



Bogong Bulletin

Issue 54 Winter 2006

The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter

What's on in 06?

July 15-22 Week 4 Snow Venture
 July 22-29 Week 5 Open Week
 July 29-Aug 7 Week 6 Open Week
 Aug 3 Highest Peak Project Meeting
 Aug 7-12 Week 7 Open Week
 Aug 12-19 Week 8 Open Week
 Aug 19-26 Week 9 Open Week
 Aug 26 Kangaroo Hoppet
 Aug 26-Sep 2 Week 10 Open Week
 Sep 2-9 Week 11 Closed!
 (School booking)
 Sep 9-16 Week 12 Open Week
 Sep 16-23 Week 13 Snow Venture
 Oct 11 Alpine Rover Crew AGM
 August 1, 2007 Highest Peak Project, Bogong Ascent

Booking Status:

Winter Party's have started, and the chalet will be open every week until week 11. There are still places in most parties so keep those applications coming in...

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Status											N/A		

BCMG Chairman's Report

I have just returned from Week 1 Snow Venture which was a great success, thanks to Pete, Linda and Luke for coming in to help open up for the weekend, we are always looking for leaders to help run these Snow Ventures.

It is now with great pleasure that I can announce that Weeks 1 thru 10 are open with week 11 reserved for a school group, but keep those applications coming as we hope to see a lot more snow in the coming weeks.

We are currently planning a big maintenance schedule for this summer to get lots of those jobs that have been on the cards for a very long time out of the way, along with some fairly large plumbing and electrical projects to be undertaken.

The management group is also currently assembling a team to design the new bookings database, to allow smoother processing of applications. If you have any experience in database design and would like to be involved just get in contact with the management group at bogong@vicscouts.asn.au.

That's me for now, have a safe and fun winter party at the Bogong Rover Chalet.

Stuart Bailey (BCMG Chairman)

2006 Winter Party Reunion

Alpine Rover Crew & Bogong Chalet Management Group Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11th October 2006, 8 pm

Victorian Rover Centre, Highland Avenue, Clayton North

Catch up with friends you made on winter parties this year, share stories, photos, port and supper with friends from winters past
Have your say in the running of the chalet.

We have positions for Venturers, Rovers and Ex-Rovers on the Management Group

Bring along photos and video of your ski tours and other exploits and we will put them up on a big screen!

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



¿Are You Covered?

Private health insurance often only covers half the trip home. Check if you're fully covered and become an ambulance member if you're not!
Individual Membership costs a lot less than a lift ticket, but an evacuation could cost more than a winter party!

Trouble in the Bush?

There is now a new phone number to use if you need to call the SES in Victoria. Call 132 500 to get in contact with the local SES Unit, it's a good idea to know the postcode of the area you are in. Falls Creek is 3699, if in doubt, call 000.



KEEP WINTER COOL

FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING WINTER'S SHORT ENOUGH ALREADY



G'day,
For all those skiing enthusiasts who may be a little concerned about their ongoing capacity for skiing over coming generations due to the unpredictable effects of enhanced global warming, the Alpine communities have taken to action with a global warming initiative called 'Keep Winter Cool'. There are a range of simple ways in which you can reduce your impacts on carbon emissions and global warming, in-turn playing your part in protecting the ski fields.

For more information on this initiative see: www.keepwintercool.com.au

Please inform your skiing friends of this initiative and play your part.

Yours in Scouting,

Rod Abson, ARC & National Adviser for Environment, Scouts Australia

Email: environment@scouts.com.au



News Flash:

Mr Mark Schammer is no longer a bachelor (sorry girls). Mark Schammer married Christiana Holman in the Grampians National Park in the clearing mist under a gum tree on 22nd April. All in attendance, including Bogong personalities, Best man, Craig Lee, special guest stars John 'Legend' Litvan, Greg 'Groggo' Roberts & Kathy Binks, Phil & Mary Tuck, Robyn Hodge, Peter 'Simmo' Simpson & Carolyn Juett (now there's some old Bogong names), Neil Bradford and Matt & Julie Rungie reportedly had a great time at the Royal Mail Hotel, Dunkeld. I can thoroughly recommend dropping in for a beer or two when next you visit the Grampians.

Shameless self promotion by Mark Schammer (BRC)

Rover Keyring - Bottleopeners for Sale.



For only \$7.50 (plus postage if you want it posted to you) you too can own a funky bottle-opener. ALWAYS handy to have around. There are only 20 in the state so it will be first in best dressed.

If there is a high enough demand more can be ordered, however they will cost \$8 each in order to cover postage from WA.

