

The Puls Polonii Cultural Foundation

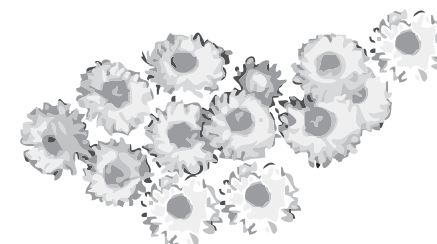
Fundacja Kulturalna Pulsu Polonii

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A MESSAGE FROM THE
FESTIVAL DIRECTORS



A MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR,

ERNESTYNA SKURJAT-KOZEK



Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek

General Tadeusz Kościuszko: a fighter for freedom, democracy and human rights. I have known this all my life. But then, in 2006, I discovered that he was also an accomplished painter, and had composed some music. During a party, I approached Professor Graham Wood who played in an amateur band, and asked him if 'The Sydney Windjammers' would include two polonaises and a waltz in their performance repertoire. Graham said, jokingly, "Oh yes, we can play Kosciuszko music on Mt Kosciuszko and in front of TV cameras". Soon after that, I sent him the music score.

So, it all started as a bit of a joke. But in February 2007, we organised an historic concert on Mt Kosciuszko through 'Puls Polonii', the Polish-Australian internet newspaper, and our friends in the 'Lajkonik' Folkloric Dance Ensemble. Of course, 'The Sydney Windjammers' played Kosciuszko's music on Mt Kosciuszko and in front of 'TV Polonia' cameras, as per the initial idea!

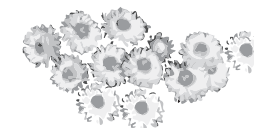
We (the organising team) have adopted, as our motto, that "Australians deserve to know more about Kościuszko" and, inspired by this idea, we decided to organise some more events as close to the mountain as possible, i.e. in Jindabyne. But Cooma showed enormous interest in Kosciuszko's heritage as well, and the relationship blossomed so positively that we were encouraged strongly to work in with Cooma as well, especially Cooma Monaro Shire Council and Cooma Rotary. So, in April 2007, we organized a two-day event, being the inaugural 'Mound & Mt Kosciuszko Festival' in both Jindabyne and Cooma, with a photographic exhibition showing cultural and physical similarities between the Kosciuszko Mound in Poland and the highest peak in Australia.

The inaugural event was a success, and it was obvious that there were expectations for us to come back next year. So, we did, in 2008! With the help and participation of local authorities (especially the Na-

tional Park and Wildlife Service) and many wonderful artists, both local and from Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, the so-called 'Polish Festival' went off without a hitch in 2008.

The Festival is beautifully developing into a community "heritage sharing" festival – we can all feel this happening and it is very exciting! There is no doubt that it has the potential to become one of the most attractive festivals of regional Australia.

Kosciuszko deserves it!



A MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,

URSZULA LANG



Urszula Lang

Multicultural Australia is wonderful. Integrated multicultural Australia is even better. This Festival is unique in that it pushes the boundaries in integrating the multicultural arts via photography, music, poetry and dance into a joint expression together with the local community. Together we celebrate our shared history and heritage, and hopefully develop new understandings with the area's indigenous leaders.

This Festival is dynamic, richly layered, and inclusive. Please enjoy every moment - we are all part of a new chapter in Australia's history where the mountain, our mountain Kosciuszko, symbolises the freedoms we enjoy in this country and our journey together as one people.