

## The Alpine Hut, Brassy Mountain

By T. Southwell Keeley

**T**HE year 1939 saw the opening up of an entirely new snow area 20 miles north of the Chalet. This was accomplished with the building of what is known as the Alpine Hut at an elevation of 5,400 ft. at the foot of the Brassy Mountain, exactly 50 miles from Cooma. It is situated in excellent snow country in the heart of the Main Range.

The hut owes its origin to the foresight and enthusiasm of Mr. Oliver Moriarty whose work and tenacity made the venture a success from the inception. He formed a small no-profit proprietary company known as the Alpine Hut Club Pty., Ltd., to finance and build the hut. The company consists of fifty enthusiasts, mostly members of the Kosciusko Alpine Club, and the club itself is also an individual shareholder. Messrs. K. Breakspear, C. King and L. Lochrin are the other directors.

The exact situation of the hut is on Dead Horse Creek at the foot of the Brassy Mountain. Title is being obtained for an area of 40 acres which runs from the building site to the slopes at the back of the hut. A road is being surveyed to the hut.

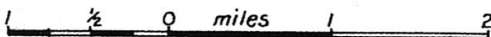
The hut is reached from Cooma by 'bus to Berridale, where the local garage-man meets parties and drives them to the snow-line at Snowy Plains. The route is via the Jindabyne-Adaminaby Road to the Snowy Plains Road, and then across the Eucumbene River and over Nimmo Mountain to Snowy Plains House. From Snowy Plains House to the hut is a total distance of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the way in is actually the natural one to the mountains. For the most part of the way it is well defined, as it is the stock route by which cattle and sheep are taken in for summer grazing, or to Victoria markets. Unlike the road to the Hotel, a road could have been built to the mountains comparatively cheaply by following this stock route.

The climb up to Brassy Gap is arduous, but in the coming season pack-horses will be used to carry packs and ski to this point. This will make the trip comparatively easy. In any normal season ski would be put on at this stage, and there is an excellent steady run of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Kidman's Hut. Sometimes the snow-line, as in the last season, was for a time down as far as Snowy Plains House. From Kidman's to the Alpine Hut is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the going is easy, except for one steady climb. During the coming season Ray Adams will guide parties in to the hut and act as guide for the many trips which can be made from the hut.

The hut is 40 ft. x 16 ft. and is built of galvanised iron and lined with an insulating board, which at the same time presents a pleasant colour scheme. Plans are in hand to spend a further £200 to enlarge the hut to provide accommodation for 18 and make it more comfortable for the coming season. At present it consists of a kitchen-dining room, three dormitories to accommodate 14 in all and a shower room. It is furnished and fully equipped and heated throughout. Supplies are taken up in the summer, and meat and vegetables are obtained locally.

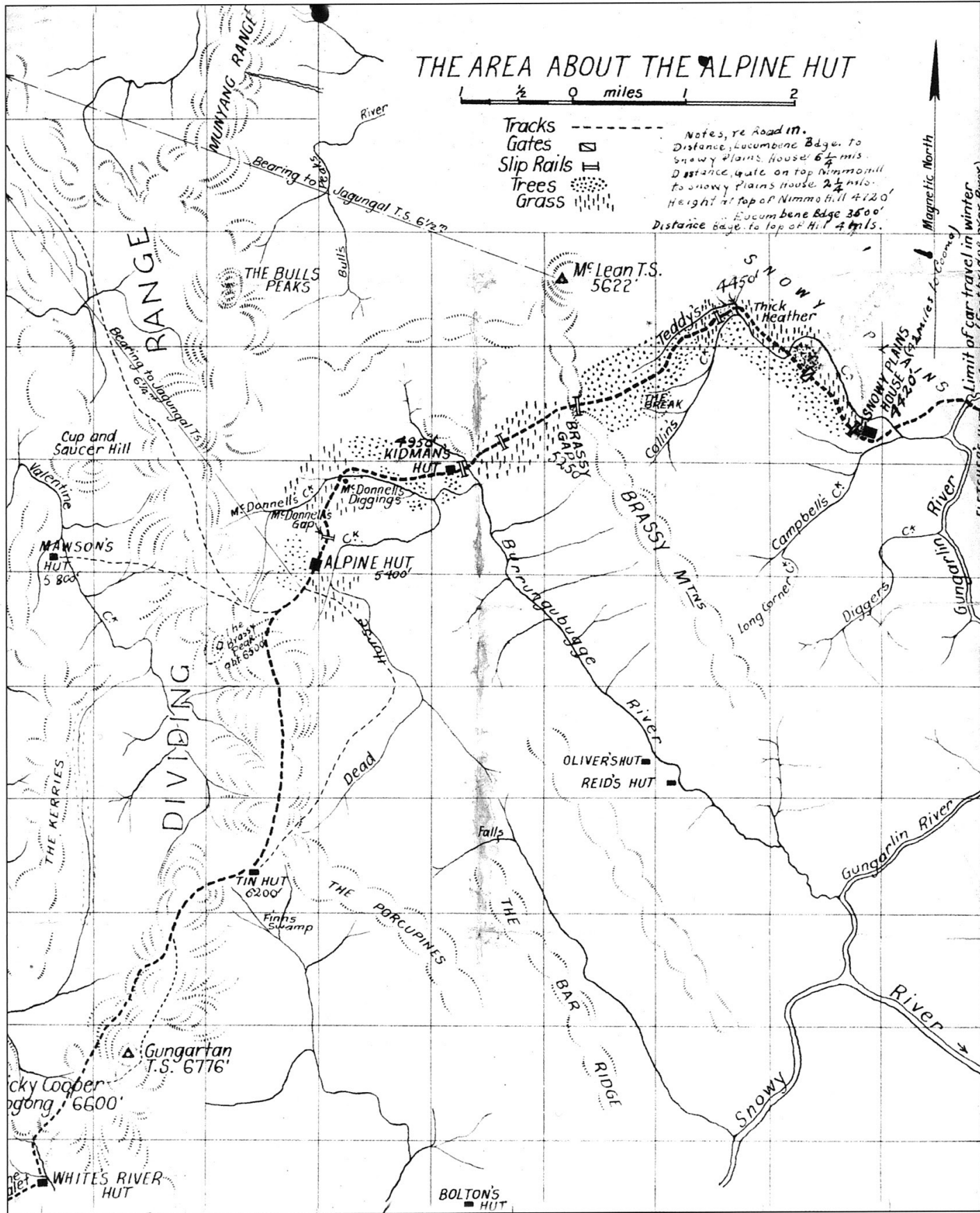
Several excellent ski runs have been cut in the lightly timbered slopes at the back of the hut, making the run from the top of the Brassy Mountain to the hut door comparable with the run from the top of Mount Stilwell. The excellent snow country in the heart of the Main Range is readily accessible after a climb

