



ANNUAL REPORT

2009 – 2010



THE PULS POLONII
CULTURAL FOUNDATION



2009-2010 Annual Report

The Puls Polonii Cultural Foundation
Fundacja Kulturalna Pulsu Polonii

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2009

After the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 10, Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and Andrzej Kozek left for a six-week trip to Poland and the United States. While in Poland, Ernestyna met the Hon. Maciej Plazynski and presented him with an invitation to be the guest of honour at 2010 K'Ozzie Fest (he later died in an air crash on April 10, 2010). She granted an interview for Polish Radio (Cracow), speaking about the K'Ozzie Fests and the development of Polish-Aboriginal dialogue. While in Cracow, she paid a visit to the President of the Kosciuszko Mound Committee. Later, while in Wroclaw, she paid a visit to the Director of the Kosciuszko/Raclawice Panorama-Museum.

The following links provide information, in Polish, about her activities:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7550 (Warsaw)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7505 (Cracow)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7402 (Hon. Plazynski)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7353 (Radio Cracow)

While in America, Ernestyna and Andrzej had numerous meetings with Polish community representatives about the way in which Kosciuszko is linking the Australian and American Polish communities. (Please note: Kosciuszko is a national hero in America). They met the Polish Consul General, were received by the Directors of the Polish Museum of America, and discussed common plans with Professor Lidia Filus of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Ernestyna was interviewed by three Polish community radio stations in Chicago, and promoted Mt Kosciuszko and the K'Ozzie Fests.

The following links provide reports, in Polish, about her Chicago trip:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7497 (Kosciuszko)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7948 (PMA collection)

On their return to Australia, they focussed on the Strzelecki Winter Trek initiative, which involved three adventurers – Oscar Kantor, Stefan Lewandowski and Mariusz Szlapak – journeying from Geehi to Mt Kosciuszko. A film sponsored by the Foundation was made by Oski Pictures; both it and the expedition were a success.

This link provides an overview of the initiative:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7586

The Foundation's financial documents were processed by Finaxis Pty Ltd. A meeting was organised in September for the Committee's members to study and approve the Financial Statement for the Year Ending June 2008. A new member, Felix Molski, also joined the organisation. Plans were made for the 2010 K'Ozzie Fest and its three-day festivities. A plan to send some gifts and trophies to Chicago for an auction during the Kosciuszko Ball was discussed and approved. These would later yield over U.S.\$1,000 to cover the cost of air tickets for a representative of the Kosciuszko Foundation to come to the 2010 K'Ozzie Fest with a special message from Alex Storozynski, the Kosciuszko Foundation President and the author of *The Peasant Prince*, a new book about Kosciuszko.

In September, Ernestyna and Ursula Lang paid a visit to the Hon. John Aquilina, and presented him with a copy of the Storozynski book and a CD with Aquilina's recording of the poem *Kosciuszko, Kosciuszko* by Lee Taylor-Friend.

An article about the visit, in Polish, can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7666

That same month, the Foundation received some good news from Poland: that the Polish Senate had allocated \$1,950.00 for the 2010 K'Ozzie Fest. Also, Ernestyna interviewed Janusz Rygielski about the story of the 2000 Tumba Trek.

The interview, in Polish, can be found at: http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7726

In October, the promotion of the K'Ozzie Fest and the Kosciuszko Run began. A famous Polish Olympian, Robert Korzeniowski, became a patron of the Kosciuszko Run, while the Polish Ambassador again agreed to be the Patron of the Festival. The Foundation posted the aforementioned gifts to Chicago and sent a message to all Kosciuszko Ball participants.

The message, in Polish, can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7854

In November, another meeting was held, this time to discuss and approve the Financial Statement for the Year Ending June 2009. As Ursula could not take on the role of Artistic Director of the K'Ozzie Fest, as she had in the past, the Foundation voted to allocate \$3,000.00 to employ Caroline Fox of the Cooma Visitors' Centre to be a local coordinator and artistic director. Barker College confirmed that the school would cover the cost of its orchestra travelling to Jindabyne to perform Brendan Collins' *Kosciuszko* composition during the K'Ozzie Fest. Good news was also received from Chicago: that the gifts had been sold at auction for U.S.\$1,000.00, and that a representative of the Kosciuszko Foundation would be coming to the K'Ozzie Fest.

