

## **KIM CLIFFORD 1956 –**

Kim was born in 1956. His mother, Beryl was the driving force to move him at three and a half to an unknown ski resort called Thredbo where the family built the commercial lodge Winterhaus in 1959. Beryl began skiing as a 5 year old at Hotel Kosciusko in the 1930s.

Kim and his siblings grew up on the Thredbo ski slopes and they were regular competitors in the children's ski races and were members of the new Thredbo Ski Racing Club.

On leaving school in 1975, Kim began employment with Kosciusko Thredbo as a training area director under the mentorship of Albert van der Lee. He was fortunate to spend 3 to 6 months in different areas of the resort. In time he became a supervisor and then a manager.

Kim said "KT and Lend Lease were great employers and we both saw the benefits for both sides. It was beneficial to them because I travelled overseas when I was ski racing and I used to bring back ideas and suggestions."

Kim skied the World Cup circuit for seven or eight years, representing Australia in Slalom, Giant Slalom and Downhill at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck and at was selected for 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, USA, however broke his wrist in the week prior during training.

Upon retiring from racing, Kim attended the Colorado Mountain College, USA with an Associate Degree in Applied Science / Business Management with an emphasis on resort management. He returned to Thredbo for the ski season and working in a management capacity during the American summer breaks.

In 1985, Kim went to work for K G Murray Publishing, operators of Perisher and Smiggin Holes, however he was invited to return as the Resort Operations Director in 1990. He was appointed General Manager of Kosciusko Thredbo in 1996 and he retired from this position in 2012.

Together with his wife Judith, they have now lived in ski resorts for 43 odd years and this season (2022) is his 62<sup>nd</sup>, mainly in Thredbo. Their children Olivia and Will, have grown up in the ski industry and now their grandchildren have become very willing snow sports participants.