

POLISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2018/2019**



ABOUT PCCV

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 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 could be summarised in terms of three key activities:

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

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 develop Polish-Australian cultural and economic cooperation

- To cooperate with and assist in the activities of member organisations
- To initiate and organise social, and charitable activities, and to provide 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 affecting the Polish-Australian community within the wider 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



Marian Pawlik OAM
President



Elżbieta Dziedzic
Deputy President



Dr Sylwia Greda-Bogusz OAM
Honorary Secretary/
Vice President/
Bureau Liaison Officer



Jerzy Wojtkowski
Honorary Treasurer/
Vice President



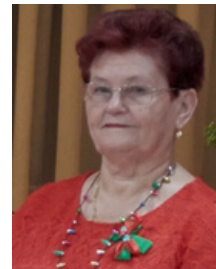
Matthew Kuszner
Youth Liaison Officer



Irena Olchowik-Janus
Cultural Events Convenor



Roman Sawko
Polish Language Schools
Coordinator



Stanisawa Biały
Social Events Coordinator/
Seniors Club Coordinator



Dr Marek Kijek
Member of Executive
Committee



Krystyna Gasz
Member of Executive
Committee



ks. Kamil Żylczyński SChr
Pastoral Coordinator

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my great pleasure to present the 2018–2019 annual report. The past financial year was very challenging and busy. We focused on the tasks and plans outlined for us by our member Organisations.

We continued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining independence once again. Our annual President's Ball was a big success, and convinced us, that this event is already permanently inscribed in the calendar of the Polish community of Melbourne.

The 50th Polish Sport Festival organized in the Polish Club 'Albion' was also a success. We had a lot of participants and spectators as well as distinguished guests from the Victorian Parliament, City of Brimbank and from interstate.

PCCV's accredited Polish Saturday Schools did very well, increasing the number of students and opening new Polish classes for adults. Some of these schools have been equipped with new desks and chairs. The School Coordinator at PCCV obtained suitable textbooks for the schools and applied for government financial assistance. I would like to thank the Polish Consulate General in Sydney, which has helped and supported our schools' activities and assisted us on many occasions. In the next financial year, we will host young students from Poland, through a student exchange program between schools.

PCCV actively participated and was a partner for the 3 May Gala Dinner and the Federation Square Festival.

This year, we had also, a historic visit of the President of the Republic of Poland in Australia. During this visit, the President honoured with high state medals few members from the Federal and State Parliaments as well as ours Polish social activists.

The First Lady visited the Polish School in Rowville and met with teachers and students of all the Polish Saturday schools.

Senior's Day took place in Albion and as usual, turned out to be a great success. On this day we had almost 300 seniors present from all over Melbourne.

We worked hard on developing good relations with the Polish Sejm; Senate; the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland; the Association 'Polish Community', the Institute of National Remembrance; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Polish diplomatic missions. I think we succeeded. Jointly completed projects testify to this. We also tried to continue to maintain very good relations with members of both chambers in the State and Federal Parliament and fraternal organizations from other multicultural communities.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our member organisations for their support, our group of volunteers, for their unprecedented attitude and the unwavering support and dedication to PCCV; and the management and staff of the Polish Community Care Services Bureau 'POLCARE', for their commitment and professional approach in matters of assistance to our seniors. I would especially like to thank my Board members for their ongoing dedication and efforts directed at our Polish society. I also wish to thank our diplomats and clergy for their constant support during the whole year.



MARIAN PAWLIK OAM

President

MANAGER'S REPORT

We are honored to present our AGM Report for 2018/2019. The past year has been another one filled with great opportunities for PCCV and we are pleased to report that our staff has embraced the challenge. We are able allowing to again significantly grow our services and revenue.

In 2018/2019, the aged care sector continued to change, enabling seniors in Australia to access more holistic and personalized services. The government is helping seniors stay in their own homes for longer and is increasing funding to support more customers. This increased funding enabled our organization to further develop and provide higher quality support and services tailored to the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients. Our organization also worked on increasing the employment and qualifications of staff by organizing specialized training in cooperation with the Brite Institute.

