

May/Maj 2026

AUCKLAND POLISH ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our May newsletter. Please share the content with any people in our community and encourage any friends or family to send us their email addresses to get on to our database.

Witamy w naszym majowym newsletterze. Prosimy o udostępnienie niniejszej treści wszystkim zainteresowanym osobom z naszej społeczności. Również zachęcamy każdego kto chciałby otrzymywać bieżące informacje na temat działań naszego stowarzyszenia do przesłania nam adresu e-mail.

**Our newsletter is now available
on our website:**

www.polonიაauckland.co.nz

email:

info@poloniaauckland.co.nz

THIS MONTH'S EDITION CONTAINS:

- Mother's Day
- AGM
- Constitution review group
- Majówka/3rd May
- 3rd May images supplied by Mr Tomecki
- Katyń
- Bolesław Augustis exhibition
- Business Adventure scholarship
- General Anders Scholarship
- Honorary benefits for Polish Elders/War veterans
- Polish school for children
- Polish Heritage Trust Museum
- Polish History advertisement
- Save the date
- Become a member of the Auckland Polish Association

WSZYSTKIEGO
NAJLEPSZEGO
z okazji Dnia Matki



***Wishing a fantastic
Mother's Day to all the mums
out there!
Enjoy your special day on Sunday!
10 May/10 Maj
Mothers day in Poland is 26 May***

Annual General Meeting - 3 May

The Executive Committee would like to thank our members who were able to participate in our latest AGM. It was a positive and productive meeting with a lot of great ideas and discussion. It was wonderful that we were able to start the meeting on time with the required constitutional quorum thanks to those who attended and the proxies received.

The committee would personally like to thank all those involved in supporting the APA. A huge thank you for the positive feedback received after the meeting and also for the support offered. The many fruitful discussions included the constitution (successfully getting APA reregistered), the increase in memberships, increase in communications with members, how we can support other charities, possible upgrades of the bathroom/AV equipment for the Polish house, and event opportunities and fundraising the committee are seeking from external organisations.

As a small executive committee of only 6 members, we are all proud to be working for our Polish community and promoting a slice of Poland in New Zealand.

If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to run past the committee, please feel free to email the committee at:

info@poloniaauckland.co.nz

Next year, our AGM will be a voting election and we would like to encourage more people to help and considering joining the committee!

Many hands make light work, and with the members involvement, we can achieve significantly more events, fundraising activities, Polish house maintenance and increase our membership greater than the committee can do on its own. Thank you.



We need your helpplease

Since the June 2025 AGM, our relatively new and compact Executive Committee has accomplished a significant amount in a short time frame.

Alongside our standard responsibilities, a primary focus was finalising the new constitution to meet legal requirements. This process involved extensive reviews of previous drafts and preparation for the members. We facilitated a transparent consultation period—including an initial meeting and a detailed review of member suggestions—culminating in a Special General Meeting in November 2025. By providing clear options for a final vote, we successfully reached a resolution before the summer break, and the constitution was officially registered in early 2026.

As we move forward, we are now needing to establish a **Constitution Review Group** to refine specific details which is a common step currently being taken by many charities.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Nina Tomaszuk at prezes@poloniaauckland.co.nz.



Majówka

Hello May, beautiful May, a blissful paradise for Poles...

For Poles, the beginning of May is not only days off from work and spontaneous trips, but also the celebration of important national holidays, which include:

May 1st – Labour Day

May 2nd – Flag Day of the Republic of Poland, known as Flag Day, but also Polish Diaspora Day

May 3rd – National Holiday of the Third of May, or the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of May 3rd

Labour Day, celebrated in Poland on May 1st, is an international working-class holiday commemorating the Chicago strikes of 1886. In Poland, it has been a public holiday since 1950.

Popularly known as "May 1st," it often marks the beginning of the long May weekend in conjunction with May 3rd.

During the communist era, large May Day parades were organised. Today, trade union parades are often held, but the day is primarily associated with relaxation and the beginning of the May Day holiday. May 1st also marks the anniversary of Poland's accession to the European Union (since 2004).

