



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Welcome to the 3rd Newsletter of 2020, as we endeavour to continue to keep our members informed and in contact with articles "Alpine" and Thredbo. The museum has been closed since mid-March however work has continued behind the scenes in planning for the new exhibition themes to feature in the Museum for the next 12 months. Also taking our time is the "Planning to re-open strategy" required to be followed once we get the green light to open for the public. Museums and Galleries are now allowed to re-open from June 1st subject to having a suitable "COVIDSafe Plan" in place.

Thanks to the support of Museums and Galleries NSW and their substantial reference material provided to the sector, our "Plan" is almost complete. Thus ensuring we will be ready to introduce a soft opening of the Museum for the public – to coincide with the Resort Company's opening to the public – with "conditions" no doubt.

Our Vice President Wayne Kirkpatrick in his role as Chairman of Tourism Snowy Mountains has provided in this Newsletter, a detailed overview of the work that has been going on between the ski resort operators and local tourism and business sectors plus State and Local Government representatives.

To get to this point I would like to thank those members who have contributed to Museum working bees and drafting future promotional material. Thank you to Chrissi Webb, Michelle Reichinger, Kellie Meehan, Tash Law, Randy Wieman, Errol Hanlon and Leah Foster.

SKI CLUB OF AUSTRALIA CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

2020 marks 100 years since the formation of the SCA. The early years covering their formation are of particular historic interest for Australian skiing and

our THS (and SCA) member, Shann Turnbull has provided a most interesting report on their early history.

CONGRATULATIONS to all SCA members!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: Yes it is that time of the year when July will see us emailing Subscription Notices for 2020/21 to those who have subscriptions due. Those members who have paid in advance will not receive a notice. Our policy is to review the membership status by the end of September and remove from our membership list those who have outstanding subscriptions for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. Should you wish to check your status you can contact our Membership Officer Anne Collet on (02) 5100 3823 or email rainmakerrealty@grapevine.net.au. We are most grateful for the support, through your membership, that you give to the Society.

In summary, we hope you have all survived the "lockdown" and are looking forward to a return to the Snowy Mountains and ski fields **on 22nd June 2020**. Enjoy the Newsletter and the variety of articles for your reading.

Alan Fredericks (President)

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**STRZELECKI – THE ASCENT (PART 3) STRZELECKIS JOURNEY TO KOSCIUSKO
AND BEYOND by Lt Col HPG Clews (1890-1980)**

So on Thursday, 12 March, 1840, the party left their night camp on the lower slopes of Hannells Spur on what was to be their final day of ascent. Macarthur says “the early dawn of the 12th found us again on our way”. Sunrise would have been about 6.05 am but would be made later by their position which was well under the Western Escarpment. But it can safely be assumed that they were under way by about 5.30am. After 5 hours of steady climbing through the timber they came out in an open spot with water in it. It cannot be certain whether this was Moiras Flat or Byatts Camp, most likely Byatts Camp. Anyhow they had breakfast and decided to leave their blankets etc there to return to at night.

From there, they started to climb the steep and rocky Abbot Range. Although Jacky the aboriginal from Welaregang – knew the natives usual route round the end of the Abbott Range into the cirque at the head of the Wilkinson Creek, which is a much easier approach than the rocky Abbott Range. Strzelecki had seen the Abbott Range approach from the top of the Geehi Walls and would be more inclined to follow the route he had seen.

“After 2 hours of toilsome ascent”, they were still far from the top of the Mountain they were aiming for which, of course was Townsend. As they had doubts about getting back at night to their gear, they (Strzelecki and Macarthur) sent the two natives back to bring the gear up to where they stood, while they proceeded up to the summit which they reached after a “very laborious climb”. When they arrived on the summit of Townsend, a very rocky top, they found that there were several other mountains in the near vicinity.

As Macarthur says “The Count by the aid of his instruments quickly detected one of them as being considerably higher than where we stood”. This of course was some 2 miles due south and about 60 odd feet higher. While on Townsend, Strzelecki named “Kosciusko” after a Polish national hero Tadeusz Kosciuszko. This was done in the presence of Macarthur and then Strzelecki left Macarthur to proceed to Kosciusko. In one of his rare comments on the route – “Once on the crest of the ridge, the

remainder of the ascent to its highest pinnacle was accomplished with comparative ease”.

