

VICTORIAN SKI ASSOCIATION

Extracts from Annual Report—Season 1956

The Association was formed in July of last year to combine the interests of all Victorian Skiing Clubs and to provide



and advance the combined objectives of these clubs particularly in the development of Victorian skiing areas and in advancing the technical standards of the sport.

Despite the many difficulties inherent

the establishment of an organisation such as this a number of results have already been achieved and a satisfactory organisation has been established to pursue these objects in future years.

Membership

Membership of the Association is open to all bona-fide Ski Club whose interests are in Victorian snow areas. Foundation members of the Association numbered 13 and a further 5 clubs have been admitted during the year thus making a total membership of 38 Ski Clubs representing over 3,300 individual members at the date of this Report.

Office Bearers and Committees

Office bearers of the Association for the year were as follows:—

Honorary President, Mr. W. Begg; Past President, Mr. E. Burt; Hon. Vice Presidents, Messrs. R. McNabb and F. Griffith; Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. Goldby; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Lamb; Executive Committee, Messrs. W. Begg, E. Burt, R. Lamb, M. Goldby, R. McNabb, V. Corr, J. Brimage, H. W. Goldby, F. Griffith; Skiing Improvements Fund Committee, Messrs. R. Lamb (Chairman), A. Davies (Secretary), M. McColl, P. Edwards, Miss A. England; Racing Committee, Messrs. T. Fisher (Chairman), B. Osborne, Mrs. C. Ross, Mr. R. Young, Miss C. Dean, Messrs. G. Chisholm, J. Robertson, Mt. Buller Development, Mr. V. Corr. A.N.S.F. Representative (co-opted), Mr. H. W. Goldby. Social Secretary, Mrs. M. Kendall. Hon. Assist. Secretaries, Miss G. Tregear and Mrs. L. Tainsh. Red Cross Ski Rescue Service, Mr. R. Quilliam.

Australian National Ski Federation: Negotiation to Assume State Control

Lack of finance has prevented the Association from giving full assurance to the National Body of undertaking in full the organisation of the technical aspects of the sport. A technical committee to consider these matters is in course

of formation and it is anticipated that action to reinstitute a system of ski tests will be taken next season.

It is hoped that execution of these and associated functions will make practicable the early assumption of membership of the National body, as contemplated in the formation of the Association.

Official Journal

A major difficulty to overcome was the provision of a suitable medium to present a full coverage of club news and events to as wide a field as possible.

Previous experience had shown the economic difficulties involved with the existence of two competing periodicals, and with a long established journal being published by a member club, it was not thought desirable to forthwith publish a second journal in competition.

We are pleased at this stage to be able to announce that, with the co-operation of the Ski Club of Victoria, their periodical Schuss will, from early in 1957, be pulished by Ski Publication Ltd. and will be the approved official journal of this Association.

Skiing Improvements Fund Committee

Early in the activities of the Association arrangements were made to assume from the trustees of the Federation of Victorian Ski Clubs, funds held by them in respect of contributions made for the further development of skiing areas and associated projects.

Trustees were appointed and a Committee formed under the authority of a Deed of Trust executed by the Association to administer this fund. Revenue is received from contributions guaranteed by all member clubs, calculated on the basis of 6d. per member per night for each night spent in club accommodation on the snow, and mainly collected by clubs as part of the booking fee.

As the response to this scheme could not be accurately assessed, expenditure

was limited during the current period. A substantial amount is now available for allocation and it is proposed that work on a number of approved projects will be undertaken this summer.

Action is in hand to obtain the co-operation of various commercial enterprises in this scheme and considerable benefit should ensue in seasons to come from the fund.

Expenditure from the central fund included grants to the expenses of the Red Cross Ski Rescue Service, expenditure on clearing at Mt. Hotham, and maintenance of the Joyce Brockhoff Memorial Cabin at Mt. Hotham. The Falls Creek Area Fund is administered separately by that Committee, where a first aid and amenities block is in course of construction from the monies made available for that area.

National Parks Authority

The Association was most gratified by the action of the present Government in providing for representation of our Association on the newly created National Parks Authority, which can be considered as a recognition by them of the large part played by our members in the development of alpine areas.

Our Association has also recently been accepted as a corporate member of the National Parks Association. This will give us further opportunities to co-operate with other public bodies in the care and protection of our mountain reserves and in the development of appropriate tourist areas in the alpine region.

