

Save the Ukraine Gala Concert

Yesterday, Wednesday 13 April 2022 a meeting was finally arranged 7pm at the Bankstown Polish Club with the organisers of Save the Ukraine Gala Concert and the Hon. Ukrainian Consul Mr Jaroslav Duma. It is always difficult to arrange a time so that everyone who was affiliated with the spectacular concert could make it at an appointed time, and finally it came to fruition.

The Save the Ukraine Concert was a great success with around 500 people coming to the event. Special thanks need to be given to the Ukrainian Dance Groups Zachrava and Veselka for their wonderful performance, as well as the Polish Dance Groups Kujawy-Sydney, Lajkonik and Syrenka. Other artists also performed from both the Ukrainian and Polish sides. A special thank you needs to be given to Ms Dorota Banasiak from SBS Polish Radio for organising SBS TV to be present and filming snippets for SBS World News, which showed the Ukrainian dance groups and Kujawy-Sydney during the news.

During the event a lottery was held along with an auction of beautiful donated items; the auctioneer was Mr Jerzy Maciejak. All purchases from the auction were via credit card using a Zeller machine and these funds were then transferred by the company.

Money from donations at the door and the lottery were collected by the Polish Scouts and then counted by druhna Marysia Novak and druhna Ania Chawa, who signed the documents for the amounts collected. It was decided by the Club to have these women count the money so that another body besides the Polish Club were involved. These amounts were later re-counted and counter signed by Jolanta Zurawski and Barbara Kubiak. Any person who made an EFT donation directly into the bank was asked to include the words Ukraine or Save the Ukraine.



The dignitaries present were: representing the Governor of NSW, Mr Dennis Wilson, General Consul of the Republic of Poland, Ms Monika Konczyk, and Honorary Consul of the Ukraine, Mr Jaroslav Duma. President of the Federation of Polish Associations in NSW, Mr Adam Gajkowski and President of Rada Naczelna Mrs Malgorzata Kwiatkowska were also present.

The Honorary Consul of the Ukraine was greeted with bread and salt by Monika Lewandowska and Alex Markowski, members of Kujawy- Sydney. Flowers were given to Mr Dennis Wilson by Isla Budge, Aleksandra Moran and Emilia Schlage from Kujawy-Sydney. A heart felt speech was given by the Honorary Consul of the Ukraine Mr Jaroslav Duma along with speeches by the Representative of the Governor of NSW, Mr Dennis

Wilson, Consul General of the Republic of Poland Ms Monika Konczyk and the President of the Bankstown Polish Club, Mr Andrzej Lubieniecki.

After the concert lunch was provided for dignitaries and the following week a thank you for all people who affiliated with the organisation of the event.

On the whole a total of \$41,300.00 was collected and once all expenses taken out i.e., security guards, face painting etc a cheque was handed over to Mr Jaroslav Duma last night for \$40,500.00.

The cheque was handed over by Mr Andrzej Lubieniecki and Mr Jerzy Maciejak to Mr Jaroslav Duma. Mr Jerzy Maciejak also stated that an elderly Polish lady had given him \$100.00 to present to Mr Jaroslav Duma as this was all she could afford, he then went on and handed him the \$100 note.

The Honorary Consul of Ukraine, Mr Jaroslav Duma thanked the organisers and all that came and were present on the day, and said the money would be put to good use to help the Ukraine.

Jolanta Zurawski