



POLISH FESTIVAL @ FED SQUARE

20 Years of Bringing a Taste of Poland to Melbourne

10 November 2024 PROGRAM



WITAJCIE !!!





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Jan Szuba

Festival President



Witam, hello and welcome to the 20th Polish Festival @ Fed Square. We're thrilled to have you join us as we celebrate our customs, traditions, and millennium-long heritage.

This event has grown to become one of the largest and most vibrant ethnic festivals in Melbourne, showcasing Polish culture, history, cuisine, and arts to tens of thousands of visitors each year. From its humble beginnings, it has evolved into a major highlight of Melbourne's multicultural calendar, bringing a taste of Poland to the city each November.

Throughout its journey, the festival has consistently adapted to challenges and embraced new opportunities, playing a crucial role in fostering community connections, preserving Polish heritage, and promoting intercultural understanding in Australia's diverse landscape. For second and third-generation Polish-Australians, it provides a vivid link to their roots.

Since its inception in 2005, more than 800,000 visitors from various nationalities and generations have experienced the richness of Polish culture in the heart of Melbourne. Each year, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore Poland's traditions and contemporary achievements.

I am proud and grateful to be part of a dynamic and energetic committee dedicated to excellence and ensuring that our community takes pride in its heritage. Our commitment to showcasing the depth and diversity of Polish culture continues to make this festival a beloved event for all Melburnians.



There are so many people who have helped us along the way that it would be impossible to name them all here. I thank each and every one of them for their contribution in making the Polish Festival @ Fed Square the Polish community's premier Australian event.

Wishing you an enjoyable and memorable 20th festival.

Jan Szuba OAM



Message from the City of Melbourne

Melbourne's Polish community has shaped the city over many years.

Victoria is home to the nation's largest Polish population, and more than 1200 City of Melbourne residents claim Polish ancestry.

Join your Polish friends, neighbours and colleagues at Fed Square for the largest annual Polish event in Australia – featuring traditional food stalls, an arts and crafts market and free entertainment and performances from the winners of the PolMusica music competition.

This festival has attracted 800,000 attendees over the past 20 years, and we thank the volunteers who, year after year, bring the community together and foster a deep sense of cultural pride.



POLISH FESTIVAL
@ FED SQUARE

Polish Festival @ Fed Square 2013
photo: Daniel Szuba



The Festival Logo



The Festival's Logo has two significant attributes. The crown eagle is the coat of arms of Poland and has been for over 1000 years. To Poles, this eagle symbolizes the fiercely independent spirit of Poland, and its proud history of victory over its many occupants. The part eagle is enclosed within a square, a direct reference to the Festival's annual venue - Fed Square in Melbourne. The festival logo encompasses the use of Polish national colors: white and red.



photo: Marcin Chochowski

The Festival Committee

- Jan Szuba (President)
- Izabella Kobylanski (Vice President)
- Jennifer Badzaj (Secretary / Artistic Coordinator)
- Joanna Merwart (Treasurer)
- Fr. Wieslaw (Tony) Slowik SJ (Chaplain)
- Grzegorz Machnacki (Artistic Coordinator)
- Klara Rawdanowicz (Artistic Coordinator)
- Katarzyna Lisaj (KidStop)
- Grazyna Chochowska (Kidstop)
- Fr. Mariusz Han SJ (Multimedia Designer/Website)
- Irena Łobaza (Stall Coordinator)
- Lucyna Bak (Volunteers Coordinator)



Festival Program

Main Stage Program - 2024



POLISH FESTIVAL
@ FED SQUARE

10:00 am Festival Welcome

Dani Paszkiewicz, Daniel Bolkunowicz

10:05 am Children's Program

- Polish Saturday School, South Melbourne (Tadeusz Kosciuszko) Przystanek Krakow / Krakow Station
- Melbourne Polish Children's and Youth Choir
- Polish Saturday School, Rowville (Marshal Józef Pilsudski) Kochamy Cię, Polsko! / We love you, Poland!
- Polish School in Albion (Świętego Jana Pawła II) - W Wiosennym Nastroju / In a Spring Mood
- Polish Saturday School, Essendon (Maria Konopnicka) Mali Powstańcy / Little Insurgents
- Piotr Burghard & Lola Burghard - Czerwone Maki na Monte Cassino
- Polish Saturday School, St Albans (Mikołaja Kopernika) - 70th Anniversary of our Polish School
- Polish Scouting Association, Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (ZHP) in Australia

11:25 am Late Morning Entertainment

- Rawdanowicz Family Band - Our Favorite Polish Folk Music

11:40 am Folkloric Entertainment

- Kujawy Polish Dance and Song Ensemble (Sydney)
- Kukuleczka Polish Dance Group (Perth)
- Oberek Polish Dance Ensemble (Hobart)
- Polish Folkloric Ensemble Syrenka (Sydney)
- Polish Folkloric Ensemble Tatry (Adelaide)



Festival Program

Main Stage Program - 2024



1:00 pm Official Opening of the Polish Festival @ Fed Square

1:45 pm Folkloric Entertainment

- Lowicz Polish Vocal Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Polonez Song and Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Folk Dance Ensemble „Poligrodzianie”

2:30 pm Afternoon Entertainment

Ania Cietrzewska (Poland)



2:45 pm Folkloric Entertainment

- Lowicz Polish Vocal Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Polonez Song and Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Folk Dance Ensemble "Poligrodzianie"

3:30 pm Afternoon Entertainment

- Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki (Poland)

3:45 pm Folkloric Entertainment

- Lowicz Polish Vocal Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Polonez Song and Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Folk Dance Ensemble „Poligrodzianie"

4:25 pm Dance Workshop

with Jacqui Paszkiewicz

4:45 pm Afternoon Entertainment

- Karolina Beimcik (Poland)