The movements of Macarthur are related first. He had decided that as the day was far advanced it was more prudent to return to the spot where the natives had been instructed to bring the blankets and gear. He made a leisurely descent to the selected camp site. But there was no sign of the camp or natives. He shouted and fired a shot but got no reply, so he collected firewood and got a fire burning. He then heard a faint coo-ee and discovered the natives camp below him on the top of slopes of Wilkinsons Cirque. The natives naturally did not see much sense in climbing back onto Abbott Range. Macarthur got down to them “making a perilous descent through a dark glen”.

But where was Strzelecki? Macarthur promptly sent Jacky to look for him and the native soon had him back in camp. He had had falls while coming down Kosciusko in the moonlight. Walking down a grass covered slope strewn with rocks can be treacherous even in good moonlight. But these falls are important as a solution to the problems of barometer heights. The writer has carried modern aneroid barometers for many years and a bump or fall can cast immediate doubt on their accuracy. Strzelecki brought down a small bit of rock from the extreme summit and although not mentioned by Macarthur, an everlasting flower which he afterwards sent to his fiancé in Poland

While on the summit, which he could not have reached until about 3 to 4 PM, not noon as he states, he made several sextant observations and he also made copious notes on the geology on the top. As the sun set a little after six in the evening, Strzelecki would have about 3 to 4 hours to complete his observations after arriving on top of Kosciusko at say 3.30PM. In that time he had to make observations with the sextant for latitude and longitude and check his compass against the geographical bearing. He also had to read his barometer which would include temperature and atmospheric humidity observations in addition to making quite extensive notes on the geology of the summit, in all, a rather ambitious program to complete in

(continued on Page 10)

HAPPY DAYS, THERE WILL BE A SKI SEASON IN 2020! BUT IT WILL BE DIFFERENT!

It was wonderful to see so much snow falling recently and of course it stimulated a lot of excitement amongst skiers & boarders, but at the same time with COVID-19 there was a great deal of uncertainty as we waited to hear whether or not we'd be able to enjoy skiing this winter.

It has been promising to see the decline in COVID-19 cases across the nation and in NSW and the easing of some restrictions, hopefully this continues.

Then on Thursday 28 May Deputy Premier and Member for Monaro, Hon John Barilaro announced that the NSW ski resorts can open on Monday, June 22nd saying the NSW Government, through the Monaro LEMC (Local Emergency Management Committee) with key members being NSW Health, NSW Police and SMRC (Snowy Monaro Regional Council), has been working closely with the snow industry in all its forms (the resorts, towns, villages, suppliers and retailers of ski wear and equipment, suppliers and retailers of food and beverages, industry associations etc) to ensure COVIDSafe practices are in place throughout the region for when the season commences and for it to continue.

The entire snow industry with TSM (Tourism Snowy Mountains) and the local Chambers of Commerce have pleasingly worked together as one and closely with Governments and the Monaro LEMC to secure the opening of a ski season in NSW this winter.

However, it will be a very different ski season this year with social distancing and other health

measures to be practiced meaning numbers permitted on the slopes will be drastically reduced from the norm, season passes will be cancelled and skiers must go on-line to purchase a day ticket to ski, by this method numbers can be controlled.

The resort web sites will increasingly release information on all aspects of how the season will be managed and how we should plan to go skiing.

While health remains the number one priority, naturally, Governments and the LEMC were reminded of the economic and emotional pain suffered in the region since January due to bushfires and then Covid-19.

The snow industry across NSW and VIC represents an economic contribution of \$2.4 billion pa and employs approx. 23,000 people.

TSM has taken the lead role to coordinate and encourage all businesses throughout the entire Snowy Monaro region to prepare and operate COVIDSafe plans in accord with Govt requirements.

We continue to actively work and communicate with the LEMC and all levels of Government, the Police and health professionals to show the industry is ready and able to operate this winter, keeping the health and safety of all residents, staff and visitors a top priority.

Wayne Kirkpatrick

Chairman, Tourism Snowy Mountains

THS OFFICE BEARERS: 2020/2021

Patron:	Alan Rydge	
President:	Alan Fredericks	alanf@bigpond.net.au 02 9449 7610 / 0417401403
Vice President:	Ed Denny	6457 6222
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Treasurer:	Raylene Jarvis	0414 679 409
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Oral History:	Jerry Krejzar	0411 224 356
	Randy Wieman, Kerri Koczanowski, Errol Hanlon.	

THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM

Opening Hours: 1 – 5 pm

Peak: *July – September 2020

December 26 – January 27

(closed Mondays)

Other: Weekends only

Spring: October, November

Autumn: Feb March April, June

Plus public holidays and special events

*Subject to change

IN THE THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM

The Museum will be ready to open on 24th June with COVID 19 restrictions in place. All we need now is a roster of volunteers to supervise the ten visitors permitted in the room.