The May 3rd Constitution is a solid source of pride for all Poles! It's important to know that the May 3rd Constitution was the second in the world, and the first in Europe (after the American Constitution of 1787), a modern government act regulating the political system in Poland in accordance with the ideals of the Enlightenment.

From a very young age, Polish children learn to recognise Polish national symbols, which include the coat of arms, the Polish anthem – Mazurek Dąbrowskiego – and, of course, the white-and-red flag. Although Flag Day has been celebrated for a relatively short time – since May 2nd, 2004 – this holiday has captured the hearts of Poles, who eagerly cheer and display the flag on their balconies. The roots of the Polish national colours date back to the times of Mieszko I and Bolesław the Brave (the first king of Poland) and are a reflection of the colours of the national coat of arms, which consists of a white eagle on a red background. While the coat of arms is more important than the background colour in Polish heraldry, white is always at the top of the flag and represents noble qualities such as purity, innocence, truth, goodness, honesty, sincerity, and humility. Red, on the other hand, symbolizes love, courage, bravery, sacrifice, and fervor.

The white and red colours were first recognised as national colours in 1792 during the celebration of the first anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of May 3rd.

May devotion (commonly called May Day) - a Catholic evening devotion celebrated in May in churches and at roadside chapels in honour of the Mother of God, during which the Litany of Loreto and the prayer We Fly To Thy Protection are recited or sung.

Listen to songs related to May holidays

[Mazurek Trzeciego Maja / Witaj majowa jutrzeńko / 3 Maj](#)

[Na majówkę - Lena Sobczyk - Wesole piosenki na wiosnę - Podkład Jangok](#)

[Chwalcie łąki umajone](#)

Our association celebrated Majówka on Sunday 03 May.

Thank you to Magda Jakimiuk for her charisma and organising Majówka.

Written by Ania Biazik, photography by Nina Tomaszuk

3RD MAY



Majówka

Witaj maj, piękny maj, u Polaków błogi raj...

Początek maja to dla Polaków nie tylko dni wolne od pracy i spontaniczne wyjazdy, lecz także obchody ważnych świąt narodowych, na które składają się:

- 1 maja – Święto Pracy
- 2 maja – Dzień Flagi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej znany jako Dzień Flagi, to również Dzień Polonii
- 3 maja – Święto Narodowe Trzeciego Maja czyli Rocznica uchwalenia Konstytucji 3 maja

Święto Pracy, obchodzone w Polsce 1 maja, to międzynarodowe święto klasy robotniczej upamiętniające strajki w Chicago z 1886 roku. W Polsce jest to święto państwowe i dzień ustawowo wolny od pracy od 1950 roku. Popularnie zwane "1 Maja" często inicjuje długi weekend majowy w połączeniu z 3 Maja.

W okresie PRL organizowano huczne pochody pierwszomajowe. Obecnie często organizowane są pochody związkowe, ale dzień ten kojarzy się głównie z wypoczynkiem i początkiem "majówki".

1 maja jest również rocznicą wstąpienia Polski do Unii Europejskiej (od 2004 roku).

Konstytucja 3 maja jest to solidny powód do dumy dla wszystkich Polaków! Musicie wiedzieć, że Konstytucja 3 maja była drugą na świecie, a pierwszą w Europie, po Konstytucji amerykańskiej z 1787 roku, nowoczesną ustawą rządową regulującą ustrój w Polsce zgodnie z ideami oświecenia.

Już od najmłodszych lat polskie dzieci uczą się rozpoznawania polskich symboli narodowych, do których należą godło, hymn Polski – Mazurek Dąbrowskiego i oczywiście biało-czerwona flaga.

Mimo, iż Dzień Flagi obchodzimy stosunkowo niedługo – od 2 maja 2004 roku, święto to podbiło serca Polaków, którzy chętnie wiwatują i wywieszają flagę na swoich balkonach.

Korzenie polskich barw narodowych sięgają czasów Mieszka I i Bolesława Chrobrego (pierwszego króla Polski) i są odwzorowaniem kolorystyki godła państwowego, który stanowi orzeł biały na czerwonym tle. Ze względu na fakt, iż w polskiej heraldyce kolor godła jest ważniejszy niż kolor tła, na fladze biel jest zawsze u góry i oznacza szlchetne cechy, takie jak czystość, niewinność, prawda, dobro, uczciwość, szczerłość i pokora. Czerwień oznacza zaś miłość, odwagę, waleczność, poświęcenie i żarliwość.