The last twelve months were very busy for all PCCV staff and volunteers. We are still working together with Polish Community Care Services over CHSP Programs. It has been a busy and exciting year for Polish Community Council of Victoria. We continued to deliver great outcomes for our all strategic objectives as per our 2018-2021 strategic plan.

The most important factor that kept me motivated and enthusiastic over the past year is the support of the Committee of Management and the PCCV staff, as well as all the volunteers at Polish Community Council of Victoria. The PCCV is proud to acknowledge the support, assistance and contribution of the following organizations, towards the ongoing development of our services, and the Polish community:

- Department of Health
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
- Carers Victoria
- Palliative Care Victoria
- Polaron
- City of Brimbank
- City of Monash
- City of Melbourne
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Casey
- Australian-Croatian Community Services
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Australian Filipino Community Services
- Polish Consulate in Sydney

This year I have been responsible for managing:

- HCP Program
- Social System Development (Friendly Visiting Program & Telelink)
- Social Support Group
- Carers Group
- IT Group
- NDIS Program
- Women's Group
- Presidents of Polish Senior Citizens Clubs' Group
- Palliative Care Educational Program



Bożena Iwanowski and Natalie Suleyman MP

At PCCV we make sure that all our programs and services are of the highest quality and in complete accordance with Australian guidelines. Our programs and services continue to receive positive feedback from our clients, funders and various stakeholders. The positive results we achieve inspire our PCCV team to further explore our creativity, to use our industry networks and to continuously improve what we do.

The organization is managed by a Board consisting of eleven volunteers, who 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. To the PCCV Committee of Management, as a team, and to every person who has served on the Committee over the last year – thank you so much for all your support and encouragement along the way. Special thanks to President, Marian Pawlik OAM.



Celebration the 100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence
by Poland with Nick Wakeling

Polish Community Council of Victoria (PCCV) team of staff and volunteers – thank you for working together to build and share professional values and standards at Polish Community Council of Victoria.



BOZENA IWANOWSKI

Manager of PCCV

TREASURER'S REPORT

Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable incorporated association that has been providing community-based quality care and support services to older Polish – Australians as well as their relatives and carers.

PCCV Inc. has been funded by grants and subsidies from Government Departments, client contributions, membership fees, donations and fundraising activities. The most significant grants were received from Commonwealth and State Departments of Health and Department of Health and Human Services, as well as Local Government Agencies. I can also report that substantial financial support was given by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, ODN Wspolnota Polska and the Blum Foundation.

In accordance with the auditor's report, the financial figures for the reporting year 2018-2019 state the total income of \$2,031,219.00, the total expenditures of \$1,884,797.00 and the net profit of \$146,422.00. The total equity balance sheet figure is reported as \$346,075.00 and cash of \$409,756.00 available on hand.

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



JERZY WOJTKOWSKI

Honorary Treasurer

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 Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2019. 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.

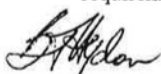
My procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report 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 2019 and the profit and cash flows for the year ended 30th June 2019 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)
16th October 2019

HOME CARE PACKAGES

The Home Care Packages Program is supported by funding from the Commonwealth Government under the Department of Social Services. Home Care Packages provide a high level of service satisfaction to our care recipients. All HCPs are provided on a Consumer Direct Care (CDC) basis. This model of service delivery ensures that all consumers of Home Care Packages have choice around the care and services that they receive.

Case Managers work individually with each of our Home Care Package clients to ensure that they receive the services that they need, when they need them. Our Case Managers also work with each client to ensure that they receive the maximum benefit from their Home Care Package. 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.

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

Our experienced, qualified and dedicated team provides high quality care and services, making a real difference to people in need. Our care recipients are loved, accepted and supported every day. As specialists in Aged Care, we understand the importance of communicating with families.



Case Manager Monika (in the middle) with clients
at the Christmas Party 2018

In the 2018/19 financial year, the Home Care Packages Program (HCP) provided quality care services to approximately 100 clients across Victoria. We provided approximately 25,300 hours of service. Over the last 12 months we have continued to work with our partners and stakeholders, to ensure collaboration, best practice and innovation, and to achieve high quality outcomes for our clients and their families.

