

ASIA - (AUSTRALIAN SKI INSTRUCTORS ALLIANCE)

At the end of the 1973 ski season in October, I invited to my flat in Milson Road, Cremorne Point, SYDNEY - 10 Australian Ski instructors, in order to form an **AUSTRALIAN SKI INSTRUCTORS ALLIANCE**.

To the best of my recollection they were:-

Larry Adler

Maurice Flutie (NZ)

Rick Naylor

Russell Howden (South African)

Rod Dunning

Peter Claire

Vic Dalziel

Lew Barber (Perisher)

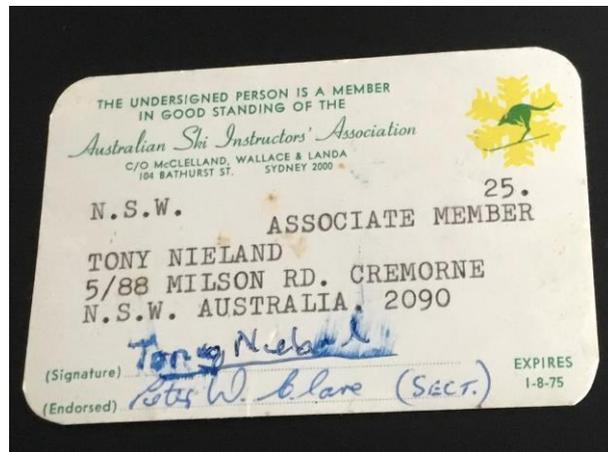
Geoff Meredith

Myself – Tony Nieland

After discussions, the Meeting was unanimously in favor of forming the “**Alliance**” there and then:- Peter Claire volunteered to get the necessary incorporation paperwork drawn up; and he was duly appointed Secretary.

Shortly after Peter issued me (and presumably the others present) a Membership card of the:-

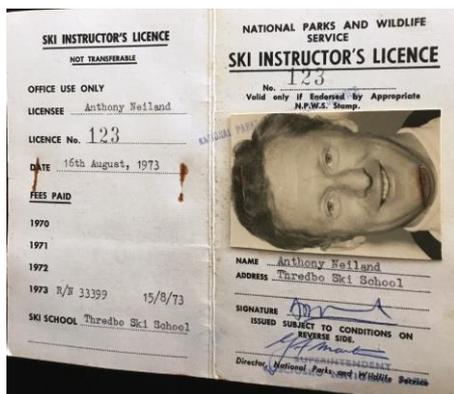
‘**Australian Ski Instructors Alliance**’.



I attach a photo copy of my card which, proudly, I still have. Prior to voting there was a discussion as to the objectives in forming the Alliance. My motivation was for Australians to be able to train and certify present and future Australian Instructors; and all were agreed on that.

Others also wanted us to have such a body, to be able to argue the case, that e.g.:-

(Austrians or others on temporary visas should not be employed ahead of fully qualified and experienced Australian Instructors.)



Up to that point in time, if an Australian wished to become an Instructor, he or she had to go overseas to get qualified. Often they went to Canada, as I did in 1966. Most notably, Larry Adler and Graham Bookallil had spearheaded the way; and both had become Senior Canadian Ski Instructors (the highest level, entitling them to be Examiners over there).



Tony Nieland - Thredbo 1971

From my first course with the CSIA in 1966, I was most impressed with the set up, and I felt strongly that this is what should happen in Australia.

But 1973 created a fresh incentive to do something. It was a terrible season. Only the Basin was open, and Meritts had no snow for the first 6 weeks or so. The result was that the Austrian Instructors were given what little work was available; and the rest of us were out of work.

Also in those days the Austrians were running the Ski School. They regarded the rest of us as not being up to their standard. So, we had the ridiculous situation, that only Austrians taught the higher classes on Crackenback; while the rest of us were confined to teaching beginners and weaker classes up at Meritts.

In my 3 seasons at Thredbo I never once got to take a class up the Crackenback lift;

whereas in Vail and New Zealand I frequently taught the very top classes!

The Instructors Alliance that we formed became the present day:-

APSIA - (Australian Professional Snowsports Association).

*Tony Nieland
April 2021*