



Annual Report

2008-2009



THE PULS POLONII
CULTURAL FOUNDATION



FUNDACJA KULTURALNA
PULSU POLONII

Annual Report

2008-2009

 THE PULS POLONII
CULTURAL FOUNDATION

 FUNDACJA KULTURALNA
PULSU POLONII

2008-2009 Annual Report

The Puls Polonii Cultural Foundation
Fundacja Kulturalna Pulsu Polonii

33 Valley View Crescent
North Epping, NSW 2121
Australia

Tel. +61 2 9617 1797
Em. fkpp@pulspolonii.com
Web. www.fkpp.org

Report written and edited by Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek
Urszula Lang
Lukasz Swiatek
Designed by Lukasz Swiatek
Published by The Puls Polonii Cultural Foundation

May 2009

Contents

Foreword	5
.....	
About the Foundation	6
.....	
Activities	
2008	7
.....	
2009	8
.....	
Media coverage	12
.....	
Publications	13
.....	
Strategy and Future Initiatives	14



**“This looks like the start of a new partnership,
with some very positive outcomes
for a few different ‘mobs’ coming together”**



The past year for the Foundation was marked by another round of significant achievements, testifying to this organisation's growing capabilities and evolving, dynamic character. Some of the 2008-2009 highlights included:

- Successfully staging another K'Ozzie Fest across three locations in the Snowy Mountains region, again attracting tens of performers, spectators and volunteers, as well as media attention
- Organising an art competition for which dozens of entries were received, and for which prizes were sponsored by major Polish and Australian organisations
- Publishing a new book dedicated to Sir P. E. Strzelecki, featuring high-quality, original artworks
- Supporting an American expedition to Mt. Kosciuszko, in the footsteps of Strzelecki
- Successfully submitting, and having recognised, research in support of Mt. Kosciuszko's inclusion on the National Heritage List with the Australian Alps (the submission was authored by Urszula Lang, with the assistance of Andrzej Kozek and Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek)
- Strengthening intercultural Polish-Aboriginal ties through successful workshops with Aboriginal and Polish community members in Cooma
- Creating new promotional and cultural materials, including CDs, DVDs, pamphlets, magazines and websites

These were but some of the Foundation's activities and achievements; many more will be undertaken in

2009-2010. Together, they testify to the organisation's firm commitment to achieving its aims and objectives, for the benefit of the Polish-Australian and Australian communities.

As always, the Foundation sincerely thanks all of the volunteers who have helped it in its undertakings. We thank you for your invaluable assistance, your ideas and your dedication, whether at the K'Ozzie Fest and other events, or in the Foundation's many day-to-day activities.

The Foundation also sincerely thanks its gracious benefactors. Without these businesses, organisations and individuals, much of the work undertaken by the Foundation throughout the past year would not have reached fruition. We thank the benefactors for their financial and in-kind donations.

The Global Economic Crisis that began last year has had important implications for the way in which the Foundation organises its cultural undertakings. However, we hope that the economic situation will not adversely influence the generosity of individuals and the philanthropic spirit of businesses and organisations.

We ask for your continued help in creating a more harmonious future and a society of greater respect and understanding between different cultures.

Lukasz Swiatek

On behalf of the Foundation, the Foundation President, the Vice-President and Directors

Sydney, May 23, 2009

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

The Foundation has six principal 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 called K'Ozzie Fest (formerly The Mound and Mount Kosciuszko Festival), to be held in Jindabyne and Cooma, and from time to time, in other suitable locations;
3. Radio, press and 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; and
6. The promotion of the Polish contribution to the exploration of Australia's natural features (such as the Snowy Mountains and the Strzelecki Track in South Australia) and the inclusion of the Polish contribution through appropriate references in Heritage Listings at the National and World Heritage levels.

The Foundation's Constitution was amended at its 2009 Annual General Meeting, on May 10, 2009.

Members

The Foundation's Directors are:

- Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President
- Ursula Lang, Vice-President
- Andrzej Kozek
- Krzysztof Kozek
- Joanna Kaniewska
- Lukasz Karpinski
- Lukasz Swiatek

2008

June

A new name for the Festival, which would be more suitable for Australians, was coined at a meeting in Jindabyne. It was decided to rename the Festival 'K'Ozzie Fest'.

The themes for the next Festival and art competition were chosen: 'Achieving Together' and 'Strzelecki and His Team: Achieving Together', respectively.

Much time spent was spent on grant applications; however, these brought little success. The Blum Foundation donated \$2,000 for the Festival anthology; the Polish Consulate donated \$3,000; and the Polish Embassy donated \$700. Neither Australian sources nor the Wspolnota Polska provided grants. Consequently, the budget had to be decreased to a minimum, to approximately \$20,000. As it later eventuated, *Puls Polonii* again was the predominant provider of revenue (through advertising).

May

While at NSW Parliament House, Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek donated a copy of *Mountain Whispers*, the 2008 anthology, to the Hon. John Aquilina and to the Hon. Tony Stewart.

