZ" SONG AND DANCE

ENSEMBLE OF MELBOURNE

POLISH 1ST ARMoured DIVISION ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA

POLISH ART FOUNDATION

POLISH ASSOCIATION IN ALBURY/WOODONGA

POLISH ASSOCIATION IN MELBOURNE & YOUTH CENTRE "POLANA" CAMP INC

P.O. Box 8012
Ferntree Gully, VIC 3156
Australia

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF BALLARAT

26 - 28 Orion Street
Sebastopol Vic 33356

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF ESSENDON & DISTRICT

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF KINGSVILLE AND LADIES' AXILIARY INC

Polish House "Millenium"
296 Nicholson Street
Footscray Vic 3011

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EASTERN VICTORIA

POLISH BRANCH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA DIVISION

POLISH CHARITY ASSOCIATION OF SUNSHINE

Polish House "John Paul II"
6 Helene Street
Ardeer Vic 3022

POLISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN GEELONG

"White Eagle" Polish House

46 - 48 Fellmongers Street
Breakwater Vic 3219

**POLISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
IN ST ALBANS**

**POLISH CULTURAL & SOCIAL CLUB
"POD PALMA" ESSENDON**

**POLISH EASTERN TERRITORY
ASSOCIATION IN MELBOURNE**

**POLISH EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
IN VICTORIA INC**

**POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION SUB-BRANCH NO 3**

**POLISH HOME ARMY
EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN
ASSOCIATION**

**POLISH LADIES' ASSOCIATION IN
MELBOURNE**

**POLISH LADIES' ASSOCIATION IN
MELBOURNE**

**POLISH RATS OF TOBRUK
CARPATHIAN CLUB MELBOURNE**

**POLISH SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES
AXILIARY**

**POLISH SECTION RADIO 3ZZZ
[E.P.B.A. of Victoria Ltd.]
PO Box 1106
Collingwood Vic 3066**

**POLISH SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB
IN GEELONG**

**POLISH SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB
IN ROWVILLE**

**POLISH SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB
IN DONCASTER**

**POLISH FESTIVAL@FEDERATION
SQUARE**

**STRZELECKI HERITAGE INC
POLISH LADIES ASSOCIATION IN
MELBOURNE**

**POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB
MELBOURNE**

**POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB
MOUNT WAVERLEY**

Mt. Waverley Community Centre
47 Miller Avenue
Mt. Waverley Vic 3149

**POLISH SPORTING, RECREATION &
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC**

19 Carrington Drive
Albion Vic 3020

**POLISH TECHNICAL AND
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION INC**

**POLISH SYBIRAKS' ASSOCIATION IN
VICTORIA**

"RODZINA" CLUB INC

**ST. IGNATIUS POLISH PARISH
COMMITTEE OF RICHMOND**

Sodality House
23 Clifton Street
Richmond Vic 3121

**SOCIETY OF POLISH CULTURE IN
VICTORIA**

**"WESTERN EAGLES" ("POLONIA")
SOCCER CLUB**

"WISLA" SOCCER CLUB





Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc.

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