

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SKI YEAR BOOK

1935

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The Australian and New Zealand SKI YEAR BOOK

1935

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The Ski Council of Tasmania
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THE WAGGON SHED.

A. Ford.

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SKI YEAR BOOK 1935

NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION

Editorial Notes

Unfortunately there is no "general section" of this book in which the General Editor, as such, may say his piece. It becomes necessary, therefore, to divest oneself of general functions and steal a portion of New South Wales space in order to comment on the alterations in this edition of the *Year Book*.

The most obvious change is that of size. When it was decided by the Ski Club of Victoria to publish the *Victorian Ski Year Book* under the same cover as this publication, it became obvious that size alone (the volume would have been too thick for readers to handle, much less read) would necessitate a change to a new type-space. Accordingly, we come before you in a new external form, the manifestation of a new spirit. As to the latter, it can be said that the *Year Book* is now representative of all Australian and New Zealand ski-ing. Rather indigestibly so, was our first misgiving, as we looked through the mass of material dealing with a variety of ski-ing interests wide enough to turn Mr. Heinz green with envy. But no; there is a comprehensive scheme running through it which gives it a unity not at first apparent. It rather reminds one of the organisation of Australian ski-ing at the moment. Nothing could be more higgledy-piggledy than the present functioning of the A.N.S.F. itself; yet it works, because it is held together by a common purpose. So, also, with the *Year Book*.

The second impression left on us after an orgy of proof-reading is one of admiration for the valuable and intriguing nature of the material collected by the New Zealand Editor and for the range of the Victorian Section. The scope and variety of the latter leaves us (speaking now for New South Wales) envious and amazed, and we can only hope in future years to emulate it, so far as we can.

Before we entirely leave general matters for those concerning New South Wales alone (which will happen in the next paragraph) the General Editor offers hearty thanks to some people, scattered over the length and breadth of two Dominions, who have helped unstintingly with the preparation of this issue. To the State Editors, Mr. Mitchell, of Victoria, and Mr. Anderson, of Tasmania; to Mr. Lockwood, of New Zealand, who works under the handicap

of 1,200 miles of intervening ocean, and to the N.Z. Business Manager, Mr. Robins, who took over that thankless task from the indefatigable Mr. Black; to Mr. A. W. Shands, of Victoria, to Mr. Percy Hunter and Mr. Wesche, of New South Wales. Our gratitude is due to Mrs. de Gruchy (of the S.C.V.) for her cover design, to Mr. Arthur Malley and Mr. W. E. Pigeon for delightful drawings, to Mrs. Moreton Lodge for her excellent designs and decorations, to Miss Patsy Finlayson for the silhouettes in the New South Wales Section, to Mr. Ford, Mr. McNeill and the many photographers who have supplied us with prints, and to Messrs. Kodak, Ltd., for their assistance (through Mr. Perier) in the preparation of photographs for block-making.

Many willing and kind-hearted helpers are not included in this list, but we are none the less grateful to them. They have endured patiently the curses, tears and railings of the Editor, and he is duly thankful. One man, however, really deserves a paragraph to himself. He is Mr. Colin Gilder, to whose experience and ready co-operation the Editor owes a heavy debt. His hand has been turned with cheerful good-nature to such varying but uninteresting tasks as proof-reading, advising on blocks, collecting racing lists and reports, interviewing advertisers, preparing distribution lists, chasing shy authors and a hundred other jobs; all this he did very well and without complaint. Without him the somewhat mixed blessing of a *Year Book* would not have been yours.

New South Wales skiers were interested to notice the recent cable news that Mr. L. V. Bryant, of New Zealand, who has several times contributed articles to this *Year Book*, had been selected as a member of the Reconnaissance Party of the Mount Everest Expedition which is now preparing its preliminary work. Mr. Bryant passed through Sydney on his way to India, but his stay was too short to enable us to entertain him. Even at this late stage, however, may we offer our congratulations on the honour paid to New Zealand mountaineering and our best wishes to a noted skier?

It is well worth your while to refer to Mr. Barry Caulfeild's letter, which is quoted in the New Zealand editorial notes in this issue. Many of Mr. Caulfeild's remarks on New Zealand apply with equal force to Australia and coming, as they do, from so distinguished a skier they have particular interest for us. Some of the clubs who are still sinners in this respect should notice, especially, Mr. Caulfeild's remarks about short Langlaufs and about cross-country races for women. Both these blots on our racing methods should be expunged as soon as possible, and Mr. Caulfeild's warning is a timely one.

The greater proportion of the space in the last edition of the *British Ski Year Book* (which is reviewed elsewhere in this number) was taken up by the concluding portion of Mr. Seligman's monograph on snow. This last portion related to avalanches, their cause, formation, classification and the effects caused by them. The whole of Mr. Seligman's work on the subject of snow deposits is intensely interesting, and it is noteworthy that every ski-ing journal reaching Australia from abroad contains long and laudatory references to it. Its almost Germanic thoroughness is lightened by the excellent style of its author. The *British Ski Year Book* has added considerably to the already high prestige it possesses by the first publication of this important work. We offer our humble congratulations to Mr. Seligman and look forward with great interest to the coming publication of this monograph in book form.

This brings us back to an idea which has long been in our minds. There is wide scope for further research in Australia on the lines so carefully laid down by Mr. Seligman. Australian snow, owing to the extraordinarily powerful wind-action to which it is subjected, shows more types in a quarter of a mile than

will be found in the whole of Switzerland. We do not possess in Australia what is known to meteorologists as the "Continental" type of snowfields which are encountered in Central Europe. Throughout the whole of the Australian snowfields the fairly close proximity of large ocean masses makes for extreme variation in snow types. The effects of wind on snow are more marked and more obvious to the ordinary skier in Australia than almost anywhere in Europe.

Now that Mr. Seligman's work is available as a starting point, may we hope that some Australian scientist will carry it a little further, so far as our own snow conditions are concerned. The subject is one of fascinating interest and would well repay some work. In the meantime we should be very glad of observations and notes on snow conditions by laymen who are interested in the subject. Photographs or written notes will be equally acceptable, and we hope that Australian skiers will provide us with material that can be used in future years.

That brings us to a realisation of the variation in our own New South Wales conditions, brought about by the transfer of our more important activities to the 6,000 ft. level at Charlotte's Pass. Before the Chalet was built, our constant trouble was the possibilities of shortage of snow. Now we have found that we can almost certainly rely on a fairly constant depth of snow at 6,000 ft. or over and weather, which was a secondary consideration at the more sheltered 5,000 ft. level, has now become the most important factor. Here, again, we need research to establish more definite forecasting of conditions than can be obtained at present. Every skier has noticed that the weather conditions at Charlotte's Pass follow a fairly definite cycle which is repeated throughout the entire winter. Starting with clear, still, sunny weather, we get, next in order overcast sky, followed by light winds, increasing within forty-eight hours to blizzard force, then still weather again, with fog, and, eventually, calm, sunny weather once again. Apparently this pressure cycle has not so far been carefully studied in relation to Australian Alpine conditions, and it would be interesting to know if the figures collected by the late Mr. Wragge, during his two years of study in his observatory (which has now almost completely disappeared) near the summit of Kosciusko, have been kept and analysed. If they are available they should form an excellent basis for a detailed study of Australian Alpine weather conditions.

One of the unexplained mysteries of the last few years is the fate of the Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Browne, appointed by the Council of the Ski Club of Great Britain, some years ago, to report on the subject of ski waxes. At the time when the Committee was formed we noted in the *Year Book* that the results of its researches should be of very great value to skiers all over the world and we have been anxiously awaiting, ever since, some report on its labours. Nothing has happened, so far as we know, and the Committee appears to have sunk to rest. To date we know of no real scientific research having been done on the subject of ski waxes. Every skier has his own theories which are the result merely of a method of trial and error. Until some proper research is made we cannot expect to advance far in our knowledge of how to wax for varying snow conditions and varying purposes.

Rock-climbing was tried in the Lake Albina area last summer, so far as we know for the first time. Though this *Year Book* is devoted entirely to skiing, we take the liberty of publishing with this note a photograph taken on a rock-climb above the lake. Dakin and Walker, of the Sydney University Ski Club, performed several small climbs, in the course of a few weeks' stay at the Smiggin



Miss Jean Pratt and H. Dakin on a granite outcrop above Lake Albina.

Miss J. Edwards.

Holes Hut, and they report that several quite interesting climbs can be found in the southern portion of the Main Range. Walker has had previous rock-climbing experience in the Cumberland district of England.

The attention of all skiers who are proposing to make tours on the Main Range during the coming winter is drawn to the regulations set down by the Safety Committee of the Ski Council, and also to the fact that before attempting any tour they must notify the secretary of the Safety Committee, Mr. Colin Gilder, c/o The Millions Club, Rowe Street, Sydney. This applies to *every skier*, no matter how experienced he or she may be, and is the only reasonable tribute tourers can pay to those who may have to endure the rigours and dangers of a long and exhausting search in case of accident. These regulations can only be of use if the experienced club skiers carry them out to the letter. It is the duty of all club skiers to see that they set an example in this respect, so that the novices who sometimes venture without experienced guides on long Main Range tours may not be able to say "We only did what you are doing." It is no use protesting that you do not want anyone to look for you if you are lost. You know perfectly well they will have to do it.

Last winter made more obvious than ever the lack of properly marked standard courses in New South Wales. We need these badly, not only for tests, but also for racing, and the Council has had its attention drawn to this fact for several years. It seems a great pity that the Council has, so far, done



Mt. Twynam, showing over Charlotte's Pass from the Stilwell Wood-run.

A. Ford.

nothing in the matter. Among the courses which could, and should, be permanently marked before the winter of 1936 are the Pearson Course at the Hotel, the Third-class Test Course at the Chalet, the Mount Stilwell Racing Course, the Spencer's Valley Langlauf Course used during the last two Australian Championships, alternative Downhill racing courses on Mount Guthrie and the Downhill Course (with variations) on Mount Twynam. A very small amount of work would be involved in marking these courses permanently, and the benefit to New South Wales ski-ing would be great. It is to be hoped that the Council will bestir itself in this matter before long.

The Mürren Kurverein, through Herr Direktor Michel, kindly supplied us with the results and full reports of the Arlberg-Kandahar and FIS meetings, both of which were held at Mürren. A full account of the FIS Downhill and Slalom appears elsewhere. Some notes on the A-K follow here.

Arnold Lunn set the slalom and G. A. Michel the straight race, while Hannes Schneider refereed both events. Competitors were graded by a committee. All events were radio-timed. The official bulletins, which are enlivened by delicious drawings by Mr. d'Egville, give very complete information, even down to the price of 1.50 francs for "3 Eggs and Baken" at the dance which followed.

The Women's Downhill was run first and won by Fräulein Rüegg, of Switzerland, followed by Miss Sale-Barker, Miss Macfie and Miss Pinching, all of the Kandahar. Mme. Galtier (France) was 7th and Miss Donaldson (U.S.A.) 17th. The Men's Downhill was won by Willy Steuri (Switzerland), with Emile Allais (France) second, Pfeiffer (Austria) third, Beckert (France) 5th, Prager (Switzerland) 12th, Peter Lunn, the first Englishman, 14th, David Zogg (Switzerland) only 19th (a surprise, that!), Maclaren 23rd, White 29th, and Müller, the first German, 33rd.

Fraülein Rüegg also won the Women's Slalom, from Miss Pinching. Miss Duthie was 4th and Miss Sale-Barker 8th. Thus Fraülein Rüegg won the combination from Miss Pinching, a very fine effort. Hermann Steuri won the Men's Slalom, Arnold Glatthard (Switzerland) being second, Prager 5th, Willy Steuri 12th, Allais 17th, Lunn 20th and Maclaren 24th. The combined was won by Glatthard, with Pfeiffer second and W. Steuri third. Switzerland and Austria took nearly all the first twenty places.

Mr. Wesche, with small regard for the Editor's feelings, writes:—

"We have always said to the person who has skied in Europe, 'Well, anyway, there is no risk of avalanches here.' It was a surprise, accordingly, to find some genuine specimens on the Main Range early last winter. Any personal risk, however, would have been negligible, as they had fallen from almost precipice slopes, the main one being off the north-east spur of Mount Clark, about a mile from Foreman's Hut. This fall was about 150 yards in width and is shown in the illustration on the opposite page. The conditions responsible were a heavy fall of snow, ending in rain and followed by a hard frost; the resulting slab had come away from the old wind-crust surface beneath." [It doesn't look like a slab avalanche to me. What does Mr. Seligman think?—Editor.]

"Incidentally, there are to be seen in the summer apparent traces of quite respectable avalanches among the timber on the western fall of the range."

Some good news from Mr. Speet:—"It will be interesting to visitors to the Hotel Kosciusko and the Chalet to know that further additions are in course of erection at both centres. The Hotel is erecting a ski-room, 30 ft. wide by 60 ft. long, which will incorporate a drying room. It will be able to cope with drying



The Tail-end of an Avalanche on Mt. Clark.

V. G. Wesche.

of clothes in a much more efficient manner than the old drying room, and the ski-room will have ample provision for the issue of ski, boots and sticks and the fitting of them. The crowding which used to be necessary in the restricted area of the former ski-room, notwithstanding its addition, will now definitely become a thing of the past, and visitors to the Hotel will be fitted in comfort, both to themselves and the men employed to do this kind of work. At the Chalet, a new building has been erected for the accommodation of staff, and the former staff accommodation has now been made available as a private suite, which may be reserved by guests privately, naturally at an increased tariff. The extra accommodation provided for the staff should result in more satisfactory service to guests of the Chalet, as we shall be able to provide the Chalet with more staff than we could during previous years."

That perennial agitation for an aerial survey of the Main Range between Klandra and the South Ramshead appears to have a possibility of bearing fruit in the more or less near future. It is understood that the Commonwealth Government is considering the inauguration of several aerial surveys and that this one is among those discussed. Perhaps the most important reason for this type of survey in the mountain area is that no other satisfactory form of mapping can be done. The tangled and densely timbered slopes on the west of the range render ordinary surveying methods unsuitable. The area is a most important one from the point of view of three States at least. Its snows provide the great portion of the water supply of the Murray River system, its timber resources are enormous and have formed the subject of long and detailed reconnaissances by the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, while its value as pastoral relief country is almost inestimable. All those factors must be taken into account, in addition to the one in which we ourselves are more closely interested, its value as a tourist asset, with particular reference to skiing. As the range runs practically in a straight line from north to south at this point, and as the snow country varies in width only from two to about

thirty miles, the expense of an aerial survey would not be so large as in many other instances. It is to be hoped that something definite will be done fairly soon; the present map, though most carefully compiled by the Lands Department, is not put forward by the Department as being any more than merely a sketch plan, on which only a few of the main points have been trigonometrically fixed.

Early in 1935, Mr. T. A. McNevin, honorary secretary of the Sydney University Ski Club since its foundation, a member of the Ski Council and its Technical Committee, captain of Sydney University's first ski-team and a man whose friendship is the valued possession of many who have skied or worked with him, fulfilled a long-cherished ambition by entering St. Columba's College to study for the priesthood. This note might easily become dangerously close to an obituary notice if we were to set out the qualities of mind and heart which endear him to skiers; we only say, then, all good fortune go with him in his new life. The Catholic Church is fortunate in this acquisition, but we are glad that his interest in ski-ing is not to disappear entirely with his retirement from the more secular activities of life.

We are fortunate in obtaining the interesting print shown on this page. It comes from Sweden and is dated 1567. The scene in Lapland which is depicted is noteworthy for the fact that the skiers are using two short, broad ski, instead of the one short and one long ski to which we are accustomed in



old pictures of ski-ing. The print is reproduced from a Swiss Schools Diary (to the publishers of which, Kaiser & Co., of Berne, we give grateful acknowledgment) in the possession of Dr. Earlam. Other old prints in the Diary show Norwegian ski-troops of the 18th century doing kick-turns and downhill practice.

But the chief matter of interest to the modern Australian skier is the gentleman in the left corner giving the earliest known exhibition of a reverse Imperial Jamieson. While modern technique and improved bindings have added more spectacular elements to this evolution, few, in these degenerate days, could accomplish it so heartily on a flat piece of ground. We honour his imperishable memory. It is understood that he was interviewed, shortly after the feat, by an Englishman who happened to be in the neighbourhood. Though he was difficult to follow, owing to his pronounced Lapp accent and the amount of snow in his mouth and nose, his statement ran something like this: "I'm just going along nicely," he said, "and feeling rather scornful about those stick-riders behind, when, oops, I get on a patch of ice and burst. And, of course, just then I hear a click and that damned newspaper man gets me and to-

morrow I'll be on the front page of the 'Lapland Daily.' It's all very well for you to laugh, but let me tell you it hurt and I think I've strained my Lappthong."

The following note from the Swedish Press Bureau will be of interest to those who are grappling with similar problems in Australia: "A meeting has recently been held, on the initiative of the Jamtland provincial board, to consider the organisation of special measures for the safety of members of long ski excursions who may get lost or into difficulties. Jamtland is one of the most popular of ski-ing regions in Sweden, and each year there are numbers of long ski-running excursions over the fells. Most of these parties go out under the leadership of an experienced ski instructor and come to no harm. There have been, however, cases of tragedy when one or two skiers have set out on a long trek and, losing their way in a snowstorm, have died from exhaustion and cold, sometimes before they have been missed. It is now proposed that there should be in the mountain villages a nucleus of 4 or 5 experienced skiers who will hold themselves in readiness to go out to search for missing skiers as soon as they are missed. Another proposal is that the military authorities should be prepared to send out patrols when requested to do so by the provincial authorities. In addition, special telephone lines to out-of-the-way places are suggested. It is understood that the Swedish Red Cross, the Swedish Tourist Club and the Society for the Advancement of Ski-ing will bear a part of the cost of these measures. Though it is felt that some such measures are necessary, it is emphasised that there is no danger in the long ski runs practised in Sweden *when ordinary precautions are taken and there is an experienced leader.*" We italicised the last words ourselves.

The Four-event Championship seems likely to pass before long into disuse, so far, at least, as the Australian National Championship is concerned. At the conclusion of last year's Championships, the Technical Committee submitted a report to the New South Wales Ski Council, pointing out that the four-event method was no longer justifying its existence. The method was introduced when the Championships were first held, for a very definite reason. It was intended to encourage the growth of Langlauf and jumping, which were then at a very low ebb in Australia. That purpose it did definitely accomplish and, in the course of a few years, the standard in these two branches of ski-ing was considerably advanced. It is now found, however, from figures produced by the secretary of the Technical Committee, that the number of people entering for all four events is dropping steadily as specialisation increases. Thus, while jumping and Langlauf are now well established, the number of "all-round" skiers is decreasing. The New South Wales Ski Council, in recommending to the A.N.S.F. that the Four-event Championship should now be dropped, is not, it should be pointed out, admitting a mistake in the past. There was a definite purpose in initiating a Four-event Championship and, that purpose having now been accomplished, there is no necessity for the retention of this method of marking. But it must be remembered, particularly by those who criticised the method, that had it not been for the Four-event Championship we should have been put to endless difficulties in trying to advance two branches of ski-ing. These two branches undoubtedly owe their present reasonably high standard to the policy adopted, and therein lies its complete justification. The inter-State match will, of course, still be decided on the combination of four events, though, if the A.N.S.F. agrees, in future years only separate individual titles will be given for the events in the National Championships.

The Kosciusko Alpine Club has undergone a wide re-organisation during the past year. It was felt by the Committee that the club was not showing



Looking down on Charlotte's Pass from Mt. Guthrie.

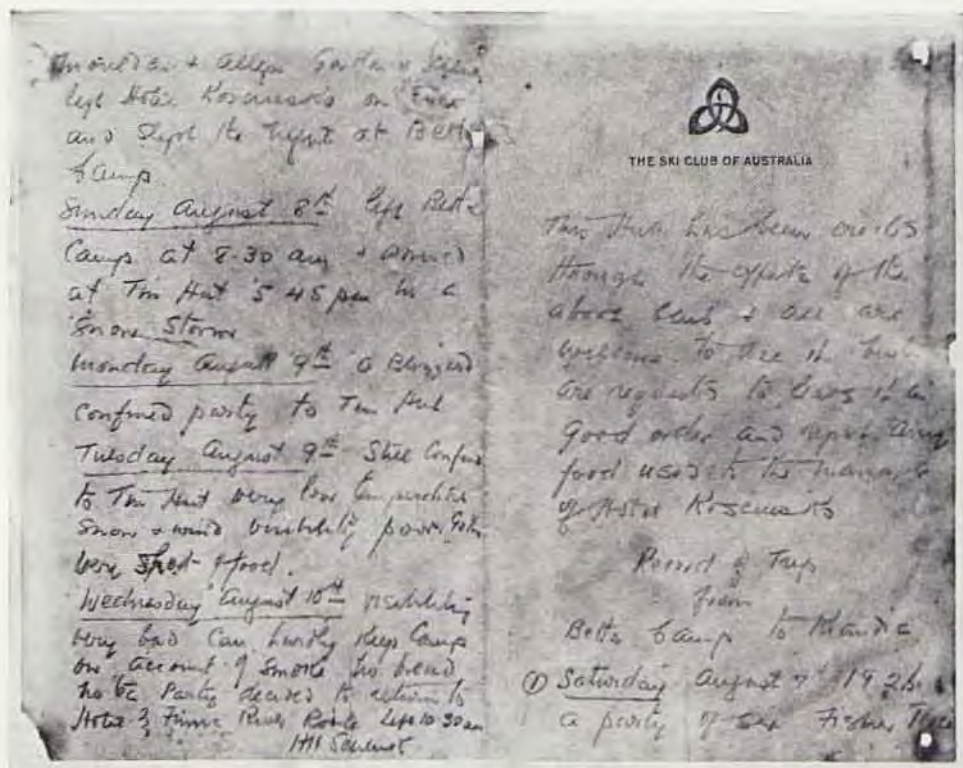
S. Crawcour.

sufficient progress and that more detailed work in the various branches of its activities would have to be done to bring the club ahead. Some ten or so sub-committees have now been appointed, and work on these has already settled down very well. The membership of the club has been steadily rising lately, and it is hoped that better service to members will be provided by the new method of organisation. Among other steps taken is the publication of a monthly bulletin, which, it is hoped, will keep members of the club more closely in touch with ski-ing activities between seasons and lead to a more critical and livelier interest in the club's doings.

Towards the end of 1934, we noted, with deep regret, the death of Colonel Bilgeri, the famous ski teacher, whose organisation and training of the Austrian Ski Troops during the War brought him into prominence and whose whole-hearted enthusiasm in the teaching and training of skiers of all nations after the War was so well known among all ski-ing nations. Every Continental ski-ing magazine in the last few months has contained expressions of regret at this loss and of eulogy of a man who had done so much for the sport. Many Australians enjoyed the benefits of Bilgeri's teaching and the pleasure of contact with his remarkable personality. He loved the snow and he taught ski-ing with an inspiration that marked him out from the ordinary teacher.