5:00 pm Official close of the Festival

5:30 pm Mass at St. Augustine Parish

631 Bourke Street, Melbourne

All day Richard Stacewicz Accordion,
Yarra Terrace

Stalls at the Festival



Food and Drink Stalls - 2024

Beer Garden (Karczma)
(Western Eagles Soccer Club)

Polish alcoholic beverages
Located River Terrace

Star Emerald
(formerly Bistrot Placek)

Polish soup & sausage
(zurek & biala kielbaska)
Located River Terrace

Łowicz Polish Vocal Dance
Ensemble

Polish sausages in hot dog bun,
vegan and gluten free available,
bigos, ogorki, Polish soup
Located River Terrace

Polish Association in
Melbourne

Slaska sausage, white sausage, Kaszanka
with sauerkraut and bigos buns, soft drinks
Located River Terrace

White Star Dandenong
Soccer Club

Kransky rolls with onion or sauerkraut.
Polish juices & soft drinks
Located River Terrace

Eastern Districts Polish
Association

Pierogi and potato fritters with / without
goulash
Located River Terrace

Patisserie by Raf

Polish sweets, paczki (donuts), vanilla
slices, sernik (cheese cake)
Located River Terrace

Holy Virgin Protection
Parish

Piroshki, Salad, Pelmeni & soft drinks
Located River Terrace



Stalls at the Festival



General Stalls - 2024

Kryisia's Fine Food	Pierogi Located River Terrace
Uncle's Smallgoods	Kransky in bread roll and Oscypek Located River Terrace
Pierogi Pierogi	Pierogi Located River Terrace
Absolute Bangers	Gourmet white polish sausage with sauerkraut & mushrooms. Smoked sausage with coleslaw & ogorki. Sourdough rolls. Located River Terrace
Joanna Rajtar	Polish artist creating motifs & artwork on bags, prints, calendars, etc Located Swanston St Forecourt
Loverbyrd	Ladies' clothing, jewellery & gifts from Poland Located Swanston St Forecourt
Amber House	Amber Located Swanston St Forecourt
Top of the Tree Ornaments	Traditional Polish glass Christmas ornaments handmade & painted Located Swanston St Forecourt



Stalls at the Festival



General Stalls - 2024

Kaminski Jewellery

Silver Amber Jewellery
Located Swanston St Forecourt

Anna Burns

Book sales.
Located Swanston St Forecourt

The Cup & Mug

Boleslawiec pottery
Located Swanston St Forecourt

Polish Festival Inc.

General Information about the Festival
Located Main Square

Outback Polaks

Polish folk kitchen & home items. Polish shirts, hats & scarves, Polish mugs, Folkstar items
Located Main Square

Gourmet Czech
Gingerbread

Traditional handcrafted gingerbread
Located Main Square



Stalls at the Festival



General Stalls - 2024

Polish Community Care
Services (PCCS)

Promotional materials, books, brochures
[Located Main Square](#)

First Aid

[Located Main Square](#)

Heathcote Jewellery

Sterling silver jewellery with amber
& wood
[Located Main Square](#)

Melbourne Esperanto
Association

Information & resources on Esperanto,
the international language created by the
Polish linguist, L.L. Zamenhof in 1887
[Located Main Square](#)

Polish Museum
& Archives

Merchandise, books & information about
PMAA
[Located Main Square](#)

Radio 3ZZZ

Advertising of Radio 3ZZZ broadcasting
in Polish
[Located Main Square](#)

AMC Services

Homecare services to seniors & a variety
of community services to the
multicultural community in Melbourne
[Located Main Square](#)



Stalls at the Festival



General Stalls - 2024

Polish Seventh Day
Adventist

Books, discs & magazines promoting SDA
Located Main Square

Folk Stop

Locally made Polish handicrafts and on-site demonstrations
Located Main Square

Polish School in Albion

School promotion & promotion of Polish Language & culture. Handmade cards & arts & crafts items for sale
Located Main Square

Kids Stop

Vibrant space to engage children with Polish activities and culture. Making Wianek for girls, Smok Wawelski masks for boys etc. Face painting by Polish Scouts. Polish Day tote bags for young festival-goers
Located Main Square

Pilecki Project

A new educational initiative about Witold Pilecki - one of the greatest heroes of World War II whose brave mission to Auschwitz touched so many lives
Located The Edge

Richard Stacewicz

Accordion traditional Polish music live all day
Located River Terrace



**Na zakończenie Polskiego Festiwalu
na Fed Square o godzinie 17:30**

w kościele św. Augustyna
przy 631 Bourke St. w City

odprawiona zostanie polska Msza święta.

W tym historycznym kościele już w 1951 roku gromadzili się Polacy osiedlający się po wojnie w Melbourne. W gościnnych murach tego niewielkiego kościoła znaleźli swój duchowy dom zanim przenieśli się na stałe do kościoła Świętego Ignacego w Richmond. Dziś wracamy w jego mury, by podziękować Bogu za nasz Polski Festiwal i za całą Wiktoriańską Polonię.



Zapraszamy do wspólnej zabawy!

Gra planszowa o św. Ignacym Loyoli to niezwykła przygoda, która pozwoli poznać nie tylko historię trudnych czasów sprzed 500 lat, ale także ciągle atrakcyjną duchowość założyciela Towarzystwa Jezusowego, czyli Zakonu Jezuitów.

**W czasie Festiwalu Gra jest dostępna
na stoisku Polskiej Sekcji Radia 3ZZZ
w Melbourne.**

loyola-rycerz-pielgrzym.com
loyola-knight-pilgrim.com

Gra jest przeznaczona dla 2-5 osób
w wieku od 8 lat!



