

## The Chalet at Charlotte's Pass.

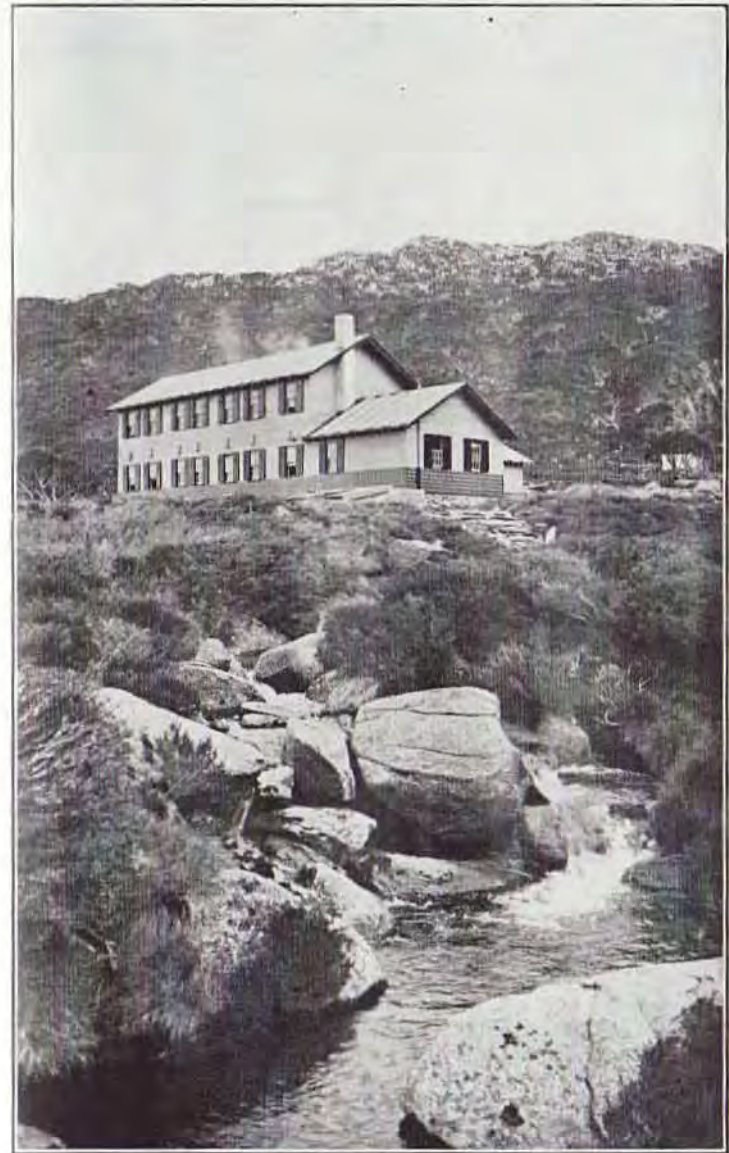
Several references were made in the first issue of *The Year Book* to the necessity for a hut, chalet, hotel or some similar accommodation somewhere within striking distance of the Main Range at Kosciusko, and preferably in the vicinity of Charlotte's Pass. This had been a burning question with our ski-runners for some years, and the Ski Club of Australia was prepared to erect a building of their own at the spot mentioned. There were, however departmental objections to this, and owing to the shortage of funds the Government seemed disinclined to proceed with a building of their own.

Realising the absolutely imperative need for this building if the Kosciusko snow field was ever to be properly developed and popularised, some devoted enthusiasts kept their advocacy for the chalet clamant, and finally enlisted the active sympathy of the Department and the Minister. Then came the financial slump, and it seemed as though another disappointment was to be registered. But the present Minister, Captain Frank Chaffey, in some miraculous manner managed to persuade the Treasurer to provide £8,000, and for this sum a most delightfully planned and equipped two storey chalet has been built right under Charlotte's Pass. A full description of the building is given below.

A party was arranged by the Director of the Tourist Bureau, Mr. H. J. Lamble, with the Chief Secretary, Hon. Frank Chaffey, as host, to proceed to the chalet to perform the opening ceremony on Saturday, May 10th. A happy group left Sydney on the Bombala mail on Thursday, 8th, arriving at Cooma early on Friday morning. A pleasant run in commodious cars, provided by Balmain brothers, and accompanied by Mr. Arthur Balmain, landed the party at the Hotel Kosciusko well before luncheon, and in anticipation of finding snow in the higher altitudes here ski-ing garment was generally donned.