The "Ski Runner," that delightful magazine produced by the Toronto Ski Club, contained, in a recent number, an article on Australian ski-ing by the Editor of this *Year Book*. While we were delighted to receive recognition from the "Ski Runner," we cannot refrain from commenting on one rather appalling misprint in the article. It appeared that at Charlotte's Pass facilities for ski-ing "include a jumping hill capable of taking jumps up to 5 metres"! While we do not pretend that jumping in Australia has reached a standard comparable with that in Canada, we do, at least, hope to attain to lengths rather greater than would appear from the misprint. To Canadian readers who may have noticed our modest ambitions with mild surprise, we would protest that the figure 50 should be substituted for 5.

On this page appears a photograph of some historic value. It shows the message left in Gungartan Tin Hut by the party which attempted the first trip from Betts' Camp to Kiandra in 1926. This party reached Gungartan, but was held there by a blizzard for some days and, eventually, forced to return to Kosciusko. The first trip along the range between Kiandra and Kosciusko was finally made the following year, from the Kiandra end and not, as originally intended, from the south. The sheet of paper which carries this log of the four-day enforced stay at Gungartan has hung on the wall in the Tin Hut for nearly nine years and is blackened by the smoke from the hut fire. Last



A. Ford.

The Note from Gungartan Tin Hut (see Editorial Notes). The log of the trip starts on the lower right-hand page.

winter, a party staying at the hut found that the "log" had fallen on to the floor and, in view of its interest to Australian skiers, they retrieved it and brought it back to Sydney. It has now been passed on to the secretary of the Ski Club of Australia, whose club organised the expeditions which ended in the first Kiandra-Kosciusko traverse, while, to ensure its preservation, a photograph and block have been made from it.

The Olympic Winter Games will be held in 1936 at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in Germany, and an article appears elsewhere in this issue on the arrangements for the Games. Of more immediate interest to Australian skiers is the fact that it is highly probable that the Olympic Winter Games of 1940 will be held in Japan. With the greatly enhanced possibility of sending a team for this much shorter journey, the prospects of Australian participation in the ski-ing events become much more interesting. Entry for these events would involve the A.N.S.F. in affiliation with the Australian Olympic Council, and overtures have been made by the secretary of the Olympic Council in this respect. It will be as well if the governing bodies of Australian ski-ing keep this possibility closely in view during the next couple of years. There is also, we understand, a chance, first, that a Winter Section may be added to the British Empire Games, and, secondly, that the Empire Games may be held in Australia within the next few years. Here, again, the A.N.S.F. should take the necessary steps to ensure that if this is done the ski-ing events should be held under its control. If that body does not move in the matter, it is quite probable that the organisers of the Empire Games may make their arrangements with other organisations. This would be disastrous to ski-ing in this country, and it is hoped that the A.N.S.F. will come to some decision in the matter during the coming year.

The Postmaster-General's Department has gone definitely ski-minded. It seems to be able to search out a ski official at almost any address. After a long and difficult apprenticeship in dealing with German or Austrian correspondence, which arrives addressed almost invariably to "Australianische Alpen-Verein, Sydney, New Zealand," the Post Office was put on its mettle recently by a letter addressed to "The Secretary, The Technical Committee, George Street, Manly." Now, George Street, Manly, is a fairly long street, and there was no sign of the blessed word "Ski" to assist the Department. Undeterred, however, by such a lack of clues, the postman went to 143 houses in George Street, inquiring, "Is there a secretary of a Technical Committee here?" Finally he got his man.

But the high spot of all this was reached when the Editor received a letter addressed thus:—

*The Editor
Year Books of Australia
Sydney*

The splendid photograph opposite, by Mr. A. Ford, was taken from the foot of Etheridge Range, near Seaman Memorial Hut. It shows icy conditions, in early July, on Mueller's Peak and Mt. Townsend.

Swelling with pride, we thought here is real fame at last. Unfortunately, however, when opened, it was found to contain a report from a Western Australian mine-manager, giving his output for the year. Eventually the awful truth dawned on us that the address was correct! With a sad heart we re-addressed it to the Government Statistician, Canberra. There is another Year Book; it is the Commonwealth Official Year Book. But it was a pleasant moment.

A very hearty welcome to the new clubs formed during the year. The Canberra Alpine Club is showing great activity and is represented elsewhere in this number. The Cooma, Bega and Monaro Clubs, while no detailed reports have been received from them, are reported to be keen and full of plans for the future. The energy shown by the Snow Revellers' Club is nothing short of astonishing. We hope that all these clubs will make use of the *Year Book* as their own journal and co-operate, to their own advantage, with the older-established clubs.

By a great deal of hard work, Mr. Colin Gilder, with the assistance of Mr. Mould and Mr. Hughes, has noted and obtained reports on no less than fifty-three ski-ing huts on the Main Range. His article, which will form the Genesis (if not the Exodus) of the Australian ski-tourer's bible, will be found in this issue.

A note from Mr. A. Cridland:—"Although the special duty on sporting material generally has now been removed, the importation of ski and accessories still remains a very expensive business. If entered under the Customs classification of "Articles for Indoor and Outdoor Games," tariff item 310A, the nominal rates of duty are 30% British or 50% foreign, plus 10% primage duty and 5% sales tax in each instance.

"Duty is assessed on the f.o.b. value at port of shipment, with 10% added; sales tax is charged on the value for duty, plus the duty, plus an additional 20%. The total amounts payable thus work out at approximately 53% British and 77% foreign, on the f.o.b. value. It should be clearly understood that the above rates do not necessarily apply to all material used in ski-ing. Certain articles, such as apparel, which returns higher rates of duty, may be classified accordingly."

Two features of this edition of the *Year Book* call for special attention. The first is that the Classified Advertising Section, which was started last year, has grown into a most complete and useful guide to the place and method of purchasing everything that an Australian or New Zealand skier can want. It is well worth the time of every reader to turn to it and glance through the list, which will be found an interesting reflex of the growth of ski-ing and its attendant industries in both Dominions.

The second feature is a list of "Important Notices," which appears nearby and in which are included all those last-minute notifications which crop up at the beginning of the season just before the *Year Book* goes to press. This, also, we commend to the notice of readers.

At the beginning of 1935 the Ski Council received a communication from a ski-teacher of the Arlberg School in Austria, applying for a position during the coming season in Australia. The Council considered this letter and came to the conclusion that the time had arrived when such services could be useful to N.S.W. ski-ing. It was felt that the greatest benefit to be derived would be the organisation and standardisation of our methods of teaching and, while sharply divided opinions are held in Europe as to the merits and demerits of the three

or four main types of school, most skiers will admit that the Arlberg School, with its methods of standardised, mass coaching, has been highly successful in bringing skiers to a reasonable standard in a short time. It was hoped that contact with the methods of a modern European school would be of great assistance, not only to clubs, but to the Kosciusko Ski School, which is doing such splendid work. The Tourist Bureau gave most hearty co-operation and eventually decided to accept the teacher, if suitable, as a member of the hotel staff, while the Council, in conjunction with the clubs, has undertaken to finance the passage of the teacher from Australia to Sydney and return. On the day



Ex-President A.W.S.C. in the Wood-run.

on which this note was written, a cable was received accepting the position, and a cable from Hannes Schneider conveying his personal recommendation of the man selected.

This experiment is an interesting one, and you will realise that its value to N.S.W. ski-ing should be immense. At the same time, all those who benefit by the coaching obtained and by experience of the methods of a European school should remember that the financial obligation thrown on the Council and the clubs is a very large one, in view of the smallness of their combined resources. We hope, therefore, that N.S.W. skiers will remember that these bodies are anxious to reimburse themselves, so far as they can, over the venture and that members of clubs will understand that some small financial sacrifice by every one of them will be required to make this scheme possible.

Mr. Bruce Carnall, Equipment Editor of the Toronto "Ski-Runner," has asked us to make known through the *Year Book* the fact that he is anxious to exchange badges of various clubs with Australians. He writes, "would it be too much to ask that you put a short note in your 1935 *Year Book*, asking if there is anyone in Australia or New Zealand who is interested in collecting and who

would like to trade for Canadian badges, or Canadian or South American postage stamps." Mr. Carnall's address is 56 High Park Avenue, Toronto 9, Ontario.

That reminds us that some time ago we promised to help Mr. Seligman in the same quest. We have so far done practically nothing in the matter, but now take this opportunity of asking secretaries of clubs to let us have badges for this purpose. Meanwhile, if this should catch the eye of Mr. Seligman, we should like him to understand that his request has not been entirely forgotten.

Perhaps the most gratifying feature of the last two years in N.S.W. has been the vast improvement in school ski-ing. The good work of the Kosciusko Ski School among the children who visit Kosciusko in hundreds each year is gradually taking effect, and quite a large proportion of those who passed the Ski School Preliminary Test last season came from the school children's parties. The congratulations of those who are interested in the future of Australian



On Guthrie.

ski-ing should go to Mr. George Lamble, organiser of the Ski School. One of the most interesting letters received by the Editor last year came from Victoria, where the success of the methods adopted to improve school ski-ing in N.S.W. had been noted from the reports in the 1934 *Year Book*, and where suggestions were being made for something of the kind for Victoria. Such emulation must be gratifying to Mr. Lamble and should offset the fact that the N.S.W. clubs, with the honourable exception of the Kosciusko Alpine Club, have taken practically no interest in school ski-ing and have not attempted to build up for themselves a solid future by obtaining members from among the younger skiers. The Alpine Club has now embarked on a vigorous policy of acquiring members from among the more proficient school skiers. The significance of this improvement has been put before readers in previous numbers of the *Year Book*, but, at the risk of repetition, we should like to say that the clubs who neglect this important feature do so at their own risk.



W. Burke.

Story Without Words, Kosciusko, 1934.

Continental and American ski-ing journals received during the past year in Australia have contained reference to two new developments of technique which are of great interest. While the accounts received of both these developments are, for the most part, extremely vague, it appears, at least, that an entirely new style of running has been developed by a ski school, under the direction of Nöbl, a well-known Austrian racer. The second development appears to be the emergence, a new type of turn, though whether it really is new or not remains to be seen. It is known in America and Canada as the "High-Speed Turn," and on the Continent as the "Temposwung." Whether these two turns are identical, and whether they are a completely new development is not quite clear from the published accounts, but those who are interested will find in this issue an article which endeavours to collect all the information available about them.

While Europe and America are discussing this new type of turn, a pertinent inquiry from Mr. George Lambie will be found in his report in this issue on the doings of the Kosciusko Ski School during last season. Mr. Lambie raises the question: should not the Stem-Christiania be taught to beginners, even before the Stem turn, which has so far formed the basis of all novice teaching in Australia. The Arlberg School would hold up its hands in horror at this heresy, but it is quite possible that the query is well founded and that, though our present tradition is against such a move, it may come to be the method of the future. We definitely lack the courage to attempt to settle the question here, but pass it on as a fruitful source of argument for the long winter evenings.

Last season opened with every prospect of much exploratory work being accomplished on the Main Range. Various expeditions were proposing to enter the range from different points, and it was hoped that areas unknown as skiing grounds would be explored and mapped in a thorough fashion. The weather settled all that. Blizzard conditions on the southern end of the range and lack of snow on the northern end spoiled many promising expeditions, and the trips accomplished by Gelling, Telfer and Aalberg were, perforce, so hurried that their results have done little to advance general knowledge of the range. That does not in the least detract from the admiration due to the notable feats accomplished. Aalberg went through from Kosciusko to Kiandra in less than twenty-four hours, and later went to Jagungal and back to the Hotel in less than twelve hours. Later, he accompanied Gelling and Telfer, of the Millions Ski Club, on a trip of three days across the range—(see the article in this issue by Mr. Gelling)—and, later still, he and Gelling accomplished the extraordinary feat of skiing from Kiandra to Kosciusko, a distance of about sixty miles, in a little over fifteen hours. Apart from these trips, however, the only expedition on the range which we can trace is one made later in the season, on which Miss Gelling gained the distinction of being the first woman skier to tour in the Gungahran area.

Inquiries were received lately from the chairman of the South African Ski Club as to various details of the methods of approach by road and rail to our snowfields, in view of the efforts of that club to obtain similar access to the snow mountains of South Africa. Full information was forwarded to Mr. Field, the chairman of the club, and the Editor followed this up by asking Mr. Field to write an article on South African skiing for this number. So far, however, Mr. Field remains shyly silent on the subject, and we can only hope that he may see fit to let us have some information for a future edition.

Two new means of access to Australian snowfields should be available by the 1936 season. The old road to the Grey Mare's Mine is, we understand, to be put in a better state of repair, and this will have two good effects from the point of view of skiers. First, it will give a good entry to the range from the Snowy Plains area; and, second, it will make much easier the building and equipping of stockmen's huts on the range. Then, from Canberra, comes the news, from the secretary of the Canberra Alpine Club, that the club has been successful in inducing the Government to construct a track from Lee's Spring to Mount Franklin, thus linking up Canberra with the snow country of the Federal Territory. A start was made about the middle of April and, by the middle of May, about two miles of the road had been completed, though work was held up by heavy falls of snow in April. The enterprise of the C.A.C. in this matter is to be commended, and we look forward to the establishment of a regular skiing centre in the near future.

Fifty-Three Ski Huts of New South Wales

By Colin Gilder.

[Note: All map references are to the 1934 Lands' Department map, from which the accompanying maps are drawn and which is absolutely essential to all ski-tourists in N.S.W. We shall be grateful for any further information as to these huts or for news of other huts.—Editor.]

Since publication of the article in the 1934 *A.N.Z.Y.B.* on the ski-ing huts of N.S.W., much valuable information has come to hand giving the location and habitable condition of huts above the snow-line at Kosciusko.

In 1934 a list of 14 huts known to exist on the Main Range was published. In quite a number of cases only vague information could be given. In 1935 we are in the happy position of being able to publish a list of 53 huts, on which we have reliable data. Some of these huts, which have recently been built by holders of snow leases, are of vital interest to touring parties, situated, as they are, on the main Kosciusko-Kiandra Traverse. Among the more important of these, two stand paramount, Clarke's Hut at White's River Saddle and Spencer's Peak Hut, four miles north of Bull's Peaks. The re-opening of the mine at Grey Mare's, with the subsequent possibility of miners being in residence throughout the winter months, and the building of a new hut between Jagungal and Farm Ridge, open up a new expanse of wonderful ski-ing country in a hitherto inaccessible locality.

Much valuable information in respect of the position and condition of these huts has been forwarded by Mr. R. G. Mould, of Berridale, and Mr. W. Hughes, of Kiandra, and we would take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to these gentlemen for their interest. For more detailed notes on the huts on the west of the Main Range (Group "E" below) readers are referred to Mr. Hughes' article in this issue.

As is commonly known, most of these huts are built by stockmen who have stock on the ranges in the summer months, and as, as often occurs, two or more huts may be erected by one man, a certain amount of duplication in names is inevitable. For the purpose of clarity in this article, we propose to refer to these huts, firstly by number. It is hoped that these numbers will be the standard method of reference in future. For the sake of further clarity, it is proposed to divide these huts into six groups:—

- (a) Huts in the immediate vicinity of the Hotel and Chalet.
- (b) Huts forming the links of the Kosciusko-Kiandra Traverse, including emergency huts accessible to this line.
- (c) Huts on the Eastern fall of the Main Range between Gungartan and Bull's Peaks, on the waters of Finn's River, Tolbar Creek and Burrungabugge River (also known as Back Creek).
- (d) Huts on the Eastern fall of the Main Range between Bull's Peaks and Adamnaby T.S., i.e., Snowy Plain country on Gungahlin Water.
- (e) Huts on the West of the Main Range, on the Tooma River fall.
- (f) Huts in the immediate vicinity of Kiandra.

Note: Distances given in the accompanying descriptions are direct from point to point and may not coincide with those quoted in articles where the mileage given is the distance to be covered and not the distance "as the crow flies."

Group "A."

Huts in the immediate vicinity of the Hotel and Chalet.

* (2) *Daner's Hut.*

Owner.—Government Tourist Bureau.

Situation.—Approximately 100 yards east of the road on Hotel side of Daner's Gap.

Description.—One-roomed hut, built of iron.

Equipment.—Nil. Is used as a shelter shed for picnic parties.

Daner's No. 2 Hut (not numbered in this list).

A second hut is situated at Daner's Gap, a short distance from the Snow-Pole Line in the direction of the Plains of Heaven.

(3) *Smiggin Holes Hut.*

Owner.—Government Tourist Bureau.

Situation.—20 yards off the Snow-Pole Line, approximately 5 miles from the Hotel and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the crossing of Piper's Creek.

Equipment.—Fireplace and rough bunks, but no provisions or blankets. Built mainly as a shelter-shed for parties *en route* to the Chalet. Connected to the Hotel and Chalet by telephone.

(4) *Betts' Camp.*

Owner.—Government Tourist Bureau.

Situation.—On the Snow-Pole Line, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Hotel and 3 miles from the Chalet.

Description.—3 rooms and hall, weatherboard, with iron roof.

Equipment.—As this hut is, during over-crowded periods, used to accommodate the overflow from the Chalet, it is well equipped with bunks, stores and blankets, and is the recognised halting-place for parties travelling to the Chalet. It is connected with the Hotel and Chalet by telephone.

(5) *Adam's Hut.*

A small hut on the western bank of Spencer's Creek, about 20 yards off the Snow-Pole Line, at the foot of the Paralyser.

(6) *The Red Hut.*

On the Snow-Pole Line, on Mount Guthrie, opposite the Chalet. This hut is now in a very bad state of repair and is of no use as shelter, but would be a means of locating the Chalet in heavy weather.

(7) *Foreman's Hut.*

Owner.—Dr. Foreman.

Situation.—On the Snowy River, East of Charlotte's Pass. This hut is invariably locked during the winter months. Its proximity to the Chalet makes it of minor importance.

(8) *The Laurie Seaman Memorial Hut.*

Owner.—Erected by public subscription, in memory of Laurie Seaman.

Situation.—On the Snow-Pole Line, on the North-east end of Etheridge Range, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Kosciusko summit.

Description.—Stone building of 2 rooms.

Equipment.—Rations, first-aid kit, blankets and firewood are stocked in this hut, for emergency use only. Parties touring in this vicinity are requested to note this fact and on no account, unless the use of this equipment is absolutely essential to the welfare of the party, should it be touched. The hut is connected with the Chalet and Hotel by telephone.

* Since its erection, Pound's Creek Hut has been known as Tin Hut No. 1. (A sign-post at Spencer's Creek Crossing still points to Tin Hut No. 1.) To save confusion, we shall continue to call this No. 1, thus starting with Daner's Hut as No. 2.



Seaman Hut and Etheridge Range.

A. Ford.

(9) *Dead Horse Gap Hut.*

Owner.—Cannot be traced at present.

Situation.—At Dead Horse Gap, at the head of the Crackenback River, about 2 miles due south from Ram's Head. No information is available as to the condition of this hut, but it is understood to be quite habitable. (See article by "Kiandra.")

(10) *Merret's Hut.*

Owner.—Cannot be traced.

Situation.—On the South-east side of Ram's Head Range, about 300-400 ft. below Merret's Look-Out.

Description.—Two-roomed tin hut in quite good condition. It is inhabited in summer.

Equipment.—Not known at present.

Group "B."**Huts on the Kiandra-Kosciusko Traverse.**

* (1) *Tin Hut No. 1* (Pound's Creek).

Owner.—Government Tourist Bureau.

Situation.— $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below the junction of Spencer's Creek and the Snowy River, 100 yards up from Eastern bank of Snowy River.

Description.—Two-roomed tin hut, with raised floor, in good condition.

Equipment.—4 bunks, blankets, Canadian stove, firewood, axe (?), broom, water-cans, kettle.

(11) *White's River Hut.*

Owner.—Clarke.

* Pound's Creek Hut (1) might also be included in group "A," as it is within easy access from the Chalet.

Situation.—Approximately 1 mile down White's River from the Dickie Cooper-White's River Saddle, on the southern bank of the junction of the two upper arms of White's River, bearing approximately 25° W. of S. from Gungartan T.S.

Description.—New, corrugated iron, about 20 ft. by 14 ft.

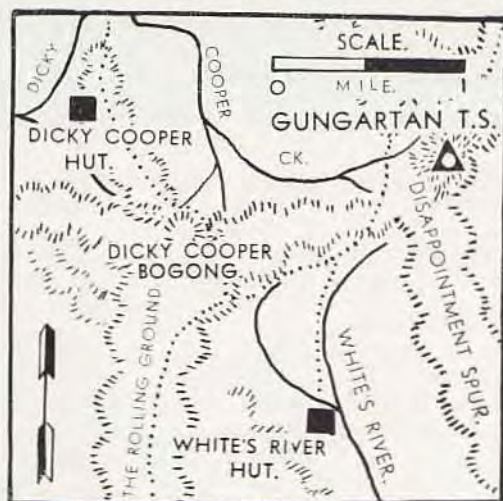
Equipment.—Bunks, fireplace and probably firewood. Of vital importance to a party touring north and caught in this vicinity in bad weather. The hut is well protected and easily located.

(12) *Dickie Cooper Hut.*

Owner.—McPhie.

Situation.—2 miles North-west of White's River Saddle on the North-west fall of Dickie Cooper Bogong.

Description.—This hut, of weatherboard construction, is in a very bad



C. Gilder.

White's River Saddle District.



Dickie Cooper Hut in Summer.

R. Michaelis.



R. Michaelis.

Photograph, taken in summer from White's River Saddle, looking west down Dicky Cooper Creek and showing location of Hut.

state of repair and, as there is no equipment, it could only be used in an emergency. An abundance of firewood will be found in the vicinity.

(13) *The Tin Hut (Gungartan).*

Owner.—Ski Club of Australia and Messrs. Litchfield, of Cooma.

Situation.—2 miles North-east of Gungartan, a few yards East of the Valentine-Finn's River Saddle, on the headwaters of Finn's River.

Description.—Corrugated iron hut, 20 ft. by 14 ft. Wood floor.

Equipment.—Sleeping bags, blankets ?, 2 bunks, fireplace, Canadian stove, and, probably, firewood; water obtainable in the close vicinity. On the direct line of the Kosciusko-Kiandra Traverse. The discussion as to locating this hut is never-ending; detailed instructions in this respect were given in the 1934 *A.N.Z.Y.B.* With the advent of the hut at White's River, the possibility of having to locate this hut in extreme weather is considerably lessened.

(14) *Mawson's Hut (Bobundra).*

Owner.—N.Z. Land Company.