Barwy biało-czerwone po raz pierwszy zostały uznane za narodowe w roku 1792 podczas obchodów pierwszej rocznicy uchwalenia Konstytucji 3 maja.

Nabożeństwo majowe (zwane potocznie majówką lub majowym) – katolickie nabożeństwo wieczorne odprawiane w maju w kościołach, oraz przydrożnych kapliczkach ku czci Matki Bożej, podczas którego odśpiewuje się Litanię Loretańską oraz modlitwę *Pod Twoją obronę*.

Postępuj utworów związanych ze świętami majowymi:

[Mazurek Trzeciego Maja / Witaj majowa jutrzeńko / 3 Maj](#)

[Na majówkę - Lena Sobczyk - Wesole piosenki na wiosnę - Podkład Jangok](#)

[Chwalcie łąki umajone](#)

Nasze stowarzyszenie świętowało Majówkę w niedzielę 3 maja.

Dziękujemy Magdzie Jakimiuk za charyzmę i zorganizowanie Majówki.

3rd May presentation

Mr Tomecki, a Polish elder in our community has kindly shared part of his 3rd May presentation (which he was planning to do on Sunday after the AGM).

Photos included on the next page.

1. 800 years of the Polish political thought leading to the Constitution
2. Chrobry's Poland map, Poland was like 500,000 square kilometres, which is nearly double of the current Poland
3. His Political Thought – not only he had a strong professional army (drużyna), but he married four times; each wife brought him a large principality, he kicked the wife out but kept the land
4. Map of Poland (small) and Lithuania (huge). Christian Polish rulers wanted to take pagan Lithuania over but didn't know how. It would be a million square kilometres kingdom.
5. Their Political Thought – sell the young Polish Queen Jadwiga to the Lithuanian Grand Prince Jagiełło (make him the King), and sell Christianity to them (baptise the Pagans).
6. King Zygmunt August. He was madly in love, when his wife Barbara Radziwiłłówna died, he became nuts and refused to sign the royal documents. Poland became ungovernable
7. Royal Council Political Thought – to find a woman who would look like his dead wife. It worked like a charm. The King became normal and the country was fine again. But there is a funny follow up. They had children and Barbara Giżanka soon became the wealthiest woman in Poland because of his lavish gifts. He died and there was a queue of suitors for her hand. Eventually she selected a poor but handsome kniaź (prince) Woroniecki. The Royal Council told him to adopt all King's children, and they destroyed all their birth certificates to avoid any claims. Then Giżanka and Woroniecki had more children and now nobody knows if the present day Woronieckis (some live in Auckland) are in fact the Woronieckis or have royal blood.
8. Poland is collapsing again. The list of problems. Next Political Thought – the Constitution
9. The first Liberal Constitution in Europe.
10. How the Polish Governance should be changed. Unfortunately the great ideas turned to custard because Russians invaded Poland two years later.

Luana Rządowi.

W imię Państwa i Królestwa Polskiego i Litwy

Konstytucja 3go Maja 1791 roku

ONOC. 800 LAT. POLSKIEJ MYŚLI POLITYCZNEJ

Jak to urodzi
Andrzej Bohdan Tomasz

Religia państwa.



MYŚL POLITYCZNA BOLESŁAWA CHROBR



MYŚL POLITYCZNA KROLOWEJ JADWIGI



Och Barbara ☺

MYŚL POLITYCZNA

Dostać imię Barbara i tak się nie potępię

Luana Rządowi.

W imię Państwa i Królestwa Polskiego i Litwy

Konstytucja 3go Maja 1791 roku

PIERWSZA W EUROPIE

1787 Amerykańska

*** 1791 Maj Polska ***

1791 Listopad Francuska

Religia państwa.

Luana Rządowi.

