

KASEE KOEMAN 2015

Cees Koeman (Kasee) was born in the Netherlands in 1935. As a young man he was apprenticed to the local builder and qualified as a carpenter. In 1953 Kasee immigrated to Hobart Australia, thanks to the Dutch Government actively promoting migration.

In Hobart Kasee was introduced to skiing through members of the Hobart Walking Club. Kasee developed a love of skiing that took him to The Chalet at Charlotte's Pass in 1955 where he worked for 3 years.

This passion took Kasee back to Europe late in 1957 where he continued his involvement with the sport and of ski racing and then on 26th January 1960 he arrived back in Thredbo – to stay permanently.

Kasee has had many roles in Thredbo, starting at Kareela Hutte where he was live in manager and then, when Civil & Civic (Lend Lease) bought the Thredbo Headlease in 1961, Kasee was employed by its Chairman Dick Dusseldorp, initially as a carpenter where his skills were highly sought after and then as Mountain Manager. Kasee was involved in every aspect of Thredbos development in those early days, particularly creating new runs where he was given much discretion. The Cat Walk and Bunny Walk trails are the legacy of Kasee, a bulldozer and a driver.

When Dick Dusseldorp purchased a Tucker snowcat from America Kasee was expected to drive it. He took people on the Main Range up to Mt Kosciuszko but it didn't have a packer behind it so he made one out of aluminium and steel, the first such grooming machine to be used in Thredbo.

Kasee was a keen ice skater and used to skate on the Pond at Friday Flat. Now the pond is used for snowmaking, this is no longer possible & it seldom freezes. In 1963 Kasee married Ann and they have 2 daughters, Anneleise and Melanie.

Kasees Lodge, the first Apartment building in Thredbo, was commenced on 1st March 1966 and has been running ever since with Ann and Kasee at the helm. Due to the foresight of Kasee (and the fact that Ann refused to cook for guests), it was built as apartments, which have stood the test of time. As has Kasee. Today Kasee is the longest serving permanent resident of Thredbo spanning 55 years. Over those pioneering years of Thredbo, Kasee has operated as Manager of Kareela Hutte – as Snowcat Tour driver - as Lift Manager- Mountain Manager, as weather station operator and ran the ski patrol for a period, before starting up his own commercial accommodation Lodge – Kasees.

So may I now introduce you to a true Face of Thredbo - Kasee Koeman.

