

IN THE SPIRIT OF STRZELECKI - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

IN TRIBUTE TO STRZELECKI THE EXPLORER, SCIENTIST AND HUMANITARIAN

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

To celebrate the extraordinary life of Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, *Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.* based in Sydney, together with the *Polish Kościuszko Foundation* in Warsaw, the *Raczyński Library* in Poznań, the *Kościuszko Mound Committee* in Krakow and the *Federation of Polish Organizations in New South Wales*, is proud to announce an international competition for the year 2023 in the categories of music, poetry and fine arts. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland proclaimed 2023 as the Year of Strzelecki, in honor of the 150th anniversary of his passing. Over the course of this Strzelecki Year, winning entries will be exhibited in Australia and other countries across the world.

The aim of the competition is to bring the multi-faceted life of Paweł Edmund Strzelecki - explorer, scientist, humanitarian and witty character - back into living memory, including the living memory of creative people worldwide from all walks of life, without regard to their creed, color, gender or ethnicity.

Prizemoney totalling \$A25,000 is on offer.

I. COMPETITION DETAILS

I-1... Entries can be in English or Polish.

I-2. Prizewinners will receive a souvenir E-BOOK, an anthology of the selected entries. This e-book will be distributed to relevant media outlets and to Polish community organizations and clubs in the East and the West; the winning entries will also be published on the internet.

I-3. The competition announced on March 1st 2023 will close on July 20th (Strzelecki's birthday). The results will be announced in Sydney on October 6th (Strzelecki's death) during a gala event.

I-4. Competition winners will be notified individually before the official announcement is made.

I-5. Each entrant may submit up to 3 works, provided that they depict 3 different episodes of Strzelecki's life; each entry should be sent with a separate Entry Form.

I-6. LICENCE

Entrants submit their work on the understanding that the competition organizers may freely use the material at their discretion for educational and promotional purposes, especially to promote Strzelecki-related festivities and celebrations of the 150th anniversary of his passing. On agreeing to this by submitting their work, the entrants are not relinquishing copyrights to their work.

I-7. Entrants participating in the competition agree to abide by the rules and guidelines.

I-8. A recommended bibliography, topical iconography along with a list of suggested topics and links to competition background notes (prompts), are available on the official website

<http://www.kosciuszkoheritage.com/150/> and www.pulspolonii.com TAB *Strzelecki Competition*.

I-9. Special Awards

I-9a. **“First past the finish line”**: The Special Award of the Australian-Polish community portal Puls Polonii. The online magazine Puls Polonii will publish the first work (in the category of music, fine arts or poetry) that is entered into the competition. (The Editor of Puls Polonii reserves the right not to publish work deemed to be sub-standard.)

I-9b. The People’s Choice Award. Fine arts entries submitted for the competition between March 1 and May 30th, 2023, anonymously placed on the internet will compete for the People’s Choice Award. The purpose of this plebiscite is to promote the Year of Strzelecki, especially during its first half.

The competition is open to individuals in two age categories:

- Category one: adults; and
- Category two: high school students (aged 12 to 18).

II. CATEGORY ONE: ADULTS

II-1. MUSIC. Original (previously unpublished) songs (e.g., a ballad, elegy, hymn, Melo recitation, rap or satire) in English or Polish will be accepted. Tracks, which should be recorded as audio files (in .wav or .mp3 format) or as video files (in .mp4 or .mpeg format), along with lyrics (in Microsoft Word format) and with the Entry Form should be sent by e-mail or other file transfer system to competition@kosciuszkoheritage.com by midnight (AEST) of July 20th , 2023.

II-1-a. The following prizes for the best songs will be awarded:

- First prize: AUD \$5,000.00;
- Second prize: AUD \$3,000.00;
- Third prize: AUD \$1,000.00; and
- A special prize, worth AUD \$500.00, funded by the Polish-Australian Community Portal Puls Polonii.

II-2. FINE ARTS Original (previously unpublished) portraits, paintings, genre scenes, sketches, cartoons, caricatures, collages, memes, logos, posters, mural or medallion designs – all in digital form – will be accepted. The titled works (saved as PDFs, .jpg files or .png files), with a width of 2500 pixels, and with the Entry Form should be sent by e-mail to competition@kosciuszkoheritage.com by midnight (AEST) of July 20th , 2023.

