

CYM Melbourne Karpaty Rebuild BENEFIT CONCERT

The Clocktower Centre in Moonee Ponds hosted CYM's Benefit Concert to help raise money for the rebuild of our oselya.

At 1pm on Sunday, 3rd May 2009, a photo exhibition in the foyer of the venue brought back a flood of memories of the good times had at the oselya over the last 45 years. The photos of the burnt buildings and scorched grounds were a shocking reality of all that has been lost.



While the audience were being seated, heart wrenching video footage of the oselya, a week after the firestorm, was being played. Although there have been many images circulated of the devastation to buildings and the landscape, the video captured the scene of what it was like to be walking around the oselya after it had been razed. Through the lens of the video camera, it felt as if you were the one taking that walk.....and at the end of the visual presentation, out of the darkness, a voice spoke, "From these ashes, a new dawn begins. Help us rebuild."

The audience was treated to a very moving, entertaining, and highly enjoyable variety show which included excellent performances from Verchovyna and Cheremosh, camp fire songs from our CYM youth, a theatrical piece showcasing various generations sharing their memories of camps and visits to our oselya,



duets and solos which included the singing talents of Pav Chudiak and Taras Selemba, and jazz versions of Ukrainian songs performed by Lucy Jurkiw with musical



accompaniment by Yarra Wasenko. The audience was also treated to a performance of Greek dancing by the Pallaconian Brotherhood Dance Group.



There were a number of MCs who shared certain memories about their time at oselya, be it at past tabory, or working bees for the construction of the earlier buildings (Stefan Ryszczak, Pavlo Senjov); a casual meeting of friends sharing old but good times (Michael Moravski & Michael Chudiak); and where we go from here (Peter Duma – Holova & Andrew Lech – Rebuild Project Manager).

Images of fond times were projected onto the stage wall for all to see. The final images showed the cutting up of fallen, fire-stricken trees. **Work in preparation for rebuilding has begun!!!**



Peter Duma was presented with very generous cheque donations for the rebuild from:

- Most Rev. Bishop Peter Stasiuk \$6,168.00 (Collections taken at Ukrainian parishes from around Australia, specifically for our cause)
- Walentyn Mykytiuk (Chairman of Dnister) \$5,000.00
- Nicky Ckuj, on behalf of his parents \$3,000.00 (donation to the Karpaty Rebuild Fund collected in lieu of flowers at the funeral of their beloved son, Fr. Adrian Ckuj)
- Paul Kaminsky, on behalf of CYM Geelong \$1,000.00

We sincerely thank all local, national and international organisations, groups and individuals, for your contributions to date. A full list of contributions was displayed in the foyer of the concert, and will be published on CYMnet shortly.

Fundraising in the foyer of the venue saw people purchasing:

- Ribbons (commemorating the Karpaty Bushfire)
- Tools (to replace those lost in the fires, which are much needed for future working bees)
- DVD sales/orders of our last tabir at oselya as it once stood (2008 – 09 “Determination Delivers Success” - Under the flag of Bandera. Commemorating 100 years since his birth and 80 years of OYH), and of the Benefit Concert.

People also made personal donations to the Rebuild Karpaty Fund.

There were many people working to bring together the photo exhibition (Juliana Rudewych), fundraising (headed by Andrea Ckuj), and the Benefit Concert (organised by Melanie Moravski Dechnicz, Mary Lech, Natalya Moravski), as well as many other volunteers who held special roles on the day, and all of the performers. Your work towards the success of this event is greatly appreciated and to be congratulated. To all of you, a very heartfelt.....

SLAVA !

SLAVA !

SLAVA !