

## Mt. Kosciuszko, Australia, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Elevation 7310 ft

### My Journey



Within one year of the beginning of my Seven Summit quest, I reached Mount Kosciuszko.

The third one is truly the easiest, a one-day hike but we had one heck of a day.

We reached the Summit at approx 14:00 local on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but not without encountering some high winds, snow, rain and lots of fog.

The fog really cut down on what we wanted to see, but we made our objective. From what we could see the landscape was incredible, lots of rock formation, very few trees and wildlife.

Depending on the time of the year, the climb can be very dangerous. Summertime is the perfect season for reaching the summit, but from what we could see the weather can change from sunshine to dense fog, high wind and snow. The climb was not physical, but good preparation in any venture is key to success. But what happened along the way may just be the most enlightening moment to date.

The climbs began as a selfish goal to climb mountains. But this trip allowed for much more interaction with the local community and this became “the big takeaway”. Throughout the trip Tom got a chance to “break bread” with the Aussies; this time he met more of the local residents and heard their stories. “When you start sharing your stories, then others will share their’s” and they did. “Meeting people from all walks of life” was very inspiring and motivating. As Tom shared his story about climbing the Seven Summits they began telling him about their challenges in life.

### Who do you inspire? Who inspires you?

**I learned on this trip that inspiration is a two way street. Listening to others can have a greater impact, on both you and them, then you can ever imagine. Did you ever really listen to others as they speak about their issues and goals? I did and they in turn heard a man’s story and the hurdles he has overcome. Perhaps this was an easy climb, but it brought this man’s desires to continue on to a whole new level.**

### Mount Kosciuszko Facts

Elevation: 7,310 feet (2,228 meters)

Location: Great Dividing Range, New South Wales, Australia.

First Ascent: First ascent by an expedition led by Polish explorer Count Pawel Edmund Strzelecki, 1840.

Mount Kosciuszko is the highest mountain on the Australian continent. It is not, however, the highest mountain on Australian territory. Mawson Peak on Heard Island, an Australian territory in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica and between Australia and Africa, is the highest peak in any state and territory in Australia. Mawson Peak, a snow-covered volcano, rises to 9,006 feet (2,745 meters).

### **A Bucket List Item That Was Just Way Too Convenient To Pass Up**

Being in Australia, with the Neptune Islands off southern Australia just a short flight away, I packed away my climbing gear and suited up in diving gear to spend the afternoon with one of man's most feared predators, *carcharodon carcharias*, (white death) or the Great White shark.

While I am here I might as well swim with Great White sharks!