



ANNUAL REPORT

POLISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA INC

2016-2017



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of Victoria Inc.**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
SERVING THE POLISH COMMUNITY.....	3
MISSION STATEMENT	4
PURPOSES.....	4
OBJECTIVES	4
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016– 2017.....	5
PRESIDENT’S REPORT.....	6
POLISH CARE SERVICES BUREAU	9
HOME CARE PACKAGES (HCP)	13
SOCIALSUPPORT GROUPS.....	15
SERVICE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	18
COMMUNITY VISITORS PROGRAM.....	20
CULTURAL CONVENORS REPORT 2016 - 2017.....	23
POLISH SCHOOLS.....	26
3 MAY POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY - 2017.....	29
TREASURER’S REPORT	32
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT	33
PCCV AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS	34

FOREWORD

The 2016 - 2017 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:

- Picnic for Polish Seniors in Berwick
- PCCV Gala Ball
- Polish Sports Festival
- 27th Polish Seniors' Day in Rowville
- November's Concert Dinner
- 3rd of May Constitution Day and Kosciuszko Year Celebration

Workers at the Polish Community Council of Victoria are bilingual and are aware of the customs, culture and religious needs that are important to, 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 groups of Polish migrants. The Council represents the concerns, needs, aspirations, achievements and interests 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 can 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
- To assist other public benevolent institutions in their endeavours, on behalf of the Polish community
- To represent the needs, aspirations and achievements of the Polish-Australian community
- To promote and address the issues faced by 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 policies, programs and services which affect the Polish-Australian community.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016– 2017



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
till 30.11.2016



Mrs Edyta Szmyd
Deputy President
from 30.11.2016



Mr Jerzy Wojtkowski
Vice President
Honorary Treasurer



Mr Matthew Kuszner
Youth Liaison Officer
from 02.2017
Deputy Treasurer
from 30.11.2016



Rev Artur Botur TC
Pastoral Representative



Mrs Eva Hussain
Media/ Member



Mrs Irena Janus-Olchowik
Cultural Events
Convener



Mrs Stanisława Bialy
Social Events
Coordinator
Seniors Clubs
Coordinator



Ms Elzbieta Dziedzic
Member from 30.11.2016



Mr Rafal Kaplon
Youth Liaison Officer
till 02.2017



Mr Roman Sawko
Polish School Executive
Officer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my great pleasure to present the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

The past year was certainly a very challenging one, but at the same time very successful.

We worked hard on the reconstruction of our Social Welfare Bureau to ensure that the needs of all our clients are met. The Polish community in Melbourne is getting older and our duty as a leading organisation is to provide them with the best possible assistance that is available on the market.

This year the Polish Seniors' Day was celebrated in Rowville. Several hundred seniors, from different Polish Seniors' Clubs in Melbourne and Geelong, took part in the celebration. They enjoyed the artistic performances of fellow seniors, Polish cuisine and a poetry competition.



The Annual Polish Sport Festival was held at the Polish Club Albionas usual. Like every year, this festival was a great success. The attendance of thousands of people, not only Polish, strongly proved that this event is cemented in the calendar of our Polish Community.

The Polish Language Schools Coordinator (PLSC) organised several conferences and symposiums for the teachers. We can proudly say that our Polish Saturday School accommodated the highest numbers of students across Australia. Our School Coordinators received help from PCCV to obtain suitable textbooks, plan the curriculum and make applications for government financial assistance. The Polish Consulate General in Sydney, kindly supported our school's activities and assisted us on many occasions.

Our Celebration of the Polish National Day, the 3rd of May 1791 Polish Constitution Day Dinner, was another community success, and the traditional commemorative concert was organised by our Polish Schools Coordinator at the Marian Shrine in Essendon.

We maintained a very good relationship with the broader community in Victoria, especially with the Australian Society of Polish Jews (ASPJ). The PCCV had regular contact with the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Federal and State Government Departments, State and Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament.



