

## 50 TH ANNIVERSARY OF FJELLHEIM SKI CLUB ---2012

### IMPORTANT YEARS (as best remembered)

1. 1951 & 1952 "skiing "at Betts Camp.
2. 1954 skiing at K AC as Betts Camp had burnt down.
3. 1956 joined Orana as a foundation member.
4. 1957 & 1958 travelling overseas.
5. 1960 & 1961 stayed at Orana.
6. 1961 formed the Fjellheim Ski Club & inspected & selected the building site.
7. 1962 built the club house & opened for the 1962 ski season
8. 2012 celebrated 50 years of operation at Newport Surf Club with foundation members & their families

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1. Betts Camp was built in 1910 & was very agricultural by today's standard. The hut consisted of 3 main rooms –a kitchen & communal dining room (with a caretaker bedroom attached) with an 8-bed (4 x old ex army double bunks) on either side of the kitchen connected by an enclosed skillion veranda. The entire food supply including a full side of beef & several whole lambs was hung "in the raw " at the far end of this veranda which disappeared slice by slice after each meal. The hut was situated above Betts creek on the main road from Smiggins Holes to the Chalet about 1km past the Back Perisher. There was no electricity & an alcoholic drink was only available after a 3km hike to the Chalet & back.  
Accommodation was FULL BOARD with all meals supplied & cooked by the caretaker husband & wife at about \$20 per week (say 1 week's wages !!) NOT CHEAP.  
Each bunk had 3 ex army grey blankets & guests were required to bring their own sheet or liner. The kitchen/dining room was heated by a large slow combustion stove while the dormitories each had a central pot bellied stove which the guests had to maintain even having to go to the outdoor woodshed to cut their daily supply of wood.  
Skiing consisted of climbing the surrounding hills & skiing down .To climb the first saddle of perisher would take between 2 & 3 hours in order to enjoy the 15 minute descent!!We tried to do this each morning & each afternoon.  
My skis were made by my father from spotted gum & weighed half as much as me !!.My boots were ex army boots which we stood in waterproofing liquid for a week (of course they leaked like a sieve ).T he bindings were "Rat Trap" non safety with a cable around your heel & closing lever in front of the toe piece , the cable had a "heel-free" position to facilitate easier walking . The whole outfit was extremely uncomfortable.
  2. The Kosciusko Alpine club had their club building as an annex to the Chalet & the tariff included all meals at the main Chalet dining room. By comparison it was very luxurious compared to Betts however we never felt comfortable there.
  3. At this time the skiing fraternity talked of the ORIGINAL SEVEN club lodges in & around Perisher Valley, so I was delighted to be offered the opportunity to become an original member of Orana Ski Club, one of the ORIGINAL SEVEN. I think some of the others were COOMA, CSIRO, WARRIGAL, TELEMAR, REVELLERS. Skiing was delightful as you knew almost everyone in the valley & to ski down you first had to climb up so experts were few & far between. The lodge was a simple affair with common room with a small kitchen attached

& two 4-bed dormitories on the other side, privacy in the bedrooms was achieved by a curtain in the doorway & the whole area was heated by a large stone fireplace. The entry was downstairs in the stone basement whilst the upstairs was weatherboard painted black. I skied there for one week in 1956.

4. In 1957 & 1958 I travelled overseas including skiing for 1 month in Feb 1958 in Hochsölden in the Tirol Austria. The package was 30 days including full board, ski hire, all lift passes, 4 hour ski lessons daily 7DAYS A WEEK, sleeper train return from London & connections for the outrageous 100.00 pounds sterling complete. Returning from overseas from San Francisco on the SS Himalaya I met with Hans Trumm, who had also been overseas on an extended holiday, & Anne McClellan(??) who was to become Mrs Trumm. Hans had also skied in Europe, in Norway.
5. Subsequently we formed a party & skied in 1960 & 1961 at Orana. As Hans was a builder the conversations soon turned to the idea of building our own club with improved facilities. An investigation group was formed including Hans as chairman, Ross Fountain as treasurer & myself. We met with National Park officers & secured the broad requirements for lodge applications. By the summer of 1961 we had held a number of meetings at 7 Yarran Rd Pymble (the Trumm home) & had secured the support of about 10 friends to form our own ski club. Later in 1961 Hans, Billy Hancock, Roy Strachan & I went to Perisher valley to inspect several sites available from the Park Trust. The site which the Trust wished us to select was on the other side of the Valley behind where the Man Hotel was later built. After much discussion we finally opted for the current site which was nearby to our friends at Orana & which we felt offered better access to the developing facilities. These conclusions proved correct with the construction of the Sundeck hotel & front valley T-bar.
6. The contract for building the lodge was awarded to member Jack Marvel in 1962 & the urgent building was commenced to achieve completion for the same season. The plan was RADICAL for the time with 5x2 bunk rooms & 1x4 bunk room with a large common room & electric kitchen. Ladies & gents toilets & showers—2 of each for both sexes were also included. THE MASSIVE CLADDING TIMBERS OF CANADIAN RED CEDAR WERE ESPECIALLY IMPORTED FOR THE PROJECT. A newly developed Strammit roof was used featuring compressed straw insulation which was quick to install but failed during the second season. The rooms feature built-in double bunks with innerspring mattresses, new woollen blankets, a chest of drawers, a wall mirror & a novel hanging rack for clothes. The rooms had electric wall heaters in the bunkrooms, bathrooms & the common room & kitchen. There was never has been a fireplace so fire hazard was substantially reduced. The kitchen featured a cook top & oven with preparation (& drinking) bar & a pantry large enough to hold basic winter long items which were accounted for by an honour system. Refrigeration was provided by way of a large galvanised box buried in the snow at the kitchen door. The years have seen such huge improvements but we thought that this was CUTTING EDGE at the time.
7. On Saturday evening 31/3/2012 some 50 adults & 30 anklebiters celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FJELLHEIM SKI CLUB with a gathering at Newport Life Saving Club. A feature of the night was the turnout of ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBERS with most all the 10 families present. The club membership has remained open only to original family members until 2011 so it was a gathering of relatives! HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY FJELLHEIM—I hope I am there for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday bash