



Bogong Bulletin

Issue 46 Autumn 2004

The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter

Wilkinsons Lodge Destroyed By Fire

On Saturday 17 January 2004 a fire ripped through Wilkinsons Lodge razing it to the ground. The fire was apparently caused by a gas leak and a guest was moderately injured in the ensuing blaze. The people at the lodge unsuccessfully attempted to douse the flames. Falls Creek CFA attended the fire but the building was completely alight on their arrival.

The State Electricity Commission of Victoria built Wilkinsons Lodge in the early 1930's to house staff who were measuring snow depths in the planning stages of the hydro electric scheme. After the second world war the lodge was sold to the Ski Club of Victoria and then the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the early 1960's who have maintained the lodge ever since. It was a cosy lodge that was run on very similar lines to the Bogong Rover Chalet with weeklong winter parties coinciding with our own. The loss of the lodge is even more ironic considering the bushfire of 2003 almost consumed it – coming within metres of the building. Our thoughts are with the members and users of Wilkinsons Lodge and the injured person.

Mick Simpson (Secretary, Alpine Rover Crew)



Attention all current Rovers and Venturers!

I'd like you to cast your mind back to when you first heard of the Bogong Rover Chalet, and when you decided to embark upon your first Winter Party. Do you remember what made you go? Maybe it was because somebody you knew had talked incessantly about the Chalet, or maybe you saw Bogong Chalet people doing crazy stuff at a Rover event and you thought 'this looks like fun'? Or maybe you stopped off to see our display at a Venturer event, enjoyed a free snow cone, and listened to us talk about what a fantastic experience we offer?

Well, we need you to help continue to run these promotional events. There's very little work involved (the BCMG will organise equipment and display items), just a small bit of your time. It's a great chance to catch up with people you've been to Winter Parties with, get some practise in selling (great confidence builder), and do a bit of service, all in one. The Bogong Chalet Management Group wants a list of Rovers (and Venturers in some cases) that would like to be notified via email about upcoming promotion events so they offer to help. You'll be under no obligation to help each time, but it is always appreciated. If you would like to help, please email us at

bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au

A reminder to everybody about our new website, www.bogongroverchalet.org.au. Chris Gunther has spent a significant amount of time making the site look fantastic. All Summer and Winter Party application forms are available on the site, as well as Winter equipment lists, news, information about the Chalet including its history, and links to other skiing-related sites.

Our Summer maintenance schedule has been going very well. Visitors to the Chalet will notice the new dining room floor which seems to make the room look much bigger. Ray White and Peter Rossborough did a fantastic job over the week after Australia Day. We now have a steel grate stairway outside Theodore replacing the old concrete steps that used to get icy in Winter. The next working bee is coming up over the Easter break, then our food weekend in May. Check our website for more details. If you are interested, please contact us via email (see above) or phone 0407-CHALET (242 538).

Don't forget to get your Winter Party applications in as soon as possible. After the 1st April, prices will go up, and no more preferential bookings for Rovers. Some weeks will fill up fast, so get in early. For Venturers and Venturer leaders, don't forget to tell your Unit about our Snow Venture's running Weeks 1 (Vic), 3 (S.A.) and 13 (Vic) this year. For more details, check the website or call 0407-CHALET.

James Dugan (BCMG Chairman)

Congratulations!

The following Rovers and ex Rovers have been awarded the WF Waters award for outstanding service to the Victorian Rover Section:

Cameron Cook - Bogong Rover Crew

Colin Jones - Bogong Rover Crew

Ros Pruden - Bogong Rover Crew

Mick Connor - Bogong Rover Crew

Mick Spencer - Bogong Rover Crew

Peter Rossborough - Bogong Rover Crew

Donna Anderson - Bogong Rover Crew

Lee Prior - Norseman Rover Crew, and Mudbash and Mafeking

Kris Lawrence - Wilf Kendall Rover Crew and Chairman of Hoadley Region Rover Council

Fiona Dean - Kulin Rover Crew and Murray Midlands Region Rover Council Executive and Chairman

Liz Golec - Support to Murray Midlands Rovers

Its great to see people involved in the chalet be recognized. If anyone would like to attend the Victorian Rover Dinner to see the awards be presented on Saturday 3rd April, at the Karralyka Centre, Ringwood East, contact James Stewart on 0407 254 834

New website

The PR Team with the assistance of Chris Gunther has developed a new look website for the Rover Chalet. It is online now.

