SNOWFALLS IN NEW SOUTH WALES 1957 - 1979

by W. L. Williams

Man has always had a love-hate relationship with snow. Whilst it is good fun to ski upon and looks great on Christmas cards, it is less appealing when it blocks roads, snows your house in, causes damage and death and then melts slowly in dirty piles of slush all over town.

Through exceedingly good management, our main cities are all so far below the snowline that the fall of a flake rates front-page news. The snow keeps a respectful distance on spacially provided mountains set a comfortable drive from the two main centres of population. The faithful may make pilgrimages to it if they wish, but the stuff is kept out of the way of the ordinary citizen. It would be Camelot indeed but for the occasional cold pool that dumps a few hours of heavy snow on Tasmania, eastern Victoria or up the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales.

This article, after a brief introduction on the ways of snow, examines in a little non-technical detail the snowfalls of the past 23 years on the Snowy Mountains and the more widespread falls in New South Wales in that time.

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Snow will reach the ground unmelted in temperatures up to 2 to 3°C, and on rare occasions up to 7°C. Naturally, a lot depends on the temperature structure in the air above the ground, but in normal circumstances a surface temperature of 2 to 3°C means that freezing point is only 200 to 300 metres above ground, and the snowflakes will melt negligibly as they fall through this distance.

As the temperature normally decreases with increasing height above sea level, altitude is equally critical in deciding whether precipitation reaches the ground as snow or rain. In a celebrated case on 3 November 1958, it was raining at street level in New York, but guards atop the Empire State Building were throwing snowballs at one another. The 350 metre difference in height provided sufficient temperature variation to give rain or substantial snow only 350 metres apart. For the same reasons, it is possible, on a snowy day, to see the low hills around Oberon coated with snow, yet have only rain or sleet (snow in the process of melting) in the town itself.

The temperature requirements for snow to lie on the ground without melting are more complex. Snow will lie on at least some surfaces once the air temperature drops below 3°C. But the snow-holding properties of different surfaces vary according to their capacities to absorb radiation as well as reradiate it. A black bitumen road will absorb 90 to 95% of radiation arriving from the sky and will be relatively warmer than green grass, which absorbs 70 to 90%, dry brown grass (70 to 80%), dry sandy soil (55 to 75%), old snow (30 to 60% depending on how dirty it is) and fresh snow (5 to 25%). Thus, if you drive through lightly falling snow, you will often notice it beginning to accumulate on soil and dry grass but melting on impact with the road. Of course, one of the surfaces with the best snow-holding

properties is snow itself; once an initial thin coating of snow has built up on any surface, further snow accumulation is optimised.

To gain a standardised and comparable measurement, snow depth is gauged over a level but well-exposed surface. In nature, however, there are few level, well-exposed surfaces. Snow builds up in depressions and in wind eddies behind objects and is scoured off hill and ridge tops and windy areas. I have travelled into Kent, southeast of London, in January 1979 after several days of blizzard had abated, and found that some hilltop fields were bare of snow whilst it was 4 to 5 metres deep in intervening sunken laneways. This type of drifting in blizzards causes unexpected problems. In the blizzards that swept northeastern USA in January 1977, six-metre high drifts, compacted by their own weight, broke the blades of snowploughs. People walking on the drifts in Buffalo risked electrocution through making contact with electricity cables normally high above the street. As a very general rule, it can be assumed that more than 10cm of freshly fallen snow will disrupt motor traffic, more than 20cm will cause difficulty to railway operation as points block and drifting closes cuttings, more than 30cm will prevent cattle feeding and sheep walking and 60cm will stop human movement unless skis or snowshoes are used.

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The traditional skiing season on the Snowy Mountains is from the Queen's Birthday long weekend in early June to the Eight Hour Day long weekend in early October. Unfortunately, 18 of the last 22 ski seasons (1958 - 1979) have opened with little or no skiable snow at the main centres of Perisher Valley, Thredbo and Smiggin Holes.

The Kosciusko State Park authority categorises snow depth as light, medium or heavy. Whilst there will naturally be large variations in depth over a skiing area as large as the Snowy Mountains, it is generally true that a medium (20 to 60cm) cover is the minimum requirement for skiing - even so, obstacles such as rocks, bushes and uncovered streams are too numerous away from cleared ski-runs. A heavy cover (over 60cm) is really needed for skiing to begin in earnest.

