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MEDIA RELEASE

SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL IN AUSTRALIA HELD TO MARK 65 YEARS OF UKRAINIAN SETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

An extremely successful and enjoyable XIV National Festival of Ukrainians in Australia has come to a close.

The Festival held in Sydney on June 7-9, 2013 marked the 65th Anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Australia.

A full and exciting 3-day program drew participants from Western Australia Victoria, NSW, ACT, Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia.

Among international guests were Mychaylo Vysyhyvaniuk, Head of the Government Administration in Ivanu Frankivsk and singing entourage *Hutsulochky Karpat*, Kyiv film producer Oles Yanchuk, Orysia Tracz and Band *Tyt i Tam* from Canada and Oksana Wasylyk.

Over 30 members of the Federal and State Government and Opposition, Local Government and many ethnic leaders attended the Gala Concert at the Sydney Town Hall.

A cushion and traditional Ukrainian decorative box presented to the then Minister for Immigration Arthur Calwell by Ukrainians in Bathurst in 1948 was also on display thanks to the Australian Museum for Democracy.

Greetings were received from the Prime Minister of Australia Leader of the Federal Opposition, NSW Premier, Ukrainian World Congress and Ukrainians in Luhansk.

Packed houses participated in activities that filled the three day program including; exhibitions, children's programs, a film festival, demonstrations, workshops, discussions, Saturday evening's dance and a gala concert. Liturgies of thanks were also served in all churches.

The motto for this festival, "Past, Present Future - Yesterday Today Tomorrow," which stimulated participants to reflect on the efforts of the past, evaluate our current standing and to take responsibility for the future.

Whilst there is a new environment, which is a little different than 65 years ago, our motto aspires to the same values - Faith in God, love and commitment to their family, Australia and things Australia and ready to unite to build and stand up to any challenge. It also shows commitment to Ukraine," Mr Stefan Romaniw OAM Chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainians said at the opening of the Gala Concert, with over 1000 participants at the Sydney Town Hall.

The AFUO extends its thanks to the Chair and members of the organising committee, exhibitors, presenters, performers and sponsors.

"The Festival was a great success in not only strengthening the community but showing its diversity and strength to the broader Australian community," Mr Romaniw said.

A full write-up of the Festival will be sent over coming days.

Photos of the events may be viewed on the following sites ; <http://zdvyh2013.shutterfly.com/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/moravski/sets/72157634053852860/>