This year, after strong lobbying from the Executive Committee of the Polish Community Council of Victoria and ASPJ, Members of the Parliament of Victoria, formed the Parliamentarian Club Friends of Poland.

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

Introduced in 2015 the President's Ball is getting stronger every year. As part of the event, we assisted in presenting awards to the best Polish students for their achievements in the past year.

We worked cooperatively with our member Organisations. We were invited to their functions as official guests and they in turn assisted us in accomplishing many of our tasks.

To conclude, I wish to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee for their invaluable work, the Polish Community Care Services Bureau staff with the Bureau Manager at the helm for their commitment and professional approach, our member organisations and the community at large for their support, and I'd especially like to thank the group of volunteers who worked on various tasks, dedicating their own time and effort to help other people in need.

Mr Marian Pawlik OAM

President

PCCV



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, were constantly monitored and adapted to the requirements of various funding departments. Currently we are working hard and preparing for forthcoming changes in our industry particularly relating to the 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 to deliver great outcomes for our all our strategic objectives as per the 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 2016-2017.

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Department of Social Services
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
- Seniors Rights 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 Districts 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.

2016-2017 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 two years are 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 the Department of Social Services for the CVS program – community visitor scheme for volunteers visiting Polish clients in residential care.

We started few new projects, for example our Seniors IT Group.

We also continued working together with our partners Turning Point and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health under the Catching up program – supporting Dual Diagnosis Responses in AOD and CALD Sectors. We were able to deliver seven training sessions to different groups. Polish brochures have been created and distributed to Polish community members. We also have a new Elder Abuse educational project together with ECCV and Seniors Rights, with new Polish resources released.

We continue to receive positive feedback from our clients, funders and stakeholders, for our programs and services. These positive results inspire the Polish Community Care Services (PCCS) team to further explore our creativity, use our industry networks and continuously improve what we do.

Polish Community Care Services relies heavily 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 also help with fundraising and assist in all areas of office administration.

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

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

The 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)

The Home Care Packages program has undergone many changes over the last few



months of this financial year. Until 27 February 2017 we only carried Level 2 Home Care Packages in the South Eastern region. New regulations relating to the Home Care Packages (HCP) gave our organisation workability in the whole of Victoria. Now we provide services at various levels (1-4) to 39 clients all over the state. During the last 5 months this program has grown immensely, reflecting the desire of older Polish people to stay in their own homes for as long as

possible. Our clients are grateful to be able to receive the support they need in their mother language.

Every customer received our professional and individualised service. Unfortunately, clients still need to wait for funding to be assigned to a package. Our Case Managers

and Personal Care Workers (PCW) continuously upgrade their skills by attending meetings and trainings.

All our care workers are loyal and committed to providing the best possible service to our clients. They provide a range of home services such as:

- Personal care
- Respite
- Transport to and from appointments
- Domestic Help
- Meal preparation

Clients receive monthly financial statements. They also receive the Active Service Model which keeps them up to date with upcoming events, such as Seniors' Day and our Christmas Lunch, and also provides clients with useful information about daily diet and other health issues.

Our Brokerage program continued to provide services to mainstream organisations that provide culturally and linguistically responsive service to older people of Polish-speaking background. This financial year we provided services to 25 clients through our Brokerage program.

Mariola Brewinska

Case Manager



SOCIALSUPPORT GROUPS



Welcome to CHSP - Social Support Groups.

The Social Support Groups provide an 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.

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

We offer a range of group programs designed to give our clients a greater sense of wellbeing, and improve strength and health.

We currently run five Social Support Groups:

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

This year, over 105 clients took part in the SSG programs which ran over 16,425 hours. We provided our clients with transport to and from the SSGs venues by taxis and a company bus driven by our volunteers. Our SSGs are led by 10 staff and 6 volunteers. We also offer practical placements for several students engaged in Aged Care studies. All our workers take pride and care in delivering professional service to our clients.

Our SSG programs encourage participation in activities that cater to 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.

