



Balmain Cup, Mt. Franklin.

Photo, Pat Cronin.

BALMAIN CUP, 1957

The Canberra Alpine Club was the host club for the 1957 Balmain Cup meeting—the annual interclub event of member clubs of the Southern Districts' Ski Federation.

The event was held at Mt. Franklin, 40 miles from Canberra, for the first time since 1949. Six clubs competed: Cabramurra, Jindabyne, Kiandra, Cooma, Y.M.C.A. and the Canberra Alpine Club—the biggest field for some years.

It was a successful social as well as a sporting meeting with those taking part being accommodated in the Club's Mt. Franklin Chalet. While a picnic race meeting atmosphere prevailed, competition, particularly between Cabramurra, Jindabyne and Kiandra, was keen. Each of these clubs won one event.

The downhill and slalom courses were set on runs cleared on the south-east slopes of Mt. Franklin by club members earlier in the year. They were set by Jan Gdowski, who has had many years' experience in skiing in Europe and Australia. He made the most of the slopes and the competitors congratulated him in providing interesting and exciting courses on what at first appeared to be comparatively easy terrain.

The Club had had fears earlier that because of the poor season, it would not be possible to hold the races at Franklin and alternative plans were made for staging them in the Kosciusko area. A good fall 10 days previously held well into the Balmain week-end and it was dry and fast and the weather perfect for the sports. However, the sun was too

warm on Sunday for the section of the long run course on the northern side of the mountain and parts of it became soft with grass breaking through during the afternoon.

Following the races the Cup dinner was held at the Burns Club, Canberra, in a function which will long be remembered by visitors, their hosts, the management and the neighbours.

The results were:

Club	Slalom	Downhill	Long Run	Total
Cabramurra	94.9	96.3	100.0	291.2
Jindabyne	86.9	100.0	98.4	285.3
Kiandra	100.0	71.0	80.4	251.4
Y.M.C.A.	19.9	83.0	91.0	193.9
Cooma	83.8	20.7	81.4	185.9
C.A.C.	55.5	54.1	63.4	173.0

Individual placegetters in each event were:

SLALOM.

	s.
Bob Janata (Cabramurra)	48.2
Mac. Munro (Cooma)	49.0
Christine Davy (Cooma)	50.8

DOWNHILL.

Danny Collman (Jindabyne)	34.0
R. Exemberger (Cabramurra)	34.4
J. Managus (Cabramurra)	34.8
T. Malcher (Jindabyne)	34.8

LONG RUN.

	m	s.
A. Fristad (Y.M.C.A.)	17	03
T. Bevan (Jindabyne)	19	28
D. Collman (Jindabyne)	19	36

Perisher Cup Weekend, 1957.

TEAM EVENTS.

LANGLAUF.

	m.	s.
1. Cooma	49	46
2. Snow Revellers, 2	56	56
3. Snow Revellers, 1	57	57

GIANT SLALOM.

1. Snow Revellers, 1	4	05.6
2. Cooma	4	14.7
3. Sydney	4	24.2

JUMP.

	points
1. Cooma	190
2. Snow Revellers, 1	179
3. Sydney	170.5

WINNERS OF THE PERISHER CUP — COOMA.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.

LADIES' SLALOM (SNOW LINE CUP).

	m.	s.
1. J. Litchfield (Cooma)	59	8
2. Y. Hetherington (Snow Revellers)	1	5.2
3. R. Allen (Cooma)	1	10.6

MEN'S GIANT SLALOM.

1. B. Hetherington (Snow Revellers)	1	15.8
2. J. Hart	1	20.8
3. B. Haslingden (Cooma)	1	22.3

WINNERS OF THE PERISHER POT — COOMA.

The Snowy Mountains Authority Ski Club

Before the winter snows of 1957 had melted from Guthega a committee was formed to plan and build a ski tow in the near vicinity of our lodge. Throughout the winter constant observations were made of snow depths, position of drifts, and of runs where snow lay longest in the spring so that consideration could be given to the planning and selection of a site for the new tow as soon as the snows had thawed. Three possible sites were marked down for detailed investigation in the summer.

The run down to Farm Creek had good spring snow, steepness of slope, and was close to electricity supply, but the run itself was too short. A site on the

southern slopes of Guthega Trig was discarded because it was felt that it was not steep enough to encourage good skiers. Our final decision rested with the south-eastern face of Tate East Ridge where the site selected had good late snow and the descent gave a varied number of runs. However, although construction on this site would be more difficult, it was favoured because it had scope for a future extension to the crest of a ridge on a section of the Main Range, which, hitherto, was not easily accessible.

We recruited members, who are engineers with the Authority, for the Ski Tow Committee. They pooled their



Guthega Tow Area.

various technical knowledge and soon had detailed plans for the tow prepared. Sir William Hudson, Commissioner of the Authority, approved our plans and wrote a letter of encouragement to the Club.

Initially the tow will be 800 feet long rising 260 vertical feet from a flat runout on the Guthega River near the head of the reservoir and will be powered by a 15 horsepower electric motor with a 30 to 1 reduction gearbox. Natural stone foundations will give the weatherboard tow hut a very smart appearance.