It was top to bottom cleaning of the Museum on May 25th by four dedicated volunteers and a week later volunteers Tash Law and Kellie Meehan argued with the mannequins.



Tash Law and Kellie Meehan

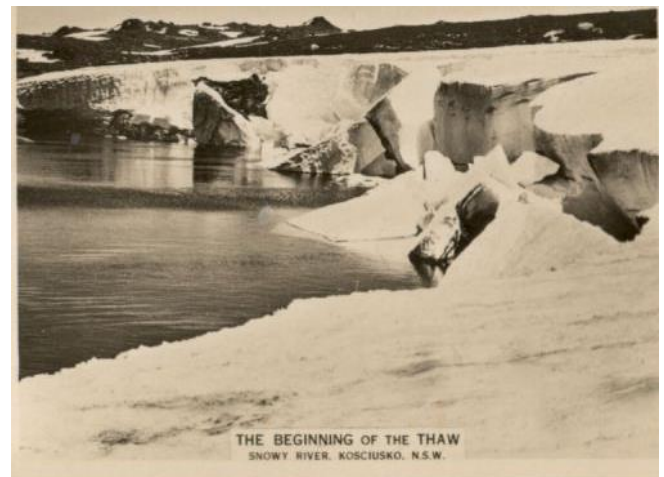
This year's special feature exhibition focuses on "Transport 1900s – 2000s". As most items of transport are classified in Museums as "Large Objects", visitors will be able to view a collage of photographs arranged with the help of Michelle Reichinger, of animals and equipment used to move people to and around the Snowy Mountains.

A special thank you must go to Ric Walkom, Gary Abbottsmith and budding collector Jude Vanzwan from Lyneham High School for sharing copies of transport images found in their collections.

Personalities to be recognised this year on the Museum feature wall are Count Paul Strzelecki known for the first European's ascent of Mt Kosciuszko 180 years ago; and Antonin (Tony) Sponar who was born 100 years ago and worked tirelessly to achieve his dream to create the international ski resort of Thredbo.

The mannequins wear garments which compliment and display the 160 years of travel in the mountains.

In my COVID 19 isolation I have been cataloguing into Mosaic some of the many photographs in the collections archives. Here is an interesting cigarette card picture from the late 1930s showing the snow depths beside the Snowy River during the spring thaw.



Chrissi Webb (Editor)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

THS MEMBERSHIP FEES 2020/21

Individuals: \$45/1-yr; \$225/5-yrs;
\$450/10-yr

Family: \$60/1-yr; \$300/5-yrs

Group: Club \$220/year

Corporate Gold: \$1500/yr Silver: \$1000/yr

Bronze: \$500/yr

CZECH FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS AND THREDBO

'*The Embassy of the Czech Republic*' in Canberra advises that the date for the meeting '*Czech Footprints in Thredbo*' still remains unclear at this stage. Hopefully it can be held later this year.

Our aim and commitment in keeping our membership and the wider skier audience informed and entertained via the internet, and as such via the *#thredboalpinemuseum* Facebook page has been justly rewarded. In that our posts have generated an excellent response in terms of audience reach and participation to date; gratifyingly followers of a younger demographic who were previously unaware of TAM now follow us. The post about the mechanised lift reached a record number - close to 50K - a tribute to the growing popularity of our pioneers.

However not all of our members avidly follow social media platforms. So as to keep those members informed who do not – below we share a selection of photos from our posts.



Frank Prihoda

leading the group - April 1949



Towards the end of 1948 four Czechs escaped the imminent totalitarian grasp of communism enveloping their homeland - formerly known as Czechoslovakia.

They made their way separately to #stantonamariberg.

The Czech National ski champion Tony Sponar fled Prague just after Christmas in 1948 in a World War Two jeep. Karel Nekvapil and Frank Prihoda escaped on cross-country skis, gliding silently across a frozen lake, situated on the Czech Austrian border. And in the winter of 1949 Sasha Nekvapil simply slipped off a train at the Swiss station of Zurich-Engel, unbeknown to her team members of the communist Czechoslovakian Ski Federation, who were returning from a race-meeting in Grindelwald to Prague. Having planned to join her brother Frank, husband Karel and Tony in St Anton in the Arlberg.