Festival Program

The Edge Program - 2024



10.30 Official Opening @ The Edge
President of the Polish Festival Jan Szuba

10.35 Folkloric Program Interstate Folk Dance Groups: Kujawy (Sydney), Tatry (Adelaide), Oberek (Hobart), Syrenka (Sydney), Kukułeczka (Perth)

11.00 Winners of the PolMusicA 2024
Polish Music Competition

12.00 "Poligrodzianie" folk dance and music ensemble from Poznań

12.30 Melbourne Polish Youth Choir
led by Magda Biadala-Sahingoez

12.40 Polish children's hits performed by Sammer Bartczak

13.00 Official Opening Ceremony@Main Stage, Fed Square

13.30 Polish feast songs by Zosia & Gosia Kaszubskie and Friends

14.00 Warsaw Uprising'44 - Australian in Warsaw Walter Edward Smith, Bogumiła Żongolłowicz - lecturer (ENG)

14.15 Duo Karolina & Iwo (Poland)
Violin and Classical Accordion
Chopin, Bacewicz, Tansman, Friedman, Laks
· Karolina Mikołajczyk violin
· Iwo Jedynecki accordion

14.45 Warsaw Uprising'44 - Warsaw Uprising Poet Zbigniew Jasiński
Bogumiła Żongolłowicz lecturer (PL)



Festival Program

The Edge Program - 2024



15.00 „Noons” fusion poetry jazz by Karolina Beimcik (Poland)

- Karolina Beimcik violin, vocal
- Hugh Stuckey guitar

15.30 Warsaw Uprising'44 Elegy

- Marta Kaczmarek poetry
- Haoqing Leo Liu piano
- Bernadeta Głowacka -vocal, piano
- Iga Bajer poetry
- Krzysztof Kaczmarek poetry

16.00 Opera recital

- Marta Nowicka (Sydney) soprano
- Konrad Olszewski piano

16.30 Warsaw Uprising'44 Medley

- Michał Macioch (Sydney) vocal
- Sylwia Styczeń vocal
- Grażyna Krajewska vocal
- Ania Cietrzewska vocal
- Tomasz Bartczak piano

17.00 Evening Concert - Polish Hits

- Rawdanowicz Family Band
- Stolen Stop Signs Band
- Tomasz and Sammer Bartczak

18.00 Closing of the Polish Festival 2024



POLISH FESTIVAL
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Folk Dance Ensemble "Poligrodzianie" (Poznań, Poland)



The Folk Dance Ensemble "Poligrodzianie" was established at the Poznan University of Technology in 1973 and is the oldest academic folk ensemble in the city of Poznan - Poland.

For many years, "Poligrodzianie" has been one of the most active ambassadors of Polish culture, having visited 70 countries around the World. The ensemble has performed for prisoners in the USA, on the Mongolian steppe, in the mountains of Nepal, Chile and Mexico, being often not only the first Polish artists, but the first Polish people in these lands, on the prestigious stages of Milan, Nashville or Disneyland.



"Poligrodzianie" has recorded programmes for national television, in Sweden, Italy, Canada, Mexico, China and Serbia. The ensemble was awarded with the "Ambassador of Polish Culture" distinction by the Minister of Culture and honoured with a diploma for merits by the Marshal of the Wielkopolska (Greater Poland) Region. In 2013 and 2018, the ensemble received a commemorative award for its services from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

"Poligrodzianie" is not only an ensemble that promotes Polish folklore on stage, but also conducts extensive educational activities. The ensemble has made over 1,000 programmes for children and school youth of Greater Poland. It has recorded a series of talks for primary and lower-secondary schools in the Mazowsze (Mazovia) Region. It runs children's and youth groups and the Folklore Academy. The ensemble also supports the local community by giving and producing charity concerts for children and youth, including the disabled, and supports non-commercial events of other social organizations.

The Youth Folk Dance Ensemble "Mali Poligrodzianie" operates within the Ensemble.

Łowicz Polish Vocal - Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)

Łowicz Polish Vocal-Dance Ensemble, established in Melbourne in 1975, has a long and rich history of promoting Polish folkloric culture. Łowicz has had the honour of performing at numerous interstate events including the triennial PolArt Festival, and countless festivals and events in Melbourne. Łowicz is an active group within the Polish and wider communities; organising multicultural concerts, galas and various fundraising events.



In 2016, the group introduced a new junior troupe, their very own 'Łowiczaki'. Their Łowiczaki are a vibrant junior Polish dancing group, aged 5-12, who bring the traditional folk dances and colorful costumes of Poland to life through energetic performances and engaging choreography. The junior group has performed at various functions and fundraisers with new choreographies from the Zywiec and Kashubian regions of Poland.

Since its humble beginnings, the heart of Łowicz lies within the members' enthusiasm and passion for upholding Polish culture and traditions, and the vision and guidance of the Ensemble's respected Artistic Directors, both past and present. Currently, the group's Artistic Director, Natalia Szymanska, leads both the junior and senior group classes every Monday, and actively brings a fun atmosphere to learning Polish song and dance.

Polonez Song and Dance Ensemble (Melbourne)

POLONEZ Song and Dance Ensemble is a vibrant and expanding dance ensemble celebrating its 60th anniversary in style, on May 25th 2025 at the Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds.

POLONEZ was formed in 1965, in order to practise and promote Polish song & dance, it has performed widely in Victoria, around Australia and overseas in Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine. It has attended all 15 Polish National Festivals (PolArt) held throughout Australia, and 3 Festivals of Polish dance Groups from around the world, held in Rzeszów, Poland.

The Ensemble supports local Polish and multicultural community events, organises the Polish debutante balls, the last one being held on May 25th this year at the Malvern Town Hall, and regularly presents full length concerts.



POLONEZ has always been a family oriented community ensemble, based very much within the core of Polish community life in Melbourne from which it draws its strength, support and inspiration. Barbara Czech OAM is the Artistic Director, Helene Mialszygrosz, Jacqui Paszkiewicz and Joe Pawlicki, instructors.

