

Paul Edmund Strzelecki Memorials in Australia

1. NSW West

2. NSW South and ACT

Canberra – Polish Embassy

The Tablets unveiled at the summit of Mt Kosciuszko on 17th February, 1940 were relocated to the Polish Embassy in 2001. See the Mt Kosciuszko segment entry for full details.

Cooma

Paul Edmund Strzelecki's climbing and naming the summit of Mt Kosciuszko is referenced in the inscription on the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorial located in Kosciuszko Park off the Monaro Highway on the northern outskirts of Cooma. The stainless steel Ostoja-Kotkowski designed 6.5 metre prism shaped 4 sided obelisk was unveiled on 29th January, 1989. It is a 6 tier construction; each side portrays what in Polish is called a 'rogatywka' the distinctive 4 cornered, peaked Polish Military cap. The front cube in the 2nd tier from the base is adorned with a bronze medallion displaying John Davies bust of Kosciuszko, shown wearing his characteristic peasant's coat and cap. The inscription below the medallion states:

Tadeusz Kościuszko
1746-1817

The Polish Patriot and Hero, Spent Most of His Life
Fighting for The Freedom of His Country.

A Champion of the Underprivileged and Oppressed in Poland, he Went to America to become one of George Washington's Generals, Gaining much Honour in the War of Independence. In Thomas Jefferson's Words, he was "As Pure A Son of Liberty as I have ever known".

Mt Kosciuszko was discovered and named by the Polish explorer Count Paul Edmund Strzelecki in 1840. This monument is raised by the Federal Council of Polish Associations in Australia as a gift to the people of Australia in the Bicentennial year 1988. It commemorates the discovery of Mt Kosciuszko and the contribution of Polish settlers to the Snowy Mountain Scheme.

"Patrz Kościuszko Na Nas Z Nieba ..
Twego Miecza Nam Potrzeba
By Ojczyzne Oswobodzic."

R. Suchodolski 1831

"...But Should We Wish To Warm Us On Our Way Through Poland, There Is
Kościuszko's Name Might Scatter Fire Through Ice, Like Hecla's Flame."

Lord Byron 1818

Principal Contributors

Government of NSW, Polish Association of NSW,
Major Stanislaw and Dr Maria Luk-Kozika Foundation,
Maria and Henry Syriatowicz, Contal Co. Pty Ltd,
Polish Assoc. in Newcastle, Polish Assoc.in Hobart,
Polish Assoc. in Latrobe Valley, Victoria,
Polish Ex-Servicement's Assoc, Sub-Branch 3, Melbourne,
B. and K. Singler.

Geehi Flats

Paul Edmund Strzelecki's March 1840 trek from Geehi to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko is commemorated on a plaque affixed to a granite slab at Geehi Flats campground, located along the banks of the Swampy Plain River. It is on the southern side of Kosciuszko National Park, between Khancoban and Thredbo. It was funded and unveiled on 4th April, 2022, by Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. The inscription gives a detailed chronological account of this historic trek. Commencing on:

March 9 1840 - Strzelecki left Welaregang Station accompanied by James Macarthur, James Riley and two Aboriginal guides Jackey and Charlie Tarra. The team aimed to explore pasture prospects and reach the highest peak of the Snowy Mountains. Having passed Guises Station, they camped at the Nowong (Bringenbrong) Ford on the Murray River and the next day they reached Black Creek near Geehi Walls where Riley was left with packhorses.

- March 11 - the remaining party reached lower parts of Hannells Spur.
- March 12 - having left the guides and supplies near Byatts Camp, Strzelecki and Macarthur reached the peak of Mt Townsend. Here, Strzelecki noted that the adjacent peak was higher. In the presence of

Macarthur, he named it Mt Kosciuszko and then continued to scale it alone.

Tadeusz Kosciuszko, champion of liberty and equal rights, was a hero of American Revolutionary War and of Kosciuszko Insurrection in Poland 1794.

- March 13 - all four returned to the camp at Black Creek.
- March 14 - Strzelecki spent the day taking notes and making computations.
- March 15 - the team continued their major expedition to Gippsland.

Strzelecki is also referenced on the plaque on the adjacent slab, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and Poland, by the planting nearby of 50 trees. Link to a 4th April, 2022 promotional leaflet:

<http://www.zrobotosam.com/PulsPol/Puls/pdf/GeehiLeafletMaster.pdf>

Both plaques were designed and installed by Jacek Łuszczuk.



Jindabyne

Intriguingly, the monument located at Banjo Paterson Park, Jindabyne, honouring Strzelecki, the man who named Australia's highest summit Mt Kosciuszko, was inspired by the equestrian monument to Kosciuszko in Detroit; a 1977 gift of the citizens of Krakow in celebration of the American bicentennial. With Australia's 1988 Bicentennial near, the Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki monument committee was formed in 1983 under the patronage of Senator Tony Mulvihill.

The plaque inscription on the Plinth of the Strzelecki Statue unveiled by John Cahill, Mayor of Snowy River Shire Council, on 24th February 2013, summarises the monument's history up to its unveiling in celebration of Australia's Bicentennial:

Chronology

1980

Proposal for the formation of a Bicentennial Commemoration to Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki was initiated by Harry Hefka.

