



# Kosciuszko Heritage

Annual Report  
Raport Roczny

2012 – 2013

Activities from July 2012  
to October 2013

# 2012 – 2013 at a glance



▲ Meeting with representatives of Poland's National Archives

Publishing the ninth edition of *Kultura Connect* magazine ▶

▼ Bringing together members of different cultures



▲ Celebrating unique occasions with special friends and colleagues

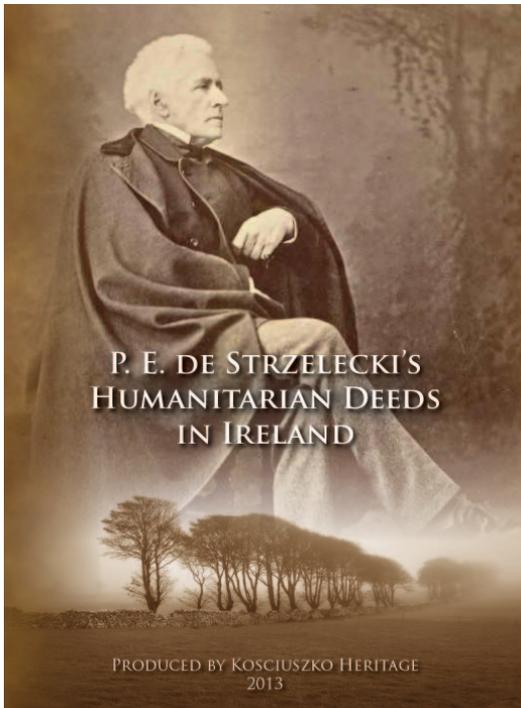
Staging another  
Kosciuszko Festival



Building international links  
at major events



Collaborating on the  
Kosciuszko festivities



Drawing international  
interest and media attention



Producing and launching an  
award-winning documentary



Sharing insights  
with young leaders



## About Kosciuszko Heritage

Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. is a Polish-Australian community organisation that works in the areas of culture, history and education.

Established as an incorporated association in 2007 that was named the Puls Polonii Cultural Foundation, its name was changed to Kosciuszko Heritage on August 30, 2011. Its incorporation number is INC9887322.

Although it is based in Sydney, New South Wales, Kosciuszko Heritage is an Australia-wide organisation that brings together members from various states.

Kosciuszko Heritage has six objectives. They are:

1. The promotion of the contribution made by local and international leaders, particularly Sir Paul de Strzelecki and General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, whose name is borne by the highest peak of Australia, Mt Kosciuszko;
2. The organisation of cultural events to be held in Jindabyne, Cooma, and other suitable locations;
3. The production of radio, press and internet publications, as well as video documentaries, promoting the heroes and the events;
4. The promotion of the contribution made by inspirational and influential individuals - particularly Polish migrants - to Australia's history and cultural heritage;
5. The preservation of Polish culture and identity for younger generations of Poles; and
6. The promotion of the Polish contribution to the exploration of Australia's natural features (such as the Snowy Mountains and the Strzelecki Track in South Australia) and the inclusion of the Polish contribution in appropriate references in Heritage Listings at the National and World Heritage levels.

These objectives were amended at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

## Timeline of Activities

### 2012

#### July

The Kosciuszko (or K'Ozzie) Festival 2013 promotional campaign began with advertising on VisitNSW, a government tourist website. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

Ursula Lang and Andrzej Kozek, two members of Kosciuszko Heritage, gave a presentation at the Australian National University in Canberra on the 28th. The pair's presentation, titled "The Significance of Mt Kosciuszko as a Special Place to the Polish Community in Australia", addressed the theme of this year's ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium, titled *Valuing Heritage: Advocating for Community Attachment in Planning*. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

#### August

A dinner was held for Prof. Wladyslaw Stepniak, the Director of the Chief National Archives (Naczelné Archiwa Państwowe) in Poland and Member of UNESCO's World Memory body. Committee members Andrzej Kozek, Ursula Lang and Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek were present. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

#### September

Committee member Witold Lukasiak, in his interview for SBS Radio, talked about the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Strzelecki biography corrigenda story. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

Committee members Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and Andrzej Kozek took part in Jindabyne's NAIDOC celebrations to strengthen relations with the Ngarigo Aboriginal communities. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

## October

The organisers of the 2013 Kosciuszko Festival *Dreamlights* – Andrzej Kozek, Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and John Molski – met with Bishop Julian Porteous to discuss the logistics relating to the Centenary Mass. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

On Thaddeus Kosciuszko's name day, a committee meeting took place, during which an oak wreath was bestowed on Felix Molski for his efforts in promoting Strzelecki's deeds in Ireland and amongst Irish Americans, and for his idea to create an Honour Roll for those who played a significant role during the Irish Famine. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

## November

Two organisers of the Kosciuszko Festival, Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and Andrzej Kozek, were invited to Jindabyne to discuss with NPWS (New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Services) rangers the ecological restrictions on the Centenary Mass on the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.

Production of the documentary *Polish Aboriginal Fraternity Flights over Mt Kosciuszko* was underway. The documentary was to be premiered during the next Kosciuszko Festival.

A new edition of *Kultura Connect* magazine was published. Edited by committee member Lukasz Swiatek, the ninth edition of the magazine featured articles about Dubai, Amsterdam, the Vatican, Poland and Singapore, among others. (To find out more about edition nine of the magazine, [please click here](#).)