This year activities included:

'Around the world' getting to know other countries (France, Italy) including culture, tradition and cuisine, facilitated discussion on current events, light exercise with an emphasis on encouraging movement, flexibility and balance within the client's capacity, singing and craft, education and information sessions, watching Polish movies and documentaries, activities that acknowledge Polish-specific customs, traditions and religious celebrations, playing board games (domino, rummikub and bingo), cooked meals.

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

Social Support Groups also hosted presentations from external bodies, including: Centrelink, Alzheimer Australia – 'Worried about your memory', Elder Abuse – movie, "Behind my walls" and Ambulance Victoria.

On the 15th of February 2017 the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency performed an Audit of the Social Support Groups – SSGs. The aim of the visit was to investigate the quality of care and services we provide our clients in the Social Support Groups. The audit team examined our systems and procedures in our Social Support Groups in great detail. The quality control team also talked to our clients about our services and contacted our staff at Social Support Group in Brunswick by phone. After a long day of SSG being inspected, the audit team announced the results. It was a great and a very proud moment for all of us to hear a top rating of '18 for 18 points'. I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation for the excellent result we achieved in this Audit. Congratulations for the continued commitment to clients and employees that has contributed to maintaining the high quality of service that the PCCV is known for. Our achievements are a source of pride and inspiration to all of us.

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

I look forward to the future opportunities and challenges next year.

Małgorzata Żuchowska

SSG Coordinator



SERVICE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT



In the **2016/2017** financial year, the Service System Development Program continued to provide services that help frail older people and younger persons with disabilities 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 life experience.

Service System Development Program provides a range of services:

Friendly Visiting Program – Trained Polish-speaking volunteers visit elderly people and younger people with disabilities at their homes. 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 Polish background.

Service System Development Program provides information, assistance and advocacy for the Polish elderly, younger people with disabilities, and their carers, allowing them to better access services relevant to their needs. It also helps community

development and provides assistance to 22 Polish Seniors' Clubs. Presidents of Polish Seniors' Clubs attend meetings every two months.

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



During the 2016/2017 financial year we looked after 40 clients. Assistance was provided according to their cultural and linguistic needs, and it was based on a person centred care approach that underlines the Commonwealth Home Support Program. With the support of 58 dedicated volunteers, the Commonwealth Home Support Program 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.

Service System Development Program's Annual Events:

- XXVII Seniors' Day in Rowville
- XVIII Seniors' Poetry Competition
- Christmas Party in Rowville
- International Volunteer Day
 - special meeting in Rowville Polish House "Syrena" – dinner and cabaret
- Polish Seniors Picnic at Akoonah Park, Berwick
- National Volunteers Week – special lunch in Highways Hotel

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

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

Ewa Kizewski

Service System Development Program Coordinator

COMMUNITY VISITORS PROGRAM



The annual report covers the time period from 1st July 2016 to 31st June 2017. During this period, Joanna Golebiowska held the CVS coordinator position.

From the 23 January 2017, Sister Elzbieta Cieslarczyk took on the role of coordinator.

The CVS program is based on volunteers, who generously care for and nurture residents of nursing homes, along with residents living in their private homes, who are HCP clients. Their care consists of regular visits, keeping company and spending pleasant times together playing memory games and reminiscing about the past. This is particularly important for residents, who despite having health limitations can benefit from maintaining contact with the Polish community. It is important for carers to know the needs of elderly people so the PCCV organises and provides training for them. The program is managed by a coordinator who has ongoing and constant contact with nursing homes – coordinators of Lifestyle Coordinators, residents and volunteers. The program does not cost anything extra for residents and volunteers receive only a nominal payment to cover their travel costs.

The CVS program covers the following Melbourne regions: South, North, East, West and regions of Geelong. CVS Network meetings are very helpful. There are opportunities to share our experiences and receive relevant information that helps us to improving the running of the Program CVS.