Kujawy Polish Dance and Song Ensemble (Sydney)



Kujawy Polish Dance and Song Ensemble (Sydney) was founded in 1976 and has a large and varied repertoire of unique dances from many regions of Poland. The ensemble has developed a highly varied and acclaimed repertoire, thanks to the artistic direction of teachers and choreographers Marek and Wiesława Wojnicz (former members of the Polish State Ensemble “Slask”). Kujawy Sydney

has attended all PolArt Festivals since inception and have performed in Spain, New Zealand, twice in the Rzeszow Festival in Poland and in many Polish and multi-cultural functions and festivals in Australia.

Kukuleczka Polish Dance Group (Perth)

The folkloric song and dance group Kukuleczka, has showcased songs, dances and culture from Poland within the Perth community since 1991 and currently has over 100 dancers.

Kukuleczka has garnered a reputation for delivering dynamic, colourful and lively performances for the multicultural community locally in WA, interstate and

overseas. The group has performed at every Australian PolArt festival since 1994 and has also travelled to Poland twice, Taiwan, Malaysia and Japan to represent Polish-Australian culture at international multicultural festivals. The group showcases both National Dances and regional programs from Poland, as well as performing songs and dances depicting rituals and traditions such as celebrations around Midsummer Solstice.



Oberek Polish Dance Ensemble (Hobart)



Polish Folk dancing started in Hobart in 1952 and the Hobart based group officially become known as Oberek Polish Dance Ensemble in 1975, and has been sharing the richness and beauty of Polish cultural traditions with the Hobart community for more than seventy years. Oberek showcases folkloric dances from the many diverse regions of Poland, and has built up an extensive collection of traditional costumes reflecting the traditions of those regions. Currently, Oberek has a junior and senior group and has almost 30 dancers. Oberek is not just a dance group, but a family of people who sing, dance and express the love of Polish culture.

Polish Folkloric Ensemble Syrenka (Sydney)



The Polish Folkloric Ensemble ‘Syrenka’ from Ashfield, Sydney has a rich 55-year history of energetic and dynamic performances. Syrenka debuted at the National Shell Folkloric Festival for the opening of the Sydney Opera house in 1973. Syrenka has also performed at the Opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, at all PolArt festivals in Australia since their beginning in 1975, the World Festival of Polish Folkloric groups at Rzeszow in Poland in 1999, 2002 and 2019, papal visits, consular events, and throughout Australia at concerts and multicultural festivals. Syrenka has an extensive range of authentic costumes from Poland, and aims to promote Polish culture and educate its youth about Polish traditions and language.

Polish Folkloric Ensemble Tatry (Adelaide)



The Polish Folklore Ensemble “Tatry” Adelaide, was founded in 1958, and has countless performances to its credit, of these numerous full concerts of its own, including regional and interstate tours as well as participating twice in the International Folkloric Festivals held in Rzeszow Poland. Tatry has participated at every Pol-Art Festival since the festival’s inception in Sydney in 1975. Tatry has costume sets from virtually every region of Poland, which enables it to have an extensive repertoire of traditional music and dances. Its members particularly enjoy performing dances from the Polish highlands. The Ensemble, totalling over 100 members, is comprised of 3 junior groups, an intermediate group and the senior performing group.

Rawdanowicz Family Band (Melbourne)

The Rawdanowicz family is well known in Melbourne for their wide variety of musical performances in many musical styles, not just in the Polish community.



They are all multiinstrumentalists and have travelled with their many instruments to Polish Festivals in Brisbane and Sydney. Most of the family have also performed with their school in several European Cities, a remarkable experience.

Pilecki Project Committee

Pilecki Project Committee is a volunteer group formed with the purpose of organising cultural and historical exhibitions and events presenting the heroism and achievements of Polish and Australian soldiers in the World War II as well as their after war social and cultural activities.



Our projects are organised in public places i.e. Jewish Holocaust Centre, Federation Square, Parliament House, Public Libraries, Schools and Cultural Centres. We promote our activities through media: radio, television, newspapers and internet social media platforms. Many projects offer lectures on interesting historical subjects presented by

invited special guest speakers including war veterans and survivors, as well as academics and writers. We also organise special educational workshops for young students.

Majority of our events involve organising artistic and cultural meetings. Very often we provide catering to our invited guests. For our exhibitions and events we produce various valuable materials such as books, banners, booklets, brochures, electronic presentations etc.



Dr. Bogumiła Żongolłowicz

Dr. Bogumiła Żongolłowicz has made significant contributions to the Polish-Australian cultural scene. Since 1991 and her arrival in Australia, she has been conducting biographical research and writing about post-World War II Polish immigrants in Australia. Her research has resulted in numerous publications both as author and editor. She has authored over a thousand articles, published throughout the world, and prepared entries for the Australian Dictionary of Biography and the Encyclopedia of Polish Emigration and Polish Diaspora.



Dr. Bogumiła Żongolłowicz
photo: Krzysztof Jabłonowski

In 1999, she was awarded the Medal of Honour "Polonia Semper Fidelis". In 2018, she received a distinction in the Historical Competition under the auspices of Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs for best publication in the category "Best publication in Polish in the History of Polish Diplomacy" for the book *Konsul. Biography of Władysław Noskowski*. In 2019, she received the Badge of Merit for Polish Culture.

The Polish Scouting Association, Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (ZHP) in Australia

The Polish Scouting Association, Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (ZHP) in Australia, is a non-profit, community organisation run wholly by volunteers.

Hufiec Podhale, has been in Melbourne for over 70 years. In fact, in 2025, Podhale will celebrate 75 years of Polish scouting, not just in Melbourne but also Australia!

The Polish Scouting Association uses tried and tested methods based on the scouting principles of Lord Baden-Powell and developed in an independent pre-war Poland. From that time to this day, the association has ceaselessly continued to provide scout activities, adapting its programmes as required to the needs of young Poles living across the globe. Including culture, language, traditions, and community, all while having fun and making lifelong friends.

Hufiec Podhale accepts all interested individuals from the age of 4 and onwards.