Race Committee

Several Race Committee meetings were held during the year to organise the season's activities, members travelling from Wangaratta, Myrtleford and Seymour to attend. A most comprehensive programme was drafted covering Alpine and Nordic events for all types competitors, including Junior, Intermediate and Senior stands for Club, State and National events and were conducted at Mt.

Buller, Mt. Hotham and Falls Creek. The programme of events were printed and published by Mr. B. Osborne, of Wangaratta, and prove most useful to all racers and officials. The programme was carried out fairly strictly as laid down but bad weather caused the postponement of some events.

Members of the Committee worked exceedingly hard on the snow to make a success of the events, and the thanks of the Association are due to them and the many others who co-operated in the conduct of races. Many former racers came forward with offers to assist, but we must strive to have racing representatives from all clubs when events are held. This was most effectively demonstrated by the events conducted by the North East Districts Ski Association at Falls Creek.

Red Cross Ski Rescue Service

Although provision was made for the operation of the Red Cross Ski Rescue Service as a committee responsible to the body, terms of reference have not as yet been established and during the period under review the service continued to operate independently under the control of the Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society.

Mt. Buller Development

The Association has actively assisted throughout the season in the further development of the Mt. Buller area. Messrs. V. Corr and H. Doughty have acted as our representatives on the Mt. Buller Committee of Management which operates under the control of the Forests Commission of Victoria and whose activities in supervisory planning of the Mt. Buller village cannot be too highly commended. Unfortunately lack of funds somewhat limits the scope of this Committee and it is felt that greater opportunity could be given them by the Government to develop the natural tourist resources of the mountain which have been so enhanced by the investment of private skiing interests.

Road access to this area has been progressively improved and with the co-operation of the Country Roads Board, the road to the Old Chalet site remained open throughout the winter. It has now become imperative that the private road between this place and the Mt. Buller Village be replaced and it is understood that the C.R.B. are willing to undertake this work when funds become available.

Falls Creek Area

The general operation and development of the Falls Creek Village continues to be undertaken by the Falls Creek Advisory Committee under the authority of the State Electricity Commission.

The North East District Ski Association which is an inter-association combining the interests of Ski Clubs in that part of the State continues to act as the skiers' administrative body and has greatly assisted this Association in its establishment amongst those clubs.

Concerning the Village proper—access continued to remain a problem and this year was limited to Turnback Creek for the greater part of the season. However, the tractor service which operated throughout the winter greatly assisted clubs in this regard.

The area is greatly appreciative of the assistance given by the State Electricity Commission in its development and its assistance in overcoming the many problems associated with the further establishment of the Village.

Mt. Hotham Area

The major development during the season in this area was the development of the over snow tractor service inaugurated by Hotham Chalet Ltd. This service operated most satisfactorily and greatly assisted all clubs in facilitating access. The Country Roads Board again assisted in the clearing of the road. During August/September the Association conducted the Inter-dominion and National racing events in this area and appreciation is expressed for the assistance

given to the Organising Committee by Hotham Chalet Ltd., Ski Tows Pty Ltd. and resident clubs in the conduct of these events.

Financial Members of the Victorian Ski Association as at — 30/9/56.

Name of Club	Registered Membership
Alpine Ski Club	40
Australian Postal Institute Ski Club	80
Australian Women's Ski Club	100
Albury Ski Club	170
Bogong Ski Club	100
Bowna Ski Club	21
Belmore Ski Club	25
B.M.W. Ski Club	14
Bombarra Ski Club	24
Chamois Ski Club	30
C.S.I.R. Ski Club	154
Dandenong Ski Club	24
Edelweiss Ski Club	38
Elk Ski Club	25
Firn Ski Club	20
Grey Rocks Ski Club	12
Gliss Ski Club	24
Junior Ski Club of Australia	80
Mawson Skiing and Towing Club ..	20
Monsanto Ski Club	24
Moose Ski Club	14
Melbourne University Ski Club ..	100
Myrtleford Ski Club	32
Morona Towalla Ski Club	30
Omega Ski Club	20
Royal Australian Navy Ski Club ..	24
Reindeer Ski Club	24
Ski Club of Victoria	1,188
South Australian Ski Club	91
Southern Cross Ski Club	22
St. Trinian's Ski Club	20
Tallangatta Ski Club	20
Twenty Five Ski Club	25
U.L.L.R. Ski Club	8
University Ski Club	452
Wangaratta Ski Club	96
Youth Hostels Association Ski Club	150
Yurredla Ski Club	16
Total 38 Clubs	3,357