



Bogong Bulletin

Issue 60 Autumn 2008
The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter



75th Anniversary of Rover Skiing



All of us after the Rovers Own on Sunday

The 75th Anniversary of Rover Skiing Alpine Rover Crew Reunion was held at Howman's Gap YMCA Camp on the Labour Day long weekend. About 50 people joined us at Howman's Gap, along with many more who called in to the Chalet for a tour and to look at historical displays.

The reunion started Friday night, with a group of Alpine Rovers who had come from the Kandersteg World Moot reunion in Beachworth.

On Saturday a group left early to hike the Shannonvale Track, they ended up having quite a long day, reaching the Chalet at 10pm. The rest of the group headed out to spend a day at the Chalet. Groups walked to Wallace's and Cope Huts, looked at the historical



Les and Lou Wiebenga not rockclimbing

display's and marveled at how the Bogong Rover Chalet has evolved over the last 68 years. Having such a cross section of people at the chalet we were able to date a lot of our old photos as well as put some names to the people in them. Back at Howman's Gap, the afternoon was spent on the rock climbing wall.

Saturday evening, after parade, we had a formal dinner. After dinner we had the premiere screening of some footage shot by Eric Kerr of the 50s including Skiing on the High Plains and Mount Hotham, as well several Rucksack Club Walks. After dinner many got up and reminisced and roasted each other.



Heath Morris and Lee Thaw's Bogong Rover Investiture

Sunday we had a Rovers Own Service out at Investiture Point. It was a thought provoking service on the past, present and future of Rover Skiing. After the Rovers Own, the Bogong Rovers present stayed back at investiture point for two belated Bogong Rover investitures, Lee Thaw and Heath Morris. After the service and investitures, some headed home, some went back to the Chalet and some rode their mountain bikes down to Shannonvale to pick up the cars left there the previous day. Lunch was served at the Chalet and the afternoon spent with day walks and more reminiscing. After dinner we showed a DVD of the Highest Peaks Challenge of the re-enactment of Bill Waters first Winter Ascent of Mount Bogong, looked at more photos and told more stories.



Howmans Gap YMCA Camp

Special Thanks to Linda Luke and Annie Moore for organising the nuts and bolts of the weekend; Sue Tanck, Tony Brooks, and The Simpson Family for sorting out the historical displays; The Simpson Family and the Bill Waters Rovers for keeping the Chalet ship shape over the weekend; Jody Freeman for a fantastic Scouts Own; Geoff



The Bogong Rover Chalet

Selton as our (un)official photographer; all the drivers who helped with the car shuffles; and the Howman's Gap YMCA staff for their hospitality.

(All photos by Geoff Selton)

What's On?

2008

April 25-27
Anzac Day Long Weekend
Chalet Working Bee

May 9-11
Food Weekend
Summer Bookings Close

June 6-9
Queens Birthday Weekend
Ski Season Opens

June 11
Ski Expo

June 28-July 5
Bogong Winter Season Opens
Victoria/QLD Snow Venture
(Week 1 Winter Party)

July 5-12
Week 2 Winter Party

July 12-19
South Australia/NSW Snow Venture

July 19-26
Week 4 Winter Party

July 26
Ski Fun Day

July 26-August 2
Week 5 Winter Party

August 2-9
Week 6 Winter Party

August 9-16
Week 7 Winter Party

August 16-23
Week 8 Winter Party

August 23-30
Week 9 Winter Party

August 30
Kangaroo Hoppet XC Race

August 30-September 6
Week 10 Winter Party

September 6-13
Week 11 Winter Party

September 13-20
Week 12 Winter Party

September 20-27
Victorian/QLD Snow Venture 2

September 27
Bogong Winter Season Closes

October 8
Alpine Rover Crew & BCMG AGM
2008 Winter Party Reunion

November 1-4
Melbourne Cup Weekend
Bogong Summer Season Opens

3rd Wednesday of each Month
BCMG Meets at Vic Rover Centre

Alpine Rover Crew Chairman's Report

The Management Group has been quite busy for the first part of the year. The Maintenance team has been busy repairing the sand filter, cladding, and preparing for a rewire of the chalet as well as the usual annual maintenance jobs. The promotions team, have been out promoting, and have created new brochures for summer activities, winter parties, snow venture and the mountain bike weekend. PR DVD's will be available soon, so if you want to promote the chalet, we can loan one to you, just email me at bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au. We have also been quite busy organizing the 75th Anniversary of Rovers Skiing weekend. All who went had a great time and we will be organizing a Melbourne based get together soon.