Further details about the Ball can be found at:

<http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=143959>

However, November also brought with it some bad news: that plans for 'twinning' Kosciuszko National Park in Australia with Tatra National Park in Poland had failed. The Director of Tatra National Park, on a private visit in Australia, suddenly decided not to meet with NPWS representatives. That same month, three representatives from the Foundation, along with a team from Oski Pictures, flew to Melbourne to promote the K'Ozzie Fest during a Polish festival in Federation Square, and to interview two Strzelecki experts – Lech Paszkowski and Witold Lukasiak – for a documentary. Ernestyna was interviewed by the Polish Program of SBS Radio Melbourne.

The following articles provide information about both sets of interviews:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7985 (Documentary)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=7992 (Ernestyna)

In December, the Foundation promoted itself and the K'Ozzie Fest during the Polish Christmas Festival in Darling Harbour. Also, filming took place in Jindabyne and on Mt Kosciuszko for the documentary *Mt Kosciuszko: the Frozen Years*, which was to be premiered during the K'Ozzie Fest.

More information about the Snowy Mountains filming expedition can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8154

Also in December, Brendan Collins, the composer of the *Kosciuszko* symphonic piece, travelled to America with a Sydney high school orchestra. Several performances were given there, and numerous links with the Polish community in Chicago were formed; future plans (with the Paderewski Symphonic Orchestra) were also made.

For more information about these activities, in English and Polish, see:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8238 (Brendan Collins)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8343 (Plans)

2010

In February, final preparations were made for the K'Ozzie Fest, and numerous promotions were published in Australian and Polish media.

For examples of the media coverage, see:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8337 (SBS Radio interview)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8285 (Other publications)

During that same month, an event took place in Poznan, Poland, to mark to the 170th anniversary of the ascent and naming of Mt Kosciuszko. An exchange of gifts helped the Foundation to maintain links with the Strzelecki schools in Poznan.

Further details about the event can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8360

In March, the Foundation deliberated upon its future projects. Due to a lack of resources, it was decided that its activities would be cut down, and its objectives modified slightly. It was thought that the promotional impact of the Kosciuszko Run could be of real value. Some members of the Foundation wondered whether Strzelecki Heritage Inc. should organise the Run as an annual event, while the Foundation should concentrate on maintaining Polish-Aboriginal dialogue.

The fourth K'Ozzie Fest, which took place from March 19-22, was a great success. This time, the Ngarigo Elders accepted the Foundation's invitation to attend the events, and, thanks to National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) arrangements, they were able to be VIP guests. Also, thanks to NPWS sponsorship, the Monaro Traditional Dancers were able to perform again. Barker College's big orchestra performed *Kosciuszko*. For the first time, two Members of Parliament were present: Mike Kelly and Steve Whan. Other special guests included Professor Lidia Filus from the U.S. and Robert Korzeniowski, the famous Olympian from Poland. The Polish Ambassador and the Consul General, who were both present as special guests, valued the Foundation's efforts very highly and insisted that it continue its mission in the future. Soon after the festival (and ever since), articles, photo-galleries and audio interviews were published online, particularly on the Polish-Australian news website *Puls Polonii*.

Reports from the Festival and examples of media coverage, in Polish and in English, can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8384 (Ambassador)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=9471 (Report)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8430 (Audio Interview One)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8449 (Audio Interview Two)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8439 (SBS Radio Interview)

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8433 (Report)

The Foundation's activities, especially the Festival, again received widespread coverage in Australian, Polish and Australian-Polish media. This included coverage in the following media outlets:

TV Polonia and Polsat

WIN TV, Canberra

2XL Radio

ABC South East

SBS Radio

The Snowy River Echo

The Summit Sun

The Cooma Monaro Express

Puls Polonii, www.pulspolonii.com

Polish Embassy website

Tygodnik Polski Weekly

australink.pl, www.australink.pl
melbourne.pl, www.melbourne.pl
Mt. Kosciuszko Inc., www.mtkosciuszko.org.au
Adelaide Community Radio
Radio 3ZZZ in Melbourne
Radio2000FM in Sydney
Gazeta Telewizyjna (Puma Media)

The Foundation's work was interrupted by the Polish Air Force Tu-154 crash, which occurred on April 10. The Foundation expressed its deepest condolences to the people and government of Poland over a tragedy that affected Polish communities all over the world.

In May, the Lajkonik Ensemble, which had performed at each K'Ozzie Festival, celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Hon. Paul G. Lynch, member for Liverpool, was a special guest at the Znniversary Ball. Ernestyna and Ursula presented him with a copy of Storozynski's book about Kosciuszko and several Foundation publications.

A report about the Ball can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=8896

In June, Oscar Kantor posted two video reports – *Kozzie Fest 2010* and *Kosciuszko Run 2010* – on the internet. Each video has a duration of 10 minutes.

