

Association of Ukrainians in South Australia Inc. Українська Громада Південної Австралії

64-66 Orsmond Street, Hindmarsh SA 5007 PO Box 342, Welland SA 5007 Editorial Email: frank@frankfursenko.com

AUSA Newsletter PART 1: January to June 2022

The first half of 2022 was a very difficult time for Ukrainian communities throughout the world due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine that started on 24 February 2022 after a long build-up of Russian forces on the borders of Ukraine. This brutal and unjustified invasion impacted severely on all aspects of social, educational, and cultural life of the Ukrainian community in South Australia. This newsletter chronicles the main AUSA, or AUSA-supported community events and it includes many fundraising events that were organised by external groups and supported by AUSA. It does not include many other events that were organised by other Ukrainian organisations and parishes for their members. Significant events, campaigns and correspondence that is relevant to the invasion of Ukraine and its impact on our community has been included along with AUSA's response.

AUSA Management Committee (2021-2023)

The Association of Ukrainians in South Australia (AUSA) is managed by a management committee that consists of 15 committee members (shown below) and a part-time Function Centre Manager. The first AUSA committee was formed in Adelaide on 15 May 1949 and AUSA became an incorporated association in September 1956.



Frank Fursenko President



Bohdan Wojewidka Vice-President



Michael Popowicz Acting Treasurer



Yuriy Onyskiv Secretary



Maria Dnistrjanski Social Services



Mark Antushka Governance



Zanick Boleckyj Kozak Bar



Oxana Sarapuu Bar Manager



Bohdan Lesiw Cultural Liaison



Michelle Gorgula Cultural Liaison



Ihor Kushnir Cultural Liaison



Adrian Myroniuk Scouting Liaison



Ivan Przybylo Property



Andrew Sakson Property



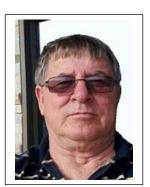
Michael Oszczypok Property



Valentine Shimaniuk Function Centre Manager

AUSA Internal Audit Committee

The internal audit committee consisting of a chairman, deputy chairperson and three members (including one reserve member). The AUSA Internal Audit Committee oversees AUSA's governance and financial management.



Roman Kupeckyj Internal Audit Chairperson



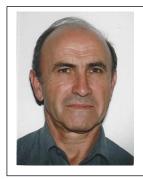
John Dnistriansky Internal Audit Deputy Chairperson



Jurek Dnistrjanski Internal Audit

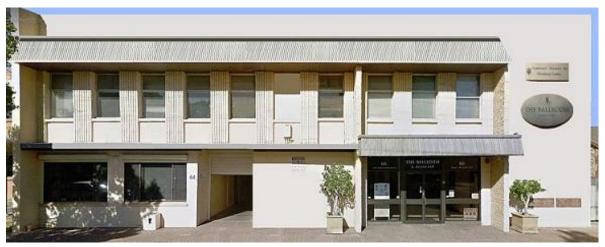


Eugene Melnitchouk Internal Audit



Druggo Sakson Internal Audit

Ukrainian Community Centre - Hindmarsh

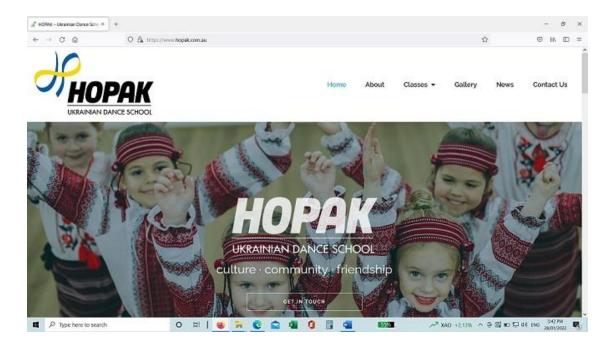


AUSA is fortunate that it has a large community centre at 64-66 Orsmond Street, Hindmarsh (pictured above), with a large hall and clubroom, good-sized meeting rooms and classrooms and other spaces. This provides considerable flexibility when organising community events. It proved to be a crucial factor in complying with government mandated COVID restrictions, and it also provided the infrastructure to support the sudden influx of displaced Ukrainians into South Australia.

Illustrated Summary of Community Events in Jan-Jun 2022

HUDS Website – January 2022

The year 2022 began with the launch of a fantastic website for Hopak Ukrainian Dance School (HUDS) at www.hopak.com.au



The website developers are pictured below, from left-to-right: Bernadette Belej, Magnus Steel and Nataliya Smoliy.



<u>Ukrainian Seniors' Club celebrates Australia Day - 26th January 2022</u>

The Ukrainian Senior Citizens Club of South Australia «Український Клуб Старших Громадян Південної Австралії » resumed their weekly club meetings in mid-January. On Wednesday 26 January they celebrated Australia Day in conjunction with the Ukrainian Social Services (USS) team.



AUSA thanks Eugenia Stanko (President), Genia Zacharko (Vice-President), Evhen Diakiw (Treasurer) and other members of the committee; the USS staff and volunteers (Maria Dnistrjanski, Maria Tkachuk, Halyna Grechaniuk, Luba Mysholivska, Svitlana Bakyrey and many others) for the time and effort they put into ensuring that our senior citizens enjoy an active and interesting club environment every Wednesday morning despite the threatening international situation.

Australia Day - STARplex - 26th January 2022

Volya Ukrainian Cossack Dancers were invited to perform at an Australia Day event organised by the Telegu Association of South Australia on Wednesday 26 January.



The Ukrainian community and its performing groups generally take a very active part in Australia Day celebrations. In 2022 this was not possible due to community concerns about the spread of omicron.

Covid and Community events – January 2022

The rapid spread of omicron in December-January caused the cancellation or postponement of several major community events.

