

Flag raising at "Kareela Hutte" near the top of the Thredbo chairlift after an exceptionally heavy fall.

Photo: David Beal.



SKI TOURERS ASSOCIATION

THREDBO AND MAIN RANGE REPORT

By CHARLES ANTON.

THE snow season of 1960 was one of the longest and undoubtedly the most successful in Australian skiing history. Heavy falls occurred in May, and from then on until well into the New Year there was excellent skiing on the main range. The Thredbo season lasted until Christmas when there were still skiable drifts on the higher slopes near Crackenback Peak.

Our largest unit, Roslyn Lodge, at Thredbo Alpine Village, was filled to capacity for most of the season; a great deal of maintenance and improvement work is planned for the summer and autumn period. The Thredbo area, like its Perisher counterpart, is going ahead by leaps and bounds. Virtually all blocks in the first and second subdivision have been taken up, and a total of more than

50 lodges are expected to be completed before the onset of winter, with an estimated number of more than 1,000 beds.

The Snowy Mountains Authority has recommended work on the Alpine Way, and it is anticipated that by the winter of 1962 there will be a sealed road from Jindabyne right to Khancoban. It is planned to extend the chairlift from the present top station to the top of Crackenback Peak. Whether this extension will be ready for the 1961 winter season appears on what financial support is offered Thredbo enthusiasts.

Lake Albina Ski Lodge operated again without an area manager. Leon Smith reports that there is a decided swing back to touring, and it is hoped that the ever-increasing number of skiers from the Perisher, Thredbo and Chalet areas



Competitor in the Albina Summer Slalom held on Mt. Northcote on December 27.

Photo: Frank Goodman

will bring forward a new crop of main-range enthusiasts.

The eighth annual midsummer races of Ski Tourers' Association were held on Tuesday, December 27, on the South America drift on Mt. Northcote facing Seamons hut. 30 skiers participated, and due to an abundance of snow, and a very high standard of racing, they were a most outstanding success. Tony Sponar set both courses. The race for the Albina Summer Slalom Cup was won by George Derschko, 2nd Michael Glavanics, 3rd Lou Vozab; Ladies—1st Miss B. Hannam, 2nd Dawn Bulman. The giant slalom for the Hans Neering Memorial Trophy was won by Lou Vozab, 2nd George Derschko, 3rd Louie Reinstadler; Ladies—1st Miss B. Hanam, 2nd Sandra Carpenter. Tony Sponar has suggested that this year, snow permitting, these summer races be held in conjunction with water skiing events on the lake near the old hotel. This should create an even greater interest in these races in particu-

lar and in summer skiing in general.

Illawong Ski Lodge had a good season. With its improved winter access, Illawong and the Guthega area cannot fail to become another big skiing centre. It is understood that there will be more lodges at Guthega this winter, and in addition to the present rope tow, a small beginners' tow near the huts is planned.

Kareela Hütte near the present top station of the Chairlift has been well patronised, and now has approximately half of its membership filled. It provided a very useful base for main range tourers and members en route to Lake Albina Ski Lodge.

Although outside our direct sphere of interest, it should be reported that long-standing Ski Tourers' member, Ken Murray, has brought great progress to the Perisher area. The attraction of the two hotels, finished by the onset of the 1960 winter against almost insurmountable odds, will be enhanced by the new chairlift to the top of Mt. Perisher.