



## **President's Report December 2008**

Another year draws to a close and the Committee of Management has been working consistently on a number of projects during the last year. These include:

- ❖ Organising and cataloguing the existing collection;
- ❖ Seeking funding for new projects; and
- ❖ Preparation and publication of the Polish Museum and Archives Year Book Vol II.

### **Organising and cataloguing the collection:**

The Committee of Management have organised a number of working bees at Millenium House sorting through the collection, sorting items, removing staples and packing them into acid free folders and boxes. Some progress has been made in this activity but there is still much to do. We have also applied for the Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia for preservation and conservation work. The successful recipients of these Grants will be announced late September.

### **Seeking funding**

The organization was successful in obtaining funds from the Blum foundation and the Victorian Multicultural Commission for organisational support. The Museum received \$500 from the Blum Foundation for the project to conduct a seminar/workshop titled 'z pokolenia na pokolenie' - 'from one generation to the next'. This seminar took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2007 and was held in the Elwood Neighbourhood Learning Centre. Twenty-two people participated from around Victoria with some coming as far away as Warragul and Traralgon. The speakers included community activists, historians, academics and a representative from the Victorian Genealogical Society. Feedback from participants rated the day a great success. Six new members joined the Polish Museum and Archives as a result of the seminar. We hoped to organised more events such as this riding on the success of the seminar but unfortunately for a variety of reasons this did not come to fruition.

### **Polish Museum and Archives in Australia Year Book Vol II**

Zdzislaw Derwinski has been working tirelessly on editing and compiling articles for the Polish Museum and Archives Year Book and this has now been printed and bound. The following articles are included: Lech Paszkowski 'Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki Explorer and Scientist; Zdzislaw Derwinski 'Niemcy w polityce rządu RP w przededniu Konferencji Jaltanskiej 1945; Peter Bajer 'Polish Nobility and Its Heraldry; Andrzej Chacinski 'Wspolczesnosc – pismo pokolenia 'odwilzy' and the late Nela Boratyn 'Fragmenty wspomnień'.

## **Plans for 2009**

- Increase the Museum's profile and membership
- Create better links with other like-minded organisations
- Hold a planning day to map out future directions
- Convene a special interest group into Polish genealogy This group will offer short courses/lectures on specific topics every three months or so and share information via the internet / newsletter.
- Continue with preservation work, cataloguing and conducting an inventory
- Seek additional funding
- Transcribe oral history interviews to increase their availability and transfer interviews from digital tapes to DVD
- Continue collecting oral histories
- Other activities

Finally I would like to thank the committee of management for all their good work and on behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to thank our membership for their interest and support.

Helena Evert  
President