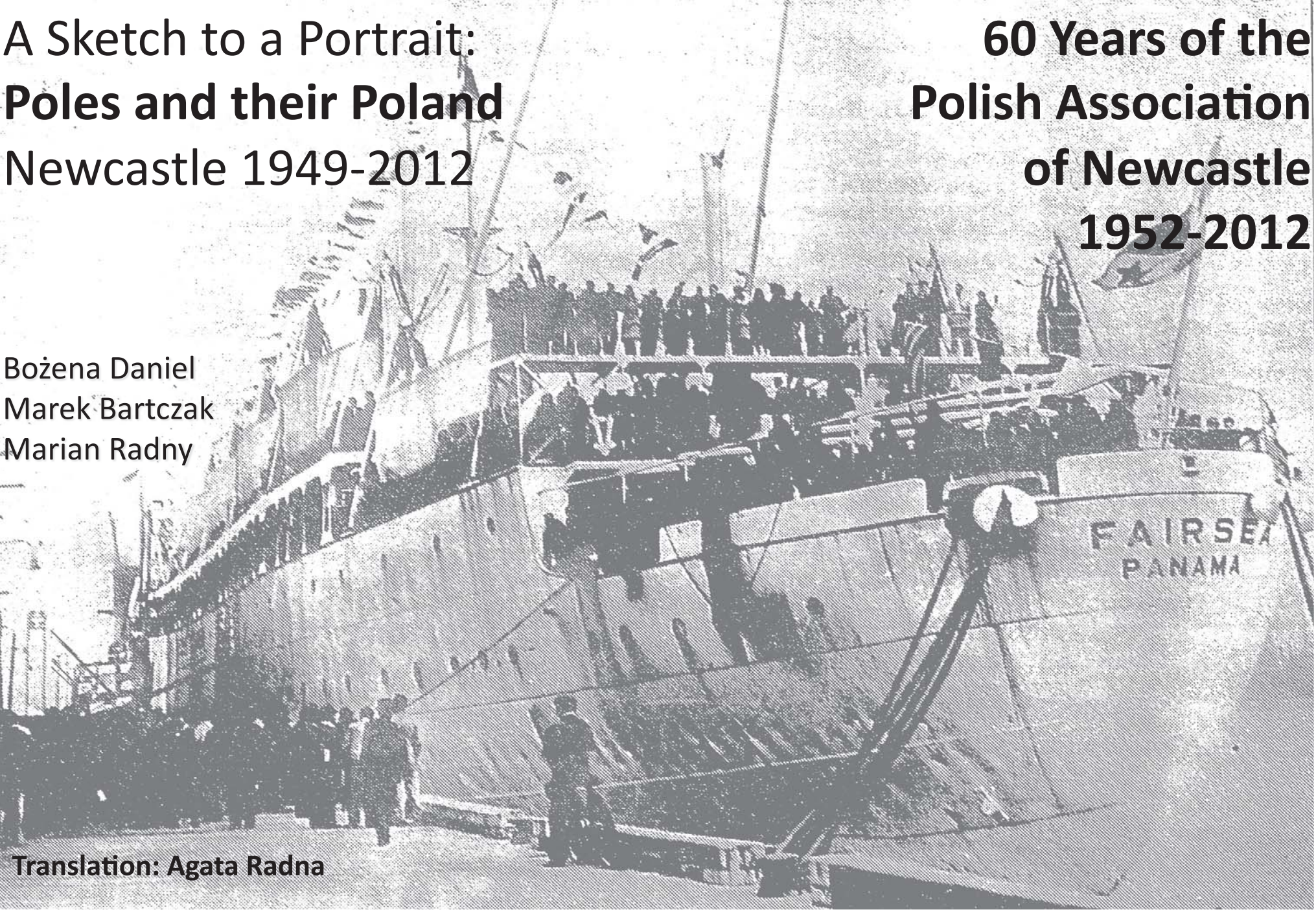


**A Sketch to a Portrait:
Poles and their Poland
Newcastle 1949-2012**

**60 Years of the
Polish Association
of Newcastle
1952-2012**

Bożena Daniel
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Marian Radny

Translation: Agata Radna



...from a journey... 1949...

