



Annual Report



FUNDACJA KULTURALNA PULSU POLONII
THE PULS POLONII CULTURAL FOUNDATION





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About The Foundation

Overview

The Fundacja Kulturalna Pulsu Polonii Inc. (The Puls Polonii Cultural Foundation Inc.) was registered in Sydney, NSW, on April 13, 2007. Its ABN number is 95144689914.

Objectives and Goals

The Foundation has five principle objectives and goals. They are:

1. The promotion of the contribution made by Sir Paul Strzelecki to Australian exploration, and the importance of General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, whose name is borne by the highest peak of Australia, Mt Kosciuszko;
2. The organisation of a regular, special event, *The Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival*, to be held in Jindabyne and Cooma, and from time to time, in other suitable locations;
3. Radio, press & internet publications as well as the production of video documentaries promoting the heroes and the events;
4. The promotion of the contribution made by Polish migrants to Australian history and cultural heritage;
5. The preservation of Polish culture for younger generations of Poles.

President's Message

General Tadeusz Kościuszko: a fighter for freedom, democracy and human rights. I have known this all my life. But then, in 2006, I discovered that he was also an accomplished painter, and had composed some music. During a party, I approached Professor Graham Wood, who played in an amateur band, and asked him if 'The Sydney Windjammers' would include two polonaises and a waltz in their performance repertoire. Graham said, jokingly, "Oh yes, we can play Kosciuszko music on Mt Kosciuszko and in front of TV cameras". Soon after that, I sent him the music score.

So, it all started as a bit of a joke. But in February 2007, we organised an historic concert on Mt Kosciuszko through *Puls Polonii*, the Polish-Australian internet newspaper, and our friends in the 'Lajkonik' Folkloric Dance Ensemble. Of course, 'The Sydney Windjammers' played Kosciuszko's music on Mt Kosciuszko and in front of 'TV Polonia' cameras, as per the initial idea!

We (the organising team) have adopted, as our motto, that 'Australians deserve to know more about Kościuszko' and, inspired by this idea, we decided to organise some more events as close to the mountain as possible, i.e. in Jindabyne. But Cooma showed enormous interest in Kosciuszko's heritage as well, and the relationship blossomed so positively that we were encouraged strongly to work with Cooma as well, especially Cooma Monaro Shire Council and Cooma Rotary. So, in April 2007, we organised a two-day event, being the inaugural *Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival* in both Jindabyne and Cooma, with a photographic exhibition showing cultural and

physical similarities between the Kosciuszko Mound in Poland and the highest peak in Australia.

The inaugural event was a success, and it was obvious that there were expectations for us to come back next year. So, we did, in 2008! With the help and participation of local authorities (especially the National Park and Wildlife Service) and many wonderful artists, both local and from Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, the so-called 'Polish Festival' went off without a hitch in 2008.

The Festival is beautifully developing into a community "heritage sharing" festival – we can all feel this happening and it is very exciting! There is no doubt that it has the potential to become one of the most attractive festivals of regional Australia.

Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek
Fountain President
K'Ozzie Festival Director

The Concert For Free-Dom

The Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival was preceded by the historic *Concert for Free-Dom* on Mt Kosciuszko and Charlottes Pass, 17 and 18 February 2007.

These two events were organised by *Puls Polonii*, Lajkonik and The Sydney Windjammers. A special CD was produced for this concert, entitled *Hi, Australian Snowy Mountains: Kosciuszko Music on Mt Kosciuszko* (sponsored by Simpliciti).

A souvenir booklet – entitled *Kosciuszko Music on Mount Kosciuszko* (24pp), designed by Lukasz Swiatek – was also produced for the concert; it contained a program of events, information about Kosciuszko, song lyrics and colour photographs.

The First Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival

Overview

The first *Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival* was staged on April 28 and 29, 2007, thanks to an emergency grant from the Blum Foundation. To receive the grant, the Fundacja Kulturalna Pulsu Polonii was established. Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and Urszula Lang were, and continue to be, the Festival Directors. For the organisation of the first festival, the Cooma Rotary Club offered its facilities during its annual High Country Market Day in Cooma Centennial Park.

We had to adhere to the date suitable to them. The first events therefore took place in the Jindabyne Memorial Hall on Saturday, 28 April, followed by festivities on Sunday 29 April in Cooma. During these events, a 20-minute video documentary (produced by Lukasz Swiatek) was presented. A special exhibition, entitled *The Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Photographic Exhibition*, was also presented.

