

The Polish Heritage of Otago and Southland NEWSLETTER

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY 2002 MEMBERSHIP FEES!

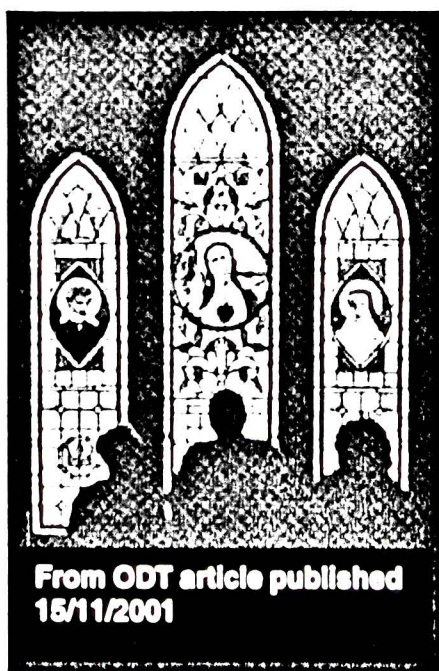
December 2001
Issue 13

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Consecration of Stained Glass Windows
- Community Calendar
- Community Award
- The Honorary Consul
- Congratulations
- Merry Christmas and happy New Year
- Christmas Mass @ Broad Bay
- Picnic @ Woodhaugh
- This weeks feature person: Rosalie Prescott
- Photos From the Consecration
- Consecration of Stained Glass Windows -Transcript of Speeches

Consecration of Stained Glass Windows

The replacement stained glass windows at the Mary Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay were celebrated with a mass held by Bishop Len Boyle on the 17th November. The windows have been scrupulously recreated by a team of people who worked together on restoring them as close as possible to the originals. Dunedin based stained glass artist, Terry Powers, has done a beautiful job. The central window is of the Sacred Heart with St Hyacinth and Catherine of Sienna on either side.



The windows also incorporate a new element - a punga tree and a waterfall - to represent their new place in New Zealand history. This was designed by Trust member Edward Sakowski. Ludmila Sakowski hand painted the faces in the windows.

The mass was celebrated by over a hundred people.

Patricia Clark welcomed Bishop Len Boyle and the congregation to this very special occasion. A brief history of the Church and the stained glass windows was delivered in English by

Trust secretary, Russell Chiles, and in Polish by Edward Sakowski (see last page of this newsletter for speech transcripts). This was followed by the blessing of the windows by the Bishop.

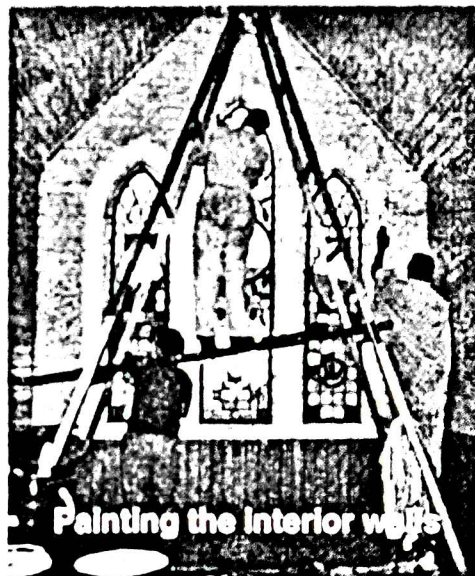
After the mass the congregation adjourned to the Macandrew Bay

Orphans Club for supper. Entertainment was provided by our Polish song and dance group, which was enjoyed with great enthusiasm by everyone.

Special guests at the ceremony were the Honorary Polish Consul to New

Zealand, John Roy Wojciechowski and his wife Valerie. They traveled from Auckland to attend this historical occasion and spoke very highly of the Polish community and their activities in Dunedin.

We were also very pleased to welcome Dunedin City Councilors, Neil Collins and Leah McBey and representatives from the Multi Ethnic Council.



More photos on pg 3 of this issue.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

23 Dec 9am

Christmas Mass at Mary Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay

25 Jan 2002 9am

Mass at Mary Queen of Peace Church, Broad Bay

Community Award

The Polish Heritage Trust of Otago and Southland was nominated and won first prize in it's category in the 2001 TrustPower Dunedin City Community Awards.

TrustPower, in partnership with the Dunedin City Council organizes these awards which

recognise voluntary organisations and groups in the city of Dunedin that dedicate hours of voluntary time and



energy in making the Dunedin City community a better place to live. The winners were announced on December 6th.

There were five categories that community organisations and groups could have been nominated under. They were: Heritage and Environment, Health and Well-being, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure and Educational & Child/Youth Development.

The Polish Heritage Trust of Otago and Southland received \$500 and a certificate in the Heritage and Environment category. The runner-up in this category was Otago Theatre Trust (\$250).