The Second World War heavily affected Poland and its inhabitants. Most of those driven out of the country during the war were either unable or unwilling to return to their homeland in 1945. They Emigrated.

The emigration from the 40's and 50's was mainly made up of soldiers from the Polish Army (victorious yet no longer required by the Allies), and forced labourers from a collapsed Germany. They arrived in Australia with their families, their former commanders, and chaplains. They arrived in Australia as if to a new home- a home made familiar by Polish speech and books, prayers and traditions...a Polish home.

In 1950, few of the immigrants dreamt of their own home in Australia. Indeed, it took many years of hard work, friendship and the will of generations for the Polish House to stand and embody the the customs, traditions and spirit of the Polish Immigration to Australia.

We present here a sketch of Poles in Newcastle as part of a larger portrait of Poland and it's emigrants - the fatherland they brought to foreign soil, and the home which they built for themselves in Newcastle, the capital of the Hunter. Those who arrived later justly acknowledged, that what they arrived to see was 'just like Poland'...



Australian Minister of Immigration Arthur Calwell welcomed on the deck of the 'Fairsea'- Freemantle August 1949

The Polish emigrants from the Greta camp quickly became a recognizable community in Newcastle and its surrounds. Polish choir and dance ensemble from Greta perform in Maitland, September 1949



The Liner 'Fairsea' docked in Newcastle Harbour on 19th August 1949.



Immigrants from Greta perform the 'Krakowiak' in Cessnock 1950



Polish community from Greta and Newcastle taking part in a parade on Hunter Street- Newcastle 1950

CALENDAR

POLAND	WORLD
1947 B.Bierut president of People's Republic of Poland	1947 Marshall Plan announced
1948 Assassination of Gen. Świerczewski	1948 Independence of India
1948 1 st cycling 'Race for Peace'	1948 Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi
Death of Cardinal A. Hlond, Cardinal S.	1949 Israel declared independent
Wyszyński becomes Primate of Poland.	Western Districts of Berlin blocked off
1949 Marshall of USSR K.Rokossovsky becomes Marshall of Poland	1949 Formation of NATO, COMECOM, People's Republic of China as well as East and West Germany
1950 W. Gomułka arrested.	1950- Beginning of the Korean War

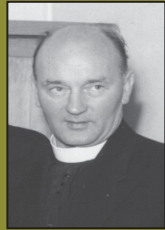
... to work ... 1952-56...

On the 15th of May 1952, the weekly newspaper 'Polish News' announced a meeting to those interested in establishing a Polish Organisation in Newcastle. Officially, the Polish Association was formed on the 3rd of August 1952, with 39 members. The initiator of the original meeting and the first president of the Polish Association in Newcastle was Mr. Zygmunt Paczyński.



Z. Paczyński

On the 29th January 1953, the Polish Saturday School is founded in Hamilton. The school, with its 48 students, is run by Z. Paczyński and Fr. Z Lewandowski, the first Polish Priest in Newcastle. Shortly after (1954), under the auspices of the Polish Association, the Church Committee and Women's Society are formed. In 1956, a second Saturday School is formed in Cardiff, and the Association itself joins the Polish Community Council of Australia. The newly formed Amateur theatre group (named after A. Fredry, the famous Polish playwright), performs 'Big Fish' and 'A Uniform's charm'; the first plays in their repertoire.



Fr. Z. Lewandowski



The first Polish School in Hamilton, April 1956

NEW AUSTRALIAN AND AUSTRALIAN
DANCE
LADIES' NATIONAL PARK BOWLING CLUB
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1952

START 8-12

fur europeche
"tanz,"
cherzlich einladen am 15
marz in 1952 National Park Str
(Ladies National Park Bowling Club)

Serdecznie Zapraszamy wszystkich
Na Zabawe
ktora się odbę dzie wsobotę 15 go marca
1952r na sali; Ladies National Park
Bowling Club
(pocz. godz. 8-12) zespół polski.



Men from the Greta Camp on their way to work at BHP- Newcastle- 1952. In the centre is Mr. E. Guźdź, a later president of the Polish Association (remaining persons unknown).



The Association financially supports disabled Polish war veterans and organizes social as well as commemorative events and celebrations. Regular Polish Sunday Mass begins during this time and first issue of 'Poles in Newcastle' is run.