Duo Karolina & Iwo



Duo Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki are one of the most vibrant and innovative chamber ensembles of the young generation. Recognized by artists such as Maxim Vengerov and Krzysztof Penderecki, they are multiple winners of Grand Prix and 1st prizes at international music competitions (France, Italy, Austria, Croatia, Poland), performing i.e. at the New York Carnegie Hall, Guangzhou Opera House and Warsaw Philharmonic, where they enjoyed their debut to a sold-out audience. They have played more than a hundred recitals in France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Georgia, United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, Chile, China, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

The Duo's performances are described as perfect and mature, yet luminous and filled with youthful vitality. Hailed by Maxim Vengerov as „an ensemble that sounds like one instrument”, the Duo brings completely new qualities and original interpretations to classical masterpieces thanks to Iwo Jedynecki's accordion transcriptions. Both artists boldly venture into renowned works of chamber music literature giving them new character and delightfully diverse colouring.



The Duo also collaborates with leading Polish composers, such as Marcin Błażewicz (Double concerto for violin, accordion and symphonic orchestra dedicated to Karolina Mikołajczyk and Iwo Jedynecki), Piotr Moss (performance of Opolian Concerto for violin, accordion and orchestra in 2021), and Krzysztof Penderecki (Violin Sonata in Duo's arrangement receiving an official approval from the Master in 2019). In 2016 the debut CD „Première” by Duo Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki was published, containing pieces for violin and accordion written between 1952 and 2015 by three generations of composers. Most of these pieces have never been recorded before, and it was the first ever album with new music by a duo violin



accordion.



Hollywood Fantasy projects). The latter was presented by the Duo in 2021 at the Cracow Film Music Festival – one of the industry's most important events in the world.

Karolina Mikołajczyk plays a Duke London violin from 1776. Iwo Jedynecki plays a Pigini Sirius Millennium accordion. The purchase of both instruments was financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

The Duo also shows an up-to-date approach in promoting their work through video recordings: the one with W. A. Mozart's Violin Sonata gained more than a million views on the internet, and was shared by the most popular classical music platform – Classic FM (followed up by Bach's Goldberg Variations and excerpts from film music-inspired The

Konrad Olszewski



A professional pianist who is in great demand as a performer, accompanist, répétiteur and teacher. He completed his Master of Music degree with a postgraduate scholarship at the University of Melbourne in 2012, studying with Glenn Riddle.

While at Melbourne University Konrad received many awards including the J.S Bach Prize, the

Lady Turner Exhibition Prize and the Searle Piano Faculty Merit Scholarship. He was selected as one of 20 finalists to participate in the Sydney International Piano Competition (2012) and won the John Allison/B.M. Henderson Piano Scholarship at the Sydney Eisteddfod (2012).

Konrad has also studied overseas with leading virtuosos including Leslie Howard (London), Piotr Paleczny (Warsaw) and Klaus Hellwig (Berlin). He is regularly invited to perform recitals around Australia, including performances at the BMW (now Deakin) Edge in Melbourne, and the Sydney Town Hall where he recently performed the Paderewski Piano Concerto. As accompanist, he has won numerous awards, notably at the Liederfest and Mieta Song competitions. Konrad also enjoys composing and performing jazz and works in popular styles and genres.



Marta Nowicka

Marta Nowicka is a Polish soprano based in Sydney. Renowned for her captivating voice, emotional depth and dynamic stage presence, she has established herself as one of the leading operatic and concert singers of her generation. Her dedication to opera is evident in her vocal commitment, interpretive skill and ability to bring complex characters to life.

She debuted in 2016 at the Schlosstheater Schönbrunn in Vienna in the leading role of Vitellia in "La clemenza di Tito". Her numerous roles include Violetta (La Traviata), Gilda (Rigoletto), Musetta (La Boheme), Tosca (Tosca), Magda (La Rondine), Amina (La Sonnambula), Roxana (King Roger).



She has sung at the Theater an der Wien, Warsaw Opera, the Grand Theater in Łódź, Staatstheater Klagenufurt, Musikverein Wien, Staatsoper Wien, Schlosstheater Schönbrunn. She had the honour of working with conductors such as Nicolaus Harnoncourt, Krzysztof Janczak, Wojciech Kilar, Erwin Ortner, Peter Marschik, Valery Gergiev.

She graduated from the prestigious Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna in the field of opera and musical drama, where she published the thesis „Vitellia oder der Triumph der Hysterie“.

While in Vienna she worked closely with the Jewish Museum, where she performed a concert series with Judaeo-Spanish music.

Outside the opera stage, she is a dedicated singing teacher. She regularly conducts master classes and workshops, inspiring new generations of opera talents. She is an active member of Polish Community in Sydney and Melbourne.

In December 2023, the Australian Government granted Marta Nowicka a permanent residency (Distinguished Talent Visa) for her extraordinary vocal and teaching achievements.

She is currently working under the guidance of maestra No.mi Nadelmann, preparing for her debut on stages of the Australian Opera.

“Music is the universal language of the world. Through opera, I try to connect with the audience on a deep emotional level, sharing the beauty and power of this incredible art.”

Karolina Beimcik



Renowned for her distinctive fusion of jazz with the deep cultural traditions of Central and Eastern Europe, Karolina Beimcik, an award-winning Polish jazz vocalist and violinist, has performed at many festivals in the United States, Mexico, India, Ukraine and Poland. She has participated in various musical projects, including collaborations with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music

Institute and Berklee College of Music Global Music Institute.

Karolina's approach to music is often described as jazz poetry. At this year's Perth International Jazz Festival, she will present her latest album "Noons", where subtle sounds and her velvety voice intertwine with the emotional potency of jazz, reflecting a search for one's place in the world. Karolina's songs tell a story about a journey through inner worlds, with many of their secrets remaining unexplained.

She received the Art Scholarship twice from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage in Poland and from the President of the City of Warsaw and her art was supported by many prestigious institutions in Poland and abroad.