TrustPower gave away prizes worth \$5250 to ten other Dunedin organisations. The overall winner was the Malcam Charitable Trust. It won \$1500, a certificate and a trophy designed by Dunedin artist Moira Crossman. TrustPower community relations manager Graeme Purches said that the Maclam Trust had done a lot for Otago youth. The Trust's list of youth environmental, justice, employment, public art, mental health and self-esteem projects ran to three pages. Similar Community Awards presentations were made in 20 districts around the country.

The Honorary Consul

Considering it proper and useful in the interest of maintaining and developing the relations of friendship and economic cooperation which exists between the Republic of Poland and New Zealand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland appointed and established Mr John Roy-Wojciechowski in the capacity of Honorary Consul of the republic of Poland in Auckland, with jurisdiction over the territory of New Zealand, with exception of the city of Wellington. The Wellington office continues to handle all visa enquiries and the consulate in Sydney continues to handle all passport queries. Visa applications and forms are available from John Roy-Wojciechowski's office. He is also able to help with general inquiries including verification of signatures, confirmation of documents etc.

For further information contact:
Konsulat Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej /
Consulate of the Republic of Poland
51 Granger Road, Howick, Auckland
1705, tel.09-533 5166
Office Hours: 10am-12pm Mon-Fri
Facsimile: 09-535 4068
Residence: 09-534 4670
E-mail: polish@ihug.co.nz

Congratulations

November 2001

Last month, Stefania Zurakowska, a long standing member of our trust, was honoured by the Polish government with a military promotion to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. The Trust framed her promotion document as a gift.

On the afternoon of Sunday 25th, after the barbecue, some of the board members and friends visited Stefania at her home and presented her with a bouquet of red and white flowers and the framed document. We sang "Sto Lat" to Stefania congratulating her on her promotion.



▲ 1944 – On leave: Jan (RAF) and Stefa (WAFS).



▲ Nov 2001 - Stefa at her home with Trust members from left Ula Nowostawska, Paulina Papierska, Edward Sakowski, Stefa, Ludmila Sakowski, and trust Chairperson Patricia Clark.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ludmila Sakowski

Many of us remember good Christmases from our childhood. There are some however, who remember those tragic, sad Christmases during the World War II: The raging Nazi terror, uncertainty of life, hunger and the humiliating bitterness of the occupation.

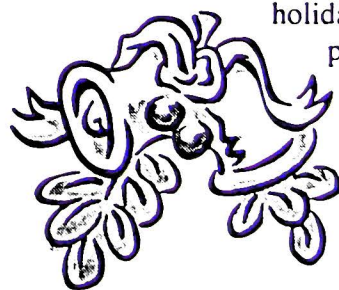
During those hungry Christmas Eves how comforting was that thin broth made from



one or two frozen cold beetroots that ineffectively imitated the traditional borsch and the one herring, if anyone was lucky enough to obtain one, divided into tiny pieces substituting the Christmas-Eve fish dishes. How moving it was to share the Christmas wafer wishing each other a Merry Christmas and remembering those who had died in the underground movement or had been tortured to death in Gestapo prisons.

Those were not meals, as they could not satisfy hunger, but patriotic symbols, making less difficult to live through it all.

New generations (including my own), have since grown up knowing of those dark and somber times only from stories, literature and movies. For us Christmas Eve and Christmas time are happy and joyful family



holidays that take place at a richly-laid table. May they remain that way forever.

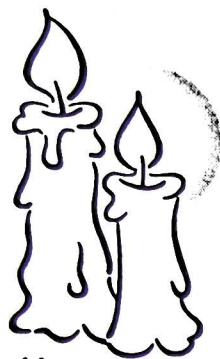
Please remember that today, there are places in the world still war torn and raged by death and sadness and that there are tables which are not going to be richly-laid and mouths that are not going to enjoy this year's Christmas food.

May we think of those at Christmas and when we wish each other a happy and prosperous New Year

Christmas Mass @ Broad Bay

Sunday 23rd
December
9am

Christmas Mass will be celebrated with the Christmas tree, Christmas baubles hand painted by the 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.



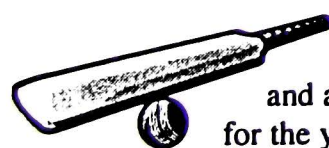
Polish Dance Group

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.

Picnic at Woodhaugh

After a mass at the Mary Queen of Peace Church on the 25th of November, we held our annual barbecue at the Woodhaugh Gardens which was attended by the members of our Trust, their families and friends.

After a cold and very windy start to the day, the sun came out and the participants spent a most enjoyable, warm afternoon, filled with



conversation,
nice food, wine
and a game of cricket
for the younger attendants.

Keith Clark was thanked with a gift for his painting of the walls of the presbytery in the church.

Membership Fees for 2002

Please remember to pay your 2002 membership fees. Any questions please contact Russell Chiles (464 0731).