1983

The original Monument Committee, formed under the patronage of Senator Tony Mulvihill, comprised the following founding members:

Harry Hefka

Wanda Choroszynska

John Molski

Jadwiga Podleś

Alfred Choroszynski

Szczepan Włodarski

Bogusława Mokrzycka

Jan Ozdymacha



Harry Hefka (middle right), President of the Original Monument Committee, meets the Polonia Society in Poznan, to engage sculptor Jerzy Sobocinski (bottom left)

1984- 1987

The Committee worked hard during this period and their vision eventually received approval and funding from the NSW Bicentennial Authority. The Snowy Mountains Authority and the Snowy River Shire Council offered the site in Banjo Paterson

Park, Jindabyne, for the erection of the Monument. The Project was also supported by the Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club of Jindabyne. LOT Polish Airlines assisted by bringing the monument by Polish ship to Sydney, then by road to Jindabyne, and bringing the sculptor/designer to Australia.

Founding Committee was absorbed by Melbourne's Australian Polish Chamber of Commerce because it had resources to advance the project through the Construction Stage to the Monument's unveiling. Key persons were Robert W Strang, David B Preston and Jack F O'Neil.

1988

- John Ivering, Senior Lecturer, NSW Institute of Technology donated his services in designing and supervising construction of the scenic platform on which the Monument stands.
- Jerzy Sobocinski, Polish designer/sculptor of the Monument, supervised installation of the statue and pedestal onto the scenic platform in Jindabyne. Polonia Society representatives who coordinated the statue's design in Poznan were: Wojciech Owsianowski, Jerzy Błoszyk and Tadeusz Bartkowiak.
- On 14th November, 1988, the Monument was unveiled by Air Vice Marshall, Sir James Rowland, Governor of NSW, in the presence of Mr Tadeusz Młynczak, Vice President of the Polish Government and President of Polonia Society in Warsaw, Antoni Pierzchala, Polish Ambassador in Australia, Jim Snow MHR, Federal Member for Eden Monaro and Laurence Norton, Mayor of Snowy River Shire Council.

The completed monument is a joint Polish/Australian effort. The design and construction of the Statue and Plinth was created in Poland, superintended by the Poznan Society led by Wojciech Owsianowski, at a total cost of 50 million zloty plus the cost of shipping (1988 prices and exchange rate of 650 zloty to \$1 Australian). On completion it was shipped from Gdynia to Hamburg on the Lublin II and from Hamburg to Sydney on the Katowice II, departing 14th July, 1988, arriving in Sydney, 31st August, 1988. From Sydney the Statue and Plinth were transported to Jindabyne in 2 containers by Tradex Transport P/L.



(L) John Molski, Secretary of the Original Monument Committee accepts the \$45,000 NSW Bicentennial Grant from John Akister, Minister of Corrective Services

In March 1988, the NSW Bicentennial Authority approved a grant of \$45,000. It was matched by funds raised by the Committee from the Australian community. This funded the \$115,000 construction of the scenic viewing platform made of Australian granite and the installation of the 4.7 metre bronze sculpture of Strzelecki atop of the 3 metre high pedestal made up of twelve Polish Silesian granite slabs, at Banjo Paterson Park, Jindabyne.

At Jindabyne, contributors on the Australian side included:

- Designer / Engineer of Viewing Platform — John Ivering from the NSW Institute of Technology (donated his professional services);
- Technical Consultant — Les Strzelecki, from Cooma;
- Osolins & White P/L Berridale, N.S.W — construction of the concrete structure of the viewing platform - Edgar Osolins from Berridale;
- Pecos Holdings P/L Berridale, N.S.W — covering the platform with Australian granite slabs. These works were carried out by stonemasons Ken Baxter & Franc Schmid.

For decades people throughout Australia and visitors from around the world have viewed the Strzelecki Monument standing tall with one hand holding documents and maps and the other outstretched pointing symbolically towards the summit of Mt Kosciuszko. It is located in the picturesque setting of leafy Banjo Paterson Park overlooking the grand vista of the crystal waters of Lake Jindabyne. It is situated in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains about 30 km due east of Mount Kosciuszko and Kosciuszko National Park. The Monument has been the focal point for festivals celebrating the lives of Strzelecki and Kosciuszko and a range of recreational activities year round.



Speaking at the 14th November, 1988 unveiling, Senator Tony Mulvihill, patron of the Monument Committee stated that the rich tapestry of post WW2 Australia was no longer only made up of Indigenous folk and Anglo Saxon settlers but now it includes Polish, Italian, Yugoslav, Greek and other threads. Since then the Australian tapestry has been further enriched by people from Asia and Africa.

Mt Kosciuszko

Strzelecki, whose father fought for liberty under Kosciuszko, was first to identify Australia's highest summit. On March 12, 1840, the Polish humanitarian and world explorer, after returning from his climb of the summit, expressed his rationale for naming it Mount Kosciuszko:

“...although in a foreign country, on foreign ground, but amongst a free people who appreciate freedom and its votaries, I could not refrain from giving it the name of Mount Kosciuszko”...