Festival Sponsors

Organisations

- Blum Foundation
- Polish Consulate
- Polish Org. Council in Australia
- The Polish Place, Mt Tamborine
- Orbis Express International Travel
- Simpliciti Phone, Mobile, Internet
- Zywiec & Medos
- Bartek Painting Services
- Xtreme Printing
- Kasper Kacprzak K.C. Balancing Services
- Magna Carta Travel
- Topsmak European Cakes

Individuals

- Prof. Anna Wierzbicka, ANU
- Prof. Andrzej Kozek, Macquarie University
- Prof. Ben Goldys, NSW University
- Dr Renata Murawska, Macquarie University
- Dr Maria Wrońska-Friend, Cairns
- Dr Kaja Lukaszewicz, Sydney
- Dr Maria Strzałek, Sydney
- Dr Miriam TrosseQuirk-Kilanowska, Sydney
- Jadwiga I Jerzy Krajewski, Sydney
- Regina I Mieczysław Swat, Sydney
- Aleksander Dziubiński, Sydney

Media Coverage of The Festival

- TV Polonia News (by Puma Media)
- WIN TV Canberra (by Ted Matkowski and Peter Maberly)
- ABC TV Canberra (footage from Peter Maberly)
- Radio ABC Bush Telegraph (interview with Ernestyna before the Mt Kosciuszko Concert)
- XL News Radio (interview with Ursula before the Mt Kosciuszko Concert)
- Snowy Times
- Summit Sun
- Cooma Monaro Express
- Monaro Post
- Adaminaby The Big Move
- ABC TV News Report (Krzysiek Malek concert)
- PAP Polonia dla Polonii (worldwide in Polish, reprint)
- Radio Chicago (interview with Krystyna Jacniacka on behalf of Ernestyna)
- Dziennik Zwiazkowy, Chicago
- Puls Polonii
- Polish-Australian newspapers (Tygodnik Polski, Express Wieczorny)

Activities Following The Festival

2007 Festival Promotion Through A DVD Slide Show

Soon after the 2007 Festival, Ernestyna produced a DVD slide show for Puls Polonii, entitled *Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival* (duration of 17 minutes) as promotional material.

Complimentary copies were presented/posted to many VIPs, politicians, councillors, diplomats and sponsors, both in Australia and overseas.

Some copies were sold during the Kosciuszko Encore concerts and other events.

A copy of the DVD was sent to Poland as an entry in the *Polskie Ojczyzny 2007* competition. In October 2007, it was awarded a prize for second place.

Extra Concerts After The Festival

Three *Kosciuszko Encore* concerts were held after the Festival:

- July 1, 2007, Polish Club in Ashfield.
- August 9 2007, Dom Orła Białego, Cabramatta.
- September 29-30, 2007, Adaminaby, *The Big Move 50th Anniversary*.

Exhibitions: Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Photographic Exhibition

- July 2007, Ashfield Polish Club, Sala Lustrzana, Ashfield, Sydney.
- August 9-24, 2007, Dom Orła Białego, Cabramatta, Sydney.
- September 29-30 and 1 October 2007, Adaminaby (NSW) Memorial Hall.
- December 6-23, 2007, Jindabyne (NSW), National Parks Visitor Centre Theatre (as announced by the *Summit Sun* on December 5, 2007).

International Projects

The Kosciuszko Book Promoted in Australia

- Col. F. K. Kajencki, donated (and shipped) Kosciuszko books, which are now being distributed in Australia.
- Professors Gary Nash and Graham Hodges, the authors of *Friends of Liberty: Jefferson, Kosciuszko & Agrippa*, were contacted.

Sister Parks Project

- Kosciuszko National Park and Tatra National Park (Poland).
- Consul General Ryszard Sarkowicz hosted the NPWS (New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Services) Directors in Sydney on February 6, 2008.
- Plans for the Sister Parks Project were discussed.
- The next meeting took place in Jindabyne on Saturday April 19, 2008.

New Promotional Strategies

The Strzelecki Monument Postcard

- Lukasz Swiatek designed a postcard featuring Australian flora and fauna, as well as the Strzelecki statue in Jindabyne.
- 3,000 copies were printed.
- 2,000 copies were bought by NPWS for sale in its Visitors Centre.
- A limited quantity was delivered to the Cooma Visitors and Snowy Hydro Centres, and Adaminaby Memorial Hall.
- A new postcard (featuring Strzelecki and Kosciuszko portraits) currently being designed.
- NPWS is considering buying copies in the new financial year.

