

Victorian Ski-ing Grounds

A Victorian correspondent sends us the following description of the ski-ing terrain in the Victorian sector of the Alps:—

Mount Buffalo, National Park, with its new ski-run, extending from the back of the Horn in the direction of the Hump, offers some of the best ski-ing to be had in Australia. The floor of the Buffalo plateau averages 4,500 feet in height, and from it rise the numerous peaks and rock formations which are a feature of the National Park.

Situated there is the commodious chalet, with accommodation for 200 guests, who are particularly well catered for. Ice skating on Lake Catani (in season), all manner of snow sports and the brilliant social life combine to sponsor Buffalo's popularity. Sydney travellers break their journey at Wangaratta and travel the 18-mile drive from Porepunkah in the luxurious chalet service cars.

Then, there is the adjunct to Mount Buffalo—the bungalow which has been erected at Mount Feathertop—where the second highest mountain in Victoria provides fine ski slopes. The snow season here is even longer than at Buffalo, and magnificent ski-runs are available until as late as the mid-spring season. In the very heart of the Victorian Alps, Feathertop offers rare sport to the ski-ing novice or expert. From Feathertop, the Razor Back ridge runs five miles southerly to Mount Hotham. There is no element of risk attached to this journey in the event of any bad weather, for frequent spurs extend from the ridge to Harrietville, and these safety exits also lead from the peaks along the seven-mile route to Mount St. Bernard.

Mount Hotham, with its two-storey stone hospice, is the centre of outlying snowfields, along which are Mount St. Bernard, Mount Feathertop, the Bogong High Plains and Mount Loch. Thirty miles of snow poles guide the skiers over the Victorian Alps. Visiting skiers would be well advised to approach the snowfields of the Alps by way of the Mount McKay and Mount Nelse end of the Bogong Plains.

At Glen Wills, 2,300 feet high, the track branches off and faces north for six miles to a height of 4,600 feet. At Wild Horse Creek, the 20 miles of snow poles end on the line from Hotham. Another three miles finds Kelly's and Fitzgerald's Huts, and another six miles leads to the recently built Mount Cope Hut. Here is one of the finest ski-ing grounds in Victoria—a two-mile valley, whence radiate minor valleys whose ski-ing possibilities are un-

limited, and which is safe in the worst of weather, for the snow poles are easily located and are all numbered. There are seven outlying habitable huts on the Bogong Plains, no one of which is more than six miles from the central Cope Hut.

Donna Buang is only 60 miles from Melbourne, and is the nearest snow mountain to the metropolis. About 4,000 feet above sea level, this slope has attracted many enthusiasts whose time does not permit of their going farther afield. Lake Mountain, past Marysville, is higher, but the cleared slopes are limited. Mount Buller, reached by way of Mansfield, is 5,934 feet high, and is but a day's journey from Melbourne. Easy gradients are readily accessible, and the opportunities for ski-ing practically unlimited.
