

Developments and statements by JA Lee 1981 to 1988

A In relation to handling bureaucracy:

- 13 April 1985: 'His (J A Lee's) motto was often "plough ahead and worry later about permission".

The Press

- June 1988: "With Cardrona and Pisa I've been able to not actually break the regulations but bend them as I went along".

J A Lee reported by Brett Riley in North & South.

B Misleading statement to a Minister of the Crown

- 24 October 1985: (In relation to objections to his application for a recreation permit): "The Federation of Mountain Clubs opposed a commercial operator such as myself being up there, wanting it to be preserved for the private recreation parties."

J A Lee to Minister of Tourism

FMC's actual position as submitted to the Commissioner of Crown Lands 28 May 1985, and heard by the Land Settlement Committee on 28 November 1985: "Our objections are not to commercial cross-country ventures in principle but to the possible conditions under which they may be permitted to operate on lands of the Crown."

D A Henson, FMC Pastoral Lands Convener.

C Earth Disturbances on Glencoe Station

- 5 June 1985. "On Friday 31 May 1985, I received a telephone call from Mr B Waters, lessee of Glencoe Station. Mr Waters was extremely concerned about some new tracking that had taken place at high altitude on his property without his permission"... "F O Waldron and I inspected the area concerned, together with Mr J Lee, owner of the freehold property adjoining the area on Glencoe which was the subject of our inspection".

"What has occurred is a major soil disturbance within Glencoe Station"... "The skifield development that has taken place on Mr Lee's freehold property has been extended into Glencoe."..."because some of the pegs have been bulldozed out of the ground it was impossible to ascertain exactly where boundaries are. However I am certain that the boundaries indicated by the old fenceline (where it has not been bulldozed) are not far from the true legal boundary."

"We discussed the illegal earthworks with Mr Lee at some length and it is quite obvious that he was aware that he had no permission from the department or the run holder, for the works; that he was aware that he should have that permission and that in fact his act was completely premeditated. I also suspect that the timing is deliberate in that Mr Lee now assumes there is little we can do about his bulldozing until next summer. He is quite correct."

"Because of the deliberate nature of Mr Lee's illegal tracking, I believe that we should take strong action to reinstate the land to discourage Mr Lee from carrying out similar works again"... "The problem is that Mr Lee may well be hopeful that having carried out the works, there is little that will be done in future to enforce resurrection."

J C Allen, Assistant District Field Officer to Commissioner of Crown Lands.

• 7 June 1985. "Mr Waters and I both agree that the Cardrona Skifield in effect, has been extended by something around 20 to 40 hectares, all of this being in pastoral lease."... "Mr Waters sees the move as a very astute business decision by Mr Lee, with perfect timing and little that can be done to change the situation. I support Mr Waters' views." Reference as for 5 June 1985.

D Commercial Activities in Breach of Land Act 1948:

"Every holder of a pastoral lease or a pastoral occupation licence who uses or permits to be used any part of the land comprised in the lease or licence for any purpose for which a recreation permit may be issued under this section commits a breach of the lease or licence, rendering the lease or licence liable to forfeiture in accordance with the provisions of this Act, unless he is the holder of a recreation permit authorising the use of the land for that purpose." Subsection 66A(7)

• 20 May 1981. "The lessee (J A Lee) is obviously looking at the possibilities of extending recreational activities on the Pisa Range for cross-country skiing. During the discussion he was advised of Land Settlement Board policies on the matter."

J C Allen, Assistant District Field Officer, to District Field Officer, Lands and Survey Department, Dunedin.

• "On 24 August 1984 a memorandum was received from the Assistant District Field Officer in Alexandra advising that Mr John A Lee, the lessee of the Waiorau Pastoral Lease was carrying out commercial cross country skiing on his pastoral lease."

Report To The Committee Of The Land Settlement Board.

• 30 October 1984. "For eight years I have been involved with cross-country skiing on the Pisa Range, using ski planes, helicopters and four-wheel drive vehicles to carry the people onto this area. Mr Dale Gardiner and I ran a joint operation for three years..."

"The tour operators on the Pisa have ceased operations - we have been running a limited operation, but it could not cope with the demand. This year, 430 people cross-country skied the Pisa..."

(I have) "had several years' investigative cross-country skiing on Pisa, I now see the operation being successful commercially."

Application by J A Lee to Commissioner of Crown Lands for a recreation permit.

• 11 April 1987. "I have constructed a high standard farm road (costing half a million dollars) and purchased huts, skis and trail laying equipment - seven hundred thousand dollars in all. As well, three experienced staff from the USA have been engaged for this winter" ... "We provided two days with a guide and they enjoyed it and the gospel has spread."

