



Southern Approach to Blue Cow.

Photo. G. Petersen.

The Perisher Range

By George Petersen

IT is now evident that the Perisher Range has become the main centre of development in the Kosciusko area for Ski Clubs.

This is due to its accessibility. It has proved over a number of years that this area offers excellent snow slopes throughout the winter.

The drive shown by the clubs in building lodges is due to the lack of accommodation on the Southern Alps and a desire to do something for their members.

This is a healthy sign and has brought about increased membership. Those who are keen on snow sport realise, too, that clubs can offer accommodation at lower

rates. Naturally, we must see a further increase in the construction of club lodges. There are now five Club Lodges on the Perisher Range and two more are to be built.

Accommodation available at these lodges is important, for during the months June to September inclusive at least 2000 skiers can be accommodated. How very encouraging when we realise that this has been achieved in such a short time, two years.

The Perisher Range rises sharply (in approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to 2118 feet) from the Snowy River near Mungyang and runs to a point where Spencer's Creek crosses the Summit Road, approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The greater portion of this plateau is over 6000 feet, the right height for good snow and snow-sports. From the Perisher Mountain the range runs north to the Blue Cow Mountain. The eastern side of this portion of the Range is the sheltered side from the blizzards; it is below the Perisher and Back Perisher that so many Club Lodges are being erected.

The snow slopes around and below the lodges are excellent for beginners and for those who are getting on in years, the slopes open downhill, woodruns and country admirably suited for ski-touring.

I have prepared a map, which is included with this article, which shows some suggested ski-tours, each of which I will detail, taking the Telemark Club Lodge as the starting point.

1. **The Blue Cow Ski-tour**—from the Telemark Lodge to the Gap between the Back Perisher and the Middle Perisher you rise from 5600 feet to 6350 feet, a height of 750 feet in a distance of a little over one mile. From the Gap, keep on the western side of the Plateau, as the eastern side is interspersed with stunted snow gums and in places treacherous—continue to the saddle below the Blue Cow 6000 feet then rise to the eastern side and to the north approaching the Blue Cow (6518ft.) along a ridge. The distance from Telemark Lodge to the Blue Cow Mountain is approximately 2½ miles. A magnificent view is obtainable from the top; it is one of the finest and most extensive panoramas in the Ranges. It overlooks the Snowy River from its source to

where it breaks into the lower levels at Island Bend, also an unbroken view of the Main Range from Mt. Kosciusko to Mt. Gungahlin.

2. **Pounds Creek Hut Ski-tour**—Travel from Telemark Lodge to the Gap between the Back Perisher and the Middle Perisher, then turning almost south keeping on a contour of approximately 6200 feet, when near the Perisher turn in a westerly direction on the same contour. By keeping on this level you skirt a number of small timbered valleys, thus avoiding some bad country. On the higher level, too, the snow is better.

On reaching the Paralyser Ridge travel down this spur towards the Snowy River, but on reaching the 5800 contour (approximately) turn west and up the Snowy River Valley to Pounds Creek Hut (5300 feet).

On the return trip travel up the spur of the Paralyser (6517 feet). From Bett's Camp along the valley to Perisher Gap (5900 feet) finally down the Perisher Valley to Telemark Lodge.

3. **Telemark Lodge to the Porcupine**—A very easy trip is to the Porcupine on Crackenback Range via Rack Creek, a distance of only 2 miles and return the same way—as a variation, return by turning in a westerly direction from the Porcupine for about one mile, then turn towards the Summit roadway on the western side of Mt. Wheatley, then through Perisher Gap and along Perisher Creek to Telemark Lodge—returning by this way it is 3½ miles. In this trip you rise no more than 500 feet.

An extensive view of the Thredbo Valley is obtained from the Porcupine.