CALENDAR

POLAND

WORLD

1952 Building begins of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw
1953 Cardinal Wyszyński jailed
1955 B. Bierut dies in Moscow
1956 Worker's rebellion in Poznan
W. Gomułka takes over presidency
Cardinal Wyszyński released

1953 Death of J. Stalin, replaced by N. Khrushchov
End of Korean war
Hydrogen bomb tested in USSR
1954 West Germany becomes Independent
1955 Death of A. Einstein
Formation of the Warsaw pact
1956 Hungarian Revolution
Summer Olympic Games held in Melbourne

... at home... 1957-61...

And so eventuates the idea of a 'Polish House'. The first Polish House, purchased in Islington and known as the 'Temporary residence of the Polish Association', was only large enough to accommodate a small library. The second House, acquired in Broadmeadow, was even smaller. In 1961 however, this house was expanded and the entire Polish Association and its related organizations including the Hamilton Polish School move in. The organisation of cultural events amongst the Polish Community meanwhile, shows no signs of slowing...



Blessing of the banner of the Polish Association in April 1958, with Archbishop J. Gawlina, Fr. Z. Lewandowski and its 'Godparents' A. Nowak and M. Ostrowski.

Blessing of a painting of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa by Fr. Gajdelis- May 1959



Polish School in Cardiff in 1958- after the commemoration of the 1920 Battle of Warsaw

CALENDAR

POLAND WORLD

- 1957** Poles in USSR permitted to return home
- Electoral Farce- 'elections' to the Sejm**
- Unrest in Warsaw- end of 'Gomulka's Thaw' a period of political change in Poland
- 1958** Police enter the Jasna Góra Monastery
- 1960** Authorities remove cross marking the proposed building site of a new church in Nowa Huta
- 1957** European Union Formed
- Russian Sputnik- first satellite in space**
- 1959** F. Castro comes to power in Cuba
- 1960** End of friendship between USSR- China
- Independence of Africa States
- 1961** Berlin Wall erected
- First man in Space- J. Gagarin (USSR)

Festive welcoming the first Priest from the Society of Christ in Newcastle- J. Gula- August 1959



Children from Cardiff's Polish School perform- April 1958



Dance Ensemble 'Polonez' in 1959

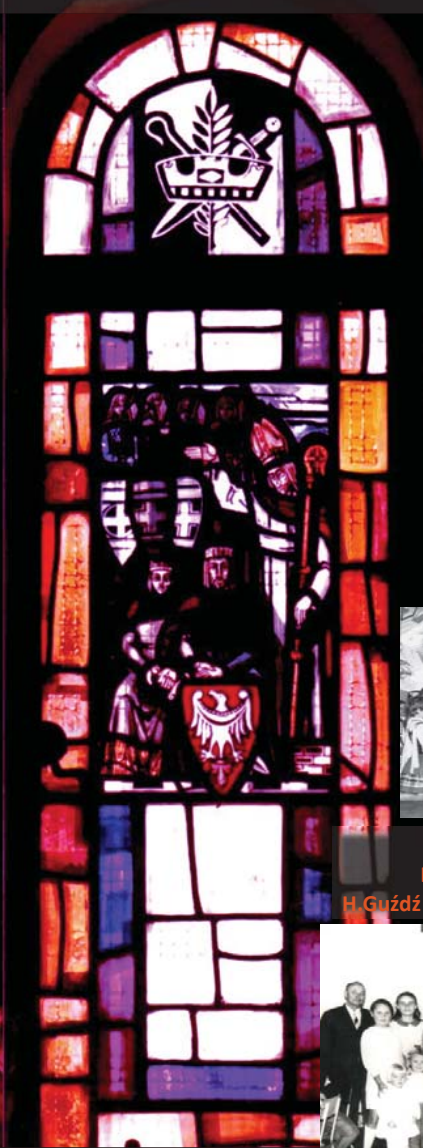


Theatre Group (founded by Z.Paczyński) with Gen. J. Kleeberg after their debut performance of 'Villa Esperanza'- Cardiff, November 1960



Premiere performance of the Theatre Group's 'Goblet of Blood' -1961

... Poland's Millennium... 1962-66...



