



**Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc.
President's Report for Financial Year 2019-2020**

Dear Members,

Exhibitions

In the last financial year, we hosted a number of important events. Firstly, in August 2019 we held an exhibition entitled “Polish Soldier Migrants” at Tobruk House in Albert Park (VIC). The exhibition was opened by Dr Mary Calwell, the daughter of the first Australian Minister for Immigration the Hon. Arthur Calwell MP. We had over 170 guests; among them the President of Rats of Tobruk Association (ROTA) Mr Bob Semple and Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland Dr George Luk-Kozika. The opening ceremony was conducted by Ms Monika Paszkiewicz. The Entertainment was provided by Australian-Polish artists: Mrs Janette Obuch-Wells, Ms Maryna Mews, Mr Stanislaw Jakubicki, Mr Michał Milewski, Mr Jan Zamora, Mr Zygmunt Świstak, Mr Wiesław Przygoda, Mrs Krystyna Adamska and Ms Zosia Kaszubska.

A historical introduction with a slide show was made by Ms Lucyna Artymiuk. For this occasion, the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc. published a book written by Lucyna Artymiuk titled *Destination Australia. Polish Soldier Migrants (1947-48)*.

I would like to say THANK YOU to all members of our Committee of Management and in particular Ms Lucyna Artymiuk, Ms Barbara Capewell, Ms Aniela Kociuba, Ms Mon Lukas, Ms Maria Peszek, as well as Ms Glenda Garde (secretary of ROTA), for their work in preparing and conducting the exhibition. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the Rats of Tobruk Association (ROTA) for allowing us to use their hall for the exhibition. Thank-you to Ms Monika Paszkiewicz and all the artists for their contribution.

Another big event, in which the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc. participated, was the Polish Festival at Federation Square (Melbourne) in November 2019. We had our own stall operated for the whole day by Ms Barbara Capewell and Ms Aniela Kociuba. Thank you, Barbara and Aniela for your great effort and dedication!

During the Festival, we organised an exhibition at Deakin Edge “1939 - Tragedies of Poland - 1944” to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the outbreak of the 2nd World War and the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising (1944). The first part of the exhibition was provided by the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej (Institute of National Remembrance) in Kraków

(Poland) while the second part was developed by us, originally in 2014. Among visitors to the exhibition was the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Dr Monika Kończyk.

Storage

Due to continuing space limitations at Millennium House, I held a few meetings with members of the Committee of Management of the Polish Sport, Recreation and Community Association in Albion (VIC) regarding construction of a building for archival storage. That matter has not yet been resolved. Some draft drawings have been prepared and relevant documentation has been partially gathered.

Congresses

In September 2019, Ms Maria Picyk and I participated in a session of the Permanent Conference of Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Stała Konferencja Muzeów, Archiwów i Bibliotek Polskich na Zachodzie - MAB) held in Lublin (Poland), and organised by the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej (Institute of National Remembrance) in Lublin (Poland).

During that session, an exhibition presenting each member of the Permanent Conference (MAB), including The Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc., was opened. An album specially published for this occasion was attached to that exhibition. The exhibition will be presented in many places in Poland. It is a great presentation of our work.

I also participated in the Powszechny Zjazd Historyków Polskich (Congress of Polish Historians) in Lublin, also held in September 2019.

New projects

In early 2020, the Polish Museum and Archives received a grant of \$3000 from The Blum Foundation for a new project about Polish Displaced Persons who came to Australia from Post-War Europe.

Archival support

In October and November of 2019 we had a visiting archivist from Poland, Mrs Barbara Grzybek, who catalogued our collection of documents related to activities of the Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów (Polish Ex-servicemen Association) in Australia. In her work, she was supported by Dr Włodzimierz Wnuk. That project was sponsored by Naczelną Dyрекcja Archiwów Państwowych (Head Office of States Archives) in Poland from a grant given by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage with some support from the Zarząd Krajowy SPK in Australia (Australian Committee of Management of the Polish Ex-servicemen Association in Australia).

Polish Australian Writers Group (PAW)

During the financial year 2019-2020 our Polish Australian Writers group lead by Ms Aniela Kociuba (PAW Co-ordinator) was very active. She is responsible for organising monthly meetings of the group which researches and writes about their Polish roots. The group had a few very interesting guest speakers.

On 12th October 2019 PAW met at "After the Tears" in Elsternwick. Their guest speaker was Andrew Rajcher from ASJP who spoke about his journey "From Polish Hater to Polish Citizen".

From March onwards, PAW meetings were held via Facebook Messenger, then from September via Zoom, as the group could not meet in person due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Overall the PAW meetings were well attended and many contributed to discussions and ideas. Most are still on a journey of discovering their family roots.

Publications

In the first half of 2020 our activities have been limited due to the pandemic of COVID-19. However, we managed the printing of additional copies of Lucyna Artymiuk's two books: *From Poland to "wherever in the world"* and *Destination Australia. Polish Soldier Migrants (1947-48)*. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Leon Kustra for his help with the redesign of the book cover for *Destination Australia Polish Soldier Migrants (1947-48)*.

Visitors

We had many visitors including some very special guests: in July 2019 Mrs Irena Sosnowski and Mr Stanisław Sosnowski from Adelaide, who are members of the Polish Hill River Church Museum (SA) and in February 2020, a delegation from the Museum of the 2nd World War in Gdańsk (Poland) with Dr Karol Nawrocki. The delegation was interested particular in our collection of oral history and organised interviews with two Polish Ex-servicemen.

