

AUCKLAND POLISH ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our June 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 czerwcowym 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.poloniaauckland.co.nz

email:

info@poloniaauckland.co.nz

THIS MONTH'S EDITION CONTAINS:

- Bolesław Augustis exhibition
- 50th Anniversary of Polish house
- Pastoral care information
- Pahiataua scholarship announcement
- Polish language school
- Polish Heritage Trust Museum
- Polish History advertisement
- Save the date
- Become a member of the Auckland Polish Association

Bolesław Augustis photography exhibition



The exhibition "Two Homelands / Dwie Ojczyzny" by the Polish documentary photographer Bolesław Augustis opened on the evening of May 28, 2026, at the 154 Gallery (Level 2, 154 Queen Street, Auckland Central) as part of the 2026 Auckland Festival of Photography.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the opening night of this very awesome exhibition. It was a great event that had many people attend.

If you would still like to see the exhibition, it will be running until 14th June.

All welcome!



Please click the link below to listen to the interview on RNZ National radio

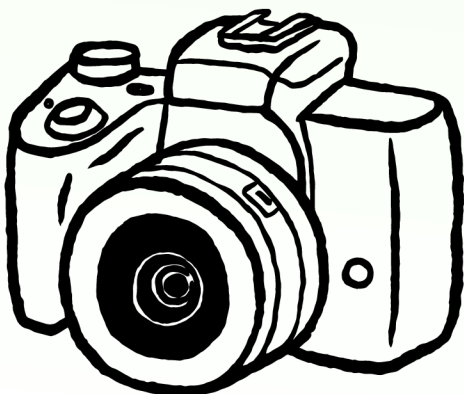
Boleslaw Augustis photography exhibition

The exhibition “Two Homelands / Dwie Ojczyzny,” dedicated to the work of Bolesław Augustis, officially opened in Auckland last night, marking a deeply moving and unforgettable occasion.

We were honored to welcome the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to New Zealand, Patryk Błaszczak, who attended with his wife Monika, alongside Auckland Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson and Julia Durkin from Auckland festival of photography. The evening was defined by a profound sense that Augustis’s story had symbolically returned to the country where he spent the second half of his life.

The exhibition is being hosted at the Gallery 154 in Queen Street Auckland as part of the Auckland Festival of Photography. The exhibition serves as a time capsule. It transports viewers from the pre-war streets and everyday life of Białystok through the harrowing journey of survival, deportation, and exile, to the eventual rebuilding of a life in New Zealand.

During the evening, there was a speech from the photographer’s sons, Stan and John Augustowicz, who shared intimate memories of their father and their journey to rediscover his artistic legacy. This exhibition is the result of years of dedicated work by Grzegorz Dąbrowski, Urszula Dąbrowska, Rafał Siderski, and Tomasz Danilecki, whose efforts have successfully bridged the past and the present with Poland and New Zealand.







Two Homelands

Bolesław Augustis / Augustowicz lived in Białystok for less than eight years, yet he left behind the largest collection of pre-war photographs of the city—over 12,000 images. In Auckland he spent nearly half a century, but only around 1,500 frames have survived in the family archive.

This exhibition brings together photographs from both places, which he considered his homelands. For Białystok—devastated during World War II—this collection resembles a glimpse of Atlantis: a vanished world. The photographs from 1935–1938 depict places that no longer exist and events long past. Above all, they portray the city's inhabitants, including Jews, who made up nearly half of the population. Their world would soon be annihilated. Looking at these images, we see ordinary life suspended on the brink of catastrophe. New Zealand—geographically distant from the wars of the twentieth century—became a place of new beginnings for many refugees, including the 733 "Pahiatua children" (Polish orphans—victims of forced Soviet deportations). It was here that Augustis also found a peaceful refuge. He no longer worked as a professional photographer, yet from time to time he would take out his camera to capture family life, gatherings of the Polish diaspora, or to document an anti-war protest in 1968. What might these semi-private photographs, taken by a migrant from the Old Continent, mean to the people of New Zealand? They can be read as a story of a journey: from a world that ceased to exist to a place where everything had to be built anew.

Is it a story of fulfilled hope? We do not know. Augustis died before his negatives were discovered. The answer is being written by his descendants, who remained in New Zealand and describe themselves as "half Polish, half Kiwi."