To make ends meet the jeep was utilized as the engine-power for the first ski-lift in the adjoining #arlberg ski village of St Christoph. (The home of the #bundessportheim the training center for the #austrianskifederation). Our yet to become Australian Czechs carried #Austrian ex-soldiers, who were amputees, on the ski-lift. Which at the time was situated in the post-war French Occupied Zone.



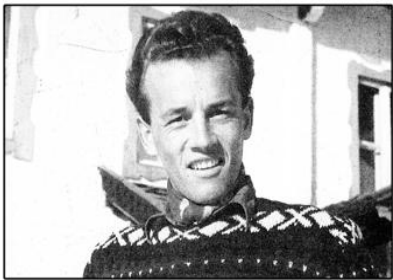
Tony, Frank and Karel carried amputee Austrian ex-soldiers on their ski-lift



CZECH FOOTPRINTS (continued)

ANTONÍN ŠPONAR

Tony Sponar and the Thredbo story






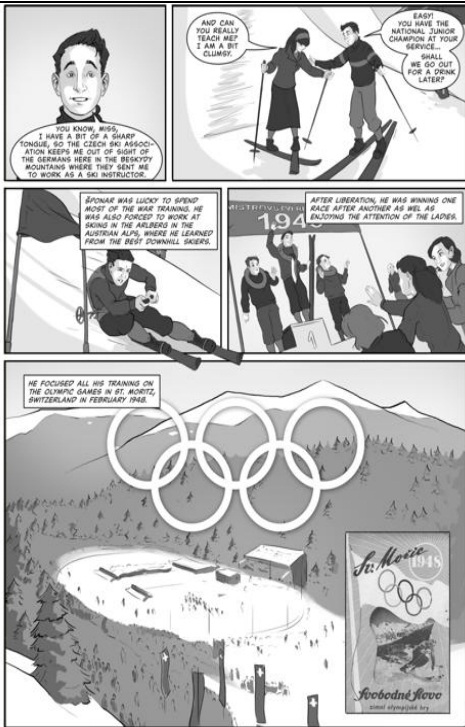
ANTONÍN ŠPONAR
(APRIL 8, 1920 – NOVEMBER 9, 2002)

A PROFESSIONAL CYCLIST AND SKIER, A REFUGEE, A CO-FOUNDER OF A WINTER SPORTS COMPLEX AT THE FOOT OF AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN MOUNT KOŠCIUSZKO, A HOTELIER, A DOCUMENTARIST, AN ADVENTURER, A TRAVELLER, AND A LOVER OF WOMEN AND LIFE. ANTONÍN ŠPONAR WAS ALL OF THE ABOVE, AS WELL AS A RESIDENT OF PRAGUE'S JUNGMANN STREET, WHERE HIS FAMILY HAVE RUN A FRAMING BUSINESS FOR GENERATIONS.

TONY HAD BEEN SKIING SINCE HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD AND GRADUALLY DEVELOPED INTO ONE OF THE BEST DOWNHILL SKIERS OF HIS GENERATION. DURING WORLD WAR II HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS. HE BECAME A SIX-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION. WHEN THE COMMUNISTS SEIZED POWER, HE WENT INTO EXILE ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER WIFE, ELIZABETH. IT WAS MORE OR LESS OUT OF NECESSITY THAT THEY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA, WHICH, HOWEVER, TURNED INTO ŠPONAR'S DESTINY. IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS HE WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALPINE VILLAGE AND FIRST-CLASS HOLIDAY RESORT OF THREDBO, WHICH CAN CURRENTLY HOST OVER 3,500 VISITORS. HE ALSO CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE POPULARIZATION OF WINTER SPORTS IN AUSTRALIA, WHERE THE NAME TONY ŠPONAR RANKS AMONG SOME OF THE GREATEST OF SKIING LEGENDS.

SCRIPT: MARTIN NEKOLA
ART: MICHAL RUMLENA
LETTERING: MILOŠ MIČÁTEK








Tony Sponar Centenary- Comic book

The 'Czechoslovak Talks' www.czechoslovaktalks.com is a Czech cultural and sociological project for future generations aimed to preserve the life stories of Czech émigrés around the World. A life story in 'comic book form' has been created and published in Prague to commemorate Tony Sponar's centenary year. (See above a two-page example of the English version).

The Czech version has already been launched in the Czech Republic and we aim to trial a small quantity of the English version in the *#thredboalpinemuseum* to establish the level of interest in our own market.