II-2-a. The following prizes for the best artworks will be awarded:

- First prize: AUD \$3,000.00;
- Second prize: AUD \$2,000.00;
- Third prize: AUD \$1,000.00;
- A special prize for an Australian of free admission to the Great Gala in Sydney on October 6th 2023.
- A special prize, worth AUD \$300.00, for an artwork on the theme of *The Friends of Strzelecki*

- A special prize, worth AUD \$200.00, for the best caricature; and
- several book prizes for the runners-up.

II-3. POETRY Original (previously unpublished) poems in English or Polish, no longer than 1000 words, will be accepted. The titled works (saved as Microsoft Word files) should be sent along with the Entry Form by e-mail to competition@kosciuszkoheritage.com by midnight (AEST) of July 20th, 2023.

II-3-b. The following prizes for the best poems will be awarded:

- First Prize: AUD \$2,000.00;
- Second Prize AUD \$1,500.00; and
- Third Prize AUD \$500.00.

III. CATEGORY TWO: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (aged 12-18)

III-1. MUSIC Original (previously unpublished) songs (e.g. a ballad, elegy, hymn, melo-recitation, rap, or satire) in English or Polish will be accepted. Tracks, which should be recorded as audio files (in .wav or .mp3 format) or as video files (in .mp4 or .mpeg format), along with lyrics (in Microsoft Word format), and with the Entry Form should be sent by e-mail to competition@kosciuszkoheritage.com by midnight (AEST) of July 20th , 2023.

III-1-a. The best song or musical composition will be awarded the prize of AUD 1,000. Second prize \$500.00 and third prize \$200. Several prizes for the runners-up will also be awarded.

III-2. FINE ARTS Original (previously unpublished) portraits, paintings, genre scenes, sketches, cartoons, caricatures, collages, memes, logos and posters, mural or medallion designs – all in digital form – will be accepted. The titled works (saved as PDFs, .jpg files or .png files), with a width of 2500 pixels, and with the Entry Form should be sent by e-mail to competition@kosciuszkoheritage.com by midnight (AEST) of July 20th, 2023.

III-2-a. The best artwork will be awarded the prize of AUD \$500.00. Second prize \$300, and third prize \$200. Several prizes for the runners-up will also be awarded.

III-3. POETRY Original (previously unpublished) poems in English or Polish, no longer than 1000 words, will be accepted. The titled works (saved as Microsoft Word files) should be sent along with the Entry Form by e-mail to competition@kosciuszkoheritage.com by midnight (AEST) of July 20th, 2023.

III-3-a. The best poem will be awarded the prize of AUD \$500.00. Second prize \$300, and third prize \$200. Several prizes for the runners-up will also be awarded.

III 4. A recommended bibliography, topical iconography along with a list of suggested topics and links to competition background notes (prompts), are available on two websites: <http://www.kosciuszkoheritage.com/150/> and <http://www.pulspolonii.com> TAB *Strzelecki Competition*.

III 5. All high schools represented by the entrants will receive a **souvenir E-BOOK**, an anthology of selected competition entries.

IV. AIMS OF THE COMPETITION The competition aims to:

- disseminate knowledge about Strzelecki on all continents;
- promote his scientific and humanitarian achievements in different countries and different communities;
- promote Poland and Polish history through the prism of Strzelecki
- engage Polish communities in the celebrations of the Strzelecki Year
- promote patriotism and integrity amongst younger generations;
- deepen artistic sensitivity among young people;
- Inspire artists of different races and nationalities;
- build a contemporary repertoire of Strzelecki songs;
- expand the existing Strzelecki iconography; and
- arouse a deeper interest in history more generally.

V. JURY

V-a. Jury members shall work unpaid, but will enjoy the prestige derived from media exposure.