Membership

In the financial year 2019-20 we had 59 financial members and 2 honorary members.

Finances

Income	- \$11,492.05
Expenses	- \$ 8,212.99

Financial assets on 01/07/2019 - \$35,864.69 (as per bank statements)

Financial assets on 30/06/2020 - \$39,143.75 (as per bank statements)

Zdzislaw A. Derwinski
President
of The Polish Museum
and Archives in Australia Inc.



From left: Barbara Capewell, Stanisław Sosnowski, Aniela Kociuba, Irena Sosnowski, Zdzisław A. Derwiński (July 2019).



Glenda Garde (ROTA) and Barbara Capewell (Tobruk House, August 2019).



Opening of the exhibition: “Polish Soldier Migrants” (Tobruk House, August 2019).



From left: Aniela Kociuba, Dr Mary Calwell and Zdzisław A. Derwiński (Tobruk House, August 2019).



From left: Anna Zamecznik (Member of Management Committee), Maryna Mews and Janette Obuch-Wells (Tobruk House, August 2019).



Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland Dr George Luk-Kozika, Monika Paszkiewicz and Aleksander Paszkiewicz.



Lucyna Artymiuk, Dr Mary Calwell, Bob Semple with the descendants of the Polish Soldier Migrants (1947-48) and their families (Tobruk House, August 2020).



Choir conducted by Zosia Kaszubska. From left: Jan Zamora, Zygmunt Świstak, Michał Milewski, Wiesław Przygoda, Krystyna Adamska, Stanisław Jakubicki and Zosia Kaszubska.



From left: Monika Paszkiewicz, President of the ROTA Bob Semple, Glenda Garde, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland Dr George Luk-Kozika.



From left: President of the Polish Community Council of Victoria Marian Pawlik, former President of the Polish Community Council of Australia Christopher Łańcucki, President of the ROTA, Bob Semple, Ann Smith (from Canberra), Dr Mary Calwell, Vice-President of RSL Victorian Branch Des Callaghan.



The President of the Rats of Tobruk Association (ROTA) Bob Semple and the President of the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia (PMAA) Zdzisław A. Derwiński.



The audience. Among them, from left: Bożena Iwanowski, Andrzej Balcerzak, standing Izydor Marmur.



From left: Edward Sorokowski, Luk Sorokowski, Dr Mary Calwell, Irena Sorokowska-Kaluska, Melanie Sorokowski.



Choir conducted by Zosia Kaszubska. From left: Jan Zamora, Zygmunt Świstak, Michał Milewski, Wiesław Przygoda, Krystyna Adamska, Stanisław Jakubicki, Zosia Kaszubska.



The President of the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Zdzisław A. Derwiński at the 51st session of the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Catholic University of Lublin, September 2019).



Maria Picyk at the exhibition (wystawa Polonica emigracyjna. Ze zbiorów instytucji członkowskiej Stałej Konferencji Muzeów, Archiwów I Bibliotek Polskich na Zachodzie) organised for the 51st session of the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Institute of National Remembrance, Lublin, September 2019).



CEO of the Head Office of State Archives DR Paweł Pietrzyk speaking at the 51st session of the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Catholic University of Lublin, September 2019).



Anna Mesnet Morawska (Chateau Montresor) and Maria Picyk (Polish Museum and Archives in Australia) at the 51st session of the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Catholic University of Lublin, September 2019).

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The President of the Institute of National Remembrance Dr Sławomir Szarek and the President of the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Dr Zdzisław A. Derwiński at the 51st session of the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Institute of National Remembrance, Lublin, September 2019).



Zdzisław A. Derwiński, Maria Picyk and Director of the Institute of National Remembrance – Lublin Branch Marcin Krzysztofik at the 51st session of the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (Institute of National Remembrance, Lublin, September 2019).



Polish Australian Writers (PAW) group. From left: Ron Wells, Janette Obuch-Wells, Steven Grzegorzyn (Noble Park, 2019).



Polish Australian Writers (PAW) group: Elizabeth Espenzsid, Stella Sallman (Noble Park, 2019).



Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney Dr Monika Kończyk and Zdzisław A. Derwiński at the exhibition “1939- Tragedies of Poland – 1944” (Polish Festival at Federation Square, Deakin Edge, Melbourne, Nov 2019).



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From left: Barbara Grzybek, Aniela Kociuba, Barbara Capewell
(Polish Festival at Federation Square, Melbourne, Nov 2019).



Annual General Meeting of the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc.
From left: Aniela Kociuba (PAW Co-ordinator and Member of Management Committee
PMAA), Barbara Capewell (Secretary of Management Committee PMAA), Ron Wells,
Janette Obuch-Wells
("Bacówka", Clifton Street, Richmond- VIC, November 2019).

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Dr Włodzimierz Wnuk and Barbara Grzybek at work in our archives (November 2019).



Barbara Grzybek at work in our archives (November 2019).



Vice-President of PMAA - Lucyna Artymiuk (President's Ball, Rowville 2019).



Treasurer of PMAA – Maria Peszek.



Barbara Capewell, Aniela Kociuba (Polish Sport Festival, Albion, February 2020).



Our stall at the Polish Sport Festival (Albion, February 2020).



Member of Committee of Management of PMAA – Monica Lukas.



Member of Committee of Management of PMAA – Julia Niziol-Niyazi.



From left: Monica Lukas, Julia Niziol-Niyazi, Maria Peszek.



From left: Barbara Capewell, Monica Lukas, Lycuna Artymiuk and Julia Niziol-Niyazi.
(Acquisition Sub-Committee Meeting).