October

The art competition was advertised in *Puls Polonii*, on SBS Radio and in other Polish media, as well as on the Australian Embassy webpage. Ursula Lang and Ernestyna made a competition trip to Jindabyne, trying to promote the competition in local schools.

November 7

Mt. Kosciuszko was listed on the National Heritage List, along with the Australian Alps. This occurred thanks, in part, to the Foundation's submission (the submission was authored by Ursula Lang, with the assistance of Andrzej Kozek and Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek).

November 12

The 20th anniversary of the unveiling the Strzelecki Monument in Jindabyne was commemorated. Gifts were sent to Poznan, Poland, where great celebrations took place. The Foundation also attempted to promote repairs and conservation of the monument.

2009

End of November

Ursula and Ernestyna took part in the New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) Aboriginal Advisory Committee in Cooma, presenting a seminar devoted to Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki's chapter on Indigenous Australians from his book *Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land* (1845). The seminar was a resounding success. The Ngarigo people finally promised to take part in the 2009 K'Ozzie Fest, with NPWS sponsorship.

TVN (Poland) promised to subtitle the Strzelecki film. After some complications, it was done.

Lukasz Swiatek established two new web pages: www.fkpp.org (the Foundation's website) and www.kozziefest.com (the new website of the Festival). Both websites have been continuously maintained; notably, the festival website was updated daily during the Festival.

December

Anna Habryn (of Mt Kosciuszko Inc.), Fr. Tom Bujakowski and the ensemble 'Scena' organised a film screening of *Śladami Strzeleckiego (In Strzelecki's Footsteps)* in Perth, which generated \$300 for one of the art competition awards.

Mt. Kosciuszko Inc. is also preparing a submission – through the PPCF (FKPP) – to build a Strzelecki Museum in Jindabyne.

January

Ernestyna, Ursula, Tony Lang and Andrzej Kozek met the Ngarigo Elders during Australia Day celebrations in Jindabyne and Cooma. The Memorial Hall was booked for the Festival in April. Liability Insurance will be essential from now on.

February

Hundreds of A3 'Krzysztof Malek in Concert' and '2009 K'Ozzie Festival' posters (designed by Lukasz), as well as Adam Fiala's cartoon series, were printed free of charge by 'Mikolaj' (A.Dz.), whom the Foundation sincerely thanks.

On the Foundation's initiative, a Polish-American expedition was organised on the Strzelecki track from Geehi Valley to Mt. Kosciuszko. This attracted the attention of local media, as well as Polish-Australian media. Oski Pictures filmed the expedition and the resulting 30-minute documentary was screened to positive reception during the 2009 K'Ozzie Fest.

March 6

Festival preparations were discussed during a meeting at Cabramatta's Dom Orła Bialego.

Mid-March

The jury of the Strzelecki Art Competition reached its verdict and the results were embargoed.

Late March

Lukasz and Ernestyna began to compile and edit the 2009 festival anthology, entitled *Paul Edmund Strzelecki and His Team: Achieving Together*. The anthology, printed in early April, was officially launched at the Festival.

17-19 April

The 2009 K'Ozzie Fest took place. It featured two gala concerts, including a Welcome to Country and Aboriginal dancers; several photo and art exhibitions; two piano recitals; two film screenings; the Strzelecki gathering at the Strzelecki statue; a pilgrimage to Mt. Kosciuszko, with Mr. Witold Krzesinski from the Polish Embassy, Dave Darlington and Steve Redden of NPWS, Rural Fire representative Jeff Lucas, two Snowy River Shire Mayors (John Cahill and Vin Good), Snowy Hydro Ltd. representative Ken Lister, John Vucic of Cooma Council and a NWPS Discovery Ranger. The Special Guests of the 2009 Festival were Monika, Norbert and Jasminka Oksza-Strzelecki from Poznan, Krysta Strzelecki from Perth, Andrzej and Gloria Strzelecki of Adelaide and the Strzeleckis from Cooma.

The Foundation especially acknowledges and sincerely thanks Krzysztof and Danusia Gawel, Elizabeth Cesarski, Basia and Grzegorz Dąbrowa, Ela and Zbyszek Grzeskiewicz, Tony Lang, Ewa and Marek Walczak, Andrzej Strzelecki, Lukasz Karpinski and Joanna Kaniewska, as well as others, for their invaluable help in decorating venues, mounting exhibitions, PA work, recording the concerts and providing other logistic assistance.

May 4

Ursula and Ernestyna were invited to Canberra for consultations with Ambassador Andrzej Jaroszynski and Councillor Witold Krzesinski. All agreed that the Festival must continue. Strategic plans were discussed. The Embassy has offered its space as a venue for Polish-Aboriginal and K'Ozzie concerts, as well as other events. The Ambassador will also ask the Hon. M. Plazynski and Andrzej Chodkiewicz (of the Wspolnota Polska) to receive Ernestyna during her visit in Warsaw in June 2009.

