



**Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc.  
President's Report for the Financial Year 2018/19.**

Dear Members of the Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Inc. (PMAA).

In the last financial year 2018/2019 we have all worked very hard to develop our organisation.

At the last AGM, I was elected President of the PMAA and Lucyna Artymiuk – Vice-President, Development Officer, Ms Maria Picyk – Secretary, Ms Maria Peszek – Treasurer, Membership Officer, Ms Anna Zamecznik – Ass. Treasurer, Mrs Julia Niziol-Nyazi – member, Mrs Barbara Capewell – member, Ms Monica Lukas – member, Ms Aniela Kociuba – member.

During the last financial year, we had some changes in the Committee of Management due to Ms Maria Picyk's temporary move to Poland. Mrs Barbara Capewell was asked to perform the duties of Secretary and was appointed Assistant Secretary.

In the last financial year we had 66 financial members. Most of members are from the second generation of Polish migrants in Australia.

Our activities concentrated, as during the previous number of years, on the Polish Soldier Migrants Project run by Ms Lucyna Artymiuk. Part of this project has been supported financially by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney and the Blum Foundation.

As part of the Polish Soldier Migrants Project we presented the exhibition "Destination Australia - Post WWII Odysseys of Polish Soldiers" at the Polish House in Hobart (TAS), the Polish Club in Ashfield (NPW) and at the "Polonia" Club in Milton (QLD) as part of the Pol-Art 2018 Festival in Brisbane (QLD).

We have prepared and published a book by Lucyna Artymiuk entitled "Destination Australia. Polish Soldier Migrants 1947-48", containing a short history of immigration of nearly 1,500 Polish soldiers who came to Australia in 1947-48 in five transports, as well as a description of the exhibition and on the ships manifestos of all five of these transportations. I would like to thank Ms Lucyna Artymiuk for preparing the exhibition and the above-mentioned publication, and Mrs. Krystyna Duszniak for helping to prepare the exhibition.

In the last financial year, our activity focused around the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence.

To commemorate this anniversary, we prepared the exhibition "Roads to Independence - Roads to Independence", which we presented at the Polish Club in Ashfield (NPW), at the Polish House in Newcastle (NPW), at the "Polonia" Club in Milton (QLD) during the Polish Festival Art 2018 in Brisbane (QLD) and during the Polish Festival at Federation Square in Melbourne (VIC).

This exhibition was supported by the Presidium of the Polish Community Council of Australia and its President Mrs Malgorzata Kwiatkowska. The graphic concept was designed by Mr. Vitek Skonieczny of Sydney, the text was edited by me with help of Dr Joseph Poprzeczny, Mrs Krystyna Duszniak and Mr Stanisława Bragiel. The exhibition was sponsored by the Senat of the Republic of Poland, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Canberra, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney, and others.

In addition, the Institute of National Remembrance made available to us the exhibition "Fathers of Independence - Fathers of Independence", which we presented at the Polish Club in Ashfield (NPW), at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney, at the "Polonia" Club in Milton (QLD) during the Pol-Art Festival 2018 in Brisbane (QLD), during the 'Harvest Festival' 2018 in Adelaide (AP) and during the Polish Festival at Federation Square in Melbourne (VIC).

In October and November 2018, we hosted Mrs. Barbara Grzybek, an archivist from the State Archives in Wrocław, (Bolesławiec branch), whose stay in Australia was financed by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage through the Chief Directorate of State Archives.

Mrs. Barbara Grzybek tidied up and inventoried the archival collection of the Polish Community Council of Australia – Rada Naczelna Polonii Australijskiej (formerly the Supreme Council of Polish Organizations in Australia).

At this point, I would like to thank Mrs Barbara Capewell, Ms Aniela Kociuba and Dr. Włodzimierz Wnuk for helping to organise her stay in Australia.

Our organization also organized genealogy workshops led by Ms Lucyna Artymiuk, including workshops as part of the Pol-Art 2018 Festival in Brisbane (QLD).

The Polish Australian Writers group met regularly every month and was coordinated by Ms Marysia Picyk, Ms Aniela Kociuba and Mrs Basia Capewell.

In November Ms Marysia Picyk organised a trip to Bonegilla to visit the former Migrants Camp there.

Our Committee also organised stalls at the Polish Sports Festival in Albion (Feb 2019). And, again I would like to say thank you to Ms Lucyna Artymiuk, Mrs Barbara Capewell and Ms Maria Picyk for their participation and help.

In the last financial year the PMAA again received books from the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej in Poland mostly related to modern history of Poland.

The great achievement of our organisation in the last financial year was receiving donations from Mrs Halina Prociuk - \$1,000 and Dr Paweł Prociuk - \$2000.

Our Facebook account is administered by Ms Lucyna Artymiuk and has approx. 1600 members.

