



◀ The 7km Joey Hoppet, held on the same day as the Kangaroo Hoppet, gives friends and family of Worldloppet skiers a chance to be part of the action

a diverse group of skiers, ranging from elite juniors to parents, grandparents, babies in pulkes and first time skiers.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WORLDLOPPET MEMBERSHIP

The Kangaroo Hoppet as a member of Worldloppet brings the Australian snowfields to an international audience, many of whom had no idea that there was snow in Australia.

A Worldloppet event in Australia creates a special opportunity for northern hemisphere skiers to indulge in their passion for skiing in the middle of the northern summer and to combine it with an extended holiday to explore the range of experiences offered across the diverse Australian environment. Each year skiers from over twenty nations make the trip to the other side of the world to take part in the Hoppet.

The reverse is also true, Worldloppet introduces Australian citizen skiers to the fun of international skiing and increasing numbers of Australians are taking up the challenge and travelling regularly across the world to become a part of Worldloppet with the eventual goal of becoming a Worldloppet Master. Watch out for one at a Worldloppet event near you.

Dressing up for the race is all part of the fun

The last Saturday in August. When the Cross Country Ski World comes to Falls Creek

I heard about the Kangaroo Hoppet from Australian friends on the World Cup, and when they invited me to ski in Australia in 1994, I couldn't say no. At the time I was in the middle of a high volume training block and I wanted to train a lot on snow while I was there. In August at Falls Creek you can often skate off-track everywhere on naturally packed snow. Skiing amongst the gum trees and across the top of the mountains with a huge panoramic view was a totally amazing experience and made it easy to ski 4-5 hours each day, with a little bit of back-country telemarking mixed in. Perfect! On the race day the sun was shining, the snow was perfect and fast, and helped me to break the race record for the 42km course. The atmosphere in the finish area was like a carnival, I was signing race numbers, T-shirts, posters, even bodies! All in all I have great memories and I will go back again one day with my family.

Peter Schlickerieder
winner of the 1994 Kangaroo Hoppet