

Mount Bogong

By C. J. M. Cole.

The origin of the word "Bogong" may be traced to the Victorian aborigines. When early settlers pointed to the mountain, the answer was always, "Bogong." Inquiries revealed that it took its name from the thousands of Bogong moths which die on its summit and which were a valuable source of food to the natives in summer.

It is curious that, although the highest mountain in New South Wales has long been developed as a ski-ing resort, Mount Bogong, the highest in Victoria, has been neglected in favor of other centres. A scheme has now been evolved for the development of Bogong and has the approval of the Ski Club of Victoria. If members support it in the way it is felt they should, what is believed to be the finest ski-ing terrain in the State will soon be opened up.

In 1928 a party of four members of the Melbourne Walking Club made the first winter ascent on ski, approaching the summit from the Bogong High Plains. A brief stay was made at the cairn and the party then returned to their base camp on



A map showing the various approaches to Mt. Bogong, the highest mountain in Victoria.

the Big River, more than 3,000 feet below. It was not until 1932 that further attention was paid to this monarch of Victoria's mountains, when another party of three from the same club approached it by a similar route, and, after making a brief stay on top, passed over it and down the Staircase Spur to Tawonga, thus completing the first winter traverse. Members of both parties considered that excellent ski-ing grounds existed on Bogong.

After considerable investigation and an ascent under conditions free from snow, I became firm in the opinion that, owing to its altitude and bulk, it must have good ski-ing slopes. Accordingly, during the same winter (1932), I made an ascent on ski by the Staircase route, to demonstrate the shortness and suitability of approach and with the ultimate object of developing a scheme to open up the country for the benefit of ski-runners.

From the inception of interest in the mountain, it was felt that it would repay every attention given and subsequent explorations have impressed each and every member of the various parties. The president of the S.C.V. (Mr. Arthur Shands) remarked that it was the nearest approach to Kosciusko country that he knew of in Victoria, and Mr. Roy Weston, who has produced a fine map of the area, is also enthusiastic about it.

At present a winter stay is possible only to those willing to use a grazier's hut in Camp Valley—the only accommodation available—and they must be familiar with the approach and the general outline of the country, a proposition by no means formidable.

The principal features of the scheme are the erection of a bivouac at an altitude of 4,800 feet, a hut at 6,000 feet, and a chalet in Camp Valley, on the eastern fall of the mountain. The necessary money for the bivouac having been raised, a start has been made with its erection, and it is hoped that this will be completed before the winter sets in. Several donations have been promised, one from a woman member being ear-marked for the erection of snow-poles. Offers of help in the carrying out of social or other functions have also been gratefully accepted.

The building of a chalet should not be regarded as an idle dream. At present the Ski Club of Victoria has no "home" of its own, and it undoubtedly should have one on this unsurpassable mountain. The erection could be arranged progressively as funds became available. The advantages are many:—

Recognised test courses could be provided as a means of improving the standard of ski-ing and bringing tests into uniformity; the storage of equipment, both club and personal; the introduction of a regular transport system to the snow-line; and, lastly, the improvement of the fellowship of the club.

New South Wales skiers contemplating visits to our resorts will be interested to learn that Mount Bogong is the nearest skiable mountain to the border. Leaving the train at Wodonga, a regular car service connects with Tawonga, running the length of the beautiful Kiewa Valley.

It is hoped that Bogong will soon be patronised by our best

ski-runners, whose ambition should be to sample the slopes for themselves. No difficulty will then be experienced in opening up the country in a manner which will make it reasonably accessible and safe, and ensure the provision of satisfactory accommodation.

Victorian Ski Races, 1933

Bad weather affected the Victorian and S.C.V. races at Mount Buller during the first week in August and many events were never completed. Owing to a mistake among competitors as to the course, the open long-distance championship was declared "no race."

Results.

Open Slalom Championship.—T. Mitchell (55.6, 55.4 sec.), 1; E. Adamson (82, 88.8), 2; F. Ewert (96.2, 108.6), 3; M. Romuld (105.6, 102.6), 4; D. Stogdale (75, 153.2), 5; Miss K. Moore (128, 102.4), 6; H. Goldby, 7; G. Austin, 8; A. Brockhoff, 9; C. Wraith, 10; C. Davenport, 11; L. Brooks, 12.

Women's Open Slalom Championship.—Miss K. Moore (70.4, 70.2 sec.), 1; Mrs. A. Brockhoff (105, 111), 2; Mrs. A. Varnum (96.4, 131), 3; Miss R. Good (138.6, 189), 4; Miss D. Tickle (197, 171.8), 5.

S.C.V. Long Distance Championship.—F. Ewert (100 min. 20 sec.), 1; C. Wraith (103.18), 2; C. Davenport (111.14), 3.

Open Jumping Championship.—M. Romuld (218.9 points), 1; H. Kofler (211.4), 2; D. Stogdale (170.7), 3; E. Adamson (102.8), 4.

S.C.V. Jumping Championship.—D. Stogdale, 1; E. Adamson, 2.

Events at Mount Donna Buang.

Two slalom events were conducted at Mount Donna Buang on August 27 and hundreds of non-skiers from Melbourne and Warburton saw their first competitive ski-ing. Results:—

Men's Slalom.—D. Stogdale (32½, 30 sec.), 1; E. Adamson (37, 41), 2; F. Ewert (34, 44½), 3.

Women's Slalom.—Miss K. Moore (38, 40 sec.), 1; Miss D. Tickle (41, 40½), 2; Miss K. Magill (52½, 43½), 3.

Wangaratta Ski Club.

The Wangaratta Ski Club held a meeting at Mount Feather-top on August 20. Results:—

Open Slalom.—P. E. Hull (106, 91.2 sec.), 1; C. Wraith (101.6, 104), 2; C. Davenport (113.6, 138), 3; L. Boyce (149.4, 134.6), 4; E. Robinson (155, 130.4), 5; K. McDonald (177.2, 148.6), 6.

Club Slalom.—P. E. Hull, 1; C. Wraith, 2; L. Boyce, 3; K. McDonald, 4.

Open Downhill.—E. Robinson (46 sec.), 1; C. Davenport (48), 2; C. Wraith (48.6), 3; P. E. Hull (51), 4; L. Rolling, 5; K. McDonald, 6; V. Walker, 7; E. Hoy, 8; L. Boyce, 9.

Club Downhill.—C. Wraith, 1; P. E. Hull, 2; L. Rolling, 3; K. McDonald, 4.