

Mount Buller

The Chalet at Mount Buller, in Victoria, was built towards the end of 1929, and is already becoming widely and favourably known to skiers. The excellent country available for racing is indicated by the fact that the Victorian Championship for 1931 will be held there. The following article on the district and the accommodation will interest those who are anxious to see the opening of new centres.—Editor "A.S.Y.B."

When one's experience of the snow is limited to Victoria, it is a trifle difficult to assign the proper relative value to the conditions at Mt. Buller in describing them to persons familiar only with Mt. Kosciusko and its surroundings. One must refrain from making comparisons and resist the temptation to be parochial. There are, of course, some who have visited both places, and it is perhaps permissible to say, generally, that they think that Mt. Buller is comparable to the surroundings of Charlotte's Pass. As to whether Mt. Buller is excelled in Victoria there is, of course, room for argument, but there is certainly no doubt that there is no other place in Victoria which offers such good snow conditions, coupled with comfortable accommodation and accessibility.

The Summit of the mountain is approximately 6,000 feet high and is situated at the western end of a broad



MOUNT BULLER SUMMIT.
From the Chalet side.



MOUNT BULLER SUMMIT.
From the Howqua side.

ridge, running east and west, and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. Practically the whole of this ridge, comprising an area of about four square miles, is above the line of snow gums, and there is to be found such an infinite variety of slopes as to indulge any taste. The situation of the Chalet is at the eastern end of the ridge, in the shelter of a grove of mountain ash. From it the ridge rises fairly steeply for a short distance, and then gradually to the last steep run off the Summit. This arrangement is, of course, ideal, as it enables one at the end of the day to enjoy an exhilarating run home of from two to two and a half miles.

In the vicinity of the Chalet the trees are moderately well spaced, and when snow is plentiful there is a splendid run through the trees for about a mile below the Chalet. Less than a hundred yards from the house there is an excellent practice slope for beginners, where any one, however unskilled, may stop at the end of a run with becoming dignity. Off the side of this slope a first-class jump has been built, and, although it was not in proper order last season, it is expected that the experts will do fifty metres on it. To the writer, as one of the uninitiated, it looks like the point of departure to another world. The story of the first trial trip on it lends colour to this thought. Helmut Kofler, who conducts the Chalet and who was an amateur champion in Austria a few years ago, can seldom have done such a jump before. The landing slope had not been completed, and to reach a safe landing

angle it was necessary to jump about 110 feet. The take-off was slow, but he allowed himself to be persuaded by some visitors. The first time he touched was on the flat 100 feet from the take-off, but he landed on the proper slope a second or two later—twice. On the next trip he did about 105 feet, but didn't bounce quite so high. After that he decided to try again this year.



MOUNT BULLER CHALET.

Visitors to Mt. Buller are extremely fortunate to have as host such a polished artist as Kofler. It is rarely, indeed, that one meets an individual who so thoroughly understands the art of enjoying life and providing amusement. Perhaps that is largely the reason why he makes such a good instructor.

The Chalet itself needs no apology, though it may lack aesthetic appeal. Practical considerations influenced its design, and no visitor has ever complained of lack of comfort. Comfortable bedrooms, a well-heated lounge and dining-room, a permanent water supply, with ample hot water and a sewerage system, contribute to the comfort of visitors, while an excellent table is provided by the capable housekeeping of Mrs. Kofler. If one adds to this the warm welcome which is extended to visitors by Mr. and Mrs. Kofler, it is difficult to imagine a place where one could derive such full measure of enjoyment from a trip to the snow.

The Chalet is reached from Melbourne by train to Mansfield, and a car to the end of the road, about 17 miles



FROM THE FRONT DOOR, MOUNT BULLER CHALET.

further on, or by car, about 145 miles from Melbourne. From the end of the road, visitors ride on horseback about seven miles right to the Chalet. Arrangements could be made for a service car to meet New South Wales visitors at Albury.

This year, the Ski Club of Victoria will hold its championship meeting at Mt. Buller, from the 17th to 21st August.



HELMAT KOFLER OF MOUNT BULLER.
On one of the near slopes.