

## Easter Festival 9-10 April'22



### Review

*Please note, that this Festival was supported by a \$10,000 NSW Government grant*

Polish Association of Newcastle organized a two-day Easter Festival.

On the first day (Saturday) there were displays and performances of ethnic community groups; Ukrainian, Filipino, Irish, and of course Polish. Pierogi and pączki were on offer too. On the second day there was a solemn lunch.

As part of the festival, money was raised for UNICEF to assist children directly affected by the brutal Russian invasion of Ukrainian.



*Ukrainian community display*



*Display of traditional Polish wycinanki*



*Ukrainian dance group (from Sydney) – impressive almost acrobatic performance*



*Loved by the audience*



*Irish dancers – what a rhythm! This group is practicing in the Polish House every Monday*



*Talented Polish children have learnt to sing this song in Ukrainian*



*Impressive crowd*



*Filipino dancers – adding Asian spice*



*Of course, Lajkonik from Sydney. The group decimated by Covid but still magnificent*



*Our honored guests. From left Consul General of Poland Dr Monika Kończuk, President of Polish Community Consul of Australia Małgorzata Kwiatkowska, our Father Tomasz Zaręba and prof Marian Radny vice-President of the Polish Community Consul of Australia*



*Community luncheon on Sunday with a group of Ukrainians. The Easter baskets on the stage (made by Zosia) were auctioned for \$250 (good business 😊)*



*Group photo with our honor guests including Ukrainian community leader Dr Wolodymyr Motyka (next to the Consul)*

A significant part of the festival was egg decorating workshop. This was a hit event organized by Agata Radna



*One of three workshop sessions*



*Our Consul getting ready to paint an egg – she created a diplomatic pisanka*

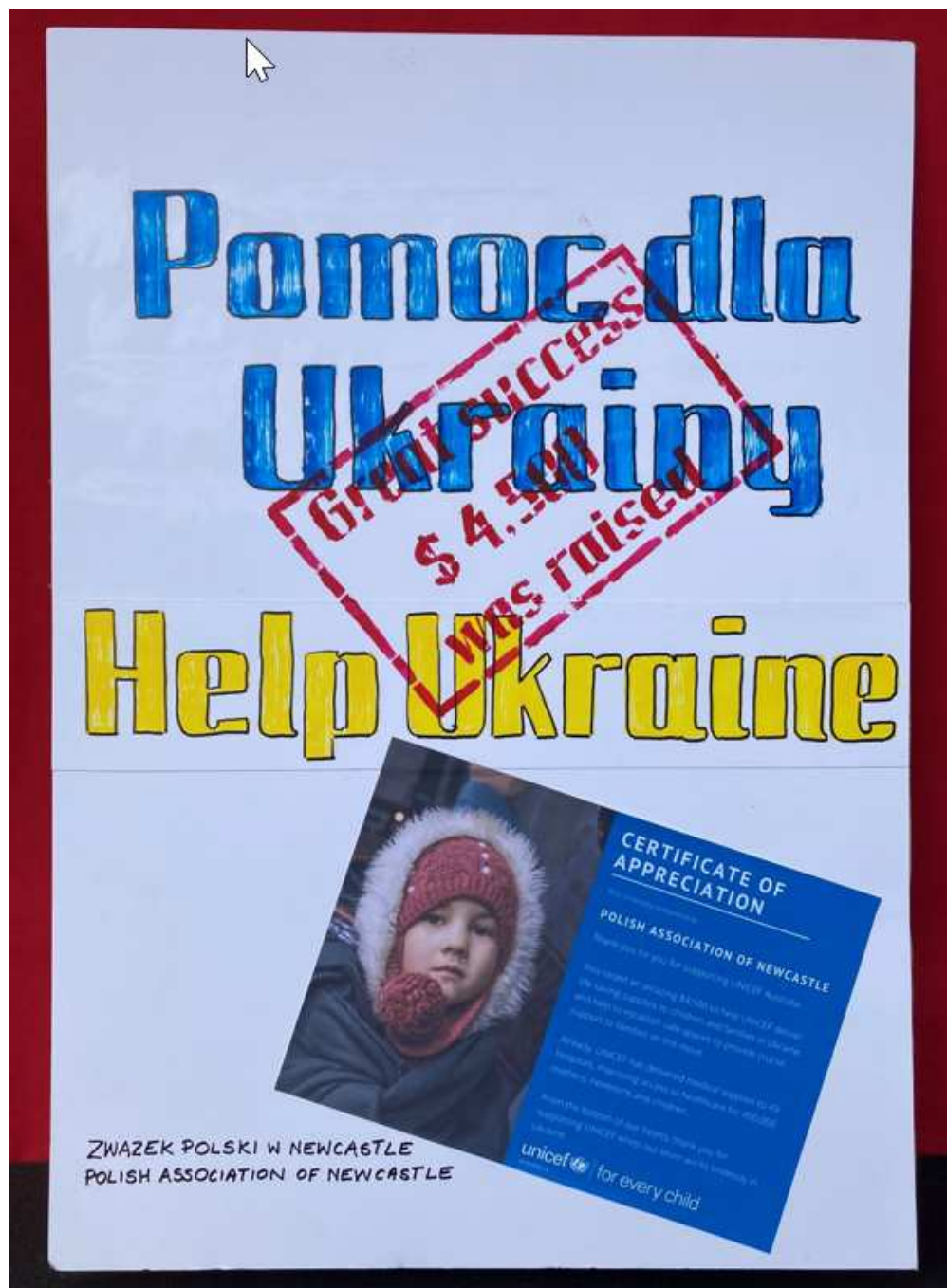


*Display of Agata's pisanki – of which sale generated \$700 for the charity*

From all aspects this was a very successful intercultural community activity to help celebrate Easter and the coming out of Covid lockdowns. The Saturday was just an explosion of colors, dance, and music as Wolodymyr remarked in his thank you speech. Over 250 people attended whilst the Sunday community lunch attracted an additional 150 people.

The fund raising was a great success; \$4,500 was donated to UNICEF

In addition, the Ukrainian community Exhibit raised just over \$1,100 which has been donated to Caritas Fund and Ukraine in Crises Fund.





## Appendix

Some behind the scenes photos



*National colors of the tablecloths under Wiesiek's comands*



*The national flags in front of the building on the rainy day*



*Baska Jon stand was very popular too*



*Lajkonik practicing before the performance was watched with interest*



*Some familiar faces*



*Leftovers from the egg decorating workshops*



*Time to tidy up. Holding the legs; Robert Lojszczyk – architect of the Saturday event. Kevin Ruby in front*