Activities for the clients (one-on-one) and volunteers:

- XXVI Seniors' Day in October 2016 (The annual Congress of Polish Seniors. About 400 seniors and guests from across Victoria attended – artistic program from Polish Clubs, lunch, raffle and information about programs in PCCV including CVS;
- Christmas Party for residents of Aged Care Home and for volunteers. It was a very successful party;
- Polish Seniors' Picnic at Berwick on 22.03.2017. Lots of our volunteers attended, and agreed that it was a good idea to have a get together like this. Artistic performances by volunteers, exercise (Tai Chi, dance), art – painting of eggs (polish traditions);
- Information sessions for CVS volunteers:
 1. 'Benefits for seniors', 'Work bonus'– from Human Services
 2. Financial information for seniors and carers
- National Volunteers Week 2017: Special lunch, Certificates of Appreciation, artistic program, and singing together with Karaoke. Photos and reports from these events were published in the Polish newspaper. Social media is the best form of advertising for volunteers in our community. The survey 'My personal experience in a role as a volunteer' was conducted and discussed.



Activities for clients in Nursing Homes

Volunteers and residents from four Nursing Homes (Ardeer, Glenroy, Hallam, Bayswater) participated in the Polish National Day and Mather's Day. The CVS coordinator organized four concerts in four Nursing Homes (1 May, 5 May, 22 May and 26 May). These places have the highest numbers of Polish residents.

Below is some feedback from Fiona Perera, Lifestyle Coordinator at Hallam Residential Care, as well as some photos from various Nursing Homes.

Dear Elzbieta

Thank you for visiting us and organizing volunteers to visit our Polish residents when able. Our residents look forward to the visits and chats. It was an amazing Polish day activity

organized by you. The others volunteers who came in and sang some beautiful Polish songs meant so much to our Polish residents and the others who also joined in. It did bring back many memories of songs to some residents who did sing along. I want to say thank you to you for the prompt responses when I email and request on any subject with regards to the activities and volunteers. I do look forward to many more visits and activities when able.

Best Wishes – Fiona Perera

Reflections on visits to the nursing home

I have been visiting one lady in the nursing home for the last five months. She is experiencing mobility issues due to her advanced age. I believe I have developed warm relationship with her. I have noticed that she is feeling excluded from society and tends to experience some form of loneliness. She continuously repeats that none of the facility residents speaks with her on a day-to-day basis. I feel that when we meet she feels rejuvenated and regains her self-esteem.

I am sure that by talking to a person who speaks her native language she feels happy and secure. For me, fortnightly visits to Françoise give me a lot of personal satisfaction.

Marta Lenartowicz - volunteer

Most of the Polish residents in aged care homes have dementia, blindness or deafness. They need special attention, suitable engaging activities, and contact with people who speak the same language. Having contact other who speak the Polish language gives them security and increases their wellbeing.

The Coordinator has good and constant contact with volunteers (by phone, regular meetings etc.), all clients and the Lifestyle Coordinators in all the Nursing Homes. It is very important to have individual contact with clients for the purpose of identifying the individual needs of residents and then sending most suitable volunteer to help organize proper activities in the Polish language.

I would like to warmly thank all the volunteers of this program for their presence and for opening up to the needs of the elderly and those needing support in our community. For me, my work as coordinator was intense as we had many new volunteers join us. During this time I have gotten to know many volunteers and residents. I am pleased that we can offer support and spiritual support to many compatriots who may need a kind word, some time with another person and a friendly face.

Sr. Elzbieta Cieslarczyk

Community Visitors Scheme Coordinator

CULTURAL CONVENORS REPORT 2016 - 2017

Victoria's Polish community is the largest in Australia. It has made a significant contribution to the Australian multicultural community and to the preservation and promotion of our rich Polish heritage and culture.



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 years. Their ranks are diminishing but their tradition lives on. They are always 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 'DzienZolnierza,' as well as on November 11 - which is not only Poland's Independence Day but Remembrance Day as well. These services take place at the Polish Marian Shrine in Essendon (SanktuariumMaryjnym), in the presence of invited dignitaries, members of parliament, families and friends. These organizations also participate in varying degrees at 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 'ChorSyrena' performed at both of the above events performing stirring patriotic songs and solemn hymns. The choir is led by Irena Janus-Olchowik. 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 singing at the 'Resurrection Mass' on Easter Sunday at St. Ignatius Church.