On the initiative of the NSW Premier, Bertram Stevens, a memorial committee was formed to erect a plaque at the summit of Mt Kosciuszko in celebration of the centenary

of its 1840 naming by Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki. The committee's honorary secretary was H J Lamble, the director of the Government Tourist Bureau. Lamble who managed Hotel Kosciusko from 1916 to 1922 had toured Poland in 1932. Not long after the Committee was formed, on the other side of the world, Germany invaded Poland. Shortly after the outbreak of WWII the tyrant occupying Lodz renamed it Litzmannstadt. Standing imperiously in front of the assembled world media and Polish leaders he proclaimed, with the arrogance of total power, that to show that it would be impossible – impossible- for Poland to ever rise again he had, today, blown up the Kosciuszko Monument. Soldiers took photos sat and stood on the razed statue. *The Sydney Morning Herald* as well as many other newspapers across Australia, cited reports sourced from *The Times* informing the world about what the Germans had 'done in Lodz' and why they did it. Headlines such as "Kosciusko's Memory Insulted", "Kosciusko Monument Destroyed", "Poles Must Serve German Masters", "German Call for Ruthlessness" and "Iron Heel on Polish Tradition" caused outrage in the Australian community. The Chairman of the Mt Kosciuszko Monument Committee, Sir Francis Anderson, Professor of Logic and Mental Philosophy at Sydney University, responded with a scathing 600 word letter to Australian newspapers, in essence stating that:

"the dictators, raging furiously together, have thrown down the challenge to the ultimate conditions of civilised human fellowship known as Justice, Truth, and Freedom. Democracy itself is a failure and a lie when it disregards these essentials. That is why Poland's cause is ours, and not ours alone, but the cause of all men and nations who value Justice, Truth, and Freedom as the pilot stars of humanity.' (...) the war should not cause to pass unnoticed such an outstanding anniversary in the nation's history".

"Accordingly, the committee has decided that a memorial plaque bearing a suitable inscription shall be erected on the summit of Mount Kosciusko. On February 15 next the unveiling ceremony will take place on the site, a ceremony which may be rightly regarded as having a deep significance for all Australian men, women, and children, most of all perhaps, for the boys and girls, citizens of the next generation, who will have to carry on the work which we have left unfinished for lack of courage and foresight-or of money(...) Let us hope that through this action there will ever remain associated in the minds of Australian boys and girls, the name Kosciusko-Freedom-Poland-Australia."

DEAD HERO SCORED
Nazi Revenge In Poland
KOSCIUSKO MONUMENT DESTROYED BY NAZIS
RIGA, November 25.
 The Germans have blown up the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square, Lodz, in Poland.

GERMANS THE "MASTERS" Duty Of Poles Is To Serve
LONDON, November 24.
 The Germans have blown up and demolished the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square, Lodz, in Poland.

"THE POLE IS A SERVANT"
GERMAN CALL FOR RUTHLESSNESS
RIGA, Nov. 24
 The German authorities here have issued and distributed the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square, Lodz, which they described as the only Polish monument which has been destroyed in a German town.

KOSCIUSKO MONUMENT DESTROYED BY NAZIS
RIGA, November 25.
 The Germans have blown up the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square at Lodz. They described this memorial as Poland's greatest hero as the sole Polish monument disfiguring a German town.



NAZI INSULT TO POLES.
Kosciusko Monument Destroyed.
INSULTED
THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BLOWN UP AND DEMOLISHED THE KOSCIUSKO MONUMENT IN LIBERTY SQUARE, LODZ, WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS THE ONLY POLISH MONUMENT WHICH HAS BEEN DESTROYED IN A GERMAN TOWN.

NAZI BEHAVIOUR.
Practice and Prevalent in Poland.
 The German authorities here have issued and distributed the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square, Lodz, which they described as the only Polish monument which has been destroyed in a German town.

KOSCIUSKO'S MEMORY
INSULTED
 The German authorities have blown up and demolished the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square, Lodz, which they described as the only Polish monument which has been destroyed in a German town.

BLOWN UP
Kosciusko Monument in Lodz
 The German authorities here have issued and distributed the Kosciusko monument in Liberty Square, Lodz, which they described as the only Polish monument which has been destroyed in a German town.

Outrage in Australia - Professor Anderson responds: : "Kosciuszko Freedom Poland Australia"

The NSW Minister for Education concluded that 'there is a real historical as well as a sentimental value' in interesting the school children of NSW in the memorial, providing this salutary lesson to boys and girls: Defiance of Dictators. The Minister approved an appeal for students to contribute their pennies to the approximately £100 cost of the memorial plaque and its erection. The Minister also approved the proposal that two prizes for a poem, "Kosciusko", be offered through a competition held among NSW schools for students under 14 and for students between the ages of 14 and 17. Each prize was 2 guineas, funded by the Arts Club of Sydney.

The plaque in honour of Paul Edmund Strzelecki and Thaddeus Kosciuszko bearing the explorers naming rationale was unveiled on Saturday, 17th February, 1940, by the honorary consul-general for Poland in Australia, Ladislas de Noskowski, in front of a crowd of 400 people including about 120 school children and a party of alpine horsemen. Keeping in mind that the tyrant oppressing Lodz had proclaimed to the world that "it would be impossible – impossible for Poland ever to rise again", in addition to the Australian and Polish National Anthems the crowd sang a moving third musical composition at the Kosciuszko summit, titled: "Poland You Will Rise Again" authored by Mrs Florence Brigg-Cooper of Annandale, Sydney.