- The Ukrainian Community (Language) School's New Year's Eve Party in the Kozak Bar on 31 December 2021 was cancelled.
- The 2022 Malanka scheduled for 15 January was cancelled. Tickets for the Malanka were selling very well more than 200 were sold. In addition, there would have been many dancers, musicians, technicians, and bar staff but the Covid-Safe rules in force in January restricted us to 80 people in the main hall. Despite other options the decision to cancel was made because our duty of care to our members was paramount.
- Hopak was scheduled to perform at 4 different events in January but did not take part in any of these events due to concerns about the rapid spread of omicron.



'Pray for Ukraine' - 30th January 2022

Throughout 2021, the world witnessed a sustained build-up of Russian forces on the borders of Ukraine, and it received a lot of international attention. The threat of invasion was ever-present and caused considerable anxiety in Ukraine and in the Ukrainian diaspora throughout the world. In Adelaide, Rev. Fr. Evgen Kvasniuk organised a 'Pray for Ukraine' service in the Ukrainian Autocephalic

Orthodox Church, 420 Torrens Road, Kilkenny, on Sunday 30 January to rally the community in the face of a very threatening situation in Ukraine.



Rallying the Community & Lobbying Australian Political Leaders – 2021 to 2022

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) «Союз Українських Організацій Австралії (CYOA)» co-chaired by Stefan Romaniw, were very active in Australia bringing to the attention of the media and Australian MPs the dangerous situation that was developing in Ukraine with the massive build-up of Russian forces on the borders of Ukraine.

Stefan is pictured below on Sky news (on the left) and with Frank Fursenko (on the right):





AFUO issued many "Calls to Action" to state associations asking them to:

- keep their members informed of the situation
- use social media to voice their concerns using slogans, flyers, flash-mobs, etc
- organise petitions
- lobby our federal and state politicians, and urge them to declare their support for Ukraine
- use their contacts in press, radio, and TV media to promote support for Ukraine



AFUO worked very closely with the Ukrainian World Council (UWC), Ukrainian NGO's and the Ukrainian government in a major global campaign to rally support for Ukraine.



In Australia, AFUO, AUSA and other state associations wrote to, phoned or visited Federal Ministers, Shadow Ministers, Senators, and MPs in the latter part of 2021 and early part of 2022 urging them to declare their support for Ukraine and assist Ukraine diplomatically, militarily, and financially.

Statement by Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne

Australia is very concerned by Russia's military build-up on Ukraine's border. In a call with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba today, I reaffirmed Australia's steadfast support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Australia supports our close partners, including the United States, EU and NATO, in deterring Russia from escalating tensions.

Australia and Ukraine are marking 30 years of diplomatic relations this month. Our ties are underpinned by strong people-to-people links and cooperation in pursuit of justice for MH17 victims and their families. AUUA

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australian Embassy, Ukraine Australian Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg and Mission to the EU and NATO









Our efforts eventually paid off. On 19 January 2022, AFUO received a statement - shown below - from Marise Payne MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs clearly indicating that the Australian government had declared its strong support for Ukraine and offered to assist Ukraine in countering Russian cyber warfare.

The Australian (Liberal-National) government took a very strong stand in support of Ukraine and assisted Ukraine diplomatically, militarily, and financially. After the federal elections in May, the newly elected Labor government continued the strong support for Ukraine.

'Stand with Ukraine' – January to February 2022

The mood of the weekly meetings of the Ukrainian Senior Citizens Club of South Australia in January and February was dominated by the build-up of Russian forces on the borders of Ukraine and the threat of war. The theme of the meeting was "Stand with Ukraine" as shown on the poster.





Start of School Year - Hindmarsh - 18th February 2022

The school year (Term 1) started with a special service in the main hall, conducted jointly by three of our parish priests; Rev Frs. Taras Gorpynyak, Evgen Kvasniuk and Zenon Racki. In 2022, the principal of the school is Iryna Kvasniuk, and the deputy principal is Christina Suban.





The Hopak Ukrainian Dance School (HUDS) also started their dance classes on 18 February 2020. In the photograph below, Bohdan Lesiw (Artistic Director of Hopak) and Iryna Kvasniuk (Principal of the language school) are introducing some of the schoolteachers, and dance instructors to the students.



Hopak UDS Instructors and Assistant Instructors:

- Under-5 group; Instructors: Anya Domaretski & Taisa Kushnir.
- Under-10 group; Instructors: Melanie Hada, j Sasha Selivanova, Bohdan Lesiw.
- Under-12 group; Instructors: Adriana Myroniuk, Madeleine Sarapuu.
- Under-15 group; Instructors: Xeniya Krytska, Alex Sukacz, Madeleine Sarapuu.
- Seniors; Instructors: Janet Kushnir, Melanie Hadaj, Bohdan Lesiw.



AUSA is pleased to see so many young instructors in their teens and early 20s becoming involved as assistant instructors. This is a huge positive for the future of the community's cultural life. The number of students is growing as a result of new arrivals from Ukraine.

The artistic director of Hopak UDS is Bohdan Lesiw; the secretary is Bernadette Belej, and the treasurer is Danny Kowaliw.





Pictured above: Ukrainian Community (Language) School teachers and teaching assistants. Standing, from left-to-right: Rev. Fr. Evgen Kvasniuk, Rostislav Becker, Ievgenia Selivanova, Iryna Kvasniuk (Principal), Christina Suban (Deputy Principal), Iryna Sadler, Iryna Milochis, Roman Domaretski. Seated, from left-to-right: Nadia Milochis, Daniela Nykytiuk and Marta Lavryshyn.

Kozak Bar Clubroom Re-opens - 18th February 2022

The Friday Nights at the Kozak Bar re-started after a long summer break. Despite the ongoing concerns about the spread of Covid-19, a good crowd turned up to celebrate the re-opening of the Kozak Bar, to enjoy a drink and traditional Ukrainian food prepared by our chef, Nataliya.



Michael Popowicz, who has been the manager of the Kozak Bar for many years, has decided that it is time for a younger person to take over. AUSA is very pleased that Oxana Sarapuu – pictured below, on the left - has agreed to take on the role of manager, and that Zanick Boleckyj will be assuming a major role in the running of the Kozak Bar. AUSA thanks Michael – pictured below with his wife Olgafor his huge contribution towards the success of the bar as a popular venue for our community and the wider mainstream community. He has put in an enormous effort over 8 years to achieve this.



