



President's Report - October 2004

Since the last Annual General Meeting the committee of management has been working steady on a number of projects outlined at the last meeting. These have included:

- organising and cataloguing the existing collection;
- receiving new items to the collection;
- seeking funding;
- producing promotional material; and
- oral history project.

Organising and cataloguing the collection: with respect to this task some progress has been made but it is an ongoing task of quite some magnitude. The offer of assistance from the Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych – Poland still stands however the issue of accommodation and small stipend for the worker is unresolved.

Receiving new items: We recently received a unique photo album of Mr Klimowicz's war-time memorabilia, war medals and books from his widow Mrs Mary Klimowicz. This album shows Mr Klimowicz's journey on a motor bike from Poland, through Romania to France and finally England. The album is full of documents, drawings, photographs and other souvenirs collected along the way. It gives a very human aspect to historical events as experienced by Mr Klimowicz.

We have also received a collection of books from Mrs Nela Boratyn. These books were published in the 1940's and belonged to a Polish library in Palestine. Mrs Boratyn carefully transported these books to Australia and now has donated them to the Museum.

Seeking funding: The organisational budget is not large and it is an ongoing issue to seek funding to house and maintain the collection and cover on-costs. This last year we have been successful in obtaining three grants:

1. Blum Foundation - \$500 operational gift
2. Blum Foundation- \$500 project gift
3. Victoria Multicultural Commission - \$400

Raising money to fulfil our goals is an ongoing activity.

Promotional material: We have produced two brochures one in Polish and English about the Museum and our activities. We also have a section for membership. We have been distributing these materials although we still need to widen our reach to attract people who are willing to become involved in one of our projects. A few articles have appeared in the Tygodnik Polski about the Museum.

Oral History project: This project is on-going as well and we have made considerable progress largely due to the efforts of Mrs Emilia Zientalski who have organised and interviewed a number of distinguished Polish community leaders among them the late Mr Drzymulski. We have a lovely interview with the scout master and his scouts at Polana early this year. We have also recorded community leaders in Geelong, a number of the ex-service men and women and the eminent historian Mr Paszkowski. We have also recorded a few people from the 1980's wave of Polish migrants about their story and contribution to the wider Australian community.

We have now well over 20 hours of digitally recorded interviews and the aim is to create a short film using this footage. We would need the assistance of creative and technically minded individuals to produce a montage of Polish community life. This film could be shown at Polish community centres and copies could be made onto video or DVD and be available for purchase as a fund raising exercise. Are you such a person, or do you know of anyone who may be interested???

In conclusion, we are a small committee, with a limited budget and resources, however we have achieved a number of important goals and with continued support from the community we will strive to continue our activities as best we can. We are always welcoming to new members and interested individual to become involved in any of the above mentioned activities or new initiatives. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members and members of the organisation for your good work and support.

With thanks

Helen Evert