W imię Państwa i Królestwa Polskiego i Litwy

Konstytucja 3go Maja 1791 roku

Dziedziczna Monarchia

Zniesienie Li berum veto

Trojpodział Władzy:

Sejm - Wstawodawcza

Król - Wykonawcza

Sądy

Armia 100,000

Ochrona własności i praw

Mieszczanie w życiu politycznym

Religia:

Panująca katolicka

Swoboda wyznań

Religia państwa.

Luana Rządowi.

W imię Państwa i Królestwa Polskiego i Litwy

Konstytucja 3go Maja 1791 roku

ONOC. 800 LAT. POLSKIEJ MYŚLI POLITYCZNEJ

Jak to urodzi
Andrzej Bohdan Tomasz

Religia państwa.

Remembering Katyń

Each year, representatives of the Polish community in Auckland gather in St Patrick's Cathedral in Auckland, to commemorate victims of Katyń.

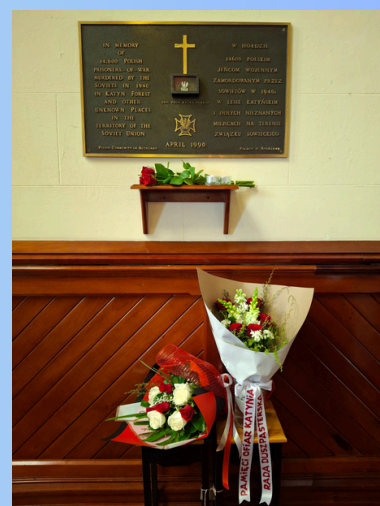
This memorial commemorates one of the most tragic events of WWII. In April and May 1940, after the Russian invasion of Poland, Soviet NKVD officials murdered thousands of Polish prisoners of war in the Katyń Forest and elsewhere. In November 1977 members of New Zealand's Polish community erected a memorial plaque to the victims in St Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Wellington. On 16 April 1990 the Catholic Bishop of Auckland Denis Browne unveiled a similar plaque in St Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland. The English text of the latter reads: 'In memory of 14,600 Polish prisoners-of-war, murdered by the Soviets in 1940 in Katyń Forest and other unknown places in the territory of the Soviet Union. Polish Community in Auckland'. The plaque also supports a small receptacle with a sample of soil from the Katyń Forest.

The representatives including The Hon. Consul Boguslaw Nowak, Polish Catholic Pastoral Committee, Polish Heritage Trust Museum, the PL-NZ Business Association and Auckland Polish Association who laid flowers beneath the plaque; Father Mark Bond from the Cathedral led prayers for the victims of this crime. During the ceremony, Jacek Drecki provided a historical overview of the plaque, acknowledging the efforts and dedication of those instrumental in its unveiling at the Cathedral in 1990.

Thank you to all who took part in this year's commemorations.

Please, take moment to read the article by Barbara Scrivens

<https://polishhistorynewzealand.org/katyn-the-unspeakable-crime/>



Bolesław Augustis

Two Homelands Photography exhibition

Starting: 27 May - 14 June. Opening reception: 28th May 6.00pm
154 Gallery, Queen Street, Auckland

The Bolesław Augustis presentation has been invited to the Auckland Festival of Photography!

Audiences in New Zealand will have the opportunity to see, for the first time, photographs taken by a Białystok photographer who, after the war, made his way to the far reaches of the world (New Zealand) and spent most of his life there.

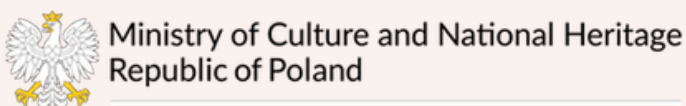
The presentation will show frames from Białystok Poland dating from 1935–1938, as well as photographs from the family’s private archive in New Zealand. You are warmly invited to attend.

The exhibition has been prepared by the Widok Cultural Education Association. The partner of the exhibition is the Sleńdziński Art Gallery in Białystok.

Funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage from the Culture Promotion Fund – a state special-purpose fund – as part of the program “Promotion of Polish Culture Abroad.”

Please click the link below for more information:

<http://photographyfestival.co.nz>





Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Wellington

If you:
are 21-35 years old,
live outside Poland,
hold Polish citizenship or Karta Polaka,
give your career a boost by applying for a paid
#PolandBusinessAdventure internship in Poland!

