



MEDIA RELEASE 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### **Strzelecki: 1840 Omeo to Melbourne Commemorating a multi-cultural journey across Gippsland**

Omeo in East Gippsland Victoria will hold a weekend of multi-cultural Celebration, Commemoration and Recognition commencing on Friday 27 March 2020 to Sunday 29 March 2020 at the Omeo Soldiers Memorial Hall.

*Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.* will host the Community Event to celebrate the 180th anniversary of naming Mt Kosciuszko and exploration of Gippsland. The event will include Book Launch of "*Kosciuszko. Friend of Humanity*", unveiling of an exhibition "*Strzelecki The Hero of the Great Irish Famine*", the first in Australia public display of Tracy H. Sugg's bronze sculpture "*Gen. Kosciuszko with his African-American friend, aide-de-camp, Agrippa Hull*". A conference and multicultural concert including energetic Polish folkloric dances, musical collaboration performances and an evening dance will also take place.

It is 180 years since Polish man Paul Edmund Strzelecki, English immigrants James Macarthur and James Riley, their aides Englishman James Nolan and John Rent of African descent, were ably guided by their indigenous guides Charlie Tarra and Jackey on a journey from Gippsland in south-eastern Australia to arrive in Melbourne. The journey included the naming of Mt Kosciuszko. The last two stopovers of the travelling group were close to the present-day Omeo

township at the Stations of Gippsland's pioneers: Edmond Buckley an Irishman, and Lachlan Macalister a Scotsman.

The Strzelecki expedition arrived in Melbourne on 19 May 1840 and Strzelecki promptly named the newly traversed south east region of Australia "Gipps Land".

Quote: "Along the way through Gippsland, the travelling exploration group led by Strzelecki suffered hardship and were fortunate to be guided by Indigenous man Charley Tarra. This was a truly multi-cultural and significant event in Australia's history" said Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President, Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.

"It is hoped that this event will be well attended by the community as a Celebration of Multi-culturalism."

**FURTHER INFORMATION - Contact**

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**The next "Strzelecki Festival" event will take place in May 2020 in  
Tumbarumba.**