Assuming then the minimum requirement of a heavy snow cover at or on the slopes served by the main centres, the length of the real ski season each year from 1959 to 1979 is shown in Table 1. The median ski season is late June to mid October, or about 3.6 months, whilst the longest season was mid May to early November 1968 and the shortest late August to early September in 1973. The earliest start to a ski season was early May in 1960 whilst the latest finish was mid November in 1970.

Although the median start to the ski season is late June, quite substantial snowfalls can and usually do occur in April and May, but usually melt or are washed away by subsequent rain. An exception was 1960 when substantial falls on 21 and 22 April were followed by intermittent snowfalls into early May, then record or near-record May falls occurring mostly in the first half of the month. At 0900 on the 18th May, Spencers Creek, halfway between Perisher Valley and the Chalet below Charlotte Pass, recorded a snow depth of 133cm, a remarkable depth for mid May. The following year held even

more promise for an early start to the ski season. Heavy falls on the 3/4 March gave a depth of snow on the ground of 20cm at Spencers Creek. This melted but was followed by further heavy snow from the 14 to 17 April giving 45cm snow on the ground at Spencers Creek. This also melted and it was not until 15 June that frequent falls commenced an accumulation that started the season.

The end of the season often comes quickly in a few days of heavy rain or hot winds. Occasionally, later snowfalls can drop snow that is briefly skiable. This happened on the 11/12 December 1958 and again on 16/17 December 1979.

The greatest accumulation of snow usually occurs between mid August and the end of the first week in September. Some of the greatest accumulations at Spencers Creek (to 1966) and Charlotte Pass (since 1968) have been 353cm in 1956, 265cm in 1960, 293cm in 1964, 245cm in 1968, 300cm in 1970 and 363cm in 1972. The worst year between 1956 and 1980 was 1973 when snow depths at Charlotte Pass were mostly below 50cm until moderate falls on 26/27 August and in the first few days of September increased the depth to 101cm; a thaw then set in reducing the depth to 25cm by the 12 September.

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Away from the Kosciusko State Park, snow usually falls several times each winter in the high country west of Canberra, on the peaks of the central tablelands, on the Barrington Tops plateau northwest of Newcastle and in the high country of the northern tablelands. Widespread snow outside these areas is a once or twice a year phenomenon at best, and was markedly more common in the late fifties and the sixties than the seventies. Heavy widespread snow falls most commonly in July and August, but since 1957 has fallen as early as 3/4 May 1961 and as late as 1/2 October 1968 and 3/4 October 1966. Noteworthy falls occurred on 29/31 July and 9/10 August 1957, 16 June 1958, 27 June 1959, 20/21 August 1962, 17/19 July 1965, 15 July 1966, 22/23 July 1968, 16/18 August and 31 August/1 September 1970, 12 June 1975 and several times during the winter of 1960 which was a vintage year for widespread snow.

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In the notes which follow for each year from 1957 to 1979, a general statement on the skiing season in the Snowy Mountains resorts is followed by a summary of noteworthy falls of snow elsewhere in New South Wales.

1957

Frequent falls, often heavy and extensive, giving general snow cover from early May to the end of October except for a thaw at the end of June. On 3 May, 45 to 50 cm snow trapped 10 000 sheep and 2000 cattle in summer grazing areas; on 6 July, a severe snowstorm on the southern tablelands blocked roads and brought down wires; on 29/30 July, the heaviest snow for

12 years fell on the Blue Mountains, delaying trains and blocking roads; on 9/10 August, blizzards in areas adjacent to the Snowy Mountains whipped up five metre drifts which prevented the use of the usual snow ploughs in clearing roads.

1958

Frequent falls from late June after a slow start; some skiing still possible in mid December; 1.5 to 2m level snow on higher alps at end of July. A remarkably late season with two periods of snow north to the Queensland border along the tablelands on 5 and 21 September, the latter extending to the Upper Hunter Valley and to parts of the slopes. Moláng reported its first snow heavy enough to lie on the ground for five years; several inches reported on the ground from Murrurundi, Scone, Glen Innes and Tenterfield.

