

TASMANIAN SECTION

Editorial Notes

In Tasmania the 1937 winter and spring were unusually dry and cold and the consequent lack or shortage of snow restricted the outburst of ski-ing activity that the new mountain roads have been kindling. The strength and length of the June and July frosts were of some compensation however to southern skiers, as well as to "Oldest Inhabitants"; and not a few skiers were able to divert their energies to outdoor skating upon the various lakes and tarns of Mount Field National Park.

Uncertain spring snow, together with thaws, even on Ben Lomond, prevented

the annual State meeting. This was, of course, an unfortunate occurrence, as the Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club had gone to considerable trouble to organise arrangements, and indeed had enjoyed very fair ski-ing, and week-end races close up to the date of the proposed State meeting. Nevertheless, the N.T.A.C. was the most fortunate club, as on their own Ben Lomond "stamping" ground they enjoyed much more ski-running than the southern clubs got on Mount Field; and, while conditions were not sufficiently good at the time of the State meeting, they were varying so that club races and a subsidiary meeting in lieu of the cancelled State meeting were carried through on a number of week-ends.



—L. E. Luckman.

EVENING ON MT. WELLINGTON.

During the earlier part of the winter a new ski club was organised by the formation of a ski-ing section of the Hobart Walking Club, and some two dozen members of the group practised most assiduously upon Mount Wellington and Mount Field. The keenness of the Hobart Ski-Walker-Trampers is a welcome sign, and it is probable that their ceaseless peregrinations over rocks, logs, button-grass, and other indigenous obstacles will produce future prodigies in the matter of langlaufers, as well as speed merchants; for during the winter Mr. G. V. Rush gave, and with good effect, some much needed instruction to the younger Mount Wellington skiers.

A further extension of scenic mountain roads is now being completed in the Lake Dobson Road. This is an extension of the Lake Fenton Road for some mile and a half or more over undulating moors to the slopes at Lake Dobson. These

slopes afford very fair practice for beginners, while half an hour's steep walk brings one on to the high ridges of Mount Mawson, where late spring snow gives drift ski-ing until late in the season, if the year is at all good. The distance to Lake Dobson is well under sixty miles from Hobart and the elevation about 3,500 feet.

SKI CLUB OF TASMANIA

Club Report

The 1937 season was a poor one from the orthodox viewpoint of ski-ing and to some purists matters were made worse by a dreadful disaffection of interest that appeared after the severe winter frosts. Ice! clear hard ice, occurred for some six weeks or more, and not a few members found solace in gyrating about to the relentless tune of the skaters' waltz, and other die-hards of the hut gramophone. This indefatigable instrument temporarily mounted upon the wood sledge encouraged the heresy, and both by night and by day most entertaining spectacles were to be seen upon the broad acres of ice before the main hut. August, however, saw the final disappearance of the ice, and further snowfalls brought the idolaters to practise for the State meeting that was scheduled for early September upon Ben Lomond. Snow, however, on Mount Field was rather poor and conditions generally were only suitable for slaloming. Despite such troubles, the club members had a number of pleasant visits to the club huts and were considerably disappointed when they returned to their cars after the last trip, to learn that the State meeting had been postponed, and that they would have to carry all their spare gear and skis back to Twilight Tarn.

As in previous years the club made accommodation available to students of the Tasmanian University, and a University party spent a week at Lake Newdegate, where they got a practical experience of ventilation and air-conditioning denied to students in less fortunately located centres of learning.



—W. D. Counsell.
S.C.T. HUT, MT. FIELD, 1937.