We continued to focus on empowering lifestyle choices; being person-centred and consumer focused; encouraging independence; promoting wellness and healthy ageing; preserving dignity; and working in partnership with our clients to achieve outcomes that meet their goals and aspirations. We continued to provide personalised services. We have continued to maximise our funding to ensure that the most effective level of care and support is delivered to our clients, and to maintain high occupancy rates in the 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 have come to expect from our organisation, and to ensure that our staff's skills keep pace with needs. We completed the first round of competency assessment and skills observation processes for direct care staff.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

All Case Managers attended conferences, meetings, and training workshops. We continued to offer support to our clients by organising a Seniors' Picnic in March, Seniors Week Events in October and a Christmas Party. These events provided an opportunity for clients to come together to meet new people and interact with others.

I take this opportunity to celebrate the dedicated and hard-working staff of the Home Care Packages Program (HCP) – all of 38 carers and one registered nurse.

I would like to thank each and every PCW for their commitment to our clients, the management team, the organization, and to your community. Thank you for the skills, ideas and diversity that you have contributed. The Home Care Packages Program (HCP) receives much praise and thanks from clients. They indicate that we assist them in remaining as active and independent as possible to continue to live within the community with maximum quality of life.

In recognising the achievements of the Home Care Packages Program (HCP) over the last 12 months, I extend my thanks to all involved for supporting us and enabling us to be a strong, viable, client focussed community organisation.

Our success is inherently about people – the people to whom we provide a service – their quality of life and their achievements; and our staff – who on a daily basis demonstrate dedication, skills and the desire to make a difference.



Case Manager Beata (on the left) with NDIS clients during an excursion



Case Manager Mariola (in the middle) with HCP carer Halina (on the left) and nurse Anna (on the right) at the 2018 Christmas Party

The big difference between us and other providers is that we care.

We care about individuals, we care about families, we care about carers, and we care about the impact that we have in our community. We care about outcomes.



OUR APPRECIATION

I wish to acknowledge the following people who make the 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 first. 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Executive Committee, managers and staff, for all their hard work, enthusiasm, and excellent care skills. I would also like to thank our clients and their families/carers for their very active support and help. Without all of you, this challenging year would have been impossible. Team PCCV really shone this year.

HCP TEAM



Mariola
Brewinska



Beata
Kuc



Monika
Krajewski



MONIKA KRAJEWSKI

Senior Case Manager

Home Care Packages Program

BROKERAGE

The Brokered Services program is now in its 17th year. In that time PCCV has contributed significantly to the cultural care of hundreds of Polish speaking clients, case-managed by other organisations. This year the Brokered Services program delivered over 10,000 hours of direct care in the home.



Case Manager Mariola with HCP carer, Maria, at a community event

PCCV continues to serve 24 clients from seven different organisations. In 2019, we had 45 brokerage clients in total. This number decreased over the course of the year, as some clients passed away, while others became direct clients of our organisation. We have not had any issues with our Brokerage program over the past year.

All parties are very happy with the cooperation.



MARIOLA BREWIŃSKA

Senior Case Manager & Brokerage Adviser

COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME

May I never get too busy with my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with compassion and kindness.

Thomas Jefferson

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2018 – 2019 Annual Report for the CVS Program. The report gave me the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our achievements over the past twelve months. It has been few years since CVS became part of PCCV. However, the most recent year has arguably been the busiest, most challenging and most rewarding yet. I thank our volunteers, supporters, staff and board members for their commitment to the CVS Program and the contribution they have made to a successful year.

Over the past year, the Community Visitor Scheme (CVS) has provided companionship to people who are socially isolated or are at risk of social isolation and loneliness in the south, east, north and west Metropolitan areas of Melbourne, Geelong and Gippsland. It is about visiting nursing homes and people who receive help packages. At the beginning of 2019, the CVS program was to be extended to the Gippsland region. Despite the effort put into the project to organise residential groups in the Barwon region and Gippsland, relevant targets were only partially successful. The program coordinator was successful in establishing networks and cooperation with a few residential aged facilities to promote the program objectives. One reason for not achieving targets in the Barwon region and Gippsland is that there are other well established organisations that have been in the area for many years, bringing help and support to clients in aged care homes and HCP clients.