S O N G

★

*"Poland
You Will Rise Again"*

★

By
Florence Brigg-Cooper



Mt Kosciuszko Plaque Unveiling and singing of: - "Poland You Will Rise Again"

Our hearts go out to Poland and her folk across the sea,
 This sunny land Australia soon will help to set them free

They proved their dauntless courage when they suffered for us all
The very most that we can do will still be far too small.
So lift your voices every one and join in the refrain
Poland, you will rise, you will rise again.

There's money needed sadly, so we now appeal to you.
Please give us your pounds or shillings and we'll take your pennies too.
We know you're good Australians, and will do your level best,
If you supply the needful we'll see to all the rest.
So lift your voices everyone, and join in the refrain,
Poland, you will rise again.

Strzelecki biographer W L Havard observed that:

The keynote of the sentiments expressed by the speakers was the age-long struggle for freedom. Reference was made to the circumstances that whilst the enemies of freedom were actually at this time destroying ancient monuments to Kosciuszko in Poland, the children of this free democracy—Australia—were raising new ones in his memory and in honour of the same ideal of freedom.

(Source: Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorialised Worldwide, 2022 p22-23)

A small 2nd plaque (date unknown) was added soon after, with these details:

This memorial plaque was provided by Public Subscription and on 17 February 1940 was unveiled by the Consul General for Poland LSL Noskowski & Mrs De Noskowska



The 2nd plaque, possibly due to vandalism, disappeared some time before 1950. It was re-added in 1994 but the inscription was modified thus:

This Commemorative Plaque was Unveiled by The Consul General of The Republic Of Poland for Australia, New Zealand and Western Samoa, Ladislav Adam De Noskowski Esq On 17th February 1940



In 1998 a plastic board replaced the original bronze plaque because Kosciusko National Parks had to add the missing 'z' in Kosciuszko. It has a two column format. The left side is a copy of the original inscription, but on the other side a few National Park bureaucrats imposed their own cynical opinions subverting Strzelecki's achievements. The installation totally ignores the contributions of the school children of Australia and the spirit in which the community supported the honouring of Strzelecki and Kosciuszko in 1940 as per the observations of W L Havard. Seemingly lost, it was found dumped ignominiously in a National Parks storage area and moved, together with the modified small plaque, to the Polish Embassy in Canberra in 2001.

Welaregang

The Strzelecki memorial located at 180 Tiltandra Rd, Welaregang Station is one of several erected by Kosciuszko Heritage Inc (KHI) that memorialises key places in the footsteps of Paul Edmund Strzelecki on his way to climbing Australia's highest summit and naming it Mount Kosciuszko. KHI is a volunteer organisation aiming, amongst other things, to promote and keep in living memory the achievements of Paul Edmund Strzelecki and Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

The memorial marking the 181st anniversary of the event was unveiled on Tuesday, 9th March 2021, by Polish Ambassador to Australia Michał Kolodziejcki and NSW State Parliamentarian Justin Clancy. A large crowd of interested parties attended the unveiling. It was at Welaregang Station that Strzelecki and other members of his party were hosted for several days by proprietors John and Mary Hay before setting off on the part of Strzelecki's southern expedition that included the climbing and naming of Mt Kosciuszko.



The inscription on the bronze plaque on the granite slab summarises the venture:

In March 1840, Paul Edmund Strzelecki, James Macarthur, James Riley with Indigenous guide Charlie Tarra of Goulburn and convict servants James Nolan and John Rent reached Messrs, 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 shearing while a local Aboriginal guide Jackey joined the others to ascend the nearby Australian Alps.

On the afternoon of Thursday 12 March 1840, Strzelecki climbed the highest peak and named it Mount Kosciusko, to honour of Thaddeus Kosciusko, Polish and American national hero, champion of human rights and freedom for all.

All five returned to Welaregang and on March 16 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, 2020.

3. NSW North

Maitland

The achievements of Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki are memorialised by an obelisk located in King Edward Park, near the corner of New England Highway and Banks St, East Maitland. The inscription on the bronze plaque states:

To Sir Paul E. Strzelecki CB, KCMG., FRGS 1796 – 1873. Explorer, Scientist & Philanthropist. In Appreciation for his Contribution to Australia`s Explorations, Discoveries & Immigration By the Polish Association in NSW, Maitland Branch. Unveiled by its President Feliks J. Dangel BEM. JP on the 3rd of May 1988

Newcastle

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, John McNaughton, during his speech given in June 1989 for the opening ceremony of the Strzelecki exhibition at the Newcastle Cultural Centre, announced that Paul Edmund would soon be honoured eponymously because of the long term benefit of his research of local coal deposits derived from his October 1842 to April 1843 Northern Expedition of the Hunter region. The Park, located at High St, atop of the hill with the panoramic views of the Newcastle metropolis and the Pacific Ocean, was to be renamed the Strzelecki Scenic Lookout. now a popular place for hang-gliding.