Hugh Stuckey guitar

Hugh Stuckey has gained a reputation as one of Australia's leading voices on jazz guitar. He has twice been a finalist at the National Jazz Awards, has completed tours of Europe and has featured on a number of ARIA award winning albums. In 2016 Hugh relocated to New York City to pursue further studies at the Manhattan School of Music. He studied with legendary saxophonist David Liebman, Brazilian percussionist Rogerio Boccato, arranger Jim McNeely and composition guru Guillermo Klein among many others. This experience culminated in his album *Lilium*, released in 2020.



Richard Stacewicz

We are honoured that Richard Stacewicz has performed at the Polish Festival @ Fed Square since our first Festival in 2005 as well as the Polish Festival at the Victorian Emigration Museum in Melbourne in 2004.

Richard was seven years old when he started learning to play the piano accordion and has been performing on stage since the age of thirteen.



In 1967, he was awarded the Diploma of the Piano Accordion Teachers Society of Australia as a fully qualified Piano Accordion teacher and completed the Theory of Music exams of The London College of Music and the AMEB of Melbourne University.

In 1964, he formed his band Srebrne Echo (Silver Echoes) and have performed at Polish dances, balls, weddings, engagements, birthdays, and funerals as well as the Polish Debutante Balls (1967-1986), the Świętojański Ball, and the Sacrosong Festivals (1974-1979) in Melbourne, Hobart, and Adelaide.

Srebrne Echo participated at PolArt 1997 and 2015, and at the Polish Youth Festival in Marayong, Sydney in 1975.

In 1994, Richard toured the USA with the Hopak Folkloric Dance Troupe with performances in Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, New York and Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

Richard also performed with the Verchovyna Folkloric Dance group (1975-1994) with performances in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, and Adelaide as well as the Shell Folkloric Celebration concerts (1983-1986) in the Melbourne Concert Hall.

We welcome you to discover more about Richard and Srebrne Echo by following him on Facebook @SilverEchoesofficial, on Instagram on silver_echoes_official and by visiting <https://www.polishfestival.com.au/2020/11/12/richard-stacewicz/>



POLISH FESTIVAL
@ FED SQUARE

2023
IN PHOTOS



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IN PHOTOS



A few facts about Poland

Poland's flag is white and red. The colours were adopted in 1831 and the national flag was officially adopted in 1919.

The National emblem features the White Eagle and has been Poland's coat of arms for a thousand years. Legend has it that the White Eagle emblem originated when Poland's legendary founder Lech saw a white eagle's nest. When he looked at the bird, a ray of sunshine from the red setting sun fell on its wings, so they appeared tipped with gold; the rest of the eagle was pure white. He was delighted and decided to settle there and placed the eagle on his emblem.

Poland has been invaded or has fought for freedom in insurrections 43 times from 1600 to 1945.

The highest mountain in Australia was named in 1839 by Polish explorer Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki as Mount Kosciuszko because of the mountain's resemblance to the Kosciuszko Mound in Kraków, Poland.

Poland's national anthem is Dąbrowski's Mazurka.



The capital of Poland is Warsaw.

The national holiday is Constitution Day, May 3.

Poland's currency is the złoty (PLN).

The area of Poland is 312,679 sq km (120,728 sq mi).

Poland is part of the European Union, NATO and the United Nations.

Poland boasts 18 Nobel prize winners, including four Peace Prizes and five in Literature. Polish born Marie Curie Skłodowska (1867 – 1934) was the first and only Nobel laureate in two different sciences and first female professor at the Sorbonne University.

Famous musical composer Fryderyk Chopin was Polish.

Polish born astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 – 1543) was the first person to propose that the earth was not the centre of the universe.

Saint John Paul the Great – Pope John Paul II – also known as Karol Wojtyła (1920 – 2005) was Polish.

How do you say that?

Hello / Bye	Cześć (cheshch)
Good morning / good day	Dzień dobry (jen dow bree)
Good evening	Dobry wieczór (dob bree vieh choo r)
Yes	Tak (tuck)
No	Nie (nye)
Thank you	Dziękuję (jen koo yeah)
Please	Proszę (pro share)
I like that	Ja to lubię (ya toe loob yeah)
Good / bad	Dobre (doe bre) / złe (z weh)
Tastes good	Smaczne (sma ch ne)
One / Two	Jeden (yed en) / Dwa (d va)
Three / Four	Trzy (chee) / Cztery (ch tare ee)
It's delicious	Jest pyszne (yest peesh neh)
One beer	Jedno piwo (yed no pee vo)
One doughnut	Jeden pączek (ye den ponch ek)
What is the price?	Jaka cena? (yaka tsena)
I do not understand	Nie rozumiem (nye rozum yem)
I'm looking for...	Szukam... (shookahm)
How are you? (informal)	Jak się masz (yahk syeh mash)
Fine, thank you	Dziękuję, dobrze (jenkoo yeng dob zhe)
Girl	Dziewczynka (geoff chin car)
Boy	Chłopak (hwo puck)
Sorry	Przepraszam (psheh prah shahm)
Excuse me	Przepraszam (psheh prah shahm)
I do not speak Polish	Ja nie mówię po Polsku (ya nyeh mooveh po polskoo)
I don't know	Nie wiem (nyee vyem)
I understand	Rozumiem (roz oo miem)

Is the Polish Language Difficult to Learn?

Some say yes, some say no, but let's have a look at the number 2. How many ways can you say the number 2 in Polish you might ask? The answer is 14!

Here are the 14 ways of saying "2" in Polish:

1. **dwa:** This is the basic cardinal number, used for masculine non-personal and neuter nouns.
Example: dwa domy (two houses), dwa okna (two windows).

2. **dwójka:** This means "a two" as in the numeral or a grade.
Example: Dostałem dwójkę z matematyki. (I got a two in math.)

3. **dwoje:** Used for mixed gender groups or paired body parts.
Example: dwoje ludzi (two people), dwoje oczu (two eyes).