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." Special thanks to Tomasz Augustowicz

Bolesław Augustis: The Rediscovered Photographer

The discovery of Bolesław Augustis's negatives in 2004 caused a sensation in Poland, often compared to the posthumous fame of Vivian Maier. Unknown during his lifetime, Augustis was recognized only after his death as a remarkable photographer whose artistic path was interrupted by war and exile.

Born in 1912 in Novosibirsk to a Polish family, Bolesław Augustis / Augustowicz moved to Białystok in 1932 after the family lost everything in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution. There he trained as a photographer and opened his own studio.

His career was cut short by World War II. After the Soviet occupation of Białystok, he was arrested by the NKVD in 1940 and sent to a labor camp. His mother and sister remained in Białystok and hid his photographic negatives. Released after Stalin allowed the formation of a Polish army in the USSR, Augustis left with it through Iran, Egypt, and Italy, eventually settling in the United Kingdom.

After the war, he chose not to return to communist Poland. In 1949 he emigrated to New Zealand, where he married Maria Zazulak, one of the "Polish Children of Pahiatua". They built a life in Titirangi, raising two sons in a house they constructed themselves. Augustis worked in manual jobs and never returned to Poland.

He never knew his pre-war photographs had survived, nor that they would be rediscovered decades later in Białystok and celebrated in exhibitions and publications across Europe. Today, Bolesław Augustis is considered one of Poland's most important street photographers, admired for his composition, sensitivity to light, and instinct for capturing the moment. Even in the private photographs he took in New Zealand, his eye remained unmistakable—proof, as curator Grzegorz Dąbrowski observed, that one never ceases to be a photographer.

Under the Honorary Patronage of
 His Excellency Patryk Błaszczak Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to New Zealand
 His Excellency Paul Ballantyne Ambassador of New Zealand to the Republic of Poland



Special thanks to The Polish Association in New Zealand, The Auckland Polish Association, and South Island Branch of NZ SPK









Zazulak extended family on the opening night of the exhibition.

**Photography for this newsletter done by:
Kelly Mills and Emma Conroy**

Auckland Polish Association

Dom Polski / Polish House

50th anniversary

Sunday 16th August 2026



If you can assist in any of the below,

please email

prezes@poloniaauckland.co.nz

Catering

Setting up / serving on the day

History of Polish House

e.g photos, stories

Entertainment

Etc.



More details to follow soon.



PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council is a small team whose main objective is to rebuild in Auckland, the Polish Parish headed by the priest. We are trying to bring a priest from Poland, but the task is difficult because of the shortage of priests. The soul of this effort is Małgosia Rozmus who facilitates negotiations between the bishop responsible for Polonia, Robert Chrzęszcz in Warsaw, and the Bishop of the Auckland Diocese Stephen Lowe (not to mention the various Polish missionary orders). When we sometimes manage to bring over a priest to say a single Mass we notify the people on our email address list.

In addition to such a long-term activity, the Pastoral Council attempts to be of some use to the Auckland Polish community. We support initiatives of the Auckland Polish Association. We offer transport to people who cannot get by themselves to the Polish Mass or Polish house. We translate Polish forms for persons applying for Polish passports. We are acting as a link between the Polish Catholics spread around the various Polish groups.

Our activities bring us closer to the Polish community in Auckland. We welcome anyone who would like to help us even in a slightest manner. We also welcome information about the people who need help.

If you wish to receive our announcements, please send us your email address.

Our contacts are:

Chairman Andrzej Bohdan Tomecki (tomecki@xtra.co.nz)
Secretary Małgorzata Rozmus (rozmus@xtra.co.nz)

Written by Andrzej Tomecki





RADA DUSZPASTERSKA

Rada Duszpasterska składa się z kilku osób których głównym celem jest odrodzenie w Auckland polskiej parafii z księdzem na czele. Usiłujemy sprowadzić księdza z Polski, co jest trudnym zadaniem ze względu na ogólny brak księży. Duszą tego przedsięwzięcia jest pani Małgosia Rozmus która rozmawia z Biskupem do Spraw Polonii Robertem Chrzęszczem w Warszawie, Biskupem Auckland Stephenem Low i polskimi zakonami misyjnymi. Czasami udaje nam się sprowadzić do Auckland księdza na jednorazowe odprawienie Mszy Świętej. Zawiadamiamy o tym osoby na naszej liście adresów email.

