

Thredbo Alpine Museum Oral History Report - 2020

A most challenging 2020 attempting to conduct face to face interviews, but once the initial wave of the pandemic eased we managed to conduct one. Rod Collman – who kindly assented to be interviewed at Happy Jacks in Thredbo. Rod mainly talked about his father Danny - about his stellar racing career, (photo), and Danny’s involvement in the founding of the *Thredbo Ski Patrol*.

You can access the *Rod Collman Oral History* on our website: -

www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au - a captivating record of Danny’s pioneering exploits in the Snowy’s.



Danny Collman, winner of the N.S.W. Men's Slalom Championship. Photo: Don Cowie.

N.S.W. Alpine Championships

The New South Wales Alpine Championships of 1957 resulted in a clean sweep for Danny Collman. After years of minor placings in the big races Danny overshadowed his rivals to win the Slalom by 6.2 seconds, the downhill by 12 seconds and the giant Slalom by 11.4 seconds.

The three races were held at Crackenback on the August Bank Holiday weekend. The slalom attracted a field of ready—GO” instead of “Five, four, three, two, one, GO”. It would be hard to think of a more fatuous question than “Are you ready” 24 seconds before the start of a slalom race.

Helmut Sieder a 21 year old Austrian of great promise but little control and less command of English departed from the starting line before the starter had said “Go.” He missed a gate but was awarded a re-run because the starter had in fact never said “Go” at any stage. He then put in two good runs for a total

A clean sweep for Danny Collman in the 1957 NSW Alpine Championships

Chrissi Webb was unable to interview Geoff Sawyer as Geoff remained in Queensland this winter. Geoff has indicated he will be happy to be interviewed when next in Thredbo.

The ‘*Oral History Department*’ has amassed some 32 histories in total. Our interviewers’ individual contribution is as listed below:-

<i>Edie Swift</i>	– 11 x OH
<i>Jerry Krejzar</i>	– 12 x OH
<i>Chrissi Webb</i>	– 7 x OH
<i>Roger Andrew</i>	– 1 x OH
<i>Klaus Hueneke</i>	– 1 x OH

My tenure as Manager is at an end so best wishes to Michelle Reichinger who takes up the role of *Manager Oral History* once I step down at the 2020 AGM.

The *Thredbo Alpine Museum Facebook Page* which I administer together with Graeme Holloway continues to gain more traction. 1.8k *Facebook followers* to date assiduously follow our ‘*Thredbo Story*’ on the site. Incidentally - the % proportion of our *Facebook followers*’ mirrors quite closely the 80% of *Thredbo Resort’s* Sydney based Snow-Sport clients. In June we commenced a *biannual Facebook post* aimed to celebrate the fascinating history of our alpine architectural heritage - covering both the commercial and club lodges in Thredbo. *Candlelight* - the first commercial lodge was the initial FB post, with the *Crackenback Ski Club* soon to follow.

I am pleased to report that Leah Foster has taken up the role of ‘*Instagram administrator*’. Leah is keen to help grow our *Thredbo Alpine Museum* brand, in a similar fashion, via that particular social media platform.

Jerry Krejzar