A black granite plaque was unveiled at the Park on Saturday, 16th November by the Consul General of Poland. It includes an engraved Strzelecki profile as well as two contrasting panoramas, Strzelecki's 1845 diagram is shown above a 1991 view of the same area. The inscription, in part, states:



Strzelecki Scenic Lookout Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki In recognition of the great Polish geologist and Australian explorer whose research on coal deposits and chemical analysis, during the period 1839 - 1845 influenced the development of the Newcastle District Erected in 1991 by Newcastle City Council and Polish Historical Society

4. Tasmania

5 Victoria

Boolarra

In 1990 a memorial plaque, to mark the 150th anniversary of Strzelecki's exploration of Gippsland, was unveiled on the banks of the Morwell River just east of Boolarra, a rural community of about 600 people located at the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges, 20 km south-west of Morwell in the Latrobe Valley, Gippsland. The inscription on the plaque notes:

Count Strzelecki crossed the Morwell River near here in April 1840. Erected by Boolarra and District Historical Society

In early 1840 Strzelecki left the McArthur property at Tumut in the Monaro district of NSW to explore lands to the south and to establish new areas suitable for agriculture. As Strzelecki crossed the flooding Latrobe River heading south to Port Albert on Bass Strait, he and his party found the densely forested hills too difficult to navigate with horses and equipment. He abandoned these - it is thought - near Boolarra. He then changed direction and followed on foot in a straight line south west direction towards Western Port Bay, where he knew of an established settlement. With meagre supplies and equipment, he and his party made their way painfully and slowly over very rough terrain to Corinella at Western Port Bay. All survived the arduous journey and Strzelecki had the honour of naming this region Gippsland after Governor Gipps. (Ann Morgan, 29th August, 2017) - Source: Mount Kosciuszko Inc: <http://mtkosciuszko.org.au/english/boolarra-plaque.htm>

Corinella

On Saturday, 9th April, 1927, a brown brick obelisk honouring Strzelecki's exploration of Gippsland was unveiled near the entrance of Foreshore Reserve, just off Smythe St Corinella. It is one of 7 Cairns that were unveiled in 1927 to honour Strzelecki's Gippsland explorations. The inscriptions on the 2 attached plaques differ slightly. The first states

A Party Which Included

Paul Edmund Strzelecki, James Macarthur, James Riley And Charlie Tara
Reached Here On 12th May 1840
9th April 1927

Whereas the second, installed later just below the first, states:

:

Further Exhaustive Research Has Revealed That An Exploration Party Of James Macarthur, Paul Edmund De Strzelecki, James Riley, Charley Tarra, John Kent, James Nolan Having Journeyed From New South Wales Via Omeo South, Then West Through Gippsland Arrived Here 12th May 1840

Heyfield

Heyfield is the location of the first of 7 Cairns that were unveiled in 1927 to honour Strzelecki's Gippsland explorations. The attached plaque notes:

Count Strzelecki passed near here April 1840.
Angus McMillan passed 7 miles from here 1840.
Erected 1927.

Koornalla

Another of 7 Cairns that were unveiled in 1927 to honour Strzelecki's Gippsland explorations is located at Traralgon Creek Road, Koornalla. In 1966 a second plaque, together with Artur Santowiak's life-size bas-relief of Strzelecki's profile, was added. The original plaque, beneath the one added later, notes:

Count Strzelecki Passed Near This Spot April 1840
Erected 1927

and under Santowiak's Strzelecki medallion, the plaque inscription notes:

This Plaque unveiled on 7/10/1966 by Councillor E A Farmer, President of the Shire of Traralgon Donated by Polish Association Latrobe Valley Sculpture - A. Santowiak

Korumburra

On the 9th April, 1927, another of 7 Cairns erected in honour of Strzelecki's Gippsland explorations, is located at Warragul & Bena roads Korumburra.

The plaque inscription states:

Count Strzelecki First Explorer of South Gippsland passed this spot May 1840.
Erected 1927.

Leongatha

On Friday 8th April, 1927 Another of 7 Cairns erected in honour of Strzelecki's Gippsland explorations, is located at Long Street, Leongatha. The plaque inscription states:

Count Strzelecki First explorer of South Gippsland passed within ten miles of this spot May, 1840. Erected 1927

Melbourne

Paul Edmund Strzelecki's geological research in Australia is commemorated by a George Frimi designed bronze bas-relief located on the exterior of the University of Melbourne's Earth Science building on the corner of Elgin Street and Swanson Street, Melbourne. Unveiled June 19, 1988, the inscribed plaque states:

This monument commemorates Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki 20 June 1797 to 6 October 1873 the Polish-born geologist who pioneered new frontiers for Australia Donated to the people of Australia in the Bicentenary year by the Australian Polish Community

Mirboo North

The Strzelecki Memorial at Mirboo North was constructed by Tom Nilan and was officially unveiled by the Governor, Lord Somers, on 8 April, 1927. (. . .) The Cairn was originally located at the intersection of Ridgway and the Strzelecki Highway (Thorpdale Road) opposite St Mary's Anglican Church and was relocated to its present site in

February, 1972 as a result of road widening works. In 1994 a threat by Shire of Mirboo to have it demolished resulted in a public outcry, and it was saved following a public meeting.

(. . .)

