



FREE BADGE !!!* page 6



MEMORIES FROM THE WINTER EXPEDITION
cont. [page 3](#)



Never been at the top of Mt Kosciuszko? Have a look on interactive 280 degrees view !!!
more info on: [page 5](#)

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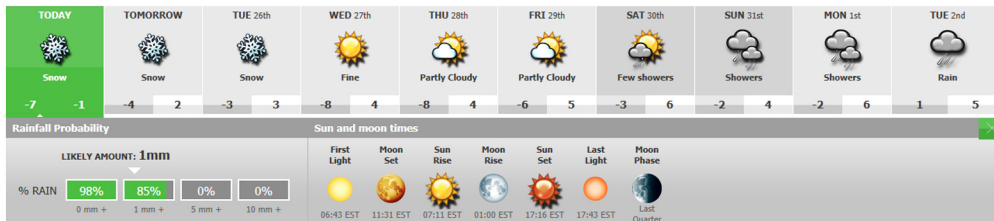
Snowy Mountains Geology



Australia's highest mountain, the 2228m Mount Kosciuszko, is not high compared to other continents' records such as Asia's Mount Everest (8848m) or South America's Aconcagua (6962)

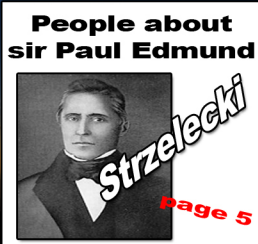
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KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK 10 day forecast



Geographical Name Derivations

Khancoban page 3
"Khan" meant "place" or "hut" in India, and as the convict overseers were named "Coban" then the area became known as...



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OUR PARTNERS

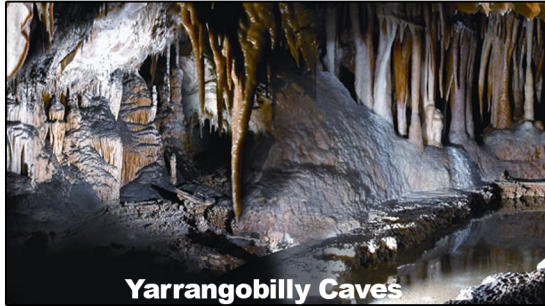
Polish-Australian Internet Newspaper

Puls Polonii 

www.pulspolonii.com

Snowy Mountains Geology

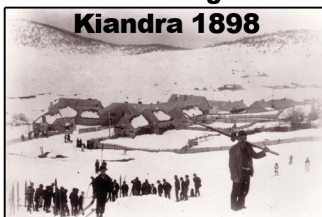
The largest of the NSW's national parks, the 690 000 hectares Kosciuszko National Park runs from Victorian border to the west of Namadgi National Park in Australian Capital Territory. Australia's highest mountain, the 2228m Mount Kosciuszko, is not high compared to other continents' records such as Asia's Mount Everest (8848m), South America's Aconcagua (6962) Africa's Kilimanjaro (5895m) or Europe's Mont Blanc (4807m). This is because Australia has been geologically inactive for a very long time and Australian mountains have therefore managed



Yarrangobilly Caves

to erode more than the younger peaks on other continents. The sedimentary rocks of Australian Alpine area were deposited about 800 million years ago when the area was under the water. About 200 million years later, these sediments were intruded by granites which today stand up as large boulders where the surrounding sedimentary rocks have been eroded away. Ice ages have left further imprints such as tarns, moraines and glacier lakes on the eroded landscape of Mount Kosciuszko.

The largest town in the area is Cooma - a colourful town with some interesting history, and the gateway to Mount Kosciuszko National Park. North-east from here is the ghost town Kiandra, the impressive Yarrangobilly Caves and



Kiandra 1898

the somewhat low-key (compared to the southern ones) ski resort Mount Selwyn. Yarrangobilly Caves are in a limestone belt which formed about 440 million years ago under the water and was later lifted above the sea level. There are guided tours to the caves, and outside the caves are thermal pools where you can have a dip in 27°C waters. Kiandra is an interesting ghost town

which boomed in Australian shortest gold rush with 4000 people for only one year in 1859-1860, to drop to a few hundred people in 1861 and to zero in the next 100 years.

THE ABORIGINES MADE THEIR WAY TO AUSTRALIA AROUND 50, 000 YEARS AGO, ENTERING THROUGH CAPE YORK PENINSULA. BACK THEN THE KOSCIUSZKO PLATEAU WAS THE ULTIMATE WINTER PLAYGROUND, SET DEEP WITHIN THE ICE AGE. LIFE WAS SCARCE DUE TO THE BIG FREEZE, BUT AS THE EARTH GRADUALLY WARMED THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS BLOSSOMED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ABORIGINES SAW THIS POTENTIAL AND TOOK UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE ON THE MONARO BETWEEN 5,000 TO 10,000 YEARS AGO. THE ABORIGINES THAT MOVED TO THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAINS FORMED FOUR MAJOR TRIBAL GROUPS: THE YA-ITMATHANG, THE WOLGAL, THE WARADGERY AND THE NGARIGO. THE UPPER SLOPES WERE REGARDED AS NO-MANS LAND, HELD IN TRUST FOR THE TRIBES AND BECAUSE OF THE WINTER CHILL REMAINED UNINHABITED. THE CHANGING OF SEASONS BROUGHT ON A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE ABORIGINES. IN SPRING THE PEAKS BECAME THE PERFECT MEETING PLACE WHERE THOUSANDS WOULD GATHER FOR CEREMONIES, SHARE IN THE WONDER OF THE ALPINE ENVIRONMENT.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS
MAJOR ABORIGINAL
TRIBAL GROUPS