After luncheon all hands set out for the chalet, which is distant about 11 miles from the Hotel, being some two miles beyond Betts Camp. It was thought a few days before that the party would have to ski in, but rain had cut out the snow that had fallen and the road was found to be perfectly clear. Rain began to fall on the ascent to Piper's Gap and did not stop for three days.

Exclamations of astonishment fell from the visitors as a turn in the road disclosed the handsome chalet to view, and everyone was eager to make a closer acquaintance. The discomfort of the splash through the mud across the



THE NEW CHALET AT CHARLOTTE'S PASS—IN SUMMER.  
Photo by W. H. Spare.

Serpentine Creek Valley was ignored in the excitement of the moment, and very soon the visitors were tramping through the chalet, which was beautifully warmed by central heat, and inspecting its wonders.

The Minister, Mr. Lambie, the Government Architect, and Mr. Cameron, the constructing chief, were all in turn warmly complimented, and the flow of appreciation found its complement at dinner, when the President of the Ski Council presented to Mr. Chaffey, the Chief Secretary, a gold ski badge, a combination of the badges of the Kosciusko Alpine Club and the Ski Club of Australia. In a few deftly turned phrases the President assured Mr. Chaffey of the gratitude of all skiers for his successful efforts to secure the necessary funds to build the chalet and having obtained the money for so expediting the work that the chalet was ready for the coming winter. The Government, he said, would never regret the expenditure, for it would surely be repaid to them a hundredfold. Mr. Chaffey suitably responded, and in turn made the small company understand that he was the friend of the ski-runner. He paid a well-deserved compliment to the Director and officers of the Tourist Bureau, to the Hotel management, to the Government Architect and the officers of the Public Works Department who were concerned in the job.

Next morning, at 11 o'clock, the Minister formally declared the chalet open, and unveiled a brass tablet, set over the mantelpiece in the common room, which bore a suitable inscription. A number of those present made happy speeches, including Mr. Percy Pearson, Mr. Cleary, Mr. Speet, the manager of Hotel Kosciusko, Dr. Schlink, Mr. Phillip Moses, Mr. T. McNevin, Mr. B. C. Harkness, of the Education Department, and others.

Everyone spent a very happy time and proved the chalet to be thoroughly comfortable, both as regards the sleeping accommodation and the cuisine. Mr. and Mrs. Day, who are in management, proved admirable hosts, and one is confident that the chalet can look forward to a very prosperous season.

#### *Description of the Building.*

The central feature of the chalet is the boiler room, in which is placed two "Ideal" furnaces—one for the hot water radiation service throughout the building, and the other for steam to the laundry and hot water service in the bath-rooms. The water supply pipes are brought in underground and laid into a central pipe duct to the tanks in the ceiling. Around this pipe duct are grouped the boiler room, laundry, lavatories and drying room, and in it are the whole of the pipe services for hot and cold water,



THE COMMON ROOM AT THE CHALET.



THE MEN'S DORMITORY.

steam, electricity, as well as the smoke stacks from the furnaces in the boiler room. Thus all fear of freezing and bursting of pipes is avoided, and the whole of the radiation from the furnaces is retained in the building.

Outside the first group of rooms attached to this pipe duct there is a second group, consisting of the entrance hall, the staircase, hall, women's dormitory, common room, servery, service verandah (completely enclosed), dynamo house, and store rooms on the ground floor and the stairs, the caretaker's quarters, men's dormitory and lavatory on the second floor. The kitchen and staff room are on the ground floor, in a one-storey wing beyond the common room and servery. The entrance is not large, and there is only one in order to prevent as much as possible the intake of cold air, and the exit of warm air from the building.