The Strzelecki Monument at Mirboo North is located on the north side of Ridgeway in Baromi Park. It is a squat tapered obelisk set on a low plinth carried on a wide square base. The masonry construction has a rendered finish incorporating some naïve detail in the form of slotted bands and raised rectangular panels. A slender steel pipe carrying a rose for a spherical light fitting surmounts a roughcast pyramidal cap. The commemorative plaque indicating the explorers passage through the area in April 1840, is in white marble with incised letters. Source: Victorian Heritage Database place details - 29/9/2022 - http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/reports/report_place/30920

The plaque inscription states:

Count Strzelecki
Passed Near Here
In April, 1840

Morwell

At Immiigration Park Morwell, one of the displays shows a portrait of Paul Edmund Strzelecki. The narrative in the background ignores his significant contribution to the early exploration of Victoriia in particular, and Australia in general.

Mt Fatigue

In Volume 2 of his book "Discoveries In Australia", author J Lort Stokes, Commander, RN wrote:

To commemorate my friend Count Strzelecki's discovery of this important and valuable district, which he named in honour of His Excellency the Governor, I called the summit of a woody range 2110 feet high, over the north shore of Corner Inlet, Mount Fatigue. (. . .) It was in the rear of this range that Count Strzelecki and his companions, on their way to Western Port, experienced the sufferings

On the 200 anniversary of Strzelecki's birth, the Polish Community in the State of Victoria funded and installed a commemorative plaque on Mt Fatigue. The inscription notes:

Mount Fatigue 583 metres Named in February 1842 by Captain John Lort Stokes, RN of HMS 'Beagle' to commemorate the pioneering and difficult exploration of Gippsland by Sir Paul Edmund De Strzelecki in 1846.
Polish Community of Australia, 1997

Strzelecki Avenue of Honour

Paul Edmund Strzelecki's life is widely recognised historically. In making the world better in various ways he has been memorialised eponymously, especially in Australia, as one of the world's great explorers. Amongst many other eponyms, there is Strzelecki Peak, Flinders Island. In NSW there is the Strzelecki Scenic Lookout and Mount Strzelecki in the Northern Territory. South Australia has Strzelecki Creek, and east of Lake Eyre - the Strzelecki Desert, as well as the Strzelecki Track. The Strzelecki Highway is in Victoria as are the Strzelecki Ranges where the township of Strzelecki is located.

Popular across Australia, during and just after WWI. especially in Victoria, was the frameworking of roadways with specially planted trees. It reflected a characteristically Australian egalitarian spirit of individually memorialising all, regardless of rank, who had put themselves in harms way so that others could live free. Located along the Korumburra - Warragul Road in the township of Strzelecki, the Strzelecki Avenue of Honour is one such example. Planted on Arbor Day, 4th July 1919, the Monterey Cypress Pines have since matured to such a size that they now form a scenically magnificent continuous canopy propagating a stunning tunnel-like effect. It is an attractive feature that links the township's two important public buildings, the Uniting Church and the Strzelecki Public Hall. Although the Strzelecki Avenue of Honour does not ostensibly memorialise Paul Edmund Strzelecki, it does so eponymously yet again.



Traralgon

Another of 7 Cairns erected to honour Strzelecki's Gippsland explorations was unveiled at Traralgon on 9th April, 1927. Its move to a new location in Traralgon was reported in the Latrobe Valley Express thus:

Monument's new home

By Farrah Plummer April 2, 2015

The marker is one of seven memorials in Gippsland in recognition of Polish native Paul Strzelecki's exploration of the region. On Wednesday, the approximate 10-tonne sculpture was unveiled, after being relocated with a special steel cradle to make way for the new lanes of the Princes Highway between Stammers and



Minniedale roads. VicRoads south eastern projects director Charlie Broadhurst said VicRoads decided to shift the monument some 250 metres down the road after realising it would be affected by road works.

"It's a safer location for people who want to pull over off the side of the road that want to have a look at and we decided it should be restored," Mr Broadhurst said. He said the cement render had been repaired and repainted. The plaques fixed to the memorial in 1966 were also restored. "It was an opportunity to do something about heritage and we consulted with the Traralgon Historical Society and the Polish community about shifting it. "We think we've enhanced it as a place compared to where it was and I think it's a good feature of this

The memorial was originally erected in 1927 and was restored in 1966 by the Latrobe Valley Polish Association. Polish Community Council of Victoria's Marian Pawlik said the council was extremely grateful to VicRoads for undertaking and completing the restoration of the commemorative obelisk. "This is a very important day not only for Polish people, but for everyone. Today we are preserving a small part of Australian history," Mr Pawlik said. Parking has been provided at the new location to allow visitors to view the memorial.

Felix Molski, one of the guests at the 2015 reopening stated

"I represent a group of volunteers who are trying to get Strzelecki's name more broadly known, and it's Kosciuszko Heritage. We of Kosciuszko Heritage seek your help. We seek your help to bring Strzelecki into living memory. Here's why.

In addition to his explorations and scientific work, Strzelecki was a man of deep compassion. He felt the pain of others, of anyone suffering injustice or distress; and he acted. He acted at an extraordinary level of effectiveness. A "Good Samaritan". Nowadays we have "Welcome to Country". It's a mark of respect for the traditional custodians of the land. But respect for aboriginal culture, laws and traditions is not extraordinary TODAY. Strzelecki was ahead of his time. In exploring Gippsland and other parts of NSW and Van Diemen's Land (VDL) he crossed many of around 200 aboriginal tribal borders, trekking 11 thousand km on foot with a 20kg back pack of scientific instruments. No violence, no force, no massacres. Extraordinary! He crossed with permission and respect for tribal law. He understood that each tribe was a nation with its own laws and traditions; not only here but in all his world explorations. In North America he lived with the Huron Indians for about 3 months learning from them and about them. He felt the pain of the injustices native cultures suffered. In Rio he wrote of his deep anguish after eye-witnessing slavery. Later, in England, he became an active Committee member of an anti-slavery organisation set up by the Bishop of Winchester, the son of William Wilberforce.