1959

A very late start to the season due to high pressure systems keeping farther south than normal. First reasonable snow fell in the last week of July giving 15cm snow on ground at Spencers Creek. Substantial snows 1 to 18 August, then again in mid and late September giving maximum accumulations of 2m on the alps. On 26 June, heavy, widespread snow fell along the tablelands north to Glen Innes; 13cm in Goulburn, quoted by newspapers as the heaviest on record, brought down wires and caused extensive damage to stock when meltwater seeped through shop roofs; up to 20cm in the Bathurst area being heaviest in the Oberon and Blayney areas; over 10cm in the Orange area blocking roads to Canowindra, Forbes and Millthorpe and quoted as heaviest since 1951; 8cm at Bundanoon and 10 to 15cm with drifts to 30cm at Moss Vale. From 23 to 25 July, light to occasionally moderate snow was widespread along the tablelands to Glen Innes and in the Tenterfield area; 15cm at Blackheath, 5cm Katoomba, snow reported at Molong and Delegate. On 17 August, an unusually isolated snowfall, apparently associated with a small cold pool aloft, occurred at Ebor, west of Dorrigo, and was heavy enough to block most roads in the area. On 20 September, snow again fell widely over the tablelands, extending from Cooma to Orange, Armidale and Barrington Tops. On 20/22 October, gales, floods and snow were associated with an exceptionally late outbreak of polar air behind a low which developed over southern NSW during the night of 20/21 then intensified and moved northeast past Sydney on 21. Hotel Kosciusko received 35cm snow in less than 12 hours, a snowstorm near Gunning tore down half a mile of the Sydney--Melbourne trunk telephone line, snow and floodwaters isolated Yass, every road in the Goulburn district except the Hume Highway to the northeast was blocked by snow or floodwaters and snow fell as far west as Koorawatha

1960

Superb ski season; substantial falls from 21 April, record or near-record falls in May, giving 133cm snow on ground at Spencers Creek by 18 May and 60cm snow on ground at Kiandra by 17 May. Regular snowfalls to mid July gave 2.5m at 2000m level. Heavy snowmelt 28 to 31 July followed by further prolonged snowfall. 265cm snow on ground at Spencers Creek on 5 September

was most since 1956 when 353cm reached in August. Kiandra's heaviest snowfall of the year - 60cm - was recorded in the 24 hours to 9 a.m. on 26 September. Rapid melt in October to be patchy by end of the month. Away from the Alps, the year was remarkable for the number of widespread snowfalls - Orange, for example, had eight substantial falls. Between 5 and 16 May, light to moderate snow showers were reported at various times from Delegate, Canberra, Adaminaby, Batlow, Goulburn, Burraga, Taralga, Oberon, Lithgow, Walcha, Guyra, Armidale and Bendemeer. In the last two weeks of June, further extensive falls occurred along the tablelands, whilst on the 4/5 July, sufficient snow to block roads fell in the Glen Innes, Bundanoon, Orange, Katoomba and Tamworth areas. From 17 to 20 July, a very severe cold outbreak occurred, described by the Bureau of Meteorology as the "most extensive and, at some places, the heaviest and most prolonged falls for many years." Snow fell west to Wagga and north to Bendemeer and Woolbrook, being most widespread on the night of 19/20 when 8 to 15cm falls were general. Oberon reported 30cm snow on the ground and Canberra had its heaviest fall since July 1949. On 2/3 August, highland falls north to Guyra gave 10 to 15cm snow on ground at many centres, although falls were only light on the Blue Mountains but more substantial in the south where snow could be seen on the hills around Wagga. On 8/9 August, moderate snow fell generally in the area Bombala - Tumbarumba - Orange - Braidwood and moved north on 9/10 August to give several centimetres snow on the ground at Robertson, Bowral, Guyra, Walcha, and Blue Mountains towns. From 11 to 13 August, snow was reported at Geehi (360m above sea level) on the western side of Mt Kosciusko, Narrandera, Hill End, Guyra, Walcha and Orange and there were several reports of snowflakes in inner Sydney suburbs. Light to moderate snow showers fell on the central and northern tablelands three times in September, and the year finished with a characteristic bang when light snow fell in Delegate on 13 November.

1961

Exceptional snowfalls on the Alps on 3/4 March. Snow fell from the morning of the 3rd to the night of the 4th leaving 20cm snow on the ground at Spencers Creek and 5 to 8 cm generally at lower levels down to a snowline at 1300m. An unseasonably deep, cold, unstable airmass was forced north between a small low off the south coast and a high ridging well south past Tasmania. After this melted, the period 14 to 17 April saw further heavy accumulation, peaking at Spencers Creek at 45cm. This also melted. Frequent substantial falls from mid June to early August gave 120cm snow on ground at Spencers Creek; "topping up" falls continued to late September. The maximum snow depth at Spencers Creek was 145cm in early September. Away from the Alps, a deep southerly stream brought unusually early widespread snow on the 3/4 May. Snow was reported as far north as the Queensland border and 15cm snow lay on the ground at Mt Canobolas and 8cm on the Blue Mountains and at Barrington Tops. A number of people in the Sydney metropolitan area reported snow or sleet, including an employee on the eighth floor of the Unilever building in the city. Another general fall on 21/22 June gave snow north to the Queensland border and extended onto the northwest slopes; 12 to 15cm snow on the ground on the Blue Mountains. Lighter snowfalls, restricted to highland areas, were experienced on five more occasions before the end of August.