Situation.—4 miles down the Valentine River from the Tin Hut. For detailed instructions, refer to 1934 *A.N.Z.Y.B.*

Description.—2 rooms and hall, both rooms lined and floored, fireplace in one room only.

Equipment.—Bunks, open fireplace and firewood, cooking gear.

(15) *Grey Mare's Hut.*

Owner.—McPhie.

Situation.—South of Grey Mare's Creek, 5 miles South-west from Jagungal, 3½ miles West from Mawson's Hut.

Description.—Four-roomed, weatherboard cottage, in good condition; additions to the building have been made during the summer months; the extent of these additions is, as yet, not known.

Equipment.—Owing to the re-opening of the Grey Mare's gold mine, there is a possibility that miners will be in permanent residence throughout the winter months. This fact will, doubtless, prevent the permanent use of the hut

by touring parties, but, in the event of an emergency, accommodation could probably be obtained. See article elsewhere by "Kiandra."

(16) *Spencer's Peak Hut.*

Owner.—R. G. Mould.

Situation.—On the western fall of the Main Range, 1 mile North-east of the Basin, on Doubtful River, bearing 60 deg. from Jagungal.

Description.—New, 16 ft. by 14 ft., corrugated iron.

Equipment.—Bunks and ovens; firewood and kindling are always left by owner in autumn. The latest information for locating this hut is as follows: Proceed up Doubtful River, then turn east, up a creek with a prominent, timbered hill on the right hand; continue until an open flat is reached and the hut should be found on the right hand in the shelter of timber.

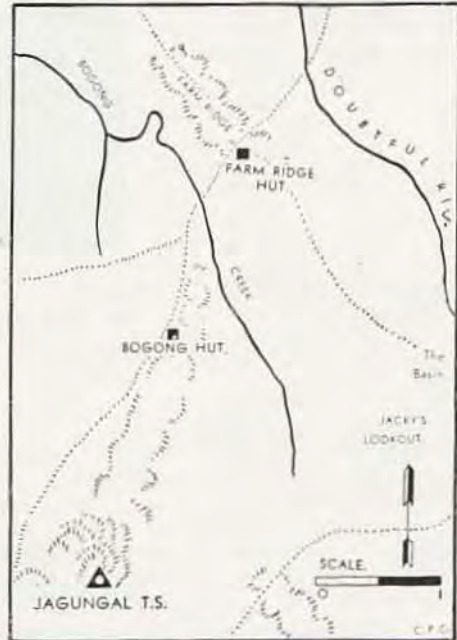
(17) *Bogong Hut.*

Owner.—A. S. O'Keefe.

Situation.— $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Bogong Creek, and in a direct line half-way between Jagungal and Farm Ridge. From the hut Jagungal bears 200 deg.

Description.—Lined iron, 2 rooms and a bath-room, good condition.

Equipment.—4 iron stretchers and cooking utensils; possibly firewood; other gear would possibly be locked away during winter months. Directions for locating this hut are rather



C. Gilder.

From Farm Ridge to Jagungal.



Bogong Hut.

J. MacFarlane.

Jagungal from the N.N.E. on the way from Farm Ridge. The white dot in the centre background is the Bogong Hut.



R. Michaeils.

vague (see article by "Kiandra"). It is on the eastern slope of a timbered ridge running north from the summit of Jagungal, which is just visible from the hut. It is surrounded by a wire fence enclosing 200 acres. This fence would possibly be visible in winter months.

(18) *Farm Ridge Hut.*

Owner.—A. J. Ryal.

Situation.— $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles North of Jagungal on the upper reaches of Doubtful River. Jagungal, bearing 196 deg. from the hut.

Description.—Four-roomed, weatherboard hut, with all rooms floored.

Equipment.—Bunks and cooking gear with an abundance of firewood in the vicinity. Probably two rooms of this hut will be found locked during the winter months. Although slightly off the main line, this hut formed a vital link in the first crossing from Kiandra to Kosciusko. The close proximity of the new hut at Spencer's Peak has minimised its value for this purpose.

(19) *Turner's Hut.*

Owner.—Turner and Flanagan.



Farm Ridge Hut.

J. MacFarlane.

T.S. Situated in heavy timber, with Spencer's Peak, distant about 4 miles, very prominent from the hut.

Description.—Weatherboard, 2 rooms, lath and plaster in good condition.

Equipment.—Bunks and cooking utensils. The notes in connection with Turner's Hut (19) apply to this hut.

(22) *Boobee Hut.*

Owner.—J. Cheney.

Situation.—On the South-east slope of Vale T.S.*, approximately 1 mile distant.

Description.—Two-roomed, weatherboard hut. No guarantee of condition can be given.

Equipment.—Bunks and cooking utensils; firewood in the vicinity. For full description of location, see 1934 *A.N.Z.Y.B.*

† (23) *Round Mountain Hut.*

Owner.—At present unknown.

Situation.—1 mile South-east of Lett's T.S. on Round Mountain, on the Toolong Range, at about 700 ft., lower altitude than the T.S.

Description.—A strongly-built, single-roomed hut with a storeroom and shed.

Equipment.—Bunks, firewood in the locality, possibly blankets, but no guarantee in this respect can be given.

(24) *Table Top Hut.*

Owner.—Nixon.

Situation.—1 mile from Table Top T.S., bearing 36° E. of S. Approximately 10 miles from Klandra.

Description.—One-room, galvanised iron hut, with raised floor.

Equipment.—Stove; abundant supply of firewood is in the immediate vicinity.

(25) *The Dip Hut.*

Owner.—W. Montague.

Situation.—At The Dip, approximately half-way between Table Top Mountain and Addicumbene T.S.

Description.—A large, well-built hut, erected in 1931.

Equipment.—No information is available.

Group "C."

Huts on the Eastern fall of the Main Range, between Gungartan and Bull's Peaks.

(26) *Bolton's*, (27) *Tolbar* (new slab), (28) *Reid's*, (29) *Oliver's*, (30) *Newtown* (new slab, floored, comfortable), (31) *Kidman's*.

These huts are all situated on the Eastern fall of the Main Range, between Gungartan and Bull's Peaks, on the Burrungabugge and Finn's River fall. Two of them are new. Tolbar (27), 2 miles up Tolbar Creek, is a slab hut, and Newtown (30), on the North-east bank of the Burrungabugge River, in close proximity to Oliver's (29), and Reid's Huts (28), is a comparatively new hut, built of slab with raised floor.

The majority of these huts will be found to contain firewood and cooking utensils, but no guarantee in this respect can be given. They are all badly situated from the ski-ing point of view, with the exception, possibly, of Bolton's

* Vale T.S. on the old map was known as Far Bald Mountain and was referred to as such in the description of Boobee Hut in the 1934 *A.N.Z.Y.B.*

† The situation of this hut is incorrectly marked on the existing maps.

Hut (26), which is on the line between the Hotel and Gungartan (Finn's River route) and Kidman's (31), on the upper reaches of the Burrungabugge River, about 2 miles south-west of McLean T.S., which provide safety if caught east of the Main Range by bad weather.

Group "D."

Huts on the eastern fall of the Main Range, between Bull's Peaks and Adaminaby T.S.

(32) *H. Bolton's House* (new slab hut), (33) *Oliver's Snowy Plain Hut* (old slab), (34) *Williamson's Hut* (old slab), (35) *Snowy Plain House* (W. Napthali: 5-roomed, weather-board, old), (36) *Fletcher's Hut* (new corrugated iron), (37) *Jardine's Hut* (old, weatherboard), (38) *Coolrington Hut* (old weather-board), (39) *Bullman's* (old, weatherboard, 2-roomed), (40) *Wheatley's Hut* (new slab).

All these huts are situated on the eastern fall of the Main Range, between Bull's Peaks and Adaminaby T.S. Owing to their low-lying position their ski-ing value is not great. The majority of these huts contain the usual cooking utensils, and firewood should be found in the vicinity.

Group "E."

Huts on the west of the range, on the Tooma River fall (see article by "Kiandra.")

(41) *Pretty Plains Hut*

(Ryrie's Parlour).

Owner.—Capt. Chisholm.

Situation.—5 miles north-west from Grey Mare's Hut, east of the Dargals Range, approximately 1 mile up Pretty Plain Creek, from its junction with the Tooma River.



On the WEST of the MAIN RANGE on the TOOMA RV.

SCALE

Description.—The old hut is of bark and slab construction, but a new hut is in the course of construction.

Equipment.—Bunks and possibly cooking utensils; firewood in the vicinity.

(42) *Wheeler's Hut.*

Owner.—Wheeler.

Situation.—1 mile East of the Big Dargal, on the West of Dargal Creek, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the junction with the Tooma River, 9 miles North-west from Grey Mare's Hut.

Description.—Four-roomed hut, in good condition.

Equipment.—No details of equipment are available.

(43) *Paton's Hut and (44) Ryal's No. 2 Hut.*

Owners.—At present unknown.

Situation.—Both these huts are situated on the Tooma River country, in the vicinity of Mosital Hill, on tributaries of the Tooma River.

No information as to their condition or the equipment at the huts is available, although it is understood they are quite habitable.

(45) *Wolseley's Gap Hut.*

Situation.—3 miles north of the Big Dargal, on the Jagumba Range.

No information as to the condition or equipment of this hut is available.

(46) and (47).—Two other huts are situated on the Tooma River, about 3 miles west of the Black Jack T.S. These huts are in low-lying country, west of Manjar T.S., and would be of no use to skiers except in emergency. No information is obtainable as to their condition, but it is understood that they are habitable.

Group "F."

Huts in the immediate vicinity of Kiandra.

(48) *Elaine Hut.*

Owner.—Hughes Bros.

Situation.—5 miles from Kiandra, between Kiandra and Table Top Mountain, on the upper reaches of Mile Creek.

Miners are in permanent residence at this hut, throughout the winter months.

Lorna Doone Hut ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile West of the Sugar Loaf); *Nine-Mile Hut* (on the southern bank, at the head of Nine-Mile Creek); *Three-Mile Hut* (at the Dam on Three-Mile Creek); *Pig Gully Hut* ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Kiandra).

All of these huts are in the vicinity of Kiandra and are of no particular interest to skiers on the Kosciusko end of the Range. The locality and condition of these huts is well known by local people, consequently, should their use be contemplated, full particulars could be obtained.



Huts on the West of the Main Range

SOME FURTHER NOTES.

By "Kiandra."

[*Note: This article should be read in conjunction with the preceding notes by Mr. Gilder.—Editor.*]

There have been several articles dealing with ski-ing huts published in the *Year Books* of 1933 and 1934. It is the purpose of this review to give particulars of some other huts and to correct any wrong impressions made by the former articles regarding the names and positions of them.

Amongst those not yet written of, the **Grey Mare's Bogong Mine Hut** is of chief importance to ski-runners. It is situated on a snow lease held by Mr. McPhee, and is often referred to by that name, confusing many into believing that two huts exist. (We thought so for some years. The inaccurate early map was at fault.—Editor.) The former name is most applicable, as the hut is situated at the mine. It is approximately 30 years old and, as huts weather quickly at this altitude (5,300 ft.), barely withstands the winds and snows. Unless repaired, it must soon become uninhabitable. However, although decayed, it is comfortable and consists of four, fairly large, pine-lined rooms. Fortunately a mining company have begun work on the old mine and were, in December, 1934, getting out plans for one or more new huts. The mine is expected to be working in the winter of 1935 and, if so, the huts will be occupied and, from the writer's experience, every hospitality extended to visiting skiers. The present hut, stockyards and mine are situated approximately 7 miles south-by-west from Jagungal, on an open hillside, one-quarter of a mile from the Grey Mare Creek, which rises south-west of Jagungal and runs parallel with the Main Range. The hillside faces the east, and the hut is visible from many high points on the eastern side.

This hut offers an excellent base for some splendid tours; the country to the north and west is open, lightly timbered and of greater altitude than the hut itself. In particular, the Grey Mare's Ridge, from the twin peaks, Grey Mare's and Rocky Bogong (6,200 ft., as my aneroid showed), continues in an unbroken sweep by way of Grey Mare's Trig. Station (6,129 ft.) and The Twins to The Pinnacle (5,100 ft.), a distance of approximately 15 miles. Continuing downwards from The Pinnacle, along Read's Spur, the **Geehi Hut** can be reached. This hut is at a low altitude and far below the snow-line. Its position on the map is half a mile north from Geehi (1,340 ft.).

Another trip which offers from the Grey Mare's is to **Pretty Plains Hut**, or "Ryrie's Parlour," as it is also called, a distance of 6 miles. The old hut is of bark and timber, but a new one is in course of erection. Tea, sugar and flour should always be found therein. Situated a mile to the east of the Big Dargal (5,641 ft.), **Wheeler's Hut** consists of four rooms and is within striking distance (12 to 15 miles) of the Grey Mare's. Further north from it, at Mosital, or Musical, hill, there are **Paton's** and **Ryal's Hut No. 2** (note: **Farm Ridge Hut** is often spoken of as Ryal's Hut No. 1).

There is another hut at **Wolseley's Gap** and two more just west of **Black Jack Trig. Station** (5,255 ft.), but they are rather too far out to be of use to skiers for a year or so; however, they may be noted in case of any runner getting lost. Yet another hut is on the **Yellow Boy Mountain**. The **Round Mountain Hut**, too, can be most conveniently reached from the Grey Mare's. The present map is rather misleading here, as the hut is much further south than shown, being situated half a mile on the western side of the Gulf River (unnamed on the map) and between it and the Murray-Tumut Divide.

Its position can better be described in outlining the following attractive

trip from this base. The Round Mountain, in reality, consists of an unbroken plateau of approximately 5,600 ft., ending at the "Fifteen Mile" (Tumut River) on the north and in a short spur from Lett's Trig. Station (5,755 ft.) on the south. This plateau averages about two miles in width and is approximately seven in length. From its clear, level tableland, even in summer, some wonderful panoramic views can be had, and in winter it should provide a delightful trip. The Round Mountain Hut, a strongly-built, single-roomed place, with storeroom and shed, is situated one mile east of Lett's Trig. Station spur, as mentioned above, thus being off the ridge and at an altitude 700 ft. lower. It is visible from Jagungal on a clear day. One can never be certain of finding any food or bedding in this hut, although, at times, there may be a small quantity of both.

O'Keefe's Hut is newly built (one year old) on the bottom slope and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the summit of Jagungal. It is on the old waggon track (known as Ligar's Route), between the Grey Mare's and Farm Ridge, and at a spot known as Galvin's Camp, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Farm Ridge huts. The exact location is 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles due north from the Trig. Station on Jagungal. It contains no fixed supplies, but may have a small amount of food and bedding.

Dicky Cooper Hut is situated two miles north of the mountain of that name and is reached from the Kosciusko end by following a spur for a mile from the mountain crown and then descending the precipitous slope at the end of the spur, into the valley below. Dicky Cooper Mountain is 6,600 ft. in height and the hut is at least 700 ft. lower. It faces the north-west and can be seen from some distance away on that side, being in the fork of two creeks which junction in the basin immediately below the hut. It is weather-beaten (boards are falling off the walls) and would only be of use in case of extreme emergency, although it could be put in serviceable order at low cost.

At the Kiandra end of the Range we have **Tabletop Hut**, which is also known as Nixon's. It has been described previously. **Montague's Hut**, at Mulligan's Diggings, which is large and has been built only three years, is situated on the Adaminaby side of the Range, three to four miles due east from Tabletop Hut. Around Kiandra are: **Nine-Mile Hut**, 9 miles south, at the old Empress workings, in fair order; **Lorna Doone Hut**, on Tumut River, three miles west of the Nine-Mile Hut; **Eight-Mile Hut**, just off 8 mile spur; **Three-Mile Hut**, at **Three-Mile Dam**, Kiandra; **Pig Gully Hut**, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Kiandra; **Elaine**, **Shore's Hill**, **Six-Mile**, etc., all in the vicinity of Kiandra and well known. Finally, I might mention a hut at **Dead Horse Gap**, at the head of the Crackenback River, at 4,450 ft. This hut is to the south of Kosciusko and the Ram's Head, on the Tom Groggin track, and might possibly be useful to skiers touring near the Ram's Head, or who have been caught by a north-west blizzard on the Main Range near the summit.



G. R. T. Ward.
The Saddling Paddock, Charlotte's Pass.

The Perisher Range

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE TOPOGRAPHY.

By R. T. Walker.

In the *Australian Ski Year Book* of 1931 there appeared an article by J. W. S. Laidley, entitled, "The Perisher Range—A Preliminary Communication."

I spent about six weeks during the past summer, camped near the Perisher Range, and was thus able to make a fairly detailed investigation of the topography of the district. Dr. Laidley, in his article, dealt fairly thoroughly with the creeks of the district, but did not attempt a representation of the mountain range itself, hoping, as he said, that his article would stimulate a more accurate research in this respect. I was able during the summer to construct a sketch map of the range, and I feel that the few details contained in it, together with a short account of the topography, may be of use to skiers planning tours on the range, or crossing the range on their way to the Main Range. Only by aerial survey could complete details of the mountain system be obtained, but I feel that the details on the sketch map are so much more accurate than those on the present map of the district that I do not hesitate to offer them as an improvement.

The Perisher Range occupies an isolated position among the other mountain masses of the district. Its north-eastern limit is marked by Sun-et Valley, which separates it from the Smiggin Holes highland and down which the Perisher Creek meanders. On the west, it is separated from the Guthrie-Paralyser Range by the valley of Spencer's Creek, and on the north-west runs the deep valley of the Snowy River. Only in the south does it maintain any connection with the other ranges. This connection is made, through the saddle of the Perisher Gap and Mount Wheatley, with the Ram's Head Range, and is at the south-eastern extremity of the range. Its south-western extremity is clearly defined by the valley of Betts' Creek.

As to the actual topography, a glance at the accompanying sketch map will be more enlightening than many words.

The drainage of the range is accomplished by five main creeks, and by many other smaller tributaries, which could only be indicated on a very detailed map. The main drainage is directly northwards, into the Snowy River, through the Blue Cow Creek, with one source on the Front Perisher and another on the Big Perisher, and its tributary, Farm Creek, with its source on the Middle Ridge.

Southwards, Amos Creek and Other Creek rise on Amos Ridge and the Big Perisher respectively, and flow towards Betts' Camp to join Betts' Creek. A further creek has its source between the Blue Cow Mountain and the Front Perisher, and flowing westwards, joins the Perisher Creek. Of the "notorious Bugeval Creek," mentioned by Laidley, I have no knowledge. [It is, obviously, just nothing at all.—Editor.]

Three points on the range reach the seven thousand foot level; they are the summits of the Big Perisher, the Front Perisher and the Blue Cow Mountain. The most conspicuous point on the range is the summit of the Blue Cow Mountain. Since this mountain occupies an isolated position, it is a most useful landmark. From its summit a magnificent panorama of the Main Range may be obtained, and the entire topography of the Perisher Range may be studied. The summits of the Front Perisher and the Big Perisher are not so prominent, since they only mark the highest points of long ridges.

Thus it may be seen that the highest portion of the range lies in its eastern half. In the western half, the country is not so striking in contour. Similarly,

although the range rises steeply on its eastern and south-eastern borders, it falls away much more gradually towards the Snowy River in the north.

The Big Perisher, the Front Perisher and the Blue Cow Perisher themselves form a horseshoe-shaped region of high ground in the centre of which the Blue Cow Creek arises. This horseshoe is terminated at one end by the Buckwand, a small symmetrical hill at the end of a spur of the Blue Cow Perisher, which falls away steeply towards the junction of the Blue Cow Creek and the Snowy River, and at its other extremity by a spur of the Middle Ridge falling away northwards towards the junction of Farm Creek and the Blue Cow Creek.

The western half of the range is composed of two ridges, both having a northerly trend, joined to the eastern half of the range by the Middle Range, which, itself, forms a watershed between the Blue Cow Creek system and the Betts' Creek system. The two ridges are known as the Back Perisher and Amos Ridge. The Back Perisher extends northwards by the side of Spencer's Creek and then follows a north-easterly direction, by the side of the Snowy River, to the junction of the Blue Cow Creek and the Snowy River. Amos Ridge is shorter, and only extends northwards until it joins the Middle Ridge, forming with the Big Perisher and the Middle Ridge, the valley which extends southwards beyond Betts' Camp to Cogan's Monument, a conspicuous collection of boulders, overlooking the Thredbo.

The Perisher Range occupies an important position, inasmuch as it lies midway between the Hotel and the Chalet. Whilst the range may provide a great deal of fine country for touring on ski, none of it can be compared with any that the Main Range can offer. It has been suggested that the Chalet should have been built at the Smiggin Holes, because the best downhill course is off the Perisher. This must be a fallacy. Whilst there are several nice runs off the Blue Cow Mountain and some off Amos Ridge and the Big Perisher, there are no continuous courses of even moderate length, and these will always have to be sought on the Main Range.

It is in the hope, however, that the information contained in the sketch map, and in this short account, may be of use to skiers touring the district, that I put forward the few details I was able to collect during my recent holiday.



Main Range Vicissitudes

By R. Gelling.

[After some six months of pestering we succeeded in extracting this article from Mr. Gelling, but, at the time of going to press, we had failed completely to obtain any account of his subsequent record trip of 16 hours from Kiandra to Kosciusko or of his trips in the Jagungal district.—Editor.]



It had been our desire for some years to ski on the Main Range from Kiandra to Kosciusko, and to attempt to become better acquainted with the landmarks and diverging spurs. Accordingly, Telfer and myself made arrangements to go direct to Kiandra for the beginning of our ski-ing. On July 28, after many months of lengthy discussion, mostly by letter, as to equipment, food, routes, etc., we found ourselves deposited in wet and slushy snow, ten miles from Kiandra. Shouldering our rucksacks, we skied along the road, together with some chaps of the K.A.C., who came up in the Service Car with us and were going to Kiandra for the inter-club match.

Following the road, we forded numerous creeks and scrambled over fallen trees and limbs that had been blown across the road a few days previously during a snow storm. Up over the ridge between Alpine Hill and O'Connor's Hill, down again and it seemed a long weary trip as we did not know any landmarks. We were very pleased to see Mr. Downey, of the Alpine Hotel and the Pattinson boys, who had come out about four miles to meet us. After a brief spell at the hut below Sawyer's Hill, we set off again, through the timber, and, climbing straight over Sawyer's Hill, had a good run down to the Eucumbene River, where the road was open; here we found the hotel car, in which we deposited our rucksacks. From here, it was comparatively flat going, and we found enough snow on the side of the road to ski on. We arrived at the Hotel about 4 p.m., having walked the last half-mile. Unfortunately rain had fallen and most of the snow in the immediate vicinity of the Hotel had gone.