Boona of the
Cooma Tribe




MEMORIES FROM THE WINTER EXPEDITION TO MOUNT KOSCIUSZKO VIA STRZELECKI'S TRACK cont.

"We set out for Mount Kosciuszko. The distance between the hut and the mountain is about 3 kilometres. After nearly two hours of slow walking we climbed Mt Kosciuszko around noon.

However, it was not long before we had another adventure.

When we began descending towards Thredbo according to our original plan of return, all hell broke loose. A blizzard, a terrible wind and a complete lack of visibility forced us to dig a small hole in the snow, where we hid for two hours. When the snowstorm ended, we decided to go back to the Seamans Hut. Going to Thredbo was too dangerous.



cont. from left

And so, we spent the night in a warm and safe place. On the sixth day we realized there was no point in going to Thredbo, so we went towards Charlotte Pass. After almost 2 hours of walking in a blizzard and with no visibility at all we reached Charlotte Pass. We used a snow tracked vehicle to get to Perisher Valley. There, we got on an underground railway to Bullock Flat, from where we took a bus to Jindabyne. After six days and five nights everyone in our group was totally exhausted.

During our trip we covered over 40 kilometres.

Today, I can say that the first Polish winter expedition to Mount Kosciuszko via Strzelecki's track was successful.

I would also like to mention that people managed to complete this route before only once, in the 1960's.

Our group consisted of three members: Mariusz Szlapak, Stefan Lewandowski, and me - Oscar Kantor. I would like to take this opportunity and thank the expedition participants: Mariusz - for helping me take photos, and Stefan - for setting up the camp, building the fire, and cooking our meals.

Also I would like to thank Mr Dave Darlington from Nationals Parks in Jindabyne, Mr Bruce Easton from Jindabyne's Wilderness Sports and many thanks to Jindabyne's Police Station for fine co-operation.

In addition, I wish to express my gratitude to Puls Polonii, Ernestyna and Andrzej for their moral and multimedia support during our journey.

OSCAR KANTOR

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAME DERIVATIONS

BLUE COW MOUNTAIN

NAMED AFTER A BLUE COW THAT ALWAYS RETURNED TO THIS PART OF THE PARK.

BLUE LAKE

BECAUSE IT LOOKS BLUE.



BOGONG

(IN MANY PLACES AND MANIFESTATIONS). MYTH HAS IT THAT THE FIRST WHITE VISITORS ASKED WHAT VARIOUS FEATURES WERE CALLED AND WERE TOLD "BOGONG" BY THE LONG TERM LOCALS. WHAT THEY WERE REALLY BEING TOLD WAS THAT BOGONG MOTHS WERE FOUND THERE (AS THEY ARE). THE CONFUSION LED THE WHITE VISITORS TO THINK THAT "BOGONG" WAS A WORD FOR "MOUNTAIN", OR THE NAME OF THE PARTICULAR FEATURE. HENCE MT BOGONG, THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS, DICKY COOPER BOGONG AND SEVERAL OTHER FEATURES.

BYATTS CAMP

LEO BYATT, WAS A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL STOCKMAN IN THE 1920s. HE PIONEERED THE ROUTE UP HANNELS SPUR.



KHANCOBAN

THE AREA WAS KNOWN AS KHANCOBAN BECAUSE THE FIRST SETTLERS' HUTS WERE STONE SHELTERS BUILT BY CONVICTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOLDIERS BROUGHT TO AUSTRALIA FROM ENGLAND. "KHAN" MEANT "PLACE" OR "HUT" IN INDIA, AND AS THE CONVICT OVERSEERS WERE NAMED "COBAN" THEN THE AREA BECAME KNOWN AS "COBAN'S KHAN", AND LATER THE SOLDIERS CHANGED THIS TO "KHANCOBAN".



SNOWY MOUNTAINS HISTORY

People about sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki

He left us, leaving behind our deep sorrow. A dignified gentleman - son of the famous but fallen nation - which for a short time came to these islands...

(...)

his departure will never cease to be lamented and his praises resounded on the Oahu.

„The Sandwich Islands Gazette”,

a newspaper published in Honolulu (Hawaii), October 6. 1838.