## December

A mass promotion of *Dreamlights*, the Kosciuszko Festival, was undertaken. Notes about the festival were published in *Puls Polonii* and the *Tygodnik Polski* newspaper, as well as other media. The official website ([www.kosciuszkoheritage.com/dreamlights](http://www.kosciuszkoheritage.com/dreamlights)) was also launched.

## 2013

### January

Negotiations took part with artistic groups from Poland (Zayazd and Claribel) about taking part in *Dream Lights*. (To see a collection of reports about preparations for the festival, [please click here](#).)

The compilation and editing of the *Centenary Mass on Mt Kosciuszko: Souvenir Book* was undertaken.

### February

Kosciuszko Heritage's special guest arrived in Australia: the American pianist Roy Eaton. Roy was invited to play during the *Dream Lights* Kosciuszko Festival. A pre-festival meeting took place with Roy and Aunty Rae's family; Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, Andrzej Kozek and Felix Molski were also present. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

The *Dream Lights* Kosciuszko Festival took place on Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th. The weekend featured a Centenary Mass on Rawson's Pass, an outdoor concert with a laser show under the Strzelecki monument in Jindabyne, the premiere of the *Fraternity Flights* film and the unveiling of a new memorial plaque at the Bowling Club. (To see a collection of reports about the festival, including audio files and photo-galleries, [please click here](#).)

During the festival, Kosciuszko Heritage was officially presented with a Medal of Recognition and diploma from the Polish Community Council of Australia (Rada Naczelna Polonii Australijskiej) for the promotion of Kosciuszko and Strzelecki in Australia. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

### April

Lech Paszkowski, the former Patron of Kosciuszko Heritage, passed away on the 24th. Several Kosciuszko Heritage representatives – Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, Andrzej Kozek and Witold Łukasiak – made a trip to Melbourne to take part

in Lech's funeral. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

## May

Kosciuszk Heritage held a meeting with Anna Hospodaryk and Bob Darlington (the co-author of books written with the late John Hospodaryk, the author of a number of songs about Sir P. E. Strzelecki and Thaddeus Kosciuszko and a close co-collaborator on the Kosciuszko Festivals). Bob was requested to write an obituary about John to be published in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Andrzej Kozek also began planning a meeting with Christopher Cunneen of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

## June

Committee members Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and Andrzej Kozek travelled to Brisbane to participate in the Congress of the General Council of the Polish Community of Australia (Zjazd Rady Naczelnej Polonii Australijskiej).

## July

Felix Molski was interviewed by the Irish filmmaker Russ Ryan. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

Several Kosciuszko Heritage representatives and collaborators (Andrzej Kozek, Ursula Lang, Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, Felix Molski, and Bogusia Filip) as well as two benefactors (Teresa Wolak and Ewa Baczynska) attended Aunty Rae's 80th birthday party. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

Matthew Stewart (born February 1960), a great friend of the Polish Community in Australia and Kosciuszko Heritage, passed away age 53 after Aunty Rae's 80th birthday party. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

## August

*Kultura Connect* magazine, Kosciuszko Heritage's flagship publication, was presented to young leaders at the Community Relations Commission Youth Leaders Day Symposium (held on the 6th

at the Novotel Hotel in Parramatta) by committee member Lukasz Swiatek. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.)

Kosciuszko Heritage finished producing the DVD documentary *Strzelecki's Humanitarian Deeds in Ireland*. Created by Felix Molski, Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, John Molski, Andrzej Kozek and Lukasz Swiatek, the film was distributed on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th at the 2013 International Commemoration of the Irish Hunger held at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney. (For further details, [please click here](#) to read a news article.) The film has been posted to YouTube and made available through its own, special page on the Kosciuszko Heritage website. ([Please click here](#) to see it.)

The signatures of Polish academics and Kosciuszko Heritage members were collected for a petition sent to the Tasmanian Museum to establish a Strzelecki Room and to secure the famous geological map by Strzelecki being held in England.

## September

The documentary *Strzelecki's Humanitarian Deeds in Ireland* was entered into a multimedia competition in Poland. Work also began on a Polish voiceover for the Polish version of the documentary.

Ursula and Tony Lang attended a farewell party in Jindabyne for retiring NPWS (New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Services) Manager Dave Darlington.

Kosciuszko Heritage representatives (Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and Andrzej Kozek) met with Pawel Pietrzyk of Poland's National Archives (Archiwa Panstwowe), gifting it with Kosciuszko Heritage publications and DVDs, and discussing Prof. Stepniak's proposals to promote Sir P. E. Strzelecki internationally.

## October

Twenty copies of the Strzelecki DVD were distributed at the Congress of the Polish Community's Cultural Heritage (Kongres

Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Polonii) in Czestochowa, coinciding with 2013 being named the Year of Strzelecki.

While on a trip to Poland, John Molski distributed copies of the Strzelecki documentary DVD.

The Strzelecki documentary was awarded a special prize by Prof. Andrzej Krynski, the President of the Polish Community Cultural Heritage Association.

Kosciusko Heritage representatives (Andrzej Kozek and Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, as well as their granddaughters) participated in NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee Week) in Jindabyne. Felix Molski and Harry Hefka undertook a reconnaissance mission to fix the new brass plaque. Andrzej Kozek photo-documented the newly repaired base of the Strzelecki monument. It was not known who carried-out the repairs; the mayor said he did not know.

Annual report written by Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek and edited by Lukasz Swiatek

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