The next day was dull and light rain fell, but we went up Township Hill on to the Tableland and found plenty of snow half a mile from the Hotel, with an ascent of about 700-800 ft. The eastern slopes of the Tableland carried practically no snow, but the western side was well covered, having good open and timber runs, which carried us along to the northern end of the town, where we skied down New Chum Hill until we came to the grass.

Unfortunately rain fell again on Monday, but, being keen to get further afield, we set out for Mount Selwyn. With Nicols, of the K.P.S.C., and some of the men from the K.A.C., we climbed up Township Hill on to the Tableland and ran over the other side in a southerly direction, over a few small creeks that form the headwaters of Bullock's Head Creek and on to the base of Mount Selwyn. By now the rain had gone, and we were shown the new Championship course. It was about 2½ miles from the Hotel and was a fine straight run that had recently been cleared by the Kiandra enthusiasts.

Tuesday was still dull, but we wanted to see Mount Tabletop, so had some lunch and a day's rations packed and started along the range. The Tableland runs from Kiandra to Mount Tabletop, a distance of about 10 miles. It is flat to undulating, with only one small valley breaking it, at Four Mile Creek. The most part is very lightly timbered, thickening up towards Mount Tabletop, where the range swings more in an easterly direction and narrows down considerably.

We met Nicols and a party about two miles out, and at this moment it started to rain. Rather than go back and sit about the Hotel, all hands decided in favour of going on a few more miles; so we skied along almost to Four

Mile Hollow. Here we boiled the billy in the rain, with the aid of charcoal saturated in kerosene. Most of the party were soaked by now and decided to return, but, as Telfer and I were anxious to see more of the country, we got directions from Nicols how to get to the Elaine Mine. Luckily we had our waterproof Japara silk capes with us, and so were quite dry. The capes serve as ground sheets, measure 6 ft. by 3 ft., and only weight 12 oz.

We ran on as far as Four Mile Creek, then off the range into Four Mile Hollow, and followed it along in easterly direction, over a few small ridges and creeks. We found the mine, with its three huts, in a steep-sided, narrow valley or, rather, a gully, at the head of the Four Mile Creek. It was completely sheltered from all winds and cannot be seen until one is almost on top of it. There is a good deal of timber about here and the country is not the best for ski-ing. We saw no signs of life around, so climbed on up the creek and from the ridge at its top were rewarded with a view of Mount Cabramurra or Tabletop (5,850 ft.). It was only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, and from this angle did not appear to have much snow on it, on account of the thick timber on its side. We had accomplished our objective for the day, so we returned down to the mine, having a rough run over fallen timber, boulders, etc., and decided that we would have a look at Tabletop more closely on the morrow.

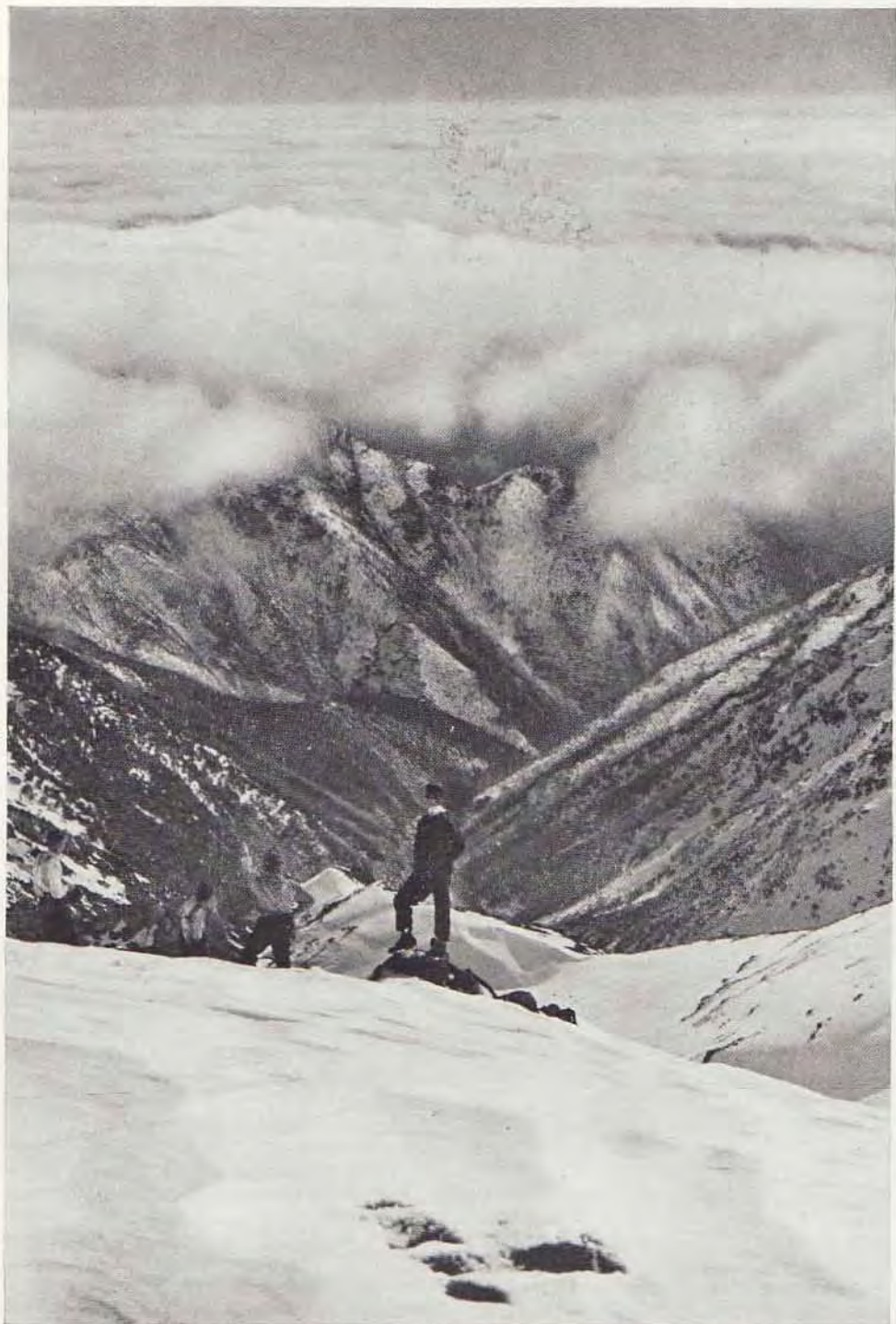
We were delighted at the mine to be welcomed by Mr. Bob Hughes and his brother, who had just come up from their gold mine. Mr. Hughes was good enough to offer us the use of one of the huts and very generously gave us some extra blankets and made us generally very comfortable. We spent a very good night in our Japara silk sleeping-bags. These are lined with down, only weigh $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and are 100% warmer than the ordinary canvas bag lined with a couple of blankets.

We were in great spirits next morning, when we rose to find the sun shining brightly. This was our fourth day on the snow and the first time we had seen the sun. Again we climbed up the creek and worked our way over towards the south, until we were on the range again and soon were climbing the north-west side of Tabletop, the last two hundred yards being very steep.

On top it was comparatively flat, a peculiarity that gives it its name. Here we were greeted by a glorious view of the country in all directions. Most of the snow country lies to the south, where Jagungal, holding its majestic head proudly, crouches, sentinel of the range. Taking a compass shot at Jagungal, we found it to be approximately 200 deg. from the Trig. Station. Looking east and round to the north, there are odd peaks of snow, but no ski-ing country. From here the range runs more or less south-south-east and is not at all distinct. This country consists of hundreds of small ridges, forming innumerable small creeks, which then form the headwaters of the Happy Jack's River. Good runs can be made from the southern slopes of Tabletop, most of them being fairly steep.

Running to the south from the top, with much side-stepping and skidding, as the surface was very hard, and, in patches, icy, we dropped down nearly a quarter of a mile and then traversed eastward for another quarter-mile. Here we came to a small flat with no timber on it. Looking up to the north, we saw the Tabletop Hut, only 200 yards away; making for the hut, we decided to lunch there. This is a weather-board hut with fire-place and nothing else. It is a good shelter, but not recommended for living in if it can be avoided.

We were preparing the fire for lunch and collecting firewood, when, to our amazement, there was a swish of ski and a small figure dashed down on us from a nearby hill. Imagine our astonishment when we were hailed by George Aalberg! He had just skied over from Hotel Kosciusko, having made this astounding run of nearly 50 miles alone, in 18 hours. After this most unexpected meeting we lunched together; as we ate our steak and toast George told us of the many incidents of his extraordinary trip. He vaulted and jumped



MUELLER RIDGE FROM CARRUTHERS' PEAK.

A. Ford.



Courtesy "The Sun."

The Mail leaving Betts' Camp.

E. McNeil.

many creeks, the moon being obscured by clouds and making it difficult to pick out landmarks, whilst at one stage he ran into heavy fog and was compelled to sit down and wait until it lifted. He complacently set to and made himself some tea! Little did we dream that we would be doing these same things in a few days' time.

Breaking camp again, we all climbed round the northern side of Tabletop and had a beautiful run back along the Tableland to Kiandra on good snow. Having acquainted ourselves with a part of the Kiandra end of the range, we started discussing our plans again for the through trip. As Aalberg wanted to get back to the Hotel as soon as possible, we decided that the three of us should travel back together the next day. We went through our rucksacks, carefully looked to our bindings and ski and soon had everything in order. We packed rations for three days, consisting of steak, soup tablets, bread, butter, sugar, tea, raisins, dried apricots, malted milk tablets, cake, chocolate and rum. Our equipment included adhesive tape and a small medical kit, carried by Telfer, and we each carried the following: compass, penknife spare bindings, matches, watch, waxes, goggles, spare gloves and socks, tooth-brush and mug. Dr. Telfer and I carried sleeping-bags and capes. Other equipment, shared out between us, included maps, billy can, fine tie-wire (to swing billy and for mending sticks), spare tip for ski, small pliers, flat cigarette tin filled with kerosene-soaked rag, small torch (which was exceptionally useful), soap, face cream and tooth paste and greenhide lacing. With the above we had everything we needed without being overloaded, and the equipment proved quite sufficient.

The next day, Thursday, August 2nd, was dull and cloudy and did not look at all promising, but, after some discussion, we decided to make the trip. During the morning we waxed our ski thoroughly with a heavy dressing of Stockholm Tar and afterwards used "Mix" or "Medium" Oestbye, as required. Incidentally, Stockholm Tar burned well in with a blow-lamp (but slowly, with not too much heat—just sufficient to make it bubble, but not burn), is the only base wax that will stay on under long hard conditions for any length of time and give good service. With the help of "Mix" or "Medium" and, sometimes, some white paraffin, it will run and climb well on any snow.

Thus fully equipped, we left the Hotel about mid-day and soon were well

up Township Hill. Near the top we put on ski and found the snow rather wet and heavy, so made slow time to the Four Mile Creek, where it began to snow. As we went on it became heavier, and soon we were nearly up to our knees in it. Our ski began to ball badly and we had some difficulty in waxing them, as they were wet. Having travelled so far we were reluctant to go back, so decided to push on to Tabletop Hut, hoping that the weather might clear. Nearing Mount Tabletop the visibility became very poor. Here we worked around the northern side and approached the hut from the north. Reaching the hut about 4 o'clock, we made a fire, had some tea, dried our clothes, and then our ski and waxed up again.

Meanwhile it had stopped snowing. We decided to go down to the lower hut, about two miles from Tabletop. Unfortunately, we left too late, and, by the time we were in the vicinity of the second hut, it was dark; it was impossible to distinguish the hut from the many clumps of trees. After searching about in the darkness we gave it up and ran on further into the Happy Jack Valley. Here many of the clouds had gone by and the visibility was fair. After crossing several creeks we ran down the Happy Jack River itself, looking for a crossing. Finally we had some excitement and anxious moments vaulting across.

We were now about 15 miles from Kiandra and, as it was about 8 o'clock, we decided to camp for the night. Selecting a clump of trees ahead, we skied up to them. Luck was with us, as we found a huge hollow tree with an inverted V-shaped opening, a natural camp, which was christened "Argeltel." Our first thought was to collect a good heap of firewood and then a fire was lit. By this time it had started to snow very lightly.

Investigating our camp closely, we were happy to find that one could lie full length in it and two sit up inside and, as the wind was in the right direction, we had a very good shelter. After a pot of soup, some steak, bread, butter and tea we took turns at stoking the fire and lying down. Breaking camp early, as we were getting a bit cramped, we set our compasses south and had a good, easy run along the Happy Jack Plain. The sky now was overcast, with heavy cloud, but it had stopped snowing and only a light wind blew in the valley. Very soon we crossed the posts of the old telephone line that ran between Adaminaby and Farm Ridge.

After going about three miles from Argeltel, we started climbing the range, about a mile east of Crook's Racecourse. The range here was not very high, but high enough to get some idea of what the wind was like higher up; this decided us to keep to the low-lying country. After a few steady climbs, with an occasional run down, we found ourselves running down the slopes that drain into the upper creeks that form the Gun-



On Charlotte's Pass.

[Photo: A. Ford.]

garlin River, which flows down the Snowy Plain. We had been travelling south up till now, so altered our course a little to the west and ran at about 200 deg. This enabled us to miss many of the dozens of small creeks and made the crossings easier. The Snowy Plains proved very good travelling, the land being mostly undulating, only small hills with nothing big to climb.

From the valley we could see it was still blowing very hard up on top, so we kept on our course until we reached the Bull's Peaks River, then followed it along a few miles, nearly to Bull's Peaks. Here we turned up a tributary of the river and climbed due west—a long hard climb, then a short run down, and the next climb brought us up on to the Main Range itself. But the range did not have a very cheery welcome for us. We felt the wind increasing as we climbed out of the valley and came into the clouds again, while the visibility got worse as we went on.

Our object in getting back on to the range was to avoid running into the rough timbered country between the Brassy Mountains and the Main Range, where we would be climbing ridge after small ridge. Once we got up on top we would have good running on to Tin Hut. We certainly expected wind, but not the hurricane that hit us. It was simply furious, almost impossible to stand up against. There was no snow falling, but the clouds and mist were very heavy and the visibility only a hundred yards at the very most and often only a few feet. That is, when we could lift our faces up to look ahead. Here we set our course at about 190 deg. and struggled on, but only went a mile or so. It was most uncomfortable trying to withstand the wind and the icy pellets that shot about like bullets and clung to our clothing. Ski and sticks soon formed great slabs of solid ice. It was now about 4 o'clock and, as we were not making much headway and anticipated a rough night, we decided to make camp.

Running south-east off the range, we scouted round, looking for some timber. After a steep run down of about half a mile, a clump of green saplings with dead wood standing among them was found in a more or less sheltered position. But, to compensate for the drop in wind velocity, it began to snow, big, flaky stuff. Wood being the all-important factor, we pulled down and dragged into a heap all we could lay hands on and soon had a pile four or five feet high. Next was our shelter. This was quickly made by running four forked sticks into the snow, which was four feet deep. Cross-sticks were rested on the uprights and these were covered with a layer of green bush. Everything looked as good as could be expected, so we decided to light our fire, as it was beginning to get dark. With the aid of our kerosene-soaked rags, a little persuasion and an unlimited amount of cussing, a fire was started, and soon it was blazing and doing its best to defy the snow falling all round it.

We sat down or, rather, crouched down, to our second meal of the day. The first round was a cup of delightful soup, a masterpiece of Telfer's. It was so good that a second issue was suggested, but this was strongly vetoed by the Ration Committee. Next we murdered the bit of steak we had left. Each portion looked lonely and small. Then toast, with plenty of butter aboard, as all agreed that it was very heating. Sipping our tea, between cigarettes, it was voted the best meal of our lives. Of course, this feasting lasted well on into the night, on account of the restricted conditions; believe it or not, melting pot after pot of snow, to make a cup of tea, requires infinite patience and clumsy feet must be kept out of the way. [I shall be more careful next time.—Editor.]

It was after eleven before we thought of turning in. This we did singly—one lying in the shelter, on bushes and a ground-sheet, with another ground-sheet over the sleeping-bag—the other two sitting around the fire and keeping it going. The fire thawed much snow after a few hours and, as it sank down, it started to smoke horribly. When it worked through to the ground we dug out the snow walls of the pit it had made in solid blocks and placed these, in

the form of a wall, on the snow outside. Soon we had a big pit with seven-foot walls which afforded great shelter. Towards dawn, the snow ceased falling and the blizzard had partially blown itself out. After a breakfast of soup, toast and raisins, we left our smoky dug-out, climbed up on to the range and found conditions considerably better. There was very little wind, although the clouds and mist were hanging very low—visibility being no more than half a mile. Again we had to use our compasses frequently. The running was good—easy climbing, with a few short runs on firm snow that took us to Tin Hut at Gungartan, reached at mid-day. Here we found a small bottle of whisky, sent up with other provisions by Jamieson, in summer time, for a trip of his own. [I shall be more careful next time.—Editor.] This was very popular and warmed us up whilst lighting the fires and shovelling the snow out of the hut. We had lunch here, chiefly of boiled sago and sugar, dried fruit and chocolate. As Telfer and I were making for the Chalet and Aalberg wanted to get to the Hotel, we parted here, Aalberg going that afternoon. He ran down Finn's River about two miles, went over on to Disappointment Spur, crossed the Snowy River, near Piper's Creek, climbed up to the Plains of Heaven and so down to the Hotel.

We decided to wait until next morning, so collected some wood and made ourselves comfortable for the night. We left the hut next morning about 10 o'clock, in fairly good weather, and climbed the second highest peak of Gungartan. Here we had a fairly good view northwards, but much mist was drifting over the southern end of the range. An exciting run down to White's River Pass, on the icy slopes of Gungartan, brought us into soft snow on the pass itself. Climbing out of the pass, the clouds formed again around us, so it was necessary to use the compass, now and then, all along the Rolling Grounds, until we had run down into Consett Stephen Pass. Here the mist left us for the rest of the journey. At this point we met Michaelis and a party, who had just run off Mount Tate. We all went back to the Chalet in bright sunshine, after a marvellous run down the Guthega, almost continuous to within half a mile of the Snowy River. Here we turned south-west and ran parallel with the Snowy until we had crossed the three sharp ridges, when we ran down to the river and found a crossing a quarter of a mile below Pounds' Hut. Thence to the Chalet, arriving there about 4 p.m.

Although we did not see as much of the middle of the range as we wished, we learned many things. We learned that camping out on the range was quite possible (although not to be recommended as a pastime), provided wood was available; this can always be found on the edge of the range. Rag soaked in kerosene is very valuable on long tours, is light to carry and is twice as efficient as Meta tablets. We found, too, that malted milk tablets and raisins were the best things to eat during the day—chocolate only to be used at meal times, when water is available.



The Snow Country of New South Wales



It is felt that there may be many New South Wales skiers who would like to know something of the economics and geography of the country over which we ski, one of the most interesting areas in Australia. The following notes are excerpts (for which we are very grateful) from an article, by F. A. Craft, B.Sc., Linnean Macleay Fellow in Geography, of the University of Sydney, in Vol. II., No. 4 (1934), of the "Australian Geographer." Mr. Craft gives, at the conclusion of his article, a reference to the well-known "Reconnaissance of the Mountainous Part of the River Murray Catchment" (Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, Bulletin No. 13, 1932), by Mr. B. U. Byles, whose maps of the western fall of the Main Range formed one of the bases of the 1934 Lands Department map which we now use for ski-ing.

As Mr. Craft gives no other references, we have added at the end of our excerpts from his article a further list of sources from which information may be derived. A Royal Commission sat lately to determine certain questions in connection with proposals to subdivide New South Wales into a number of new States. One of the proposals considered involved running a State boundary line down the centre of the Main Range and, in consequence of this, a good deal of evidence was called and exhibits tendered dealing with the snow country. A list of these references is appended to these notes. The Editor would be grateful for any further additions in the form of references to other books, articles or maps on the subject.

After explaining the chief features of the snow country, Mr. Craft goes on:—

"The natural disabilities of the high plateau and the transition zone militated against exploitation, except of the northern fringe, where the working of alluvial gold deposits at Kiandra (1859 onwards) was followed by the construction of a road, and by the alienation of some choice parts of the upper Murrumbidgee and Eucumbene valleys. However, the greater part of the area was almost untouched in 1889, when the tenure known as "Snow Lease" was instituted; this was an expression of the policy of the State Government, namely, to prevent alienation of the slopes and the high plateau land, which is to be held as reserve country where stock may be sent from drought-stricken parts of the State, or to be preserved for recreation and scenic purposes. The conditions of the various leaseholds show this attitude.

The working out of the system has, however, departed considerably from

the original plan. "Drought relief" by the actual transfer of needy stock is becoming impracticable with the fuller utilisation of pastures in the regions where drought is a minor factor, and such areas as the snow country, which are occupied seasonally or intermittently, have a low carrying capacity. Thus it is doubtful whether the whole snow belt carries as many as 500,000 beasts in the driest season; so it is fated to have only a local significance from this viewpoint. In practice, most of the leases are held by graziers who reside in the lower country to the east and west of the high plateau, and they are worked in conjunction with properties in the upper valleys of the Murray River, or the Monaro tableland. Security of tenure is assured by mutual arrangement among the people concerned, and by the fact that the desire and ability to carry on successfully are confined to a few men with an intimate knowledge of the mountain country, who are either small property owners or hired shepherds. The greater part of the leasehold is thus held by a few individuals or pastoral companies, while the balance is treated as open range by the "smaller" graziers.

Under these conditions there is a regular seasonal routine. When the snow has thawed (between September and December), stock are driven up the steep trails from the west, or along the roads and trails from the east. Food for men and salt for animals are carried to the roadheads by motor truck, and thence to the high plateau by bullock waggons, over rough mountain roads, or by pack-horses, over the trails. Log huts have been constructed at intervals on the plateau surface and are occupied intermittently during the grazing season, which lasts until the end of March on Kosciusko, or the middle of May in places where heavy snowfall begins later. As the time for evacuation approaches, trails which were partially cleared for the upward spring movement have to be cleared of logs and branches that have fallen as the result of winter snow or summer fire, and the retreat is begun when the air gives promise of snow. Some of the animals are withdrawn to winter in cleared lowland country, or to be sold as fat stock, but others remain on the forested slopes of the transition zone.

PASTORAL LEASEHOLD TENURES IN THE SNOW COUNTRY.