I was responsible for matching volunteers with seniors who identified as being lonely. This involves visiting and interviewing the Community members in their home or care facility and then recruiting 'a friend' who has similar interests and an understanding of the person they will visit.

According to our program statistics, there was inadequate allocation of residential group visiting for our community recipients. CVS service targeting for CALD clients with Polish background demonstrates large demand for visits to aged care residents in the eastern and southern parts of Melbourne. We efficiently responded to those needs, but this was not funded by government subsidy, so all responsibility for running the program falls on our organization.



Volunteer Jagoda with clients (Graceland 2019)

Currently, 33 volunteers in the CVS Program have visited about 80 Polish residents in 20 different nursing homes and have visited 14 people who have a Home Care Package in their private homes.

During my work I have witnessed some amazing friendships that have developed as result of the CVS Program. We have found that the program can be as valuable for the volunteer as it is to the person they befriend - often filling a gap in their own lives.



Scottvale Nursing Home (2018)

I would like to thank all volunteers who joined this program last year for their presence and openness to the needs of the elderly and those who need support. For me, working as a coordinator was intense and full of joy, meeting volunteers and Polish seniors. I am glad that a growing group of our compatriots in nursing homes are in contact with volunteers.



SR ELŻBIETA CIEŚLARCZYK

CVS Coordinator

PALLIATIVE CARE

You matter because you are you, and you matter to the last moment of your life.

Dame Cicely Saunders

Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc.'s Palliative Care project aims to create a continuum of end-of-life care services that:

- are tailored to meet the needs of clients and carers;
- support their life choices;
- strengthen & engage the Polish community.

This proposed initiative provides in-home end-of-life care services for those people who don't have a package or are waiting for an individual support package. What have we done to date:

PCCV provided practical support to clients including:

- Personal care including grooming and feeding assistance;
- Home care;
- Respite care;
- Nursing assistance;
- Transport to doctor's appointments;
- Assistance with shopping and meal preparation;
- Provision of Health Care Aids;
- Family/ Carer Socialisation and well-being program;
- Community Education Program.



Training with Palliative Care Victoria

Key achievements:

- Launch of the Palliative Care Project during Seniors Week (10th October 2018);
- Attending Palliative care training and forums conducted by Palliative Care Victoria and DHHS
- Conducting community education sessions about palliative care and engaging over 300 community members.
- Conducting PCCV fundraising events for ABMT and raising \$1600.00 to support Cancer Council vital research and prevention programs.



Celebrating the Palliative Care Program

Feedback/ Testimonials from Clients and Carers:

"Thank you for help and we are asking for more of the same. Because of your program we have a chance to have community access, leave home and have social contact, meet new people and revive old friendships."

"Great care, well organised. Social aspect of program is culturally appropriate. Enjoy talking to other people who are in similar situation. I do not feel alone. Love the Polish aspect of the program."

"I am very happy for the services and care provided by the Polish Community Council for my mum. It provides a sense of belonging and common heritage interest."



Information session at the Seniors Club in Rowville

Many thanks to PCCV Committee of Management, Manager Bozena Iwanowski and PCCV staff and volunteers for making this project a success.



JANINA DYTMAN

Palliative Care Project Officer

CHSP SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

I would like to introduce the Polish Community Care Services – Social Support Groups program, which has been running since 1993.

This year, we continued to provide services for elderly socially-isolated members of the Polish community. Our clients are primarily Polish-speaking people who come together to enjoy social interaction and engaging activities. This enables them to remain in their homes for as long as possible and allows them to function independently.

Social Support Groups offer our clients the opportunity to be social, physically active, and improve mental and emotional wellbeing. We also provide intellectual stimulation, cultural activities and promote wellness and reablement.

PCCS currently runs seven Social Support Groups:

- SSG Rowville (every Tuesday)
- SSG Brunswick East (every Wednesday)
- SSG Oakleigh (every Thursday)
- SSG Sport Rowville (every second Wednesday)
- SSG Relax Rowville (every second Thursday)
- SSG Ardeer (every Thursday)
- SSG Doveton (every second Monday)

Throughout the year we have had up to 120 clients attend and participate in approximately 15,000 hours of activity time. Along with our group services, we offer transportation to and from SSG Rowville, Brunswick, Oakleigh and Doveton, via taxis and a company bus driven by our volunteers.



