

# Telemark Nordic Ski Club Background

Founded in 1972 by Bob and Norma Cranage , Telemark Nordic Ski Club(TNSC) was based in Corryong Victoria and had club members from all over Australia. During the 1970's TNSC quickly grew to become the largest Nordic Ski club in Australia. TNSC also received the ski club of the year award in 1994.

Between 1974 to 1976 TNSC setup a junior ski team exchange program with ski clubs in Norway. Several junior skiers benefited from the experience of ski instruction from coaches in Norway and the experience of staying with Norwegian families.

Back in Australia TNSC organised and ran junior training camps at Mt Buffalo, the Buffalo Tour, Rock Valley Rush and Sun Valley Ramble ski races, established and continues to run the 'Mini Series' of ski races, sponsored by Snow Trek and Travel, that focus on getting kids involved in cross county skiing.





25

years of  
cross-country

skiing

with

# Telemark Nordic Ski Club inc.

## 1972-1997

### SOME HISTORICAL FACTS RELATING TO THE NAME OF TELEMARK NORDIC SKI CLUB AND ITS ACTIVITIES SINCE 1972

1972 The club was formed to promote junior Nordic Skiing. We wrote to Norway seeking permission to use the name "Holmenhollen" through Major Arne Hellerud - president and life member of the Raelinger Ski Klubb. He approached the Norwegian Ski Forbened and this title was refused but it was suggested that "TELEMARK" might prove to be appropriate

TELEMARK is a province in Norway in which Sondre Norkeim (who lived

in Morgedal) and was considered to be the father of modern day skiing.

There were no ski clubs in Norway with that title as clubs are usually named after their towns or city.

Sondre Norkeim introduced the turning method known as telemarking to the skiers of Oslo (Christramer) in the 1860's. Telemarking or downhill XC racing is seeing a revival in recent years.

So in Australia it was felt that our young skiers would be able to identify with the father of modern XC skiing and his telemark turn.

Telemark Nordic Ski Club was formed in 1972 and rapidly grew in size and in its involvement in Nordic skiing within Victoria and NSW.

By 1975 approximately 400 people were financial members of the club.

1974 saw Telemark embark on its first overseas exchange programme with Raelinger Ski Klubb.

This continued for three years and of the fourteen junior skiers fortunate to make the trip to Norway twelve were TNSC members, some of whom went out to be National Champions and included Chris Allan who represented Australia in the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Of the four team managers, Paul and Helen L'Huillier have gone on to greatly contribute to XC skiing in Australia. Jan Berry was editor for National Nordic News for many years and is currently National and State over 43 women champion. Bob and Norma Cranage are still actively involved in XC skiing with Telemark Nordic Ski Club.

In 1975 it was felt it would be of greater benefit to bring a Norwegian coach and racer to Australia so that many more people would gain from it. Telemark Nordic Ski Club arranged travel and accommodation for Rolf Hobberstad, his wife and son for seven months. This was a great success for all concerned.

1974 the local government authority in Raelinger presented Telemark Nordic Ski Club with a perpetual trophy which is awarded annually for the promotion of Nordic Skiing in Australia, good sports achievement and sportsmanship. This special trophy is held in high regard by all

club members. TNSC has a direct link with the Raelinger Community to whom it also presented a perpetual trophy and books on Australiana.

Telemark NSC decided that for XC skiing to grow as it had in Norway a strong club system was required in Victoria. So in 1976 we saw the formation of the BIRKEBEINER NSC and later MELBOURNE NSC and finally MANSFIELD NSC - all of which had a number of their early office bearers as members of TNSC and were formed along similar guidelines.

1972 - 1986 TNSC has organised many training camps to coach XC skiing to junior and senior XC racers. TNSC was the first club to appoint a club coach.

TNSC has organised and successfully conducted the junior XC Championships and the Buffalo Tour at Mt. Buffalo for over 13 years. (Two years without snow saw the races held at Falls Creek.)

TNSC has also organised a number of Senior State and National Title events at Falls Creek.

TNSC has always been affiliated with the VSA since its conception in 1972. 1974 saw the club President, representing the Australian Ski Federation, being introduced to the King of Norway at a special state dinner for team leaders at Holmenhollen.

1982 Members of TNSC traveled to the province of Telemark and visited the Amundsen Ski Museum at Morgdal - where they were welcomed as privileged guests and had the museum opened specially for their visit.

TNSC badges and information were left with this museum.

In the clubs early years TNSC gained a great deal of support from the late T.W. Mitchell - a pioneer in Australian skiing who personally made many arrangements with his contacts in Norway.

TNSC has skis donated to it from its first trip to Norway on display in the "Man from Snowy River" museum in Corryong - along with skis from Kiandra and T.W. Mitchell's early skiing days.

Happy 15 th anniversary. 1987!