



President's Report – 8 September 2002.

Since the last Annual General meeting in August 2001, the Polish Museum and Archives have been working towards fulfilling a number of goals. These include:

- Wider publicity and increase membership;
- Continued collection of written and photographic materials relevant to Polish community life in Australia;
- Organising and cataloguing existing material;
- Oral history project;
- Obtaining grants from funding bodies; and
- Collecting entries for the Encyclopedia of Polish-Australians and their contribution to community life.

These goals are ongoing however quite a considerable amount of work has been achieved in each area.

With respect to publicity and increased membership MAPA has developed a pamphlet in Polish and English describing the goals and activities of the organisation. With the wide distribution of this pamphlet we hope to attract people to join the organisation.

MAPA is continually on the look out for materials and artifacts that are of historical value to the Polish community. In terms of cataloguing and organising materials we hope to purchase new shelving and archival boxes to safe guard the materials we have. The organisation has also had successful contact with the Polish National Archives in Warsaw in relation to receiving expert advice and assistance in cataloging.

The oral history project aims to document the experiences of Polish elderly migrants during the Second World War, the early days in Australia, establishing home and community structures. MAPA has been successful in gaining funds to buy equipment and to cover basic costs in conducting this project. This project will start shortly and we would like to take this opportunity to appeal to anyone interested in being a volunteer – in either telling their story or assisting in the taping and interviewing of other people's story- please contact MAPA.

To implement this project and cover administration costs, the committee of management gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

- ❖ Local History Grant - Public Record Office Victoria -\$5,000
- ❖ City of Maribyrong - \$1000
- ❖ Victorian Multicultural Commission \$600
- ❖ Stanislaw Blum Foundation \$500

- ❖ Australian Polish Cultural Foundation \$300
- ❖ Polish Congress of Seven Day Adventists \$300

Finally the organisation is collecting entries for the Encyclopedia and call on members of the community to contribute by writing about their personal background, life and activities in the Australian/Polish community.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow committee members for their support and good work and the support of the general membership and look forward to a productive year ahead in achieving the goals described above.

Many thanks - Helenka Evert