Tenure.	Period.	Area.	Rent per acre.	Position.	Conditions.
Snow Lease	14 years or less	10,240 acres maximum	2.5d— 6.0d	Land covered by snow in winter —generally over 4,000 feet alt.	No interference with timber— acquired by ten- der
Permissive Occupancy	1 year	1,000 to 60,000 acres	0.1d— 2.3d	Snow-gum coun- try in snow-belt, and steep slopes of transition zone	No interference with timber
Occupation License	1 year	14,000 to 20,000 acres	0.06d— 0.12d	Lower slopes of mountainous country	No interference with timber
Annual Lease	1 year	—	1.0d to 3.0d	Small areas of lower slopes ad- joining freehold	No interference with timber

(From Dept. of Lands and B. U. Byles)

The type of animal grazed on the Alpine pastures is controlled by means of access. The roads to Kiandra and Kosciusko have adjacent country which is relatively smooth and well-grassed, and which is enclosed by fences; vital river crossings are bridged, and the country is largely stocked with sheep brought from the neighbouring Monaro districts. Fences are of great im-



From the late Mr. Kerry's collection of early Kiandra photographs.

portance, as it is necessary to prevent the sheep from straying into the steep forested slopes, and to give a measure of protection from wild dogs; the greater part of the fenced country is near the roadheads, and other enclosed areas, such as that on the upper reaches of Tooma River, are used for grazing cattle and horses. Cattle are found throughout the area, because they can pass the many open river crossings which are found on some of the trails.

In addition to the limitations imposed by seasonal conditions, there are others due to the nature of the country and its vegetation. Apart from the Monaro Highway, access from the west is limited to one bullock road and six trails; the road is steep and rocky, but may be traversed by waggons holding up to three tons of supplies; trails climb slopes of 30 deg. and 35 deg., and are liable to blockage in the passage of the transition zone by trees and branches which fall as the result of snow and fire. The ultimate aim of the graziers is to sweep the forest trails clear of all large vegetation, but indiscriminate firing has damaged the whole cover of the slopes. Access to the east is much better because the ascent is more gradual from elevations of 2,500 or 3,000 feet; the northern section is well served by roads based on Adaminaby and Jindabyne, but the southern depends entirely on a few trails.

A more serious drawback is found in the character of the native vegetation. In the snow belt above the transition zone, the characteristic tree is "snow gum" (*E. coriacea*), which grow in open stand to a height of 30 feet. It is replaced by woody shrubs in exposed positions and in swampy lands, while the principal grass occurring on the hillslopes is "snow grass" (*Poa Caespitosa*);

in order to clear away the carry-over of unpalatable stems and leaves, the pasture lands are fired during the grazing season, usually towards its beginning or end; stock browse lightly on the new shoots of the grass and shrubs, and get into prime condition. The seasonal burning has great drawbacks; according to B. U. Byles, it is the cause of progressive degeneration in the vegetation and may lead to complete uncovering of soil in exposed positions, the replacement of some palatable species of plants by others, like snow grass, which need treatment such as periodical burning, and the gradual killing of the snow gum which protects much of the steeper ground from erosion. The snow gum resists killing by putting forth a vigorous coppice growth after fire, and successive fires are followed by the killing of this growth and its replacements; as a consequence hills and ridges are covered with a tangle of upright and fallen stems, with a thick intergrowth of Alpine heather and young coppice. By these means the trails are blocked and free access to the various grazing places is greatly hindered. Relief from this condition is sought by more fires, but logs are difficult to burn when they have lain in the snow, and not infrequently recourse has to be made to axe and saw. Repeated burning over many years eventually kills the thickets and disposes of the debris, but this has occurred only in limited areas, chiefly on the Main Divide half-way between Kiandra and Kosciusko; where it has occurred, the slopes are exposed to fierce wind action, and the shelter necessary for stock has been destroyed. The seasonal grazing occupation is of a definitely primitive nature, both as to the methods employed and the isolation of individual men during the period of occupation.

The greatest significance of the snow country lies in its possession of an efficient and reliable catchment area, which feeds the Snowy, Tumut, Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. These streams have a simple régime in their highland sections, with a minimum in February and a maximum in September-October; the rainfall curve is rather similar, but the high monthly totals between May and October do not show a great mutual difference. In these months, part of the moisture is retained in the catchment as snow to be liberated in the spring thaw, which is responsible for 20 per cent. of the annual flow of the Snowy River. For most years, the volume of water supplied by the snow country is probably not less than 3,000,000 acre-feet; almost a third of this is available for storage in the Hume Reservoir, on the Murray (capacity, 1,250,000 acre-feet), while another portion carried by the Murrumbidgee is impounded at Burrinjuck. As the efficiency of the snow country is not impaired to the same extent by drought years as that of other parts of the catchments, the highland water is relied on to give a considerable part of the drought supplies to irrigation undertakings. For this reason the water value of the area is very considerable, and it may be enhanced if hydro-electric generation is undertaken on the Snowy River. All told, the potential annual value of this water is probably much greater than a quarter million sterling; according to Byles, the present grazing revenue is about £2,000!

From the standpoint of irrigation use, the water of the snow country represents a changing distribution of population in the growth of irrigation settlements far removed from the high plateau, and the people mainly concerned with doings in the snow country and the preservation of the water asset are those actually residing much further inland. In effect, the snow country must be looked upon as though a portion of this population were actually domiciled on it.

The area may be compared, in miniature with other regions in which British people are particularly interested. British territory in Africa has been extended to include almost the whole drainage of the White Nile, and Britain has taken a great interest in the status of Abyssinia and the fate of the waters of the Blue Nile. In the same region, Egypt demands a share in the government of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, as she is vitally interested in the control of

the Nile. In the north of India, British influence and authority have been extended to almost the whole source country of the Indus and Ganges Rivers, and irrigation projects have been developed mainly for the people living on the plains. Many other examples could be cited of the regard paid to water rights, but it is already clear that the position of the snow country in New South Wales simply presents another phase of the conflict between hill shepherds and dwellers on the plains. In this case, some disabilities of the Alpine pastures are due to promiscuous burning of the countryside, and measure of control and research, as Byles suggests, may benefit the pastures and preserve the catchment, thus serving the interests of grazing and irrigation at the same time.

Administrators of the area are faced with the problem of reconciling pastoral occupation with the protection of the catchment from certain phases of deforestation and erosion. Perhaps the solution will be found in a rigid forest control of the inferior lands of the steep transition zone and of the snow country; in the growth of exotic grasses, as at Coleman Plains, in the north-east of the area, where native tussock grasses have been replaced by English turf over a limited area of limestone country, and in the careful preservation of all swamps and marshes."

The evidence given before the New States Commission on this area is as follows:—

1. Map of the Area. (Exhibit 127).
2. List of Snow Lease and permissive occupancy holders. (Exhibit 195.)
3. Evidence of the following witnesses, *inter alia*:—
Mr. Ellis (Vol. 1, p. 1114, *et seq.*), Mr. Byles (Vol. 1, p. 2057), Mr. Crouch (evidence on the western side of the Range, Vol. 6, p. 1650), Mr. Graham (Vol. 6, p. 1630), Mr. Chaseton (Vol. 6, p. 1639), Mr. Hedges, M.L.A. (Vol. 1, p. 2015), Mr. Litchfield (Vol. 7), and Mr. Lang (Vol. 7, p. 2027).
4. The following official facts were given before the Commission:—The area is administered by a committee, consisting of the Surveyor-General and Lands Department officers of Goulburn and Wagga Wagga. The access roads are under the Pastures Protection Board. The area is 1,400,000 acres. Snow leases are 358,663 acres; permissive occupancies, 119,655 acres.



Snow Fields of the Federal Capital Territory

By J. S. A.

On the Brindabella Range, which forms the border between the Federal Capital Territory and New South Wales, there exist some excellent snowfields. The best of these are on the slopes between Mts. Franklin and Bimberi, which, as the crow flies, are only 20 miles from Canberra. This area embraces the slopes Mts. Franklin (5,400 ft.), Ginini (5,782 ft.), Gingera (6,092 ft.) and Bimberi (6,274 ft.). The last-named mountain has been aptly named the "Cinderella" of peaks for, although it is one of the highest peaks in Australia (I think it ranks sixth), it is possibly the least known and most neglected. The other peaks share the same fate as Bimberi.

The reason for this is the comparative inaccessibility of this area. At present the only way of visiting the locality is to follow one of the two or three bridle tracks for about 15 miles from the nearest road. If the proposed road from Lee's Spring to Mount Franklin is constructed the difficulty of approach to these snowfields will be much lessened and some excellent ski-ing country will be opened up. South from Mount Franklin, the Brindabella Range commences to widen out and the slopes to the Cotter and Goodradigbee Rivers are not so precipitous as they are to the north. It is on these slopes that good ski-ing grounds are to be found. A short description of some of these is given hereunder, to illustrate the possibilities of developing this area.

On the eastern slope of the Brindabella Range there is a wide shelf which slopes gradually from just north of Mount Ginini towards a gap at the northern end of Mount Gingera. This shelf is from three-quarters of a mile to a mile wide and, with the slopes leading down from the ridge, provides some excellent ski runs. In average seasons good snow is to be found on this shelf, and the writer has experienced snow in this locality from two to three feet deep early in June. Its altitude would be about 5,300 ft. at the highest part, falling away to about 4,500 ft. at the gap. From this gap there is a valley, rising in a southerly direction, parallel with Mount Gingera and forming a gap between that and adjoining peaks. Here, and on adjoining hills, are many ideal slopes for ski-ing. Similar conditions are found on the southern slopes of Gingera.



On Mt. Bimberi.

Between Gingera and Bimberi the lower altitudes are against good snow slopes, although, in good seasons, plenty of snow is to be found. Mount Bimberi, like Gingera, provides good snow on ideal slopes and, here again, good ski-ing should be obtained. In a number of places the slopes are not very heavily timbered and courses could easily be constructed.

The distance from Mount Franklin to Bimberi is approximately 15 miles, and good snow is obtainable over practically the whole of this distance. The width of the snowfields varies from about two to four miles in average seasons, while, in good seasons, this area would be extended to include practically the whole of the upper reaches of the Cotter River. Snow to a depth of about a foot to 18 inches is often to be found as low as the Cotter Homestead, at an altitude of approximately 3,500 ft. As most of this area is within the Cotter catchment area, hut accommodation is, at present, rather scarce. The Cotter Homestead, situated at the foot of Mount Bimberi, is the only existing shelter close to the snowfields. This building consists of three rooms, and permission to occupy it has to be obtained from the authorities controlling the catchment area. If a road is constructed from Lee's Spring to Mount Franklin the Canberra Alpine Club intends to build a suitable hut at the foot of Mount Franklin. Other shelters will have to be constructed as the need for them arises.

In addition to the snowfields, mention might be made of a few other points of interest. The proposed road to Mount Franklin will be one of the best scenic roads in Australia. From numerous vantage points unexcelled views of the Cotter and Goodradigbee Valleys can be obtained. The mountains between Kiandra and Kosciusko, the backwaters of Burrenjack Dam and the plains upon which Canberra is situated are just a few of the sights which inspire the tourist along this track. Ginini Falls, formed by Ginini Creek as it rushes down the precipitous slopes of Mount Franklin, are within three miles of the end of the proposed road. These falls are 500 ft. high and once seen will never be forgotten. Another interesting feature of this locality is the large number of massive granite boulders standing out on the peaks. A fine example of this is to be seen in the Coronet rock, a granite boulder about 30 to 40 ft. high, surmounting a sugar-loaf hill. Along with these attractions, some excellent trout fishing is to be obtained in the Cotter River and tributaries to the Goodradigbee River, all of which are easily accessible from Mount Franklin.

Thus, within a short distance of Canberra, there is to be found an area providing excellent mountain scenery, fishing, and snowfields.

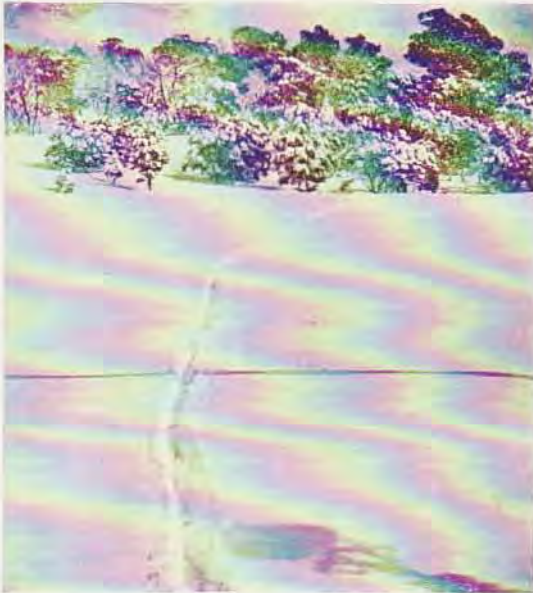
In addition to the above short article on the Brindabella Range, Miss Freer, honorary secretary of the Canberra Alpine Club, has kindly supplied us with some further notes on the ski-ing possibilities of the area, from one of the members of the C.A.C. These are given below, and readers who are interested in the subject should refer to the article in the *Year Book* by Mr. W. D. Gordon on the first ski ascent of Mount Bimberi. Since these notes were written the track to Mount Franklin has been begun, though how far it has reached is at present uncertain, as the men working on it were caught by early snow and blizzards in April. The further notes referred to run:—

Mount Gingera is approximately four miles south from Ginini. It is a sharp-ridged mountain, having a rocky summit two miles long. The lower slopes, however, would provide excellent runs down to a long plateau devoid of timber. This plateau is 500 feet below the summit, and offers admirable facilities for the establishment of a base hut, water being available in abundance. This portion of the range is rather inaccessible at present, and few people have ventured there in the winter months. Mount Bimberi is the highest peak in the Federal Territory. It is most easily reached by way of Orroral and the Cotter River Valley—half a day's journey by car and on foot. There are several



gentle slopes at the summit, but there is a heavy growth of timber on the lower slopes. Much of the country between Bimberi and Gingera has yet to be explored.

A party of Canberra skiers will make a trip to this part of the range shortly and investigate its possibilities from the point of view of ski runs. However, without Government assistance in the construction of a road, little can be done towards the development of these snowy regions. Holding that the scenery from the mountain tops would provide an excellent tourist draw in summer or winter, the Canberra Alpine Club is endeavouring to impress upon Government officials the value of the proposed tourist track along the ridge, but, so far, nothing has been done and, for the present, at least, nature's beauties in this region remain a closed book to all except those who have the courage to face winter's worst with a billy, a blanket, and an optimistic spirit.



New Snow.

E. R. Broad.

Club Reports and Races

THE PEARSON SHIELD.

Donated by the Hotel Kosciusko in honour of Mr. Pearson's 25 successive years' visit to Kosciusko as Honorary Secretary of the Kosciusko Alpine Club. The shield is for annual competition amongst guests of the Hotel, and the competition is a timed descent down the Pearson run to the foot of lower Kerry.

This year R. Speet is the winner of the shield, his time over the course being 3 minutes 10 seconds.

INTER-CLUB MATCH.

Kosciusko Alpine Club v. Public Service Ski Club.

Two inter-club matches were on the list of fixtures last year. The K.A.C. sent a team to Kiandra and was to meet the Public Service Ski Club at the same time with a reserve team at Kosciusko. Unfortunately, the Kiandra match had to be postponed on account of weather conditions, and the K.A.C. first team returned the day before the second match was to be held. The Public Service Club immediately showed a very fine sporting spirit by inviting the K.A.C. to put into the field the much more powerful team now at its disposal. It was obvious that this would make the contest very one-sided but, as the captain of the P.S.S.C. remarked, "we would rather take the beating and get the racing experience." It may be remarked, in passing, that if many individual racers (in every N.S.W. club) had taken this sporting attitude in the past few years whenever really expert skiers were racing, the standard of ski-ing here would be much higher than it is.

The Public Service Club added to its prestige by this gesture of competition with more experienced racers and gained even more kudos by the splendid per-

formance of its team in the races themselves. The team was beaten, but very honourably beaten. The match was decided on three events, a Downhill and Slalom, held on August 1, and a Langlauf, on August 3. The Downhill was run on one of the worst days for racing I have seen at Kosciusko. The weather was fair, but the snow was appalling. On the previous day there had been a heavy thaw, followed by a hard freeze. The result was that the Pearson Course was covered with a thin breakable crust of crackling ice with heavy, wet snow below. It was almost impossible to hold a turn; every competitor's face, hands and even clothing were cut and torn. In these circumstances, the members of the P.S.S.C. team earned the admiration of their opponents by gallant racing. Conditions for the Slalom were almost as bad, but the Langlauf enjoyed good weather and snow.

The K.A.C. won all three events, and the match, but hopes to meet the P.S.S.C. in future on more equal terms.

Results.—Downhill: J. Pattinson (K.A.C.), 1; R. Utne (K.A.C.), 2. Slalom: R. Utne (K.A.C.), 1; J. Pattinson (K.A.C.), 2. Langlauf: J. Pattinson (K.A.C.), 1; L. McLennan (K.A.C.), 2.

Kosciusko Alpine Club v. Kiandra Ski Club.

This match was postponed from Kiandra and held in conjunction with the Australian Championships at Charlotte's Pass. It was won by the K.A.C. by a small margin. The results of the Championships will be found elsewhere.

KIANDRA PIONEER SKI CLUB.



In accordance with an earlier resolution of the club, work was commenced on the clearing of a new course on Mount Selwyn, and this work was sufficiently advanced when snow came to make the course available for use during the season. The task proved a considerable one, involving many days' work by members of the club, and finally the help of a bullock-team to draw the logs aside. Although the course proved a great standby, we propose to widen the upper portion and provide a crossing of the creek at the foot of the course.

The report of our ski-ing activities would really have begun with the competition against the K.A.C. had not the most contrary weather conceivable intervened to prevent it. For the two days during which the K.A.C. were with us it rained, in almost a tropical downpour and almost as incessantly. After a heavy fall of snow at Kiandra there seemed every promise of good conditions for these races, but even while the team were coming in a considerable change took place and a thaw set in which made the journey into Kiandra—for all who attempted it, and they were many—positively exhausting.

We record our appreciation of the splendid gesture made by the K.A.C. in accepting our invitation, and in responding with such a large representation. It was one of the unavoidable tragedies of the sport that the inter-club meeting proved abortive. Having, of necessity, only two days, and these pre-arranged, we had to gamble on the weather, and, as might have happened anywhere, the weather was prohibitive.

The club races, with the exception of about two events, were held a little later in the season, and the results were encouraging, for several members showed considerable improvement. These were: Miss K. Pattinson, W. Allen,

K. Hunter, R. Huland, and K. Nichols. Miss Pattinson is particularly worthy of reference, for she revealed a dash and tenacity which had been noticeably lacking for some time.

In spite of the misfortunes recorded, 1934 proved an eventful season at Kiandra. It was an event, indeed, to have such well-known persons as Lambie, Day, Mitchell, Kaaten and other members of the K.A.C. all with us at the same time. In addition, there were representatives of other clubs, and a large party of young people from Canberra. Later we had the privilege of welcoming Mr. G. Aalberg, after having set a record for the journey across the Alps on ski. We also had the pleasure of learning that Billy Pattinson had won a place in the Australian Championships, with Jim Pattinson not far behind. It is to be hoped that we have a return to average conditions in the coming season, for, given this, we can look forward to much advancement in our centre.

CLUB RACES.

The first four events reported were held on Mount Selwyn Course.

The Second-Class Langlauf (for the Baker Trophy) was held over a course stretching from Dunn's Hill across the tableland to the foot of the new course. The start and finish were at the new course. The snow was fair, not being very fast, and the course itself was about four miles, with plenty of level running and a good percentage of easy climbing.

Setter: K. Nichols. Starter and Timekeeper: W. Pattinson, senior. Controls: B. Schipp and J. Reid.

Results:—K. Nichols (50 min.), 1; W. Allen (51 min. 55 secs.), 2; A. Downey (51 min. 57 secs.), 3; K. Hunter (53 min. 10 secs.), 4; R. Huland (53 min. 25 secs.), 5; D. Kelly (56 min. 35 secs.), 6.

Third-Class Downhill.—A 200 ft. descent on Mount Selwyn Course. The race was run in heats and no times were taken.

Result:—R. Huland, 1; Miss K. Pattinson, 2.

Novice Race.—B. Schipp, 1; W. Allen, 2; K. Hunter, 3.

Pattinson Trophy (Downhill Section).—250 ft. descent, with interval start. The course was set to necessitate two turns at speed. Although the snow was stamped in the vicinity of the control flags, the snow was such that every competitor fell at either the first or second control.

Setter: K. Nichols. Timekeeper: J. A. Downey. Starter: W. Pattinson, Senior.

Competitor.	1st Run.	2nd Run.	Total.	Place.
K. Nichols	48 secs.	44 secs.	92 secs.	1
Miss K. Pattinson ..	53 secs.	52 secs.	105 secs.	2
R. Huland	63 secs.	46 secs.	109 secs.	3

Pattinson Trophy (Slalom Section).—This and the following events were held on the Township Hill Course. 200 ft. descent, on the lower portion of the course set for Open Championship Slalom. The course included a short flush, stem glades and corridors.

Course Setter: J. Pattinson. Starter: W. Pattinson, Senior. Timekeeper: J. A. Downey.

Competitor.	1st Run.	2nd Run.	Total.	Place.
K. Nichols	36 secs.	42 (+ P1)	1 min. 24 secs.	1.
Miss K. Pattinson ..	64 secs.	60 secs.	2 min. 4 secs.	2.
W. Allen	78 secs.	66 (+ P1)	2 min. 30 secs.	3.
K. Hunter	146 secs.	107 secs.	4 min. 13 secs.	4.

Single Penalty = 6 secs.

Open Championship Jump.

The jump prepared was not very satisfactory, having a very poor out-run, which did not encourage the competitors to extend themselves. Consequently the distances were very moderate. The points were given for distance alone.

Results:—W. Pattinson (0—19.5—0 (metres)), 1; J. Pattinson (0—16.5—19.5 (metres)), 2; K. Nichols (0—14.0—16.5 (metres)), 3.

Distance Judge: J. A. Downey.

Open Championship Slalom.

This event, being the last of the day, was held at dusk, and the snow had become very hard. The lower portion, which had been used for the other Slalom race, proved to be very rough, and altogether the course was difficult. The whole of the Township Hill course was used, a descent of 318 feet.

Course Setter: J. Pattinson. Timekeeper: J. A. Downey. Starter: W. Pattinson, Senior.

Competitor.	1st Run.	2nd Run.	Total.	Place.
J. Pattinson	64 secs.	68½ secs.	132½ secs.	1.
W. Pattinson	74 secs.	64 secs.	138 secs.	2.
K. Nichols	97 secs.	84 secs.	181 secs.	3.

**KOSCIUSKO ALPINE CLUB.**

It is clear, from the record of its twenty-sixth year, that the club is standing the test of time, and the annual report shows a large increase in membership. Meanwhile, recent reorganisation in management, set on foot by Mr. Norman and Mr. Jamieson, in the shape of the appointment of various sub-committees, should provide the members with more tangible benefits from membership than they have, perhaps, had in the past.