SSG SPORT Rowville

Our program is made up of 10 staff and 8 volunteers.

We design our activities based on the individual needs of our clients. The program follows a person-centred care model and we focus on encouraging independence and promoting active living and positive ageing.

This year we celebrated various holidays and events including Australia Day, Valentine's Day, International Women's Day, Senior's Picnic Day at Polish House SYRENA Rowville, Fat Thursday, Ash Wednesday, Easter, 3rd of May Constitution Day and Polish Flag Day, Mother's Day, Christmas in July, the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, Father's Day, Seniors' Day at Albion, Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence, Melbourne Cup, 'Andrzejki' and Christmas.



SSG Oakleigh

Our clients have been satisfied and happy with the SSG program. Included below is some of the feedback we have received about the program:

- "I wait all week to come to the club"
- "It is the best club in Australia"
- "The atmosphere is fantastic"
- "I can never wait till Thursday"
- "This is always a special day for me, and I like to dress nice for it"
- "I am always so full and satisfied that I don't need to eat at home"
- "The food is delicious. We get breakfasts, two course lunches and desserts"
- "Our staff and volunteers really do care about us"

Each and every one of our workers and volunteers understands the importance of our clients' needs and all are committed to delivering professional services.

I would like to thank our Committee of Management, my CEO Bozena Iwanowski, and all the staff and volunteers for making PCCS and PCCV an incredible organisation to work for.

I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with such amazing and dedicated people. I look forward to continuing my work in these organisations.



MAŁGORZATA ŻUCHOWSKA

Social Support Group Coordinator

CHSP SERVICE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

In the 2018/2019 financial year, the Service System Development Program continued to provide services that help frail older people 65+ (CHSP) and people with disabilities below age 65 (HACC). The goals of the program are to help elderly or isolated people with disabilities of Polish background to maintain their independence, and create opportunities for social interaction.

The Service System Development Program provides a range of services:

Friendly Visiting Program – the group of dedicated volunteers visit lonely, frail aged people and younger people with disabilities at their home. The commitment and dedication of our volunteers made a significant difference in clients' lives. The program coordinator monitors the progress of each visit by maintaining contact with the client and volunteer as well as the client's family. The role of the volunteer is to provide companionship, encourage participation in community activities, assist the client with his/her needs and encourage independence, build self-esteem and to ensure dignity through friendship. The program operates in all regions of Melbourne.

Telelink is a form of teleconferencing which provides valuable social support, interaction and 'phone friendship' for isolated older people. This financial year nine seniors were linked every Tuesday for one hour. This financial year our clients spent 207 hours on Telelink.

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

Sunday Transport – supplying clients of PCCV and PCCS with transport to the church in Keysborough (Sunday mass).

The Service System Development Program also helps community development and provides assistance to 20 Polish Seniors Clubs. Meetings are organized every two months for presidents of Polish Seniors Clubs, volunteers and carers. They have opportunities to undertake training, and exchange information and experiences. They also spend social time together.



Volunteers of PCCV and PCCS

Service System Development Program's Annual Events:

XXIX Seniors Day – the annual Congress of Polish Seniors was held on 10th of October 2018 at the Polish Sporting and Recreation Centre in Albion. 300 seniors and guests attended from across Victoria. This year, our seniors from various Polish Seniors Clubs also presented an artistic program. After this artistic program, a delicious lunch was served, which was followed by a lottery draw.

International Volunteer Day – on the 9th of November 2018, 50 volunteers were invited for a concert of Polish singer Artur Gotz to celebrate 100 years of Polish independence at Polish House 'Syrena' in Rowville.

XX Jubilee Seniors' Poetry Competition – many excellent poems written by our seniors were entered into the competition. The results of the XX Seniors' Poetry Competition were announced on the 21st of November 2018 during the Seniors' Poetry Celebration in Rowville. The winning poems were read out by actors from the 'Prób Miniatura' Theatre group.

Polish Seniors' Picnic – the Annual Polish Picnic took place on the 20th of March 2019 at Polish House SYRENA in Rowville. It attracted 300 people and promoted Cultural Diversity Week.

