

## Rowville's Polish House "Syrena"

By Andrew Balcerzak

Happy 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 success 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 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 as 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 Secretary.

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 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.

On 26<sup>th</sup> 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

gift for the nine Andrews present at the Ball.

December kicked off with our 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 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

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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.



EDPA Committee with Hon Wakeling and Hon Wells



Syrena food stall at Fed Square Festival



Member and Volunteer smorgasbord dinner



## Susan Laukens

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## An Hour with Knox Mayor Marcia Timmers-Leith

By Nadia Porter

Many of readers may not be familiar with our new mayor Cr Marcia Timmers-Leith, but she has lived in Knox's Wantirna for the past 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 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 delivering projects as a volunteer for the Knox community, led local community organisations and managed the establishment of Kinderlea 3-Year-Old Preschool in Wantirna 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 (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 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-Leith 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.

Cr Timmers-Leith said it was an 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



Cr Jude Dwight (Deputy Mayor) and Cr Marcia Timmers-Leith (Mayor)

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.

Rowville's Polish House from p.4 and wider communities. As a token of appreciation, EDPA prepared Christmas smorgasbord dinner for its volunteers and their families on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> February. And as in 2022, we will continue serving lunches on Sundays from noon to 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 advertised on: [www.polishclubrowville.org.au](http://www.polishclubrowville.org.au) and [www.facebook.com/dompolskisyrena/](https://www.facebook.com/dompolskisyrena/). Everyone is welcome.



New Year Ball

# Kim WELLS MP

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