FRANK PRIHODA AT HOME IN THREDBO

**FRANK - OUR
NATION'S OLDEST
LIVING OLYMPIAN -
HAVING
REPRESENTED
AUSTRALIA IN
ALPINE SKIING IN
THE COMBINED
EVENT AT THE 1956
WINTER OLYMPIC
GAMES IN CORTINA,
ITALY**

On the 8th July we celebrate our dear Frank's 99th birthday -Thredbo's oldest resident and Australia's oldest living Olympian!

Frank has lived in Thredbo - our wonderful mountain resort- for almost 46 out of his 70 years in Australia.

For 27 years Frank ran a shop selling souvenirs, gifts, small clothing and also some art objects, and retired towards the end of 2001 at the age of 80.

We will commemorate Frank's 99th on our *#thredboalpinemuseum* Facebook page, with a photo collage of his exploits, and you will be kept informed in our next Newsletter, about the secret celebrations

planned for the day, subject to the pandemic times,

Jerry Kretzar



SKI CLUB OF AUSTRALIA BORN WITH AMBITION A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

On July 9th this year, the Ski Club of Australia (SCA) celebrates its 100th anniversary of its formation at the Hotel Kosciusko in 1920. Its membership is now 1,333. The club moved its base from the hotel in 1930 to the Charlotte Pass Chalets until 1957. Club members made key contributions in promoting and establishing Thredbo that has been its home since 1958.

The inaugural SCA committee had all been members of the Kosciusko Alpine Club (KAC). KAC was formed in Sydney in the year the hotel was opened in 1910. KAC members in turn included members of the NSW Alpine Club and the Kiandra Snow Shoe Club. Charles Kerry had been President of both and became foundation President of KAC. Kerry a Sydney photographer led the first party to summit Kosciusko in winter via Friday Flat 1897.

Among the KAC founding committee members were Dr Oscar Paul and Dr Herbert Schlink. Paul became Treasurer and unsuccessfully tried to have membership subscriptions increased to fund a club lodge. He began advocating a new club in 1912 to promote “cross-country touring and exploration of the higher Alps”. Informal conferences were held in the following years with the SCA badge selected in 1913. But the First World War delayed plans.

KAC introduced in 1918 proficiency tests modelled on those of Ski Club of Great Britain. Schlink had just been elected KAC President and approved making the first proficiency awards. However committee members thought that the appointment of judges had been “irregular”. As a result Schlink resigned from KAC with Paul and 25 other members in 1919 to form the SCA. Consent Stephen became the inaugural President of the SCA until 1930 when Schlink became President for the next 30 years. He died two years later aged 79.

Schlink described the formation of the SCA in his article published in the first issue of the *Australian Ski Yearbook* in 1928 as follows:

At several preliminary conferences there were representatives of all the Australian States present, and the feeling was expressed that the club be designated the Ski Club of Australia rather than be called after the State in which it took origin. All present were confident that, as skiing became more universal in Australia there would be great increase of members outside the State of New South Wales and that the time would arrive when the annual meetings of the Club might be held in the Victorian Alps, in those of Tasmania, and even at Mount Cook, in New Zealand.

Schlink also stated that the SCA: “has erected a hut at Gungahran and had made all arrangements to build a chalet at Charlottes Pass, to cost between two and three thousand pounds.” Schlink with Bill Gordon had persuaded sheep grazier Owen Litchfield to build the “Tin Hut” at Gungahran in 1926. Their motive was to provide shelter to initiate the 120 km over snow transit from Hotel Kosciusko to Kiandra Township.

In 1926 Schlink with two sons of Stephens reached the Tin Hut from the Hotel but turned back when a blizzard struck. A five-man party led by Schlink made the 120Km transit in three days when they began at Kiandra in 1927.

The government vetoed the SCA building at Charlottes Pass over the risk of it reducing the profits of its Hotel 18 km away. After two skiers died on a trip to the summit in 1929 the Government built the first Charlottes Pass Chalet in 1930 costing £8000. The SCA contributed £1000 to obtain priority-booking rights.

In her 1942 book, *Australian Alps*, SCA Life Member Elyne Mitchell had identified the Thredbo valley as “one of the few places in our hills where a small alpine village would not be incongruous”. In 1943 SCA member Dr Peter Blaxland, skied with others to the floor of the Thredbo valley recording a drop of 625 meters. This represented the biggest vertical descent of any ski slope in Australia. The Federation International de Ski (FIS) requires at least a vertical descent 610 meters to approve an international downhill race.

(continued on page 8)

SKI CLUB OF AUSTRALIA *(continued)*

The Australian controlling body of skiing, the Australian National Ski Federation (ANSF) supported the development of Thredbo by approving the National Downhill Championships being held in the Thredbo valley in 1953 and 1954. Secretary Svern Wesche was Secretary of the ANSF and had reported in the 1947 Ski Year Book that the valley was a prospective resort site.

