

An Unexpected Gift



As part of the Strzelecki Exhibition to be held at Corryong in October 2022 *Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.* will be generously presenting to the *Man from Snowy River Museum* a copy of John Arrowsmith's 1841 map titled "*Route from Yass Plains by the Australian Alps and Gipps Land, to Port Phillip by E.P. Strzeleski*".

It is the rare first edition of this important map of Sir P.E. Strzelecki's explorations in the Australian Alps, which appeared in the House of Common Papers in 1841. The map illustrates Strzelecki's route from Sydney to Port Phillip and the encampments of Strzelecki's party.

At the time Arrowsmith's map became available to the public this was an exceedingly important addition to knowledge of the interior and, today, it is equally important as it preserves a snapshot of earliest tentative settlement of this country by Europeans as they pushed into *terra incognita* beyond the official "Bounds of Location". The Corryong-Upper Murray area first came to the attention of Europeans in 1836 just four years before Strzelecki and party passed through.

