



The White Eagle House Newsletter

Polish Community Association in Geelong Inc
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What has been happening.....?

It has been a while since members received a Newsletter from our Association. We apologise for that and promise that you will receive communications from the new Committee at least 2-3 times a year. We are also in the process of upgrading the **PCA Website**. It will be used extensively to inform members about what is happening at the White Eagle House.

Introducing the members of the new Committee:

- **President:** Grazyna Brzostowski
- **Vice-President:** Bronek Siwicki
- **Secretary:** Henry Szkuta
- **Treasurer:** Ray Matczak
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Jack Karpinski
- **Maintenance:** Frank Definski
- **Cultural Functions:** Halina Blaszczyk
- **Cultural Functions:** Halina Zychla
- **Committee Member:** Elzbieta Bochenska
- **Committee Member:** Elzbieta Novosel
- **Committee Member:** Christine Matczak
- **Committee Member:** David Bochenski

Jack Karpinski is also our liaison between the various groups the PCA sponsors.

It also gives us great pleasure to introduce our new Acting Manager, **Andrea Tournier**. Andrea has worked in the gaming and liquor industry for four years and has brought her valuable professional knowledge and experience to the White Eagle House. Andrea is aware that when certain administrative and financial aspects of the Club are resolved, the Committee will be advertising the position. Andrea is also aware that

we intend to appoint a person who we believe will be the best person to lead our Club into the future.

The Committee has already, in the four weeks since it has taken over the administration of the Club, mapped out a path to bring the Club out of the financial woes in which the previous Committee left us. We do not wish to dwell on the past but members should be made aware of the problems the current Committee was left with. In summary:

Before the current Committee took over, we were aware that:

- Arrears of \$75,000 were owed to Australian Taxation Office (ATO) since November, 2014
- \$58,000 Gaming Licence was not paid and was due to be paid in late 2014
- There was a backlog of \$149,000 of unpaid bills to other creditors.
- There was a pending WorkCover claim as a result of a dispute between the previous Manager and the previous Committee. This also may have ramifications on our finances.

However, we did not know that:

- We only had access to \$23,000, enough to pay the fortnightly wages of staff when we took over.
- The total ATO arrears was not \$75,000 but \$112,000
- Except for the Soccer Club, the sponsorships, which the previous Committee made commitments to, were not honoured and we are now facing

payments of several thousands of dollars to these groups.

- Some employees were paid well above the recommended award wages/salaries.
- That the previous Acting Manager was paid on invoice, which also included a GST component, bringing his salary well above the Award rate.

This meant that the total overpayment in salary remunerations was over \$30,000 above recommended Award rate.

As was pointed out at the Information Meeting of Members on 22nd March, 2015, the new Committee had no other option but to increase the limit of our Loan Service Account by \$170,000 to pay some of our outstanding bills, including the large ATO bill or face litigation.

Moving Forward.....

The new Committee is resolved to move forward and is not seeking retribution unless it is forced to do so by further new revelations of financial mismanagement.

The Committee is committed to continue to work with and support the wide variety of groups which are affiliated with the Polish Community Association. These groups are the life blood of our Association and we will do everything in our power to continue that affiliation. We hope, however, they will understand that because of the financial problems we have inherited, sponsorships may have to be reviewed. However, we can assure all affiliated groups that any review will be done in a transparent manner and in consultation with the groups concerned.

In the next couple of months, the Club will be introducing the mandatory Pre-commitment system imposed by the Government on all gaming venues. The system is voluntary. Patrons wishing to opt into the system will be issued with our Club's Pre-Commitment cards, which can be swiped before playing any gaming machine at our Club. To encourage patrons, to use these Pre-commitment Cards, we will be linking this card to our Loyalty Rewards Program. This means that members who use these cards when playing on

our machines or when spending money at our Bistro or at our Bar, their Cards will be automatically issued with Loyalty Reward points, which eventually can be redeemed at our Club.

We will also be looking at making this Card the official Membership Card of the Polish Community Association. When, in future, members swipe their Pre-Commitment/Loyalty Reward Card, they will also be reminded when their PCA Membership renewal is due.

The Committee is also looking at ways of promoting our Club as a Family Club. To this end, we will begin to organise family functions to encourage children of patrons to attend with their parents and grandparents. Our Functions Co-ordinators will organise activities for the children on those days.

The Alfresco area is rarely used by Bistro patrons, so we will look at the possibility of converting the area into a children's play area to encourage more families with children to frequent our Bistro.

We are open to other suggestions which members may like to offer to make our venue more attractive and to increase patronage at our Club. If you have suggestions, please write to us or speak to one of the Committee members or to our Bar staff.

Membership Payments

Membership payments for the 2015/2016 financial year must be paid on or before 30th June 2015. Payments can be made at the Bar at any time. Please make sure that the Bar staff have your correct address and the correct Membership category.

We will also go back to the previous membership identification:

- **Honorary Life Members** will have an "H" followed by a Number, e.g. H023.
- **Ordinary Members** will be identified by a Number only, e.g. 145
- **Associate Members** will be identified by an "A" followed by a Number, e.g. A034
- **Social Members** will be identified by an "S" followed by a Number, e.g. S063

Dates to Remember in 2015

Date	Day	Function	Cost	Time
25 th April	Saturday	ANZAC Day Parade and then Lunch @ White Eagle House	\$10.00	11.00am - 1.00pm
26 th April	Sunday	Priest's Fundraising Lunch	\$20.00	2.00pm
3 rd May	Sunday	Polish National Day "Akademia" & Mother's Day	\$20.00	2.00pm
31 st May	Sunday	Children's Day with Lunch	Your Choice	2.00pm
30 th June	Tuesday	Last Day for renewal of PCA Memberships	\$15.00	EoB
26 th July	Sunday	Family day with lunch	Your Choice	2.00pm
23 rd August	Sunday	Annual General Meeting and Members BBQ	Free	2.00pm
6 th September	Sunday	Father's Day Lunch	\$20.00	2.00pm
27 th September	Sunday	Priest's Fundraising Lunch	\$20.00	2.00pm
16-19 th October	Fri, Sat, Sun.	Darts Tournament		
8 th November	Sunday	Polish Independence Day Lunch	\$25.00	2.00pm
12 th December	Saturday	Mass and Christmas Eve Dinner (Wigilia)	\$25	3.00pm
31 st December	Thursday	New Year's Eve TBA	TBA	TBA



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Polish Ex-servicemen's Association in Geelong



Sports Picnic at the White Eagle House



Polish Ex-Servicemen at ANZAC Day Parade - 2014



Polish community at the Pako Festa - 2015



Preparing „pierogi” for Pako Festa



Polish Food Stall at Pako Festa