



# The Polish Heritage of Otago and Southland NEWSLETTER

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

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September 2001  
Issue 12

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### All Soul's Day

*November 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm*

This year All Soul's day will be celebrated at Anderson's Bay cemetery. The assembly area will be down from the second entrance off Tahuna Rd. Please bring candles and flowers. After the ceremony, we will adjourn to the Age Concern Hall in Macandrew Rd for a potluck supper (PLEASE BRING A PLATE).

### Consecration of Stained Glass Windows

*November 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm*

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, a consecration will be held at the Mary Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay with Bishop Len Boyle celebrating the mass with us. Honorary Polish consul in New Zealand, John Roy Wojciechowski from Auckland will also attend. The mass will be at 7:30pm to celebrate and dedicate the restored stained glass windows.

We extend our sincerest invitation to all members and friends to celebrate this special occasion and pay homage to the predecessors of the church. A gathering will be held after the mass at Macandrew Bay Community Hall (Broad Bay hall was unavailable) with a light supper (PLEASE BRING A PLATE) followed by entertainment from the Polish Dance Group. **Please support this very special historical event with your attendance.** And if you have them, please wear your Polish costumes.

If you are unable to find transport to the Church on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> November or are able to provide a lift please contact Patricia Clark on 488 3630 for transport arrangements. We will provide transport for *all* who require it.

The restoration project was initiated in 2000 by the Polish Heritage Trust of Otago and Southland. In September 2000, an appeal was launched to the Polish community and friends for donations to restore and preserve the world's most southernmost historic Polish church built by the first Polish settlers in the Otago region at the end of last century. The main aim of the appeal was to replace the stained glass windows, which were destroyed due an act of vandalism after the shifting of the church from Waihola to Broad Bay in 1948.

The new church windows are now in place, we have to thank the stained glass artist Terry Power, Edward Sakowski for colour and artistic design and Ludmila Sakowski for painting of the medallions.

The project had a budget of \$6500, which the Trust managed to finance from a \$2000 grant from the Otago Community Trust and \$4500 worth of generous donations from the national

appeal. Many thanks are extended to all the generous donations that were made. In acknowledgement a commemorative bronze plaque will be placed inside the church inscribed with the name of all donors.

The appeal is still open for donations to further finance the preservation of the Church. Names of further donors will be inscribed into the bronze plaque.

### Picnic at Woodhaugh

*November 25<sup>th</sup> 11:30am*

The annual BBQ will be held at Woodhaugh Gardens this year. This event has in the past been held at the Broad Bay Church. This year we have decided to hold the event closer to town to make it more accessible. Please support this event with your attendance.

Sausages, bread and tomato sauce provided BYO extras. All welcome.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*2 Nov 7pm*

All Soul's day at Anderson's Bay cemetery

*17 Nov 7:30pm*

Consecration of the Stained Glass windows at Mary Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay

*25 Nov 11:30am*

Picnic at Woodhaugh Gardens

*23 Dec 9am*

Christmas Mass at Mary Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay



## Sympathies

The Polish trust and members extend our deepest sympathy to Alan Chalmers and family on the sad passing of Maureen nee Pedowski. Maureen was an active member and we will miss her.

Our sincerest sympathies are also passed on to Elsie Cambell's family. Elsie grew up in Allanton with the Polish families and wrote a poem to the settlers (see insert below).

### *To the Allanton Polish Pioneers*

From far across the sea they came,  
A Pioneering band  
To look for homes, in peace to dwell  
Far from the tyrant's land.

They found this peace, beneath the hill  
A river running by,  
And so in hope they settled down  
Their talent here to ply.

With gratitude they struggled on  
Their task – it wasn't light,  
They started out before the dawn  
And worked into the night.

The railway line was soon laid down  
And difficulties overcome,  
Success had smiled on them at last  
They'd found a peaceful home.

Their wants were few, those simple folk  
Who came from o'er the sea,  
They made the best of what they had  
They carved their destiny.

They left to us a legacy  
From those far days of yore,  
The haven here beneath the hill  
We'll cherish evermore.

*Elsie Campbell nee Turnbull life long  
resident of Allanton*

## Membership Fees

Does your newsletter have a red dot?

Have you paid your 2001 membership fees?

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

## 102 Years Young !!!



Rosalie Prescott nee (Klemick) turned 102 last month.

She is the last of her immediate family still alive and is the last of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation Poles born in New Zealand that we know of. Her parents were Martin Klimeck & Minnie Barra. Martin 9 yrs & Minnie 6 yrs arrived in New Zealand in 1874 with their families from Kociewie. Rosalie was born in 1899 in the Tokomairiro district.

## Polish Dance Group

The Polish Dance group will be performing on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Brooklyn Village in Mosgiel. The next practice is November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the

### *Jan Żurkowski* (1919-2001)

Jan Żurkowski was born 24<sup>th</sup> June 1919 in Krzeszo and went to school in Lwow. In 1940 he was forced into the Russian Army, but in 1942 escaped from a labour camp and joined the Polish Free Army. He travelled through Tashkent, Iran, Iraq and on reaching England was accepted into the RAF where he became a fighter pilot in tactical reconnaissance Squadron 317.

Jan married Stefania, his wife of 55 years, in 1945 and when he was demobbed lived in Cornwall, then Leeds, where he worked in a textile mill and then as a toolmaker. In 1964 the family came to New Zealand and Jan worked as a knitwear mechanic at Ross and Glendinning and then as a toolmaker for Methvens. He retired in 1979 and continued to live in Kaikorai Valley until his death.

On September 6<sup>th</sup> 2001, Jan died aged 82. His requiem was held at St Francis Xavier Parish, Mornington. Jan was buried with a picture of Jesus Christ that carried two stories.

The picture was originally given to him by his mother when war broke out. When Jan was a prisoner of the Russians he was paraded before the camp commander for questioning. During the interrogation his meagre possessions were spread out on a table before him. The commander pointed to the picture of Jesus Christ with his beating baton.

"Who's this?"  
"Jesus Christ, whom I believe in."  
"And do you think your God will save you?"  
"Yes".

For the next two hours Jan explained his faith and some teachings of Jesus. The commander, fascinated by his story, let Jan back to his cell without the expected beating. Jan was convinced that his picture saved him. His picture saved him a second time when a piece of shrapnel pierced the wallet in his pocket and stopped just short of the picture.

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Roslyn Presbyterian Church Hall in Highgate (past Epsom St).

We still would like more dancers for the group, both males and females, adults and children. If families or friends are interested and keen to learn Polish songs and dances, please contact Angela Donaldson on 453 4919 or Rena McIntyre on 454 5101

## Christmas Mass @ Broad Bay

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 9am*

Christmas Mass will be celebrated at Braod Bay with Christmas bulbs hand painted by members of the Polish Community for everyone who attends. Christmas cake and cookies will be served during morning tea. Please join in the joyful festivities.