The 1934 season was divided into a week at the Hotel and a week at the Chalet, the latter being booked by the club for that period. The first week was marked by the despatch of a club team to Kiandra to a meeting with the K.P.S.C. Unfortunately, however, they encountered rain, and skiing became out of the question. A more successful venture was the holding of a meeting with the Public Service Ski Club at the Hotel. The club was too strong for our less seasoned opponents, but both teams gained useful racing experience. Various other club and open races were held by the club on the Pearson Course, the snow conditions being a great improvement on those of the previous year.

The second week of the club season, at the Chalet, was devoted mainly to racing. The club had acceded to the request of the Ski Council to conduct the 1934 Australian Championships, and these were held in conjunction with the Club Championships. As a result, a great deal of extra work came the way of the officials, but it is felt that the club's prestige has been enhanced thereby, and we have had a gratifying number of applications for membership from Victorian visitors who were present as competitors. Snow and weather conditions during the week were very good, particularly for the Downhill and Slalom races.

The club's policy has been to set up a sufficiently high standard of racing to bring out the best ski-ing in its racing members, and much has, undoubtedly, been done by the committee to this end. The committee has not been unmindful of its duty towards non-racers and beginners, and a coaching sub-committee

has been formed to see that they are provided with assistance and encouragement. Also, at the suggestion of the club's delegates on the Ski Council, the latter body co-operated with the Kosciusko Ski School in bringing out a professional instructor from the Arlberg, who, it is hoped, will instruct, not only the members in the art of ski-ing, but our own budding coaches in the art of coaching.

During the 1934 season little or no touring was done by club members, though one party got as far as being weather-bound in Pound's Creek Hut with the best intentions.

CLUB RACES.

The 1934 Club Championship, awarded on the four-event basis, was won by H. G. Lamble, from S. A. Kaaten, by 343.74 points to 342.06, with T. W. Mitchell (284.27) third. Accounts of the Championship races will be found elsewhere in the *Year Book*, where the Australian Championships are described. The results were, shortly, as follows: The Downhill was won by Mitchell from Kaaten. Mitchell also won the Slalom, with our sub-junior member, W. Pattinson, second. The Langlauf went to Lamble, with Annabel second. The Jump was won by Kaaten from Lamble, with two jumps of 33 and 37½ metres. The Women's Championship was won by Mrs. Tinsley, who won both the Downhill and Slalom.

Sealed handicap events were run in conjunction with the Championships, the results being as follows: Downhill, G. Day, 1; J. Pattinson, 2. Slalom, J. Pattinson first, Lamble second. Langlauf, Fraser first, Richards second. Jump, R. Utne first, Annabel second.

The Stilwell Cup, the no-fall event, attracted twenty-five starters, and was won by Kaaten by a second from Mitchell and Annabel, who tied for second place.

The Betts' Camp Race was not held. Owing to the change of the racing centre from the Hotel to the Chalet, the conditions of this race have been altered for future years. The trophy in future will go to the member who during the club season at Kosciusko does the fastest time from the Chalet, round Betts' Camp and back.

A number of events was held at the Hotel, all of which were open to non-members, as well as members, in accordance with the club's intention of helping all skiers to gain experience. These resulted:—Two-Mile Cross-Country Handicap: C. Frankel, 1; T. Speet, 2. Open Downhill: J. Pattinson, 1; R. Utne, 2. Men's Maiden Downhill: J. R. Mailey, 1; J. Daley, 2. Men's Open Slalom: R. Utne, 1; J. Pattinson, 2. Five-Mile Cross-Country Handicap: L. McLennan, 1; S. Bontivoglio and A. Corish (aeq.), 2. Women's Novice Downhill: Miss Weinthal, 1; Miss Jenkins, 2. Women's Maiden Downhill: Miss O'Toole, 1; Miss V. Seymour, 2.

The club's season was wound up with a very successful dinner at the Chalet, at which the visiting competitors and officials were entertained, some seventy being present, in all.

The club's officials for 1934-35 were as follows: Patron, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Phillip Game; president, H. J. Attwill; vice-presidents, Percy Hunter, C. L. McFadyen, R. Norman, V. G. Wesche; captain, S. A. Kaaten; committee, S. W. Jamieson, W. B. Annabel, A. J. Stone, C. A. Alexander, G. J. Fraser, R. M. Hagon; honorary secretary and treasurer, P. W. Pearson.



SKI CLUB OF AUSTRALIA.

The club season was held, as usual, at the Charlotte's Pass Chalet. The snow conditions, on the whole, were poor. Members arrived in a blizzard, which lasted two or three days and was followed by heavy rain and a hard frost. The natural result was that the whole countryside was covered with ice. In the opinion of one member, the entire amount of soft snow in the Kosciusko district could have been placed in a bowler hat. Later on, more snow fell and conditions improved.

As a result of these unusual conditions, there was practically no touring done at all.

CLUB RACES.

Pauss Cup.—T. W. Mitchell.

Teece Cup (Downhill).—T. W. Mitchell.

Slalom.—T. W. Mitchell.

Storaker Cup (Langlauf).—T. W. Mitchell.

Allen Cup (Handicap).—T. W. Mitchell.

Adam's Cup.—Miss I. Macaulay

(Combined Downhill and Slalom for Associates).



MILLIONS SKI CLUB.

The club, as usual, spent a fortnight at Kosciusko. The first week, the 4th to the 11th August, was spent at the Hotel, in company with members of the Millions Club party, members of the Ski Club spending the second week, the 11th to the 18th August, at the Chalet.

Conditions at the Hotel were excellent, all local courses being well covered. At the Chalet, however, during the second week, conditions were not so ideal. A record low barometric pressure in Adelaide resulted in blizzard conditions which intensified the always difficult problem of conducting club races when practically all members are themselves competitors. With the assistance, however, of inter-State visitors resident at the Chalet, the various events were conducted over suitable courses. To these various officials, especially those in control of the Slalom, when falling snow culminated in drenching rain, we tender our thanks.

During the week at the Hotel, the club co-operated with guests at the Hotel in conducting a comprehensive sports programme on the Kerry.

The Club Championship was won by Colin Gilder, who secured the highest aggregate points in the three Championship events; he retains the W. Laurie Seaman Cup. Gilder came first in the Slalom, A. Hatchman first in the Langlauf, and R. Michaelis first in the Downhill. Miss M. McDouall won the Women's Championship. A full account of these events appears in the Racing Reports.

Several members competed in the Australian Championship events, R. Gelling's win in the Langlauf being worthy of note.

Of outstanding interest during the season was Gelling's record-breaking trip from Kiandra to Kosciusko in the remarkable time of 15 hours 55 minutes. An account of this trip will be found below.

Early in the season, Dr. J. Maclean, in company with George Aalberg, made the trip from the Hotel to Mawson's Hut, via Finn's River, and subsequently to Jagungal. R. Gelling, Dr. A. Telfer and George Aalberg accomplished the first winter Kiandra-Kosciusko traverse made for some years. Miss Marie Gelling, R. Gelling and J. McFarlane toured to Gungartan and Mawson's Huts, eventually climbing Jagungal. Miss Gelling is the first woman skier to have visited this sector of the country.

Gelling's record trip briefly was as follows: On Saturday night, at 7.55 p.m., he and George Aalberg decided the conditions were favourable for the journey. Travelling was rather slow till Tabletop Mountain was reached, owing both to bad visibility and the deep soft snow. From Tabletop, conditions considerably improved, hard fast snow was experienced, and a full moon lighted the surrounding country and enabled them to pick out the well known landmarks. A short spell for refreshment was called for on the Snowy Plains, both of the skiers, no doubt, having rather vivid recollections of the last crossing of these plains, when they were forced to weather a night in the open with a howling blizzard raging. Gungartan Hut was reached at about 8 o'clock in the morning, the party being well ahead of schedule. From Gungartan they decided to proceed to the Hotel by way of Finn's River, in preference to the much longer trip along the Main Range and back to the Hotel by way of Pound's Creek Hut. Some difficulty was experienced in negotiating Finn's River country, which has become rather notorious with skiers, and a further hold-up occurred in crossing the Snowy River at Island Bend. From here their course was more or less well defined, and they arrived at the Hotel at 11.50 a.m., neither of the skiers being exhausted to any extent. The time taken was 15 hours 55 minutes.

The exact distance travelled on this trip is rather hard to estimate. The distance by the Pound's Creek Hut is usually set down as being 75 miles. Travelling via Finn's River, it is approximately 60 miles, but one takes the ever-existing risk of not being able to cross the Snowy River, which is liable to become very swollen with snow water at a moment's notice.

Office-bearers for 1934 were: President, Dr. C. Winston; vice-presidents, Dr. A. Telfer, F. W. Pratt, K. P. Bath, F. A. Parle; honorary treasurer, A. Cridland; honorary secretary, C. P. Gilder; honorary auditor, R. Bennett; committee, Dr. J. Maclean, P. Pearson, R. Gelling, E. Maloney, J. A. McFarlane, B. Moses, R. Duerre, C. King, E. Benjamin; delegates to the Ski Council of N.S.W., E. Benjamin (resigned), Dr. A. Telfer, A. Cridland, C. P. Gilder.

CLUB RACES.

Downhill Race (Parle Trophy):

16th August, 1934.—Course: Under cornice above Tent Rock on Stilwell to Chalet. Starter: Dr. Bellmain. Timekeepers: R. Bennett and O. Littlejohn. Referee: A. Shands.

Owing to abnormal snow conditions preceding this race a longer course could not be flagged, it being impossible to run over the cornice on the top of the Stilwell Ridge. The course commenced with a long, steep traverse over bumpy snow, a sharp controlled right-hand turn leading to a gradual descent over fast snow, through a left-hand controlled turn to the finishing post at the Chalet. Results:—R. Michaelis (54 1/5), 1; V. Napier (54 3/5), 2; A. Hatchman (59 4/5), 3; C. P. Gilder (62 4/5), 4; B. Moses (67 4/5), 5.

Slalom:

14th August, 1934.—Course: Pulpit Rock. Setters: A. Alexander and A. Shands. Starter: J. Woodhill. Timekeepers: R. Bennett and P. Brewer. Referee: A. Shands.

The course from below Pulpit Rock to the Creek was well set and provided interesting running. Unfortunately, owing to heavy rain falling during the

second run,—lack of time making it essential that it be completed—times suffered in consequence. Results:—C. Gilder (1.54), 1; V. Napier (2.20 1/5), 2; A. Hatchman (2.55), 3; B. Moses (2.56 4/5), 4; E. Maloney (3.6 2/5), 5; R. Michaelis (3.15), 6.

Langlauf:

15th August, 1934.—Course: Spencer's Valley. Setters: Club members. Starter and Timekeeper: R. Bennett. Assistant Timekeeper: Miss B. Gilder. Referee: A. Shands.

The general direction of the inter-State course was followed, but shortened slightly by cutting across Spencer's Valley, west of Sugarloaf to the Stilwell slopes, two circuits of this course making about six miles. Owing to the lack of officials, competitors tracked and flagged the course during the morning, running the race during the afternoon. Conditions were somewhat slow during the first lap, especially in the timbered section, a continual heavy fall of snow making even worse going during the second lap. Hatchman, the winner, ran an excellently judged race. Gelling was unfortunate in taking a bad fall early in the race, with a resulting slight injury to his ankle.

Results:—A. Hatchman (55.49), 1; C. Gilder (57.30), 2; V. Napier (57.42), 3; R. Gelling (61.12), 4; A. Telfer (63.7), 5; J. McFarlane (64.37), 6; B. Moses (66.19), 7; R. Michaelis (68.27), 8; E. Maloney (68.57), 9; J. Woodhill (72.34), 10; L. Alexander (95.59), 11.

Women's Championship:

Course: Below Tent Rock to Chalet. Starter: Dr. Bellmain. Timekeepers: R. Bennett and O. Littlejohn. Referee: A. Shands.

The course used for the Men's Downhill Championship was run by women, with the exception of the first steep traverse, the competitors starting at the first controlled turn. Miss M. McDouall won the event, with Miss F. Abbott second.

Combined Results:

(W. Laurle Seaman Cup.)

Competitor.	Downhill.	Slalom.	Langlauf.	Total.
1.—C. Gilder	86.26	100	97.07	283.33
2.—V. Napier	99.24	81.3	96.74	277.28
3.—A. Hatchman	90.57	65.15	100	255.72
4.—B. Moses	79.91	64.49	84.16	228.56
5.—R. Michaelis	100	58.46	81.55	240.01
6.—E. Maloney		61.15	80.95	142.1

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SKI CLUB.

As announced last year, there was no inter-Varsity match set down for 1934. This gave the club an excellent opportunity to improve the general standard of skiing and to try out the new undergraduate members who had joined up. In this latter respect we did very well and have about half a dozen very promising recruits, who progressed far better than was generally expected.

This year the club made a very definite effort to get all its members up to the Chalet and, out of a party of 60, only half a dozen or so did not go. This entailed a good deal of work in the way of guides and pack-carrying but, by the combined efforts of the more experienced members, it was accomplished without much difficulty.

The club's official week was from the 17th to the 24th August, but an odd fifteen or so started out on the 10th and got in a fortnight's skiing. Eleven of these stalwarts proceeded to Betts' Camp and started to have a good time for a



week, free from the cares of the world below them. True, some ventured down to the Hotel for a very brief interval, but these lapses were overlooked and the novices steadily improved the while, one or two showing distinct promise. The weather on the whole was pretty rotten, rain being prevalent, with blizzards in between.

Then, one dark and dismal afternoon, two or three figures were seen to leave silently and steer a course for the Chalet; where were they going? Alf



R. T. Walker.

Before the Race.

(the caretaker) said it was to get bread and meat which, as a tribute to the Kosciusko appetite, was running perilously low. But at about eight o'clock they returned, with the rucksack bulging, and displayed the welcome food supply; a blizzard had been blowing and they had had a tough journey back and were tired and sore; so sore, in fact, that their right hip-pockets had swollen badly, giving rise to the belief that they had worse to bear before the night was through. That night a very fierce blizzard struck the camp. It opened the window, pushed the iron bars in, knocked the only mirror over, and broke both the globe and the shade belonging to the kerosene lamp.

That week three ski-tips were broken, owing to the wet, slushy snow. This held up the ski-ing for a while, but other ski were soon brought up from the Hotel. Then came the time to move on to the Chalet, which was a distinct change. Here I would like to put on record our unanimous appreciation of the things Alf did for us. Of course, he needs no introduction, but, as usual, he always had a meal ready for us just when we had finished

wiping the snow off our boots, and he always had the fire alight by the time we thought of getting up.

During the first three or four days of the second week there was a constant stream of club members endeavouring to reach Betts' Camp and, ultimately, the Chalet. Our experience seemed to show that almost anyone can be expected to reach the Chalet in one day if (1) they start before 9.30 a.m., and (2) they get good weather all the way. Of course, this applies more particularly to novices, and we also found that if a party of two or three were sent to meet them below the Perisher Gap and help them with their packs (this applies mainly to the women novices), the time can be considerably shortened.

This year the Club Championship was to be decided on four events, but, owing to a lack of jumping talent, it had to be decided on three only. R. A. Pollock won the Downhill and Slalom and was second in the Langlauf, thus winning the Championship. Forbes Gordon was second and R. T. Walker third.

It has long been felt that the club does not get nearly enough opportunity to tour the Main Range. Having no inter-'Varsity match this year, things were much easier, and about 18 members were able to get to Carruthers' Peak and be back by 2 p.m. A party of six or eight went to the summit the same day and, on another day, a party of four went up to Little Twynm and reported a wonderful run back. During the first week, a party from Betts' Camp went to Pound's Creek, on to Twynam and back over Charlotte's Pass. Another

pastime indulged in was moonlight ski-ing. Some six or eight climbed Charlotte's Pass. The trip down again is very exciting and often full of incident. "Taking it straight" is not advised.

A Women's Downhill and Slalom were again held this year. Miss O. Lamble won the Downhill and Miss Corden the Slalom. The Men's Downhill was run over two courses—the first from above Pulpit Rock and the second from Mount Guthrie. Both courses were set by Dr. S. Lovell, a club member. The Slalom was set by Mr. G. Day, on the saddle of Charlotte's Pass. The Langlauf, set by G. Aalberg, followed a rather hackneyed course. Starting from the Chalet, it went up on to Guthrie, thence round the Sugarloaf, then up into the timber



R. T. Walker.

On the Snowy River.

behind Stilwell, along the top a little and then down a timber run behind the Chalet, finishing just outside the ski-room. The women ran the first division of the Downhill only. The first section was rather steep and definitely fast; "sitzmarks" were the order of the day. One competitor had a very nasty fall. The Slalom was changed slightly before the women started.

The club's thanks are due to Dr. Lovell, Mr. G. Day and G. Aalberg for their hearty co-operation in setting the courses; particularly to Dr. Lovell, who acted as referee throughout. The club also thanks the other helpers without whom the races could not be run, timekeepers, starters and recorders. In particular, great credit must go to the club's women members, who stamped out the Slalom course for the men's race.

Results:—

Competitor.	Men.			Total.
	Downhill.	Slalom.	Langlauf.	
1. R. Pollock	100.00	100.00	95.85	295.85
2. F. Gordon	86.60	79.21	100.00	265.81
3. R. T. Walker	50.53	68.34	90.95	209.82
4. K. Phillips	55.46	65.61	84.18	205.25
5. R. Duval	86.38	98.99		189.37
6. V. Bulteau	52.79		80.63	133.42
7. R. Cox	69.08	60.80		129.88
8. J. Tanner			91.98	91.98
9. J. Addison	56.08			56.08



From left to right: Miss G. Bakewell, winner of Club Women's Championship, Hunter, winner of race to Smiggin Holes and back, Byrnes, winner of Club Championship, 1934.

only too willing to help those who were but novices. While that spirit exists the club must continue to prosper.

Results of club races, 1934:—

Men's Cross-Country Championship: R. Byrnes (11 mins. 53 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.), 1; A. Macpherson (12 mins. 50 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.), 2.

Women's Downhill Championship: Miss G. Bakewell (52 secs.), 1; Miss B. Harper (1 min.), 2.

Men's Slalom (R. Hunter Trophy): A. Sims (34 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.), 1; R. Byrnes (34 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.), 2.

Women's Slalom (R. Hunter Trophy): Miss G. Bakewell (37 secs.), 1; Miss B. Harper (1 min.), 2.

Men's Novice Downhill: E. Robinson, 1; J. Stringer, 2.

Women's Novice Downhill: Miss O. Miller, 1; Miss J. Jarvis, 2.

Race to Smiggin Hut and return (H. Witts Trophy): R. Hunter, 1.

CANBERRA ALPINE CLUB.

This club was formed during 1934, largely on the initiative of Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole, the Commonwealth Director-General of Forests. The idea met with an immediate response, and there is now a membership of nearly 50. Many Canberra residents had already skied at Kosciusko or Kiandra, and it was natural that the thoughts of these people should turn at once to the possibilities of the Federal Capital Territory's own snow mountains. The club was formed, adopted a constitution based on that of the Kosciusko Alpine Club, and immediately set to work with enthusiasm to achieve its objectives. The Brindabella Range, which runs from north to south down the western border of the Territory, was thoroughly investigated, the result of these inquiries and trips being incorporated in the two articles which appear elsewhere in this section. The available snowfields were obviously good enough; the difficulty was accessi-



bility, the bugbear of most Australian and New Zealand ski clubs. It is worth noting here, for the amusement of later generations, that in 1935 the best snow-fields of both Dominions are almost unknown to the general run of skiers owing to the great difficulty of reaching them.

Unlike most sporting bodies, however, the Canberra Alpine Club did not regard this difficulty as insuperable. A plan was prepared showing the track required for access, from Lee's Spring to Mount Franklin (about 13 miles), and a deputation waited on the Minister for the Interior to press on him the desirability of the work being done at once. As a result of this energy, the track is now well advanced, and the club proposes to erect a hut at Mount Franklin as soon as possible. As the combined populations of Canberra and Queanbeyan are now fairly considerable, and the ski-ing fields are less than 50 miles from the towns, it appears fairly certain that this will soon develop into one of the main ski-ing centres of Australia.

One of the main objects of the club is research into the possibilities of Australian timbers for the manufacture of ski and this work, under the direction of Mr. Lane-Poole, the president, is already far advanced. Coaching is also under discussion, and the N.S.W. Ski Council has expressed its willingness to help in this respect. Mr. T. W. Mitchell, of the S.C.V., is technical adviser to the club.

The officers of the club, elected at the annual meeting in May, are: Patron, Hon. J. A. Perkins; president, Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole, Esq.; vice-presidents, Hon. R. G. Casey, D.S.O., M.C., H. C. Green, Esq., H. F. Smith, Esq., and Mrs. R. G. Casey; honorary secretary, Miss E. M. Flynn (c/o Bureau of Statistics, Canberra); honorary treasurer, Mr. J. S. Anderson; technical adviser, Mr. T. W. Mitchell; committee, Messrs. E. N. Milner, T. G. Campbell, W. F. Fanning, H. Ingram, M. Pike, and Miss R. Prowse.

THE WANDERERS' SKI CLUB.

[Oh, alright—Editor.]



The annual meeting was a great success; the same officials were elected for the forthcoming year and a small honorarium was voted the Hon. Secretary out of the club bottle, for his services.

Some of the members had been reading European club magazines. General business, therefore, included the following motions:—

That, following present English custom, this year's report of the club races be written in French;

That the pronunciation of the word "ski" as "shee" be banned in such phrases as "Come up and ski me . . . etc.," "My bonnie lies over the ski," "Now I ski"—and the like;

That otherwise it does not matter how it is pronounced;

That "Wanderer" be spelled "Wandahar."

All were defeated.

The president then told the following amusing story:—While in Switzerland recently, he saw a man wearing a badge with a "W" on it. "Hallo! Wanderer," he said. "What?," replied the other. "Aren't you a member of the Wanderers' Ski Club?" "No," he replied, "I belong to the Wengen Ski Club."

Defeating Bogong

By C. J. M. Cole.

On the eastern fall of Mount Bogong is a delightful valley which the Maddisons, graziers of Tawonga, call "Camp Valley." Here is the only habitation on the mountain, a primitive hut, intended solely for summer use. When it was proposed that it should be used as a winter hut we were considered foolish, as it is constructed mainly of old kerosene tins and snow gums. The fireplace is in a corner and the chimney a hole in the roof. Owing to its restricted protection we named it "Hotel Aertex."

