

# Ormond Ski Club

## Newsletter

*January 2017*

Christmas is over and for a lucky few its skiing in Japan, Europe or America. For some its back to work and there are always work parties at the lodge!

Just a reminder that you don't need to travel halfway around the world to get good skiing, this was Hotham August 21 2016 and you cant really complain about this. Its as good as it gets in Niseko or Colorado.



But then again, it's hard to beat the scenery in the European alps. Lachlan Hodges in Italy for a week's skiing between Christmas and new year during his current student exchange in Germany – He has been complaining about having to go to school during the summer holidays but it looks like he is doing OK

Have a great summer and plan for some time at the lodge this winter for the clubs 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Cheers  
Rohan

## **Security at the Lodge**

We had a suspected break in during November or December as the North Balcony door was found propped open. Fortunately, nothing appears to have been taken or any damage done. We are sure that the lodge had been closed up properly the last time it was used but please make sure that when you leave the lodge empty that all windows and doors are properly shut at locked

## **50 Year Celebration and History**

The date for the Gala dinner has been set for Saturday 21st October 2017 at the college dining hall. Keep the date free and more details will be communicated later. The History continues to progress well and will be available by the dinner.

## **Vale: Leonard Allen**

Len died peacefully 24th November 2016. He was the principal of LR Allen and Associates, structural engineers but we knew him as an enthusiastic skier who skied well into his 80s.

Len was a stalwart of the Ormond Ski Club. He was a life member and was involved in the early construction of the lodge.

I recall skiing with him in about 2013 after he had just purchased new modern skis as opposed to the extended blue and white tooth pics he was using at the time. Kate Austin got hold of some demo skis, convinced him to put them on and spent time with him getting him going. He bought them on the spot. The next day I skied with him for a few runs on the summit, road runner and the drift. His delight in the experience and the ease of turning was palpable. He was well into his 80s then so the appeal of coffee at Zirky's at 11.00 am was understandable.

Len was a very gentle man, fondly remembered for his games of chess, his many lengthy stories, his willingness to chop parsley on vege prep and his enthusiasm for skiing. He was also a keen photographer.

Our condolences are extended to his family; his wife Wendy, his children, Jenny, Sue, Penny and Tim and his grandchildren.

A further note from Ross:

Anne Gallagher texted me a week or so ago to tell me that Len Allen had died (24/11). Len was a bit of a fixture around the club especially in the years from about 2000 when he reached the age of 70 and could ski for free. He could bore the pants off a saint but often we were able to usefully occupy my mate Coppo to play chess with him. You could give him parsley to chop on dinner prep and it would occupy him for hours.

I asked a couple of engineers (Rob Milne/Jack Woodside) if they could shed any light on his professional career but it appears he was mortal. No bells and

whistles. Just did his job. Interestingly, on the work front, I believe Len designed the old lion enclosure (the Lion Park) at the Melbourne zoo - the one with the raised walkway with the lions on one side and the hyenas or cape hunting dogs on the other. He told me about it over dinner at the club once (as well as telling me the long and involved story about his tooth and a file and fixing the dryer ... might have been the same very long conversation - bless!) and mentioned that the unexpected downside of the raised walkway was that on hot days it created shade and the lions all rested underneath the walkway (where they couldn't be seen!). It was incredibly innovative at the time. See

<http://www.zoo.org.au/news/moving-day-for-lions>

Ross

## **2017 Subs debited**

Your member subscriptions for 2017 have been debited to your account. Due date for payment is by **28th Feb 2017** however earlier payment is always appreciated! You can check your subs notice, with payment details, on the website, you'll need to login first. If you have any questions on your subs notice or have changes, please contact Geoff

## **2017 Work parties**

Please note that in 2017 the Australia Day and Labour Day work parties will not be run due to the Lodge being booked out for a private function. The Easter Work Party will still run as will Queens Birthday. With ANZAC day only one week after Easter, the Maintenance guys will decide closer to if another work party is required after Easter and before Opening weekend.

If you need work party days for membership, please get in early and book to attend. Given there is likely to be high demand for these work parties, please don't book unless you're committed to attend as last minute replacements can be hard to get and you'll be denying someone else the opportunity.

## **2017 bookings.**

With the Easter work party in mid-April, winter bookings for 2017 will open after the Easter work party.