

# Victoria to Kosciusko

By H. L. Stokes

We made the approach by horse from Scammell's farm at the foot of Bradney's Gap. Over the Gap itself, the route follows the Khancoban Creek, until the foot of the Long Spur is reached. Half-way up the Khancoban Creek is Everard's hut, a log and mud cabin, built by prospectors on the site of a much older one. A road is being built at this moment over Bradney's Gap and will ultimately be pushed on to Everard's hut and, perhaps, up the Long Spur, which is the final approach to the Dargals. In a normal winter



ski must be donned a quarter of a mile from the summit. At the top of the Long Spur is the main wall of the Dargals, overlooking the Murray far below. This section is known as the Broadway Top and runs for four miles from Finlay's Lookout on one side, on towards the Big Dargal on the other. The top of the Long Spur is 5,300 feet.

We were fortunate in being able to take the horses to this point. Here we called a halt, had lunch (and an extremely cold one it was), and put on ski. From here to Pretty Plain Hut the track leads mainly east, descending about 600 feet, down an easy, wooded spur to the upper portion of a clearing known as Pretty Plain. Still keeping east, this is crossed diagonally, meeting a small creek of the same name in the centre. After about a mile of this cleared country a fence is reached and the track leads through some easily found sliprails. Beyond this point a low, wooded range is reached, which runs parallel with the Dargals and which is an off-shoot of the Strombo Range. Gradually rising, we made for, and rounded, the northern end of this first-mentioned range and, turning south, reached the Pretty Plain Hut in about half a mile. This latter is situated close to the left bank of the Bull's Head Creek and is a strongly constructed building, owned by Captain Colin Chisholm. It has very recently been constructed and is most comfortable, consisting of two large rooms. Those wishing to use this hut may get per-



The new hut at Pretty Plain.

—L. Stokes.

mission and the key from the owner at Khancoban Station. Beside the hut there is a bark hut which would give good shelter.

We would like to point out that the position of these huts as shown on the map is incorrect, as they lie well round the northern end of the unnamed, wooded range and not at the extreme end, as is shown. A few

A rest on the Rolling Grounds  
above White's River Saddle.

L. Stokes.



Approaching this hut, as we had to, from the north, care must be taken, especially if the visibility is poor, as the hut is situated in a clump of trees at the eastern foot of the Kerries, about a quarter of a mile away and a hundred feet above the Upper Valentine River. These trees, although they tend to hide the actual hut, are a guide, as they are the only distinct clump in the vicinity. On our trip, we made the mistake of first travelling down the wrong side of the Kerries and wasted a valuable hour of daylight before realizing our mistake.

After a most comfortable night we set off for Charlotte's Pass, taking the well-known route by way of the Kerries, White's River Saddle, the Rolling Ground, west ridge of Tate, Pound's Creek, and up Spencer's Creek to our destination, which was reached about 10 p.m.

For those contemplating this trip a few points discussed in greater detail would not be amiss. On leaving the Pretty Plain Hut one first crosses the Bull's Head Creek and proceeds up the valley for about two hundred yards. A narrow, steep, wooded valley is seen on the left and it is up this that the first portion of the track leads. For the first mile, which is very steep, no major features of the country can be relied upon, but one has to keep a general easterly course. Then, after about a four-hundred foot ascent from the creek, a small clearing is reached and, from this point, two distinct peaks can be seen ahead, an unnamed closer one on the left and the well-marked Rocky Bogong on the right. It is between these that one must pass to reach the Bark Hut, which has already been discussed.



G. B. Austin

A wombat away from home.