

## Where Chalets and Huts are Needed.

(By a Lover of the Snowy Ranges.)

Outside of some three dozen enthusiasts few in Australia realise what wonderful skiing fields exist in the High Alps of New South Wales. The chief reason for such ignorance is the scarcity of hut accommodation beyond the Hotel Kosciusko.

Most runners have not the stamina to undergo the hardship and inconvenience that is necessary to reach these fields, and so confine themselves, year after year, to the bush slopes and hills in the immediate vicinity of the hotel, and never have seen the magnificent unwooded snow country of the higher regions.

If a proper chain of cheap huts were erected, at not more than ten mile intervals, even average skiers would be capable of spending a week in the real Alps and could even travel from Kosciusko to Kiandra with perfect ease and safety. The object of this paper is to point out the most suitable sites for the erection of huts, so that the best snowfields might be available to all, even to novices of the first year.

For the proper utilisation of our snow country there should be five different types of accommodation houses:—

1. Base hotels such as the present Kosciusko Hotel and Alpine Hotel at Kiandra.
2. Sports hotels manned by a small staff for a limited winter season and capable of accommodating about fifty guests.
3. Chalets staffed by one man and capable of housing in a simple way ten to twenty skiers.
4. Huts stocked with food, fuel and blankets, but having no staff. Capacity should be not more than six persons.
5. Shelters without provisions or sleeping facilities, but containing fuel for the use of one day picnic tours.

The writer proposes to suggest a comprehensive scheme and to indicate where, in his opinion, the different types of buildings should be erected so as to use to the fullest extent the facilities that are awaiting development.

Starting with the existing base, Hotel Kosciusko, he is of opinion that in consideration of the small numbers of interested people the first chalet should be erected under Charlotte's Pass. This is within a reasonable distance of the base hotel, and is capable of being reached





THE HOTEL KOSCIUSKO.

THE MOST SUITABLE SPOT ON CHARLOTTE'S PASS.  
FOR A CHALET.

by any skier of two weeks' standing who would then be able to enjoy with safety his first near view of the unwooded country and of the fields that he hopes to conquer in the future, and to the seasoned skier it would mean that he could start after a good night's rest on his exploration of the Main Ranges. Betts's Camp, which now badly serves the purpose, necessitates too long a climb over uninteresting country before one gets, as it were, into the heart of things. The next step into the penetration of the true snowfields should be the



POUNDS' HUT.

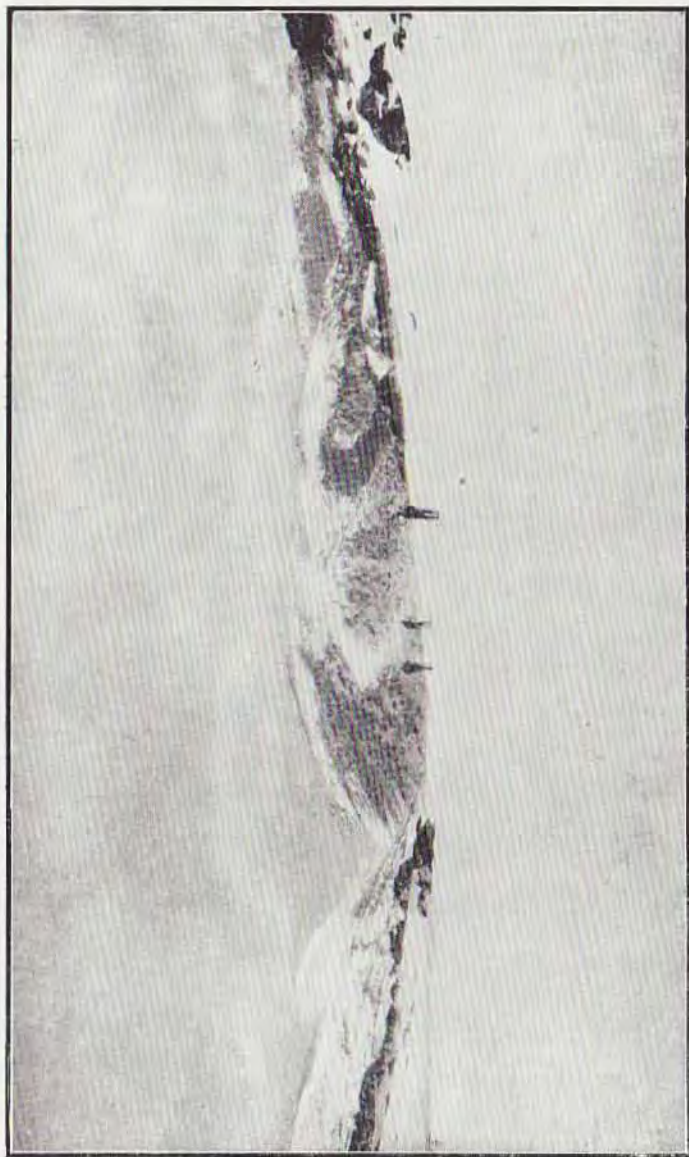
erection of a chalet at the source of the Snowy River under the Etheridge Range. This would allow the magnificent slopes of Mount Kosciusko itself to be outside one's door.

