From the life and activities associated with the Parish and the community
15 March 2013

Content

- The Commemorations and celebrations on 10 March
- Birthdays - the young and the young at heart...
- The not so young ...
- Garden

OTHERV NEWS
- The Hall
- Monthly Dinner at Diggers

- Dates to remember to put in your calendar and to come along ...

The First B-B-Q and Meeting of the Parish this year was held 14 February.

The Next B-B-Q and Meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY 21st. This date will be confirmed as currently an E Mail has been sent to all meeting members stating that it is Wednesday 20th. Some cannot make it for Wednesday the 20th. Fr Paul has a previous engagement for Thursday 21st which he cannot rescheduled and we need the majority of the members to prepare for coming events.
Annual T. Shevchenko Anniversary Function: Marking the legacy of Taras Shevchenko, poet, an artist and the voice of his people, the conscience of his nation.

Each year Ukrainian communities, wherever they may be located, commemorate the life, work and significance of Taras Shevchenko as the voice of his people. He sought and spoke of freedom from enslavement, oppression, injustice – and the freedom to be masters of their heritage and destiny.

On Sunday at the Adamstown Community Hall the local community marked the 199th anniversary of Shevchenko’s birth 9th March 1814 (Moryntsi, Ukraine), as well as the 152nd anniversary of his passing, 10 March 1861.

All were able to view the literary works written by Shevchenko in the original Ukrainian language as well as in translated versions of English and Polish (being examples of the 27 different languages into which his poetry has been translated). Also there were several works by various writers and academics about the life and the impact of Taras Shevchenko’s ideas - his thinking and values remain relevant to this very day.

[photo: Main table of exhibits showing some of T. Shevchenko’s literary works.]

After everyone had some tasty refreshments prepared by the parish women’s group the function commenced with words of welcome from Nina Jaremus who drew everyone’s attention to the exhibition of items about Taras Shevchenko as well as an exhibition of photographs from the life and activities of the Ukrainian community in Newcastle since the time of their arrival as immigrants (displaced persons) in 1949.
Nina Jaremus welcoming everyone to the Shevchenko function and providing an outline about Taras Shevchenko’s life and works.

Mrs L Bojczuk Snr recited the powerful poem by Taras Shevchenko, *Rozryta Mohyla* (The Plundered Grave).

Interestingly, it was later pointed out by others that according to the on-line news from Ukraine on 9 March, this poem was banned by the local government authorities from being performed publicly by a local citizen at the Shevchenko Commemoration Ceremonies that were held in the village in which Shevchenko was born in Ukraine (then under Russian Tzarist rule). The reason given by the present authorities is that the poem was too ‘revolutionary’ for th
A young member of the community, Christina, read several verses of a Shevchenko poem that had been translated into English.

Paul, Victor and Ihor - reflecting with interest on information about Shevchenko’s life and works.

An important message that was given by Nina Jaremus in her words of Introduction and emphasised by others later was that next year, 2014, will be the 200th Anniversary of T. Shevchenko’s birth (9/3/1814 – 2014). That year has but celebrated everywhere where Ukrainians reside in the world. The pleasant task for us all is to join those celebrations by organising an appropriate and inclusive Taras Shevchenko commemorative function here in Newcastle – so let us make every effort to make sure that next year’s commemorative function is bigger, better and very memorable. Everyone is welcome!

The function came to a close with the choral performance (from Ukraine) of the well known verse from one of T. Shevchenko’s poems that is regarded as his Testament Zapovit).
MILESTONE

Immediately following the Taras Shevchenko function the opportunity was used to mark an important birthday milestone for Fr. Paul Berezniuk, who has been the resident Parish priest for 5 years.

Although the milestone birthday was on 5 March, nevertheless it was not too late to publicly express best wishes to Fr Paul. And so people presented him with a birthday cake (chocolate) topped with birthday candles and heartily sang him the traditional Ukrainian birthday greetings, *Mnohiyi Lita* ... (Live for many, many years to come ...) wishing him sound health, fulfilment, satisfaction and a happy disposition all the time ...
BIRTHDAY GIRL: WHEN speaking of birthdays a truly remarkable milestone was reached by a long-time community and parish member, Mrs Maria Zalesky, who on 28 February this year, celebrated her 90th Birthday. Born in faraway in the village of Prystromy, Central Ukraine, in very difficult times and conditions 90 years ago, she went through many dislocation and challenges through the war years of the 1940’s. Her life destiny brought her to Newcastle in 1949 as a Displaced Person migrant, and here she has stayed ever since being helpful member of the community as well as the parish. The Parish has sent her their best wishes and takes this opportunity to once again wish pani Maria sound health, and many, many more joyous years … Mnohiyi Lita! … Mnohiyi Lita!… i Mnohiyi Lita!

