

SKI TOURERS ASSOCIATION REPORT

By CHARLES ANTON

The Kunama disaster and the Tow House fire, with the resultant loss of five years of arduous work, left the Association in a very much weakened position.

If we had only had to deal with the destruction of Kunama, it would have been obvious that with the Northcote Tow and the Tow House still operating, we could have rebuilt in the Kunama Valley in a different position. The loss of all our installations in the Kunama Valley (including even the poles of the ski tow which were twisted and bent by snow creep), coupled with the projected development at the Thredbo, presented us with two alternatives. One was to rebuild in the Kunama Valley in the face of very great transport difficulties, as wheeled transport is no longer allowed, and all our building materials would have had to be brought in by snow vehicle. The other was to build a base in the Thredbo Valley. Two sub-committees (the Kunama re-building sub-committee and the Thredbo Lodge sub-committee) were formed, and after lengthy deliberations it was decided to recommend to our members that re-building plans for the Kunama Valley should be shelved in favour of a large lodge in the Thredbo.

Roslyn Lodge

Ever since that fateful day in July, 1956, we have been thinking about a fitting tribute to the girl who was killed, Roslyn Twynam Wesche, and as soon as we decided to build our next Lodge in the Thredbo, we contacted Anne and Ven Wesche who very kindly consented to the new building being named "The Roslyn Lodge."

A Roslyn Lodge sub-committee with Peter Blaxland as chairman was formed, Imre and Julius Soos were appointed

honorary lodge designers, and they drew up very attractive plans for a 22-bed lodge. The building and furnishings are expected to cost in the vicinity of £9,000, and up to now 250 members have joined Roslyn Lodge project.

Lake Albina Ski Lodge

Lodge bookings for the past year were, to say the least, disappointing. One of setbacks was that we could not use the snow vehicle which was to facilitate ingress to Albina.

The Trust has completed a snowpole line from Crackenback Peak to the first Snowy bridge, on the Kosciuszko road, so that pole lines now lead from the Chalet via Seaman's to Albina, and from the Chalet or Albina via the first Snowy bridge to Crackenback Peak.

Illawong Ski Lodge

John Turner advises that the 8-bed lodge is almost completed. Recently an 83 feet bridge was built across the Snowy near Illawong, assuring access at all times to the magnificent main range touring areas of Twynam, Tate, etc. The lodge has been beautifully finished, and will be a worthy successor of Kunama and a proud addition to the Ski Tourers' family of huts.

Midsummer Races

The stage was set for successful Christmas races on the South American drift on Mt. Northcote. The Gam tow had worked well the previous two days, and we expected 50 competitors and up to 1,000 spectators. On Saturday evening it started to pour; it rained and stormed all night. Sunday morning there was a break in the weather, and the organisers decided to try to hold the races. At 1 o'clock the race for the Albina Summer Slalom Cup was run in a peaspout fog.



Main Range Kosciusko.

The snow was excellent and fast, and the 32-gate course set by Tony Sponar was fluent and tricky. Some 20 competitors took part. Gate watchers could literally see only their own gates. Nevertheless, the standard of racing was high. The men's section was won by Tony Mandlik and the women's section by Christine Davy, whose time in the race placed her second among the men. It is again interesting to note that the first seven competitors came from different countries. Owing to the deteriorating

weather, the Hans Neering Memorial Race and the Jumping display on the jumping hill built by Paul Reader had to be abandoned.

ALBINA SUMMER SLALOM (2 runs).
MEN.

1	Toni Mandlik	m.	3	10
2	Trond Aspaas		3	41
3	Joe Steiner		3	58
4	Bob Janata		4	01
5	Gianni Destefanis		4	12
6	Bebby Gutknechtill		4	20
7	Ross Allen		4	47
WOMEN.				
1	Christine Davy		3	41
2	Margaret Hockam		4	23
3	Pat Biershank		5	21