The website of the PMAA is administered by Mr David Walsh and we are very grateful for his help.

The PMAA is a member of the Polish Community Council of Australia, the Permanent Conference of the Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries Abroad (MAB) and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

In the last financial year we had many important visitors: among them The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Australia Mr. Michał Kołodziejcki, a group of members of the Polish House of Representatives (Sejm) and Ms. Joanna Lang from the Museum of Warsaw Uprising and others.

**Current issues to solve:**

1. Exhibition space,
2. Storage space,
3. Finances,
- 4 Membership,
5. Publications,
6. Co-operation with other Polish museums and archives in Australia,
7. Workshops/Lectures,
8. Cataloguing

Until the end of May, 2018, we used 2 rooms (mostly for our archival collections and Sybiraks Exhibition and had access to a third room where we presented our permanent exhibition "Terra Nova".

Due to the Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS) taking over ownership of the Millennium House, we were required to remove the "Terra Nova" Exhibition from the third room.

We were not able to negotiate effectively with the new owners to set up this exhibition on the ground floor, as well as to obtain their permission to set up temporary storage outside of the building.

I held a few meetings with Ms Elizabeth Drozd (CEO of AMCS) and Mr Joe Swiatkowski (AMCS Property Manager) regarding these matters.

The new owners are in the stage of redeveloping the Millennium House. The initial redevelopment plans had been presented to me in May 2018.

I expressed interest in having space for PMAA of the size of 6 rooms as the current one on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

It is unknown at this stage when the AMCS will start re-development of the Millennium House. For us, the exhibition and storage space is already a challenging problem.

Our collections are held at this moment in the current 2 rooms, downstairs of the Polish Weekly (compactus), in the Polish House in Ardeer and some books, exhibition materials are in my private storage.

According to Mr Joe Swiatkowski redevelopment of the Millennium House should take approximately 2 years, at a cost of approximately of \$2.6 to \$2,8 million.

Until the re-development begins we are paying rent of \$128.70 per month (\$1544.40 per annum).

It is possible that during 2019 we will have to move to another venue for approximately 24 months.

Where this will be, at this stage is unknown. For us it is not only logistical problem but also a financial one.

I initially approached Mr Zygmunt Bilinski, at that time the President of the Polish Association of Eastern Districts of Melbourne and Dr Marek Kijek Acting President of the Polish Sport and Recreational Centre in Albion. Mr Bilinski said that it should not be problem to obtain the Association's permission to construct a building for our purposes under the condition that we would obtain the relevant permits from the local council and finance the whole project. My hesitation to accept this offer is caused by the Association's approach to the ZHP building ("Kazimierówka" built at a cost of \$350,000) on their grounds in Rowville and how to finance this kind of project.

I have not discussed that problem in details with Dr Marek Kijek yet.

To add to the above problems, I have to mention that we have to remove part of our newspaper collection from the Polish House in Ardeer as a result of an inspection held by the local council's building inspector (concern re. floor capacity in the storage room).

Another option, how to solve our problem with an exhibition and storage space would be to purchase an independent venue. However, our financial capacities and fundraising abilities are very limited, at this stage.

## **FINANCES**

Regarding our finances, in the last years we have been able to cover our cost thanks to various grants for projects and organisational support. Our income stream from the

Eugeniusz and Nela Kałżyński Memorial Fund give us \$600 per annum, bank interest \$400, membership \$900 +. We need to consider establishing a PMAA Trust as a financial vehicle to support our activities.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Even if we have over 1600 members on the Facebook, our financial membership in the last few years fluctuated at around 60-65 members.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

We could not produce our "Rocznik" in the last 2 years due to other time consuming commitments.

In the last financial year we published a book "Destination Australia" by Ms Lucyna Artymiuk" financed by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney and the Blum Foundation.

### **CO-OPERATIONS**

At this moment in Australia we have a few active Polish organisations, which have similar profile of interest to our organisation including:

1. Polish Hill River Church Museum at Sevenhill, Clare Valley, South Australia
2. Illawarra Polish Museum at the Polish Association of Wollongong NSW, run by The Polish Australian Historical Group headed Andrew Krajewski
3. Archiwum i Muzeum Polskie (Polish Archives and Museum) in Queensland, operated by the "Polonia" Polish Association in Brisbane."
4. Kresy-Syberia led by Stefan Wisniowski; and
5. Polish Historical Institute in Australia led by Wanda Horky

It would be good to have some permanent or casual contacts with these organisations.

### **WORKSHOPS/LECTURES**

It looks like we will be able to continue some workshops, lectures, and seminars in the future, mostly on invitation of other organisations and groups.

### **CATALOGUING**

We will continue cataloguing of our archival collections with the support of the Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych in Poland.

Zdzisław A. Derwinski  
President  
of the Polish Museum and Archives Inc.

Melbourne, 30 June 2019