



## “ESTABLISHING OUR ROOTS IN A NEW LAND”

In 2020, many Geelong residents of Polish and other European backgrounds will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the largest influx of migrants to Australia and to Geelong. Most of these migrants arrived to their “new Promised Land” as Displaced People from Germany and other parts of war-torn Europe and the UK.

The 1960’s saw a smaller influx of Polish migrants, mainly in the category of “Family Re-unions”.

The political upheaval in Poland, referred to as the “*Solidarność Strikes*” or “*Solidarity Union Strikes*”, saw the final major influx of Polish migrants to Australia.

Today, the Geelong’s Polish community includes migrants from all the above three migration phases.

Sadly, many of the original migrants are not with us now. Therefore, the Committee of the Polish Community Association in Geelong Inc. (PCA) has decided to give the remaining migrants and their children and grandchildren the opportunity to tell their stories or their parents’ stories of how they established their roots in this beautiful city of Geelong.

In order to be able to facilitate this story telling, the PCA Committee is asking migrants of Polish background and/or their offspring, to write down their stories, include any photos of their migration history and submit these to the Committee.

If you would like to relate your migration experiences verbally, we can arrange for someone to record these experiences for you.

Once we collect and edit, where necessary, these stories we will hold an Exhibition of Stories of Polish Migrants in Geelong, in October, 2020. We will then, with your permission upload your stories to the PCA Website for everyone to read at their leisure.

This project will only succeed if people will be willing to contribute their stories to this project.

**Henry Szkuta**

Secretary, Polish Community Association in Geelong Inc.