4. **dwóch:** Used for masculine personal nouns in nominative and accusative cases.
Example: dwóch mężczyzn (two men).

5. **dwóm:** Dative case form.
Example: Dałem książki dwóm studentom. (I gave books to two students.)

6. **dwoma:** Instrumental case form.
Example: Pojechaliśmy dwoma samochodami. (We went in two cars.)

7. **dwu:** Used as a prefix in compound words.
Example: dwujęzyczny (bilingual).

„2”

„2”

„2”

„2”



Is the Polish Language Difficult to Learn?

8. **dwaj**: Used for masculine personal nouns in nominative case.

Example: dwaj bracia (two brothers).

„2”

9. **dwie**: Used for feminine nouns.

Example: dwie kobiety (two women).

„2”

10. **dwadzieścia**: Part of larger numbers (twenty, twenty-two, etc).

Example: dwadzieścia dwa (twenty-two).

11. **drugi**: Ordinal number meaning "second".

Example: drugi raz (second time).

„2”

12. **dwukrotnie**: Means "twice" or "two times".

Example: Odwiedziłem go dwukrotnie. (I visited him twice.)

13. **podwójny**: Means "double".

Example: podwójne łóżko (double bed).

„2”

14. **para**: Means "pair" or "couple".

Example: para butów (a pair of shoes).

„2”

„2”

The choice of which form to use depends on the grammatical context, including the gender and case of the noun being counted, as well as whether you're referring to people or objects. Polish grammar is complex, and mastering these distinctions takes practice.

Good luck 🍀

„2”



„2”



Australia's Polish Connection

Polish people have been immigrating to Australia for many decades, forming a significant ethnic community within the country. Here's an overview of Polish people in Australia.

Historical waves of immigration:

Pre-WWII: Small numbers of Polish immigrants arrived in the 19th and early 20th centuries, often as part of broader European migration.

Post-WWII (1947-1954): Approximately 60,000 Polish displaced persons arrived, many former soldiers and their families.

1980s: Another significant wave occurred during Poland's period of martial law, with many seeking political asylum.

Post-1989: Continued immigration after the fall of communism in Poland, often for economic reasons.

Geographical distribution:

Victoria and New South Wales have the largest Polish communities.

Significant populations also exist in South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland.

Education:

Saturday Polish schools operate in major cities, teaching language and culture to younger generations.

Some universities offer Polish language courses, such as Macquarie University in Sydney.

Notable Polish-Australian contributions:

Michael Klim (born 1977)

Olympic swimmer who won multiple gold medals for Australia

Held several world records in swimming

Born in Poland and moved to Australia as a child



Magda Szubanski (born 1961)

Comedian, actress, and writer best known for her role

in the TV series "Kath & Kim"

Has Polish father and Scottish-Irish mother

Author of the memoir "Reckoning"



Australia's Polish Connection

Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki (1797-1873)

Explorer and geologist who conducted extensive surveys of southeastern Australia

Named Mount Kosciuszko, Australia's highest peak after Tadeusz Kościuszko, who, while never visiting Australia, is honoured for his global significance as a freedom fighter and military engineer

Made important contributions to the understanding of Australia's geology including research of coal deposits during the period 1839-1845 which influenced the development of the Newcastle district in NSW

Further place names connected to Strzelecki

Gippsland - a region in Victoria, named after Governor Gipps but extensively explored and documented by Paweł Edmund Strzelecki

Strzelecki Ranges - low mountain ridges located Gippsland Victoria

Strzelecki - a rural locality in eastern Victoria

Strzelecki State Forest - a protected area in Victoria

Kosciuszko Island - a small island in Western Port Bay, Victoria

Strzelecki Creek - a creek in South Australia

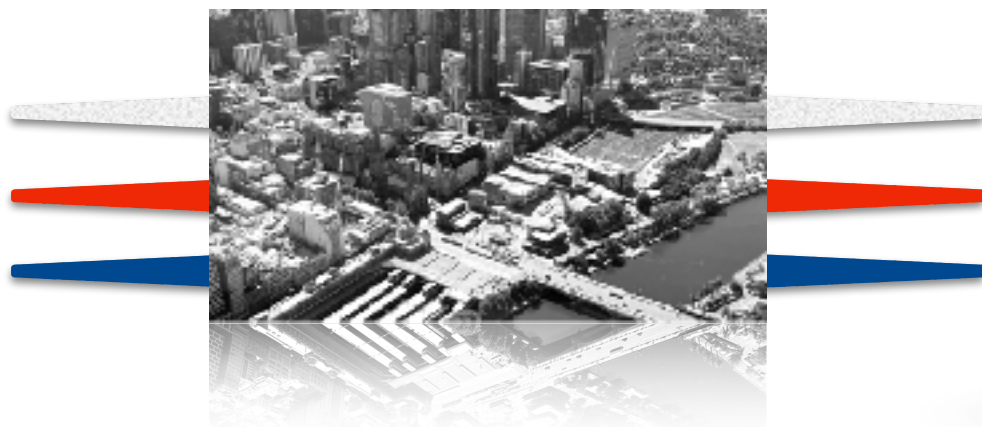
Kosciuszko Road - the Snowy Mountains region of NSW

