

WELCOME NEW KRESY-SIBERIA LEADERS

Please join me, as Kresy-Siberia Foundation President, in welcoming 6 new Kresy-Siberia charity administrators and executives, recently appointed to the international Foundation's Executive Committee ("zarząd") and/or to the boards of the Foundation's supporting charities in Australia and UK.

Paulina, Olivia, Tim, Grażyna, Paweł and Agata bring a wide range of skills and experience to these volunteer leadership roles, ranging from Polish folkloric dancers and judo champions to amateur radio operators, doctors, librarians, finance managers and charity workers. This varied group of women and men ranges in age from their 20s to their 50s, includes 2nd and 3rd generation Survivor descendants as well as people with no direct family links, natives both of Poland and of abroad, and people of both Polish and non-Polish heritage.

We will shortly call for additional candidates interested in serving as directors of our supporting charities headquartered in Australia/NZ, Canada, UK/Europe and the USA, as well as potentially in Poland and the former eastern bloc.

These new leaders will join their existing fellow Kresy-Siberia executives and supporting charity board directors from around the world on the **Kresy-Siberia Leadership Council**. As Foundation President, I will be convening this new body shortly to help set overall Kresy-Siberia direction and provide international governance and coordination.

- **Stefan Wiśniowski**



PAULINA KASPROWICZ
Executive Committee Member, Kresy-Siberia Foundation

Paulina joined us in February 2014 to take over the management of the Kresy-Siberia Foundation at its headquarters in Warsaw and to coordinate our "Generations Remember" 2014 conference, to be held at the Senate and the Katyń Museum in Warsaw on 17-19 September.

Paulina also represented the Foundation and organised the exhibition for "People of the Polish 2nd Corps" at the Monte Cassino commemoration in Italy in May 2014. She has also travelled to London recently to attend the gathering of Kresy-Siberia members at POSK in London.

Paulina is a graduate of Warsaw's Collegium Civitas, with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations Studies in English, and is currently completing her Master's degree in Political Science.

Paulina has many years of experience in coordinating teams of people and events, including for charitable organisations. She was the Program Director of "Study Abroad Compass Poland". As an intern at "The Polish Humanitarian Action" she assisted the manager of the "Knowledge Makes Change" project. She is a member of "Humanity in Action, Warsaw", having been a project coordinator for the 2012 Fellowship in Sarajevo and Warsaw. As an intern at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Paulina represented Poland at the conference for Polish-Azerbaijan relations held in Baku in 2011.

Paulina has a keen interest in Eastern studies and human and animal rights. She is bilingual in Polish and English and also speaks German, Spanish and Chinese.



OLIVIA ALFORD
Executive Committee Member, Kresy-Siberia Foundation
Kresy-Siberia (UK), Board Director

Olivia's passion for Polish history was sparked during her undergraduate studies at University College London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Olivia became hooked on Polish history after studying with the grandson of a Polish II Corps veteran and hearing war stories of being deported to Siberia, joining Anders' army after the so-called "Amnesty" and ending up in post-war England, unable to return home. This set her on the path of learning the Polish language and devouring as many books on Poland's wartime history as possible, turning much of the Western view of WWII history that she had been taught at school on its head. After reading about the Katyń massacre one summer, Olivia decided to research this topic for her BA dissertation, as it married her academic background in Russian language and history with her growing interest in Poland. The role of Katyń in Polish-Russian relations has now become her area of expertise. She recently set up the initiative "Katyn 2015: Remembering For the Future," under the Kresy-Siberia banner, involving a series of events exploring some of the more personal stories of the massacre's victims as well as Britain's attitude towards the crime since 1943.

Olivia has a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in Russian Studies from UCL and a Master of Arts degree in Central and East European Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She was awarded *summa cum laude* for her academic performance and her thesis, "An Irreconcilable Truth? 70 years on: The Katyn Massacre in Russian Collective Memory" was recommended for publishing. Since finishing her studies in 2011, Olivia has continued to maintain an interest in the political developments surrounding Katyń and runs the Twitter feed @katyn1940, keeping up to date with news stories and debates surrounding the 1940 massacre in the Polish, Russian and English languages. She is able to research confidently in all three languages and also speaks French and some Finnish.

After dabbling with a PhD and a PGCE in History, Olivia has settled back into the familiar world of charity finance as a Senior Finance Officer at UCLU, using her skills built up as a Trustee and former Finance Assistant at UCL's student union. She will be starting her management accountancy course this coming autumn and her finance skills will be a tremendous asset to Kresy-Siberia as Treasurer for both the Foundation and for its Kresy-Siberia (UK) supporting charity.



TIMOTHY BUCKNALL
Executive Committee Member, Kresy-Siberia Foundation
Kresy-Siberia (UK), Board Director

Poland has always had a presence in Tim's life. From the North of England, he grew up with stories from his father, a British soldier who had a great regard for Poles from having served with Polish soldiers in the British army and from working at a camp for Displaced Persons after WW2. Poland became an even bigger part of Tim's life from 1986-1994 when he spent his school holidays at the home of his mother's Sybirak employers. He can clearly remember hearing the stories of terrible suffering and deportation that this kindly family endured.

As a young adult, Tim started to learn Czech and Russian and from 2012 has been studying Polish and Belarusian. He is an amateur expert in receiving long distance TV & Radio signals and his particular interest is the old Eastern Bloc FM Band (66-73mhz). Most summers Tim listens to radio from Tarnopol, Lwów, Brest, Grodno and Pinsk. He has also

contributed to the German Language radio magazine “Reflexion”.

