



PolArt Inc.

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Join the PolArt Inc. Family!

Eleven Folkloric Dance Ensembles in Australia and New Zealand [Kujawy, Kukuleczka, Lajkonik, Łowicz, Oberek, Obertas, Orleńta, Podhale, Polonez, Polonus, Syrenka, and Tatry], have been working together for the last 18 months in one organization called Polish Visual and Performing Arts Australia and NZ, trading as PolArt Incorporated.

The main aims of the Organisation are to promote the Polish Arts here in Australia and NZ, and to support and facilitate collaboration amongst our large family of Ensembles, collectively involving over 1000 dancers and more than 2,000 supporting parents.

We warmly extend the invitation to other Ensembles and Theatre Groups to join the family of PolArt Inc. Please help us on our journey of making PolArt Festivals the jewel in the heart of the Polish Community in Australia and New Zealand.

RIP PAWEŁ ZAJĄC †

Paweł Zajęc was many things to many people! The inaugural President of PolArt Inc., the Administrator of the Tatry Polish Folkloric Ensemble, the Public Officer of the Dożynki Festival in Adelaide, a member of the Federation of Polish Organisations in SA, a member of the Blum Foundation Advisory Committee, a recipient of the Złoty Krzyż Zasługi, from the Polish government, community worker, community leader, administrator, president, friend and mentor!

Paweł was a person with whom one felt an immediate rapport, warm, open, dynamic, enthusiastic, accessible, generous with his time and advice, and always ready to cap it off with a joke!

Paweł was voted by his peers to be the first President of PolArt inc., a new organisation to oversee future PolArt Festivals in Australia, a role undertaken until now by the Community Council of Australia. His particular strengths, skills and experience, together with his passion, drive and enthusiasm helped to meld the participating members into a viable organisation. He was seen as the person to bring together eleven very different groups into one successful and unique organisation, which has been strengthened by his diplomacy, leadership and commitment.

We now realise how very much we will miss him, his jovial ways, his smiling face at our Skype meetings, and his jokes, the bad, as well as the good!

We will never forget him! PolArt inc. will always stand as a legacy to its inaugural President, and to his contribution to the future successful organisation and development of PolArts in Australia. Paweł Zajęc leaves behind a legacy of love for Polish folklore in Australia, for his comrades and friends across Australia and New Zealand, and we know that Paweł's spirit and passion will live on through the work of PolArt inc.

Membership

Initial cost of membership is \$100.00, renewal is \$90.00.

For membership enquiries and renewals, please contact the Secretary via email for further information.

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PAWEŁ ZAJĄC †





Why become a member of PolArt Inc???

By becoming a member, you'll join a highly regarded team whose members are determined to maintain the highest standard of PolArt Festivals.

You'll gain the fellowship and support of a network of peers throughout Australia and New Zealand. You'll be able to connect with other artistic groups, to help *normalise your PolArt Festival experience and share your input in the development of novel ideas*. This close-knit network of

like-minded organisations encourages cultural exchanges between members.

Being an active member of the organisation helps PolArt Inc. recognise issues that affect the integrity of PolArt Festivals, and therefore helps the PolArt Inc. Committee to oversee and support PolArt Festival aims and objectives.

As a member of the organisation you will have the opportunity to

vote at every triennial General PolArt Inc. Meeting to help select triennial board members of the organisation and assist in decision making between PolArt Festivals.

With a big push from the organisation for transparency, member organisations will receive PolArt Inc. quarterly newsletters and be included on our newly launched online social network group where they will receive most current information.



*The PolArt "family"
with the
Melbourne
PolArt Steering Committee
at the Gala concert
at
Hamer Hall,
during
PolArt 2015 Melbourne*

Photo: Graz Tinney

Meet Obertas, Brisbane, a co-host of PolArt 2018 Brisbane

The Polish Song and Dance Company of Brisbane, **OBERTAS**, – was formed in early 1982, and since its inception the company has given hundreds of concert performances in southeast Queensland as well as in capital cities around Australia, participating in Pol-Art Festivals, Queensland Multi-cultural Festivals,

Shell Folkloric Concerts and World Expo '88. In December 2011, Obertas undertook a Concert Tour of New Zealand. In December 2012, Obertas travelled to Perth for PolArt 2012 then in 2015 travelled to Melbourne for PolArt 2015. In 2018, Obertas will co-host PolArt 2018 in BRISBANE! Under the artistic di-

rection of its founder and choreographer, Henry Kurylewski, OBERTAS has taught its members, young and old, past and present, the basics of classical dance as the foundation for a vast repertoire of songs and dances from a diverse range of Polish regions



Meet Wisła, Brisbane, a co-host of PolArt 2018 Brisbane

WISŁA, the Polish Folkloric Ensemble was formed in 2010 to showcase Poland's rich and beautiful culture to communities in Brisbane and beyond. Its motto 'Dancing our way through Poland' helps encompass this aspiration, and the group's passion for

dance. Wisla's repertoire is fun, exciting and energetic; including a variety of dances from different regions of Poland such as Nowy Sącz, Kujawy, Krakow and Zywiec. Through the inclusion of songs in their repertoire, Wisla weaves the richness of Polish lan-

guage, lyric and music into its performances. Under the artistic direction of Agnieszka Kowal and musical direction of Danuta Quella, the group is excited to showcase its program at PolArt Brisbane



PolArt Inc members working together to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Regaining of Independence by Poland in Melbourne and Sydney.



