

POLART INC.

PolArt Inc. is the governing body of all PolArt festivals staged in any city of Australia and New Zealand. PolArt festival organising committees are accountable to the incorporated entity.



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As we leave our online lessons behind in 2021, 2022 shows a lot of promise to be a better year, and looks to continue to be packed with wonderful performances and festivals. In Łowicz's news, Łowicz started their year off representing the Melbourne Polish community by dancing in March in the iconic Moomba Parade, along with Lehenda Ukrainian Dance Company and many multicultural groups in Melbourne. This was the first time since the 1990s that Łowicz was afforded this marvelous opportunity and was able to take part in the event. We are also very excited and honoured to announce the marriage of our artistic Director Edyta (Edith) Drajkopyl to Daniel Graeme Price which took place on the 28th May 2022. Dancers from Łowicz attended the church ceremony in Polish costume and later, at the reception, surprised and entertained the guests with their "Tańce Lubelskie", which was choreographed by Edyta herself.

Between now and the end of the year, Łowicz will continue to perform at weddings, concerts and at a ball for the Polish Community Council of Victoria. These celebrations will also incorporate and coincide with the annual assembly of "Rada Naczelna Polonii Australijskiej" delegates.

Łowicz hopes to wrap up the year with a quiz-trivia night to be held in August, a ball (Zabawa) in October, and performances at the annual Polish Festival @ Federation Square. Furthermore, the next few months ahead of us will be just as exciting as well as challenging as we prepare to travel to and perform with other Polish groups from Australia and New Zealand at PolArt 2022 Sydney. We can't wait!



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OBERTAS - Dance Party

Obertas is busy fund-raising to get to PolArt Sydney 2022. Our dance party held on Saturday 21st May was a great event featuring a floorshow by Obertas performing two dances from the region of Kielce: "Skakanego" and "Polka Kielecka"

During the evening, there were many raffle prizes to be won and lots of delicious homemade Polish cakes whilst Polonia's bar was well stocked with Polish beers and vodkas. DJ Bonio kept us dancing all night long with a great selection of music.

(Photo courtesy of Rysio Federowicz)

ORLETA - Pierogi fundraiser

Together with their adult group Orzeł, Orleța parents made and packed over 5,000 pierogi to meet the online orders which came in in just 3 days. The funds raised will go towards costumes and costs associated with getting to the festival. A small group of Orleța children will join their parents at PolArt Sydney 2022 and participate in Youth Fest. The whole group is currently learning new dances to film as a contingency and are also looking forward to participating in Dzień Dziecka in Wellington NZ on the 29th May 2022.



ORZEŁ - High Tea for 3 ci Maj and movie fundraiser

On Sunday May 1st the newly formed group, Orzeł, demonstrated the lively style of dancing which will become a trade mark for them. The afternoon was funded by the Polish Association in conjunction with the Ukrainian community in Wellington NZ. Dancers from Orzeł waited on tables and were involved in all aspects of catering the event including the entertainment.

On Monday 16th May the group held a very successful movie fundraiser at the Lighthouse Theatre. They prepared goody bags for all the attendees and ran some great raffles. The movie " Operation Mincemeat" was an excellent choice as well.





POLONEZ - Debutante Ball

The 45th Polish debutante ball held on Saturday 21st May, was a beautiful and warm event, filled to capacity. No mention of Covid or elections, it was like a bubble in time. So much fun, pride, affirmation and family support, all the ten debutantes and their partners had a “ball”!

The ball opened with a polonaise danced by the Honoured guests, partnered by members of the Polonez Song & Dance Ensemble. This was followed by the Presentation of the debutantes to the Polish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Michał Kołodziejcki, and to Mrs Levili Wakeling. Finally, Polonez performed the dances from Spisz to a rousing reception from the delighted audience.

This is only the beginning for Polonez. Other major events are participation in the 60th Anniversary of the Polish Community Council of Victoria events, a concert and ball, on 17th and 18th June, a full length concert at the Clocktower Centre on August 28th, performing in the PolMusica Music Competition in October, Polish Festival @ Federation Square 12th November and of course PolArt 2022 Sydney at the end of the year - Who has time to rest? Not POLONEZ!



POLONUS - Celebrating 150 years of Polish settlement in NZ

The last two years were a challenge for everyone. With the couple of lockdowns in NZ we, like many others, had to have a couple of breaks in practicing. On top of that, many events were cancelled; therefore; there were not many occasions to perform. Still, we were able to travel to Wellington in December 2021 and have a joint concert with Orzeł and Orłęta.

2022, however, is the PolArt year and it means all our focus is on the preparation of our programme for that great event. The group choreographer, Dorota Kamińska-Pawlas is currently working with us on the new krakowiak and there is another new dance to be learnt.

Recently, we performed at the celebration of 150 years of Polish Settlements in New Zealand, and it was such a pleasure to perform again in front of an audience. We heard a lot of compliments after that and it made us proud, considering that we are such a small group.

However, going to PolArt is intrinsically linked to fundraising. It means hard work for the next couple of months for us, but we are looking forward to that. Sydney, we are coming!



TATRY - Mother's Day 8th May 2022

The Dom Polski Centre in Adelaide held a Mother's Day lunch with part proceeds for the Ukrainian Refugees in Poland. Entertainment was provided by Tatry and the Voyla Ukrainian Cossack dancers. The lunch and performances were greatly appreciated by all those who attended.

Tatry will be holding their own function on the 29th May 2022 to celebrate Polish Mother's Day (26th May) Bernie Brzeziński reported that "finally after two long years of Covid, we are able to now hold our yearly mid year event. "Tatry in Spring" the June event is a sell out and everyone is looking forward to, not only the performances, but the ability to socialise, drink, dance and catch up with friends".



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