

# Ski Tourers' Association

By Charles Anton

**D**URING the 1952 season touring skiers were gratified to find Lake Albina Ski Lodge emerging from an experimental project to the centre of main range ski-ing. With the lodge made more comfortable, an increasing number of members and non-members made it their headquarters for extended stays, and also the focal point for day touring from the Chalet. It was not uncommon for experienced touring parties to ski Townsend West Face—the longest run on the range, previously only attempted by a few parties from the Chalet each year—and be back at the lodge for lunch, ready to enjoy afternoon ski-ing in Little Austria.

The 1952 winter set in early and skiers from the lodge were to be found on the snow in April. At Queen's Birthday week-end

snow conditions were icy and the only party which succeeded in reaching Albina Lodge felt that skates would have been more appropriate than skis. This party, returning home via Northcote, found the run from Northcote to Kunama covered with excellent powder snow. This was of particular interest to the sponsors of Northcote Ski Tow Project, and confirmed their previous observation that the Kunama basin offers a large number of comparatively sheltered slopes where good snow may be found when most other runs on the range are covered by sheet ice.

In August and September the lodge was mostly booked out, and during fine spells the emergency accommodation was often put to use. At Six Hour week-end excellent snow

and weather conditions were enjoyed by a party of fifteen. Little Austria, Alice Rawson, Townsend West, and all other "house runs" were in perfect condition, and the downhill running—anything up to 8000 vertical feet in a day—was limited only by the strength of our climbing legs.

A Ski Tow survey party early in November, which included well-known snow architect Malcolm McColl (one of our Victorian members) and our tow adviser and builder, Bill Hawkins, found the projected tow route still fully covered. After a heavy day's work of measuring and marking the route we were rewarded by wonderful ski-ing, the last run off Townsend being made at 7.20 p.m.!

Christmas found the keenest members of Ski Tourers' Association making their way south to the Alps with both skis and shovels strapped to the roofs of cars, bound once again for a combined working and ski-ing holiday. For the second year in succession snow on the Main Range lasted well until mid-summer, conveniently leaving us with a choice of excellent runs in the vicinity of Lake Albina and we were able again to conclude our ski-ing season with our annual summer meeting.

Two races on two different mountains, which constitutes probably a record for Kosciusko, were eventually held on Sunday, December 28. The Albina Summer Slalom Cup, held on Mt. Northcote on the same course as the previous year, was competed for by thirty-six racers, and won by J. Gdowski, of Canberra Ski Club. In the afternoon eighteen competitors took part in a short but steep slalom on a 38° slope on Mt. Townsend. Owing to the additional hazard of rocks on the steep course, only those considered qualified for this race were allowed to start. The race was won by F. Zweifel, of Cooma Ski Club. The number of competitors from different countries points to the international character of the meeting and the important role Ski Tourers' Association is playing in bringing skiers of different nationalities together.



**Alpine Slalom,**  
December 28, 1952.

Photo. F. Spencer.

Weather and snow conditions were ideal during the Christmas and New Year period for the members working on Albina Lodge and Kunama Hutte and work was followed usually by some ski-ing after knock-off time. One night's moonlight ski-ing on a steep slope on Townsend.

During January, February and March work proceeded and progress was made on all projects. Week-end parties of volunteers helped our builders to carry down materials from Northcote for Kunama Hutte and the tow. With all component parts, including rope and driving unit for the tow at the site, and building materials for the warming and engine hut ready at Kunama, we are optimistic about the possibility of the tow being ready for the season although a number of major obstacles have still to be overcome.

#### **Results:**

**Albina Summer Slalom Cup.**—1. J. Gdowski; 2. R. Killingstad; 3. C. Zweifel; 4. F. Tomasi; 5. D. Collman; 6. C. Anton; 7. F. Zweifel; 8. P. Solberg.

**Townsend Alpine Slalom.**—1. F. Zweifel; 2. D. Collman; 3 and 4. R. Killingstad and F. Tomasi; 5. C. Anton; 6. C. Zweifel; 7. J. Gdowski; 8. R. Raubitschek.