Bob Arnott, a member of SCA, had selected a location East of Friday Flat above where there is now a Rangers building. Arnott was a member of Australia's first Olympic team in 1952 and named the location after his team manager George Chisholm. Tony Sponar, a 1948 Czech Olympian helped Arnott to prepare the run. Your author competed in the races and observed the bulldozers building the Alpine Way in 1954. The SCA held its first club championships in Thredbo on the Chisholm run in 1956.

The new road provided the incentive for SCA and Ski Tourers Association (STA) member Geoffrey Hughes to form a syndicate to develop Thredbo. Charles Anton was a member of the Syndicate. He had formed the STA in November 1950. Anton had taken your author for a number of tours on the Main Range earlier in the year. One tour took us to Saturday Peak to view the Thredbo valley that Anton confirmed would be an excellent location to establish a ski area. The STA built lodges at Lake Albina in 1951, Kunama in 1953 under Mt Northcote, an adjacent ski tow in 1954, Illawong in 1957 with Roslyn and Kareela at Thredbo in 1958.

Hughes had helped build and manage the Northcote ski tow. When it was destroyed by fire in 1956 he used its components to construct the first Thredbo ski lift in 1957. In 1956 Hughes negotiated a 99-year lease for the syndicate from the NSW government to develop Thredbo. Financial creditability to develop the lease was achieved by SCA member Thyne Reid joining the syndicate with financial support. It was SCA President Schlink who introduced Hughes to Reid.

In December 1956 Hughes co-founded the Crackenback ski club to build a Thredbo lodge and operate the ski tow. This provided a basis for SCA members to convince the Ski Council of NSW to hold its championships at Thredbo in 1957. Your author was a competitor and was billeted in the new lodge occupied seven months later. At the request of Hughes, Arnott identified Leonhard Erharter as the founding head of the Ski School in 1958.

Many SCA members were keen to transfer their skiing from Charlottes Pass to Thredbo. A number of SCA members procured building sites around the club site. To avoid the need for yet another new club to be formed, the SCA learnt from its own founding history, and established a club within the club called Ramshead. This explains why two buildings were established on the same site in 1958.

Dr Shann Turnbull

Vale: Dr Nickel Crombie 1931 – 2020 passed away on 27th April aged 89 years (late of Balgowlah).

Nick was privately cremated on 27th April 2020. Nick was a life member of the TSPA and a life member of ASPA. Nick was one of the principal medicos in the early 1970's who formulated the first aid Emergency Care manual which Steve Breathour was later to compile.

This manual became the officially recognized ASPA (Australian Ski Patrol Association) 'Advanced Emergency Care Manual' in 1986 and

is utilized as the basis for on-the-hill patient care and retrieval by all Australian Ski Patrol's to this day.

A retired anaesthetist and a keen yachtsman a member of RPAYC - Nick had a big heart and was always generous to a fault. Nick acknowledged that he was a hopeless golfer, he was much more interested in health wine and food; happiness and the pursuit of pleasure.

The Society extends its condolences to Beverley; Andrew and Gen, Sally and Andrew, Campbell and Sachiko; Alec, Annabel, Hugh, Alexandra, Ellie and Sam, and Fiona (UK).

A BUSH THRONE

There was movement at the station for the word had passed around that good Queen Liz herself was coming to stay. Well, it was the Snowy Mountains but in this case it was 1963 and the station was the Head Office of the SMA in Cooma and everybody had *gathered for the fray* to plan this landmark visit. This was going to be *worth a thousand pound* - and a lot more.

Although greenhouse gases were not on the agenda in those days, galaxies of the stuff were expended in trips up and down the highway to and from Canberra satisfying the myriad of bureaucrats who had to be convinced that all would be perfect.

During the tour the Royal Party would stop at Scammel's Spur Lookout, arguably the best view of the Great Dividing Range anywhere, mid-morning on the second day. It slowly dawned on the planners that a 'comfort stop' may be required at this time and that the Lookout was singularly lacking in comforts of any kind. Comfort would have to be provided.

The expertise assembled to solve this problem could have put a man on the moon. This important building-for-one had to be carefully designed and the site prepared, taking into account appropriate size, privacy, aspect, materials, colour, contents and the gradient of the approach path. Mandarins from Canberra visited, inspected, tut-tutted, went away, wrote reports and visited again.

