

Notes from the Victorian Railways Commissioners.

Mt. Hotham.

DESTROYED by bush fires in January, 1939, "Hotham Heights", Mount Hotham, was completely rebuilt a few yards away from the original site, 6,000 ft. above sea level. [For description, see Mr. Hull's article.—Editor.]

Ski-ing at Mount Hotham on New Year's Day, 1940, was an indication of the record-breaking snow sports season Victoria experienced during the year under review. Not for many years were skiers able to participate in their exhilarating sport for such a prolonged period. For two weeks a miner was employed at Mount Hotham driving tunnels from the main building to the out-buildings!

Besides re-building, considerable improvements were carried out at Mount Buffalo National Park and Mount Hotham. These included the clearing and grading of tracks and snow runs, and were carried out by the Railways Department in conjunction with the Mount Buffalo National Park Committee.

The Bon Accord Hut was re-built and now it is proudly proclaimed to be the best hut in the Australian Alps. [This should start a controversy.—Editor.] In addition, the Bon Accord Track itself was further improved. As the Hospice at Mount St. Bernard had been destroyed in the bush fires of 1939, almost the whole of the winter traffic to Mount Hotham was diverted via the Bon Accord Track. The Railways Department handled this heavier traffic by providing an increased supply of horses, as many as 28 guests, with luggage, being transported at one time.

Mt. Buffalo.

The year 1939 has seen further improvements in the accommodation at Mount Buffalo National Park. Additional de luxe bedrooms, bed sitting rooms and suites enhanced the reputation of the Chalet as one of Australia's finest guest-houses.

Once again the ski-tow at Mount Buffalo National Park proved most popular. This endless, moving rope is located alongside the Cresta Run and enables skiers to return to the top of the run without an arduous climb, thus providing more opportunities for downhill running.

The Ski Schools.

During the season under review, visiting continental ski-ing teachers again conducted classes at Mount Buffalo National Park and Mount Hotham. Each winter season since 1936 a ski school has been conducted at Mount Buffalo; last season was the second occasion on which visitors to Mount Hotham had the benefit of tuition. Here are details of the classes during the 1939 season:—

	Mt. Buffalo.	Mt. Hotham.
Number attending classes	996	198
Obtained preliminary certificate	141	66
Obtained intermediate certificate	16	124
Obtained final certificate	—	8

Since the commencement of the Arlberg classes in Victoria, nearly 5,000 people have acquired a knowledge of this famous technique. Most of these people were new to ski-ing and their rapid passage through the elementary stages has made them eagerly await the advent of each snow sports season.