AFUO Announces Day of National Rallies - 20th February 2022

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) proposed and coordinated an Australiawide set of rallies to protest the sustained build-up of Russian forces on the borders of Ukraine and the very real threat of invasion.



'Stand With Ukraine' Rally - Parliament House - 20th February 2022

AUSA responded to the Australia-wide call from the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) and organised a very well attended 'Stand with Ukraine' rally on Sunday 20 February 2022 at 2:00 pm on the steps of Parliament House, North Terrace.





In Adelaide about 200 people turned up - many in Ukrainian embroidered shirts or skirts.











The speakers at the rally were Hon. Peter Malinauskas, Leader of the Opposition; Senator Don Farrell, Shadow Special Minister of State, Shadow Minister for Sport and Tourism, Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader of the Opposition; Mr. Norman Schuler, President of the Jewish Council for South Australia; and Mr. David Pointon, a local businessman who spends a lot of time in Kyiv.



Standing in solidarity with Adelaide's Ukrainian community today - with the next Premier of South Australia Peter Malinauskas











Our rally received TV coverage from Channels SEVEN, NINE and TEN and it was reported in the Advertiser on Monday 21 February on page 2 – shown below.



The street rally in Melbourne was addressed by Hon. Bill Shorten, former Leader of the Opposition (Labor) and Hon. Guy Matthews, Leader of the Opposition in Victoria (Liberal). The rally in Sydney (photo below, on the right) was held in the Catholic Church in Lidcombe and was attended by the Minister for Immigration, Alex Hawke. Both received good TV coverage.



Russia invades Ukraine - Thursday 24th February 2022

A day that Ukrainians throughout the world thought would never come, arrived. Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, and a new generation of Ukrainians were called on to defend our beloved Ukraine.



'Pray for Ukraine' Service - St. Andrew's - 24th February 2022

Members of the Ukrainian and Belorussian communities responded to a call from Rev. Fr. Evgen Kvasniuk to attend another 'Pray for Ukraine' church service in response to breaking news that the Russian army had launched an invasion of Ukraine earlier that day. The service was held at St. Andrews parish church on Torrens Road, Kilkenny on Thursday 24 February at 8:00 pm.









The Vice-President, Bohdan Wojewidka and the President, Frank Fursenko were interviewed by Channel 9 TV News reporter after the service, and it was broadcast on the Late Nine News. See below.





Crisis Meeting with PM and Premier - Lot 14 - 25th February 2022

A meeting organised by Hon Jing Lee MLC with Senator Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, to discuss the developing crisis in Ukraine and its likely impact on the Ukrainian community in South Australia was held on Friday 25 February at 11:15 am in the McEwan Building (Lot 14) on North

Terrace. The Prime Minister and the Premier also attended and took an active part in all discussions focussing on Australian (humanitarian and military) support for Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees. Representatives of many Ukrainian organisations attended.







'Vigil for Ukraine' - 25th February 2022

In reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, AUSA held an impromptu 'Vigil for Ukraine' gathering in the Ukrainian Community Centre on Friday 25 February at 6:00 pm to rally the community and to appeal for donations for the massive humanitarian crisis developing in Ukraine. Several MPs attended - Hon Joe Szakacs MP, Member for Cheltenham, and Hon Stephen Wade MLC, Minister for Health. The Media (TV channels 7, 9 and 10 and the Advertiser newspaper) gave good coverage to this event.







Prominent Adelaide Landmarks in Blue-Yellow – 25th February 2022

Shown below in the top row, the South Australian Parliament House and the Torrens Footbridge and, in the bottom row, Government House and the Adelaide Town Hall, lit up in Ukrainian national colours as a mark of solidarity with Ukraine.



The Leader of the Opposition (at that time), Peter Malinauskas wrote to the Premier, Steven Marshall, requesting that prominent Adelaide buildings be lit up in blue and yellow. AUSA thanks Peter Malinauskas and Steven Marshall and others who were instrumental in this highly symbolic display of support for Ukraine. See letter below:

Peter Malinauskas

SA Labor Leader



Hon Steven Marshall MP Premier of South Australia State Administration Centre 200 Victoria Square ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Premier

The decision by Russia to launch an invasion of Ukraine earlier today is an aggressive escalation to undermine democracy and amass power at all costs.

I know that all South Australians would join me in condemning Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to send in Russian military forces in what is a shameful act of aggression.

In a show of support, I believe it would be appropriate for the State Government to direct that all public buildings including the Parliament, Adelaide Oval, Riverbank Bridge, and other buildings are tonight lit in blue and yellow to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

This would be one small way we can show our support for the people of Ukraine.

Yours sincerely

Peter Malinauskas SA Labor Leader

29/2/2022

(08) 8237 9137 laborleader@parliament.sa.gov.au petermalinauskas.com.au

Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000 * 19 @ PMalinauskasMP





'March for Ukraine' - Hindmarsh Square to Elder Park - 27th February 2022

The Rally started at 3:30 pm on Sunday 27 February in Hindmarsh Square. Marko Kvasniuk was the MC and made the opening speech. Bohdan Wojewidka, Vice-President of AUSA, gave the keynote speech.







The square was awash with blue-yellow flags and many banners. About 2,000 people came to the rally including delegations from the Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Belarus, Croatian, Czech, Slovak, Vietnamese, and German communities. We received good media coverage on Channel 7, and some coverage on other TV stations, and in the Advertiser.









Pictured above are the guest speakers - Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia; Peter Malinauskas, Leader of the Opposition; Senator Simon Birmingham, Minister for Finance; Senator Penny Wong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Hon. Jing Lee, Minister Assisting the Premier also attended.

The rally proceeded along Rundle Mall to King William Street, past Parliament House and finished at Elder Park.



AUSA thanks Iryna Kvasniuk, Lawrence Ben, Michelle Gorgula, Marko Kvasniuk, Andrew Sakson and the Boujenko, Smoliy and Mostepan families for the time and effort they put into organising the rally.