Rosalie Prescott
(1899-)

Paul Klemick



Rosalie Prescott nee (Klimeck [My great grandfather anglicised the surname by putting the e & i around the other way as to sound more like the Polish version which is Klimek]) at 102 is the last of her immediate family still alive and is the last of the 1st Generation Poles born in New Zealand that we know of. Her parents were Martin Klimeck & Minnie Barra both of West Prussia, ethnically the Kociewie region of Poland now the greater Gdansk district. Martin at the age of 9 & Minnie aged 6, arrived in New Zealand in 1874 with their families from Hamburg aboard

the ships "Gutenberg" & "Reichstag", first residing in the settlement of Waiholā. Rosalie was born in 1899 in the Tokomairiro district. She is my Great Grandfather's first cousin and now resides on the Prescott farm, Kopua in the North Island. Rosalie moved north to housekeep for her brother Martin, Father Esmond Klimeck, having the distinction of being the first Polish Priest in New Zealand. When her brother moved overseas Rosalie met and married Thomas Prescott. Thomas later inherited the family farm as he was the only son. They purchased another farm at Kopua and after some time brought out some Monks from Ireland. It was decided that all the land be given to the monks after Tom's death where the monks built a monastery named the Southern Star Abbey.

Photos From the Consecration

November 17th 7:30pm



▲ Broad Bay Church



▲ At the consecration



▲ St Hyacinth



▲ The Sacred Heart



▲ Catherine of Sienna

These photos plus lots more can be seen on The Polish Heritage Trust of Otago and Southland at www.pohos.eu.org

Consecration of Stained Glass Windows

November 17th 7:30pm

Transcript of speech given by Russell Chiles prior to the consecration of the stained glass windows at the Mary Queen of Peace Church on 17th November 2001

Tonight we witness a small part of living history and yet a large part of our own heritage - a heritage that combined and inter-woven with the heritage of other ethnic groupings goes to make up that ever-evolving concept which we recognise as history.

The dedication of these windows, this evening, epitomises a bond that has been forged between generations – a bond that encompasses the hopes and dreams of our Polish ancestors, more than 130 years ago, with those same hopes and dreams of their fellow countrymen and women who came to New Zealand almost 60 years ago towards the end of the 2nd World War together with those who have arrived in our recent past.

In a little more than 20 years from when those first migrants left their homes and loved-ones behind to establish a tenuous life in the settlements, particularly of Allanton and Waihola, they built their places of worship and tonight we worship in the original church built at Waihola.

With the decline of rural communities it became inevitable that this church would close its doors and in 1948, 50 years after construction, it was moved to this site. With such a move it was inevitable that damage would occur and so it was that in the early 50's the stained glass windows were vandalised. The original bell and tower were also lost but by good fortune that bell has now been recovered and in due course will be restored and again take its rightful place. Again, by good fortune, photographs of the original windows were located and restoration, close to the original, has been achieved.

This church is becoming, within this region, a focal point of Poland present and Poland past and is the embryo of the resurrection and recognition of a part of our heritage. Its importance must never be underestimated and the incredible and on-going generosity of members and friends towards an appeal, the results of which are being recognised tonight, bears testament to the importance that is being placed upon this church.

Tonight we see the continuation of a journey that began more than 100 years ago, a journey of hopes and dreams, a journey of sadness and joy and a journey of trials and tribulations that are being overcome through a brotherhood and sisterhood of generations and of heritage that has spanned the globe.

Translation of the speech given in Polish by Edward Sakowski .

Personal reflections

I would like to share some of my personal thoughts with those to whom this church is important and close to their hearts.

While working with others on the preparation for the painting of the presbytery I asked myself several questions which I would like to address to all of you tonight.

Why are we here? Why do we do so many things in and for this church? Why has this place become a place of gathering tonight and why it has been one for the last few years?

We differ from one another and every one of us would have different answers to these questions. However, I think that all answers would have one thing in common. Above all, it is our ready willingness to care for this place and our joint concern for it - a concern, respect and reverence for what has been done by our Polish predecessors, the first Polish settlers in Waihola and Allanton and what has been left by them and survived until today.

Under the roof of our church the birds made a nest for their young offspring and each time the parents arrive to feed their young, there is a commotion and noisy whimpering going on indicating a hungry young family in demand. There is a sign of hope that the young ones are being taken tender care of and have not been forgotten when their parents fly away for some time to look for food for their young. When they fly away, the nest's noise fades away in the suspense full of anticipation.

It seems to me that this church is like a nest in which we gather, side by side, like these little hatchlings, filling it with life.

Here, we find ourselves, side by side, nurturing our personal hopes and values, and in spite of being so different from one another we find togetherness as a group of Poles and Polish descendants.

Here, we are integrated in our concern and care for this nest built by our Polish predecessors, continuing their beliefs, carrying on their values and nurturing the hopes inherited from them.

Here, we are united and reconciled in hope of defeating our differences and all possible adversities; working together, in hope, that we would be able to hand down our values and hopes to the succeeding generations.

Here, we are unified in a strong bond trusting, that after our departure, this nest will be filled with life just like we are filling it with life tonight.