# THE AREA ABOUT THE ALPINE HUT



- Tracks - - - - -
- Gates - □ -
- Slip Rails - || -
- Trees - [stippled pattern]
- Grass - [dotted pattern]

Notes, re Road 17.  
 Distance, Lucumbene Bdge. to Snowy Plains House 6 1/4 mls.  
 Distance, gate on top Nimmo Hill to Snowy Plains House 2 1/2 mls.  
 Height at top of Nimmo Hill 4120'.  
 Eucumbene Bdge 3500'.  
 Distance Bdge. to top of Hill 4 mls.



Magnetic North

Limit of car travel in winter

of 500 ft. at the back of the hut. For instance, Jagunal is only 5 miles away, standing out above the Main Range as the only clearly defined peak. The Bull's Peaks are also about the same distance. Gungartin, with White's River below, is approximately  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles. In the White's River Valley is the well-equipped hut, fitted out by the Kosciusko Alpine Club. The wonderful runs and the outstanding snow in this locality are thus now made approachable with comfort from both the north and the south. In fact, for those who wish to vary their holiday at Kosciusko, it is an excellent idea to divide their time between the Alpine Hut and White's River Hut and finish up at the Chalet. Incidentally, it also reduces the cost of the holiday.

The popularity of the Alpine Hut has been established by the fact that all who have been there are so enthusiastic and anxious to return that the bookings for throughout the coming season are practically filled. On the whole, it is not surprising that there are many who can already visualise a big development in huts in this area, and even the possibility of a small Alpine village in the not far distant future.

## The Late Percy Pearson

WE cannot do better than reproduce the following tribute from the columns of the "S.M. Herald":—"The death of Mr. P. W. Pearson on Saturday, after a long illness borne with the fortitude one would expect of him, breaks one of the remaining links with the early days of Kosciusko, and the beginnings of skiing in Australia. Having taken up the sport at Kiandra before the Hotel Kosciusko was opened, Mr. Pearson, on the first evening of occupation of the new Hotel, went around ringing a gong to collect the guests together, and then and there formed the Kosciusko Alpine Club.

"In 1932 he celebrated his twenty-fifth year as honorary secretary of the club, and during that quarter of a century its history centred largely around him. When his illness prevented active work, the club acknowledged its debt of gratitude by making him president.

"For all those years he never missed his annual visit to the mountains, and he acquired a knowledge of them shared by few. Several times club ski-ing champion, he also held at one time the summit record, for the 35-mile journey to the top of Kosciusko and back. While these were splendid individual feats, and while his years of association with the snow were recognised in his election to the British Ski Veterans' Club, it was for his association with the Kosciusko Alpine Club that he was chiefly famous. He nursed it through the lean years of the last war, and through the internal dissension that threatened it soon after the war, so that the enthusiasm for ski-ing which came to Australia in the last 10 years or so found a live and ready organisation to implement it.

"For many of us a few years ago, Mr. Pearson himself simply 'was' ski-ing in this State, and skiers of all clubs formed the habit of dropping in to talk snow 'shop' with him. His kindness and consideration were all-embracing, and his enthusiasm enveloped the beginner as deeply as those veterans who had pioneered the way with him in earlier years. For his death many of us are the poorer; the mountains have lost a firm friend."