I also organized the Annual Christmas Concert at St. Ignatius' Richmond alongside the Polish Parish Committee of St. Ignatius and Klub 'Stigs.' This event brings the community together in joyous and festive Christmas celebrations for young and old. The concert showcased artists such as ZosiaKaszubska, GosiaKaszubska, Andrzej Sowinski, The Rawdanowicz Musicians, ChorSyrena, Stanislaw Jablonski to name but a few.

The Polish Scouting Association in Victoria 'Hufiec Podhale' assisted 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 assisted them musically and artistically in this. Hufiec Podhale ZHP is an integral part of our Polish community, working throughout the year with enthusiastic young people and instilling in them the value of service to the community, and living life under the motto, 'Bog, HonoriOjczyzna'.



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

This year, the 3rd of May concert was opened with a stirring rendition of Chopin's Polonaise in A Major by a very talented and enthusiastic young performer Victoria Chapman who represented the Frederic Chopin Society of Victoria. Vinh & Trinh Ngyuen presented a brilliant selection of popular Polish folk melodies for four hands. The Chapman Family Wind Ensemble was a highlight of the day, with Victoria, Emily and Alexander, performing a very poignant rendition of 'GoraluCzy Ci NieZal'.

The 12th Annual Polish Festival at Federation Square in November saw both ChorSyrena 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, presenting them with performance opportunities.

Our Polish Centre 'KlubSyrena' Rowville and the Polish Centres in Ardeer and Albion promote our Polish culture and traditions by presenting performances and concerts throughout the year. The Polish Marian Shrine in Essendon is also home to many local, interstate and overseas performing groups and artists showcasing our Polish heritage and culture.

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, and to 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



'The valuing of community languages which, through their diversity and voice, continue to enrich the well-being of our society, encouraging acceptance, care, participation, sharing and understanding'.

National Community Languages Conference

Polish Schools Committee Report 2016-2017

Ethnic polish schools are non-profit organisations and are available to all. They are complimentary providers of polish language education.

They provide a minimum 3 to 4 hours of lessons each week to:

- teach polish language skills
- maintain the polish culture in Australian community
- promote cultural understanding and harmony.

Students are generally of school age, however, we also provide lessons for pre-schoolers and adults.

In 2017, 161 students were enrolled in Polish language classes and a couple of Polish classes for adults.

The Polish Schools Committee aims to:

- Promote Polish language education through a community languages program
- Represents Polish community language schools in Victoria
- Coordinates Polish community language schools in Victoria to ensure schools provide quality programs which are aligned with curriculum and standards framework
- Coordinates professional development for Polish language teachers and volunteers

In 2016 we celebrated the 65th anniversary of Polish language teaching in Victoria and 60 year anniversary of our three of our schools:

- T. Kościuszko School,
- M. Konopnicka School in Essendon
- J. Pilsudski in Rowville School.

Students of ethnic Polish schools participated in:

- March 2016, the Polish Language Matriculation ceremony took place where all graduating students received their Diplomas signed by the Consul General RP Mrs Regina Jurkowska
- May 2016 Students from three of our schools prepared the 3rd of May Celebration which took place in Essendon.
- November 2016 School Concert at the Polish Festival at Federation Square.

Professional development for Polish language teachers and volunteers organised by Polish Schools Committee included:

- 30 September 2017 to 2 October - Polish Educational Commission Conference for Polish teachers in Canberra about modern teaching methods. The teachers were invited to the Polish Embassy by Ambassador Pawel Milewski for the celebration of Teacher's Day
- Jan 2017 - training for Child Safe Standards Compliance
- July 2017 - Conference of Australian Ethnic Schools in Melbourne



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

All of the above-mentioned events could not take place without the generous contribution of staff and many organisations. We would like to thank:

- Consulate RP,
- Polish Education Society in Victoria,
- Polish Educational Commission in Australia,
- ORPEG – Polish Teachers Centre in Lublin,
- ODN "WspólnotaPolska",
- Victorian Multicultural Commission.