We are now in the final throws of getting the chalet ready for winter, there are a few jobs still to be completed over the Anzac Day long weekend, and then the food goes in the following weekend. If you would like to come to either of these weekends call the bookings officer on 0407 242 538 or email bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au
Lucas Moore – ARC Chairman

BCMG Chairman's Report

The Chalet is nearly ready for winter. We have struggled to get people up to working bees, so thanks to all who have come and put a great effort in to get most of our planned jobs done. The work is now always glamorous or easy but it needs to be done to keep the Chalet operating.

We have also spent a lot of time promoting, and my goal for this year is to get 250 winter parties, and in the 75th Year of Rover skiing, it would be great if we could get 75 'virgins' to the Chalet. Alpine Rovers are our best promoters, so talk to people about how great Winter Parties are, and get them coming along to the Chalet.

Kyle Nash – BCMG Chairman

Bookings Report

We have had quite a good summer season with many groups using the chalet from Cup Weekend to Anzac Day Weekend. Winter Bookings have been coming in steadily, with 71 booked to date. Don't forget that early bird rates end on the 30th April, so get your bookings forms in now and save a few dollars!

Bookings confirmations and acceptances are now coming out by email, so please make sure your email address is written clearly, it saves me time, and the chalet lots of money in postage to help keep fees down.

John Linnell – Bookings Officer

Bogong Bulletin Data Base:

We are currently working through our mailing list to make sure we have a comprehensive contact list of Alpine Rover Crew and Bogong Rover Crew. If you get the bulletin by mail, could you please forward us an email address to bulletin@bogongroverchalet.org.au. Also, if you know of anyone who does not get the bulletin and should, email their details to the above address too.



Early Bird Bookings

Winter Party & Snow Venture Bookings Forms are now available for download at www.bogongroverchalet.org.au. Don't forget Early Bird rate ends on 30th April. Get your forms in early to save a few dollars and help the Management Group plan for winter.

I Need HELP!

Writing the Bogong Bulletin.
Please send your
announcements, events, gossip,
innuendo, reports and photos to
me at
bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au

Congratulations to Alpine Rovers
Andrew Hanley and Clare Hickman
on their engagement

New at the Chalet for 2008:

- Gluten Free bread mix,
pasta and biscuits
- Yogurt



Congratulations to
Steven and Rebecca
Cornish on *their* wedding
22 March in NZ

Rediscovering the Shannonvale Track – Labour Day 2008-04-15



Our Group before the walk

On the 75th anniversary weekend a group of 10 alpine rovers attempted to walk the Shannonvale track. Our Party consisted of Chris Young, David de Bondi, Stu Bailey, Sheena Bailey, Stuart Linnell, John Linnell, Katrina Mattingley, Tony Brooks, Daniel Hanson and Luke Moore

This track was the original route up to the Bogong high plains & was used by rover winter parties until the 60's when they started coming in from Falls Creek. With most people visiting the high plains from Falls Creek the track became overgrown and lost, disappearing from maps and only memories remaining.

Attempts had been made to retrace the track downhill from the chalet using the old jam tin lid trail markers. Heavy vegetation always turned groups back. The bush fires in 2003 revealed the track again. Even after nearly forty years with no use the foot pad was visible down the Middle Creek valley.

Sections of the track were walked by groups staying at the Bogong Rover Chalet, but to my knowledge nobody had completed the entire track. The 75th Anniversary of the Alpine Rover Crew reunion weekend seemed like a good time to give it a go.

On the Saturday morning of the reunion, armed with maps, compasses, GPS's, 2 way radios & memories, we set off. We left the cars at Shannonvale at 10 am & headed along the river flats of Middle Creek. Our GPS said it was 11km as the crow flies and an 800m climb to the Rover Chalet.

The first part of the journey was through the Fitzgerald family's cow paddocks. (The Fitzgerald's used to provide winter parties with pack horses to get their gear up to the chalet.) The walk started in flat open country with a few creek crossings and cows as obstacles. For the early part of the journey there was no sign of any track, years of farming had covered it over. As we progressed up the valley, the vegetation got denser and blackberries became more abundant. The track would reveal itself as a foot or 4wd track then disappear again into the scrub. Thickets of blackberries would block our path but were mostly avoidable. The Eucalyptus and Wattle regrowth was quite thick but easily navigatable.

We made good time and by 1 pm we were over half way to the chalet, had climbed 100m and had found the first set of track markers at our lunch stop. Although we still had about 700m to climb over 5 or 6km, we were confident of making the chalet by 6 pm as we thought the vegetation should thin as we gained altitude and got away from the moisture rich creek.



