

# The Canberra Alpine Club

JUDGED by 1946 standards, the snow conditions in the mountains of the Australian Capital Territory were disappointing during the 1947 season. However, there were a few weeks of ski-able snow, and a number of club members was able to take advantage of them.

Each year sees a marked improvement in ski-ing facilities in the club house area at Mt. Franklin. Early in the year working parties put in several profitable week-ends clearing new ski-runs, and improving existing runs. The use of a bulldozer for this work proved a great saving of time and labour.

Once again the club secured the services of a cook-manager for the winter season at Mt. Franklin Hut. Unfortunately, this proved a costly venture, for no snow fell during the early part of the season, and the best falls occurred after the committee had decided to remove the cook. The uncertainty of snow conditions at Mt. Franklin will always prove a hazard to skiers, and club members are looking forward to the day when the Government may be persuaded to construct an access road to Mount Bimberi, some 15 miles due south of Franklin. Bimberi, is 6274 feet in height—nearly 900 feet higher than Mt. Franklin, and the snow is much more reliable. A party of club members spent a week-end thoroughly investigating the skiing possibilities of Bimberi, and returned with a most favourable report. The southern and south-western slopes offer great possibilities.

There has been a greatly awakened interest in ski-ing during the last two years in Canberra. Club members have increased from about 40 to 160, and judging by recent enquiries this number is likely to continue to increase. Although very encouraging, this is likely to prove an embarrassment to the club, which is finding great difficulty in pro-

viding facilities at its single club house. The population of Canberra has almost doubled during the ten years that the club has been functioning, and is rapidly growing each year. It is hoped that when building materials are more plentiful, several smaller huts will be built further up the range to cater for the more experienced skiers. If a new access road could be built from Cotter Valley, skiing in the Canberra area could develop into a major winter sport.

The annual club championships were held at Mt. Franklin on the 31st August. Downhill and Slalom events were contested, but unfortunately the poor snow conditions prevented the running of a Langlauf. Results were as follows:—

## Men.

**Open and Club Championship Downhill:** H. Ingram 1, T. Langford-Smith 2, R. Deasey 3. **Open and Club Championship Slalom:** H. Ingram 1, R. Bell 2, R. Deasey 3. **Novice Downhill:** R. Bell 1, R. Deasey 2, R. Hall 3. **Novice Slalom:** R. Bell 1, R. Hall 2, D. Thomas 3.

## Women:

**Open and Club Championship Downhill:** D. Fisch 1, P. Barker 2, C. Collins 3. **Open and Club Championship Slalom:** D. Fisch 1, P. Barker 2, K. Helms 3. **Novice Downhill:** K. Helms 1, J. Richardson 2, P. Honeysett 3. **Novice Slalom:** D. Fisch 1, P. Barker 2, K. Helms 3. **Beginners' Downhill:** S. Fraser 1, I. Ginn 2, T. Parker 3.

A team was sent to represent Canberra at the Balmain Cup events at Kiandra. The results were somewhat disappointing except in the Langlauf, in which H. Ingram came first and P. Spottswood third. It is to be hoped that as the runs are improved at Franklin, members will gain greater experience under conditions more comparable to those which must be faced at Kiandra and Kosciusko.