



President's Report October 2006

Another year draws to a close and the Committee of Management has been working consistently on a number of projects during the last year. These include:

- ❖ Organising and cataloguing the existing collection;
- ❖ Seeking funding for new projects; and
- ❖ Oral History Project.

Organising and cataloguing the collection:

The Committee of Management have organised a number of working bees at Millenium House sorting through the collection, packing items into acid free folders and boxes. We recently received a very rare gift from Mrs Mary Klimowicz, her late husband was an avid stamp collector and we received his stamp collection with many albums containing stamps dating back to the early 1920's. We are grateful to Mrs Klimowicz for her generosity.

Seeking funding

The organization has applied to the Blum foundation for continuing support in terms of organisational support and funding an exciting new project to take place some time next year. The project is to conduct a seminar titled 'z pokolenia na pokolenie' 'from one generation to the next'. This seminar will inform members of the community about ways to search their genealogy. This will tap into a number of forums already running on the internet who are discussing and sharing strategies on how to access archives and other sources to obtain records about their ancestry. Part of the seminar will also give information about conducting oral history recordings with elderly parents or grandparents. The seminar is targeting the second and third generation who are increasingly becoming more interested in this issue. The seminar will provide an opportunity to create a link with members of the second generation and hopefully recruit people into the organization. We have a number of people interested in participating as guest speakers and we will liase with the State Library and the Public Record Office of Victoria.

Oral History Project

The oral history project is proceeding with a few interviews conducted however the main efforts have been directed towards the production of a video/DVD. The first production will be about the ex-service men who served in the Carpathian Division. The production of the video was in conjunction with Art-Mill Video and Photography studio. Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all Committee of Management members for their work and efforts, in particular Mrs Emilia Zientalska for her tireless efforts in recording Polish stories and events. We also thank our membership for their interest and support.

Helena Evert
President