

## Kosciusko State Park

From the Secretary to the Trust,—

**I**N the 1945 issue of the Australian and New Zealand Ski Year Book an official statement respecting the Kosciusko State Park was published, in which the Trust created to control and develop the area gave expression to the belief that it is destined to become Australia's premier playground.

Since its inception, the Trust has been planning for development to the fullest extent of both the winter and summer recreational attractions of the area and it has in mind a programme of works to be carried out over a period of years, which includes the improvement and extension of facilities for enjoyment of the snow sports, thus affording to larger numbers of the public more scope to enjoy a winter holiday than has hitherto been possible.

One of the first of the problems given consideration by the Trust was that of providing, in the interests of safety of those visiting the park for snow sports, an efficient system of communication between shelter huts situated throughout the snow fields which, under conditions hitherto obtaining, have been isolated from the main centres. Conferences between representatives of the Trust and the Ski Council of New South Wales, which body has been strong in its advocacy of improvement of conditions in this respect, have been held. The system envisaged by the Trust is one whereby wireless apparatus will be installed in various shelter huts throughout the snowfields to enable messages in time of need to be transmitted to centres such the Chalet or the Hotel Kosciusko and the factors governing the type aimed at are simplicity of operation and durability, having regard to climatic conditions. With a view to determining the type of installation best suited to the Kosciusko conditions, the Trust obtained particulars of the system installed in the Victorian snowfields by the Ski Club of Victoria and that generally in use by the Flying Doctor Service of Australia. The Ski Council of New South Wales, the Flying Doctor Service, the Forestry Commission and officers of the Postmaster-General's Department have been very helpful in furnishing information sought.

The suggestion to instal radio in lieu of telephone communication between the Hotel

Kosciusko and the Chalet was first officially considered in 1941 by the New South Wales Department of Railways, which administers the Government Tourist Bureau. For various reasons no action was taken until recently when the Commissioner approved expenditure to cover the temporary installation of radio "transceivers" for experimental purposes. Communication between the Chalet and the Hotel proved very satisfactory with the type of set procured and for some weeks daily communication between these centres has been maintained. The Department of Railways afforded representatives of the Trust the opportunity of inspecting the type of equipment installed and procured for the Trust further sets for installation at other centres throughout the snowfields. In addition to sets being tested by the Railway Department at the Chalet, the Hotel and Seaman's Hut, others have been installed on behalf of the Trust at the Alpine Hut and White's River Hut. Mr. W. F. Barton, Signal and Telegraph Engineer, of the Department of Railways hopes to be in a position after the winter season to decide as to design of a complete scheme of radio communication best suited to the needs of the area.

The sets being used in the present tests are Army 109 type which have been purchased from the Ministry of Munitions. The sets installed at the Chalet and the Hotel have been equipped with auxiliary amplifiers and loud speakers, in order that the receivers can be operated continuously for call purposes. Half wave voltage aerials about 50 feet in height have been erected.

Having regard to the difficulties, under snow conditions, of access to certain centres at which wireless units will be installed, the aim was to obviate frequent charging of batteries and Edison alkaline storage batteries, of 500 ampere hour capacity, have been procured. These it is expected will operate for long periods without replacement or recharging.

The receivers at Alpine Hut and White's River Hut will be so arranged that it will not be possible for them to be used for any purpose other than that for which they have been installed.

The frequency allotted for the system is 2.72 megacycles per second and the receivers are tuneable between 2.65 and 2.8 megacycles per second.

Coupled with the question of installation

of a wireless communication system is the one of efficient operation and supervision. In both these matters the Trust felt that invaluable help would be forthcoming from the New South Wales Ski Council and an approach was made to that body for its views on the organisation of a Ski Safety Patrol to assist in patrolling and supervision of equipment and in enforcement of such measures as might be adopted for the safety of skiers themselves. The Ski Council has given the Trust its support of this proposal and has formed a sub-committee to discuss the matter further.

As a first instalment of its plans to provide for the comfort and safety of skiers, the Trust decided to erect additional shelter huts at Rock Creek, Consett Stephen Pass and in the Lake Albina area. The hut at Rock Creek is in course of construction and it is hoped that it will be available for use during the coming season.

### **Kosciusko Ski Patrols**

Steps have been taken to put into action a scheme on the lines of the patrol system outlined in Mr. Richards' article elsewhere in this issue. Generally, the object of the scheme is further to ensure the safety of skiers touring on the Main Range and with this end in view the Kosciusko Park Trust

has asked the Ski Council of N.S.W. to nominate skiers of experience willing to act as patrolmen.

In brief, proposals which it is expected to implement this season are as follows:—

Mr. George Day and Mr. Ken Breakspear will act as resident Rangers at the Chalet and Alpine Hut respectively, the latter's territory to extend south to White's River Hut. Working under their direction will be a number of patrol leaders and patrolmen, chosen as far as possible so that there will be some available throughout the season. The duties of the patrols cover the periodic inspection of huts, the checking of wireless and other equipment therein, keeping themselves informed of the movements of touring parties on the Range and advising skiers on necessary equipment and their qualifications to make any particular trip. Patrolmen will have the full authority of the Trust behind them and are instructed to report, through the resident Rangers, any breach of the Safety Rules or refusal on the part of an individual to accept their advice. They will carry a distinguished badge and a copy of their instructions.

The names of selected patrol leaders and patrolmen will be posted at the Chalet and Alpine Hut.