Early obstacles



We continued on the south side of Middle Creek for another kilometre before beginning to climb a spur that would take us up to the high plains and Rover Chalet. We had been given instructions on Friday night by a few of the old timers that when you got to the crossing there was a fallen tree hidden about 10 metres upstream, they would watch the new ones splash through the creek, then they would cross the log and keep their boots dry. Not being able to find the track for some time, we weren't sure we were in the right spot, and couldn't find the log, so splashed through the creek and then commenced our climb.

Early maps only showed basic topographic detail – most water courses, tracks and ridge lines. Although we had early maps they weren't much help – to use them the track needed to be visible. We navigated using David's memory (he'd done it on a few winter parties in the 60's), the

GPS to show us where we had been (the breadcrumb trail is a great feature) and which way we needed to be going, modern maps and a lot of instinct. We knew we had to keep going up, and we were following a spur that would take us up to 'Hill 60' and the aqueduct trail opposite the chalet.

We crossed the creek and started heading up. There was no track to find, and the vegetation was quite dense. We pushed through 3m high eucalypt saplings, regrowth from the fire that was very thick, the whole way blackberry vines wove through the saplings and bracken cutting at our legs. Walking single file we made slow progress up the hill, often not being able to see more than 2 metres in front of us for the scrub. Our progress slowed, we kept in contact with the chalet by UHF Radio and pushed our arrival time back.

For most of the climb we pushed our way through the scrub, literally parting it like a curtain as we pushed through, and used sticks and walking poles to beat down the blackberries. When we could, the fastest way of moving was to walk along the top of fallen mountain ash. Some of these trees must have fallen like dominos, we were able to step from one fallen



Light Scrub!

giant to the next and we made a straight line up the hill. The fallen trees allowed us quite fast progress compared to pushing through the scrub.



First Track Marker

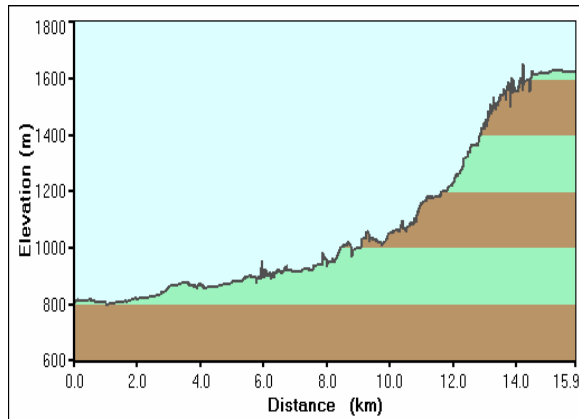
At about 4pm we saw the second set of trail marker, and stopped for a well earned afternoon tea break. Relieved that we were still on course, chocolate never tasted so good. We only found a couple of markers, and no sign of a foot track, so decided to continue finding our own route to the chalet. After the walk, by comparing the gps plot to an old map, I think we had spent 3 hours on the wrong spur. This didn't matter as we'd ended up on track, and looking at the scrub, I don't think our progress would have been any quicker.

The scrub did thin out on the ridge tops and the westward facing slopes but progress was still slowed by the bracken, or more importantly the blackberries woven through it. Most of our journey up hill was on east facing slopes that probably had thicker vegetation being on the sheltered side from the weather.

We continued on, pushing our arrival time further back as we had slowed to an average speed less than 1km an hour. By afternoon tea we had climbed 400m but still had 400m and about 3km to go. Darkness fell and we continued to climb, now by torchlight. We kept in radio contact with the Chalet and could eventually see the chalet lights, but were still a long way off, the lack of any track kept our progress slow.

Eventually we could see the lights and hear the coo-ees of people who had come out from the chalet to guide us to where the track should have met the aqueduct. After 12 hours of walking, we made it to the chalet. Arriving at 10pm we had a late dinner, glad we had accomplished something that had not been done for some time, and vowing that it would not happen again, at least by us.

We all pulled up pretty well on Sunday, and after the scouts own service, Stu, Sheena, Stuart, Katrina and I rode our bikes down the High Plains Road to pick up the cars we had left parked at Shannonnvale.



Looking back afterward, we had come quite close to following the original route. If we had a few more hours of daylight, we may have found the upper part of the track that crosses the valley to the aqueduct on the chalet side of the valley. Its easy to underestimate the time it takes when walking off track, particularly in regrowth areas. I think it will be some time before anyone attempts this again, unfortunately only another bush fire will clear the scrub enough to make the track passable again. Maybe we should have tried it a few years ago?