Finally all was ready and the edifice, for it must be described as such, was given a security perimeter so that the great unwashed could not draw nigh.

During the final check of the area an SMA engineer was heard to remark "gee, there's a few mozzies about". Panic ensued, radios crackled, experts were called and enough spray laid down to kill an army of elephants. All would be well.

The day was crisp and clear as only a mountain day can be and the view breathtaking. The Queen obviously was most impressed and spent more than the allotted minutes gazing across the valley at Mount Townsend and the Main Range. Finally it was time to go - on with the tour that is. The Public Relations Officer quietly whispered in the ear of the equerry, who whispered in the ear of the lady-in-waiting, who whispered in the ear of the Queen.

With a gracious smile she shook her head and with a cheery wave got into the limousine. There was a collective sigh of disappointment from all those who had laboured so diligently to build the one-person palace among the towering eucalypts.

All was not lost however as it was soon christened by a long line of members of the international press corps who all wanted to see and sample the wonderful Throne in the Bush. Snowy engineers had not laboured in vain!

Patrick Dodd.



Scammel's Spur Lookout at dawn



Draft design of a bush throne fit for a Queen

We should acknowledge the article being from the May Newsletter of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and the author, Patrick Dodd who has been an employee of the Snowy Hydro Scheme and lived on the Monaro for many years. He is a keen supporter of the Kosciusko Huts Association and a good friend of Neville Locker of Adaminaby.

STRZELECKIS JOURNEY TO KOSCIUSKO AND BEYOND *(continued from Page 2)*

3-4 hours. Owing to the loss or probable destruction of his field book, it is not possible to say how he went about this

The day following the ascent, the party returned to their base camp where Riley was looking after the horses. This would be quite a good walk but nothing unusual, although the thousand foot steep climb up the Geehi Walls must have seemed hard to them. Next day they were in camp with Riley while Strzelecki made his computations. He probably did not want these to fall behind knowing there would

be much further work in front of him. He told Macarthur that the height of Kosciusko was 7800 feet, although in the report to Governor Sir G. Gipps, he gave the height at 6510 feet.

MacArthur's diary ends here.

So the party, 6 men and 5 horses and packs started their trip across present day Gippsland, taking about 8 weeks to reach Westernport on 12th May 1840. During the last fortnight they were on starvation rations.

THE LAST WORD

By Marian Kaluski from the Australian Polish Cultural Foundation

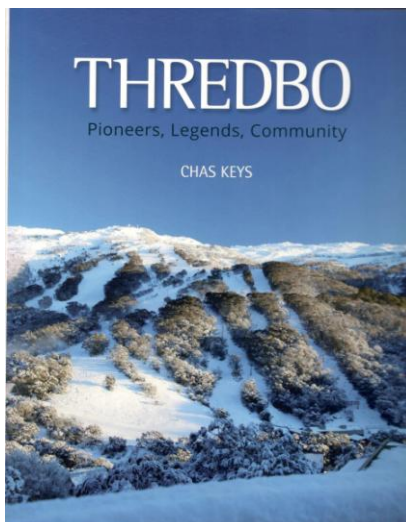
Strzelecki spent several weeks in Melbourne preparing his official report for Governor Gipps and completed the map to go with it. He then began preparing for the next stage of exploration – a series of scientific researches in Van Diemen's Land.

He arrived in Launceston on July 24th, 1840. There he was kindly received by the Governor Sir John Franklin who encouraged him in every way. A remarkable friendship sprang up between them and also with the very influential and respected Lady Franklin. Strzelecki was in Tasmania from July 1840 to September 1842 during which time he organised three extensive expeditions traversing about 3500 kilometres of the Island. On September 29th 1842 he left Tasmania and reached Sydney 2nd October. Almost immediately he proceeded north to the Hunter Valley collecting data for his work. After returning to Sydney he worked on his book for 3 months. When completed he left for England on 22 April 1843.

After reaching England, he published in 1845 his Physical Description of NSW and Van Diemen's Land for which he was awarded the founders gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1869 Queen Victoria created him a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George. Sir Paul Strzelecki died in London on 6 October 1873.