After consideration, food and other necessities were packed in before the first heavy snowfall of last year. At a later date, 29th July, 1934, final preparations having been made, Roy Weston and the writer left Tawonga at 8 a.m., proceeding by horse across the Kiewa Valley Flats and into the valley of Mountain Creek, from near the head of which a direct ascent of the Staircase Spur was contemplated. The weather was doubtful, the barometer, although high, had dropped a little over night and threatening clouds were appearing. Near the foot of the Staircase, a wedge-tail eagle was seen. It is probable that it was a bird seen near the summit on previous ascents and so was regarded as an omen of dirty weather higher up.

We left the horses about ten miles from Tawonga at 1.30 p.m., at an altitude of 5,400 feet, being then 600 feet above the usual snow-line and in a position where the snow was known to be no less than 12 feet in depth during August, 1932. It was with mixed feelings that we commenced to climb, partly owing to the weather conditions above which, quite obviously, were very bad; partly because we were somewhat heavier laden than we had intended to be



The Eastern Fall of Mt. Bogong.

C. J. M. Cole.

(fresh meat, a movie camera, in addition to ordinary cameras, a spare ski and sticks and an Alpine tent were regarded as necessities), and, finally, in my own case, owing to insufficient training.

Coming out of the timber at 5,800 feet we encountered wind of hurricane force which, to say the best, created a condition which, in the vicinity of the Gap, demanded great care. At times we were compelled to turn our backs to the wind in order to breathe; we had frequently to kick steps as footholds and occasionally found it necessary to seek temporary rest behind the smallest shelter.

Let me digress a while. It was originally intended that the number in our party should be three or four and that the period of the journey should be two or three weeks. In my case, however, I was unable to get leave, and a last-minute decision to apply for a week's special leave was made. This being approved, little opportunity was left to complete the personnel of the party, or to allow a margin of time in the event of unsettled conditions. The weather



C. J. M. Cole.

Sunshine and Cloud, on the way to Camp Valley.

was so bad that a stay in the vicinity of the snow-line was advisable. Let me state, however, that risk exists only under these conditions, and this is the reason why a hut is being erected at 4,800 feet altitude. With only eight days available, we decided to go on.

Later I considered it opportune to inquire whether we should turn back; but, the answer being in the negative, I was quite satisfied to go on, as I felt that we were then half-way across the most difficult section, with easier conditions ahead. Owing to the steepness of this portion of the Staircase, rhythmic breathing, which is adjusting one's stride to coincide with breathing rate, was tried and resulted in improved staying power. The Gap, as seen from above, was indescribably grand; glimpses of the distant valley beyond were seen through mist, fog and cloud and flurries of snow, carried away in fine powder, enhanced its beauty.

While plodding up the last 500 feet to the summit ridge there was borne upon us an intense feeling of excitement. On the Staircase proper there had been weariness; now it was forgotten. We had no longer consciously or sub-

consciously to force ourselves to go on. To see over the ridge and to go beyond, to Camp Valley, was our dominant idea. Something wonderful was there.

Unfortunately, the view from the top was completely blotted out by fog; but we were not dismayed, as we felt that we had left behind the most difficult stage and were confident that the section along the summit ridge could be negotiated, although the visibility was poor. We put on our ski which, for greater safety and because of hard snow, we had carried until then, and continued, the time being 3.20 p.m. Sometimes we could see nothing and at other moments just sufficient outline of the edge of the ridge to confirm our sense of direction. One thing we were thankful for, both here and on the Staircase, the adequate protection our Alpine jackets provided. The wind was so very cold that if a portion of the face was exposed it became numb with cold almost immediately.

Eventually we arrived at the head of the valley and here experienced feelings of great excitement, as our ski turned down into that long desired haven. It was noted that as we left the summit ridge its protection provided improved visibility and a decrease in the velocity of the wind; we were able to glimpse views of covered slopes—slopes which had never been skied on before. We felt like explorers finding a new country, so different is it under snow.

It is quite evident that, during a normal winter, the hut in Camp Valley would be well covered in snow. To assist us in locating it, Mr. W. Maddison, who had, at considerable trouble, packed our food in through snow earlier in the year, had, with rare forethought, placed a pole 20 feet in height at the corner of the building and at the top of it he tied a shovel, for use if necessary. This action is typical of the man. His frequent and willing co-operation in connection with our excursions have materially assisted us in attaining our objectives.

Owing to the comparatively small depth of snow on the Staircase Spur we were not greatly surprised that the hut had only a depth of three feet of snow around it when we arrived at 5.20 p.m. It was fairly dry inside, and we knew for certain that comparative comfort was assured, although, not being prepared to take any chances, we had brought with us a specially designed Alpine tent. Our stay was spent, not only pleasurably, but with advantage in accruing data for future use. The whole valley and practically every portion of the main



This panorama taken by Mr. C. J. M. Cole

ridge were explored, and, in addition, time was found for practice in slalom, downhill and jumping, so far as our limited technique enabled us. Notwithstanding the weather on the summit which, on some occasions was distinctly bad, and on one, at least, compelled us to return from an exploring jaunt to the west peak, we were able to ski every day.

The valley is certainly in the right position for protection from prevailing rough winds. This fact contributed to our subsequent opinion that we had spent one of the most beneficial and satisfactory snow holidays we had yet experienced. The condition of the snow was excellent; it permitted great ease, particularly when turning. It was mainly composed of a fine powder and required a wax, consisting of a mixture of "Medium" and "Mix," the former as a base and the latter added as required.

We had made complete arrangements to return to Tawonga by a long circuitous route, crossing the Big River near its source, going on to the Bogong High Plains, via "Timms Lookout" and calling at various huts on the way to Tawonga Hut. Leaving this hut, the Niggerheads are passed, the Fainter climbed, and so on down to Tawonga, passing Bogong Jack's Hut and "Botherem" on the way. We do not believe in heavy pack carrying, and so had forwarded food to centres on the path of our crossing. Unfortunately, restricted leave left little time available for the journey, and, owing to a change to adverse weather on the day of arranged departure, our only alternative was to abandon it and spend the remaining three days in further exploration and practice. Eventually we were sorry to leave our "Happy Valley"; but we felt that our major objective had been achieved and were very pleased.

The return to Tawonga was a memorable journey. We crossed the summit ridge through great rolling banks of clouds. Occasionally it seemed that a giant curtain was drawn across the scenery only to be released at the appropriate moment to reveal the snow-capped summit, bathed in glorious sunlight and fringed with a gossamer of fine mist.

From the Cairn we had a long, lingering look at the panorama provided by the High Plains, Hotham, Loch, St. Bernard, Feathertop, Fainter, Buffalo, and, away in the distance Reynard, Howitt, Clear and Buller, before the giant curtain rolled by and closed the last act of our trip on the mountains. The contrast and the beauty of the scenery experienced that day will live throughout our



ing High Plains and Mt. Bogong from Camp Valley.

lives. In the words of Arnold Lunn, "it is the mountains of storm, rather than the mountains of sunshine, which yield the richest crop of enduring memories."

We made down the "staircase" to the snow-line, where we knew Walter Maddison would be waiting, as we had arranged that the state of the weather on the day we had decided we should start for the Plains would indicate whether he should proceed along the Fainter track, to meet us at the snow-line there, or return to the Staircase. Our anticipations were correct; we met him near the foot of the Staircase spur at 1.20 p.m., having left the hut in Camp Valley at 8 a.m. Although we were wet, tired, hungry and thirsty, having laboured continually through heavy wind, snow and rain, yet after a billy of smoky tea made from melted snow, we were happy and contented.

In conclusion, we feel that we have confirmed the feasibility of the scheme accepted by the Ski Club of Victoria for the development of Mount Bogong as a ski-ing resort. Our exploration has satisfied us that convenient slopes of every variety and of suitable length, covered with snow of good quality is to be found in Camp Valley and its environs for a greater period of the year than at any other resort. This is natural, in view of the fact that it is Victoria's highest mountain, being 6,508 feet in altitude.



Shadows.

D. H. Wade.

Memories

By R. W. Wilkinson.

The first classical ski-ing in Victoria's mountains was done by Mr. Hans Fay. Before his advent, the few skiers existent then had acquired a hybrid style handed down by Klandra miners at St. Bernard. All used a single pole and good old Rickmer was our hero. Lunn, Caulfeild and company had not then appeared on our horizon.

The graceful action of this six feet or more of lithe, athletic Norseman on his lengthy ski compared with the animated, tripod figure of others on their podgy ski, was the contrast between a racing steed and a carthorse. The carthorse was filled with emulation, but how? Fay said: "Throw away that damned stick!"

Yes, and at once the dismembered tripod was a spreadeagled mass of struggling profanity.

Fay had unconsciously absorbed ski-ing from his childhood days in Norway, but could not impart it. His theory was that a Briton would naturally be a boxer or cricketer, but a skier had to be born in Norway. I accepted this dictum gladly. It left me my stick—that trusty, thrice-blest companion of many a joyous jaunt. How to be "on with the new love before being off with the old" was not easy until Caulfeild and Lunn made it so later.

Friend Fay's first view of the Alps, from the Hump of Buffalo, brought forth a sermon of appreciation:—

"The good God has given you Victorians those beautiful mountains and you never use them. You don't deserve them. In any other country they would be black with people." I have often quoted this when forwarding schemes for better ski-ing facilities.

He was keen to pioneer a ski trail from St. Bernard to Feathertop. So was I, but the Hospice was closed all the winter in those days, and we would have to camp there, if allowed. That winter was the best I have known. The Holy Angels had moulted so profusely that isolated bridges even on the Buffalo were piled feet high. The owners, unfortunately for them, insisted on going to the Hospice with us. We soon met the snow-line, Fay and I on ski, the McMillans, father, daughter and niece, on horses.

Fay and I went on, opened up the Hospice, lit fires and waited. No appearance of the rest of the party at dusk. Why? Was it those fallen trees across the road? We went down, found one girl ahead of the others, pulling her pony up the mountain, put her on ski, took her horse in tow, back to the Hospice and then down again, lower still. Found the other girl in worse shape, transferred her to ski and dragged her horse along; then, again, further down was Mr. McMillan; his riding horse was able to flounder along without its rider, but the pack horse could not stand up. Its pack was not unduly heavy, because we were able to carry most of it up to the Hospice that night.

It was past midnight now. However, I got some bags, an old oilcloth table-cover, rope and shovel and made the fourth pilgrimage down to the pack horse, lying in the snow. I scooped a hole under it through the snow, covered it with bags and oilcloth and tied it round with rope. It would have to take its chance.

We were a very doleful party when I got back to the Hospice. The only seat available was between the two girls. I put a sympathetic arm round each, the immediate result being a deluge of pent-up tears from both. Later on, at about 2 a.m., a feast of steak and onions provided a happy ending to our afflictions.

I thought about that poor brute of a horse so, before breakfast, again went down. It had taken up its bed and walked. The feed was eaten from the bag

I had left open and, lower down, I found its bed had fallen off. I heard later that it was waiting at its stable door before 8 a.m. A malingerer, don't you think?

We lacked fine weather for a journey to Feathertop. Beyond St. Bernard, the plucking of Jupiter's geese from Olympus on high had entirely blotted out the road. On getting to Hotham, I pointed out Feathertop—seven glorious miles distant—which we must reach not later than 4 p.m. on the morrow. "Wilkinson," said Fay, "we shall be there by noon." A very nice margin, should we have to return to the Hospice or slide off Razorback down the Ovens Valley to Harrierville.

Early next morning the dawn was faintly visible over Hotham, the bigger stars and moon still showing. A heavy frost and a high barometer promised a good day. Soon we were making our first acquaintance with huge plates of "horse and jockey," gigantic chunks of juicy steak, surmounted by poached eggs. Thus fortified, we set off at 8 a.m. I was on ash ski with lap-thong bindings, which had roamed the mountains of Norway for many years before I got them, wonderfully tough ski; I still use them.

We had to climb up the ridge of every rise dragging our ski, the snow was so hard. On the runs down, Fay would be ahead of me, his long hickory ski detonating on the ice like machine guns in full blast, while I "tripped" more or less steadily in the rear.

All went merrily over the top of Hotham and down on to the Razorback. Here it was new country, but plain sailing for us, until we struck an ice wall many feet high. Fay climbed on my shoulders and could just see over the top. He dragged himself up and hauled me after him. Then we came to a fork rising from the main ridge, with the deepest valley in Australia (entirely uninhabited) easterly and the friendly Ovens valley to the west. We did not hesitate to go west.

We were on Feathertop by 11 a.m., thus comparing favourably with the record of Martin Romuld and Fred Ewert about 20 years later. I carried no pack, not even a camera. Fay carried our tucker. After boiling the billy at the old hut on the site of the present Bungalow, we set off down the mountain. Harrierville welcomed us graciously at 3 p.m.

The whole journey of 20 miles was a sheer delight, which I have often repeated. Would that we had more such routes as easily available as this is now—every inch of 13 consecutive miles of it—5,000 to 6,000 feet and more nearer heaven than our drab cities by the sea.



Ski Exploration of Victoria

By W. Bertram.

Victorian and Australian ski-ing owes much to the early ski-tourers. This body of adventurers underwent many strenuous excursions to open up the vast snow areas of Victoria, but they have been amply repaid for any of their discomforts by the knowledge that their actions undoubtedly greatly furthered the sport. One name stands out among the pioneers, that of Mr. R. W. Wilkinson, a past president of the Ski Club of Victoria. Others who ventured into the unknown hills on more than one occasion were Messrs. G. Rush, K. Gibson, and E. Robinson, who are still doing great work for the sport in all its branches.

For the foundation of ski-touring in Victoria we must go back to pre-war years, when in 1911 Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Connell visited the Bogong High Plains from Mount St. Bernard. The return trip was made in one day, surely a great feat, one that many could not make even now. From Mount St. Bernard, also, was made the first crossing of the Razorback by a party led by Mr. Fay, then the Norwegian Consul in Melbourne.

Together with most other sports, ski-ing languished during the war years, and it was not until 1924, upon the formation of the Ski Club of Victoria, that any further exploration was undertaken. On June 9th of that year, Mr. G. V. Rush, accompanied by Messrs. G. Langridge, C. Morrish and B. Walker visited Mount Buller. Later in the same year, Mr. Rush again visited this mountain and stayed about one week. He was accompanied on this trip by Drs. Yoffa and Fenton and Messrs. A. Sudecum and K. Rush. Buller was now well explored, and interest turned to the Bogong High Plains. Drs. Yoffa and Fenton, Messrs. Wilson, J. Docherty and G. Rush made the first extended stay on the plains during August, 1925, and thoroughly explored the western section and as far eastward as Wallace's Hut. This trip was made by Dungey's track, necessitating a twenty-five mile horseback ride from Bright.

Great advance was made in 1926. Messrs. Wilkinson, Gibson, Robinson and Vanderstoel visited the eastern end of the plains, climbed Mount Nelson and reached Wallace's Hut from the east, thus linking up with the previous year's endeavours. This party was then joined by Dr. Yoffa and Mr. G. V. Rush, the entire party making the first trip across the plains from Kelly's Hut to Dibbin's in one day and on to Hotham and St. Bernard the following day. About one month later the plains were again crossed in the same direction by Messrs. J. Docherty, Haydon MacPherson, Olsen and Wilson. This party concluded its journey by Blair's Hut, the Diamantina Spur and Mount Feathertop.

1927 saw the heaviest snow year within ski-ing memory. In August of that year, Messrs. Waters, Stewart, Gibson and Robinson made the first west-east crossing, via Hotham, Blair's, Tawonga and Kelly's Huts. Upon this occasion Tawonga Hut was completely covered and access was gained by the chimney. On this trip food arrangements broke down, due to the unprecedented snowfall, and the last half of the journey was made on starvation rations. In October of the same year, R. W. Wilkinson and J. Docherty made the first ski ascent of Mount Fainter, making the journey from Dibbin's Hut and back the same day, another man-size trip. However, with all this good work, Victoria's highest mountain, Bogong, still remained unconquered by ski. Establishing a base at Kelly's Hut in 1928, Messrs. Waters, Stewart, Gibson and Robinson made the first ascent of this summit. Camping one night in the Big River valley, the mountain was climbed on August 18th and the return journey to Kelly's made, again camping by the Big River.

During early 1928 a hut was erected by the Government Tourist Committee

near Mount Cope in the centre of the Bogong High Plains. This hut opened up many miles of excellent country, and ever since has been the most popular of Victoria's snow huts. Mount McKay was ascended in 1929 by a party using Cope Hut for its base. This party consisted of Messrs. Wilkinson, Gregory, Dyason, Mommsen, McNabb and Vanderstoel. During this year the Mount Buller Chalet was opened to skiers, and from here Mount Stirling, a prominent double summit in this locality, was visited by Miss Nankivill, Mr. and Mrs. Dyason and Drs. Brown and Trumble.

Following all this explorative work covering the years 1924 to 1929, no important excursions to any new locality were made during 1930 and 1931. 1932 brought a renewal of the wanderlust. Mount Bogong had reigned in uninterrupted majesty since the 1928 party had planted its ski tracks on his crown, but his isolation was soon to be disturbed. Messrs. Bertram, Robinson and Tulloh ascended the mountain from the plains, via the Big River, hoping to stay a few days on top and then descend into Tawonga village, on the north side. Unfortunately, when the party reached the summit bad weather forced it to descend immediately. However, this was the first ski traverse of Bogong. Later in August, Mr. C. J. M. Cole made the first ascents of both Mount Bogong and Mount Fainter from the Tawonga side. Nearer Melbourne, Mount Federation (4,900 feet) was skied upon for the first time by Messrs. Gurdon and Higgins, who visited this mountain from Lake Mountain, beyond Marysville.

During 1933 two trips of some importance were made in the Mount Buller sector of our Alps. Mr. J. Tulloh visited Clear Hills, beyond Mount Stirling, and Mr. C. Buckley climbed Mount Howitt. Although ski were not used on this latter trip, it marked a definite step away from all previously explored snow areas. Mount Bogong was again visited in 1934 when, after much useful reconnaissance work during the preceding summers, Messrs. Cole and R. Weston spent several days in an old hut close to the summit, thoroughly exploring the mountain's skiing area. Later, Messrs. Robinson and Tulloh spent a few days there, leaving by the Big River and the High Plains.

Eleven years have now passed since the formation of the Ski Club of Victoria. These years have seen the exploration of the major portion of the north-eastern Alps and of the area in the vicinity of Mount Buller, but many large areas in mid-eastern, and possibly far-eastern, Victoria are still unknown under winter conditions. The mid-eastern section, embracing the area between Mount Wellington and Mount Howitt, including the Wellington, Benison, Holmes, Snowy and Howitt Plains, all about 5,000 feet elevation, should give excellent touring country with quite a few good short downhill runs, although descents of more than 500 feet may be rare. This area should be the next opened up.

A large factor in the comparatively rapid exploration of the Victorian ski country is the prevalence of mustering huts. These huts are scattered about our high country, there being no less than nine or ten on the Bogong High Plains. They are always open and, provided they are kept clean and well stocked with firewood, no objection is made to their use by skiers. The owners of these huts deserve great thanks for their help in the opening up of our ski areas. Another contributory cause to Victoria's touring history is that many of the early explorers were also walking enthusiasts and knew the country well, following summer tours. Summer excursions also give much good experience in the technique of pack-carrying and camp-making.

Any skiers who intend making an exploratory tour of any portion of the Australian Alps would be well advised to go over the country first in summer, picking out landmarks, making notes of hut locations, positions of springs and many other points that will add to the safety and enjoyment of the winter excursion.

Over the Edge: A Kosciusko Trip

By T. W. Mitchell.

It all happened suddenly. One of those Touring *versus* Racing arguments was in progress and the more senior members of the party were criticising the juniors because they did not explore more and race less. Stung to the quick, one of the juniors exclaimed, "Well, with all your exploration, you never had the nerve to go over the western edge of the Main Range." Day looked at me and I looked at Day. Next morning we left the Chalet at 8.30 a.m.

It was a glorious day, with very few patches of ice to mar a straight schuss to the Foreman Hut crossing. We had intended to ascend the Main Range by way of the Teece Cup course on Mount Northcote, but, after proceeding some little way, we changed our minds and set out for Club Lake. Arriving there, we stopped to survey the line of cornices running from Mount Lee towards Northcote. Two big avalanches had already fallen (N.S.W. Editor, please note) and the ruin was spread out in gigantic lumps on the floor of the valley. There was but one point where the final cornice could be scaled, and the thought crossed both our minds that we might be the cause of a third downfall. However, the day was cold, so we decided to chance it. After a preliminary scramble over the avalanche lumps, we began to climb. Up and up we went. There was an invigorating snap in the air and everywhere the snow reflected the sun in myriad points of light. Peak after peak came into view, while, away on the Pass itself, a number of black dots told us of a party starting out for the Blue Lake.

The slope grew steeper and steeper, and the thought of avalanches more and more acute. A good distance apart, we moved a foot at a time. At last the top of the cornice appeared within reach. One of my skins showed signs of coming loose, but it did not seem worth while stopping to fasten it. By now, I could see the Murray valley across the top, and, shouting the good news down to Day, I put out a hand to pull myself over. After that things happened quickly, very quickly. I went past Day, giving an excellent display of crazy flying, and remember vaguely wondering when the rest of Mount Lee (and Day) would land on top of me. I had just remembered that there was only one shovel at the Chalet, when I came to rest abruptly and suddenly, with the last few links of my spinal vertebrae in close contact with an extremely hard avalanche lump. As the cloud of snow subsided I could see Day's figure, clean-cut against the blue at the top of a seemingly towering white wall. Although my ears were mostly full of snow, I was able to make out Day calling something about coming up and seeing him sometime; I had barely time to ponder on this, when Day was suddenly changed into a very close resemblance to an autogiro revolving rapidly in a cloud. He bounced lightly on the top of an avalanche track and finally made a perfect landing in a wind-scoop beside a rock. What he said then was far from encouraging.

At the second attempt we took our ski off and made the ascent safely, on foot. On the top we had an orange and took off our skins. To the left and right were the openings to two small valleys. We decided to take the left hand one. This slopes down to Lake Albina and yielded excellent running. The ice was smooth and had begun to soften. After some invigorating schusses with a couple of full-blooded turns thrown in, we ran out on to the surface of Lake Albina. We put up a placating prayer to Zoë, and set out into *terra incognita*. The start was not pleasant. The lake disgorges into the Northcote Canyon by means of a narrow waterfall. This was smoothly iced and liberally sprinkled with rocks. Some tricky ski-ing on steel edges followed. Passing the waterfall, the Canyon opens out into a surprisingly wide valley which gives little indication of the narrowness lower down. This gave us quite fair, if easy, down-hill running.