National Volunteers Week – on the 28th of May 2019, 50 volunteers were invited to the concert of actress, singer, and founder of the AKOGO? foundation, Ewa Błaszczuk, at Polish House SYRENA in Rowville.

Our volunteers are not only able to help others within programs of our organization, but everyone responded positively to the call for help and raising money for the 'Akogo?' Foundation. The collected funds were solemnly handed over to Mrs Ewa Błaszczuk by Mrs Bożena Iwanowski and Mr Marian Pawlik OAM.

I would like to welcome to the board the new volunteers that have joined the team at Polish Community Care Services POLCARE. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to all volunteers who support the services provided by POLCARE.



EWA KIŻEWSKI

Service System Development Program
Coordinator

POLISH SCHOOLS

The new financial year 2018-19 began with preparations of the 'Przystanek Polska' programme.

In August 2018, during the President of Poland's, Andrzej Duda's, first visit, we hosted a meeting with his wife First Lady Agata Korbhanser-Duda. Preparations for this visit were made by Polish Community Council (PCCV) member Polish language schools. School representative teachers, parents and children contributed to this event. Over 150 people were involved, with over 30 teachers and approximately 80 children. School children performed the play 'Przystanek Polska', preceded by a performance of a play about a Polish/Australian 'Wawel Dragon' by the St Albans M. Kopernik school. School performances concluded with the First Lady and children enjoying a celebratory cake and a cup of tea.



First Lady with students in Polish House SYRENA in Rowville

On the 8th of September we held the first conference for Victorian teachers and leaders of voluntary organisations. The key speaker was Małgorzata Małyska.

Teacher representatives of the PCCV member schools participated in the annual State Conference of Community Language Schools held at the RMIT Storey Hall. Some also attended the National Conference in Brisbane.



Teachers at the Victorian Ethnic Schools conference

On October 27th, we organised the celebration of the 'Birth of the White-Red (Nation)' where the results of the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence competition were announced. This was held in St Albans and well attended by school participants enjoying a mini concert of "Young Talent" as well as games and Polish food. All schools participated in stage performances at Federation Square. The PCCV sponsored the presentation about 'Torun Gingerbread'. All events were recorded for the history archives.

The PCCV School's Coordinator attended the silver jubilee of the Albion "Św. Jan Paweł" Polish language school. She also visited all member schools at their end of year functions. Two schools held a Christmas play, one sang Christmas carols and one school hosted Santa Claus.

The 2019 school year began in February with four member schools and over 114 children enrolled. Compared to 2018, school year, enrolments increased at the South Melbourne and Rowville school campuses. The Rowville School qualified for the program 'Razem dla Edukacji'. We are proud of this pioneer staging of the program in Australia.

As usual, the first yearly event for the Polish language schools and other Polish organisations was the 3rd May celebration. Once again, the school children, scout and folk groups did not disappoint.

In June 2019 the School Coordinator participated in the international Conference of Polish Language schools held in Torun – Poland.



International Conference of Polish Language schools in Torun

The 2018–19 year was very rich in celebratory and formative events. It was a very successful year for which thanks are due to the parents, teachers and children of the PCCV member schools.



ROMAN SAWKO

Polish School Coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2018



SSG Brunswick celebrating Christmas in July



SSG SPORT Rowville at Polana Camp in Healesville

AUGUST 2018



The Polish community during a meeting with the President and the First Lady at Government House during the first official visit of the President of the Republic of Poland in Australia



President of the Republic of Poland with his wife, and The Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, and her husband



The President and the First Lady during a meeting with the Polish community at the Polish Shrine of Divine Mercy in Keysborough



'Tribute to freedom' concert at Drum Theatre in Dandenong



The First Lady, Mrs Agata Korhauser-Duda, with students, teachers and parents from Polish schools



Conference for teachers and professionals at Punthill Hotel in Dandenong

SEPTEMBER 2018



Presentation of scholarships from the PCCV and the Association of Polish Professionals to talented students from the Polish community

OCTOBER 2018



XXIX Polish Seniors' Day in Albion



Birthday of 'White and red' Poland by Polish schools' communities



Presentation of Henryk Sławik Award 2018 to Mr Marian Pawlik OAM,
President of the PCCV Inc.



