



Bogong Bulletin

Issue 48 Spring 2004

The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter

2004 Winter Party Reunion

**Alpine Rover Crew &
Bogong Chalet Management Group
Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 13th October 2004 @ 8pm
At the New Victorian Branch HQ
152 Forster Road, Mt Waverley

Catch up with friends you made on winter parties this year, share stories, photos, port and supper with friends from winters past. Find out what is happening with the chalet over the next year and what is happening with the tow hut rebuild! Have your say in the running of the chalet.

For Information on the Alpine Rover Crew, Venturer Unit and Chalet Management Group contact Lucas Moore, ARC Chairman on (03) 9737 0094

Chalet Summer!

Summer Bookings fee includes:

- Accommodation
- A Cold Breakfast
- Hot Showers
- Use of a Commercial Standard Kitchen

Bogong Rover Chalet
0407 242 538
bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au
www.bogongroverchalet.org.au

Bogong Rover Chalet

Need to escape the rat race? Planning a crew/unit/troop/pack weekend away? From \$12 pp/night the Bogong Rover Chalet is the perfect place for you! Activities include bushwalking, mountain biking, fishing, or just reading a book.

Located in the Alpine National Park, 13km from Falls Creek, the Bogong Rover Chalet provides Australia's most unique Alpine Experience.



For Sale?

Do you have any second hand skis, boots, poles or outdoor gear for sale? Sell them on SkiBay at

www.bogongroverchalet.org.au

Reflections on a great Winter Party season

What a fantastic ski season this year has turned out to be! There's been a heap of snow around the Chalet and the High Plains for everybody to enjoy. Some people have commented that since the Tow Hut was destroyed, there's been a marked increase in the number of tours taking place over the past two winters. This has been great for those who haven't been going to the Chalet for a long time; a chance for them to see more of the High Plains.

Check out the website (www.bogongroverchalet.org.au) for the reports of each week, complete with photos and a summary. Another recent edition to the website is SkiBay, where Alpine Rovers can buy and sell ski gear.

As our snow season starts drawing to a close, everybody should start thinking about a trip to the Chalet over our summer period. Depending on snow levels, the Chalet should be open in early November for summer bookings. Consider taking your Rover Crew or Venturer Unit to the Chalet over summer to give them a taste of what Winter Parties are like.

Lastly, I'd like to encourage everybody to attend the Winter Party Reunion and Alpine Rover Crew AGM coming up on Wednesday 13th October at the new Scout Branch HQ (152 Forster Rd, Mt Waverly). Come along and catch up with friends from Winter Parties and show support for the Bogong Chalet Management Group.

James Dugan
BCMG Chairman

Alpine Rover Crew Chairman

This year 20 people were invested into the Alpine Rover Crew, and 43 people invested into the Alpine Venturer Unit, as well as 22 people from Melbourne Bushwalking Club saying at the chalet for the first time. Record snow levels meant there was excellent conditions to tour, from the reports I have seen, 40+km tours were common, Week 9's effort of McNamara's Dinner Plain Hut quite exceptional!

The year has been good, on a personal level I got married in April, and there has also been a good increase in the number of people using the chalet over winter. Numbers were boosted by the Week 4 booking by Little Yarra Steiner School, on an otherwise closed week and the Week 10 booking by Melbourne Bushwalkers members unable to use Wilkies hut. The 3 Snow Ventures also helped with numbers, and getting new people on Winter Parties with the two Victorian Snow Ventures (Weeks 1 & 13) getting good numbers, and the South Australians doing a fantastic job again booking out Week 3!

There is still plenty of snow on all the resorts, (Week 13 Snow Venture is skiing in to the chalet as I write this) so there is still opportunities for skiing before we look to summer activities.

One of the challenges for the next management group will be to increase the summer use of the chalet. It is a great place to use as a base for mountain bike riding, as a base for day hikes, or a stop over on a longer hike, for fishing in Rocky Valley Dam or Pretty Valley, or just relaxing, and there are plenty of weekends available

Finally I would like to thank Andrew Gallagher for his time serving as Assistant Warden, he has been a great asset to the chalet, and I am sure he will continue to serve the chalet.

Luke Moore
Alpine Rover Crew Chairman

2004 Bookings Report

2004 saw 207 people visit the chalet for winter parties. With quite a few people doing multiple weeks, meaning that 222 Winter Parties were attended this year. Unfortunately weeks 7, 10 and 11 were closed while there were still metres of snow at the chalet.

Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Wk 7	Wk 8	Wk 9	Wk 10	Wk 11	Wk 12	Wk 13
17	27	35	18	24	10	Closed	13	34	29	Closed	Closed	17

During the season we had two bookings officers, with James Stewart holding the position for the first half of the season until work commitments increased, and Veronica Unkles took over the role for the remainder of the season. The role was complicated this season by Vic Branch Moving which caused delays in processing forms as mail was redirected from Carlton South to Mt Waverly. Veronica did a great job dealing with picking up the bookings role mid season and her efforts are to be congratulated.

Tow Rebuild

We are into the final stages of getting approval to rebuild the tow hut, with only building permits to be investigated. At the AGM we would like expressions of interest to form a subcommittee that will co-ordinate the rebuilding of the Tow. The Managements Group would like a separate group from the maintenance committee to co-ordinate the rebuilding of tow so that regular maintenance activities can continue over summer.

At the AGM we will be starting a register of people interested in helping with the tow rebuild. If you are interested in being on the rebuild subcommittee, or can lend a hand at 'Tow' working bees add your name to the register so that the Management Group can determine if it is a viable project. If you are unable to attend the AGM, but are still willing to be involved in the rebuild, email your contact details and any skills you have that will benefit the rebuild to bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au

2004 Kangaroo Hoppet

On Saturday 28th August the Kangaroo Hoppet ski marathon was held on the Bogong High Plains from Falls Creek. Congratulations to all Alpine Rovers who completed the three events from the 7km Joey Hoppet (a sprint?), 21km Birkenbinner, and the 42km Kangaroo Hoppet. The event was skied in perfect weather conditions, much like the week 9ers enjoyed all week, and saw Ben Derrick win his third Hoppet in record time of just over 1 ½ hours.

Special thanks to the week 9ers that stayed back to man the Wallace's Hut drink station. You all looked great in your chalet bucket caps, and I really appreciated the drinks, jelly beans and banana's. LJM



Mark Schammer trying not to spill the Gatorade

Bogong Rover Crew

For the first time in many years - there were no Bogong Rover Crew investitures during the winter. All Bogong Rovers are reminded that it is up them to nominate any worthy Alpine Rover well prior to the winter for 2005. To be eligible for the Bogong Rover Crew the nominee must be an Alpine Rover, have completed at least 3 winter parties, have made a significant contribution to Rover skiing and be prepared to do so in the future. If there any Alpine Rovers out there that think they should have been nominated years ago give me an email on smsimpson@virtual.net.au and we'll discuss it - I don't know you all!!! Any Bogong Rover Crew member that wants to nominate someone please contact me on 03 9729 6607 or the warden, Matt Anderson on 03 9733 1899 for a nomination form.

Mick Simpson
Secretary - Alpine Rover Crew

Christmas Gift idea for the Back Country skier who has everything!

Check out www.bananaguard.com

Harold Gardiner's Boot

On Saturday the 4th September the Rover section farewellled Harold Gardiner after he retired from the Vic. Branch Commissioner – Rovers role earlier in the year.

The event, held at the Carlton Crest Hotel, gave rovers a chance to give thanks for Harold for his years of service to the Rover section in Victoria and to the Rover Chalet (and also for some to make sure he was going?).

To thank him for his service, the Alpine Rover Crew, Bogong Rover Crew and Chalet Management Group presented Harold with framed photos the chalet, then and now, as well as Alpine Rover Crew and Bogong Rover Crew badges and name tapes. A copy will hang in the Chalet history room. Thanks to Colin Jones (CJ) for making the presentation and thank you to Harold for your service to Roving.



CJ presenting Harold's Gift



Alpine Rover Reunion at Harold's Boot



Summer Maintenance

Until the snow melts, and the new management group holds their planning weekend, it is hard to give a detailed plan of what the Maintenance sub committee needs to do over summer.

Some of the jobs that are planned to be completed over summer are:

- Filling in the old dam and re securing the water tank.
- Continuing exterior cladding on dining room wall.
- Painting!
- Improve stairway from dining room to bedrooms.
- Fitting a water purification system (Food Safety Requirement)

These projects are on top of the regular maintenance tasks that are completed each year which includes:

- Winter Rubbish Removal.
- Cleaning all Flues.
- Oil changes.
- Testing the Fire alarm and smoke alarms.

Working bees are planned for the Australia Day, Labour Day and Easter long weekends, as well as any other weekends as deemed necessary.

If you are able to help out at any of these weekends, or have a trade skill which may be of assistance to complete these tasks, email me at bogongroverchalet@vicscouts.asn.au, or the bookings officer to reserve your bed.

And while on maintenance, the management group would like to remind you all that any 'improvements' to the Chalet need to be approved by the Management Group, and not just done because you think it is a good idea.