1962

On the Alps, good falls in May were followed by little snow until the end of July, then substantial falls every three weeks or so. Snow accumulations were not great and snow was patchy by the end of October. Of five more general falls along the tablelands, only two were noteworthy. On 1/2 August, snow fell from the Victorian border to the northwest slopes; on the Blue Mountains falls down to Lawson caused considerable traffic disruption. On 20/21 August, snow fell from the Victorian to the Queensland border along the highlands, and extended west to Orange, Coonabarabran and the hills to the east of Narrabri, and east to the hills around Bega, Bowral and Hazelbrook. 15cm snow on the ground on the higher country of the central and southern tablelands. The snow was the heaviest in eastern areas for 30 to 50 years, according to press reports. The Hume Highway was closed between Moss Vale and Goulburn for most of the 21st. Reports of sleet came from Sydney suburbs.

1963

Little snow on the Alps until early July after which consistent falls brought the level of snow on the ground to 90cm by 29 July. Further consistent slight to moderate and three substantial falls in the period to 24 September preceded the thaw which made snow patchy by mid October. Along the tablelands, consistent light snow fell from 2 to 13 July, but otherwise only the 16 and 30 August produced widespread light falls.

1964

A good year for alpine snow with the depth at Spencers Creek rising to 293cm on 14 August. Widespread snow in the last week of May gave 55cm snow on ground at Spencers Creek at the end of the month. A further two substantial falls in June raised the level to 85cm after which snow fell on most days from July to mid October. Despite some rain late in September, snow depth at Spencers Creek was still 180cm on 1 October, diminishing to 70cm on 31 October and no snow by 12 November. Away from the Alps, extensive falls spread to the southern tablelands twice and the western central tablelands once only. Of these, the first, from 11 to 16 July, blocked roads and marooned cattle drives in higher parts of the southern tablelands.

1965

A poor snow season. After occasional light falls from April to June, periods of moderate snow in July built the snow depth to 68cm at Spencers Creek by the end of the month. Snow then occurred almost daily for the first three weeks in August, after which very little snow occurred. The skiing season was limited to mid July to mid September. By comparison, the snowfall of 17 to 19 July was remarkable for giving widespread, heavy snow away from the Alps. Falls in the south coast, Hunter, central tablelands and northwest slopes rainfall districts were among the heaviest and most widespread on record with places in the northwest slopes reporting snow for the first time. Heavy snow blanketted the Liverpool Ranges in the upper Hunter and on the Blue Mountains snow fell continuously from about 9.30a.m. on the 17th to 4.30p.m. on the 18th. Snow in the Katoomba - Mount Victoria area was an average 45cm deep, all roads were impassable and a chaotic train service was kept running by using steam engines to clear tracks. The only other more general falls along the tablelands occurred on 22/23 June and 13/14 July.

1966

Ski season late July to early October. Light falls interspersed with rain occurred until moderate to heavy falls in the last week of July gave Spencers Creek 108cm snow on the ground. Light falls maintained the depth until the beginning of October, when 100cm at Spencers Creek, after which there was a rapid thaw. Snow fell west to Wagga, The Rock and Henty on 15 July and was reportedly the first there in about 40 years; 5 to 10cm was reported on the same day from Cooma, Batlow, Delegate, Berridale and Dalgety on the southern tablelands. On 3/4 October, an unusually late widespread cold outbreak produced light snow as far north as Guyra and caused drifting snow to block the Cooma to Bombala railway. Widespread but light snow fell on the central and northern tablelands on 22 August.

1967

Little snow on the Alps until mid July after which frequent light falls gave a snow depth at Thredbo Crackenback of 56cm at the end of the month. Little snow followed until mid August, then daily falls until early September when Thredbo reported 165cm. The thaw then began and snow was patchy by 18 October. The only substantial falls away from the Alps were on 6/7 August, when falls of up to 15cm occurred on the western central tablelands; on 13/14 August, when snow fell down to 700m on the western half of the tablelands north to Bathurst; and on 2/3 October, when falls of 3 to 8cm were widespread on the southern tablelands.