Mrs Maria Zalesky with birthday bouquet … Happy 90th Birthday!
MORE Birthday Girls –

Following closely on the heels of Pani Maria’s are the birthdays of two other well-known and ever helpful women in the community and parish Birthday (however, they have quite a few decades to go to match pani Maria …). They are the lovely generous hearted:

Irene Sawka, (our Master chef) whose birthday was on the 10th March, and

Rosalie Powazuk, whose birthday was on the next day, the 11th March

The Parish expresses its hearty congratulations and best wishes to them … many bouquets of flowers, and some chocolates of course…!

Mnohiyi lita, …. 

Mnohiyi Lita, …. 

Mnohiyi Lita…..!
The Garden

People would have noticed that a small decorative garden at the front of the Hall. It has taken on a better shape and appearance when compared to what was there earlier. In fact the two people who initiated the creation of this garden area are Taras Malenewych, and Maria Duma. They are both of the generation who arrived and settled here as migrants from Europe in the late 1940’s.

Mr Malenewych seeing how the area had dried out and become overgrown with weeds and long grass took the initiative of trying to clean it up and make a little garden area there. The task was very challenging. (A couple of years earlier he had cleared the garden strip along the front fence and planted a sea of tough orange gladioli that now seasonally grow and colour to the place.)

This little garden area proved to be a tougher challenge. The earth was so dried out it was like rock and very hard to break up as it had not been turned over for many years. The myrtle tree growing there was stunted and diseased, dried branches and having a difficult time surviving. The soil had little to no nutrients. Maria Duma encouraged Taras’ efforts and tried to get others interested in the little project.

Taras managed to at least clear the main grass and weeds, before, unfortunately, towards the end of 2012 he suffered a stroke at home, and has since been incapacitated. He is currently in the Wallsend Aged Care Facility (formerly the Wallsend Hospital building. Visitors are very welcome).

Maria Duma supported the effort Taras made and was quite disappointed that no further work could be done. She volunteered her plants and her own effort to continue with the work in order to convert the area into a little garden – to be neat and pleasant to the eye. She, together with help from a couple of other sympathisers, cleared up the area, turned the soil over, added some nutrient rich soil and eventually planted a selection of flowers, fragrant small bushes, and decorative border plants. It should be noted that Fr Paul was particularly active in monitoring the health of the myrtle tree to rid it of its disease and to keep the plants well watered. It is pleasing to see that the myrtle tree is now flourishing with green growth and is free of disease – it is doing so well it has flowered all around. Under the tree is a whole bunch of closely growing gladioli – a favourite of Fr Paul who planted them – they should bloom in orange colour in a little while. All the other plants have survived the summer and are also doing very well. The two small white camellia plants along the wall have not stopped flowering since they were planted! The star of the little bushes is a plant provided by Mrs Maria Duma (which she refers to as Vasylyko), which has grown so rapidly it can’t carry its own weight (some branches have split), and produces a fragrance that is very pleasant (better than many of the perfumes in shops!). When next attending the place, go have a whiff … you will be pleasantly impressed.
It should be noted that for a couple of months a pumpkin vine (an old Ukrainian favourite) started to grow rapidly and was taking over the area. However, there were no pumpkins to be seen, so recently the vine has gone (rumour has it Cinderella borrowed it … more on its use later in the next Issue…).

So we now have a little garden area thanks largely to Taras Malenewych and Maria Duma. It would be good to make sure it continues developing. We should give it a name – looking for suggestions …

**PS.** There are a number of people from our community and parish whose health has given way to the point that they are limited in what they can do, and where they can go. Some are even in Aged Care Homes and even hospitals. Everyone is encouraged to visit and contact them to say hello and cheer them up a little so that they know that they are not forgotten …

As already mentioned, Taras Malenewych is in the Wallsend Aged Care Facility. It would be good if friends could visit or send at least a card.