I thank everyone for their generous help in the realisation of many projects and ideas. I would also like to thank the 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 their much-appreciated dedication and commitment.

Bozena Iwanowska

Roman Sawko

3 MAY POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY - 2017

3 May 1791 Polish Constitution Day

Commemorative Committee Dinner

Wednesday 3 May 2017, 7.00 for 7.30 pm – 10.30 pm

Arts Centre Melbourne, The Pavilion, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

3 May 1791 Polish Constitution Day Commemorative Committee Melbourne.

The 15th gala dinner in Melbourne to commemorate the Polish Constitution of 3 May 1791 was held The Pavillion, Arts Centre Melbourne, on Wednesday 3 May 2017.

Over 150 Guests, were welcomed by Master of Ceremonies Mrs Monika Paszkiewicz. Many guest were attending this event for the first time.



Guests included The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC, and The Hon Nick Wakeling MP, Mr Krzysztof Lancucki AM, Dr George Luk-Kozika, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Victoria and Mrs Denise Luk.

In her introduction, Monika Paszkiewicz, read the list of apologies received, reminded us of the sad passing of Tomasz Spiewak, who annually provided background music and accompanied our singers, and congratulated one of our Patrons, Cezary Skubiszewski on receiving his third ACCTA Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts award for his music to the film "Monsieur Mayonnaise".

Dr Luk-Kozika OAM read a message of support from His Excellency Ambassador Pawel Milewski.

Mr Marian Pawlik, President of the Polish Community Council of Victoria, delivered the Loyal Toast, and Fr Wieslaw Slowik SJ OAM said 'grace'.

Guests enjoyed the entrée and main course before the official proceedings commenced.

Our guest of Honour and Speaker, was Dr John Besemeres from Canberra, accompanied by his wife, Professor Anna Wierzbicka. Mr Adam Paszkiewicz, introduced Dr John Besemeres.

Dr John Besemeres is currently a Research Fellow at the Australian National University Centre for European Studies. For more than 50 years he viewed Russia and Eastern Europe from different vantage points – academia, government service and living in or visiting the region. This vast background made him the ideal person to objectively provide some valuable insight into addressing the topic 'Poland in the New World Order'.

His background includes having taught politics at Monash University. He was the head of Polish and later Slavonic Studies at Macquarie University, spent 5 years working as a translator in Belgrade and Warsaw, served for some 30 years in several Australian government portfolios including PM&C, Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Foreign Affairs and Trade, and has published extensively on Russian and Eastern European affairs.

Dr Besemeres' address (some 6,500 words) is available to read on the ANU website and will be posted on the soon to be website for this event.

Excerpt:

The shaping of Poland's political culture that emerged from these tragic events has been strongly positive: patriotism, instinctive resistance to foreign impositions, idealism, with a readiness to sacrifice, reinforced by a strong and steadfast faith in the national Catholic Church, a strong awareness of and commitment to democratic values, and the rights of individuals, a readiness to show solidarity with others within and beyond Poland's borders in a joint struggle for self-determination ('for your freedom and ours'), a strong and unambiguous identification with the West, and a historic tradition of tolerance, exemplified in the acceptance in past centuries of Jewish and Muslim settlers.

But some less positive features deriving from historic experience have also sometimes been apparent in modern times: the perceived need for a Kosciuszko or a Pilsudski sometimes gives rise to a potentially unhealthy cult of the leader to which Pilsudski himself and his immediate successors were not immune; a tendency to see domestic rivals as in cahoots with foreign enemies like the Targowica group; or to see distinct ethnic groups within the nation or on its borders as deeply suspect; a proclivity accordingly to prefer conflict to compromise both domestically and externally; and a risk that patriotism can morph at times into self-admiring exceptionalism. These features are not of course unique to Poland.