Successful applicants will receive a 3-month placement at selected Polish companies, including state-owned or Polish branches of foreign companies, along with financial and logistical support from **Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych**.

For more information, visit **www.paih.gov.pl/poland-business-adventure/**



General Anders

Scholarship programme

The General Anders Scholarship Programme for Polish diaspora is addressed to young people of Polish origin. The programme promotes Poland as a country of attractive educational opportunities, strengthens level of qualifications in the Polish communities abroad and is an opportunity to learn about culture and history of Poland.

The programme enables young people of Polish origin to undertake first-cycle, second-cycle or uniform Master's degree studies in Poland at higher education institutions supervised by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Culture and Cultural Heritage.

The scholarship covers full-time studies in a wide range of fields except for applied linguistics and foreign languages (apart from Polish philology). The studies must be held in Polish. The studies may be preceded by a yearly preparatory course designed to improve Polish language skills and deepen knowledge related to the field of future studies.

The candidates must be holders of the Pole's Card or young people with dual citizenship (of Poland and of other country), having completed secondary education outside Poland. Candidates are selected on the basis of the calls for proposals and its specific criteria. The calls for proposals are announced on annual basis.

Detailed information for applicants:

e-mail: anders@nawa.gov.pl



ANDERS
NAWA

Honorary benefits for Polish citizens

We hereby kindly provide information from the Department for Cooperation with the Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad regarding the right to an honorary benefit under the Act of October 18, 2024, on Honorary Benefits for Turning 100. The purpose of this regulation is to legalise the long-standing tradition of specially honouring individuals who have turned 100 by granting them the right to an honorary benefit, financed by the state budget, paid monthly.

Polish citizens who have reached the age of 100 are entitled to the honorary benefit, regardless of their place of residence. Therefore, the right to the honorary benefit is granted to both Polish citizens residing in Poland and Polish citizens residing abroad. As of March 1, 2026, the honorary benefit amounts to PLN 6,938.92 and is subject to annual indexation.

Detailed information on the conditions for granting this benefit and the rules for applying for and paying the benefit can be found on the website of the Social Insurance Institution at:

<https://www.zus.pl/-/swiadczenie-honorowe-z-tytułu-skończenia-100-lat>

In addition to honorary benefits, separate laws regulate additional monetary and non-monetary entitlements for specific social groups who have worked to regain the independence and sovereignty of the Polish State or who have been subjected to various repressions related to the totalitarian systems of the Third Reich and the USSR during World War II and the state apparatus in the postwar period. These benefits include those due to veterans, war invalids, opposition activists, and victims of repression, among others.

Detailed information on the conditions for granting benefits for individual eligible groups and the rules for applying for individual benefits can be found on the website at:

<https://www.kombatanci.gov.pl/index.php/pl/> in the Entitlements tab.

Please contact the Polish Wellington Embassy, if you require more information.



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Wellington

Polish Language School for children



Classes are weekly on Saturday at 9am
duration: 90 mins with breaks

Classes are taking place during the school term

It is learning through fun and play

Children 5 years old and up

School year calendar

Term 1

* February: 21, 28

* March: 7, 14, 21, 28

Term 2

* May: 2, 9, 16, 23

* June: 6, 13, 20, 27

Term 3

* July: 25

* August: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

* September: 5, 12, 19

Term 4

* October: 17, 31

* November: 7, 14, 21, 28

* December: 5

\$20 per child and \$10 for other siblings from the same family.

All classes are at Polish House
1 McDonald Street, Morningside.

Please email: info@poloniaauckland.co.nz

Subject: school

for more information

Are you interested in Adult classes?