*If you know of other, then please let Fr Paul know.*
OTHER NEWS

The Hall

From February 20th News (Photo right) most are aware of the changes made to the hall kitchen area. Currently in process is the re-arrangement of the curtains on the big front entrance doors of the Hall. As you can see in the photo (Feb 20th news) the curtain rises to the two top window panes that are above the doors themselves. These curtains get in the way of on opening the big doors (future plans) making it necessary to fumble with the curtains to get them out of the way. The plan is to have the curtains cover only the doors glass area only. Also the front entrance area is to be left free of any furniture. (Items in the photo have now been relocated).

On the right hand side of the photo you will see a bench-type table. This bench type table is there to be used as a self-serving coffee/tea and cake area. It has already been used in this way with great success because there is more space and it is more convenient to both the users and the people in the kitchen. Other all around improvements are ongoing. We welcome other people to come and ‘lend a hand’.

When was the last time can you remember the front doors fully open. With the new blinds here are a few photos for you interest. The last photo shows the original curtains replaced with Holland blinds that cover only the glass area of the doors. Notice that the two clear windows above the door now let in more natural light and does not affect our privacy in the hall. This new change even looks neater and better.
Monthly Dinner at Diggers Mayfield Sunday 3rd March

This social day out was well attended and everyone enjoyed wishing happy birthday to Irene Sawka with traditional cake (little) and candles (even though it was one week early.)

This event was found out by accident as none of women give away their birthday dates. Must be a women thing. Oh! The men were there too - as usual we are in the background, but there (always).

DATES TO REMEMBER: EASTER and other

Please be aware that because the Ukrainian celebration of Easter is based on the old traditional Julian calendar, this year Easter will be celebrated 5 weeks later, with

- **28 April 2013** (Ukr) Palm Sunday, the week before Easter, known as *Verbna Nedilya*,
- **3 May** Good Friday

- **4 May Saturday** - in late afternoon an Easter service is held which concludes with the traditional Blessing of the Easter Basket of foods. Traditionally these foods are first eaten on Easter Sunday morning (but some start earlier).

- **5 May** Easter Sunday - Full Easter Service

  - **12 May** In the Ukrainian cultural-religious tradition the first Sunday after Easter is the continuation of the Easter festivities, known as *Pomynan'na Nedilya* (Commemorative Sunday). This year it is 12 May.

This is an occasion intended to commemorate-celebrate the lives of all those family members who are no longer with us. It is not a mournful service, but the celebration of lives lived, and for that purpose parish communities here in Australia usually organise and share a communal meal (in the Church Hall), the centrepiece of which is the blessed ceremonial-bread, the *paska*.
It is on this week-end that families usually request the local parish priest visit the gravesites (and accompany him) of their deceased family members to offer payers for the souls of their departed family members. Although these visits start at this time they can be organised with the priest for a mutually convenient time during the following couple of weeks. This is a wonderful tradition of not forgetting our family and relatives.

[This is a good opportunity to continue with a local tradition of having a communal meal in the Hall after the Service. This year, there is a complication, because it coincides with Mothers Day, which is a most popular event in the broader community. Perhaps we could (and should) have the Communal meal in the Hall the following week? ...]

2. Other notable dates:

20-21 May (Monday-Tuesday)  The second Shevchenko days of commemoration. Although Shevchenko passed away on 10 March 1861 in St. Petersburg it was only in May of that year that his mortal remains were brought to his homeland for burial on a mound high, overlooking the Dnipro River according to his expressed testamentary wishes. These days are widely commemorated in Ukraine.

It should be borne in mind that 2014 is the Bicentenary of Shevchenko's Year of birth. The Parish-community is undertaking preparations to mark that bicentennial in an appropriate manner. All ideas and any assistance are warmly welcomed.

There are additional people on this E Mail list as they have expressed their wish to be kept in the loop about the various activities within our community. If you have events of interest that relate to the parish and community you are welcome to send the information to the sender of this e-mail, and it will be considered.

Should you wish not to be on the distribution list, please reply to the E Mail of the sender, and your address will be taken off the list.

Thanking you all.