Large rallies were held in Melbourne and Sydney on the same day. Huge rallies were also held in Canada, USA and Europe.

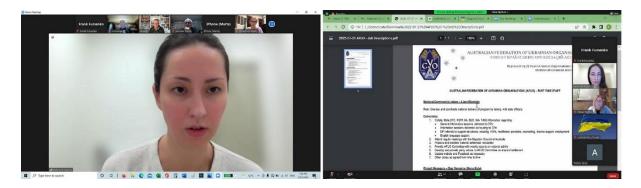
AFUO National Community Meetings – March to June 2022

Soon after the Russian invasion Kateryna Argyrou, co-chair of AFUO started a series of weekly national community Zoom meetings that dealt with the many issues created by the sudden influx of displaced Ukrainians into Australia. The meetings were a good forum for the dissemination of information concerning government directives, humanitarian visas, mainstream support services for refugees, accommodation issues, recognition of Ukrainian educational qualifications, and many other topics.

As well as being the co-chair of AFUO since 2019, Kateryna is also a Co-Founder and NSW Representative of the Australian-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce (AUCC).



Kateryna was born in Ukraine, spent her childhood in Canada, and moved to Australia 10 years ago. She graduated with honours from the George Washington University and the London School of Economics. She is an investment analyst at Maple-Brown Abbott (MBA), a leading Australian fund manager with over \$10bn in assets under management. Kateryna is responsible for the firm's Real Estate portfolio. Prior to MBA, Kateryna was the Head of Australian Real Estate equities research at Credit Suisse.



AUSA's Response to the Influx of Displaced Ukrainians

(1) Funds and Fundraising

Even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, AUSA was urging our community to donate funds for the developing humanitarian and refugee crisis to AFUO funds as described below:

- Initially AUSA directed all donations to Ukraine Crisis Appeal (UCA) administered by AFUO.
 UCA funds the humanitarian work done by Caritas Ukraine, is supported by Rotary, and it has tax deductible status.
- AFUO also administers the U-Help fund that provides non-lethal military aid (protective vests, medical supplies, first-aid kits, etc) to Ukraine's defenders.
- In addition, AFUO set up a national Re-Settlement fund that also has tax deductible status through Rotary.

In summary, there are 3 main AFUO funds – see posters below.



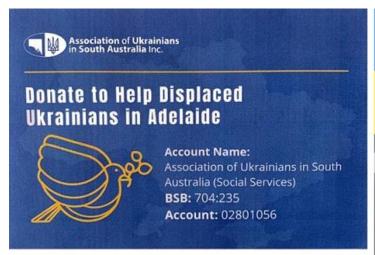
In her report to AFUO members dated 10 April 2022, Diahanna Senko presented the following facts about **Caritas Ukraine Emergency Humanitarian Aid.** Donations made to AFUO's Ukraine Crisis Appeal helped fund the following outcomes since the beginning of the war in Ukraine and as of April 4:

- More than 368,700 people received help from Caritas Ukraine;
- 900 1,400 people a day live in Caritas Ukraine shelters;
- More than 165,000 food and more than 75,003 hygiene kits have been issued;

- More than 17,830 received medicines from the Caritas network;
- More than 32,170 needy people received bed linen;
- Other assistance was provided to almost 80,000 people;
- More than 750 tons of humanitarian goods and more than 350 tons were sent to the places of active hostilities, more than 150 tons were sent to other humanitarian organizations;
- Bedding 34,460;
- Mental health support;
- Other support 77,546;
- With respect to medical supplies to Ukraine many items requested by Ukraine needed to be purchased and these were paid for by funds collected in the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. The fund also provided half the cost of the petrol required for shipping the pallets. Caritas Ukraine helps in the distribution of the medical supplies across Ukraine.

As the number of displaced Ukrainians arriving in Australia started to increase rapidly in mid-March AUSA set up a separate fund to support these people. Donations made through our highly acclaimed and very successful "Help Ukrainians Australia" website were also directed to this fund as did many donations made by individuals, businesses, and organisers of fundraising events.

www.helpukrainiansaustralia.com.au





This AUSA fund is used primarily to provide financial assistance to displaced Ukrainians in South Australia. A report on how this money has been used is being prepared and will distributed to members as soon as it has been audited.

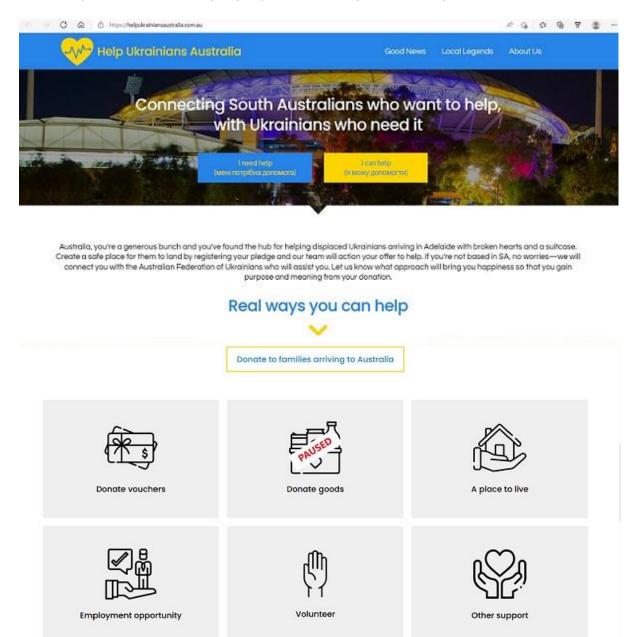
Please understand that it is a very time-consuming job because there are so many organisations, fundraising events, sponsors, donors (individual & organisational) and recipients involved. A full report including both an internal and external audit will be made available at the next BGM.

AUSA is very pleased to report that the Ukrainian community responded very quickly and very generously to our call for donations to the AFUO funds and to our AUSA fund. Many individuals and groups of individuals began to organise (or support) fundraising events that contributed a considerable amount of money into the above funds, or other funds such as UNHRC, Doctors without Borders, Red Cross, and Caritas.

