



Trip Review: Mount Feathertop Ski Trip, *by Richard*

Mount Feathertop is a great walk in summer, in fact one of my first overnight walks. However, when the aim came to ski Feathertop, after a number of trips up the Bungalow Spur I deemed the amount of walking would eat too much into a weekend!

Stoney Top Track, which approaches Mount Feathertop along what is the northern extension of The Razorback, proved a better ski approach when I ventured up there September last year. The locked gate at Dungey Gap already sees you at 1330 metres.

Although marked as a 4WD track, I left my Suzuki in 2WD, as it is not steep or rough. A Subaru or 2WD with a little extra ground clearance is all that is needed. Take chains in case of snowfall, and a bow saw/axe for fallen trees.

From Dungey Gap, you commence walking along the closed 4WD track up a steepish hill. The track then undulates (although there is more up than down!) until you reach the signposted start of the walking track.

This is a good place for a break, with great views of Feathertop rearing up in front of you, and The Niggerheads and the Fainters to the East. Along the walking track, we camped in a saddle at 1450 metres as the weather was poor. However the next morning was perfect, so we charged off up the last uphill section to Mount Feathertop. Just before you leave the treeline, there is a small flat area to camp if the weather is fine. Most of the slopes to the East and South were then telemarked, followed by plugging steps back up.

Although not a place for beginners, Feathertop provides us with one of the more alpine style summits. In winter time, aspiring alpinists would need an ice axe and crampons, in case of icy conditions. Snow shoes or skins on skis would make the going easier lower down, although in September they were not required. *The Wilderness Shop* hires axes, crampons and snow shoes, so you too can give it a go!