Probably before building this chalet a sports hotel should be built on the present site of the Pounds' Hut, which would allow the magnificent slopes of Twynham and Gill's Knobs to be used just as the Grand Slam and Kerry courses are to-day.

Now we must consider the development of the Main Range, which, considering the absence of a railway and main road, will of necessity be confined for the next fifty years to hut erection.

No. 1 hut should be erected near the Blue Lake.

No. 2 hut in the valley of Guthega, below the Cossett Stephen Pass.



LOOKING UP THE VALLEY OF THE GUTHEGA TO CONSETT STEPHEN PASS FROM THE PASS AT THE HEAD OF BLUE COW CREEK.

No. 3 hut near the saddle of White's River.

No. 4 hut at Gungartan, near the source of Finn's River, where a hut is now in existence through the effort of the Ski Club of Australia.

No. 5 hut at Jagunal. This deserves better than hut accommodation and a chalet, if not a sports hotel, should be erected on the old Kalkite-Grey Mare's Road, somewhere beneath Bull's Peaks, such as the Sheep Yards site.



THE VIEW FROM PRETTY POINT.

No. 6 hut, at Farm Ridge, should be made weatherproof and even promoted to the category of a chalet.

No. 7 hut, still further towards Kiandra, on the Main Range, the old hut called MacGregor's Hut, near Crook's Racecourse, should be re-erected.

No. 8 hut, nearer Kiandra, at the foot of Tabletop, the existing Twelve Mile Hut should be reconditioned, and at Kiandra itself the Alpine Hotel might be converted into a base hotel the equal, if not the superior, of Hotel Kosciusko itself. In point of fact, I really believe that there will be, even in my lifetime three base hotels; the present Kosciusko Hotel, one at Jagunal, on the Kalkite-Grey Mare's Road, and the existing Alpine Hotel at Kiandra. If the present Government possessed the imagination of Sir Joseph Carruthers and Mr. Percy

Hunter, the Australian Alps could be properly opened up with very little expenditure of public funds and would not only help to make safe the interest on the capital expended in developing Hotel Kosciusko, but would provide more money than any Government (not being a trading concern) ever expected to get for its pioneering works.

When one looks at what the Victorian Government has dared in the construction of the most expensive Alpine road in Australia, Harrietville to Omeo, deservedly said to be the finest scenic road in the Commonwealth, the effort of New South Wales in its widely advertised Kosciusko summit road is in comparison a poor thing. Imagin-



OLD BETTS'S CAMP, NOW  
BURNT DOWN.

ation failed our Government when it left the road a mere cul de sac and had not the courage to continue it along the Main Range to Kiandra and so make an Alpine scenic road, the superior of any in the world. Its construction would be no wild cat scheme when we consider the enormous motor tourist traffic now existing. The charging of a toll, as is permitted on the Spit bridge to-day, would pay for its cost of construction and upkeep in a few summers. Australia deserves that its rugged beauties should be made available to all its citizens instead of forcing them to travel abroad to see and pay other countries for what they have within their reach.

So fundamental is the construction of these chalets and huts for the opening up of the real Australian snow country for the average citizen that I have failed to emphasise the necessity of shelters which might really be considered as the conservatories of the base hotels. Shelters are places where skiers should not expect to sleep, except under stress of weather. They are places in which day parties can cook their luncheon away from the weather. At present they need only be erected near the Hotel Kosciusko and suggested sites are Plains of Heaven, Pretty Point, Smiggins Holes, the Perisher, under the Herbert Marks Pass (the saddle between the front and back Perishers).

In conclusion, I trust that this article will make the authorities, who seem to think the success of the Kosciusko Hotel means the development of our glorious Alps, realise the work that is ahead of them and trust that if they feel unequal to the task that they will put no obstacles in the way of enthusiastic private effort. If they adopt a dog in the manger attitude, the best part of the Australian Alps will remain undeveloped for as many hundreds of years as they have in the past.