'Jolanta's Yarn' - a play performed in Town Hall in 1965 (Directed by Zb. Witting, also a long serving president of the association)

'Old Fairytale' - Mattara 1965



Mattara 1965

Polish Choir in Town Hall - conductor Fr. F. Feruga (1966)



Nativity Play performed by Polish School - 1965



Mother's Day at Polish School in Broadmeadow (1966). Pictured are H. Guźdź and Fr. F. Feruga with the children.



CALENDAR

POLAND WORLD

1964 Prohibited rally of intellectuals in Warsaw
 1965 Letter of Reconciliation of the Polish Bishops to the German Bishops
 1966 Illegal celebrations remembering the 10 year anniversary of the Poznan protests
 1966 Church celebrations of the Baptism of Poland in Częstochowa
 1000 schools built for the Millennium

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
 Second Vatican Council
 Algeria gains independence after war with France
 1963 Assassination of US President J. F. Kennedy
 1964 Start of American War in Vietnam
 L. Brezhnev comes to power in USSR
 1966 Cultural revolution in China

The year 1966 was an important one for Polish people worldwide. It marked a millennium since the Baptism of Poland and the creation of the Polish State. These Millennial celebrations in Newcastle lasted 2 years, with theatre productions, various commemorations and religious festivals honoring the occasion. A lasting reminder of this time remains in Newcastle, in the form of a stained glass window decorating the interior of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton. The window depicts the baptism of Mieszko I in 966, his marriage to Dobrawa of Bohemia, and an image of the Virgin Mary, declared by the Roman Catholic Church as Queen of Poland.

...hosts... 1972-76...

'Gifts and donations for the construction of the Polish House (worth \$150 000 at the time of opening and free of debt) were given by 377 individuals to the amount of \$22 225; 140 people assisted in the build, working gratuitously for a total of 3450 working shifts'

read the statistics gathered by then president F. Dudek. The long years of the build are testament to the immeasurable contribution of the builders in creating the Polish Cultural Centre in Newcastle. Although the official opening of the house was in May 1974, the house was already named in honor of Nikolaus Copernicus a year prior, during the celebrations in honor of the Year of Copernicus- the 500th anniversary of his birth.

The new Polish House after its opening in May 1974

Ladies from the Polish Women's Society with delicacies they have prepared for an upcoming event. For years the efforts of the Society were a significant source of funding, instrumental in the build of the new Polish House.



The White Eagle, emblem of Poland, designed by M. Kubasik (first on the left) is hung on the Polish House- 1974



Year of Copernicus Celebrations held in 1973, in the Polish House named in his honor



The newly formed dance ensemble 'Kujawy' (formed by T. Gebhardt) in one of their early performances -1973



Polish School Dance Ensemble in 1975 with teacher H.Guźdź

CALENDAR

POLAND

1974 Fiat 126p commences production
 1975 17 voivodeship's split up to form 49
 1976 Peaceful protest of workers in Ursus and Radom
 Introduction of ration cards for sugar
 Creation of an open illegal opposition- Worker's Defence Committee (KOR)
 US President J. Carter visits Poland

WORLD

1972 Bloody overthrow of leftist government in Chile
 1974 Cyclone Tracy destroys Darwin, Australia
 1975 Death of Spanish dictator Gen. F. Franco
 Signing of the Helsinki Accords
 US President R. Nixon forced to resign
 Vietnam People's Army takes Saigon
 1976 Death of Mao Zedong



THE POLISH CENTRE. Broadmeadow, has been built by the voluntary labour and generous donations of Newcastle Polish Community. The Centre contains a Community Hall, School Rooms, Library and a Cafeteria.

... aid for Poland... 1977-81...

A turning point in time for Poland. The election of a Polish Pope and the rise of open Political opposition revive hope for a New Poland. The declaration of Martial Law in December 1981 does not stem the course of events, in fact the opposite. The victims of martial law and the prospect of economic ruin unite the country and change Poland forever.

During this pivotal time the Poland, the Association financially supported the 'Solidarity' movement. After the introduction of Martial Law, the Polish House becomes the meeting place for a local branch of organizations 'Assembly of captive European nations'. At one such meeting the decision was made to gather further support for 'Solidarity'. 'Aid for Poland' was not just a slogan of the 80's- during its history the Association has raised funds for various initiatives- Aid for the hungry in Poland (1989), victims of floods (1997 and 2001), blind children from 'Laski', victims of Chernobyl (Ukraine 1986) and residents of Darwin (1974).

