

XIX POLISH FESTIVAL AT FEDERATION SQUARE MELBOURNE



Victoria has the highest concentration of people of Polish descent in Australia with almost 62,500 residents. The Polish Festival at Federation Square is an annual non-profit event, organised free of charge by volunteers, to highlight, which aims to maintain and promote Polish culture and art created by successive generations of Poles settled in Australia.

The Festival's logo has two significant attributes: the crowned eagle which symbolizes the fiercely independent spirit of Poland, and its proud history of victory against its many occupants. The Festival's logo encompasses the use of Polish national colours: white and red.

Admission to the Festival is always free of charge, and the promotional programme printed every year is distributed for free.



Organised in the centre of Melbourne, in a square open to the entire multicultural community of the city, it unites all generations, religions, organisations, beliefs and social statuses of the Polish ethnic group. Polish children and young people, dance, music and theatre groups, and Polish social organisations, which have been maintaining Polishness on the Antipodes for many years, always receive understandable support.

In accordance with the requirements of the state of Victoria, the Polish Festival should promote only Polish culture, music, art, cuisine, liquors and customs. Other ethnic groups may make a guest appearance.

The Polish Festival at Federation Square this year was a big celebration of Polish culture. All the Polish entertainment, hospitality, and cuisine were in one place on the one day.

This, the largest Ethnic Festival in Victoria attracts more and more compatriots every year. These years it was successfully promoted in the Victorian local press, in popular magazines, on the radio and on social media. Beautiful sunny weather favoured the organizers.

On the spacious square there were different exhibitors, and food stands. There was no shortage of popular handicrafts, and over 550 kids, not only from Polish families, took advantage of the attractions for children.











The Festival started at 10:00 am with the Festival Welcome and Hejnal.



<https://youtu.be/jGKxb7g3Ve4?si=WKgJ183UNWjPYV4g>

Performances then began on the main stage. In the children's program one could see five Polish Saturday Schools and Melbourne Polish Children's and Youth Choir.



There were also seven members of the Radwanowicz Family Band performing with numerous combinations of instruments and singing popular Polish folk songs. They were applauded by the crowd and tourists from all over the world.



Lehyenda Ukrainian Dance Company was honoured to represent Ukrainian culture. Lehyenda is made up of over 30 dancers both of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian heritage who perform with pride and passion and embody the true soul of Ukrainian culture.





The official opening of the Festival could not be missed either, in which representatives of the Polish Embassy in Canberra (HE Maciej Chmieleński - Ambassador of the Republic of Poland), state and city authorities (Sally Capp - Lord Mayor) and representatives from both of Australia's major political parties took the floor.

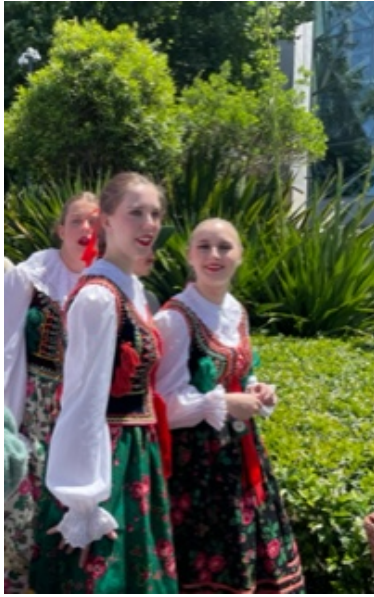


The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Australia, Maciej Chmieleński makes the opening speech in Melbourne Polish Festival

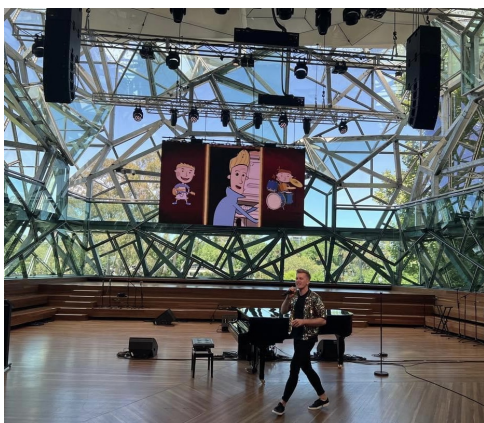


In the afternoon folkloric entertainment continued with performances from Lowicz Polish Vocal - Dance Ensemble and Polonez Dance Ensemble.





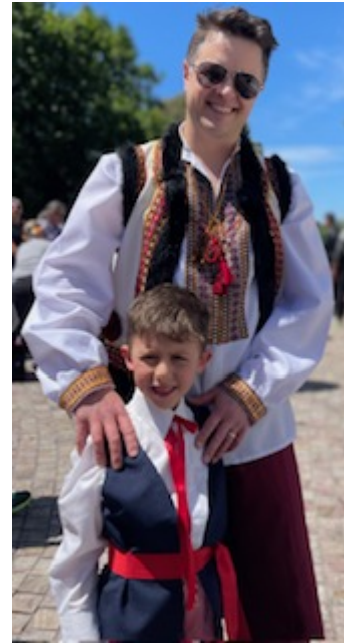
At the same time, on the stage of the Deakin Edge Theatre, the organisers prepared a rich musical mosaic for the audience. Artur Gotz, a guest from Poland, actor, vocalist and author of lyrics and music, gave a fantastic musical performance for children. Two singers, Zosia and Gosia Kaszubska, joined acclaimed Melbourne vocal ensemble Tsinkaro to share traditional folk songs of Poland and Georgia. Passed down over generations, the folk music traditions of both nations delight in harmony and dissonance. These are songs that touch the soul, connecting us across time and culture. There was also a tribute to Tomasz Śpiewak, a Polish composer in Australia, two parts of The Friends of Chopin in Australia and Chopin Jazz Ensemble led by Kamil Rawdanowicz.





There were thousands of participants in Federation Square. During the festival, all Poles became one big Polish family, open to all races and nationalities.





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[Links to videos attached:](#)

[15 November 2023 - YouTube](#)

[Pierogi i nie tylko! - YouTube](#)

[Zabawa dla dzieci - YouTube](#)

[Atmosfera Festiwalu - YouTube](#)

[Polish Festival Federation Square Radwanowicz Family Band - YouTube](#)

[DJ Mark in action - YouTube](#)

[Ukrainian Dance Group - YouTube](#)