While in Canberra, at the National Library of Australia, Ernestyna and Ursula presented Wanda Horky with this year's festival ephemera – posters, programs and a CD with songs – as well as the anthology *Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki and His Team: Achieving Together*, to be included in the National Library's collection.

May 10

The Foundation's Annual General Meeting took place at 33 Valley View Crescent, North Epping, NSW 2121. All members were present. Two new members – Lukasz Karpinski and Joanna Kaniewska – joined the Foundation.



The Festival is a celebration of multiculturalism, harmony and teamwork; it brings together diverse cultures and traditions.



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:

- 2XL Radio
- ABC South East
- SBS Radio
- *The Snowy River Echo*
- *The Snowy Times*
- *The Summit Sun*
- *The Monaro Post*
- *The Cooma Monaro Express*
- *Puls Polonii*, www.pulspolonii.com
- *Tygodnik Polski*
- australink.pl, www.australink.pl
- melbourne.pl, www.melbourne.pl
- strzelecki.org, www.strzelecki.org
- *Mt. Kosciuszko Inc.*, www.mtkosciuszko.org.au
- Adelaide Community Radio
- Radio 3ZZZ in Melbourne
- Radio2000FM in Sydney
- Canberra Community Radio
- *Kronika Polonii*

News about the 2009 K'Ozzie Fest, as well as the Foundation's other projects and initiatives, was also published on numerous other websites, both in Australia and overseas.

The Foundation continues to expand its range of publications. In 2008-2009, two were particularly notable.

Achieving Together: Paul Edmund Strzelecki and His Team (book)

Paul Edmund Strzelecki and His Team: Achieving Together is a comprehensive collection of works, in English and Polish, about the internationally recognised explorer and scientist.

The anthology unites existing publications about Strzelecki by the most authoritative writers with new material that delves into many of the debates surrounding existing historiography. It reveals new facets of the famous Pole's character and achievements. The anthology also highlights the traveller's remarkable concern for Indigenous Australians and the role played by his companions on various expeditions.

A collection of essays, articles, poems, and other works, the anthology is unique in its scope and depth. It also features a rich assortment of artworks and photographs that contributes to iconography about Strzelecki.

Kultura Connect (magazines)

Kultura Connect is a new magazine published by the Foundation as a PDF, and freely available for download from the Foundation website and *Puls Polonii*. It is edited by Lukasz. The magazine was launched in January 2009.

All proceeds from advertising in the magazine went directly towards the 2009 K'Ozzie Festival; all proceeds from future editions will also go towards future festivals and Foundation activities.

Website

Numerous other materials are available on the Foundation's website, at the address www.fkpp.org. The website itself is being redesigned by Lukasz. It will include new features, an enhanced browsing experience, and more archived material. The new website should be launched between May and June 2009.

Strategy and Future Initiatives

In 2009-2010, the Foundation will undertake the following initiatives:

1. Ernestyna and Ursula will visit Wreck Bay Aboriginal Village (tentatively scheduled for August);
2. Oski Pictures, under the auspices of the Foundation, plans to make a film about the Ngarigo people;
3. The Foundation plans to organise a Polish-Aboriginal concert entitled 'Parallels in the History of our People';
4. *Paul Edmund Strzelecki and His Team: Achieving Together* will be distributed in TAFEs and Australian Colleges;
5. A copy of *Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki*, by Lech Paszkowski, and *Paul Edmund Strzelecki and His Team: Achieving Together* will be presented to the University of Sydney Library;
6. The Foundation plans to act on the 'Heney affair' by submitting a new biography about Strzelecki to the *Dictionary of Australian Biography*;
7. Strzelecki and Kosciuszko will be promoted by musical and dance repertoires during the 2009 Polish Christmas in Darling Harbour, Sydney, and at the 2009 Pol-Art Festival, Adelaide;
8. Polish Senate and Wspolnota Polska distinguished representatives will be invited to the 2010 celebrations of the 170th anniversary of Mt Kosciuszko's naming;
9. The Foundation will continue its research for future National Heritage Submissions regarding the Strzelecki Track (South Australia) and Snowy Hydro (New South Wales), in cooperation with Wanda Horky of the NLA;
10. The Foundation will encourage academics and students (in Poland and Australia) to undertake Strzelecki and Kosciuszko-related research; for example, on Edward Eyre (and why he named so many places after Strzelecki) or the 3rd of May Constitution (and Kosciuszko's real involvement in it);
11. The Foundation will organise a 'Chopin on Mt. Kosciuszko' concert, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birthday and the 170th anniversary of the naming of Mt. Kosciuszko by Strzelecki;
12. 'The Strzelecki Track Snow Trek' – to be organised Oski Pictures, with the assistance and promotion of the Foundation – will be undertaken in July 2009. The event will feature a trek from Geehi to Mt. Kosciuszko in the snow; and
13. A 'Kosciuszko Run' – organised by Paweł Gospodarczyk, under the auspices of the Foundation – will occur in March or April 2010.

www.fkpp.org



THE PULS POLONII
CULTURAL FOUNDATION



FUNDACJA KULTURALNA
PULSU POLONII