



MOUNT BULLER CHALET IMPROVEMENTS

By Helmut Kofler

THE Country Roads Board has under construction the final stage of the motor road to the Mount Buller Chalet and is determined to have the road finished for the 1939 season. The Chalet is the nearest resort to Melbourne and can now be reached by car within four to five hours; cars will be able to drive up to the Chalet door during the winter. The road will be kept open by a snow-plough. Garages will be provided at the Chalet. Extensive additions will be carried out at the Chalet and will be completed before the snow season, but only minor alterations will be made to the existing portion of the building this year. The additions will be carried out externally in wide rough sawn weather-board and insulated internally. One of the main features of the design will be large windows and the provision of a sun deck and sun terrace.

A new bedroom wing will be constructed towards the north-east and will consist of ten rooms with two beds each, large windows and built-in furniture. No more bunk rooms will be added in the new section. Two larger bedrooms with private bathrooms will be another feature and a wider stairway will lead down to a lower ground floor where bathrooms, drying room and boiler room will be situated. A new and efficient hot water system will be installed and adequate bathing facilities will be provided. An extensive north-west wing will also be added and will contain a sun-room with plateglass on three sides and doors opening on to a sun-terrace where tea can be served. The flat roof over the sun-room will form a sun-deck. Under the sun-terrace on the lower ground floor level a café will be provided for convenience of casual visitors. This café will be used in the evenings by Chalet guests. In addition to the café on this section of the lower ground floor there will be two sitting-rooms available for private parties. The large new ski-store and ski-waxing room will be entered along an enclosed corridor off the main hall. This building will also contain a hire-ski-room. The caterpillar tractor used for keeping the road clear will find continuous use pulling a sledge with a char-a-banc body from the Chalet up to the summit. This trip will take half to three-quarters of an hour and will land skiers at the top snow-pole. The summit trip will thus become a half-day trip. The afternoon may then be spent on the slopes along the ski lift. A new ski lift will be constructed on the back of Horse Hill. This will cover a distance of approximately 400 feet and an altitude of 200 feet and will be constructed with a continuously moving overhead cable with hanging seats, enabling the skier to sit with his feet on the ground. The slopes near the ski lift vary from 12° to 25° so that skiers of all standards can derive benefit from it. By staying at the Chalet for a week and using the ski lift one can have as much downhill running as in three weeks prior to the construction of the ski lift.

An assistant instructor will help Mr. Helmut Kofler in the conduct of the ski-ing school, races and tests. Downhill tests will be held weekly over a standard course. The actual size of the Chalet will be trebled, but the number of beds will only be increased from thirty-five to sixty-seven, and with the new staff quarters the staff will be more than proportionally increased, and will afford more comfort and better service. With a good motor road to the door, added comfort in the Chalet, and a sun-room, Mount Buller Chalet will become just as attractive to the rest-seeking visitor as to the really energetic type of skier.