Fundraising events that were organised or supported by AUSA or members of AUSA (and provided with information about their event) will be reported on in this newsletter, in chronological order.

(2) HUA (Help Ukrainians Australia) Website

One of the most significant achievements of our response to the influx of displaced Ukrainians was the development of an effective website that allowed AUSA's management committee, the informal committees and groups that assist displaced Ukrainians, and the "HUA Team" to coordinate our response. It created an easy-to-use platform for members of our community (and the wider Australian community) to assist the DPs. Equally important, it is very useful for displaced Ukrainians.



AUSA thanks and congratulates the development team (Natalia Smoliy, Magnus Steel, Bernadette Belej and Natalia Boujenko) that designed and created this extremely effective website:

www.helpukrainiansaustralia.com.au

The website is central (and indeed crucial) to AUSA's ability to effectively manage the influx of displaced Ukrainians into SA.

(3) Registration and Financial Support for Displaced Ukrainians

Nearly all displaced Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion arrive in Australia on 3-month '600 Tourist Visitor' visas. When they arrive in Australia, they are not eligible for any government benefit or support except in medical emergencies or cases of extreme hardship.

Displaced Ukrainians arriving in Adelaide are asked to present in person with relevant documentation and register with AUSA. Displaced Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion are then given \$300 per adult and \$100 per child from funds raised by AUSA through fundraising or donations.

To date - 30 June 2022 - AUSA has distributed approximately \$60,000 from its own funds to displaced Ukrainians who have arrived in South Australia.

Displaced Ukrainians on '600 Tourist Visitor' visas are urged to apply for 449 Humanitarian visas and (wherever necessary) helped to do so. AUSA thanks Valentine Shimaniuk and the "HUA team" (Bernadette Belej, Tania Jarema-Norton, Maryna Mostepan) for the excellent work they are doing with settlement services on behalf of AUSA.

(4) English-as-a-Second Language Classes for Displaced Ukrainians

The Ukrainian Community Centre is one of the few ethnic community centres that has dedicated classrooms with purpose-built furniture. These classrooms have been used since the 1960's to teach local children Ukrainian language, history, geography, religion, and culture. In 2021 considerable effort and money was spent to ensure our children had the best possible classroom environments.





When displaced Ukrainians fleeing the war in Ukraine began to arrive in South Australia, AUSA was able to immediately use these classrooms to teach ESL (English as a Second Language) to the newly arrived DPs – adults and children. ESL classes are held in the Ukrainian Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm and are well attended, mainly by adults.







The number of students grew quickly, and we set up additional classes in the clubroom. Initially there were several classes of school-aged children, but these were soon enrolled into Australian public schools. Some of the (younger) adults enrolled in TAFE English-language classes but many preferred to stay in our classes.



The ESL classes drew considerable attention from the mainstream media.



We were fortunate that we have many former teachers in our community that were able to take these day-time classes on a regular basis. AUSA thanks Iryna Kvasniuk, Marijka Myroniuk, Terry and Irene Healey, Diane Howarth, Alex Podoroshko, Mary and Lou Utry, and Iryna Sadler.

Displaced Ukrainians attending classes receive free lunch and afternoon tea on Tuesdays and Thursdays thanks to the generosity of the many individuals who registered to help through our HUA website www.helpukrainiansaustralia.com.au and community groups such as the Uniting Church and Baptist Church. This was coordinated voluntarily by Bernadette Belej.











AUSA thanks Valentina Waksiutenko, Helen Sobol, Sonia Rubacha, Janet Schemeczko, Irene Wasyliuk, Marijka Myroniuk, Roger Knight, John Morgan, Wendy Birch, Linda, Edith, and other volunteers who devoted their time and energy to provisioning or running the kitchen for the displaced Ukrainians who attend our English classes. AUSA also thanks the Bridgewater Uniting Church, Blackwood Uniting Church, all four Ukrainian churches (Catholic and Orthodox), Slavonic Baptist Church, Enjoy Bakery, and the many other organisations that have contributed to the provision of lunches for the students.

(5) 'Donations Store' for Displaced Ukrainians

With the arrival of displaced Ukrainians, AUSA made the decision to temporarily repurpose the "Sich Shed" on our Manton Street property as a 'Donations Store' of clothing, footwear, bed linen, household appliances and other items. A call was made via our "Help Ukrainians Australia" website to the community to donate good quality items for this store. Donations came in very quickly and initially, goods had to be placed on the floor as shelving was limited. In the following weeks AUSA volunteers were able to secure and install shelving thanks to Stanislav Sukhinin at very reasonable prices provided by local businesses. AUSA also thanks Ivan "John" Przybylo and the Sich team for their assistance.













The informal committee that was set up to manage this store was soon overwhelmed by the generosity of many people. Within a few weeks we ran out of storage space in the shed. We found another room at the back of the building to store donated goods but even this filled up quickly. Eventually we had to put the message out to the community that we cannot accept any more donations of goods. We thank Councillor Sarah McGrath and the City of Charles Sturt for promptly providing interim off-site warehouse storage.







This 'Donations Store' proved invaluable for nearly all displaced Ukrainians. Most arrived with very little money or possessions - in some cases only a backpack or small suitcase.

AUSA thanks Michelle Gorgula, Maryana Bakerey, Svitlana Bakerey, Belinda Raschella, Nina Sakson, Cathy Vreugdenburg, Steve and Rosie Misiajlo, Anna Szewczyk, Tania Andriets, Xeniya Krytska, Peter and Anne Gorgula, Andrew Sakson, Irene Wasyliuk, Val Waksiutenko, Lesia Semcesen, Mary Bojko, Vera Posniak, Stanislav Sukhinin, Andrij Goncharov, Volya dancers, and everyone else who assisted in the set-up, maintenance, running, procurement, or transport of the store.