SLAVEK KOPCZYNSKI (MACARTHUR), BEATA WALD (ADYNA TURNO), JACK HUBALA (STRZELECKI), LUKAS KARPINSKI (JAMES RILLY)



LUKAS KARPINSKI AS JAMES RILEY AND JACK HUBALA AS STRZELECKI
IN DOCUMENTARY MOVIE MT KOSCIUSZKO FROZEN YEARS DIRECTED BY OSCAR KANTOR



JACK HUBALA AS STRZELECKI AND SLAVEK KOPCZYNSKI AS MACARTHUR
IN DOCUMENTARY MOVIE MT KOSCIUSZKO FROZEN YEARS DIRECTED BY OSCAR KANTOR

Strzelecki's ascent of Mount Kosciuszko 1840

by Lt. Colonel Hugh Powell G. Clews, Melbourne 1973.



JACK HUBALA AS STRZELECKI
in documentary movie MT Kosciuszko Frozen Years

On Monday, 2nd March, 1840, Paul Strzelecki and James Macarthur left Ellerslie Station, near the present day town of Adelong, with four others, six in all, on a trip to Corner Inlet on the Western Coast of what is now known as Gippsland. It was intended to make a detour trip to the highest point of the Australian Alps, then believed to be unvisited by previous explorers. The party consisted of 'Count' Paul Strzelecki, a Pole who was making a study of the physical aspects of New South Wales, (at that time Victoria was a portion of New South Wales) and James Macarthur who was with the party to investigate the possibility of using, far pastoral purposes, the country south of the Great Dividing Range now known as Gippsland. Macarthur had financed the trip stating that it had cost him £500, quite a large sum in those days. James Riley, an Englishman, was a protégé of Macarthur and would correspond to what we now call a jackaroo. Also there were two convict servants and an aborigine, Charlie Tara, who originally came from the Goulburn Plains. The number of horses they had, both pack and riding, is uncertain.

(...)

They arrived at Welaregang Station - „Messrs Hay and Chalmers Station on the Hume” probably on the 7th March. They spent the Sunday there reorganizing for the mountain trip and the mountain party left on the 9th. They left the two servants at Welaregang but added another aborigine to the party, so that the party leaving the station consisted of Strzelecki, Macarthur, Riley and two aborigines.

It is probable that Macarthur's aborigine, being from the Goulburn country, was not acquainted with the topography of the mountains, where as the local man had accompanied other aborigines on their trips up to the mountains to feast on the Bogong moths. Mcarthur mentions that they saw remains of aboriginal camps, above the timber line, on the way up.

(...)

to be continued...



People about

sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki



„Strzelecki is the best known of all Poles who have contributed to Australia's history. He archived fame and outstanding recognition not only in the Antipodes, but also in Great Britain, Ireland, the United States and Canada. Polish people themselves contributed little to proclaiming his achievements and building his reputation. Occupied with the vertical problems of national survival, they gave little thought to one of the hundreds of their able men who...

Roland Sussex: Dept. of Demography, Institute of Advanced Studies
Australian National University 1985 - 223.

„I congratulate you on having completed a work which must have cost you so much labour and I am astonished at the number of deep subjects which you discuss. I must be permitted to express my sorrow that there are not far more copious extracts from „M.S. Journal”. I hope some day to see it fully published.”, I heartily wish that one quarter of our English authors could think and write in language one half as spirited yet so simple.”

Charles Darwin to P.E. Strzelecki, after receiving a copy of his Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, 1845.



(...),„he possessed those high moral qualities which the British public always hold in the highest esteem”
 Lord Overstone on November 21, 1848.

**Never been at the top of Mt Kosciuszko?
 Have a look on interactive 280 degrees viewer !!!**

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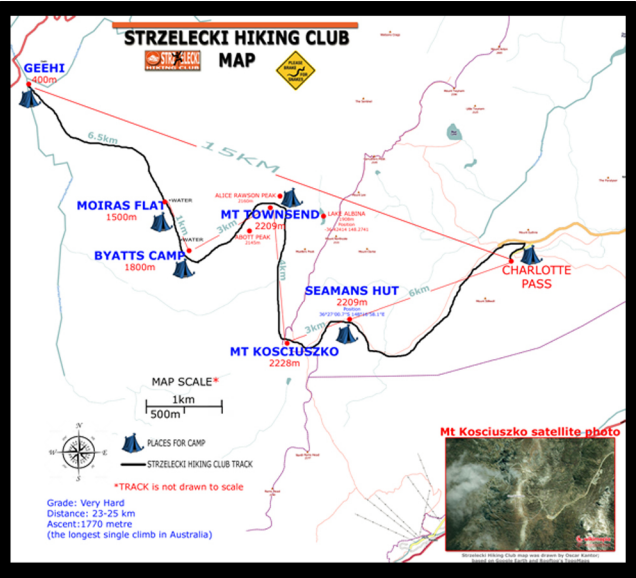
The Strzelecki Hiking Club

provides wilderness adventure and recreation through many outdoor sports in a relaxed setting for everyone.

Our goal and objective is to bring people for exploration of the Strzelecki's Track in Snowy Mountains in Australia. New members are always welcome! Anyone who is over 18 years old and who has the necessary fitness and agility to take part in the Club's activity program is welcome to join the Club.

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The annual subscription for Strzelecki Hiking Club is free.



ENTRY FORM

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**Except: trips expenses and extra insurance.

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