



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Canberra

Canberra, 11 March 2020

**MESSAGE  
OF THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO AUSTRALIA  
HIS EXCELLENCY MICHAŁ KOŁODZIEJSKI  
ON THE OCCASION OF STRZELECKI FESTIVAL 2020 IN OMEO**

I would like to convey my best wishes and warm greetings to the hosts, organizers and participants of the Strzelecki Festival in Omeo.

I am glad that the Australian public will have an opportunity to discover a fascinating story surrounding the highest mountain on Australian mainland.

2020 marks the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of naming Mount Kosciuszko and exploring Gippsland by Polish scientist Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki. Strzelecki named the peak after Polish and American national hero General Kościuszko, widely known for his military genius as well as his commitment to the universal values of freedom, liberty and equality.

Therefore, Mt Kosciuszko carries a special meaning for Poland, the Polish community in Australia as well as has symbolic importance in the history of Polish-Australian relations.

I congratulate the Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. and its President Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek on the initiative. I am pleased that the Polish community in Australia is so active in promoting the figures of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Paul Strzelecki and their legacy in Australia.

May all the participants and guests of the Strzelecki Festival 2020 have an enjoyable weekend of celebration and commemoration of our shared Polish-Australian history!

*With warm regards,*

Michał Kołodziejcki

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Australia