Multicultural demonstration in Newcastle in protest against the introduction of Martial Law in Poland- Newcastle Mall January 1982



Radio program 'Amongst us' (1977) with F. & M. Burnog. Another program on 2NUR- FM- 'Echoes of the Homeland' run by H & W Ślusarczyk



Dance Ensemble 'Kujawy', recognized in 1978 as one of the top 3 Folklore Ensembles in Australia.



Historical Society (1979). Pictured are various members of the Society- H.Guźdź, H.Regulska-Ślusarczyk, A.Regulska, W.Ślusarczyk i J.Bot (long serving head of the Polish Women's Society)



In 1977 the Polish School joined the Federation of Ethnic Schools Council. Pictured here are students, teachers and the parent's committee-A.Kizeweter, M.Rakowska, K.Gracz, J.Pietras, S.Wójcicki, A.Janicka, M.Bober, K.Goczoł, R.Janicki. Z.Paczyński i Fr. B.Bednarz



Gypsy Ball organised by the Polish Women's Society- June 1977



Art Exhibition of the paintings of M. Pietras, in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Katyń Massacre

CALENDAR

POLAND

WORLD

1978 Cardinal K .Wojtyła elected Pope
 First Pole in space
 1979 Pope visits Poland
 1980 Strikes- **SOLIDARITY** movement formed
 Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to Czesław Miłosz
 1981 Gen. W. Jaruzelski comes to power
 Cardinal S.Wyszyński dies
 Martial Law introduced

1978 Peace agreement between Egypt and Israel
 1979 Iranian Islamic Revolution- Shah Pahlavi leaves Iran
 USSR Army invades Afghanistan
 1980 Moscow Olympics boycotted by the West
 Iran-Iraq War
 1981 Assassination attempt on the Pope in the Vatican.

...a guest at home... 1982-86...

By 1980 a long-awaited wave of immigration from Poland reaches Newcastle. The Polish Association, with aid from the Australian Government is able to offer some immigrants temporary employment in the Polish House Library. Through the work of the Committee for Aid to Poland 'Help Poland Live' and the work of the Committee for Social Welfare, approx. 80 newly arrived immigrant families settle in the Newcastle Region.

The Polish Association itself celebrates its 30 years- and in the spirit of reconciliation, goes back to its roots to remember those instrumental to its development.

CALENDAR

POLAND WORLD

1982 **SOLIDARITY** Movement goes underground
 1983 Papal visit Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to L. Wałęsa, leader of the Solidarity movement
 1984 Fr. J. Popiełuszko murdered by Intelligence Agents
 1985 Warsaw Pact extended for further 20 years

1982 Death of L. Brezhnev
 1983 M. Gorbachev comes to power in USSR
 US President Reagan announces 'Star Wars' initiative
 1986 Chernobyl Disaster in Ukraine
 Political unrest in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

Although the most important of Polish Guests visiting Australia during this time did not stop in Newcastle, the memory that he was close by has remained...



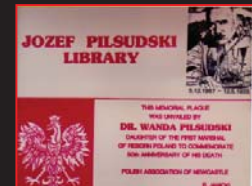
Concert performed by Blind Children from Laski- August 1985



Polish Association president R. Janicki with Wanda Piłsudska, at the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to her father- Marshall J. Piłsudski- Polish House 1985



Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile- Kazimierz Sabbat, farewelled by the president of the Polish Association R. Janicki in front of the Polish House 1986



B. Kubiak and H. Musialik from the Day Care Centre preparing a meal in the kitchen of the Polish House. These women continue the tradition of the Polish Women's Society and under their supervision meals are still served in the Polish House.



30th Anniversary of the Polish School-1986. Pictured- one of the first students of the school- B.O'Connor (nee Konieczny)



Fr. D. Sobala and A. Grenadier with the children involved in the nativity play



Polish Exhibition at Carnivale '86



... from the past into the new... 1987-91...