Please contact the above email address for details



Polish Heritage Trust Museum

Upcoming events

Exhibition

Polish Folkdance Images

Part of Auckland Festival of Photography 2026

Museum entry by donation

Small fee for groups



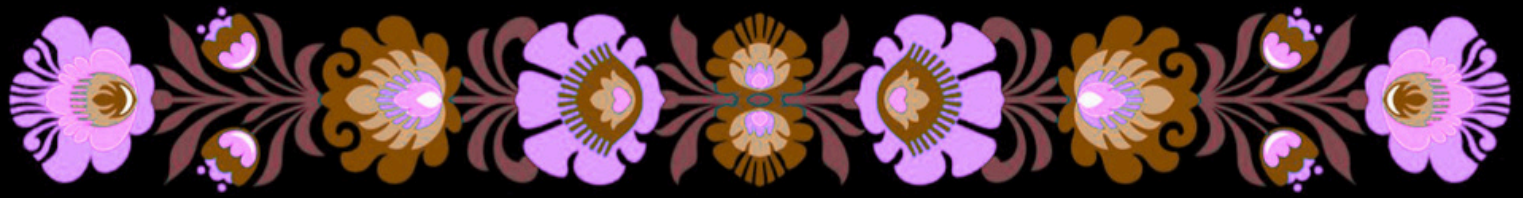
**Polish Heritage
Trust Museum**

125 Elliot Street, Howick, Auckland

Tue-Fri 10-4 & Sun 12-5

P: 09 533 3530

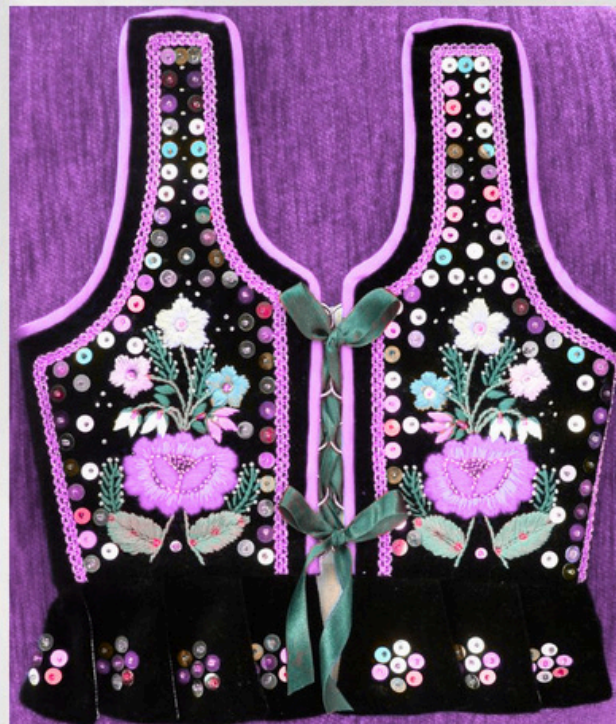
E: phtmuseum@outlook.com



Interested in learning more about Polish people in New Zealand?

The first “brilliant but cranky” Pole arrived in Dusky Sound with his son in March 1773 with Captain Cook’s ship, Resolution.

During the next 100 years, mostly single men—adventurers—followed, but it was not till 1872 that the first significant groups of Polish families arrived, and started their lives in a land that was as foreign to them as they were to it.



Read about them, and the rich tapestry of Polish lives in New Zealand since then at:

<https://polishhistorynewzealand.org/>

POLISH HOUSE EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE....

Boleslaw Augustis Photo exhibition

27 May to 14 June

154 Gallery, Queen Street

Polish House 50th

Sunday 16th August 1pm

Polish Spring Market

Sunday 13th September 1pm

Polish children of Pahiataua

Sunday 18th October 1pm

Polish Christmas party / Oplątek

Sunday 29th November

Polish Christmas Market

Sunday 6th December

School for children - ongoing

Schools for adults - please email to enquire

For further information, please contact info@poloniaauckland.co.nz

Join us Become a member!

Auckland Polish Association Membership

Prospective and returning members are invited to fill out the application form, and send to the Auckland Polish Association - Membership fees: Adult (\$30), Senior Citizen, Beneficiaries & Student (\$15) for the year.

Stowarzyszenie Polskie Auckland Członkostwo

Osoby zainteresowane członkostwem oraz te, których członkostwo wygasło są proszone o wypełnienie formularza zgłoszeniowego i przesłanie do Stowarzyszenia Polaków w Auckland - opłaty członkowskie dla dorosłych (\$30), seniorów i studentów (\$15).

