

**9:15 – 9:30** Tumbarumba Motel at the Reception, 2 Albury Cl., breakfast packs provided, coach leaving for Welaregang, your driver Anthony

**10:30 – 11:00** outdoor event, 180 Tintaldra Rd, Welaregang NSW; Geographical coordinates to be used on Google maps or in GPS -36.037706, 147.947265

Strzelecki Plaque unveiling by Polish Ambassador HE Michal Kolodziejcki & The Hon. Justin Clancy, member for Albury, followed by photo opportunity for everyone

**11:00-12:00** return trip to Tumbarumba Motel, 2 Albury Cl., Function Hall

**12:00-12:15** At Function Hall QR or sign the book, grab a drink, get seated

**12:15** MC Tom Kukielka welcome all distinguished guests

**12:18** Welcome to Country by Uncle John Casey & Aunty Lorna Casey

**12:20** Welcome by Mayor of Snowy Valleys, Cr James Hayes

**12:23** A short speech by Ambassador Michal Kolodziejcki

**12:30** A short speech by the Hon. Justin Clancy

**12:37** Ambassador of Ireland, HE Brendan O Caollai opening an exhibition "Strzelecki – The Forgotten Hero of the Great Irish Famine"

**13:05 – 14:05** Exhibition Viewing Time. Lunch boxes provided.

**14:07-14:17** Live performance by Lajkonik, Polish folk dances Kujawiak & Oberek

**14:19** Short speech by Vice-president of Kosciuszko Heritage Inc., Andrzej Kozek

**14:26** Short speech by historian Michael Organ formerly of the University of Wollongong

**14:32** Introducing competition winner Anastasia Wilesmith of Tumbarumba High School

#### VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

**14:34 – 15:03** \* Kindness Matters \* Song My Mountain Kosciuszko \* Tribute to Charlie Tarra \* Flight over the Strzelecki Route from Welaregang to Mt Kosciuszko \* Song The comfort of Strangers \* The story of sculpture Kosciuszko & Agrippa Hull

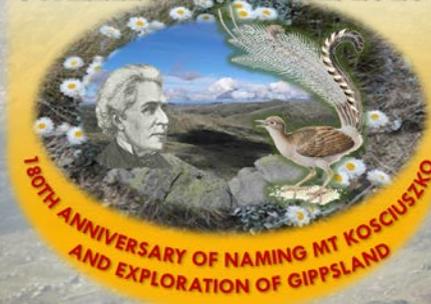
**15:05 – 15:50** **PIANO RECITAL** by **Krzysztof Malek**: „Chopin and a tiny bit of Kosciuszko Music”

#### OFFICIAL CLOSE

**15:50-19:00** Optional program. Exhibition Viewing and/or Screening of documentaries: "Kosciuszko: Poland Will Dance Again", "Ngarigo in Cracow", "From Mound to Mount"



## STRZELECKI FESTIVAL 2020



**Postponed - Celebrating now 2021**

## STRZELECKI PLAQUE UNVEILING TUE MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> 2021

## WELAREGANG & TUMBARUMBA PROGRAM

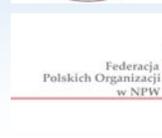
IN MARCH 1840, PAUL, EDMUND STRZELECKI, JAMES MACARTHUR, JAMES RILEY WITH INDIGENOUS GUIDE CHARLEY TARRA OF GOULBURN AND CONVICT SERVANTS JAMES NOLAN AND JOHN BENT REACHED MESSERS HAY AND CHALMERS' WELAREGANG STATION AIMING TO EXPLORE THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS AND EASTERN VICTORIA.

ON MONDAY 9 MARCH THE CONVICT SERVANTS REMAINED TO HELP WITH THE HEARING WHILE A LOCAL ABORIGINAL GUIDE JACKEY JOINED THE OTHERS TO ASCEND THE NEARBY AUSTRALIAN ALPS.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY 15 MARCH 1840 STRZELECKI CLIMBED THE HIGHEST PEAK AND NAMED IT MOUNT KOSCIUSZKO IN HONOUR OF THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO, POLISH AND AMERICAN NATIONAL HERO, CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM FOR ALL.

ALL FIVE RETURNED TO WELAREGANG AND ON 15 MARCH THE ORIGINAL GROUP OF SIX LEFT THE STATION TO EXPLORE A PART OF EASTERN VICTORIA, WHICH STRZELECKI LATER NAMED GIPPSLAND.

SPONSORED BY KOSCIUSZKO HERITAGE INC. AND SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL, 2016.