Consul General of Poland- G. Pieńkowski and Newcastle Lord Mayor Mr J. Mcnaughton during the unveiling ceremony- November 1991

The Historical Society of the Polish Association can be credited with making the name of Polish explorer Edmund Paweł Strzelecki (1797-1873) well known in Australia. Strzelecki, amongst other things, left Australia the name of another great Pole Tadeusz Kościuszko. The work of the society culminated in the creation of a plaque honoring Strzelecki (1991) and an exhibition at the Newcastle Regional Museum (1997). The monument to Strzelecki was unveiled in a symbolic gesture in 1991- by G. Pieńkowski - The first Consul General of 3rd Republic of Poland in Australia



Polish School Nativity Play- December 1991



Children's Day- Sydney 1987 & 1989



Reunion of the residents of the Greta Migrant Camp took place in 1988. In 1999, 50-year anniversary of the opening of the camp was celebrated. Pictures: Kostek Bohatko in the arms of his godparents P. Gracz and P. Kalaur- Silver City (1951)



President of the Polish Association A. Kizeweter and her husband C. Kizeweter welcoming the Consul General and Lord Mayor of Newcastle

Monument to E. P. Strzelecki at Strzelecki Lookout- in Newcastle



Kujawy 1988



Fr. M. Szura with a group of Polish youth in the Cathedral in Hamilton 1991



Choir 'Lutnia'- Society of Retirees and Pensioners



CALENDAR POLAND WORLD

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1987 Papal Visit
1988 A wave of strikes
Confidential talks between government and opposition
1989 Round Table talks
First free elections
Communist party loses power
People's Republic of Poland becomes the Republic of Poland
Gen. Jaruzelski President
1990 Communist Party dismantled- turned into Social Democracy of Republic of Poland (SDRP)
L. Wałęsa becomes President
1991 Papal Visit
Warsaw Pact Dismantled</p> | <p>1988 USSR Army leaves Afghanistan
1989 Fall of Berlin Wall
Newcastle Earthquake (Australia)
1990 Fall of Soviet Union
Unification of Germany
United Kingdom and France joined via Channel tunnel
1991 Yugoslavian states Separate
Gulf War
B. Yeltsin President of Russia</p> |
|---|--|

... lest we forget... 1992-96...

The 40th Anniversary of the Polish Association makes its founding members acutely aware of the passing of time. Some of them, already elderly and alone, require care. From 1976 this care had been provided by the Welfare and Day Care societies, and was continued by the Maximilian Kolbe Nursing Home (opened 1991). A renewed enthusiasm is also observed in the next generation- children from the Polish School take part in Christmas Ethnic Choirs concert-participate in the Strzelecki Celebrations, and their efforts in learning of the Polish language are recognized by those outside the Polish Community. The scouts are also revived, much to the delight of the Polish Combatants Association (Koło SPK 4).



The Welfare Society- Broadmeadow 1997



Polish Combatants celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Rising and the Battle of Monte Cassino- Anzac Day Newcastle 1994

Members of the Polish Combatants association and the scouts "Polesie" marching in the Anzac Day Parade – Newcastle 1994-1995



A.Radna from the Polish School receives the Ministers Award for community languages from the NSW Minister of Education- Sydney 1994



Polish School children perform as part of the celebrations honoring 150 years since Strzelecki's departure from Newcastle- Newcastle 1993



Polish children's choir before Ethnic Choirs Christmas Concert- Hamilton- 1994



Teachers from the Polish School in 1997- from left- A.Łunarzewska, E.Radna, Fr.J.Śłowiński, E.Świrad, A.Borzestowski (School Principal), B.Trzcinka.

CALENDAR POLAND WORLD

1992 USSR Army leaves Poland
 1994 Free Elections to the Senate and Sejm
 Poland's application to join European Union
 1995 A. Kwaśniewski President of Poland
 1996 W. Szymborska receives Nobel Prize for literature

1992 War in Bosnia and Herzegovnia
 1993 Division of Czechoslovakia- Czech Republic and Slovakia are formed
 1994 African National Congress successful in Parliamentary elections in South Africa.

...citius, altius, fortius... 1997-2001...



Polish athlete Robert Korzeniowski was one of the stars of the Sydney Olympics, winning 2 gold medals for Poland in the 20km and 50km walk. Pictured: Korzeniowski after his 20km win, overtaking his distraught opponent just before the finish line.