(6) Information Sessions for Displaced Ukrainians

AUSA organised many information sessions (usually in the Ukrainian Community Centre in Hindmarsh) in conjunction with support services, migration agents or other experts. These sessions were invariably well attended and well received by displaced Ukrainians, supporting families and volunteers assisting the DPs. All AUSA information session held between March and June are reported on in this newsletter in chronological order - determined by the date on which they occurred.

(7) Employment of Community Support Workers – the "HUA Team"

On Monday 4 April, Bohdan Wojewidka and I attended a meeting with Hon. Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs – pictured on the right. We sought funding to enable us to employ several part-time Community Support workers to provide effective and sustainable assistance to displaced Ukrainians in South Australia and their supporting families.

Our representations were successful, and we were soon advised that a grant of \$175,000 will be provided by the State Government to enable us to employ 3 part-time workers until the end of the 2022-23 financial year.



The new AUSA employees - the "HUA Team" — are pictured below. From left-to-right, Maryna Mostepan, Bernadette Belej, and Tania Jarema-Norton. They are doing an excellent job in supporting displaced Ukrainians arriving in South Australia in all areas of settlement including accommodation, employment, education, health, referrals to external organisations and community connections. They work as a professional team, and the feedback we have received has been very positive.



In early March, well before AUSA secured our grant from the State Government, a group of volunteers organised an informal (but highly effective) committee to assist displaced Ukrainians who were beginning to arrive in South Australia. This committee included Natalia Boujenko, Iryna Kvasniuk, Michelle Gorgula, Tania Jarema-Norton, Bernadette Belej, Nataliya Smoliy, and Magnus Steel. They did excellent work in setting up a 'Donations Store', setting up ESL classes, seeking accommodation for the DPs, and establishing a process for dealing with all the associated government regulations.

Valentine Shimaniuk also played a pivotal role in establishing a registration system that allowed us to gather information (while maintaining strict confidentiality), manage our response, and respond to frequent requests for information from government departments, politicians and support service agencies. Valentine was offered (and accepted) a part-time position with the AMRC and continues to assist AUSA's support for displaced Ukrainians.

(8) AUSA and Medical Supplies for Ukraine

Bohdan Lesiw is AUSA's representative on the International Committee for Medical Aid to Ukraine formed by the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO). It comprises 12 members plus lots of helpers and is led by Dr Liz (Lesia) Paslawsky, who has won numerous awards for her international aid work. This committee has done some amazing work. They have sourced and

delivered over 200 pallets of medical supplies donated by Australian firms and hospitals to Ukraine. Bohdan played a key role in sourcing 70 defibrillators (desperately need in Ukraine) in South Australia. This achievement was given wide media coverage in South Australia.



(9) Fundraising using Donations from Community Members

AUSA was pleased to accept 96 six-packs of Clare Valley Shiraz 2018 donated by George Ochota (of Avenue Wines) on the understanding that all proceeds for the sale of this wine will go to **Ukraine Crisis Appeal or U-Help and to help displaced Ukrainians arriving in South Australia**. AUSA raised **\$8,640** from the sale of these six-packs. Subsequently George Ochota - pictured below - donated another 30 six-packs of 2019 Shiraz that we are selling, and it should realise at least another **\$4,000**.







Many other community members made very substantial donations of goods that AUSA was able to sell to raise funds. AUSA thanks Myra Tsiavlis for donating hundreds of sunglasses that were sold for a nominal amount to members or given free of charge to displaced Ukrainians. AUSA thanks Nicholas Nynycz, Michael and John Benyk who produced 30 T-shirts in blue with a yellow trident and donated them to AUSA. They were sold for \$35, and all proceeds were donated to the Ukrainian refugees.





(10) Positive Publicity for the Ukrainian Cause

AUSA thanks the journalists, reporters, photographers, and editorial staff (editor: Gemma Jones) of the Adelaide Advertiser newspaper for their excellent reporting on the war in Ukraine, on displaced Ukrainians (refugees) who have settled in South Australia, and the efforts of the entire SA community to support the displaced Ukrainians who have arrived in South Australia.

The Advertiser newspaper (Editor: Gemma Jones) and the associated Advertiser Foundation (CEO: Alexandra Dimos) have played a key role in promoting and assisting our community, the wider mainstream community and the displaced Ukrainians.



Champions - U/17 Indoor Soccer Team - 5th March 2022

Formed in 2019 as the Ukrainian Lions indoor soccer team, they started competing in the Adelaide in the second half of 2019. In 2022 they won the final game 5-0 to win the title of "Adelaide Premiers". The cup plate shown below reads "U/16-17 Junior Soccer Champions 2021-22". AUSA congratulates the players, their coach, supporting families, and their sponsors - Lakes Hotel.





Standing (left to right): Zac Storoszczuk, Anton Domaretski, Mathew Kushnir Seated (left to right): Harrison Hadaj, Allie Storoszcczuk, Alex Slobodian

<u>Information Session for Displaced Ukrainians – 7th March 2022</u>

On Monday 7 March at 6:30 PM AUSA hosted a 'Visa Information' talk given by Kostya Kuzmin, MARN 2117291, a registered migration agent in the Kozak Bar. Kostya kindly gave his time to cover the following topics on visas for Ukrainians:

- 1. Current visa options while the family is offshore
- 2. Future visa options when the family is here
- 3. Typical mistakes and misconceptions

AUSA thanks Kostya Kuzmin, Bernadette Belej, Pavlo Smoliy and Valentyn Shimaniuk for organising this session. Three factsheets on visas (in English, Ukrainian and Russian) from the Department of Home Affairs were distributed.





Visit of Bishop Mykola Bychok - Hindmarsh - 9th March 2022

On Wednesday 9 March, Bishop Mykola Bychok attended the Seniors Club meeting in the Ukrainian Community Centre in Hindmarsh to meet with members of the community. Mykola Bychok was consecrated on 7 June 2022 as bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne, and he is the Head of Ukrainian Catholics in Australia and New Zealand.





