

Australian Capital Territory Section

Editorial Notes

IF the success of the 1940 season is to be measured by the depth of snow-falls on the A.C.T. Alps, then this editorial has already exceeded a justifiable length, and a short touching obituary notice would be more appropriate. But we do not feel that way about it. Undoubtedly, the season was bad; in fact, the worst for nearly 40 years, according to local meteorological records, and, coming after an autumn of enthusiastic preparation, the disappointment was keenly felt. But the year was not one of retrogression. Far from it. Facilities at Mount Franklin were considerably improved, and, judging by the frequency of trips to Kosciusko, interest in ski-ing was more widespread than ever.

It is only to be expected that, relying as it does almost entirely upon motor transport, ski-ing will be severely hit by petrol rationing, and, for the duration of the war, its development and expansion, particularly in the A.C.T., will be greatly restricted. But the set-back, although serious, is not a major calamity, nor are the difficulties insurmountable. Once again, our greatest assets will be ingenuity and enthusiasm.

CANBERRA ALPINE CLUB.

DESPITE unfavourable local conditions, the Canberra Alpine Club had an energetic year. Preparations were undertaken at Mount Franklin early in the season, the club-house amenities were greatly improved; but hopes for an early winter, in fact for a winter at all, did not materialise, and members were forced to go further afield for snow.

Outstanding among the improvements effected was the provision of a telephone at the club-house, the last five miles of the line from Bendora to Mount Franklin being entirely constructed by club members. In addition to providing a very necessary safeguard in case of emergency, the telephone enables regular snow reports to reach Canberra, and greatly facilitates the working of the club-house.

The comfort of skiers was also added to by the construction of a drying room which fills a long outstanding need. Following the precedent established during the previous winter, a cook was stationed at the club-house throughout the season. The club was fortunate enough to obtain the services of Wally Fletcher (brother of Charley Fletcher, of Snowy Plains fame), who brought with him Bill Patinson, of Kiandra.

The season opened with the usual King's Birthday week-end jaunt to Mount Kosciusko, the party consisting of about 20, some of whom had not been on the snow before. As usual, the ski-ing aspect of this popular annual trip was not over-stressed, or allowed to interfere unduly with social activities, and a good time was most certainly had by all. Arrangements had also been made for an-

other visit to Snowy Plains, but lack of snow made the project impracticable, and bookings were cancelled.

A notable step in the development of the A.C.T. snowfields is the penetration of the alpine road, six miles past Mount Franklin to the slopes of Mount Gingera. The latter peak is 700 ft. higher than Franklin, and its slopes provide excellent ski-runs. Except when snow is particularly heavy, it will be possible to take motor transport right into this newly-opened area during the coming winter, the road being solidly built and well-graded.

With Norway, our former chief source of supply, under the Nazi heel, skiers in this country will be more than ever thrown on their own resources. In the past the club has conducted interesting and profitable experiments in the making of ski from Australian timbers, and, after a short lapse caused by lack of well-dried wood, these activities are to be resumed this year. Ample stocks of seasoned spotted gum and alpine ash (cut from our own snowfields) are available, and the interest in this absorbing work is expected to be greater than ever. The club looks forward to the day when national championships will be won on Canberra ski.

The office-bearers for the 1940 season were:—President, Mr. C. Lane-Poole; vice-presidents, Messrs. H. Green, W. D. Fanning, W. Dunbar, W. D. McDonald, and Senator Foll; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Jamison; secretary, Miss E. Newbigin; technical adviser, Miss Charles Lane-Poole; captain, Mr. H. Ingram; committee, Mr. G. Hewitt (club-house manager), Mr. C. Gray, Mr. K. R. Ingram, Mr. T. McGrath, Mr. F. Piggin, and Mr. C. Mayes.

The club extends best wishes to members serving in the fighting forces. Warren McDonald, club vice-president, and now a captain in the Engineers, is somewhere in North Africa. News comes of Flying Officer L. E. Knowles, now a Hurricane pilot in the Near East; Lindsay Brand holds the rank of sub-lieutenant in the anti-submarine section of the Royal Australian Navy, and Fred Piggin, Ken Prowse, and John Cumpston hold commissions in the A.I.F.; Dick Prowse is undergoing flying training in the R.A.A.F.

Southern Districts Sports.

The annual championships of the Southern Districts Clubs were held on the Perisher Range. The competition resulted in a win for the Snowy River Club with Canberra a close second, and Adaminaby third. Unfortunately, Cooma was unable to field a team.

The results were:—Club Competition (Balmain Cup): Snowy River Club (298 pts.), 1; Canberra Alpine Club (256 pts.), 2; Adaminaby (220 pts.), 3. Individual Competition (Canberra Cup): G. Day (286 pts.), 1; W. Patinson (272 pts.), 2; J. Patinson (261 pts.), 3; H. Ingram (257 pts.), 4; D. G. Hyles (232 pts.), 5. Slalom: G. Day (43.2 sec.—40.14 sec.), 1; W. Patinson (49.0 sec.—46.2 sec.), 2; J. Patinson (55.0 sec.—50.6 sec.), 3; H. Ingram (73 sec.—53 sec.), 4; D. G. Hyles (89 sec.—60 sec.), 5. Downhill: W. Patinson (51.4 sec.), 1; G. Day (52.2 sec.), 2; D. G. Hyles (53 sec.), 3; H. Ingram (56 sec.), 4; J. Patinson (58 sec.), 5. Langlauf: H. Ingram (30 min. 36 sec.), 1; J. Patinson (32 min. 31 sec.), 2; G. Day (34 min. 46 sec.), 3; W. Patinson (36 min. 8 sec.), 4; H. Braun (37 min. 33 sec.), 5; D. G. Hyles (38 min. 38 sec.), 6.