The POLONEZ Song & Dance Ensemble and LOWICZ Polish Vocal-Dance Ensemble performing the PolArt 2015 Melbourne Finale together at the conclusion of the two concerts held in Melbourne, on August 18th & 19th *Photo Lukasz Karczemny*

From left, representatives from Syrenka, Kujawy, Harcerstwo, Lajkonik, Podhale – readers at the Polish Independence Day mass on Saturday November 10th at St Mary's Cathedral. *Photo Henryk Igliński*



Committee members, PolArt Inc:

President	Paul Zajac † (Tatry Polish Folkloric Ensemble)
Vice President	Urszula Lang (Lajkonik)
Secretary	Jolanta Zurawski (Kujawy Polish Dance and Song Ensemble)
Assistant Secretary	Edith Drajkopyl (Lowicz Polish Vocal-Dance Ensemble)
Treasurer	Anna Trajanovska (Kukuleczka Polish Dance Group)
Assistant Treasurer	Daniel Gadd (Podhale Polish Folklore Ensemble)
Archives	Barbara Czech OAM (Polonez Polish Song and Dance Ensemble)
Media	Pawel Kidon (Polish Folkloric Ensemble Syrenka)
Polish Liaison Officer	Ela Sawicka (Polonus Polish Folkloric Dance Group Christchurch NZ)

Recognition for PolArt Inc. representatives and for the PolArt Festival



Jola Żurawska, Kujawy’s representative on PolArt Inc. and its President, received the *Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi Rzeczypospolitej Polski*, during the Polish Independence celebrations in Sydney.

Jan Szuba, was awarded the *Order of Australia* OAM medal for service to the Polish Community of Melbourne.

Jan was President of the PolArt 2015 Melbourne Festival, and President of the Polish Festival @ Fed Square, for 10 years, from 2005—2014.

Photo: Henryk Kobylański



PolArt Inc. AGM

After three years of hard work building Polart Incorporated as an organisation, we have now come to the point, where the first ever Annual General Meeting will be held during the Festival. The AGM allows all our members to have a say in who will be running the organisation over the next three years. We strongly encourage all the artistic groups to become members and to take an active part in this process. The first part of our AGM will allow members to see the inner workings of the organization and become acquainted with our achievements. A Presidents’ Report will be delivered by Urszula Lang (Acting President) followed by a Treasurers’ report, delivered by Anna Trajanovska (Treasurer). It will also give all members a chance to have any of their questions answered by the current committee.

After formally dissolving the committee, a Chairperson will be nominated and elected to run the meeting, this Chairperson is excluded from serving on the committee for the next term. After this, groups will be given a chance to present and vote on the host city for the next PolArt in 2021.

With the host city chosen, members will be invited to vote on the executive committee roles as well as regular committee roles. As per Polart Inc. rules, all financial member organisations have a single vote and can nominate a single person to stand for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or as a regular committee member. Any groups/organisations that are based in the host city of the following Polart, are precluded from serving on the committee, this is to prevent any bias over the next three years.

We ask that any members who would like to serve on the committee, or nominate themselves for executive roles, send through their nominations, along with a brief description of themselves to polartinc@yahoo.com at least 4 weeks prior to the AGM. Please note, all nominations must be verified and signed off by at least two members of the represented group.



PolArt Inc. achievements so far

- Created a new Constitution and incorporated our Organisation with the Victorian Department of Fair Trading;
- Developed new PolArt Festival Rules (soon to be released) to ensure the continued success and growth of PolArt Festivals into the future, and to determine the location of the next PolArt;
- Assisted and provided support to PolArt Brisbane Committee in working through various challenges which have emerged in the period of planning and organising Brisbane PolArt;
- Developed a new logo which defines the spirit and identity of the Organisation;
- Developed a new website where future information about our Committee and the work we do, will be accessible to all members and the general public;
- Negotiated with the Estate Managers of the late Zofia Jaskiewicz in relation to the establishment of the Rospond Foundation for the purpose of providing major financial support for all future PolArt Festivals. PolArt Inc. will have responsibility for dispensing and overseeing the use of the funds;
- Successfully established a process of monthly meetings of our Committee, held by Skype. These meetings bring together group leaders from 6 States of Australia and New Zealand, to plan for future PolArts and ongoing collaboration and mutual support of each other.

What we plan to achieve in 2019

- Drive for new member organisations, including other art areas such as theatre and music;
- Organisational development to ensure that we set new benchmarks for transparency, accountability and communicativity, so that PolArt Inc. truly become a leader organisation in the Polish communities of Australia and New Zealand.
- Further website development; Quarterly newsletters to our members and the general public;
- Archiving material and information about past PolArts so as to record the history and evolution of the wonderful triennial event which is PolArt;

Let's remember: PolArt matters to our youth



ALL folkloric performers at PolArt 2015 Melbourne present on stage at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre, Victoria for the introductory polonez.

Photo: Melissa Lejman