Contact the VicBranch Rover Council or Libby Davison on er_davison@hotmail.com

Evening of Elegance
MARB 2006



Tickets \$40.00
19th August 2006
7:30pm Melrose Function Centre
Tullamarine. Melway Ref 15K2
BYO - No Glass, No Ice
<http://www.marb2006.com>

Back to School – How scouting improves your employment opportunities.

They tell me I'm a fully fledged primary school teacher now. Well, someone gave me a job so I guess I'll have to pretend. Luckily Bogong Chalet training helped me here. I was able to organise my tables and duty monitors with as much flair as the average Party Leader. The Wombargos have declared permanent war on the Towongs, though. Apparently their steward, who was in charge of handing out the coloured pencils, was bailed up over by the white board and now they don't have any greens or blues. The other day, when I walked into my classroom, the intercom-phone rang. "SPEAK!" I bellowed into the handset. Oops... It was the principal. Apparently there have been complaints from other classrooms about the noise emanating from our room when a very serious game of "Hi Ho" is in full swing. (We might have to switch to a quiet game of Zoom, although I think the kids will have difficulty pronouncing 'profigilyamo'... clearly I might have difficulty spelling it). My request to burn the witch was also denied.

It can be pretty tough motivating these kids to finish their work at times. I regularly find myself waving my fist in the air shouting "get on with it!", generally to no avail. I am also a little tired of finding pencils, books, worksheets, and toothbrushes maliciously strewn about the room at the end of the day. I've started instituting three minute talks to such offenders. (Light bulbs aren't their strong point, I've discovered. I wonder what they know about the petroleum industry.). Sadly, the room's heater isn't as efficient as Theodore at consuming clothing left lying around, and I don't dare try stuffing them into the school's electric hot water heater. We began a study on natural resources last week. At the top of our list of minerals to research is, of course, unobtainium. There is little in the library about this rare resource. Almost unobtainable, in fact. I was hoping someone on this forum might be able to help. We did find, however, that it has a variety of uses. I have applied to school council for a grant to buy a sample in order to build a model of a tow hut... or maybe a bicycle shed. Next week, our maths focus will be on finding out exactly how fast 'ludicrous velocity' is. I still can't understand why I get confused looks from parents when I give them directions to the music room. "Go out the door and zig down the corridor. Zag up the hill and zig when you pass the basketball court. Watch out for Mount Jim if you are using a compass". I dunno...

It's funny how tedious party night EVERY Thursday has become... So sick of those devils on horseback. Actually, I think most of my class are devils - speaking of food, I forgot my lunch again on Friday. I had to go to the canteen and with this new direction in bloody healthy canteen food, all they had was tuna paste on crackers with beetroot. Yek! I'm going to rip the quartermaster's arms off if that happens again!

Ping Pong tournament starts next term and one of my students won. Classroom Legend Of The Day when he accidentally telemarked off the roof of the sports shed while retrieving a tennis ball. The school's pox chief engineer apologised for not having got around to nailing down the roofing sheet yet... Clearly, most of this imaginative writing is all fiction. But what is FACT is that I asked my principal if I could take a week off (without pay) in August. And he said YES! So my form and money was posted off today. See you on the High Plains in Week 9, 2006! "Grouse!"

Stece Tyas aka B2 (ARC)

Schammer won't be at week 9 'cause he is going to China

Unfortunately I won't be making it to the lodge this year, I'm off to Western China to climb a little hillock named Muztagh Ata http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muztagh_Atah from which, with a moderate Easterly wind I should be able to piss onto Tajikistan. I'll be travelling up that narrow window of opportunity between Eastern Afghanistan & Western Kashmir...I'm sure the Chalet will seem like a great option at about the time Osama snuggles up to me in the tent. I'll have to take a few happy snaps to submit for the BB. It promises to be an epic.

More Shameless self promotion by Mark Schammer (BRC)

Welcome to the New Victorian BRC

From 1 July 2006, Victorian Branch Rover Council has a new office bearer team led by Chairman Dean Castle from the Corhanwarrabul Rover Crew, RYVER Region Yarra Valley. Dean replaces Alpine Rover, Patrick McCormick who steps down after two years in the Chairman's role. Dean can be contacted on brc.chairman@vicscouts.asn.au or alternatively you can reach the Victorian Rover Centre on VicBRC@vicscouts.asn.au or telephone 03 8543 9900. Luke Moore (ARC Chairman)

Maintenance Report

The chalet was opened on the 24/06/06 and so far all is operating. Obviously not much can be done at the chalet over winter, although a new suggestion box will be there week 6.

In the coming summer we will look at continuing the cladding, some exterior painting, recoating the bath room floor, improving the water filtration, replacing the drying room heater for a more efficient diesel heater, and some more work on the electrical system.

