



# UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

15 May 2011



First Ukrainian family camp in Auckland "Southern Horizon" January 2011

## Ukrainian Family camp "Southern Horizon" January 2011

Dear friends,

This issue of the newsletter has been long coming. Even it is end of May 2001 I would like to share with you our feelings and experience during the first Ukrainian family camp in New Zealand. This camp was held in Clevedon, near Auckland from 20th to 24th of January 2011 in the scout campgrounds "Camp Sladdin" with great support and mentoring from the Ukrainian Youth Association of Australia. 40 people attended the camp from Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch and our SYM friends from Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. Petro Duma (Chairman of the World SYM organizations) and Taras Klish were heading the camp work.

Natalka Tronar (Sydney) and Natalya Duma (Melbourne) were leading SYM educational activities with our children. I must say our children embraced learning activities with great enthusiasm. At the end of the camp, during the traditional campfire we demonstrating their knowledge of the Ukrainian language, history, religious symbols of Ukraine.

When kids were doing learning activities and arts, the Most Reverent Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne - Peter Stasiuk, engaged adults in the discussion group "Faith and Religion of today". Next we had open forum about future of the Ukrainian community in New Zealand, headed by Nataliya Poshyvaylo-

Towler. This discussion group brought some clarity to the direction our community should head in the near future and action plan was drawn for 2011 and 2012. The plan includes working tightly with SYM Australia on establishing branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association in New Zealand, holding concert to celebrate 20th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Independence, and renewing work of the Sunday school in Auckland including work with youth in SYM group. Following sumptuous dinner and kids bedtime, adults had time to unwind, sing favorite Ukrainian songs, tell stories and have lots of laughter and fun. For myself personally, this camp was a highlight of almost 14 years in New Zealand, the spirit of the true friendship, brotherhood and understanding was remarkable and unforgettable. I cannot wait till the next year camp and sure all attendees agree with me.

The special thank you to Taras Klish as a primary camp administrator and organizer. And special recognition to Maria Klish for camp budgeting, meals and housekeeping planning and work.

Yours sincerely,

Nataliya Poshyvaylo-Towler

Chairman

UANZ

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# First Ukrainian Family Camp "Southern Horizon" held in Auckland 20th to 24th Jan 2011



Family camp attendees handprint

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."*

**- Henry Ford**



Camp Opening ceremony, SYM AU and NZ flags



From left to right: Maria Klish, Larysa Kuznetsova, Natalka Poshyvaylo and Marta Klish working in the kitchen



Dinner time, kids enjoying their meal



Church service, from left to right: Larysa Tronar, Marta Klish, Andrew Kuznetsov, Sophiya Poshyvaylo-Towler, Sofia Tronar, Andrew Fedchuk