

## **A Golden Anniversary....for our Mountain Home...Fjellheim**

2012 is a celebratory year for our Ski Lodge. We were delighted to gather our members for a function in late March to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> year.

What a landmark for this Club....founded by a small group of keen skiers (Foundation Members) in the early 1960's....pioneers really....who funded the co-operative, determined the site, spent weekends travelling to the mountains during the early site and construction periods, and then brought their young families into the fold by instilling in them a love of skiing.

Our function saw a gathering of Foundation Members with their children and grandchildren – we even now have great grandchildren in the mix....a truly amazing testament to the strength and determination of every member to work together for the good of the Lodge and the sport of skiing.

In our 50 years we have had only two Presidents and a handful of Secretary's – and we were fortunate to have our founding President, Hans Trumm, at our celebrations.....here are some excerpts from his speech on the night....

*“ Here is a wonderful sea of faces....many of whom I met a little more than 50 years ago....one of my fellow Foundation Members, Philip Cook, had been staying in Orana and saw Hus-Ski being built, and said ‘how do we do that?’.*

*We investigated with NPWS and then set about gathering the ingredients we needed....to ‘found’ the Lodge we needed 30 members....money and security for a loan to build the lodge....*

*We have had a wondrous 50 years and I couldn't vision we would be here 50 years later gathered with our children and grand children. We built a wondrous Lodge and we have all had a great time there – we love the place dearly.*

*Of course the most often asked question has always been – but how do you pronounce it? We decided to name the Lodge in the Scandanavian tradition not*

*the Austrian tradition...and so after talking with the Norwegian Consul General he suggested Fjellheim- Mountain Home....(pronounced F-yell-hime)*

*We are the greatest Lodge on the Mountain – administered by people who care and understand the importance of Club living and belonging to a Co-operative.*

*As Foundation Members we were very proud to place that first peg in the ground and build a tradition.”*

Our state of the art – cutting edge Lodge opened for the 1962 season. We had such radical designs as individual bedrooms with one bunk bed ( innerspring mattresses, no less), a common room, an electric kitchen, and male and female bathrooms. Founding member Jack Marvell was awarded the construction contract.

Some 50 years later we have seen many refurbishments and we now enjoy king size beds with larger bedrooms, a larger common room and new larger kitchen facilities.....

Our club membership remains open only to those descendants of the original founding members, along with two new families who joined our ‘family’ in 2010. We remain a group of people firmly committed to providing a terrific, enjoyable place for skiers to enjoy their sport.

So on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, at Newport Surf Life Saving Club, our celebrations really felt like a gathering of relatives!

Sandra Dwyer ( nee Cook)

Secretary.

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