

The Kurt Lance Story (in miniature)

Kurt was born in 1925 in Vienna, Austria, though his life time affinity with skiing started, when at the age of 6, he strapped on his first pair of skis and started sliding down the mountains. During 1939 Kurt moved to England and in 1941, after falsifying his age, he joined the Army and served in various theatres of war. It was in 1946 when he first dabbled in the international ski racing arena. He was nominated (or coerced or volunteered - army style) to represent the Army in both the Downhill and Cross Country races, two vastly different skiing principals, at the Forces Championships held in Cortina, Italy.

In 1948 Kurt and his parents came to Australia. It didn't take him long to take up skiing again, this time at the Kiandra Pioneer Ski Club, in 1951.

The early 1950's saw Kurt start the fledgling business of manufacturing ski pants at his parent's clothing plant in Summer Hill. He continued to supply clothing for the skiing industry right up until his retirement. Kurt was an innovator in both clothing and equipment industries, continually traveling overseas to ensure that the Australian skier was not left behind in the new, fast growing skiing industry.

During these busy times, 1954 - 1957, Kurt assuaged his competitive nature by taking out the Gold in the NSW Jumps Championship and Silver in the Australian Jumps.

In the early 1960's Kurt embarked on his long time commitment to the NSW Race Committee, quickly becoming Chairman. He was then appointed Delegate to the Australian Ski Federation.

In 1969 -70, he was appointed Team Manager to the Australian Alpine Team for the European season, where Australian's first World Cup winner, Malcolm Milne won Gold at Val d'sere and took out the Bronze at Val Gardena. Kurt, despite his hectic business schedule and heavy commitments to the skiing Industry, also found time to join his local bush fire brigade, "Kurrajong", a commitment that he still maintains.

The appointments to various skiing bodies continued, where his knowledge and energies have been harnessed for the advancement of the various technical divisions that have evolved within the sport. Kurt has held various committees and delegated positions on skiing boards, including the Australian Ski Federation, NSW Ski Association, Manager of Olympic Team, FIS Delegation, FIS Course Inspector and numerous nominations as Chief of Race at various races both locally and internationally. This list is only the tip of the iceberg.

Kurt has, for many years, tirelessly worked with the National Parks & Wildlife Services, on behalf of various skiing bodies. He has been honoured for his untiring services with the Bush Fire Service and he has received the Order of Australia. Kurt has now retired to "becoming a farmer only" in his own words, but his vision and foresight and untiring work in all aspects of the "skiers" world are a legacy for all.

"The Kurt Lance Race" is to recognize and honour Kurt's contribution to the sport of skiing in general and in particular the alpine discipline