Peter Rosssborough (BCMG Maintenance Co-ordinator, BRC)

Tow Line Status:

After a mammoth effort over summer we think the tow is ready go! Unfortunately we haven't been able to test it fully as there hasn't been enough snow to ski the home slope.

The Tow Project isn't finished yet, with the hut still needing some finishing touches, lighting installed, and some environmental works completed.

Lost in on line blizzard

In 2001 Gaggs and I wrote an article suggesting some great places to start surfing the net for good websites about all things telemark and about the chalet and its environs. Well the 'net is an ever growing beast and it is time for an update.

One of the best places to start is information about the weather. It wasn't that long ago when winter parties went blind onto the High Plains with no realistic idea of the conditions that they were to face on the trip in. But the following websites give accurate details that will make for a better-prepared party for that sometimes difficult trip in. It must be remembered of course with weather forecasting that the further out it goes the less accurate it becomes!

Snowwatch's 14 day forecast <http://www.snowwatch.com.au/14day.php> is reasonably accurate and usually gives expected depths of predicted falls. I wouldn't rely on the forecast past about 4-5 days though.

Ski.com.au's six day forecast <http://www.ski.com.au/weather/sixday.html> includes maps of Australian resorts and indicates the altitude of any predicted snowfalls. Also includes predictions of expected depth of coming snowfalls. Seems to be reasonably accurate.

The official Bureau forecast for Victorian Alps http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV17006.txt has the shortest predictions but it is a 'must check' the night before your winter party starts. It is usually accurate and it is timely to remind all that the weather conditions in Victoria and NSW are often quite different.

The current snow conditions and webcams are freely available on the internet. Webcams are mounted around the Falls Creek village and two are pointed out across Rocky Valley reservoir toward Rocky Knobs. One is the Cloud Nine camera and the other is the Drivers Dream camera. Check out the view at http://www.ski.com.au/snowcams/falls_creek5.html. Ski.com.au has a great range of webcams at all Australian resorts including Tasmania and during the season often has manual webcams operating. These can be seen at <http://www.ski.com.au/snowcams/vic.html>. Current snow conditions are available at http://www.snowwatch.com.au/snow_reports.htm, http://www.ski.com.au/reports/falls_creek/index.html and <http://www.vicsnowreport.com.au/report.html> which all seem to be provide reasonably accurate accounts of the current conditions. The bad old days of overly optimistic snow reports seem to be a thing of the past – maybe of webcams showing the real conditions in real time!!!

While you are at Ski.com.au check out some of the forums, blogs, accommodation deals, jobs on line and gear for sale.

For historic Australian data about snow check out <http://www1.tpgi.com.au/users/mpaine/snow.html>. Heaps of other information on Falls Creek, the national park and the High Plains is available on the Internet. The official Falls Creek website has great info on the resort and some of the activities the resort has planned. There are great events during summer as well as winter which can be all checked out at http://www.falls_creek.com.au/website/default.asp. The biggest cross country ski race in the Southern Hemisphere is held each year at Falls Creek. A number of Alpine Rovers compete every year in the Hoppit, the Australian leg of the world Loppet series. Check out and down load application forms for the 2006 race at <http://www.hoppet.com.au/>. Parks Victoria has heaps of information about the Alpine National Park at http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1park_display.cfm?park=41. There is a lot to this enormous park outside our immediate area so check out some of the more obscure areas. The Mountain Cattleman's Association of Victoria maintain a website at <http://www.mcav.com.au/> and the Victoria High Country Huts Association also has heaps of information at their website at <http://www.vhcha.org.au/>. The hydro scheme that surrounds the chalet is now owned by Australian Gas and Light and their website about Kiewa Hydro explains a lot of the history and opening up of the High Plains. It must be remembered, of course, that if the former SEC had not built the scheme in the 1940-50's, Falls Creek would have never happened and we would still be slogging up the track from Shannonvale. Check it out at <http://www.agl.com.au/AGLNew/About+AGL/Generation+assets/Hydro+electric+power/Kiewa.htm>

If it is skiing around the world that interests you, check out some of these incredible ski areas. If the southern snow season is not happening in Oz or NZ then Argentina might be the go. Las Lenas is barely 25 years old but boasts some of the longest ski runs in the world. The runs go up to a height of 3420 metres from a base of 2220 metres but you must be happy skiing on a volcano!! Make sure you get the English version of the website at <http://www.laslenas.com/ingles/>.