An important event for Australia was the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. The credo of the modern Olympics-faster, higher, stronger; accepted by all Olympians has become a universal aspiration, also present in the Polish tradition. Already along the route of the Olympic Torch, the Polish community was proudly represented by the dances and performances of the children from the Polish school during the Torch Relay celebrations. In the Olympic Park, Poland was well represented amongst the spectators of the games. Participating athletes from Poland and some political personages were cordially invited to the Polish House, in line with the Associations history of supporting Polish Youth Sport clubs in Newcastle.



Leader of the Polish Government's right wing faction M. Krzeklewski at the Polish House-Broadmeadow 1998



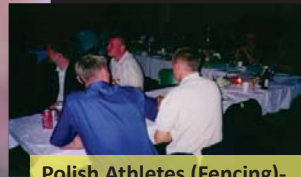
Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua perform at the Polish House- Broadmeadow, 1999



Fr. T Świątkowski with altar-boy M. Radny in the Olympic Stadium- Sydney 2000



Children from the Polish School during the celebrations along the Torch Relay route- Raymond Terrace 2000



Polish Athletes (Fencing)-guests at the Polish House-September 2000



'Pan Twardowski' with members of the Polish community at the 'Fiesta' Cultural Festival in Hamilton 2000



The new Polish trend for feasting and celebrating reaches Newcastle. One such event in the Polish House hall with the music of Suzi Biniecki i Asia Łunarzewska - 1999



Ania Chodzińska receives Minister's award for community languages from NSW Minister for Education- Sydney 2000



Mrs A. Slowik in front of the Ethnic Groups Council Banner, a section of which (representing the Polish Community) she made herself. The Council was led by T. Gebhardt.



A Polish group from Newcastle on their way to Olympic Park- Sydney September 2000



Łukasz Wiklendt with Polish President A. Kwaśniewski and Polish sporting legend I. Szewińska- Sydney 2000



The Historical Society commemorated Strzelecki's 200th Birthday in 1997, by organising a exhibition in Newcastle Regional Museum

CALENDAR

POLAND	WORLD
1997 Papal visit	1999 NATO intervention in Kosovo
New constitution	2000 Summer Olympic Games held in Sydney, Australia
Right wing victory in Sejm Elections	2001 September 11 Terrorist attacks in the USA and the start of 'War on Terror'
Worst floods of the century in Silesia	
1998 Negotiations begin for Poland to enter European Union	
1999 Papal Visit	
Poland joins NATO	
Poland's 49 voivodeships replaced by 16	
2000 A. Wajda receives the Honorary Academy Award (Oscar).	

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...Golden Anniversary... 2002-2006...

The year 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the Polish Association. The occasion was marked by the publishing of a book in both Polish and English about the history of the Association in Newcastle (edited by Alexandra Horn), and was celebrated by all with lush festivities and celebrations. The posters you are currently reading formed a central tenet of the jubilee exhibition (B Daniel M Bartczak M Radny) which was also presented in the Newcastle Regional Library. The guests arrived, memories were shared, the ball began..... Otherwise it was work as usual...

Larysa

Amelia

Sara

Jarek

Lidia

Agatka

Kasia

Michalina



Students and teachers (A. Horn and E. Radna) from the Polish Schools taking part in the 'From There to Here' Project. One of the works (A. Radna) was received an award from the Migrant Heritage Centre.



2002 – The Board of the Polish Association (from left): B.Ryll, B.Lańkiewicz, B.Trzcinka, Wł.Żarczyński, J.Pietras, E.Radna, A.Kizeweter (President), B.Pińkowska, B.Kubiak, F.Dudek, B.Żarczyńska, Cz.Kizeweter. Absent: A.Słowik.