V-b. JURY PANEL

V-b1. Head of the Jury Panel

Dr Marek Leszek Krzeńskiak, President of Polska Fundacja Kościuszkowska (PFK), poet, publisher

V-b2. Members of the Jury Panel

1. Beimcik Karolina (Poland-USA), composer, singer, violinist;
2. Dudzinska Łucja (Poland) poet, cultural life animator, Founder & President of Fundacja Otwartych Na Tworczość (FONT), founder and leader of Ogólnopolska Grupa Literacko-Artystyczna Na Krechę;
3. Kaminska Katarzyna (Poland) Director of the Raczyński Library (est. 1822) in Poznań;
4. Kipka Peter, Dr (Australia) linguist, university lecturer, organist, composer;
5. Koronowski Wiesław, Prof. (Poland) artist/sculptor, lecturer at Poznań Artistic University;
6. Krzeńskiak Marek Leszek (Poland) President of Polska Fundacja Kosciuszkowska (PFK), poet, publisher, and physician;
7. Przyboś-Christiaens Uta (Poland), painter, poet, daughter of the renowned poet Julian Przyboś
8. Skrzynecki Peter (Australia), OAM, an outstanding author and poet, university lecturer;
9. Sokołowska-Gwizdka Joanna (USA) editor in chief of portal *Culture Avenue. Polish Culture Abroad*;

10. Szulia Boleslaw (Poland): composer, orchestra conductor, former Artistic Director of the *Representative Ensemble of the Polish Army*;

11. Wiśniewska Anna (Austria), poet, essayist & traveller, author of *Podróż jak życie*;

12. Wróbel Miro (Australia), architect & artist: paintings, prints and drawings;

V b3. “Strzeleckiana” consultants (Australia) Marianna Lacek, OAM, distinguished educator, teacher, publicist and translator; Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President of Kosciuszko Heritage Inc., Prof. Andrzej Kozek, Vice-president Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.

VI. COORDINATOR The competition is coordinated by Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, the President of Heritage Inc., journalist, producer of documentary films, translator, editor of Puls Polonii.

VII. CONTACT Please direct all questions and comments to: ernestyna@kosciuszkoheritage.com

Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President, Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.

14 Blackbutt Avenue, Pennant Hills, NSW 2120 Australia, mobile (WhatsApp) +61 408 897 358

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION – COMPETITION CODE -IN THE SPIRIT OF STRZELECKI

In the contexts listed below, what does *in the spirit of Strzelecki* mean in general terms? Above all it is up to you to use your imagination and draw from your own interests to determine which of the plethora of this extraordinary man’s life experiences your competition entry will be focused on. Your choice of focus is wide ranging, including but not limited to, the themes listed in each context. Your own reading and research may lead you to other aspects you believe are worthy of focus.

Hence, in the **Australian context** you may focus on the spirit of multiculturalism (see Strzelecki's team)— respecting indigenous culture—the spirit of adventure— or what it means to be a man of honour.

What does *"in the spirit of Strzelecki"* mean in the **Irish context**? You may focus on his humanitarian deeds in the saving of starving Irish folk--- the challenge of prioritizing; overcoming official disapproval, exposing oneself to deadly typhus but staying the course; recruiting the right people to help; maintaining peace of mind while surrounded by death; the scale of his deeds;

What does *"in Strzelecki's spirit"* mean in the **Polish context**? In Wielkopolska – Eternal Love for Adyna; In Kresy - rooting out corruption and restoring Prince F. Sapieha’s Estates.

What does *"in Strzelecki's spirit"* mean in the context of **exploring the world**? The spirit of exotic sea travel - high mountain climbing - building a strong physical condition – geological, vulcanological, mineralogical and palaeontological research; putting together a cartographic record; anthropological and linguistic research.

What does *"in Strzelecki's spirit"* mean in the **context of London**? There are a wide range of themes here, each showing a different spirit. Strzelecki's public activity; his involvement in emigration committees and numerous charitable organizations. Scientific research for the *Royal Geographical Society*. Advising prominent British figures. Friendship with the most eminent and richest personalities. His social sphere - salon and court, banquets, hunting. Finally, illness, death, Strzelecki’s Will and related

controversies. Each situation reveals yet another aspect worthy of emulation of this man's extraordinary achievements, character and personality.

IX. SPONSORSHIP PLEA Do you know of any VIPs, or Australian or Polish activists who could be approached to sponsor other special awards? Please send suggestions to:

office@kosciuszkoheritage.com

Updated 17th Feb.