Our surveyor soon finished his job, and after work on the computation and design of the power and tow lines was completed the real task commenced. The Canberra Y.M.C.A. Ski Club supported our plans and backed us with an offer of assistance with the construction work.

As one of the first jobs, a raft was made from forty-four gallon drums, to enable equipment to be transported across the Guthega Reservoir. Its first voyage was to float the two "Snowy surplus" snow huts to the site where they will be re-erected as the Tow Hut. To supply electricity to the tow a powerline over one third of a mile long had to be built. This proved to be our hardest job to date. A disused powerline was purchased from the Authority, dismantled (it

took two week-ends), and the material moved to its new position where our engineer in charge of powerline construction took over. Under his direction and employing the latest method used by the Authority, holes seven feet deep were blasted and the poles (varying 30 to 40 feet in length) moved into position and erected. Seven poles had to be floated on the reservoir to points nearest their holes, then manhandled into position by teams of "slaves" using block and tackle or plain muscle power. The erection of poles on the steeper hillside proved to be a task requiring much resourcefulness. An experienced linesman guided us in the stringing of the conductors.

With work on the powerline almost completed the labour force will now concentrate on the erection of the tow line, buildings, and bridge across the Guthega River. No description of the construction of the Guthega Tow would be complete without a word of praise for the girls who so ably took over all the normal summer maintenance jobs around our lodge and for those who, week-end after week-end, cooked delicious meals for the tow builders.

A hearty invitation is extended to all skiers to attend the opening of the tow soon after the first good snow fall.

Snowy Mountains Cup, 1-9-1957.

After the successful year of 1956 for the Snowy Mountains Cup, we felt that the poor snow conditions at Cabramurra would be a let-down for the competitors, so it was decided to hold the Cup on Round Mountain, which is just 23 miles from Cabramurra on good construction

roads. Round Mountain has the look of Mount Fujiama, rising 5765 feet in a cone shape from plains, bringing one on an apparent level with Mount Jagungal. The course was set by the Master, Tony Sponar, and was as difficult as usual.

Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club, report on activities on Ben Lomond

Although the season of 1957 was the worst on record from the point of view of snow coverage it was nevertheless one of great enjoyment to all those club members who visited Ben Lomond during the winter.

Sufficient snow fell late in the season to hold the club championships. Of particular interest in these was the performances of newcomer Tony Geeves who was having his first season on the snow and who won both the Handicap Slalom and Handicap Jump. Clyde French again won the Four event for the fourth year in succession. John Wagner who has come to live in Launceston and is proving a wonderful acquisition to the Club opened the courses.

Instruction classes being held for beginners by John Kosar, another new-

comer to the club, are proving their worth as was amply evidenced by the wins by Tony Geeves.

The club's safety organisation went into action very smoothly and efficiently during the season when mainland skier, Pat Honey, broke her leg.

Considerable interest has been created over the probability of the Tasmanian Government granting finance for the building of a first class road up Ben Lomond. This—if it eventuates—together with a projected ski tow would make Ben Lomond a mountain worthy of a visit by all Australian skiers.

The Club's new lodge has now been finished and fully equipped and can now be hired by private parties. Details are available from the Hon. Secretary, P.O., Box 322, Launceston.



Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club. Championship Events, 6-10-57.

All events except Downhill were run.

SLALOM.

	S.
1 R. Tilley	67.4
2 E. Rindt	69.6
3 D. Horn	70.0
4 C. French	73.2
5 O. Meizitis	73.7
6 T. Geeves	92.0
7 M. Compton	93.8
8 N. Smith	94.6
9 B. Scott	119.9
10 T. Gardner	130.0
11 P. Chilvers	195.0

HANDICAP SLALOM.

- 1 T. Geeves.
- 2 R. Tilley.
- 3 M. Compton.
- 4 E. Rindt.
- 5 D. Horn.
- 6 C. French.

LADIES' SLALOM.

	S.
1 Margaret Smithies	88.0
2 Toni Bridley	90.8

JUMP.

	Longest jump metres	Total points
1 J. Wagner	11	77.6
2 C. French	11	77.2
3 R. Tilley	8½	73.1
4 E. Rindt	7	61.8
5 M. Caswell	6½	61.0
6 N. Smith	7½	60.1
7 T. Gardner	5½	58.7
8 D. Horn	6	58.6
9 B. Scott	5½	58.3
10 T. Geeves	6½	57.5
11 M. Compton	5	55.3

HANDICAP JUMP.

- 1 T. Geeves.
- 2 T. Gardner and M. Caswell.
- 3 R. Tilley.

NOVICE RACE.

- 1 Anne Harris.
- 2 Barbara Wood.
- 3 Olive French.

LANGLAUF.

- 1 O. Meizitis.
- 2 C. French.
- 3 R. Tilley.
- 4 B. Scott.

FOUR EVENT.

- C. French.

Cabramurra Ski Club

By J. A. BARKLEY.

The main effort of members during the summer has been to widen the skiing area beside the existing tow and to construct a ski jump for the forthcoming season. So far the week-ends on the end of the logging winch have proved fruitful and the main run is now about three chains wide with another course under way on the steeper side of the tow.