National Library of Australia

- The NLA accepted festival ephemera (posters, booklets, programs, CD, DVD) for its national collections (December 2007)
- The NLA *Pandora Catalogue* has archived the Festival websites. Request (and permission granted) 20 March 2008, signed by Edgar Crook, Senior Librarian Web Archiving Section, NLA

Poetry, Music & Photography Competitions

To build a new repertoire for the 2008 festival, the FKPP announced several competitions:

- Photographic (for young people under the age of 25)
- Poetry (for both youth and adults)
- Music (for both youth and adults)

These were announced in October 2008 on the internet (*Puls Polonii* and other portals), the SBS Radio Polish program and in regional Australian media.

The Second Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival

Overview

The second *Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival* was staged between April 18 and 20, 2007. The slogan of the Festival was 'Kosciuszko – A Friend of Many Nations and Peoples'.

The Festival Program

1. Day One, Friday April 18, Polonaise Walk to Mt Kosciuszko
2. Day Two, Saturday April 19, Official Opening at NPWS Visitors Centre, Jindabyne; photographic competition results and awards; 'Kosciuszko' film screening; Gala Concert in Jindabyne Memorial Hall; The Strzeleckis' Gathering at the Monument; exclusive piano recital by Krzysztof Malek at Horizons Hotel.
3. Day Three, Sunday April 20, Cooma Centennial Park, *Rotary Market Day*. Gala Concert, song and poetry competition results and awards; solemn Mass at St Patricks.

Donation

During the Concert in Jindabyne Memorial Hall, \$762.20 collected for Cooma Hospital.

Exhibitions

Photographic Exhibition: The Young and the Beautiful

- April 12-19, 2008, Jindabyne Visitors' Centre
- April 19, Jindabyne Memorial Hall
- April 20, Cooma Centennial Park

Photographic Exhibition: In the Footsteps of Sir Strzelecki

- April 19 2008, Jindabyne Memorial Hall
- April 20 2008, Cooma Centennial Park
- (Courtesy of Monika and Norbert Oksza Strzelecki)

Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Photographic Exhibition

- Several photos displayed at Cooma Monaro Council foyer, April 2008
- Two photos displayed in Snowy Hydro Centre prior to the Festival
- Two photos displayed in the Cooma Visitors' Centre prior to the festival

The Third Festival

Media Coverage Of The 2008 Festival

- TV Polonia News (Puma Media), May 2008
- ABC South East Tim Holt (interview with Ernestyna), 11 Dec 2007, duration 17 minutes
- 2XL Jindabyne (interview with Ernestyna)
- 2XL Jindabyne or Cooma (interview with Ursula and broadcast of the Mountain Song)
- Snowy Times (Autumn Issue), 'Who was Kosciuszko' and Festival program
- Snowy River Echo – articles in three editions
- Monaro Post – 'The Stan Blum Story' plus Festival and Donation reports
- Cooma Monaro Express – Festival and Donation reports
- Summit Sun – Festival program and reports (and Exhibition promotion in December 2007)
- SBS Radio, Polish Program (interview with Ernestyna), March 10 and May 16, 2008
- PAP Polonia dla Polonii (worldwide in Polish), reprint
- Radio 3ZZZ, W. Wnuk January 16, 2008, about the competitions
- Polish Community Radio, Canberra, March 2008, (interview with Ernestyna)
- Polish Community Radio in Adelaide, 22 May 2008
- Numerous reports in online media:
 - www.pulspolonii.com
 - www.melbourne.pl
 - www.australink.pl

Souvenir Book

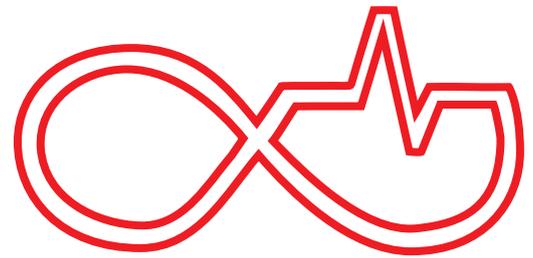
- A special book was released for the Festival.
- Entitled *The Mountain Whispers Anthology*, it was edited by Ernestyna and Lukasz, and designed by Lukasz.
- 500 copies were printed.
- Complimentary copies were presented to authors (competition winners), jurors, Australian politicians, sponsors and benefactors.
- Small quantities were sold during the festival.

The 2009 Festival

The third *Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival* will be held on April 17, 18 and 19, 2009, in Cooma and Jindabyne.

Debriefing sessions with NPWS and Councils were held by Ursula & Ernestyna during the June long weekend (6-10 June, 2008).

A meeting with the Hon. Mike Kelly was held on June 10.



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