

2017/18 Oversea Report

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My 2017-18 European season began with 20 hours of flying, departing Melbourne in mid-December. Upon landing in Zurich, I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted not only by my dad, but a layer of fresh snow as well - a great sign for the relatively low altitude.

After a winding drive accompanied by mountainous scenes and of course, the infamous Swiss road tunnels, we reached the town of Davos. The alpine township is a hub of snow sport activity and was to be the destination of choice for the junior national team over the next few weeks. Weeks that included immersion in European culture, eating and cooking large volume meals of questionable quality. Most importantly, there were many gruelling hours spent sliding around the world-class trails of Davos. There was also some Dario Cologna spotting and even an evening of 'sledging' (traditional Swiss tobogganing).

Following this pre-race block, the next few weeks were spent travelling the vicinity, competing in races of various levels of competition and organization with mixed results.

Personally, I was generally pleased with my own performance in these competitions. These included: an OPA Continental cup in Campra, Southern Switzerland, the Swiss national championships, which was ironically held in neighbouring Liechtenstein, and the Austrian National championships in Seefeld.

It was after these races that I learned I was going to race in the team relay at Junior World Championships. We travelled back to Swiss soil and spent the next 10 days in the beautiful Obergoms valley preparing, and racing alongside some of the top juniors in the world. Once again, this was a unique and eye opening experience that concluded my overseas endeavours. After this it was back to reality, straight home and back to school.

A big thank you to the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club for their generous support.