Polish history is studded with heroic deeds and romantic heroes. Children often identify strongly with these figures, and politicians find such roles attractive. Poland's current circumstances don't seem obviously tragic or heroic to outside observers. But some Polish politicians continue to seek romantic hero or martyr status for themselves and their party.

Dr Besemeres concluded his address with quote from Mickiewicz's 'Pan Tadeusz'.

Dr George Luk-Kozika OAM, delivered the Vote of Thanks to our guest of honour.

The artistic program followed with guests artists, **3Laetare**. Founded in September 2016, the band performed at the Polish Marian Shrine, the Polish Festival in Melbourne and continues to perform around Australia. The members write original heartfelt songs about love, faith and God. *3 Laetare* is made up of Magdalena Krakowska, *Kat Laetare* and *Anna Massetti*.

The committee this year: Fr. Wieslaw Slowik, Dr Wlodzimierz Wnuk, Mr Anthony J McD Macken AM, and Ms Teresa Kaminska, the principal organiser since the inaugural dinner in 2002.

We thank our long term sponsors Mr and Mrs Zbigniew and Teresa Zerger, Dr and Mrs Janusz and Barbara Czepul and Mrs Maria Zycinska for their generosity and for continuing to sponsor this important event.

The Patrons of the event are:

Ms Margaret Adamson; Mrs Janina Czech (+); Sir James Gobbo QC AC CVO; Mr Michael Klim OAM;; Count Jerzy Krasicki v Śiecin; Countess Primrose Krasicka v Siecin , Dr Karl Kruszelnicki AM; Mr Christopher Łańcucki AM; Dr George Łuk-Kozika;; Mr Anthony J McD Macken; His Honour Judge Leonard S Ostrowski QC; Dr SevOzdowski OAM; Mr Lech Paszkowski (+); Lady Potter AC, The Hon Kevin Rudd MP; Mr Cezary Skubiszewski; Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki AO CBE and the Polish Community Council of Victoria

Teresa Kaminska

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that has been enriching and enhancing the well-being of the Polish-Australian community members within the multicultural context of the Victorian community. Apart from representing the Polish-Australian community of Victoria before all tiers of government, PCCV Inc. has been effectively providing community-based quality care and support services to elderly Polish – Australians as well as their carers.

This corporate association is funded by grants and subsidies from Government Departments, the sale of brokerage care services, membership fees, donations and fundraising activities.

The most significant grants for PCCV's Polish Care Services Bureau are funded by the Commonwealth and

State Departments of Health as well as Local Government Agencies such as Knox City Council, Greater Dandenong City Council and Melbourne City Council.

I can also report that substantial financial support was given by the Victorian Multicultural Commission in the form of the Organisational Grant, the Educational Grant and the Festival and Events Grants. Furthermore, the Department of Education and Early Childhood funded our community ethnic schools. The WspolnotaPolska, Polish Fund in Australia and ODN WspólnotaPolska provided significant financial support towards Teacher's Conferences. At this point, I would like to thank the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland for their most generous contribution towards the Sport Festival and Polish School Committee events.

In accordance with the auditor's report, the

financial figures for the reporting year 2016-2017 state the total income of \$1,426,894; the gross profit of 121,018 and the net profit of \$22,653. The total equity balance sheet figure is reported as \$259,927 and cash of \$351,998 available on hand.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to all colleagues from the Executive Committee and our staff for their support in the tasks associated with the services and events provided by PCCV Inc.

Audited financial statements for year ended 30th June 2017 are printed separately and copies will be distributed to funding bodies and members.

Jerzy Wojtkowski

Honorary Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

I 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 2017. The Association's Committee is responsible for the financial statements. I 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

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I 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.

I 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.

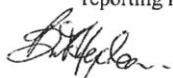
My procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report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

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my 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 2017 and the profit and cash flows for the year ended 30th June 2017 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)
1st November 2017

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.**