The video reports can be viewed at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tq6yMWyb9hs&feature=player_embedded

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ln1trQFFkY&feature=player_embedded

In July, the Ngarigo Elders again invited their Polish friends to celebrate NAIDOC Week with them in Jindabyne and Dalgety. Ernestyna and Andrzej joined them and took two videos to screen there.

A report about the trip can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=9270

While in the Snowy Mountains, they also decided to see Kevin Blyton, the proprietor of Charlotte Pass Village, to negotiate a new formula for the Kosciuszko festivals to be held in the Village. Mr Blyton agreed to the Kosciuszko Run and a concert for the winners, as well as an all-day fiesta; he will also make parts of the Kosciuszko Hotel (including a grand piano) accessible to festival-goers. He also promised to help promote the events on his radio stations.

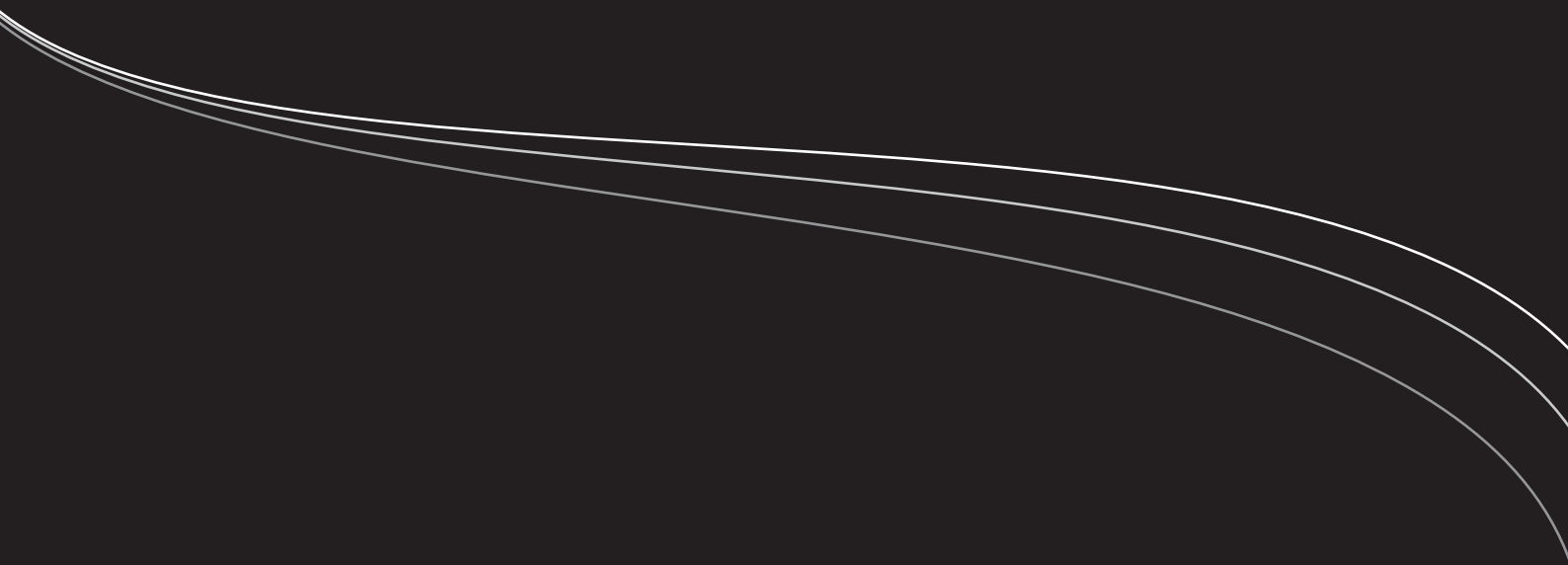
Soon after that, on August 1, the Foundation held its Annual General Meeting to approve the Financial Report for the Year Ending June 2010. The committee members were briefed about the meeting with Mr Blyton, and a discussion also took place about the planned Kosciuszko festivities on Saturday, February 12, 2011. An evaluation of the 2010 K'Ozzie Fest was also conducted.

On August 23, Ernestyna and Ursula had a meeting with the Hon. Paul G. Lynch, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. They briefed him about Polish-Aboriginal relations.

A report about the visit can be found at:

http://www.zrobtosam.com/PulsPol/Puls3/index.php?sekcja=1&arty_id=9471

Currently, as at September 5, negotiations are underway with the Ngarigo People about the possibility of paragliding over Mt Kosciuszko, as four paragliders are coming from Poland in February next year. Plans are being developed to have this historic Polish-Aboriginal flight filmed.



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