**Kosciuszko Heritage**

**Organized by Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.**

[www.kosciuszkoheritage.com](http://www.kosciuszkoheritage.com)

## STRZELECKI'S MULTICULTURAL TEAM

1. Paul Edmund Strzelecki, Polish
2. James Macarthur, Australian of English descent
3. James Riley of Irish descent
4. Charlie Tarra, a native of Burra Burra
5. Jackey, Aboriginal guide, a Wiradjuri
6. James Nolan, Irish, a convict assigned to Strzelecki
7. John Rent, an African from London, a convict assigned to James Macarthur

## John Rent , and African from London

His real name was John Rent (b. 1800), not John Kent as indicated on the Corinella Plaque. He was an African from London. John Rusden in his 1883 History of Australia states that James Macarthur had "a negro convict servant". James Riley in a letter to his mother (Dec. 1839) mentions that one of the members of their expedition will be "a negro convict". The Tumbarumba historian Ron Frew has recently examined convict records and has established the true identity of John Rent.

In London, on 28 June 1820 John was indicted for stealing two banknotes from his employer William Sams.

In his Prisoner's Defence he wrote: "Some time ago I broke a window – my master said if I broke another I should be turned away. I had the misfortune to break another. The woman who cleans the shop said I had better take care of my clothes, as the last boy was turned away without clothes or wages. Thinking I should be turned out destitute, I determined to take what I thought due to me, which I thought was two-pound note, but as could not read I took two 10-pound notes. When they were missed, I found they were 10-pound notes. I was afraid to acknowledge it. My former master, Colonel Nicholls, questioned me about it and I told him the truth. According to the ideas in which I had been brought up I thought I might take a compensation for my services but I now know that I have done wrong. I humbly trust that when a British Jury considers that I have not had a Christian education, they will recommend me to the mercy of my King for whom my fathers have often fought against the American States."

His employer, examined in court tried to defend the boy as saying:

"When he came to me, I clothed him, but if he had asked money, I should have given him some. I believe a woman in my service may have misled him."

Death sentence was commuted to transportation for life. John Rent, along 152 other convicts, arrived in Sydney on *Granada ship* on 16 September 1821.

In 1840 John was 41, probably the eldest member of Strzelecki's team.

After the Strzelecki expedition ended, he followed his employer James Macarthur, probably to Vineyard in Parramatta. As from 1849 he was employed by Nathaniel Payten, a famous Parramatta building contractor, himself son of a convict. John Rent by that time has been granted a Conditional Pardon.

## Charlie Tarra, an Aboriginal guide

Charlie Tarra was a bush tracker, a capable, friendly and intelligent guide and companion to the early explorers and settlers. He was a native of Burra Burra. Initially served for Lachlan Macalister. In 1838 he attached himself to James Macarthur, son of Hannibal. In March-May 1840 was a member of the Strzelecki expedition. He also proved to be very useful in William Brodribb's explorations of Gippsland. He accompanied Mr Townsend, the surveyor, in his survey of Gippsland and overland through Monaro to Sydney.

Charlie died of tuberculosis in 1847 at Richlands, on the farm belonging to brothers William and James Macarthur.

Charlie Tarra became a part of Australian folklore. His name is mentioned on several plaques in Gippsland and Jindabyne. Tarra's memorials include Tarra Bulga National Park and Tarra Valley Rainforest Walk. The town Tarraville, and Tarra River were named after him. He was immortalized in a song written and composed by a Polish poet from Perth, Adam Fiala, and on a contemporary painting by Warren Curry.

## A LETTER FROM PHILIP GIDLEY KING TO JOHN HAY



My Dear Mr Hay

My friend Count Straleiski purposes visiting your neighbourhood with the intention of ascending the Snowy Mountains, and I have deep cause to regret that my absence in Sydney has deprived me of the pleasure of his company in so interesting expedition.

I have taken the liberty of introducing him to you and recommending him to your care and hospitality – I feel assured you will render him any assistance in your power and I fancy your zeal for such excursions will induce you to accompany him – would that I could do so myself, but I fear my absence in Sydney will prevent me – I purpose being back in about 3 weeks if I can get away –

I am writing in haste and am very tired having ridden far to-day –

Pray remember me most kindly to Mrs Hay and the other inhabitants of Welaregang and believe me Ever your sincerely

Philip Gidley King

Bogolong, 20th January 1840



1816-1892  
pastoralist and politician



1817-1904  
pastoralist and politician

In 1840 Philip Gidley King Jr was 23, and John Hay 24 years old