Strzelecki Lookout - a lookout point in Newcastle, NSW

Strzelecki Monument - a monument in Jindabyne, NSW

Mount Strzelecki - the highest point on Flinders Island, Tasmania

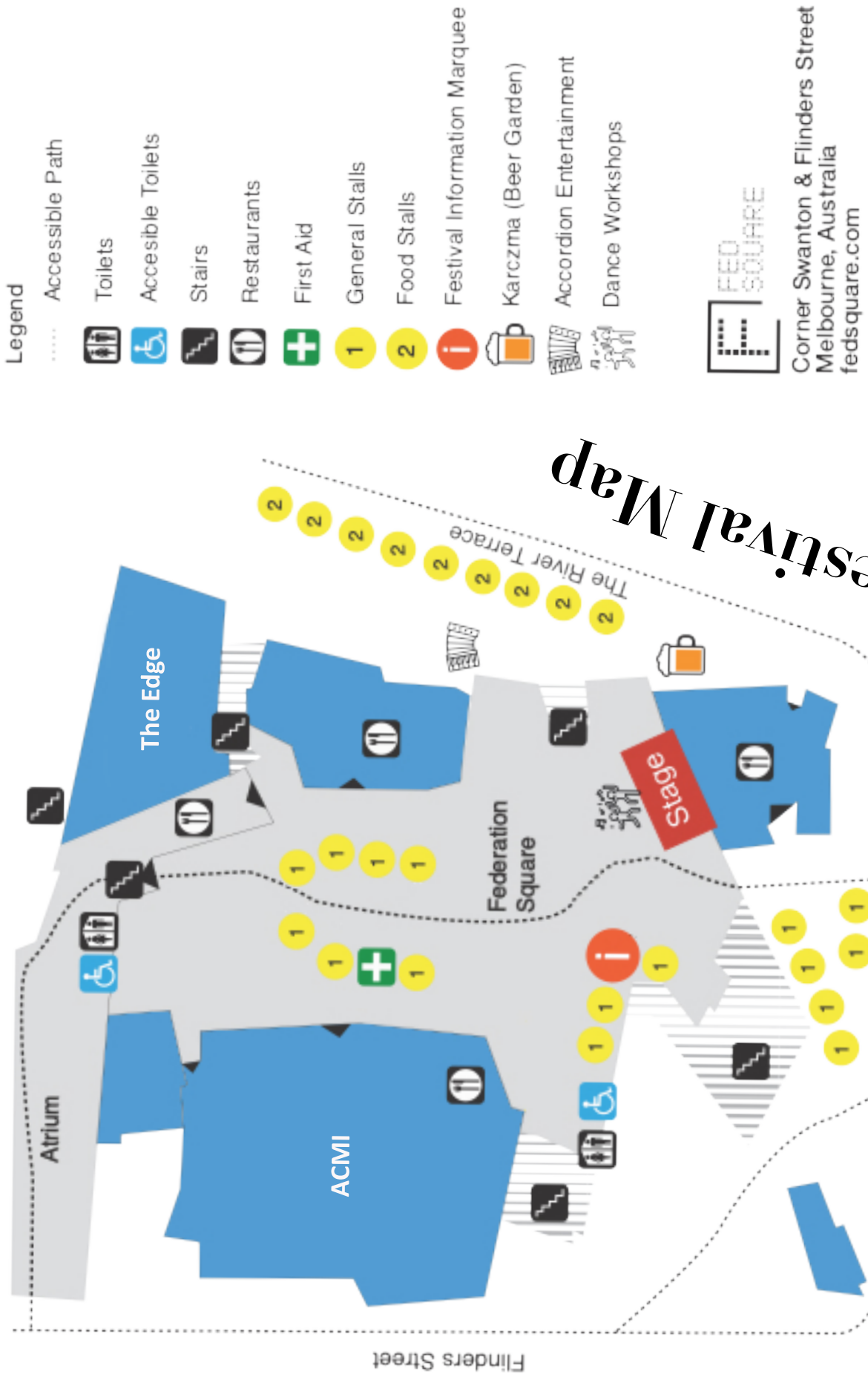
Strzelecki Group - a group of peaks in Flinders Island, Tasmania



Victoria's Polish Connection



- Victoria has the highest concentration of people of Polish decent in Australia with almost 62,500 residents.
- In 1839, Sir Paweł Edmund Strzelecki made a geological and mineralogical survey of the Gippsland region of eastern Victoria, where he made many discoveries. He is credited for naming Mt Kosciuszko, Gippsland, Lake King, Perry River and the Strzelecki Ranges.
- During World War I, a Polish Fund Committee was formed in Melbourne. With considerable help from Dame Nellie Melba and other prominent Australians. The Committee collected funds to assist the victims of war in Poland.
- After WWII, from 1947 to 1954 60,000 displaced Poles called Australia their home. Today, there are over 180,000 Poles living throughout the Australian states and territories.
- The Polish Community Council of Victoria Inc. (Federacja Polskich Organizacji w Wiktorii) was established in 1962 as the state's peak Polish organisation or federation of Victoria's Polish associations, organisations and individual grouping of Polish migrants.
- Polonez Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Melbourne, was formed in Melbourne in October 1965. Generations of Poles have now participated in Polonez with current membership at 100 singers and dancers.
- ZHP, the Polish Scouting Association in Victoria, has conducted its scouting activities continuously for more than 60 years in Victoria including representing Polish Australian Scouts at World Jamborees.
- In 1973 Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, later Saint John Paul II, blessed the Polish Marian Shrine in Essendon.
- During the period 1980-1991 there was another wave of Polish migration to Australia as a result of the emergence of the Solidarity trade union movement and the declaration of martial law in Poland at the end of 1981. Many of these migrants arrived as refugees.
- In 2005, the Victorian Department of Primary Industry created the Strzelecki Awards. Named in honour of Polish explorer and mineralogist, Sir Paweł Edmund de Strzelecki, the awards recognise outstanding achievements in the area of sustainable development within the Victorian earth resource industries.



Festival Map

Legend

- Accessible Path
- Toilets
- Accessible Toilets
- Stairs
- Restaurants
- First Aid
- General Stalls
- Food Stalls
- Festival Information Marquee
- Karczma (Beer Garden)
- Accordion Entertainment
- Dance Workshops



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Tygodnik  Polski

If you would like to sponsor the next Polish Festival or get involved, please e-mail us: info@polishfestival.com.au.

We look forward to seeing you next year!

Did you enjoy our Festival? Can we do better? Scan the QR code and tell us your thoughts!