Luke Moore – Bogong Rover Crew (Photos by Chris Young)

Catering Report

We have added a few new ingredients to the Bulk pantry this year. There is now an Easi-yo Yogurt maker and Plain Yogurt Mix so you can make yogurt for breakfasts, flavoured with jams or honey, or use it to make tzatziki or curries. We have added Multi Grain Bread Mix and well as the Crusty White Mix to the pantry, and also have a stock of Gluten Free bread mix, Gluten Free Pasta and biscuits on the pantry.

Remember that the menus and recipes are only a guide; just don't use any extra essential ingredients to what is allocated for your week. We don't want people to go hungry, or have to carry in extra at the end of the season. If you create any new recipes or menus, please write it down and add it to the additional recipes book, and if you think there is an ingredient we must have, please add it to the suggestion box.

Bogong Rover Crew Nominations

Nominations for Bogong Rover Investitures for this winter are being considered now. All Bogong Rovers can nominate, so if you have someone you think should be considered, nominate them now! Nomination forms, along with eligibility are on our website at:

www.bogongroverchalet.org.au/aboutUsBogongRC or call me on 0410585433 and I'll organize a form to be posted to you/

Luke Moore, ARC Chairman

Chalet Badges - \$2 each

Chalet Badges are now available at the Chalet, also available are snow venture and 75th Anniversary Badges



Bogong Merchandise

There is plenty of Bogong branded merchandise at the Chalet.

- Carry less in and buy an extra fleece, shirt, beanie and sun hat while you are there.
- Get a sticker for your car.
- Buy 'Bills Book' to send you to sleep at night.
- Buy a badge for your camp blanket or uniform.
- Get one of our new brand stubby holders.

Merchandise Price List for 2008	
Full Zip Polar fleece	\$45
Half zip polar fleece	\$25
Polo shirts	\$20
All hats	\$15
Stickers	\$1
W.F. Waters biography	\$5
Badges	\$2
Stubby holder	\$5

2008 Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend

The annual Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend ran over the Easter School Holidays. We had four Venturers; Ben Cardinal, Douglas McGarvic, Callum Mardock and Caitlin Browning, and four Leaders; Chris Gunther, John Linnell, Geoff De La Rue and Liz Leitch along for the weekend. On Thursday we drove up from Melbourne and Geelong and met the Otway Plains Venturers in Bright who'd ridden the rail trail to Bright. Had soup and went to bed.



Snow on Sunday Morning



Most of our group at Wallace's Hut

Friday was a bit of a slack day. We got up late and did the 3 hut tour and rode around the aqueduct towards strawberry saddle. Saturday was a bigger day. We did a car shuffle to Shannonvale, then all rode down there. It was very bumpy to start with, then smoothed out to the 4x4 track with the wash outs to jump over. Had lunch at the bottom by the river. On Sunday we woke to fresh snow on the ground. We rode the bikes out to Langford's Gap, while Geoff and Liz drove the cars from Cope Hut. On the drive down the mountain we

stopped off at Cranky Charlie and rode the survey track back to Mount Beauty. The track was great.

All up we had no broken bikes, no broken bodies, all ate well & everyone had a great time.

Chris Gunther

For the Alpine rover who has all the Bogong Rover Chalet Merchandise, introducing the new

Soft Shell Jackets

These jackets will be very similar to the current jackets but made of a Water Repellent, Breathable and wind proof material.

(Water Repellent Rating: 3,000mm inner membrane, Breathability Rating: 3,000g/m2.)



These jackets will be available on a pre-order basis only, and will cost \$75, including delivery.

All orders will be required by the ski expo, 11th June 2008, and should be ready to be delivered by the ski fun day.

To order your jacket today either email, merchandise@brooksweb.id.au or call 0408 551 307

Maintenance Report

The Chalet is nearly ready for winter. We still have a large amount of cladding to complete over the Anzac Day weekend, so if you can lend a hand, contact John the Bookings Officer on 0407 242 538.

We are already planning tasks for next summer. One job that we would like to get completed between the end of winter and Christmas is recoating the bathroom floor. All the paint and equipment is there we are just after a crew to do it. Contact bogonchalet@vicscouts.asn.au if your interested in a free weekend at the chalet to do it.

Ski Fun Day

Sunday 27th July

Mt Baw Baw or Lake Mountain depending on snow conditions

Check out the website closer to the activity for more details.

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



Alpine Rover Crew Ski & Outdoors Expo
Wednesday 11th June from 8pm
EMC, 68 Whitehorse Road , Deepdene
Come along catch up, stock up, or grab a
bargain