Oprócz takiej długoterminowej akcji staramy się być użyteczni dla Polonijnej społeczności w Auckland. Wspieramy inicjatywy Stowarzyszenia Polaków w Auckland. Oferujemy transport osobom które nie mogą same dostać się na polskie Msze Święte lub na uroczystości w Domu Polskim. Tłumaczymy dokumenty Polskiego Konsulatu osobom starającym się o polski paszport. Jesteśmy łącznikiem między polskimi katolikami rozproszonymi w różnych grupach.

Tego rodzaju działalność zbliża Radę Duszpasterską do polskiej społeczności w Auckland. Chętnie witamy każdego kto chciałby nam pomóc choćby w najskromniejszy sposób i o informacje o osobach potrzebujących pomocy. Prosimy też o adresy email osób które chcą otrzymywać nasze zawiadomienia.

Nasze kontakty to:

Sekretarz Małgorzata Rozmus (rozmus@xtra.co.nz) i

Przewodniczący Andrzej Bohdan Tomecki (tomecki@xtra.co.nz)



Scholarship in honour of the Polish children and caregivers of Pahiatua

The \$2,000 scholarship was sponsored by Nina Tomaszuk whose mother (Krystyna Tomaszuk, nee Skwarko) was one of the Polish children and it recognised women committed to community engagement and cultural preservation. Some generous members of the Polish Community also donated towards it.

A deserving young student, who started studying this year at the University of Auckland, received the \$2,000. She achieved NCEA Level 2 & 3 Excellence Endorsement. She served as both a Contemporary Music Leader and Cultural Leader at her school, mentored younger students, lead creative projects, also helped set up and performed at multiple school and out of school events. As a singer, songwriter, and dancer, she contributes to creating, performing, and sharing art that celebrates culture and brings communities together.

These opportunities allowed her to connect with diverse audiences and supported the growth of cultural appreciation in her community.

Thank you to all who donated towards the Pahiatua scholarship!

For more information on scholarships, see <https://kateedgerfoundation.org.nz/>

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

Polish Language School for adults

If interested, 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

Polish Comics

Family craft workshop & presentation

7th July 10am - 12pm

16th July 10am - 12pm

\$10 per person incl. materials

Bookings preferred P: 09 533 3530

E: phtmuseum@outlook.com



Polish Heritage
Trust Museum

125 Elliot Street, Howick, Auckland



Polish Heritage Trust Museum

Fundacja-Muzeum Dziedzictwa Polskiego

125 Elliot Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand

Phone 0064 9 533 3530 phtmuseum@outlook.com www.polishheritage.co.nz

Official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Polish-Heritage-Trust-Museum-in-Howick-New-Zealand-1447087388936695/>

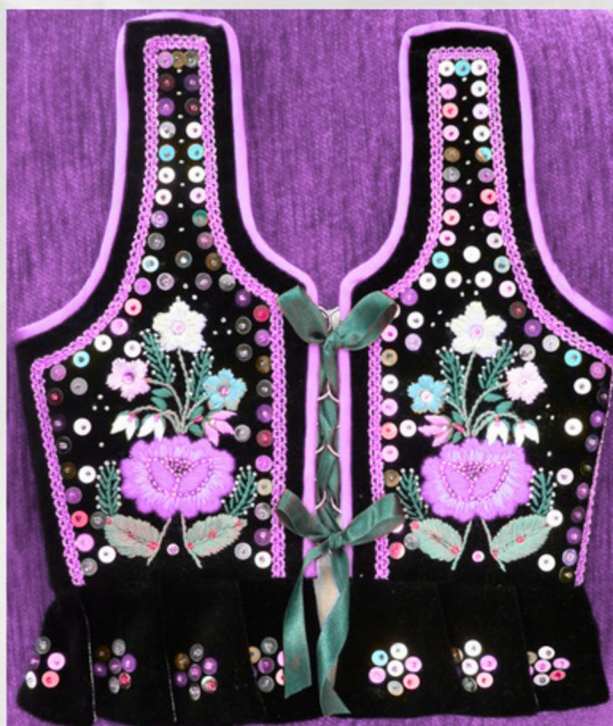
PHT of NZ is a registered charity (CC29274)



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 2pm

Polish Spring Market

Sunday 13th September 1pm

Polish children of Pahiatua

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 wygasa są proszone o wypełnienie formularza zgłoszeniowego i przestanie do Stowarzyszenia Polaków w Auckland - opłaty członkowskie dla dorosłych (\$30), seniorów i studentów (\$15).

