

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Donald A. Johnston
A.S.T.C. (Arch. Dip.)

At the age of 14 in 1954, he became fascinated with architectural drawing, which later led him to study Architecture, graduating from the University of New South Wales in 1965.

It was during his undergraduate years whilst employed at Brewster Murray and Partners Architects, he was fortunate to be given the responsibility for providing a range of architectural services on behalf of the firm, to the then Kosciusko State Park Trust, including the design and construction of their own Headquarters at Waste Point in 1961.

In this role he also prepared the major architectural drawings for the Smiggin Holes Hotel as well as private ski lodges. He has been a founding member of Redwood Ski Lodge in North Perisher Valley since 1963.

Donald ran his own Architectural Practice from 1973 in Hunters Hill and later in Bowral, until his retirement from the practice of Allman Johnston Architects in 2007. For most of those years he specialised in heritage projects for governmental, institutional, commercial and private clients, receiving a variety of professional awards for many designs. He served on Advisory Heritage and Housing Committees for both Hunters Hill Municipal and Wingecarribee Shire Councils.

It was the stimulus of being invited to join the Perisher Historical Society in 2009 that offered Donald the opportunity to maintain his interest in heritage research. That led him to focus upon the Hotel Kosciusko in 2012, that subsequently kept him tenaciously searching for the Hotel's unique physical and social history, up to publication date.

Where it all started.



August 1958 Donald's first day of skiing at Smiggin Holes after visiting the former Hotel Kosciusko site



He believes even now that there are still many untold family stories about the Hotel Kosciusko that are yet to be uncovered.

Photographs: Author's collection