1968

An excellent skiing season lasting from mid May to mid or late November. Consistent falls in the second half of May gave Charlotte Pass 113cm and Kiandra 63cm by the end of the month. Levels were maintained through June and July, then rose in August to a maximum of 245cm at Charlotte Pass, 150cm at Thredbo and 113cm at Kiandra. Rain caused a thaw in late August and early September, then occasional light falls preceded a blizzard from 30 September to 2 October which increased depths from 25 to 50cm. More snow fell from 24 to 26 October, increasing levels by up to 50cm. Maximum snow depth for October at Thredbo was 200cm and at Charlotte Pass 155 cm. Of six widespread snowfalls away from the Alps, that of 22/23 July was the most noteworthy. Up to 15cm snow fell at higher levels all along the tablelands and falls extended to the northwest slopes, higher parts of the Illawarra district and Ungarie in the central western plains. Drifting briefly closed some highways and snow remained unmelted in some places for two to three days. Light to moderate snow also fell along the tablelands and adjacent slopes on 15/16 and 20 to 22 August with depths 5 to 15cm in some places. On 14/15 May, widespread snowshowers fell along the highlands into southern Queensland giving 5 to 10cm on the ground at higher levels. Widespread snow on the southern and central tablelands on 1/2 October gave 5 to 12cm on the ground, and some unusually late light falls occurred north to Orange on 24 to 26 October.

1969

Very poor year with skiable snow only from mid August to mid September when 90cm snow at higher stations. A blizzard from 29 to 31 May left 35cm snow on the ground at Kiandra but only 10cm at Thredbo Crackenback. At the end of July, Cabramurra was reporting 10cm snow on the ground, and Charlotte Pass, Kiandra and Thredbo were reporting little or patchy snow. Away from the Alps, only the fall of 29/31 May was noteworthy, giving up to 13cm snow along the highlands and extending to Inverell and the Narrabri area.

1970

An excellent skiing season lasting from mid June to early November. Frequent light snow from late April to mid May was melted by rain; then frequent snow with regular heavy periods steadily raised levels until mid August when 300cm was reported by Charlotte Pass (but only 45cm at Kiandra!) Considerable snowmelt 19 to 22 August was followed by further consistent falls through late August and all September. Charlotte Pass reported 298cm at the end of September. A steady thaw then set in leaving only drifts by 11 November. On 16 to 18 August, widespread falls of 5 to 8cm and up to 15cm occurred on the southern and central tablelands and extended west to Henty (5cm snow on ground), Molong, Parkes and Forbes and east to Braidwood, Robertson. Snow fell as far north as Walcha. On 1 September, continuous snow during the afternoon gave Mount Victoria 25cm, Blackheath 23cm and Wentworth Falls and Oberon 15cm snow on the ground. Molong, Blayney, Mudgee, Taralga and Hill End also reported snow. Road and rail traffic were disrupted. Widespread but lighter snow was reported from the Blue Mountains and Orange areas on the previous day.

1971

Skiing was possible from late June, although the cover was fairly light until mid July rising to 70cm by early August at Charlotte Pass, and 183cm at the end of August. Steady melt during September reduced the depth to 75cm at Charlotte Pass by the end of the month. There were no snowfalls of note away from the Alps.

1972

Substantial snow in late April left Charlotte Pass with 30cm cover on 26 April which rapidly melted. Light falls continued through May and June until moderate to heavy falls from 21 June gave 120cm snow cover at Charlotte Pass on 30 June. In July, consistent snow, occasionally heavy, gave Charlotte Pass 288cm by mid month. Further consistent snow, occasionally heavy, in early August raised this level to 363cm by 13 August. With little additional snow after this, the season lasted until mid October. Snow was extensive along the tablelands on 7/8 July and 11/12 August, but only light with a few moderate falls.

1973

The poorest season in the last 20 years with only occasional periods of skiable snow due to frequent rain. Snow on ground measured at Charlotte Pass rose from a few centimetres in the first week of August to 100cm in early September, but this had been washed out to 28cm by 12 September after which there were only light falls of snow. There were no significant falls of snow away from the Alps.