Log Book Entries

Unfortunately, the old log book has run out, and we have been a delay in sourcing a new one. We have received a few winter party log book entries, but if you have your weeks entry for safe keeping, or would like to write up a report of your week or trips, email me at bogongroverchalet@vicscouts.asn.au, or post the logbook entries to:

Bogong Chalet Management Group
Rover Office
P.O. Box 774
Mt Waverley, Vic 3149

At the end of Winter - your gear

For most of us the season has come to an end - despite the foot of powder snow that fell over Victoria last weekend and it is time to put our gear away till next year! To make the most out gear that is often quite expensive there are couple of things you should do. The single most important thing is to make sure everything is completely and utterly dry and that your storage area is also dry. You can use some silica gel or other damp absorber to assist in this process. Skis are probably the single most expensive item of outdoor gear you will ever purchase - skis should be stored vertically - never laying down and they should not be forced together with straps or ties. Let them take their natural shape. Heat is used to get this shape, store them in a cool place to prevent them taking a new shape. Skis have a camber that will be damaged. The bases should be cleaned - they will have ski waxes on them from trails and often are just plain dirty from leaves and sticks. This accumulation of dirt and wax can slow your skis down quite a lot. Use Citra Clean (orange oil cleaner) from the supermarket to clean the bases then apply a lay of hot wax without scraping it off to protect the base and prevent it from drying out. Don't forget to scrape it off before your first ski next winter!

Plastic boots are pretty hard to ruin but the inners should be pulled out and thoroughly dried. Leather boots should be snow sealed after cleaning and drying. Collapsible poles get very wet on the inside and should be stored pulled apart and again completely dry after every use. They should never be stored tightened in position - they may stay that way! Your sleeping bag is the next biggest investment you will ever make - it should be stored unpacked - just use a garbag open at one end. It should be thoroughly aired - consider getting it professionally cleaned - when was the last time it was actually cleaned!!!! This re-lofts the down but air it after cleaning to allow the chemicals to dissipate. I restuffed my bag with new down about 10 years ago and gave it whole new lease on life. Self inflating sleeping mats should be stored inflated and laying flat.

Multi layered fabrics such as 'Gore-Tex' and 'Entrant' should be cleaned in the washing machine on gentle cycle and allowed to drip dry. Body oils, sunscreens and dirt clog the pores in these garments and eventually will ruin them if you don't wash them. Now it is time to get that mountain bike out and bring it up to the chalet for a great weekend - See you at the chalet.

Mick Simpson
Secretary, Alpine Rover Crew



McNamara Huts Buckety Plain and Dinner Plain

Baw Baw Rover Crew AGM

Saturday 16th October
W.F. Waters Lodge
Mt Baw Baw
All Welcome



Contact bawbaw@vicscouts.asn.au for more information or phone 0500 561 000 to book accommodation for the weekend.

Week 8: The unofficial report...:

Friday:



Well most of the party made it up in time to get a good night's sleep. This was to no avail as our overnight accommodation was not planned and we were left at 12:30 am standing on the side of the road in the rain wondering where the hell we were going to get some sleep. Fortunately the bookings officer of the Alpine hall provided a key to the local scout hall as Les was already up at Hotham. It was not the start that any of us were expecting, and I certainly would not have taken Friday afternoon off work if I knew I was going to be up till

1 am

Saturday:

The Piles bus driver was his usual grumpy self and he did not want to drive up to windy corner - the road had not been cleared yet. We had a number of our party new to snow let alone skiing and skiing with a pack on. They had a very steep learning curve as we gave them 30 minutes of practice whilst a group of 4 went off to open up the chalet. The wind was not as bad as forecast and we had patches of sun! Despite the lack of grooming (That some patrol guy wanted us to pay for) the slow party made good time and we stopped for lunch just after Langford's Gap. Snow flurries pushed us off again and the slow party then broke up into two groups. The snow was beautiful but hard going with full packs. The last of the group was in by 4:15pm - Great effort! The Chalet thermometer read out some interesting stats - coldest internal temp -minus 29deg C. Current internal temp at 4:30pm 10deg C. The sorting hat then divided the students into roster groups. Dick was declared the first RAOTD. The first dinner was a departure from the set menu with chicken curry and pappadams. And the snow continued to fall... Chalet Legend Of The Day = Chris - for spending as much time as possible falling over and still smiling... a special mention goes to Dick for skiing in some flowers

Sunday:

Woke up to clear skies!!! The first parade was inside as we would have sunk down to our knees in the fresh snow. SOB requested that we start clearing snow away from various parts of the chalet and to stomp down other areas. I could not help having the extreme frustration with each shovel blade of snow saying to myself "We should be out there ripping it up!" After lunch we got our chance with snow school at the back of cope hut. There were lessons in Snow Plow, Telemark Turns, and of course Vikings. Another fantastic meal Chalet Legend of the Day =??? Something tells me it was Pat or Rod.