Other great locations I found included

Vail, Colorado, USA is great at <http://vail.snow.com>

Hemsedal Norway at <http://www.hemsedal.com/>

Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia, Canada at <http://www.whistlerblackcomb.com/index.htm>

Big White and Silver Star, British Columbia, Canada at <http://www.bigwhite.com/bwwebcam/webcam.htm>

Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA at <http://www.jacksonhole.com/today/cam.html>

Kamatchka Peninsula, Russia (that daggy bit north of Japan) at http://www.genuineguidegear.com/trips_india.html

Kashmir, India at <http://www.skihimalaya.com.au>

I found a 'gloat' website of some mad American telemarkers with heaps of great photo's skiing the Cascades and nearby volcanos in the north west of USA and south west of Canada. They ski in summer (when we are skiing) on better snow than we seem to get in mid winter. <http://www.turns-all-year.com/goldhome4/hp199/index.html>

If anyone has any other great websites email them into us at bogongchalet@vicccscouts.asn.au. We would love to see any photo's and websites that winter parties often create on their return to the real world.

But don't forget about the W.F. Waters Rover Chalet at Mt Baw Baw at <http://www.vicrovers.com/bawbaw/>, and don't forget to visit the chalet's great website at <http://www.bogongroverchalet.org.au> for all the latest and to check out some great links to other websites of interest.

Mick Simpson (ARC Secretary, BRC)

The other Chairman's Report

Another season us under way, and although the snow conditions have meant that skiing has been a little limited people have still been having a great time at the Chalet. Thanks to Mick Simpson for finishing the last issue of the bulletin for me while Linda and I jetted around the world, spending a good deal of the time in South America. We got to spend a short time on snow, but couldn't rustle up skis.

Another year is nearing completion for the Management Group, so we are again asking Alpine Rovers to come along to the AGM in October, and not only elect a new management group, but also thank the current team for their efforts over the past year.

The AGM is also a Winter Party Reunion, so come along and catch up with people you may not have skied with for some time, and bring along your photos and videos from the this season's winter party's to display on the big screen.

Luke Moore, (ARC Chairman, BRC)

Highest Peak Project.

Celebrating Scouting's 100 Years around the Globe



No scale maps, No Tracks, No Gortex, No Thermals, No Weather forecast, No Dehydrated food, No down sleeping bag, No bloody MP3 players either

To mark the centenary of the world wide Scouting Movement, the young adults of the Rover section will repeat the first winter ascent of Mount Bogong, and on August the 1st will join scouts around the world who are hiking to their country's Highest Peaks. Rovers aged 17 to 26 will leave the comforts of modern cross country skilling (and life) at home in August 2007 to feel what it was like in 1928 when Scouts made the first ever backcountry ski to the top of Mount Bogong in winter. The lead team will use the same navigation techniques and equipment as the 1928 expedition used; the back up team however will still enjoy the warmth of down sleep bags and the latest design of thermals. With the event 12 months away, Chris is locating interested Rover Scouts from across the state as well as sponsors to support this unique effort. Invitations will also be sent for participation to the Melbourne Bushwalkers club who had a part to play in the 1928 event and to fellow youth movements so that all the community can share in the centenary of Scouting.

Planning meeting 10 AUG

8 PM @ Vic Rover Centre – Highland Ave, Clayton
North VIC

Agenda

- 1; Introductions, Background to Centenary of Scouting,
- 2; All to input to trip scope & challenges
- 3; Identify sources of information
- 4; Plan further research the original trip
- 5; Identify those working groups for Equipment, Food, PR, Route planning

For more information Contact:

Chris Young
ABC – Rover – Development - Victoria
chris.young@c2s.com.au
(h) (03) 9870 4482



**BADEN POWELL
LODGE NO. 488**

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 29th JULY 2006

Starting at 7.30 pm at

Waverley Masonic Centre

318 Stephenson's Road, Mount Waverley

This night of FUN and laughter will test your memory just a bit, so maybe brush up on your general knowledge, perhaps listen to your music collection and think "Trivia" for your chance to win a number of fabulous team and individual prizes throughout the night.

Book a table and bring your family and friends for the best night's entertainment you have had in a long time.

All funds raised from the evening will be going to our planned charitable project for the Victorian Rover Scout section.

BYO: Refreshments and nibbles

Supper: Coffee or tea and cake provided

Cost: \$15.00 per person

We guarantee you an evening to remember!

To book contact Graham White Tel: 9578 9597 email: gjwhite1@gmail.com

Last Page Gallery

If you've got photos you want to share, send them to me!



Luke and Linda Moore high (5,600m) in the Cordilla Blanca, Peru



First parade for the season, Week 1 Snow Venture



View from the Tow Hut, Queens Birthday Weekend



Skiing the High Plains Road, Week 1 Snow Venture



Dealing with the Local Inhabitants, Peruvian Style



Arty type photo by Steve Tyas