1974

A good skiing season, with skiable snow from late May to at least mid October. Heavy falls late in May gave 90cm cover at Charlotte Pass by the end of the month. Frequent snowfalls throughout the winter and September gave a continued heavy cover. Rain caused snowmelt on 17 July (!) and during September. Snow extended along the tablelands on five occasions: on 23 to 25 May, up to 5cm cover was reported on higher parts of the Blue Mountains and central tablelands; light snow fell along the entire tablelands on 6 to 8 July, 7 and 15/16 August; and widespread snow fell on the southern tablelands on 26/27 September.

1975

Regular moderate falls of snow from early May to mid September gave a good ski season from the beginning of June to late September. There was a notable thaw at the end of July. Snow cover at Charlotte Pass at the beginning of September was 130cm. Only one extensive fall during the winter occurred on 12 June when snow fell along the entire tablelands; Lithgow reported a cover of 15cm and Mount Victoria 10cm.

1976

After a few showers of snow in April and May, light and fairly frequent falls occurred in June, especially during the last week. Falls continued light yet frequent until the first good falls on 29 to 31 July when a medium depth of hard packed snow was reported. The cover increased to heavy early in August as occasionally heavy falls continued. After mid August falls were light to moderate becoming only occasional and light in September and October. The rather indefinite ski season is taken to be late July to early October. There were no widespread snowfalls.

1977

Consistent light to moderate falls during June and heavy falls during the periods 29 to 30 June, 11 to 16 and 23 to 31 July gave excellent skiing conditions. Fairly frequent light showshowers during August maintained the heavy cover despite snowmelt caused by rain on 12 August. Snow was widespread on 29/30 June, when it fell along the tablelands and caused traffic disuption in the Armidale/Glen Innes area; on 24 to 27 July, when show showers were reported down to 1000m on the southern and central tablelands; and on 4 September, when light to moderate falls occurred on the central and southern tablelands, southwest slopes and higher parts of the Illawarra district.

1978

Another excellent skiing season, extending from mid or late June to mid October. The year was unusual for the frequent falls on the Snowys in summer and autumn - light snow was reported on 28/29 January, 5/6 February, light to moderate snow down to 1200m was reported on 25 and 26 April and light snow fell on 9 days in May. Moderate to heavy falls from the 14 to 18 June started the season, after which moderate to heavy falls in the first and last weeks of July and consistent light falls, occasionally moderate, through August and September maintained a heavy cover well into October. The year finished with snow showers on 10 to 13 November and 3 to 5 and 13 December. Although snow showers occurred along the tablelands on many days

they were widespread only once. On 12/13 September, show showers fell on the southern and central tablelands and extended to the northern tablelands and north west slopes at times.

1979

The worst skiing season since 1973 with good skiing at resorts only from mid August to mid September. Rain in mid June washed out a very light cover, then only light falls occurred until the second week in August when moderate to heavy snow from 8 to 12 August gave 177cm snow cover at Thredbo Crackenback, 170 at Charlotte Pass and 167cm at Perisher Valley. The good skiing conditions were short-lived, however, as rain during the next two weeks reduced cover to less than 60cm generally at the resorts. Further heavy snow from 3 to 7 September gave a return to good cover, but moderate to heavy rain on the 10th began a thaw that led to patchy snow by mid September. Probably fewer than 10 to 15 days experienced heavy cover at the resorts, although on the main range, and particularly in the north, skiing conditions were good from mid July to early September. The dearth of snow was reflected in an absence of widespread falls; on only one occasion, 12/13 August, did light snow fall the full length of the tablelands. Light snow showers were reported from the higher peaks of the central tablelands on 11 May and from the central and southern tablelands on 28 October.

LENGTH OF THE SKIING SEASON
AT MAIN RESORTS IN THE KOSCIUSKO STATE PARK
1959 TO 1979

Year	Start	Finish	Length in thirds of a month
1959	late July	late October	9
1960	early May	mid October	16
1961	mid June	late October	13
1962	late July	late October	9
1963	mid July	mid October	9
1964	late May	early November	16
1965	mid July	mid September	6
1966	late July	mid October	8
1967	mid July	mid October	9
1968	mid May	early November	17
1969	mid August	mid September	3
1970	mid June	mid November	15
1971	late June	mid October	11
1972	late June	mid October	11
1973	late August	early September	1
1974	late May	late October	15
1975	mid June	mid September	9
1976	late July	early October	7
1977	late June	mid September	8
1978	late June	mid October	11
1979	mid August	mid September	3
median	late June	mid October	9
earliest	early May	early September	
latest	late August	mid November	

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References

Bureau of Meteorology; Monthly Weather Review and Weekly Weather Note, NSW, 1959 to 1979.