

Polish Association in Christchurch Inc.
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 May 2009
at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Riccarton Library, Main South Road

1 Present

The meeting was held with 22 attendees.

On behalf of the Executive, it was attended by Mariusz Talaska (President), Ilona Pawlowska (Vice President), Jozef Kubiak (Honorary President).

Apologies were received from Agnieszka Fairlie who was overseas.

Mariusz Talaska presided over the meeting. Minutes recorded by Anna Gruczynska.

2 Agenda

Mariusz Talaska welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for making the time to attend the Annual General Meeting. He then briefly outlined the agenda for the evening.

1. Reporting of the retiring Executive as follows:

- Report on the Association's activities in the past year.
- Treasurer's Report on membership and the balance sheet for the past year.

2. Election of the new Executive.

3. General discussion regarding the plan of activities for the coming year.

2.1 Reporting of the retiring Executive

Mariusz Talaska presented the Report on activities during 2008/2009, including:

- Regular movie evenings and newsletters
- Trips to Mt Cheeseman and Hanmer Springs
- Coffee Evening by candlelight in June 2008 at the Christ The King Church Hall
- In August 2008, a meeting with Reverend Krzysztof and 5 young pilgrims from Poland at the Christ The King church.
- Christmas party (Wigilia) in December at the Sydenham Community Center – carol singing and Santa for the children.
- In January meeting with a genealogy expert - Katarzyna Grycza, at the Blue Pearl Gallery

- Coffee Evening at the Sydenham Community Centre on the 26th of February 2009
- On the 27th of March a ceremony of presenting the Siberian Crosses and Golden Cross of Merit which also provided an opportunity to farewell the Ambassador of Poland, Mr Lech Mastalerz
- A hiking trip to Mt Oxford on the 29th of March
- April meeting over coffee with a director, poet and artist Lech Majewski in Blue Pearl Gallery
- On ANZAC Day, representatives of the Polish Association lay flowers at the Christchurch Cenotaph during the dawn service.

The Report was received as true and correct record of the Association's activities.

Mariusz Talaska then presented the Treasurer's report which was received. The Financial Statement for the year 2008/2009 is attached.

2.2 Election of the new Executive

Mariusz Talaska invited the attendees to submit their nominations and expressions of interest in joining the Executive. The following nominations were received:

- Mariusz Talaska
- Jozef Kubiak
- Ilona Pawlowska
- Alina Sztandera
- Anna Gruczynska
- Agnieszka Fairlie
- Frania Zygodlo
- Barbara Pawlikowska
- Ela Sawicka

Voting was held on the motion to appoint Jozef Kubiak Honorary President of the Polish Association in Christchurch for life. The motion was approved unanimously.

In addition, a 6-member Executive was elected by the majority of votes. The Executive is:

- Mariusz Talaska
- Ilona Pawlowska
- Alina Sztandera
- Agnieszka Fairlie
- Anna Gruczynska
- Frania Zygodlo

The Executive will assign functions at the first meeting of the new term.

2.3 General Discussion

Mariusz Talaska then invited members to put forward suggestions for the Association's activities during next year.

The suggestions received included:

- Introducing discounts for paid-up members of the Association on entry fees to events etc.
- Working closer with Polish organizations in Australia to bring Polish artists over by combining their Australian tours with New Zealand.
- An event targeted at older children/young adults such as ten pin bowling, adrenaline forest etc. – there are currently no events that would appeal to this age group.
- An event specifically for senior members – a Sunday high tea for example.
- Facilitating story-telling sessions for the children/youth with the senior members to learn history first hand. This could be combined with running workshops on making Polish Christmas decorations etc.
- Bringing back more formal events to recognize important dates in the Polish calendar – Independence Day on 11 November etc.
- A dance party.
- It was suggested that Wigilia be held on Sunday rather than on Saturday as many people work on Saturdays and therefore miss out.
- It was also suggested that coffee meetings be held alternately on weekday evenings and weekend afternoons.

With business completed, the meeting terminated at 9:00 p.m.