Rowville's Polish House

Rowville's Polish House
"Syrena"

By Andrew Balcerzak

appy New Year to all RLCN readers from the
Eastern Districts Polish Association (EDPA),
the owner of the Polish House "Syrena. We wish
you all the very best the New Year has to offer.
May 2023 bring you lots of happiness and succes
on all levels.

As we enter 2023, it is timely to update you
on events that occurred late last year.

Our association held its AGM and biennial
elections of the officeholders. We are pleased
to announce that Andrzej (Andrew) Markiewicz

to announce that Andraej (Andrew) Markiewicz PhD was elected to the position of President, Dr Mariola Stanikowska is our new Vice-President while Krysia Klepacz has been elected Secretary and Margaret Walerian is continuing in her role

s Treasurer.

A big thank you to the outgoing officeholders, Janusz Klepka and Zygmunt Bielinski OAM, who respectively contributed 10 years and 20 years of superb service and commitment to our Club as well as Marek Kijek PhD, our two term Secre-

The last two months of 2022 were entirely packed with a variety of events ranging from celebrating Melbourne Cup and concluding with the New Year's Day Ball.

We also staged a number of plays, concerts and a Spanish Flamenco Night. Our amazing volunteers, including the new officeholders, managed a food stall at the Federation Square's Polish Festival and were well received for their

managed a tood stall at the receivation Square Solish Festival and were well received for their enthusiasm, tasty food and colourful dresses. Our Seniors organised an innovative Melbourne Cup event as well as observation of Remembrance Day. This was followed by celebrations of Grandparent's Day where the children were unsurpassed in their enthusiasm in entertaining the older generation.

unsurpassed in their entitistasii in entertaining the older generation.

On 26th November we held our traditional St Andrew's Day Ball. A special treat was a surprise visit by opera singers from Poland who presented a remarkable concert especially prepared as a

tary. They led us through many challenging years including the COVID restrictions and have never taken their sights off the needs of the club, its members and visitors.

It was fortuitous that the Hon. Nick Wakeling, a

member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for

Ferntree Gully and the Hon. Kim Wells, a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Rowville visited our Club just prior to the changeover of officeholders and we had an opportunity to take photos of almost the entire former Committee with them.





gift for the nine Andrews present at the Ball.

December kicked off with our 42nd Christmas
Fair which was held outside on a beautiful, sunny
day. We were particularly pleased, that after the
hiatus caused by COVID-19 restrictions, we were
rewarded with large attendance of more than one
thousand people of all ages and nationalities.
Many local residents had taken the time to attend
and share our culture food music and good and share our culture, food, music and good conversation. Even Santa dropped in with sweets for the excited large group of children. We are grateful for the Knox City Council's Minor Grants Program which enabled us to purchase new gazebos for this and future events of this type. Our club would not survive without la rentrée the support of many generous people contributing our cub would not survive without a Pentree the support of many generous people contributing to the Club through unpaid labour and financial donations. They enable us to continue our mission to be a social, cultural and recreational facility for the Knox, Dandenong • Read on page 5





Susan Laukens

KNOX CITY COUNCIL FRIBERG WARD COUNCILLOR • PUTTING OUR COMMUNITY FIRST

LET ME KNOW WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

Call or text on **0437 882 913**,

email me at cr.susan.laukens@knox.vic.gov.au or visit www.su aukensforknox.com.au





An Hour with Knox Mayor Marcia Timmers-Leith

By Nadia Porter
Any of readers may not be familiar with our new mayor Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch, but she has lived in Knox's Wantirna for the past 15 years. She runs a successful Jim's 15 years. She runs a successful Jim's Mowing franchise with her husband Geoff. They have three school-aged children who attend local schools and five chickens that love to eat garden scraps.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Monach University and

degree from Monash University and

degree from Monash University and has over 25 years' experience in the private sector. She currently works in offshore wind farm development. Prior to becoming a Councillor, Marcia spent over ten years deliv-ering projects as a volunteer for the Knox community, led local commu-nity organizations and managed the nity organisations and managed the establishment of Kinderlea 3-Year-Old Preschool in Wantima South. She has also been involved with many local early years' facilities and sporting clubs.

After a first attempt at running for Council in 2016, Marcia was elected to represent the Collier Ward (Wantima and Wantima) nity organisations and managed the

Ward (Wantirna and Wantirna South) in April 2019 and was then

re-elected unopposed at the 2020 local government elections.
As a councillor, Marcia is passionate about effective waste man-

- sionate about effective waste management, improving community facilities, mental health support services, empowering the voices of young people and the efficient use of rates.

 "Connecting directly with residents and supporting the work of community groups and local business is my favourite part of this job," said Cr Marcia.

 Cr Timmers-Leitch served as Deputy Mayor in 2019-2020 and was elected Mayor of Knox City Council in November 2022. Cr Jude Dwight will serve alongside her as the Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months next 12 months Cr Timmers-Leitch said it was an

honour and a privilege to be elected

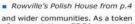
honour and a privilege to be elected Mayor.

"I feel I am ready to take on this challenge and look forward to working with and leading this councillor team as we enter in to our third year of being a Council," she said.

"I know we have some serious decisions to make this year on many



issues.
"I'm looking forward to well informed quality decision-making and working together as a team to deliver for our community." We welcome, celebrate and wish our new mayor success and good luck in her new role.



and wider communities. As a token of appreciation, EDPA prepared Christmas smorgasbord dinner for its volunteers and their families on

its volunteers and their families on 18th December.

We welcomed 2023 at our New Year's dinner dance after which the Club has taken a short break and will re-open on 5th February, And as in 2022, we will continue serving lunches on Sundays from noon to 4pm. "Syrena" halls are available for bire and our new President. Andrew

4pm. "Syrena" halls are available for hire and our new President, Andrew Markiewicz, will be delighted to receive inquiries in this matter on 0411 113 226. And finally, our events are adver-tised on: www.polishclubrowville. org.au and www.facebook.com/ dompolskisyrena/. Everyone is welcome.



