



# The Polish Heritage of Otago and Southland

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Issue 14

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## Community Art Gallery Exhibition

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Polish Heritage Trust organised an exhibition at the Dunedin Community Art Gallery entitled *Poles Apart? Together Again in Otago and Southland in the year 2002*.

The exhibition's theme centered on the achievements and activities of the Polish Heritage Trust to date and was a fundraising effort towards the restoration of the historical Mary, Queen of Peace church bell.

Over 700 people visited the displays that included artworks by Laura Gregory, Margaret Ann Howard, Andzej Karmasz and Edward Sakowski. Also displayed were information boards on the Trust's work over the last four years and individually prepared colourful documentations of trips to Poland by Patricia Clark, Angela Donaldson and Paul Klemick.

The event managed to raise almost \$300 towards the

restoration of the historical bell pictured right.

Thank you to all who helped in organising the exhibition and making it the success that it was. We would like to extend special thanks to Margaret Ann Howard for her generosity in donating all sales from her artwork towards the Trust.

Over 700 visitors from as far away as Canada, USA, Holland, UK, Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, France and Poland viewed the exhibition *Poles Apart? Together Again in Otago and Southland in the year 2002*. Here is what some of them had to say:

- *A great exhibition of culture and art.*
- *Wonderful to learn about the history of the Polish people in this part of Aoteroa.*
- *Very interesting and informative.*
- *Being of European origin I rediscovered affinity to my lost roots.*
- *Many thanks.*
- *Impressive, fascinating and beautifully displayed.*
- *I came from Pomerania and I share the same values like the Polish people. Your exhibition is about heart, soul, tradition and Christian values.*



Paul Klemick, Rena McIntyre and the historical bell at the Dunedin Community Art Gallery.

## Polish National Day

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

This year we would like to invite everybody to attend the National Polish day Celebrations on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The evening will begin with mass at the Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay at 7pm. It will be followed by a potluck supper at the Cedars Club (89 Stafford Street) at 8pm. A door charge of \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child will apply, this is to cover the cost of hiring out the premises. **Please bring a plate;** we will also be serving traditional Polish *bigos* (sour kraut with meat and sausages) with bread. Tea and coffee will also be served with Polish cookies. We warmly invite you to join us at this social gathering.



Ula and Mariusz Nowostawski leading the Polish Dance Group at the opening ceremony at the Community Art Gallery.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**3 May 7pm**

Mass at Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay

**3 May 8pm**

National Polish Day Celebrations at the Cedars of Lebanon Club, 89 Stafford St.

## Get Well Soon!!!

We are pleased to know that Trust member Arthur Elliot is progressing well after his car accident in December. We would also like to wish Trust secretary Russell Chiles a speedy recovery after his illness. We hope to see you back on the go soon.

## Polish Easter Traditions

A Polish Easter tradition is to give out *pisanki*. This tradition is a relic of pagan beliefs where hard boiled eggs were hand painted and artistically decorated by village women. The custom of colouring eggs is still observed today.



The egg is a symbol of life, it was seen at Easter celebrations since this coincided with nature's awakening to life (in the northern hemisphere that is). Easter eggs were often painted red; according to Slavic beliefs, they had magical properties and were said to be effective in matters of the heart.

## Appeal for Daffodils

If you have any daffodil bulbs to donate or would like to make a financial contribution to beautifying the Mary Queen of Peace Church Gardens please contact Edward Sakowski on 487 7763.

## Polish Dance Group

We still would like more dancers for the group, 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.

## POHOS Website

Visit the Polish Heritage Trust of Otago and Southland online at [www.pohos.eu.org](http://www.pohos.eu.org). You can access Trust history, upcoming events, letters from friends, photos and past newsletters at this website. Contact details are also available online.

## Marie Skłodowska Curie

(1867-1934) From <http://www.nobel.se/ch.../marie-curie-bio.html>



Maria Sklodowska was born November 7, 1867 in Warsaw, Poland. She would not only become the first woman to win a Nobel Prize but one of the first people to win two Nobel Prizes.

She grew up in a family that valued education. As a young woman she went to Paris to study mathematics, chemistry and physics. She began studying at the Sorbonne in 1891, and was the first woman to teach there. She adopted the French spelling of her name (Marie) and also met Pierre Curie, who taught physics at University of Paris. Marie and Pierre soon married, and teamed up to conduct research on radioactive substances.

They found that the uranium radioactivity than could be

The Curies began a search for the source of the radioactivity and discovered two highly radioactive elements, "radium" and "polonium." The Curie's won the 1903 Nobel Prize for physics for their discovery. They shared the award with another French physicist, Antoine Henri Becquerel, who had discovered natural radioactivity. In 1906 Pierre, overworked and weakened by his prolonged exposure to radiation, died when he was run over by a car.

Madame Curie continued her work on radioactive elements and won the 1911 Nobel Prize for chemistry for isolating radium and studying its chemical properties. In 1914 she helped found the Radium Institute in Paris, and was the Institute's first director. When the First World War broke out, Madame Curie thought X-rays would help to locate bullets and facilitate surgery. It was also important not to move the wounded, so she invented X-ray vans and trained 150 female attendants.

On July 4, 1934, at the age of 67 Madame Curie died of leukaemia (aplastic pernicious anaemia), thought to have been brought on by exposure to the high levels of radiation involved in her research. After her death the Radium Institute was renamed the Curie Institute in her honour.

## Cichy Szept – In Between

July 2001 saw the publication of Edwards Sakowski's first book - a collection of poems written in Polish. Below is a sample of one of his poems with translation.



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Weź kroplę rosy w drżącą dłoń  
Zbliż ją do oczu  
I wtedy ciepło odbitego światła  
Roztoczy przed tobą jeszcze jedną  
bajkę  
Gdzie rzeczy pierwsze ostatnimi się  
stają  
Nie potrzebujesz żadnych słów...  
Krzyku ci brak bo drobna lza  
Rozpaliła myśli szlak  
Twarz ci drga  
Bez szminki i bez wrażeń  
Rozdmuchiwanych przez wiatr...  
Czas zalał ci za skórę  
A mokry lzy ślad  
Zostawił nową zmarszczkę  
Na twarz co od lat szukała skarbu  
W chmurach  
Jeżeli jeszcze masz dość sił  
Weź drugą kroplę rosy  
Unieś ją... i śnij...

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Take a dewdrop in your shivering palm  
Draw it close to your eyes  
Than the radiance of the reflected light  
Will display before you another fable  
Where first things happen last  
You do not need any words...  
You cannot scream as a single tear  
Inflamed the thought's path ...your face is  
shivering  
Without lipstick on and without impressions  
Blown away by the wind...  
Time lumbered under your skin  
And a wet tear trace  
Left a new wrinkle  
On a face that has been looking for treasure  
for years  
In the clouds...  
If you still have enough strength  
Take another drop of dew  
Carry it away... and dream...