

MAIN RANGE AND THREDBO REPORT

By CHARLES ANTON

This report covers the winter season of 1959 and the subsequent period until February, 1960.

Roslyn Lodge.

The 22-bed lodge at Thredbo Alpine Village was very well patronised in spite of the poor snow season. There are 300 members in this project, and memberships are now closed. John Turner again was Area Manager for the winter season. The lodge was closed after the October long week-end, and re-opened for two weeks at Christmas time. Further improvements are being made this summer under the supervision of Dr. Peter Blaxland, chairman of the Roslyn sub-committee.

Lake Albina Ski Lodge.

Operated last season without an Area Manager as we did not have a suitable applicant. Leon Smith, chairman of the Albina sub-committee, compiled a comprehensive lodge manual and appointed a hut leader each week, which system worked well. During the latter part of the season Albina bookings were very satisfactory, and the season extended well into November.

Illawong Ski Lodge.

John Turner reports a successful season. All facilities worked well, and a bigger and better bridge across the Snowy near the lodge has been completed. It has already proved a great aid to tourers. The lodge was open during Christmas and New Year, and members report that it has the best fishing on the range.

Kareela Hutte.

(At the top of the Thredbo chairlift) was started early in autumn and completed in July. It is not yet officially affiliated with the Association, but members already enjoy reciprocal booking rights in the other S.T.A. lodges.

A separate article in this book gives details of this new project which was officially opened by the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Harold Holt, and his wife in August.

Ski Council of N.S.W.

The Association has now been a Member of the Council for over a year, and its representatives are most active and hold many official positions. Hugh Deane, for instance, is the Council's Treasurer. Peter Blaxland is chairman of the South Coast Sub-Committee, and also together with Geoffrey Hughes is one of the Council's representatives on the Australia-New Zealand Ski Federation.

Midsummer Ski Races

For the Albina Summer Slalom Cup and the Hans Neering Memorial Trophy which are traditionally held on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year had to be abandoned because the South America drift this year was too narrow and dangerous for racing.

1960 Ski Area Developments.

With our largest project, Roslyn Lodge, situated at Thredbo Alpine Village, and with most Albina guests using ingress via the Thredbo chairlift and Kareela Hutte, developments in this area are of considerable interest to us. There is a great deal of building activity in the village, which continues to grow rapidly, and it is expected that by next winter some 40 lodges will accommodate more than 500 skiers. On the mountain, existing trails will be groomed and in some places widened, the capacity of the chairlift boosted to over 400 an hour and chairlift operation streamlined by various measures including the lengthening of the middle platform.

Last winter showed the paramount need for additional uphill transportation in the form of a reliable, easy-to-ride

lift which will take skiers to the excellent beginners' slopes in the Ramshead Basin, where the present rope tow could be installed. This lift would also open up the top slopes on Crackenback Peak which are suitable for all types of skiers and hold the snow much longer than the lower slopes served by the present chairlift. The nucleus of a Thredbo Progress Association with the object of raising money for this lift has been formed and Peter Blaxland has been appointed our representative. The S.T.A. committee has pledged wholehearted support and financial assistance. Nothing final about the prospects of having this lift for next winter can as yet be reported.

The large-scale development scheme for the Guthega area reported in our last

bulletin has been shelved. Owing to the sad and untimely death of John (who supervised the erection of the Thredbo chairlift and had since been in charge of bar tows in N.S.W. and Victoria) a few days before Christmas in a car accident these plans may be delayed for a considerable time.

The Kosciusko State Park Trust has sold the Wilsons Valley Motel, and the proceeds of this sale and money from other sources should be in a position to provide much-needed amenities, parking facilities in all areas and access roads and jeep tracks, including, of course, our own lodges in the main range which have opened up Australia's best touring country.



Ski Tourers' Association

LAKE ALBINA SKI LODGE.

6,530 ft. in the heart of Australia's best touring country. 12 beds.

ROSLYN LODGE.

At Thredbo Alpine Village. 22 beds.

Associated Lodges :

KAREELA HUETTE.

Near the top of the mile-long Thredbo chairlift. 16 beds.

ILLAWONG SKI LODGE.

1½ miles from Guthega Dam. 8 beds.

Booking Agents :

WORLD TRAVEL HEADQUARTERS, A.P.A. Building, Elizabeth St., Sydney
General information from Charles Anton, B 0538.