J A Lee to Minister of Tourism.

• 28 June 1987. 'Although skiing started on it (Pisa Range) last year, it has basically been kept under wraps because of problems obtaining a recreational permit'.

The Dominion Sunday Times.

• July 1987. "Several guided trips were made into the (Pisa) range last winter and the news is all good" ... "Once we're similarly equipped with skinny skis and long poles, our guides Bob and Laurie take us to the top of the beautifully built farm road in a four wheel drive" ... "Last season was the first for any commercial operations on the Pisa, and John Lee's three-year battle to get cross-country skiing established on the range is entwined in kilometres of red tape" ... "Compared with the commercial fields, gear hire, transport to the snow, and the services of a guide on the Pisa Range are cheap..."

Ange Davidson In NZ Skier.

• 3 July 1987. 'On the other side of the Cardrona Valley, the Pisa cross-country ski-field has already had several guided parties trying out this season's snow, even though Mr Lee and Landcorp have not yet settled on the conditions that would allow him to open the range as a commercial cross-country operation'.

Southland Times.

• 15 July 1987. 'For others "desperate to use the area" a guiding service was available. Skis could be rented out and other facilities were provided, with the cost varying from group to group. A party of 10 would pay a \$100' ... 'If people wanted to use a musterers' hut on

the range, Mr Lee said that he would probably charge them'.
The Press.

• 3 August 1987. "Telemark and cross-country skiing is offered at Cardrona, as well as across the valley on the Pisa range. For \$30, complete cross-country gear, a guide and transport to the top of Mt Pisa is provided. Telemark champion, Whitney Thurlow, is in charge of this operation. Watch for more news on this soon."
Teri Shore In The Wakatipu Advertiser.

• 15 August 1987. 'At present he (J A Lee) is offering non-profit guided day and overnight tours on the rolling mountain tops opposite the Cardrona skifield to introduce skiers to the Nordic style'.
Otago Daily Times.

• Transcript of Poster at Alp Sports, Christchurch: [6 August 1987]
Telemark Ski Clinics
NZ Ski Instructors Alliance
Telemark Division

July 25-26 Pisa Range - Telemark Moonlight Madness
Overnight hut fees - x-c equipment available.
\$20.00 non-members, NZSIA members free.

Contact: Whitney Thurlow, NZSIA,
Cardrona Valley, P O Box 22239,
Wanaka, NZ. Christchurch.
Tel. (029443) 8142
or 7542

[Note: 7542 is phone number for J.A. Lee, Waiorau Homestead Office]

• 25 August 1987. 'Pisa Nordic Touring offers guided one day as well as over night tours for beginners or experienced cross country skiers in the beautiful Pisa mountain range. Self guided tours for experienced skiers are also available'...'Tours are priced very reasonably as Pisa Nordic Touring is non-profit and exists solely to give people the opportunity of experiencing the pleasure of exploring their scenic winter wonderland. All inquires welcome at Pisa Nordic in Wanaka.'
Southland Times.

• 1 September 1987. 'NZ Cross Country Ski Championships':
'Entry fees are nominal-\$10 for adults and \$3 for children. All entry fees to be donated to Mount Aspiring College.'
Southland Times, 25 August 1987

On the day there was no entry fee charged. However \$10 per person was charged for use of the road. eg. Ken (spectator) and Bruce Mason (competitor) paid \$10 cash each to members of Mr Lee's family before

driving up the road. K Mason specifically pointed out that he was a spectator only but was charged non-the-less. Approximately 75 people attended.

- 3 September 1987. '...you can call (02943) 7542 or write: Pisa Nordic Touring, Cardrona Valley, Wanaka, and arrange to Nordic ski in your family group. Happily Pisa Nordic is non-profit - (how's that) - and the off-set cost of transport to the tracks and return, Nordic skis, boots and poles' rental, plus an experienced guide that's exclusively yours for the day is only \$30 per person (\$100 minimum per group) per day. And for an extra \$10 you can stay overnight on the mountain in the main hut, meals included!'

Otago Daily Times.

- 14 September 1987. 'Currently, Pisa Nordic Touring is taking groups of about 10 people per day into the mountains for guided cross country skiing adventures. The small operation is set up to equip skiers with cross country skis, boots and poles, transport up the mountain and a guide.'

Teri Shore In The Wakatipu Advertiser.

- June 1988. "He doesn't suffer setbacks lightly, and in fact quietly advertises crosscountry skiing on the Pisa Range already".

Brett Riley In North & South.