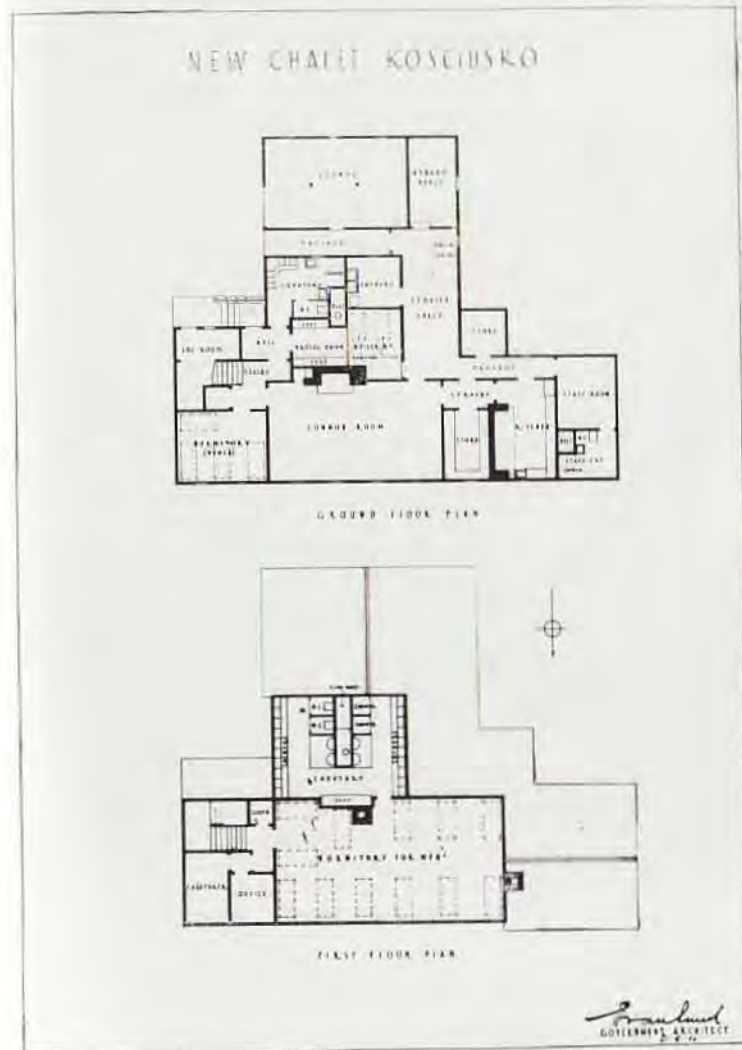
The entrance door opens into a hall giving access to a lavatory, the drying room and the staircase hall. From the staircase hall access is gained to the women's dormitory and to the large common room. The common room has four windows facing the north, thus giving the maximum of light and sunshine during the day. It is very pleasantly furnished with mottled cane in brilliant colors, bright carpets and curtains, and there is a large open fireplace made of the local granite and concrete for log fires as an amplification of the central heating system should this be necessary.

The kitchen is provided with a three oven range and two fire boxes, bread troughs and the necessary battery of utensils. The staff rooms are reached by a passage way from the large service verandah, from which again there is an exit passage which serves the dynamo house and the stores. There is a rear door from the common room to the service verandah on which is placed a large steam drying cabinet. This cabinet is a most efficient piece of equipment, capable of drying the heaviest wet garment in a very short time.

On the first floor at the head of the stairs is the caretaker's room and office, the men's dormitory with fourteen two-decker beds, and the lavatory and bathroom with individual lockers for each guest.

The building is constructed of wood on a stone foundation. The outside lining is of redwood weatherboards, the roof of iron over wood sarking, and the internal lining of a wood pulp board imported from Canada. This material has splendid insulating value, and is finished in colors to suit the various rooms.

The outside of the building, including the roof, is painted in bands of bright color, including vermilion and chrome, for the most part, with a base line of brown at



the foundation. In the snow this color scheme presents a carnival aspect, and during the summer harmonises with the verdure of the hillsides and the great granite outcrops above the wooded area.

The electric lighting serves all parts of the building, and the current is generated in an eight horse power crude oil engine. The hydro-electric scheme of power and lighting is to be provided later, when this crude oil plant will remain as a standby only. A complete sewerage system is installed with a septic tank.

The plans have been drawn with the view of extensions, and the site will allow of these to be added on the east and west wings, as well as on the northern front.

---

### NEXT YEAR'S ISSUE.

---

It is always our ambition to secure early publication of the *Year Book*. But this can only be done with the aid of the intelligent co-operation of our contributors, who are urged to see that their articles and reports reach the Editor by January 1st next year. It is to be hoped that more interest will be taken in the coming winter by ski-runners in securing photographs of incidents and places of interest for publication. The Editor will be pleased to receive for consideration any snow photographs which portray some outstanding feature and illustrate any important aspect of ski-running, jumping, or turning. It may again be mentioned that the production of the *Year Book* is a labor of love, and the Editor extends his grateful thanks to his contributors and other helpers who have ungrudgingly given their time and ability to make the book a success.

---

A very interesting fact emerges from an article by Arnold Lunn in *The British Year Book*. It has been commonly supposed here that ski-ing has been a practically continuous sport in Norway for a thousand years. But apparently this is not so. The modern revival of ski-ing in central Europe was practically contemporary with the modern revival of ski-ing in Norway. This revival dates back in Norway to the seventies, and even British ski-ing in the Swiss Alps dates back to 1888. Ski-ing was practised in England 300 years ago, and in central Europe in the 17th century.