

August 28, 2011

Western Australia celebrates the 20th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence!



The Ukrainian Community of WA celebrated the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence with a concert and lunch at the Inglewood United (Kyiv) Soccer Club on Sunday, August 28th. Approximately 200 people attended many wearing vyshyvani sorochky (embroidered blouses).

The concert was opened by the President of the Association Mr Mykola Mowczan who briefly spoke about the history leading up to the declaration of independence and the current instability with difficult economic and social situations. However he was optimistic that Ukraine faces a bright future as it continues down the road to prosperity through reform. He said, "I have no doubts about Ukraine's impressive potential. It remains a success



story waiting to happen. Economic and other challenges have little to do with the choice of independence; instead, they are consequences of the improper use of Ukraine's potential and of the skewed priorities that have been chosen within the framework of transition to a democratic market economy. Independence is a mandatory and key condition of successful, effective development. It is our right to be free and to make our own decisions. Ukrainians have freedom of choice, and that includes so much: the right to vote for the Parliament and the President, the right to protect our culture, the chance to build an effective and vibrant economy, the opportunity to develop democratically and more. If something goes wrong, that is the result of bad choices, but having an opportunity to make a choice in the first place is already a great advantage."

He spoke about next year's Euro 2012 football competition and apart from the logistics involved with infrastructure and logistics he stated that it was important for the world to see Ukrainians who truly love their country, believe in it and are proud of it. In conclusion he stated, "It continues to be a great honour for me to have an opportunity to work for our Ukrainian Community in WA and for Ukraine and to do what we can to contribute to the development of this amazing nation."





The following concert included students from the Ukrainian Ethnic School of Taras Shevchenko reciting poetry; Rozhtiazhka Dancing Group performing two dances, Pryvit and Hopak; the W.A. Women's Choir Vesna (choirmaster Mrs Suzanna Prushynsky) singing a selection of Ukrainian songs and CYM and Roztiashka led by Bohdan Mykytiuk invited everyone to join in the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" and a snippet of "O, Ukrayino! O lyuba nenko."

Rev. Fr. Wally Kalinecki said the Lord's Prayer and a prayer to the Ukrainian nation and then everyone enjoyed a sumptuous buffet luncheon. Following the meal the 20th Anniversary cake was cut by the President Mykola Mowcan and Vice President Danylo Rosovsky.



The day drew to a warm and amicable close with guests enjoying coffee and cake.

The committee of the UAWA would like to thank our community for supporting the 20th Anniversary Concert and Lunch. It is a delight to see so many new people attending. We are truly building a new, vibrant and supportive community. We believe it will continue to grow and as such be an example in the future development of our Ukrainian nation.

Happy 20th Anniversary Ukraine!



Slava Ukrayini !