At the first of the trees (a stunted, twisted snow-gum) the steepness begins and the walls of the Canyon close in, the running becomes a series of short slams, with sudden twists and changes of grade. Not knowing what might be hidden, we proceeded carefully. Down and down we went, and soon we got the feeling, unusual for Kosciusko, of mountains towering above us. On one side rose the massif of the Main Range itself, on the other the Townsend spur. The running also got cramped between small cliffs and the waters of the Geehi starting on their long trip to South Australia. Trees also became more numerous, especially a species of wattle. Finally, about the 2,500 foot mark we took off our ski. We seemed to be at the bottom of a well and the strip of sky a very long way above. Through the slit of the Canyon we could see the black and white pattern of tree and snow in the wild tangle of the Valentine ranges. It all seemed a different world from the wide, rolling expanses of the upper snowfields. Tributary streams cascaded down on either side to join the main one, and the roar of the numerous waterfalls, being thus magnified in the confined space, was like "the voice of many waters."

We set off on foot, at first scrambling over snow-capped rocks in the middle of the stream, and later, when the scrub got thicker, on the tops of the trees. Finally we came to a halt almost at Watson's Crag, where the undergrowth was too thick for a passage even on foot.

After lunch and a rest we retraced our steps up the Canyon. Passing the huge spur which runs off Carruthers' Peak, we decided to turn left up a narrow gorge which disappeared heavenwards. With faces practically on our ski-points, we carried on up the gorge, getting narrower and more narrow, until it was almost a tunnel. Suddenly, after running through a cut in the rocks it opened out into a sunken valley, which ran away to the right until it ended under Mount Lee. Here we stopped for a well-earned rest, to discuss our next move. The view through the mouth of the crevice we had climbed gave far more an Arlberg aspect than a Kosciusko one; in fact, we named it "Little Austria." The steepness of the country both before and behind us created a complete European or New Zealand impression. From a downhill runner's point of view, the descent from Mount Lee to the bottom of the Canyon, via "Little Austria," would be far superior to the route from Lake Albina and yield better and more tricky running than anything from the top of the Main Range to the Snowy.

In order to get a better survey of the country, we decided not to continue up the valley towards Mount Lee, but to ascend by means of the ridge towards Carruthers' Peak. Here our troubles began, for, after a steady climb of some twenty minutes, over steep but wide and icy fields, we came to the knife-edge of the ridge itself. Behind us it was steep enough, but, both in front and to one side, there was nothing but precipitous drops over icy cliffs heavily studded with rocks. To make matters worse, the whole of the ridge was solid ice, and for over three-quarters of an hour progress was made by jamming ski-sticks into the ice, getting a hold and then shifting our ski upwards, one at a time. Then the ice would be gripped with the ski and the sticks shifted. In these eternally long moments many a heartfelt prayer did we offer to the inventor of steel edges! After a couple of disappointments by false summits, we at last relaxed on the top of Carruthers' Peak. As a reward for our labours, we allowed ourselves a generous period to watch the shadows thicken in the mysterious deep valleys of the border country.

Carruthers' Peak itself looked too icy, so we ran, over somewhat jarring snow, back to Mount Lee. A geländesprung over the cornice started the fun, and then followed the most perfect end to any ski day, a run downhill on powder snow. With the powder smoking up behind us we descended in a series of rhythmical tail wags to the valley to run out over the easy grades to the Snowy and home.

The Long Short Cut

By L. Diggins.

During August, 1934, three members of the Edelweiss Club decided to venture forth from Hotham Heights to Cope Hut on the Bogong High Plains. Carrying packs containing blankets and food for two days, the party left Hotham House and soon reached Mount Loch. From there they descended to Dibbin's Hut, situated in a valley beside the Cobungra River. The climb out from Dibbin's was not looked forward to, and there were loud cheers when the leader of the party decided it would be wiser to stop the night.

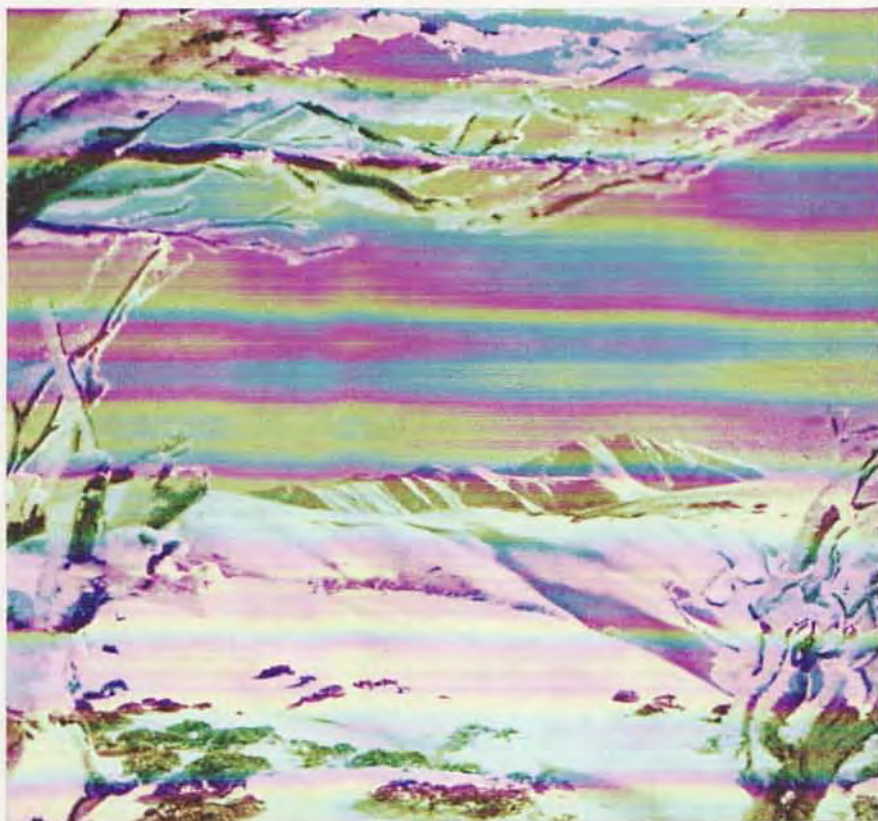
Next morning, leaving food and blankets in the hut, an early start was made, and Cope Hut was reached by 12 p.m. The trip to the hut was all one could desire, and the country quite different from any yet experienced by the members. After a short stay, the return journey was begun. As it was a clear day, short cuts were taken, thereby saving a couple of miles. After a most exhilarating run, the party once again descended into Dibbin's. About 11 o'clock next morning the party set off for Hotham. All went well until Mount Loch was reached. Looking across to Hotham Heights, it seemed so much shorter to drop down into Swindler's Creek and to climb straight up again, thus coming out below Hotham House, that it was decided to try that instead of travelling the three or four miles round the snow-poles.

At first the going was pleasant, stem-turning in and out through the trees. Then the snow got harder, till it was like ski-ing on a great block of ice, while the grade was getting steeper every few yards. Ski were taken off and carried, one careering away down to the creek. The next mishap was when one of the party inadvertently followed it. After consideration, it was decided to cross the creek, as there seemed to be an old road on the other side. While making use of stepping-stones the creek claimed two more victims.

The old road proved to be a water race, a relic of the gold-mining days. It contained water about two feet deep, covered by an inch of ice, and for about a mile the party tramped along breaking through the ice. Eventually, it could be stood no longer. Legs and feet were just about frozen, and the only thing to do was to force a way up through the undergrowth.



At the Hut.



MT. FEATHERTOP.

O. H. McCutcheon.

The snow was very deep, and the ski would persist in getting tangled in the bushes; however, time was flying and the party pushed on as fast as possible, eventually reaching a clear patch. Flagging spirits revived when it was realised that by traversing round an overhanging lip one would come out just below the basin. However, this optimism was dashed when it was discovered that the clear patch to be traversed was snow hardened to ice. All the stamina possessed by the members was needed to dig footholes. One slip would have been disastrous. It took about half an hour to cover thirty yards, and feet, legs and hands had lost all feeling. After this trap the weary members soon arrived, staggering but safe, at Hotham. It was irritating to realise that had the snow-poles been followed the party would have arrived at Hotham at least four hours earlier.

Bogong Development Scheme

By C. J. M. Cole.

A building has now been erected on the Staircase Spur of Mount Bogong, thus providing a suitable break in the journey and a safe retreat from adverse weather. By its use a winter ascent of Victoria's best ski-ing mountain is placed within the capacity of all ski-runners.

In the matter of this, the first good shelter to be placed in that locality, due appreciation is extended to Mr. Walter Maddison, the builder, who found it necessary to triumph over bad weather and lack of assistance, both of which prevented its erection last year. All things considered, its situation is admirable, and it will, being easy to find in any weather, provide protection to all who may pass that way. A well-defined path has been made from the Horse Yards, easily recognisable from a large fallen tree in a delightful glade of large gum trees, where a triangle has been blazed on a tree indicating the Mountain Creek crossing prior to the ascent of the Staircase Spur.

The first water is found at 4,350 feet altitude; here Walter Maddison erected a camp, split most of his timber and hauled it, together with water, to the hut site at 4,900 feet altitude, above which no water is obtainable until 6,300 feet is reached. Considering the kind of timber that had to be used, the distance it had to be brought, and the limited number of tools available, a very good result has been achieved. The hut measures 10 x 14 feet; its outer shell is galvanised iron; full protection is thus given to the heavy woolly-butt frame, the posts of which are sunk well into the ground. A life of 50 years may reasonably be expected. A well-designed fireplace, which so far has not smoked and which will be further improved when a lining of zinc is placed in position, adds to its comfort.



The New Shelter.

C. J. M. Cole.

Sleeping accommodation consists of a shelf, capable of holding six people, under and above which space is available for further similar use. Equipment is limited, as, apart from the bunk, it consists of a small table and a few seats only; later a large vessel, for the storage of water and cooking gear, will be added. A wider track has been cleared through the most thickly timbered section of the Staircase proper, rendering the possibility of obstruction to skiers during heavy snow remote.

This completes two items of the five mentioned in the scheme as outlined in full in the *Victorian Ski Year Book*, 1934, and it is, therefore, claimed that substantial progress has been made. The five items mentioned were: (1) The placing of a "bivouac" on the Staircase Spur; (2) the clearance of snow gums from a portion of the Spur; (3) erection of snow-poles from a position above the "Gap" to Camp Valley; (4) the building of a Club House in Camp Valley; (5) if it is found necessary, at a later date, a second hut could be built at the top of the Staircase, at "Bogong Gap" (6,000 feet).

It is due mainly to the forethought of Messrs. Weston and Cole, in forward-



Mt. Bogong.

ing an adequate supply of food to Maddison's Hut, in Camp Valley, that Mount Bogong was visited on four occasions during the last snow season. The first visit was in early June and the last in late September, and, notwithstanding the lean snow conditions which prevailed throughout the winter, the depth and quality of the snow was found to be superior to that reported at all other resorts. Those who were fortunate enough to make these excursions definitely confirmed the superiority of this ski-ing area—so far as our own State is concerned—in matters of terrain, of protection from bad weather, of snow, of slopes, of position for a Chalet, and of the pre-eminence of its approach, via Tawonga, thus justifying the enterprise of the promoter of the scheme, and the faith and vision of those who supported it financially.

It was hoped that their example, which resulted in the committee of the Ski Club of Victoria unanimously passing a resolution in support and giving authority to establish a fund, would have drawn substantial co-operation from all interested in ski-ing. However, now that conclusive evidence is produced and approval of the scheme has been received from the Department of Lands and Survey, together with "Permissive Occupancies" of three building sites, greater assistance will be forthcoming. Efforts will immediately be directed

towards raising sufficient money to commence the erection of a building which will ultimately become a Club House.

My recommendation is that a road should be constructed from Tawonga along Mountain Creek to the foot of the Staircase Spur, which it would skirt prior to crossing to the Eskdale Spur. From there the road would gradually ascend to Camp Valley, and it could be linked up with the Omeo State Highway, in the vicinity of either Mt. Wills or Glen Wills, thus fulfilling a triple purpose. In addition to providing a tourists' approach to the summit, it would open up good grazing country and provide a through road of great scenic value. Eventually, a modern chalet would follow, where visitors would find an abundance of snow for 8 months of the year during a normal season and, at any other time, a scenic aspect unapproachable on any other Victorian mountain.

Bogong Bivouac Fund Donors.—Messrs. Maddison, Potter and Hore (of Tawonga), and Tulloh, Shands, Mitchell and Cole (of Melbourne).

Bogong General Fund Donors.—Miss Beryl Kermode, Messrs. A. Brown, D. Gray, H. Montgomery, L. L. Henshaw, N. Davis, J. Dart, T. Keogh, O. H. McCutcheon, A. McCutcheon, A. L. MacGeorge, J. MacGeorge.

Visitors to Mount Bogong During 1934 Winter.—Miss B. Kermode, Messrs. Weston (2 visits), Gray (2), Cole (2), Maddison, Robinson, Tulloh and Brown.

Prominent
S.C.V.
Members



VII.—Kemble Henry Gibson.

Courtesy "Herald."
K. H. Gibson.

It was a cold day and bad enough for those running in the 1932 inter-State Slalom, who had all the excitement and interest to distract them from the keenness of the wind. For anyone not so placed it was uncomfortable in the extreme. The starter calmly dug himself a hole and disappeared from view, all but a keen eye and an enormous revolver. In spite of trouble with the electric timing, weather conditions and the general wear and tear of a starter's job,

TASMANIAN SECTION

The Tasmanian Ski Council

The first meeting of the Council was held at the Springs Hotel in May, 1934. It then consisted of Messrs. Stackhouse, Hall and McKinlay from the Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club, and Messrs. Hutchison, Smith and Chapman from the Ski Club of Tasmania, all members being present at the meeting. The principal business was the detailed arrangement of the proposed State meeting, which was to have been held at National Park at the end of August. With the help of the S.C.G.B. and N.S.W. handbooks, rules were devised for the running of the meeting, and an ambitious list of competitions was set out.



The Ridge of Mt. Field West, National Park.

V. C. Smith.

Again, however, fortune was against us, and yet another year has been added to the list of those during which no formal inter-club races could be held in Tasmania. The S.C.T. was to be responsible for the running of the meeting, but, after making arrangements and sending up stores to the Club Hut at Twilight Tarn, an advance party found that scarcity of snow made the holding of any serious races impossible, and the northern competitors were reluctantly put off. This action, as it proved, was fully justified, as the party that stayed at the hut watched the snow dwindling to a few drifts. Tasmanian ski-runners have every cause to complain at their luck, since, just when every effort is being made to place competitive ski-ing on a sound basis, they have experienced a run of bad seasons which must be quite unprecedented.

The King Williams in Spring

By D. L. Anderson.

If anything could look more ridiculous than a skier carrying ski through town, it was those cyclists pushing their bikes through six inches of snow. We

had driven up to Lake St. Clair the night before, to take advantage of a late-season fall, and were standing on the crest of the west coast road, where it crosses Mount Arrowsmith. This was the Centenary road race in all its glory, and they looked extremely fed up, even omitting to make humorous remarks about our ski.

After ski-joring out behind the car, we pushed rather drearily off over the plain, a mixture of button-grass and snow, arriving at the foot of the main ridge some half hour before mid-day. The ascent providing no difficulties, as Mr. Smythe would say, of a technical nature, we arrived at the summit about half an hour later. Here there were drifts, plainly distinguishable by having no grass showing through them, and the afternoon was spent in practice. Running down, I wondered if the marks of my steel edges on the rocks might be mistaken by some geologist of the future for glacial scratches.

The next day we decided to do Mount King William. Directly after you leave the road there is rather a foul piece of bush, but most of the ascent (some



D. L. Anderson.

Looking South, down the King William Range.

2,000 ft.) is made through a burnt-out valley, standing dry timber, which is just thick enough to stop you in mid-run, and just too close to turn through. However, it is not far, and we soon pierced the mist between two of the north peaks, and ran down into a well-filled valley beyond.

The north King Williams are beautiful ski-ing country for those who like short fast runs. For miles, the crest is indented on the east side by a series of little basins, giving a sharp little run on almost any gradient, and an up-hill out-run if necessary. There are 15 miles of this range, of which only the north fringe has been skied, and I should think the south end is much better than the north. Snow, of course, is not reliable, but after a decent season the Williams carry big drifts right into the new year.

After lunch we ran joyfully about in our valley, finding excuse after excuse for lack of skill. The flat at the bottom was cram full of sticky snow; the sides were festooned with breakable crust. We left about 3.30, to try conclusions with the valley, and reached the road about dusk.

One of the pleasant features of Tasmanian ski-ing is that there is generally snow somewhere. Some falls occur on the northern mountains, some on the southern, and some on the central. Barring the walk at the end, it is only a matter of a few hours journey in a car, to find whatever there is. For those who are prepared to risk the lack of good snow conditions, there is something very attractive about our rugged mountains and infinite variation of scenery. Come to Tasmania, where men are men and skiers wear shin-pads.

The Ski Club of Tasmania

1934 completes the eighth year of the club's history, and, while snow conditions were below average, and, indeed, left much to be desired, the progress of the sport has been important. Briefly, there was a snow drought throughout the winter and early spring, good falls not coming until the end of September. At that time, excellent snow was available throughout most of the State's skiing mountains. On the Watcher, in fact, large drifts remained until the end of October.

The indefinite postponement of the eagerly awaited State Championships was a severe blow, and several members again visited the Mainland and New Zealand in search of competitive ski-ing. In this connection, one of the most pleasant features of the year's sport was the success of Miss McAulay and Mr. Anderson, Miss McAulay winning the Women's Championship of the Ski Club of Australia, and Mr. Anderson winning the Mount Buller Championship.

In anticipation of the Tasmanian meeting at Twilight Tarn, the committee decided that it would be expedient to instal a stove in the main room of the Club Hut. This work was carried out and should prove a great acquisition to comfort.

Following on a change of governmental policy in June, two important snow roads have been put in hand, the long delayed road to Lake Fenton, and a road to the summit of Mt. Wellington. The Fenton road is now formed for

rather more than half the distance, and it is anticipated that it will be ready for use in the 1936 season, reducing the time to the hut by some two hours. The Mount Wellington road is also about half finished, and, even as it is, should prove a boon to skiers in the avoidance of climbing. Yet a further help in transport is a new road to the shore of Lake St. Clair. This should materially help any parties who wish to pioneer the many adjacent snow mountains. In connection with pioneering, it is of interest to note that a summer trip indicated the existence of excellent conditions in the vicinity of Mounts Ossa and Pelion East.

During the year the club sustained the loss of one of its oldest and best friends by the death of Mr. William Belcher, the National Park ranger. Few



V. C. Smith.

Near Twisted Tarn, National Park.



K. Col, National Park.

V. C. Smith.

members are without obligation to Mr. Belcher, whose kindly personality, interest, and ever-ready help made him an intimate friend of all ski-runners.

The annual meeting was held at Highfield Hotel on March 6th, preceded, as usual, by the club dinner. The following officers were elected for the year 1935: President, H. R. Hutchison; vice-president, V. C. Smith; honorary secretary and treasurer, D. L. Anderson; committee, G. T. F. Chapman, W. T. A. Crookall, J. J. Edwards, E. Ward, Miss N. L. Hutchison, and Professor A. L. McAulay.

The Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club

Although the snowfalls were even lighter last season than during the two previous winters, Ben Lomond carried ski-ing snow for three months and members skied without interruption during this period. The superiority of Ben Lomond over other snowfields in poor seasons has been very noticeable during the past three winters and is undoubtedly due to the fact that the mountain has ski-ing slopes at and above the 5,000 ft. level. Most of last year's ski-ing was provided by the Legge Tor runs, about two miles from the Chalet, although, for a period, quite good conditions prevailed on the Borrowdale slopes and a certain amount of practice was had near the Chalet.

In spite of the lack of snow, the enthusiasm of the members remained as strong as ever. Parties visited the Chalet every week-end during the snow season. Further attention was given to practice, and those members who skied last year considerably improved their running and turning technique. The Chalet now comprises a living room, kitchen and women's room, and is large enough for parties of twenty or more. At no time during last year was this accommodation over-taxed.

A number of trips to other mountain areas was made by members during the past year. Two parties visited Cradle Mountain last winter, and several parties have made trips to this mountain during the summer and at Easter. Several mountain camping trips were also undertaken by members after the snow season. During the year a certain amount of work was carried out at Ben

Lomond. Minor improvements to the Chalet have been effected, and a new track has been made from the Chalet to the top of the mountain. This track provides a shorter and better graded route to the Tor. From the top of this new track stakes and cairns have been erected as far as the base of the Tor.

The present membership of the club is sixty-five and there is every prospect of this number being greatly increased during the forthcoming season.

At the fifth annual meeting of the club, held in May last, the following officers were elected: President, C. F. Monds; vice-presidents, C. K. Stackhouse and G. E. Perrin; captain, F. Smithies; committee, I. D. Carr, G. Hutton, H. L. von See, W. F. Mitchell, and G. C. McKinlay; honorary treasurer, S. V. Tilley; honorary secretary, R. G. Hall (Commonwealth Bank Chambers, Launceston); the delegates to the Tasmanian Ski Council are: F. Smithies, G. C. McKinlay, and R. G. Hall (the latter also delegate to the A.N.S.F.).

R. G. Hall, Honorary Secretary.

Tasmania University Ski Club

The activities of the Tasmania University Ski Club were rather limited during the 1934 season. An expedition was made to the National Park in the August vacation. The snow consisted of about three drifts. The largest had a descent of approximately 200 ft. There were also several day expeditions to Mount Wellington, which had a moderate fall towards the end of September. The club has become affiliated to the Tasmania University Union, falling into line with the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne.

R. Hutchison, Honorary Secretary.

Black Bluff Ski Club

This club, formerly known as the North-Western Alpine Club, is experiencing a wave of enthusiasm and activity which gives great promise for the forthcoming season. Membership is larger than it has ever been and all members are taking great interest, both in the affairs of the club and the sport of skiing. It is expected and hoped that conditions will be better on Black Bluff than they were last year, when there was very little snow. The track to the top of the Bluff has been considerably improved. A fair amount of money has been spent on cutting and draining and, as a consequence, the climb is not nearly so arduous as formerly.

Interest is now concentrated on the erection of a hut near the top of the mountain. A party of club members went up early in May to select a site and explore the possibilities of securing timber within easy reach. A spot, happily known as "Boozers' Rest," about fifteen minutes from the top, was chosen for the hut and work has commenced on its construction.

A meeting of the club, at which there was a good attendance of members and others, was held recently and the officers for the year were elected, and ways and means of raising funds discussed. The officers and committee elected were: President, Mr. G. P. Taylor; secretary, Mr. G. Cruikshank; committee, Messrs. G. S. Copeland, C. Doyle, A. D. N. Keene, H. Biddle, E. A. Brumby, L. E. Booth, E. Dickinson, and R. Bonney.