



Line of the Chair-lift shown thus: —————
 (Length approx. 2 miles; vertical drop approx. 2,500 ft.)

Intermediate Standard Ski Run shown thus: - - - - -
 (Length approx. 3½ miles.)

Olympic Standard Ski Run shown thus:
 (Length approx. 3 miles.)

Variations for Spring-time Snow Line: — . — . — . — . — . — .

Area shown in close-up photo. by Ron Gadsden: X □

THREDBO DEVELOPMENT GETS UNDER WAY

THE newly formed Kosciusko Chair Lift & Motel Syndicate has announced that it has applied to the Kosciusko State Park Trust for an option to lease 100 acres in the Thredbo Valley, together with a Chair Lift route from this area to the top of the Ram's Head Range. The site is near the George Chisholm Downhill course and negotiations with the Trust are proceeding satisfactorily.

The Syndicate plans to carry out investigations of snow and weather conditions in the Thredbo Valley this winter and also to make a detailed examination of the financial possibilities of development in the area. They feel that the Thredbo offers the best possibility for successful investment in the Australian Alps, and if their investigations confirm this they will form a Public Company to build a Chair Lift, motel type accommodation for 200 guests and restaurant and bar facilities for resident guests and day visitors.

The Chair Lift site has already been in-

spected by a Swiss engineer, Mr. G. Muller of Gerhard Muller Maschinenbau A.G., one of the largest manufacturers of chair lifts in Europe. Mr. Muller has recently installed two chair lifts at Raupehu, N.Z. The Thredbo Chair Lift will be 1¾ miles long and will rise 2,550 vertical feet. The motel and main restaurant buildings will be at the bottom of the lift, only 200 yards from the new snow-free road from Jindabyne, at an altitude of 4,150 feet.

This road is a recent development by the Snowy Mountains Authority and will be the Authority's principal access road to the western side of the Main Range. Some 80 workmen and much heavy equipment are now being employed on its construction. It crosses the Main Range at Dead Horse Gap (5,100 ft.) and will provide all weather access between Albury and Cooma. The road can now be traversed only by jeep, but the Snowy Mountains Authority plans to make it suitable for ordinary vehicles by the end of this year.

The proposed motel site is 18 miles from Jindabyne, 310 miles from Sydney via Cooma and 318 miles from Melbourne via Wodonga and Khancoban.

The outstanding advantages of the Thredbo site are well known to the many N.S.W. and Victorian skiers who attended the last two National Championship meetings at Kosciusko. The ski slopes in the area are probably the best in Australia, and with the Chair Lift and the road they will certainly be the most accessible. The slopes vary from the Olympic standard Downhill course to gentle beginners' runs.

Snowy Mountains Authority reports shows that the south-easterly facing slopes of the Thredbo Valley receive a greater volume of snow than any other part of the Alps. This phenomenon is attributed to the fact that the winter gales blow the snow off the more exposed Main Range and deposit it in the sheltered Thredbo Valley.

It is planned that the top of the Chair Lift will be at an altitude of 6,700 feet and will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from "The Chalet" at Charlotte Pass, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the summit of Mt. Kosciusko and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Mt. Northcote, the centre of Ski Tourers' Association activities. The Thredbo Chair Lift will do much to solve the winter

transport problems of "The Chalet" and Mt. Northcote areas, which have had to depend upon slow and costly snowmobile transport from Smiggins Holes or from Hotel Kosciusko.

The members of the Syndicate (Eric Nicholls, Charles Anton, Tony Sponar and Geoffrey Hughes) hope to see a thriving alpine village at the bottom of the Tow, and they propose to assist ski clubs to build there by providing water, electricity and sewerage services, as well as technical advice and assistance.

The Tow will be operated in summer to cater for visitors using the motel and the new road for fishing and sightseeing tours in the Thredbo, Upper Murray and Geehi regions.

Provided that the soil erosion problem can be overcome, a road will be built from the top of the Chair Lift to join the Mt. Kosciusko summit road about one mile below Seaman's Hut. This will enable summer visitors to the summit to see and use the Chair Lift.

Preliminary estimates show that the project would cost about £250,000.

Anyone interested in obtaining further details can contact the Secretary of the Syndicate at Box 3336, G.P.O., Sydney.



View from Lake Albina Lodge.

Photo. G. E. F. Hughes.