

Birkebeiner NSC Clubhouse Proposal – 1995

To take advantage of the opportunity provided by the construction of the new ARC workshops at Windy Corner to build an extra 4m x 10m bay on the Rocky Valley Dam end of the building to establish a base for the on mountain activities of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club.

The facility would include:

- garage for the cross country Bombardier Skidoo
- storage area and workshop for race equipment
- race office
- toilet/changing room
- clubroom

Rationale

- At present BNSC, arguably the most active and productive nordic ski club in the country, has no permanent home for members to meet and to socialise in, or to display the accumulating memorabilia resulting from their involvement in national and international competition.
- Equipment used in the operation of cross country ski races is currently stored in a range of locations, including the green roadside container adjacent to the SES building, private homes in Mt Beauty, and in the Nordic Bowl Race Hut. A storage area for the Bombardier skidoo and other equipment in the proposed facility would allow centralisation of this storage and the container could be relocated.
- Race organisers 'take over' valuable space in the Windy Corner shelter throughout the season for accepting race entries, distributing race numbers, and the processing of results. A separate race office would free up space for public use.
- Windy Corner shelter is frequently crowded at weekends. BNSC members, most of whom live locally, are regular users of the public shelter. Moving them to their own adjacent facility would reduce the pressure on the space of the Windy Corner shelter, effectively prolonging its useful life.

- During Hoppet Week the facility would be used as a media and VIP staging area, as well as for general race administration.
- The club is, by virtue of its concentration on activities at Falls Creek, the de facto 'Falls Creek Cross Country Ski Club'. Its contributions to the resort include:
 - obtaining Worldloppet accreditation for their ski race, thus firmly establishing Falls Creek internationally as Australia's premier cross country resort. The club is responsible for the on snow operation of the Kangaroo Hoppet.
 - a Search and Rescue section that acts as a backup to the Falls Creek SES when man power is needed, especially in more remote areas where skidoo access is not possible. The group also assists in searches throughout the high country outside the winter period. The group maintains a pool of snow and ice equipment for use in searches, and takes part in joint training exercises with Police, SES, and other emergency groups. This equipment is currently stored in several locations in Mount Beauty.
 - in a joint venture with Mt Beauty Rotary, the club established the Nordic Bowl Race Hut at a minimal cost to the ARC, and continues to maintain and develop the facility. This summer the hut has been repainted, lining has been placed around the stumps of the hut, and steps installed.
 - in association with the SEC a transformer was placed on the 400v line to provide 240v power to the Nordic Bowl area at no cost to the ARC.
 - After the heavy snowfalls of 1991 the club held working bees to assist in the summer removal of debris from the nordic trails.

Financial and Administrative Arrangements

- The Club to meet their share of building costs.
- The Club to meet their share of utility costs.
- The Club to pay an annual fee for occupying the space.
- The Club to have security of tenure under agreed conditions.

Conclusion

The activities of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club over a number of years have established the organisation as Falls Creek's cross country ski club. This proposal seeks to formalise the relationship by allowing the club to develop a permanent physical presence on the mountain.