Celebration of Polish Independence Day
in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne



Polish Independence Day Celebration
- Gala Dinner in Polish Club in Albion



Polish Festival at Federation Square

DECEMBER 2018



Christmas party for clients

JANUARY 2019



Training provided by Palliative Care Victoria



PCCV Charity Gala Ball at Polish House SYRENA in Rowville



50th Polish Sport Festival at Polish Club in Albion



Carers' excursion to Jay Berries farm

FEBRUARY 2019

MARCH 2019



General Consul Scholarship Presentation for participants of Year 12 exam (Matura) in 2018



Carers' excursion to Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne



Performance of SSG participants during Seniors' Picnic in Polish House SYRENA in Rowville



PCCV during The Premier's Gala Dinner
at Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

APRIL 2019



Celebrating Volunteer's Week with volunteers
of PCCS and PCCV



Anzac Day Parade



Project 'Love in any language' in partnership with
Australian-Filipino Community Services

MAY 2019



3rd of May concert



Celebrating the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Monte Cassino



51st Congress of Polish Council of Australia Inc. in Brisbane



Supporting Cancer Council during Australian's Biggest Morning Tea



NDIS training for employees and volunteers



Lecture about the Palliative Care Program
in Citizen Seniors' Club 'Astry' in St. Kilda

JUNE 2019



Training for volunteers provided by Swinburne University



IT Group in Oakleigh

PCCV AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

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'

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF KATYN FAMILIES

POLISH POLITICAL ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA

KOSCIUSZKO SOCIETY INC.
Polish House 'Millenium', 296 Nicholson Street, Footscray Vic 3011

LECHIA VOLLEYBALL SPORTS CLUB

'LOWICZ' POLISH VOCAL AND DANCE ENSEMBLE

POLISH CHOIR 'SYRENA'

'PODHALE' POLISH GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

ZHP PODHALE

POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION ZHP IN VICTORIA

'POLONEZ' SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE

POLISH ART FOUNDATION

POLISH ASSOCIATION IN MELBOURNE
P.O. Box 8012, Ferntree Gully, VIC 3156 Australia

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF ESSENDON AND DISTRICT 66

POLISH CHARITY ASSOCIATION OF SUNSHINE

POLISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN GEELONG INC.

'White Eagle' Polish House, 46 - 48 Fellmongers Street, Breakwater Vic 3219

POLISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN ST ALBANS

POLISH EASTERN TERRITORY ASSOCIATION IN MELBOURNE

POLISH EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY IN VIC

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION BRANCH NO 3 MELBOURNE

POLISH HOME ARMY EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN ASSOCIATION

POLISH LADIES' ASSOCIATION IN MELBOURNE

POLISH SECTION RADIO 3ZZZ

POLISH FESTIVAL AT FEDERATION SQUARE

STRZELECKI HERITAGE INC

POLISH CLUB ALBION

19 Carrington Drive, Albion Vic 3020

HOME ARMY CLUB IN VICTORIA

ASSOCIATION OF POLISH PROFESSIONALS IN AUSTRALIA

POLISH SIBERIANS ASSOCIATION IN VICTORIA

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

INTERNATIONAL VOLLEYBALL MELBOURNE CLUB

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN ALBION

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN ALTONA

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN ARDEER

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF CAULFIELD

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN COLLINGWOOD

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN DONCASTER

POLISH SENIORS CLUB 'POD PALMĄ' IN ESSENDON

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN FRANKSTON

POLISH SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB IN GEELONG

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB 'GOLDEN AGE' IN GEELONG

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN GLENROY

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB 'ZŁOTA JESIEŃ' IN LA TROBE VALLEY

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN MELBOURNE

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN MOUNT WAVERLEY

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN OAKLEIGH

POLISH ELDERLY CITIZENS CLUB IN PRAHRAN

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN RESERVOIR

POLISH SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB IN ROWVILLE

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF ST ALBANS

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB 'ASTRY' IN ST KILDA

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN WERRIBEE

POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN YARRAVILLE



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