Pictured above, with Bishop Bychok, are the four Ukrainian parish priests (Catholic and Orthodox) in Adelaide — Rev. Frs. Zenon Racki, Taras Gorpynyak, Bishop Mykola Bychok, Evgen Kvasniuk and Michajlo Byk. Standing behind the priests are Maria Tkachuk, Maria Dnistrjanski, Halyna Grechaniuk (Ukrainian Social Services staff) and Luba Mysholivska who baked and decorated the special torte.





Womadelaide 2022 - Botanic Parkland - 11th to 14th March 2022

Womadelaide is one of the greatest four-day (Friday to Monday) open-air music festivals in the world. It is renowned for its diversity and vibrancy and attracts around 80,000 people, a third of them travelling to Adelaide from interstate and overseas.



AUSA was granted a stall free of charge by the Womadelaide management to sell artefacts and seek donations for Ukraine Crisis Appeal. A group calling itself the "Ukraine Crisis SA Fundraising team" managed a stall at Womadelaide and they raised \$52,595 over the four-day event. After expenses were paid out, over \$45,500 was transferred to Ukraine Crisis Appeal and U-Help.

AUSA was pleased to learn that Ukrainian school students designed stickers and had them produced. These stickers were really well designed, and sold for fundraising at Womadelaide and other events, and at the Ukrainian Community Centre. See photo above.

AUSA thanks the many people who helped to make this fundraising event such an outstanding success. In alphabetical order: Tetiana Andriets, Tanya Avramenko; Rostislav and Roma Becker; Bernadette Belej; Marina Braslawska; Frank and Ronnie Fursenko; Karen Hadaj; Michaela Hadaj; Oksana Kosak; Ihor and Janet Kushnir; Iryna Kvasniuk; Yuriy, Oksana, and Solomia Onyskiv; Sofiya Prokofyeva; Adam Rybovic; Lesia Semcesen; Pavlo, Natalia and Sofia Smoliy; Christina Suban; Daniel Wasyliuk, Anna Zaborovska; Volya Dancers: Anna, Madeleine, Marko, Michelle, Sasha, Marko and Xeniya; and others.

'Pray for Ukraine' Rally - Victoria Square - 13th March 2022

A public prayer for Ukraine was held in Victoria Square (Tarntanyangga) on Sunday 13 March at 3:00 pm. People from many nations- including Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Hungary and Croatia, together with representatives from many religious faiths, were united in 'Prayer for Ukraine'. AUSA President, Frank Fursenko gave the opening speech. The MC for the event was Christina Suban.





The Prayer Service was led by representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox and the Ukrainian Catholic churches - Reverend Fathers Evgen Kvasniuk; Rev. Fr. Taras Gorpynyak; Rev. Fr. Michajlo Byk. They were followed by representatives of many religious faiths - His Excellency Patrick O'Regan, Archbishop of Adelaide; Fr. Barnaba, Orthodox Church; Rev. Dr. Melinda Cousins, Director of Ministries, Baptist Churches SA; Rev. Anne Hewitt, Executive Director & General Secretary, Churches Together; Andrij Honcharov, Baptist Church; Rabbi Shoshana Kaminski, Beit Shalom Synagogue; and Nelu Creta, Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Rev. Anne Hewitt shared a letter that was sent to the Russian Patriarch from the World Council of Churches General Secretary, Rev Prof Dr Ioan Sauca asking the Russian Patriarch to intervene and mediate with authorities to stop the bloodshed and suffering.



We were pleased to note the large number of federal and state parliamentarians who attended this event. The Federal members were Senator the Hon David Fawcett, Minister for Finance and representing the Prime Minister; Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Shadow Special Minister of State, Shadow Minister for Sport and Tourism; Senator the Hon Marielle Smith; Senator the Hon Rex Patrick; Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Finance (late apology); Hon Steve Georganas MP, Federal Member for Adelaide; and Hon Mark Butler MP, Federal Member for Hindmarsh.



The State Members of Parliament who attended were Hon John Gardner MP, Minister for Education, representing the Premier; Hon. Jing Lee MLC, Minister Assisting the Premier; Hon. Peter Malinauskas, Leader of Opposition; Hon. Joe Szakacs MP, Member for Cheltenham; Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Member for Adelaide; and Hon Vicky Chapman MP, Member for Bragg. Cr. Mary Couros represented the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide.

Our sincere thanks to all who attended and to all members of federal and state parliament for their continued support. AUSA also thanks the photographer, Alvern Ariston and AJS Lighting Sound Events, Adelaide Backline & Production Hire who kindly donated by the Audio Equipment.



A collection was taken at the rally and \$1014.00 was raised and transferred to Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

'Celebration of Ukraine' - Adelaide Festival Centre - 19th March 2022

The management of the Adelaide Festival Centre generously provided a magnificent venue - the Festival Centre Plaza - to showcase some of the excellent performing groups we have in our community - Yellow-Blue Bus, Volya Ukrainian Cossack Dancers, Hopak Ukrainian Dance School, and Vodohray Bandura Ensemble. The celebration on Sunday 19 March attracted several hundred people.

Donations to the sum of \$1556.25 were collected and given to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal.





CELEBRATION of UKRAINE Saturday 19th March, 5-8pm Festival Centre Plaza Ciobal Fasion music by Yellow Blue Bus

Special guests:
Volya Ukrainian Cossack Dancers
Hopak Ukrainian Dance School
Vodohray Bandura Ensemble

All proceeds to be donated to the Humanitarian Ald Fundraiser: THE UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL www.ukrainecrisisappeaLorg













AUSA thanks the management (and especially Suzanne Sweeney) of the Festival Centre for providing the venue free of charge, Yellow-Blue Bus for coordinating the celebration, and Natalia Boujenko for the photographs.

Fundraising - Tonsley Inovation Centre - 20th March 2022

The organisers of the Tonsley Science Fair (sponsored by the SA Government, RenewalSA, Kesab and Flinders University) invited AUSA to set up a stall to raise money for the Ukrainian cause. Yurij Onyskiv assisted by Valentine Shimaniuk organised a stall selling Ukrainian artefacts and soliciting donations. They raised \$1,098 and this was donated to Ukraine Crisis Appeal.