The jump is completed to the platform stage which will be of a permanent nature of at least 30 metres jumping length. The only work necessary during winter will be to stamp the run out and if snow conditions are really good, to lengthen the jump by building a smaller ramp further back on the permanent platform. We also have a site selected for a 70 metre jump but we are finding it difficult to convince members that they might one day jump from it when they now have difficulty walking on it.

The clearing and preparation of this jump we feel, will have to be shelved for the present until members become used to the smaller jump and feel prepared to try the larger one.

There was great jubilation on the win by the club team of the Balmain Cup. The team, led by Bob Janata, returned to Cabramurra brimful of cheers after the first and successful attempt of our young club in any competition. Here's hoping for the 1958 season!

The Ski Council has agreed to the club running the jump and langlauf of the New South Wales Championships in conjunction with the Snowy Mountains Cup and will be run as follows:—

- 29th August, 1958—Friday, Langlauf.
30th August, 1958—Saturday, Jump.
(N.S.W. Championship.)
31st August, 1958—Sunday. (Snowy Mountains Cup.)

Canberra Alpine Club

Highlight of the 1957 season for the Canberra Alpine Club was the running of the Balmain Cup—the annual inter-club race meeting of the Southern Districts' Ski Federation—at Mt. Franklin, 40 miles from Canberra in mid August. (Details of this meeting appear on another page.)

The weather and the snow conditions were ideal. The slalom and downhill were held on Franklin's steepest runs which had been cleared by hand by club working parties in the 1957 autumn and which provided courses of a standard not previously possible in this area. Jan Gdowski set courses which made up in interest and difficulty what they lacked in distance.

The other outstanding feature of the season's activities was the successful installation of the club's first ski-tow. This was designed and constructed by members of the club for about £250 and was used to capacity during the season. The present length of the tow is 600 feet.

After the unusually long winter of 20 skiing week-ends at Mt. Franklin in 1956, the 1957 season was a disappointment. A comprehensive racing programme of 10 separate events together with the Balmain Cup was run to give the Club its most intensive season for many years. In addition, two instruction classes were held each week-end—one for beginners and one for more advanced skiers. The classes, which are free to members of the

Club and run by voluntary instructors have had a marked effect on the standard of skiing. Another incentive which has helped improve the general standard of skiing is the presentation of cups to the man and woman skier who have shown the most marked improvement during the year.

In spite of the short season, club membership was maintained at a relatively high level. There were 192 financial members compared with 203 the previous year and 89 in 1955.

The Club's ski hiring service which was begun in 1956 had another successful year and in addition to returning useful revenue to the Club, introduced to the sport a number of people who otherwise might not have become interested in it.

The Club joined with its sister, Canberra Ski Club, the Y.M.C.A. Ski Club, to form the A.C.T. Ski Council which has become the State Controlling Body for the A.C.T., a role formerly filled by the Canberra Alpine Club from 1938. The first function conducted by the Council was the A.C.T. inter-club race meeting between these two clubs held at Mt. Perisher last October. The event was won by the Y.M.C.A.

The Canberra Alpine Club held a busy round of functions during the year. These included monthly meetings, a wool-shed dance, a club dinner, and two barbecues, one of which followed the running of the Club championships.



Canberra Alpine Club.

A heavy works programme was carried out during the first half of the year. This included clearing new ski runs, installing a wind-driven lighting plant and lining the sleeping quarters at the Mt. Franklin Chalet in addition to the annual chores of minor repairs and firewood cutting. All this work was done by voluntary labour enabling the Club to keep its annual fees and accommodation and other charges at almost nominal rates.

Club races held during the year resulted as follows:

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

- 1 George Haynod.
- 2 Ray Bradley.
- 3 Keith Storey.

CLUB SLALOM.

George Haynod	51.8
Keith Storey	67.4
Ray Bradley	68.8

CLUB DOWNHILL.

George Haynod	34.2
Ray Bradley	37.2
Keith Storey	38.0

CLUB LONG RUN.

Ray Bradley	m. s.	23 12
Paul Roethlisberger		25 15
George Haynod		27 5

CLUB JUMP.

Paul Roethlisberger	metres	9.2
Graham Southwell		8.4
Ray Bradley		7.8

WOMEN'S DOWNHILL.

- 1 Jill Tanner.
- 2 Dawn Piggin.
- 3 Katie Helms.

WOMEN'S SLALOM.

- 1 Jill Tanner.
- 2 Dawn Piggin.
- 3 Katie Helms.

PRESIDENT'S RACE DAY (Men).

- 1 Peter Wilson.
- 2 David Prosser.

(Women).

- 1 Nancy Penman.
- 2 Norma Cook.

BRUMBY CUP.

- 1 Jill Tanner and Tim Ingram.
- 2 Glen Penny and Ray Bradley.
- 3 Fay Gray and Frank Cook.

The two novelty events of the Club's racing programme are the Brumby Cup and the President's Day events. The latter is an elimination, simultaneous slalom. In the former, partners are drawn for and the result is determined without handicap, by adding the total time for the partners.