



# The Polish Heritage of Otago and Southland NEWSLETTER

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY 2001 MEMBERSHIP FEES!**

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July 2001  
Issue 10

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## New & Improved!?

We would welcome some feedback on what you think of the newsletter. If you wish to share any suggestions or contributions please send them through to Magda Sakowska (e-mail below) or contact me on 471 9937 or 025 662 6493. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, e-mail me at [sakma551@student.otago.ac.nz](mailto:sakma551@student.otago.ac.nz) and let me know.

## Polish Community Celebrates it's National Day

To celebrate Poland's National Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Polish Flag was flown from the Dunedin Civic Centre for the first time. Later in the day, a Mass was celebrated by Father Pat Maloney at Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Broad Bay.

A large number of Polish community and local residents gathered to honour

the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, whose feast day coincides with Poland's National Day. During the Mass, Father Maloney gave an interesting history of the Black Madonna. The Day ended with an evening of song and dance at the University of Otago Union attended by over one hundred people.

The programme commenced with the singing of the Polish and New Zealand National Anthems followed by a welcome from Patricia Clark, Chairperson of the Polish Heritage of Otago and Southland Charitable Trust. Members of the Trust, dressed in national costume, and provided a colourful display of Polish dancing, which included a Polonaise, a Kukułeczka and a Polka. The rendition of Polish songs also delighted the audience.

This was followed by songs and dances under the heading of "Friendship has no Barriers" presented by Spain: Rena McIntyre and Jeanine Benson (Flamenco dancing), New Zealand: Angela Donaldson (vocal), Germany: Martin and Reglindis Zehrer (vocal), Bulgaria: Nicola and Diana Kassabov (accordion and vocal). The evening concluded with a supper of traditional Polish cakes.

Apologies were received from Bishop Leonard Boyle, Rev. Father Pat Maloney, and Rev. Father Mervin McGettigan.

## Poland's 3<sup>rd</sup> of May Constitution Day

The end of the 18th century produced three constitutions considered the first modern constitutions in the World.

The American Constitution of September 17, 1787 was the oldest. The second in the World and the first in Europe was the Polish Constitution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 1791 preceding the French September Constitution by several months.

The American Constitution followed the American War of Independence, the French one was produced by the Revolution, while the Polish Constitution was formed from bloodless changes effected by forces striving to recover independence of their own state and sovereignty of their nation, and to enable the development of a country with the protection of independence.

The Constitution of May 3<sup>rd</sup> established a constitutional monarchy, abolished elections of kings and introducing a hereditary throne. It established a government called the Guardian of Laws and introduced ministerial responsibility to the Sejm. Catholicism was considered the reigning religion. However, other denominations were assured tolerance.

The privileged position of the gentry was maintained while considerable rights were granted to burghers. It was declared that the peasants were assured protection of the law and of the country's government which paved the way to some more significant changes in the future.

Peasants were recognised as part of the nation for the first time in Polish history which was clearly stated in the article on peasants and on the army. The provision on an obligatory review of the Bill on Government every 25 years was a novelty. May 3<sup>rd</sup> was declared a National Day.

Information from  
<http://www.polishworld.com/polemb/const/index.html>

## Congratulations

Cecylia & Wojtek Klobukowski on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Jadwiga Lendnal of Wellington for services to the Polish Community.

Alana Arlukiewicz and Emilia Janaszkiwicz both of Wellington, recipients of the Mr M and Mrs T Olechnowicz Scholarship for 2001.

## The Migrations of a Stork

*Chatterbox 1913, London, C Morley*

About two years ago, a Polish gentleman caught a stork on his estate near Lemberg in Galicia, and put on its neck a metal ring bearing the inscription: *Haec ciconia Polonia* meaning this stork comes from Poland.

In spring, the stork came back and allowed itself to be caught again. To the great delight of the gentleman, he found on the neck of the bird, in place of the metal band, a fine gold circlet with the words engraved on it: *India com donis remittit ciconiam Poloniis* India sends the stork with a present to the Poles.



In Poland, the stork is a good luck symbol especially among Polish villages. Storks were commonly seen to nest on thatched roofs and chimneys and still today on tiled modern roofs.

## Upcoming Talk

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1:30 pm, Czesia Panek will give an open lecture *From Poland to NZ via Pahiatua Camp* at the Age Concern Hall in Macandrew Rd (opposite St Patrick's Church). All welcome, please bring friends.

## Tadeusz Kościuszko

(1746-1817)



Tadeusz Kościuszko was born on February 12 1746 into a family of small landed gentry near Brest (now in Belarus). He attended a Cadet School and in 1770 left for Paris to further his studies. There, he became acquainted with the progressive ideology of the French Enlightenment. Poland was undergoing the first partition of 1772 when Kościuszko was in France. In 1776 Kościuszko left for America and took part in the fight for the freedom of the North American colonies. Kościuszko played an important role in the American people's struggle for independence.

Kościuszko was nominated as a colonel in the American Army where he fought under General Horatio Gates in many battlefields in the USA. He contributed significantly to the decisive American victory at the Battle of Saratoga (1777).

In 1784 Kościuszko returned to Poland, attaining the rank of major general in the Polish army. In 1794, following the second partition (1793) of Poland, by Russia and Prussia, he led a rebellion for Polish independence. Proclaimed military commander and given dictatorial powers by his followers, he defeated the Russians at Raclawice, but was overcome by a combined Russian and Prussian force at Szczekociny. He died October 15, 1817, in Solothurn, Switzerland and was laid to rest in the royal crypt at Wawel Castle in Kraków.

Today, the New York Bridge bears the name of Tadeusz Kościuszko. Closer to home, Australia's highest peak (Mt Kościuszko 2228 m in Southern NSW) is also named after the General.

Information from <http://encarta.msn.com/index/conciseindex/18/0186f000.htm>

***In upcoming issues, we will introduce Polish legends and some old Polish traditions in the kitchen and at the table.***

## Farewell to German Friends

At the June monthly Mass at Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay, Father Pat Maloney gave a special blessing to Reglindis and Martin Zehrer and their unborn child who are returning home to Germany in early July. Reglindis has been the organist at both the Waverly and Broad Bay Churches for the past two years. The Mass was attended by locals and representatives of the Polish Community, with morning tea being held in the church where the initial goodbyes were made.

A pot luck lunch followed in the Age Concern hall in South Dunedin, where the Waverly parishioners and the Polish group gathered to make their farewells.

Presentations were made to Reglindis and Martin. The first by Patricia Clark, representing the Polish community, of a pastel and pencil

drawing of the Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Broad Bay by artist Edward Sakowski. The second presentation, made by Derek Railton representing the Waverly Parish, was of a pictorial book of Dunedin.

Reglindis and Martin were members of the Polish Dance group and as a memento, two dolls dressed in costume replicas worn by them, were made and presented by Angela Donaldson and Patricia Clark.

After the presentation, impromptu Polish dancing was performed by the group. The luncheon concluded with Martin presenting a bracket of German songs accompanied by Reglindis. They will be missed by their many friends who wish them a safe journey home.

## Membership Fees

Please remember to pay your 2001 membership fees. Any questions please contact Russell Chiles (464 0731).