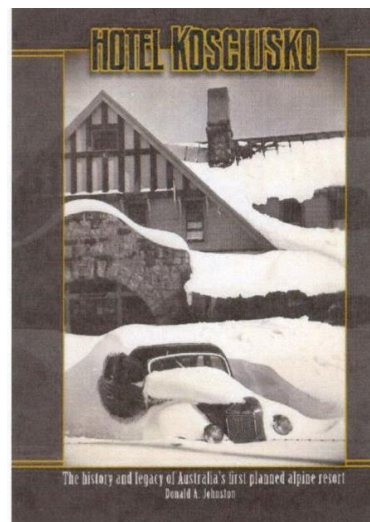
Today Strzelecki's name is commemorated by a range in Gippsland, a peak on Flinders Island in Bass Strait, a creek connecting Lake Blanche with Coopers Creek in South Australia a track which runs by the creek, a township in Victoria (south of Warragul) a mountain in the Northern Territory and a National Park in Tasmania.

The services Strzelecki rendered to Australia and the whole British Empire were of great importance.

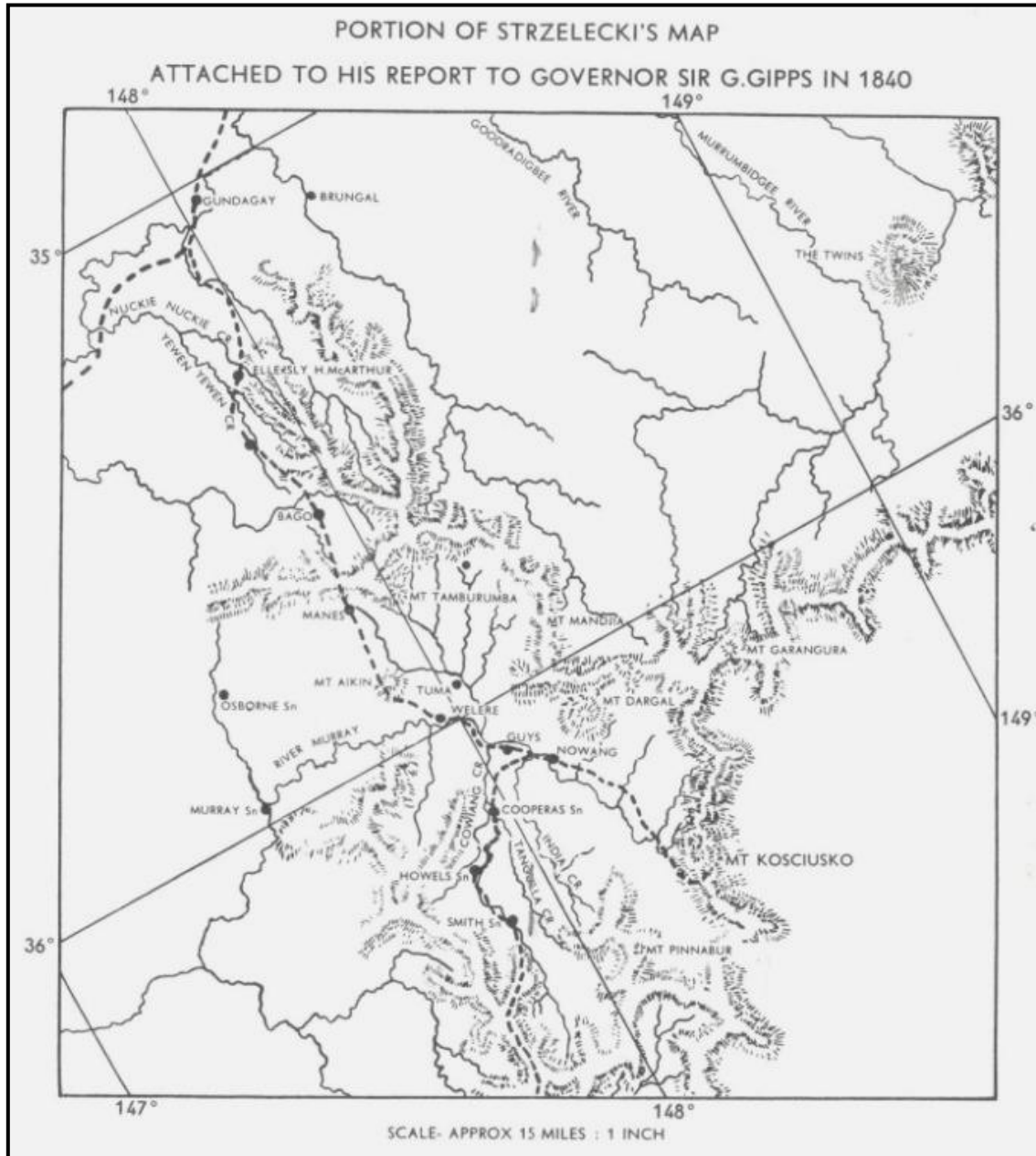


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