Just after his book 'The Physical Description of NSW and VDL' was published he volunteered to help the starving Irish at the time of the Great Hunger. He was assigned the toughest most deeply afflicted Counties – Donegal, Mayo and Sligo. He didn't collect reports in an office; he went to see for himself the extent of the hunger to form plans on how best to use the resources people around the world had donated to help the Irish. Tough countryside, freezing weather, exposure to disease; his deep compassion and physical fitness allowed him to overcome terrible adversity. When blizzards stopped his carriage he continued on, on foot. In late March, 1847 he was struck down by typhus, pulled through and continued undaunted totally throwing himself into relief work. He innovated a simple but powerfully effective strategy that when applied throughout the most distressed districts in Ireland saved over 200 thousand children from starvation.

Extraordinary!

Strzelecki was tormented by the plight of the children. And it was not just their being barefoot, almost naked and starving in freezing weather; he writes OFTEN

with deep feeling of the permanent psychological impact on any who survived. It is perceptible from his words that this gnawed on his psyche; heavily. Writing about it often, suggests that he had painful memories of scars in his own childhood. Strzelecki's motivation? It can be inferred from his past experiences:

- He lived under foreign oppression
- He experienced injustice
- He was orphaned at a young age
- He experienced hunger in his youth in Poland and here in Gippsland
- And in his time of need he received help from his Aboriginal guide Charlie Tarra here in Gippsland.

In a remarkable co-incidence, yesterday in Dublin, Strzelecki's humanitarian deeds were honoured with the unveiling of a plaque. Today here in Traralgon we honour his opening of Gippsland for settlement. Please help spread the word about Strzelecki so that he does become a part of living memory."

The original lower plate on the cairn is inscribed thus:

Count Paul Strzelecki (1797-1873) Passed this way 13th April 1840
Erected 1927
Unveiled by Lord Somers

The plaque below the Santowiak sculpted Strzelecki Medallion states:
This plaque unveiled on 07/10/1966 by Sir Herbert Hlyland MLA.
Donated by Polish Association Latrobe Valley Sculpture - A. Santowiak

Yinnar South

As noted in the Mt Kosciuszko Inc Website

[Yinnar South - unknown memorial plaque about Strzelecki \(mtkosciuszko.org.au\)](http://mtkosciuszko.org.au)

It references a 7th March, 1988 article written by Witold Lukasiak, a Polish-Australian journalist, a previously unknown Strzelecki memorial was discovered by sculptor Artur Santowiak not far from Explorers Bridge, near the corner of Gilberts and Upper Middle Creek Rds, Yinnar South.

The plaque inscription states:

Explorer's Bridge Construction Authority:Shire Of Morwell.

Contractor:F.D.J. Constuctions Pty. Ltd.

Completed August, 1972. Cost: \$37,000.

In April, 1840, James McArthur, James Reilly, Paul Strzelecki, Charlie Yarra and Three Ticket-Of-Leave Men Passed Within Coo'Ee of this Bridge.

As noted by Lukasiak, sadly the inscription, amongst other errors, misspells the names MacArthur, Strzelecki, Riley and Tarra.

Key Details of Paul Edmund Strzelecki Memorials Located in Australia

State/	Place	LatitudeLongitude	Open	Code*
ACT	Canberra(PolEmbassy))	35° 18' 31 S 149° 06' 50 E	2001	p26a
NSW	Cooma	36° 13' 06 S 149° 08' 15 E	1989	p22b-c
NSW	Geehi Flats	36° 22' 48 S 148° 10' 44 E	2022	p23a
NSW	Jindabyne	36° 24' 53 S 148° 37' 31 E	1988	p23b,p26c-d
NSW	Maitland	32° 44' 52 S 151° 34' 58 E	1988	p27b
NSW	MtKosciuszko	36° 27' 21 S 148° 15' 49 E	1940	p24d
NSW	Newcastle	32° 56' 11 S 151° 46' 37 E	1989	p25a
NSW	Welaregang	36° 02' 16 S 147° 56' 50 E	2021	p25c
Victoria	Boolarra	38°24' 26 S 146°18' 32"E	1990	p22a
Victoria	Corinella	38° 24' 31 S 145° 25' 16 E	1927	p22d
Victoria	Heyfield	37° 59' 04 S 146° 46' 58 E	1927	p26b
Victoria	Koornalla	38° 19' 46 S 146° 31' 43 E	1927	p27a
Victoria	Korumburra	38° 24' 45 S 145° 48' 34 E	1927	p23c
Victoria	Leongatha	38° 28 42 S 145° 56' 56 E	1927	p23d
Victoria	MelbUniEarthSc	37° 47' 48 S 144° 57' 53 E	1988	p24a
Victoria	Mirboo North	38° 24' 02 S 146° 09' 22 E	1927	p27c
Victoria	Morwell	38° 14' 15 S 146° 25' 20 E	2007	p24b
Victoria	MtFatigue	38° 34' 14 S 146° 18' 28 E	1997	p24c
Victoria	StrzeleckiAveHonour	38° 20' 52 S 145° 53' 33 E	1919	p25b
Victoria	Traralgon	38° 11' 12 S 146° 35' 12 E	1927	p27d
Victoria	YinnarSouth	38° 22' 30 S 146° 21' 40 E	????	p25d

* The code gives the image/s location for each particular memorial. For example p24b locates the image on p24 at the bottom left of the 4 image collage.