Pictured above at the Ukrainian stand in the Tonsley Innovation Centre are Marina Braslavskiy, Svitlana Mazuruk and Yuriy Onyskiv.

Radio Interviews - January to June 2022

In the period from January to April, AUSA's President, Frank Fursenko gave radio interviews on ABC ADEL, Australian Radio Network, 88.7 Coast FM radio, Triple M, and ABC radio on the current situation in Ukraine. He also assisted journalists working for The Australian and The Advertiser to gather material on the impact of the war on Ukrainians in Australia and arranged interviews with Displaced Ukrainians in South Australia.





Several other members of AUSA's Management Committee and members of affiliated associations Valentine Shimaniuk, Natalia Boujenko, Damian Popowycz, Iryna Kvasniuk, Marko Kvasniuk, and Bohdan Lesiw also gave interviews on radio or television or to the press. In general, we are very pleased with the access we have received from all branches of the media in SA.

<u>Lithuanian Restoration of Independence Day – St. Peter's - 20th March 2022</u>

The President of the Lithuanian Community of South Australia, Aleksas Talanskas invited the President of AUSA and his wife to attend the anniversary celebration of the Restoration of Independence of Lithuania. The secondary theme for the event was a show of support for Ukraine from the Lithuanian community. The celebration was held on Sunday 20 March 2022 at 1:00 PM in the Lithuanian Catholic Centre, 6 Third Avenue, St Peters. The commemoration was also attended by Christine Jankus, Honorary Consul for Lithuania; Dr. Valdis Tomanis, Honorary Consul for Latvia; Ilze Radzins, President of the Latvian Association of South Australia; and the heads of many Lithuanian community groups and associations.





After the commemoration service, the President of AUSA was invited to give - to a very receptive and supportive audience - an overview of the situation of Ukraine. He was then presented with a T-shirt featuring the Lithuanian and Ukrainian flags and text reading "We Stand with Ukraine", and a donation of \$500 to Ukraine Crisis Appeal.





Naval Military College - Hutt Street - 22nd March 2022

The President of AUSA, Frank Fursenko was invited to a workshop at the Naval Military and Air Force Club of SA on Hutt Street on Tuesday 22 March. The topic at the workshop was the situation in Ukraine. He took the opportunity to give a brief presentation of the Ukrainian perspective and to seek donations to Ukraine Crisis Appeal.





Krispy Kreme Fundraiser – West Croydon - 23rd March 2022

Krispy Kreme SA sold a 'Peace in Ukraine' blue and yellow doughnut during the last week of March in all 8 Krispy Kreme South Australian stores. They donated 100% of the proceeds of these doughnut to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal and used their social media channels to raise awareness and encourage their consumers to make extra donations to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal.



A flash mob of Ukrainian dancers, dressed in Ukrainian 'vyshyvanka' (embroidered blouses and shirts) appeared at the store in West Croydon at 6 pm, to taste the 'Peace in Ukraine' donuts.





The arrangement with Krispy Kreme was negotiated by Diahanna Senko, Director of Humanitarian Aid Initiatives and Chair of Ukraine Crisis Appeal & U-Help on behalf of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisation (AFUO). **This arrangement raised \$4,000 for Ukraine Crisis Appeal**.

Shevchenko Commemoration - UCC Clubroom - 25th March 2022

The annual Shevchenko concert (normally one of the most significant cultural events in the community's calendar) was cancelled due to community concerns with the spread of omicron. In place of a concert, AUSA organised a smaller commemoration in conjunction with the Ukrainian Community (Language) school on Friday 25 March in the Kozak Bar.

The commemoration featured readings of Taras Shevchenko's poetry by students and teachers from the school under the direction of Iryna Kvasniuk, and an exhibition of Shevchenko's life and work drawn by the students.







'Puck Futin' - Beer for Charity - Barossa Valley Brewery - 30th March 2022

The concept for this beer was initiated by Robert Watt - Taras and Olga Mular's son-in-law). He found the link to the Pravda Beer brewery in Lviv, who said they are no longer able to brew their beer due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Pravda Beer provided their recipes for their beers free to anyone provided some of the proceeds were donated to help Ukraine.

Robert Watt from Route 9 Distillery took up this challenge and contacted Frank and Corinna Steeb from Prancing Pony and Denham D'Silva from Barossa Valley Brewing. Together they produced a red ale and named it 'Puck Futin' Beer to attract attention to this initiative and to maximise fund raising efforts. Robert Watt also produced a range of 'Puck Futin' T Shirts which were also sold and raised money.

Following the initial announcement in March, 10,000 litres of the beer were pre-sold within 36 hours.



Brewing began on Wednesday the 30th of March. The marketing for this beer was done by Black Squid and the labels by CCL Labels, who together have provided over \$250,000 of free labelling worldwide for the Ukrainian cause!

Profits in the order of \$30,000 were expected from the Puck Futin beer and would be directed to Doctors without Borders (Ukraine), the AUSA fund to help displaced Ukrainians coming into South Australia and other funds.

Photo taken at Barossa Valley Brewery on Wednesday 30th March 2022 shows Robert Watt, Denham D'Silva and Frank Steeb in the front row (from left to right).



Standing above the brewers are, from left-to-right, Olga Mular, Christina Jarowyj, Bohdan Lesiw, Rosie Misiajlo, Natalie Watt, Stefan Misiajlo and Taras Mular. Reproduced below: Advertiser article, page 3 on 1 April 2022.



Australia Day Council Awards - Government House - 30th March 2022

Volya Ukrainian Cossack Dancers were invited to perform at the 2022 Australia Day Council Awards ceremony at the Government house on Wednesday 30 March by the Australia Day Council in South Australia.

Volya performed several dancers and Michelle sang a popular Ukrainian song «вітер потужний» "Buyniy" (Strong Winds). It was a moving performance for Volya as the war in Ukraine was in its 4th week. They thank the audience for their very warm welcome and empathy.