CALENDAR

POLAND

WORLD

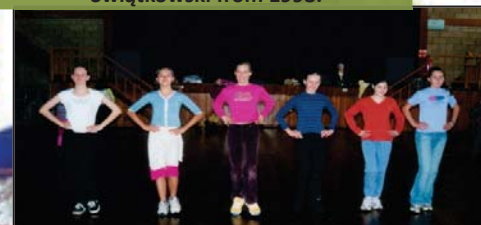
2002 Polish Army deployed to Afghanistan
 Civic Platform (PO) and Law and Justice (PiS) are the two parties running in the election
 2003 Adam Malysz- Polish 'Ski Jumping King'
 2004 Death of Czeslaw Milosz, Polish Nobel Laureate
 2005 Death of Pope John Paul II
 Law and Justice (PiS) win election
 2006 Pope Benedict XVI visits Poland

2002 New currency 'Euro' begins circulation
 New planet discovered (Quaoar)
 2003 First Chinese in space
 Invasion of Iraq
 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami kills 230 000 people
 Olympics return to Athens
 2005 A. Merkel first female Chancellor of Germany
 2006 Execution of Saddam Hussein in Iraq

The traditions of the Polish Radio were resurrected in 2000 by R Złocińska. From 2002 this work was continued by T Wiklendt and Z Pluta.



'Wigilia for the lonely' organized by Fr. T Świątkowski from 1998.



Polish School dance ensemble 'Oberek' during practice



Blessing of the new banner of the Polish Association – August 2002. From right- The 'godparents'- B. Kubiak , Cz. Kizeweter and the witnesses- past and present presidents of the Polish association- A.Kizeweter (1991-2004), F.Dudek (1972-74,76,89) and R.Janicki (1982-88)



In 2004 there was a historic change in the Association. Elżbieta Radna was elected president, representing the newest wave of emigration (arrived in Australia in 1992)

... to last and remember... 2007-2012...

CALENDAR

POLAND WORLD

2007 Civic Platform wins elections to the Sejm
 Poland enters the Schengen Zone
2008 Body of Gen. Sikorski exhumed
2009 Abolition of military conscription
2010 Tragic death of Polish president L. Kaczynski
 B. Komorowski elected president of Poland
2011 Civic Platform wins elections for the second time
 First Polish Presidency of Council of the European Union
2012 Death of Nobel Laureate W. Szyborska.

2007 Beginning of Global Financial Crisis
2009 First African-American President of the USA elected (B. Obama)
2010 Ecological disaster in the Gulf of Mexico
2011 Osama Bin Laden killed in Pakistan
 Tragic tsunami in Japan
2012 Jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne.
 Discovery of the Higgs Boson- 'God Particle'

2009 came with yet another anniversary to celebrate with distinguished guests, celebrations and memories- 60 years since the 1949 immigration (see Poster 1). In 2012, the Polish Association marked 60 years of its activity, with 36 names on its list of members (just 3 names less than in 1952 when the Association was formed)- are we returning to our roots?

A prayer and a minute of silence remembering the victims of Katyń



From left- Mr A. Prasolik (98) the oldest member of the association. The Eagle from his army cap was affixed to the Katyń Plaque. Pictured here with Association president M. Radny moments after the unveiling of the plaque.



Unveiling of the Katyń Plaque (2011). The Plaque was unveiled by K.Jordan & Wł. Żarczyński; both relatives of Katyń victims, during a prayer said by Fr. K.Bojda.



Students from the Polish Schools presenting an artistic program (2011) under the direction of E Radna. Students Amela Bartzczak, Sara Pinkowski and Jarek Krajewski reached outstanding results in NSW Higher School Certificate (2011)



Official guests of the 60th anniversary of Polish post-war immigration to Australia (2009), with the jubilee exhibition in the background.



SCULPTURE

Exhibition Poster for the sculptures of M Kubasik at the Polish house in 2009. Pictured is the sculpture of the Eagle adorning the Polish House (1974)



Polish Community Council of Australia honors 6 members of the Newcastle Polish Community with medals (A.Kizeweter, E.Radna & Wł.Żarczyński in 2010; K.Jordan, F.Dudek & Zb. Pluta in 2011). Pictured- K.Jordan, F.Dudek & Zb.Pluta with President of Polish Community Council of Australia J. Krajewski during the ceremony.



T Gehardt (left) was awarded the Polish Order of St. Stanislaus during the opening of the Kosciuszko Exhibition in Newcastle regional Library (2006). M Bartzczak (right) is the first Association president to represent the immigrants form the 1980's



The 'Farewell to Communism' ball in 2010 was attended by 150 people. Pictured: young waiters welcoming guests- 'theres nothing to sell, nothing to buy- only the party remains'!