Boolarra - Vic



Cooma - NSW



Cooma - NSW



Corinella - Vic



Geehi - NSW



Jindabyne -NSW



Korumburra - Vic



Leongatha - Vic

Melbourne - Vic



Morwell - Vic

MIGRATION INTO GIPPSLAND

The Gippsland has a long and varied history, and the name 'Gippsland' is a testament to the many people who have lived and worked in this region. The name is derived from the name of the first European to explore the area, the English navigator Phillip Gidley Broughton, who was the first to enter the Gippsland Bay in 1792. The name 'Gippsland' was first used in 1841 by the English explorer Phillip Gidley Broughton, who was the first to enter the Gippsland Bay in 1792. The name 'Gippsland' was first used in 1841 by the English explorer Phillip Gidley Broughton, who was the first to enter the Gippsland Bay in 1792.

PAUL EDWIN STREZEMSKI

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Mt Fatigue - Vic



Mt Kosciuszko - NSW





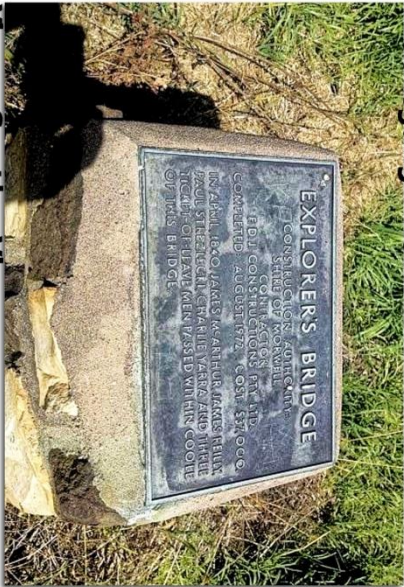
Newcastle - NSW



Strzelecki Avenue of Honour - Vic



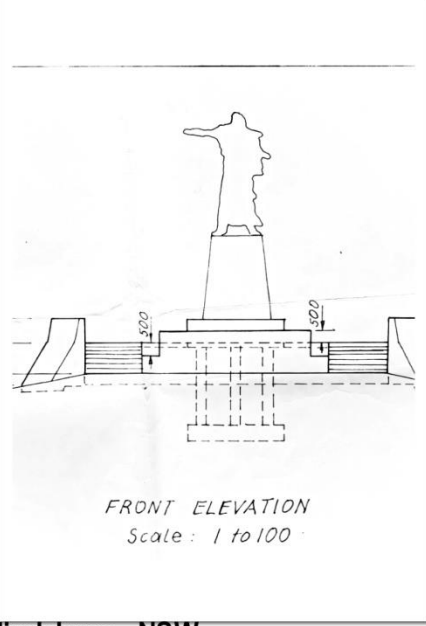
Welaregang - NSW



Yinnar South - Vic



Canberra - Polish Embassy - ACT

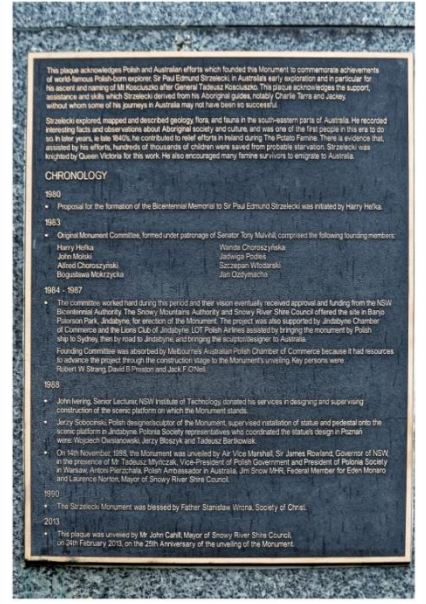


FRONT ELEVATION
Scale : 1 to 100

Jindabyne - NSW



Hevfield - Vic



Jindabyne - NSW



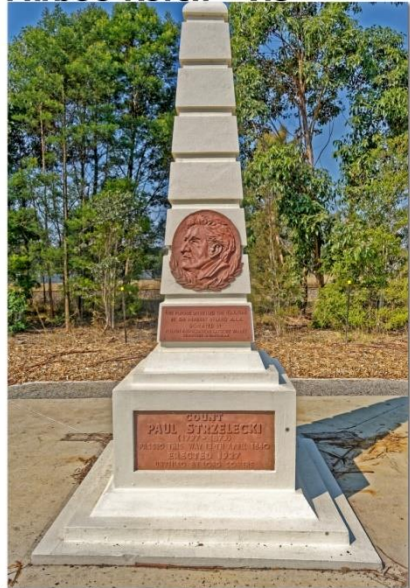
Koornalla - Vic



Mirboo North - Vic



Maitland - NSW



Traralgon - Vic