Monday:

Another Day of clear skies! Day Tour - Faithful's Hut with Dick, Melissa, Bushy, Ben, SOB, Jo, and Glen. We had to walk down the last 50m or so because the snow got patchy. Jody took a small tour in the arvo with Simo, Jody, Tony, Rod. Chris and Pat were getting concerned when both parties had not returned by 5pm Chalet Legend of the Day = Jo for "Face first snow angels" - what sized cup was that again??? It sort of looked a bit like this:



Tuesday:

Yet another day of clear skies! Day tour - Ryder's Hut and snow play out the back with Dick, Jody, Jo, Pat, Rod, and Glen. Out past the SEC hut and onto Ryder's for lunch. We were originally planning to go on the waterfall but there was a last minute sookie and we settled for carving up the open space near Ryder's. Pat, Jo and Glen came back via the home slope. The SA lads were ripping up the home slope with snow boards and doing the skeleton. Chalet Legend of the Day =???

Wednesday:

Well the day started off clear and hot but it was clouding over McKay and was snowing by our return. We were going to come back via Pretty valley but we sookied back via the slope opposite cope hut. Day Tour: Mt Jim with SOB, Ben, Jo, Melissa, Tony, and Glen Chalet activities: Snowboarding, Skeletons and courting "Celeste" Night time "Gentlemen's Quote" followed by statues. Chalet Legend of the Day = Ben - For wearing the Viking hat and touring Jim



Thursday:

The wind was picking up and it was a bit more overcast... Well it was warmer than -5deg. Full tour to investiture point to have BBQ lunch invest Alpine Rovers and a fair dinkum play. Activities included Tele Turns, Cornice Launching, Snow Boarding, Kite Flying and of course the obligatory lets see what on message bank... The BBQ lunch was fantastic and we dined on the superbly appointed snow table complete with wind breaking back stops. The following were invested as Alpine Rovers: Andrew Veimuli (Bushy) Ben Furner Christopher Wilkie Patrick McCormick - VBRC Chair Rod Abson - NRC Chair And presented with the Alpine Badge Joanna Leake Chalet Legend(s) Of The Day =Simo - "marmalade" and SOB for Eating S**T! Actually I think it went to Rod for peeling off his nose whilst eating it... RAOTD: Chris

PARTY NIGHT!

People dressed to theme, Dick prepared the punch. A truly magnificent meal with the punch to kick it up. Night time games included "Wizz Bang", "My P***s is..." and "Have you ever" - clearly won by Jody Chalet Legend(s) Of the Night = Jo and Bushy ;)

Friday:

No tour - very late start. Just as well as the weather was dark and stormy. Lunch at about 4pm... BBQ dinner with a party tasting of the week 8 wine. RAOTD: Chalet Legend Of The Day = Tony for taking out the Table Tennis Champs

Saturday:

Early start (5:30am) - cleaned up and left. Not many booby traps left The wind was fresh and over cast. Melissa and Pat were bailing up till the rescue of some face product from Bushy - and he calls Ben metro sexual... We met the 9ers at the dam wall along with Cam Cook, the Woozinator and friends skiing off for a weekend of back country work. drove out via Boyntons winery - pox and Myrtleford Bakery Chalet Legend of the Day = Jody - For skiing out without falling over once!

Hiking?

Summer Bookings fee includes:

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- Use of a Commercial Standard Kitchen

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0407 242 538
bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au
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Bogong Rover Chalet
Planning a High Plains Hike?

The Bogong Rover Chalet perfectly situated on the Bogong High Plains to provide a base for day trips, or a stop over on extended walks. Imagine being able to have a hot shower, use real toilet and sleep with a real pillow in the middle of a long hike!

Located in the Alpine National Park, 13km from Falls Creek, the Bogong Rover Chalet provides Australia's most unique Alpine Experience.

Address Update:

Have you changed your address or do you have an email address? Help us keep track of our Alpine Rover Crew by completing the form below, and post this entire page (including old address label) to the above address. If you are receiving the bulletin via post, and would like to receive it by email, send your email address to bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au

Name:

Address:

.....

Town:

Postcode:

Email Address:

Bogong Rover Chalet
PO Box 774
Mt Waverley 3149



Skiing in the bare necessities, Week 9 2004