Tim discovered Kresy-Siberia through an advertisement in the legendary exile newspaper “Dziennik Polski” and became a regular contributor on the Yahoo Group forum. He became Kresy-Siberia’s Social Media Co-ordinator in September 2013, managing our Twitter, YouTube, Google+ and Facebook channels. He has developed a daily “on this day in history” feature with events related to all ethnicities of the Kresy exile life and some general Polish history. Tim has built up over 1500 Twitter followers, including Polish and other consulates from all over the world – a fantastic networking achievement that will benefit all in the Kresy-Siberia community.



GRAŻYNA TYDDA
Kresy-Siberia (Australia), Board Director

Grażyna was born in Warsaw, Poland and emigrated to Australia in early 1980's. She lives in Sydney with her husband Janusz and they both frequently visit their native Poland. In Australia, Grażyna has established a successful career in librarianship and at the same time maintained strong connections with her Polish heritage. Over the last few years she has been particularly interested in the work of the Kresy -Siberia Virtual Museum and was able to support some activities including assistance in the English Galleries Overview project-together with Janusz. The Tydda's have hosted a number of Kresy-Siberia member gatherings in their home, including the recent lunch with Professor Norman Davies. Grażyna has also taken on managing the project proposals process for Kresy-Siberia's “Generations Remember” 2014 conference in Warsaw this September.

Grażyna holds a B.A. in Library and Information Science from Charles Sturt University in Australia and has studied History at Warsaw University. She worked at various research-oriented institutions including the Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw, the State Library of New South Wales and Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

Grażyna has over 10 years senior and executive level experience in libraries. She managed up to 160 staff, servicing clients across an entire state or providing services to a university community. Her achievements include developing the first offsite storage strategy for the State Library of NSW, leading the refurbishment of the oldest research library in Australia - the Mitchell Library, and leading the client-oriented restructure of services at the State Library and at the Macquarie University Library. She has strong strategic and organisational skills and her particular interest is in client research.

She was selected as one of the six representatives from Australia to participate in a 10-day tour of German state and university libraries organised by the Goethe Institute. She attended a number of international conferences and visits and is an accomplished public speaker who has presented papers at conferences in Australia, New Zealand, Italy and Turkey.



DR PAWEŁ PROCIUK
Kresy-Siberia (Australia), Board Director

Paweł has an interest in Polish history, specifically that surrounding World War II. His grandfather, Captain Aleksander Prociuk, was captured by the invading German Army in 1939. Meanwhile, Paweł's grandmother Katarzyna and her 2 young sons Jerzy and Tomasz were deported to Siberia in 1940. After 20 years of searching for each other, Aleksander and his family were finally reunited in Sydney, Australia. Paweł's father, Jerzy, was for many years the President

of the New South Wales state Sybirak Association. He is survived by his wife Halina, (Paweł's mother) who is very active in the Polish community in Sydney.

Paweł studied medicine and surgery at the University of New South Wales. He joined the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, where he served as Regimental Medical Officer, commanded Field Hospital Clinical Services, and as a reservist was Senior Medical Officer of the Liverpool Military Area and the Greater Sydney and Northern NSW Area Health Service. Paweł was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in 1997, working in primary health care and as an assistant surgeon in orthopaedic surgery.

Paweł has a keen interest in teaching and coaching. Throughout his military career he conducted courses to train soldiers as combat first aiders, platoon medics, nurses and Regimental Medical Officers. He taught medical students as a Clinical Associate of the University of Sydney and was appointed the principal GP Registrar supervisor and mentor at Holsworthy Barracks by the Institute of General Practice Education and by GP Synergy. He was accredited as a judo and soccer coach with the Australian Sports Commission and for many years ran a judo club as a way of funding his medical studies. He continues to assist with coaching at a local judo club and is very proud that his sons, Janusz and Andrzej, are NSW state and Australian champions and have represented Australia internationally.

During his medical career Paweł served on many committees in military and civilian hospitals, area health services and also in various sporting clubs. He has a longstanding interest in Polish culture, having danced in the Polish Folkloric Ensemble "Syrenka."



AGATA RADNA
Kresy-Siberia (Australia), Board Director

Agata has a Bachelor degree in Politics, International Relations and Spanish, as well as a Masters in Development Studies, specialising in cross-cultural approaches to development through language and pedagogy.

Agata's grandmother, Anna Sizuk, was deported by the Soviets in 1940 at the age of 8, to the Aktiubinsk region of Kazakhstan from her home in Małoryta county in Polesie, eastern Poland, along with her mother and 3 siblings. They remained there until 1947, when they were resettled in the territories "regained" from Germany in western Poland.

Agata's mother and father have both played leadership roles in the Polish community in Newcastle, Australia for a number of years, and Agata has followed in their footsteps by helping to organise various local community cultural events and functions. She worked on various projects for the Newcastle Polish Association and its members, including the revival of the "Jarzebina" folkloric dance ensemble. Fluent in both Polish and English, Agata has translated Polish war survivor memoirs and diaries as well as the exhibition "A Sketch to a Portrait: Poles and Their Poland, Newcastle 1949-2012", a public display of 15 posters outlining 60 years of the Polish Association in Newcastle.

Professionally, Agata has been working as a Donor Administrator for the Charities Aid Foundation (Australia) since 2012. In this role she has worked with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council in the implementation of their Foundation Scholarship programs and in the implementation of various client-specific donor processes. Most recently she has been involved in the development and implementation of CAF's new Workplace Giving platform 'Good2Give' and works in managing administration procedures and implementation of Workplace Giving Programs.