

The foundations were laid with the help of many people, some of which were not even Happy Valley Club (Arlberg) members.

At this time Roy Turner (Scruffy) was setting up National Down Hill, now known as the Far West. He had some serious machinery and after watching the basic tools the guys were using he offered to do some blasting for them.

Assistance was also offered in laying the foundation blocks by the crew building the loop road at the time.

Through out this stage of the building, about 12 consecutive weekends, the crew was staying at Taupo Club. The woman cooked delicious meals, which along with the late night parties made all the hard work worthwhile.

It was early evening after a long weekend of hard work and the piles needed to go in. The first attempt at setting the foundation piles failed as the concrete wasn't set in the cold weather. Hot water was used in the second attempt and alas the concrete set up.

On Easter weekend the floor was to be put down, it was waxed wood which needed protecting so they went all over the mountain finding plastic to protect it then carried the wood from the trucks on their backs up to be laid down. It was hard work as snow was falling but the floor was to be put down before Lockwood came in.

The Foundation work was completed up to the block work enabling Lockwood to take over.

Once the floor was down Lockwood put the hut up with the assistance of several members who stayed down at the lodge with Lockwood workers. Extra members went down on the weekends to help.

One member took his girlfriend with him on one of the weekends; as usual there was a party when one of the Lockwood guys took a liking to the girlfriend. This ended in a big punch up. The next day the Lockwood guys left and we had no one to continue the work!

Next installment coming soon...