Bookmark www.bogongroverchalet.org.au to check it out!

2004 Alpine Rover Crew Ski Expo

Wed. 16th June, 7pm till Late

This year's ski expo will be held at a brand new store in Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs.

Details will follow soon.

Waiting for Snow.....

Check out The Frog's predictions for the coming season at:

www.snowwatch.com.au

Coming Events:

1st April:
Early Bird Bookings Close

9th - 12th April:
Easter Working Bee
Hoadley Hide – Vic. Venturer Event

24th – 25th April:
Anzac Day W/E Working Bee

30th April
Summer Bookings Close

8th – 9th May
Food Weekend

12th - 14th June:
Queens Birthday Weekend
Ski Season Opens!!!

Wed. 16th June
Ski Expo

Sat. 19th June
Nobs Training in Melbourne

26th June:
Week 1 – Snow Venture Begins

13th October
BCMG AGM, and ARC Reunion

30th October
Summer Bookings Open

Help Wanted!

Help is needed at all the working bees listed above. Also, if you want go to the Chalet on another weekend, and do a bit of work, we can organize discount rates! Contact the bookings officer for details.

It's a girl!!!

Congratulations to Steve Carter (Bogong Rover & ARC Rovers Yarra Valley Vic) & Rachel Carter (nee Tie) (Alpine Rover) on the arrival of Tia.

Australian Scout Fellowship

Are you no longer a member Scout Association? Consider becoming a member of the Australian Scout Fellowship. The fellowship is open to anyone over the age of 26; it gives people who don't want to become a leader an opportunity to stay involved in the Scout Association. Membership gives you full Association membership which has a number of benefits, the main ones being income protection insurance while you are on scouting activities, and cheaper rates on your winter parties!!!
For membership enquiries, contact your Branch Headquarters. In Victoria Write to Australian Scout Fellowship, PO Box 190, Carlton South, 3053

Are you an Ambulance Member?

Most private health insurance only covers the first leg of an emergency evacuation. Transfer to another hospital could cost you thousands. Join you states ambulance service any maybe save \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Does Your Crew Use A Sword in Investitures?

Victorian Parliament recently enacted legislation that outlaws the possession of swords from 1st July this year. We are investigating options to gain exemption for Crew swords, and in doing so, Crews must register their Crew sword details with Victorian Branch. Details required are:

- 1) a description of the sword;
- 2) details of how and where it is stored and security for the sword;
- 3) who has access to it; and
- 4) Crew contact details (address, phone, email & mobile).

Some Groups may be in possession of swords from closed Crews; they are encouraged to register these swords or hand them in, either to Rover Headquarters or the Victorian Scout Heritage Centre.

This is a matter which is being dealt with through the Victorian Branch Rover Council, in a thorough and timely manner. It would be appreciated if Crews refrained from pursuing this with the government, as we are working on it, and the best thing a Crew can do is to provide the above information to us so that we can provide a detailed and thorough submission to the government. If your Crew does not use a sword, this information would be useful as well.

Crew sword information can be emailed brc.deputy-chair@vicscouts.asn.au, or posted to Crew Swords, c/- Rover Office, PO Box 190, Carlton South 3053. All information needs to be received by 1st June 2004, but the sooner the better.

Yours in Roving,

Rod Abson - Chairman

Victorian Branch Rover Council

Mobile: 0427 22 33 83

Risk Management update

A few changes are being made to the way the Chalet operates in both winter and the off season. Each summer booking will see the re-introduction of an old concept. Hut Chiefs will be nominated for each and every off season booking. Effectively, a Hut Chief is the off season equivalent to a Party Leader. Generally this person will be the person who actually makes to booking and is responsible for all people staying in the Chalet. The second thing introduced is a requirement for the Hut Chief/Party Leader to make a phone call to the Bookings Officer on arrival at and on leaving the Chalet. This does not mean that if you are just going for a bike ride or ski out to Rocky Nobs or Mt Cope, a phone call is required. We need a call made if your Group/Party numbers change due to unexpected arrivals/departures or changes in your plans. This has been introduced as a result of the fires in 2003 and a recent booking that had larger numbers than we expected. A A4 poster has been put in place over the phone in the Dining Room. We know that it is a bit of a pain in the neck, but this is seen as a necessary policy by the BCMG and we urge you all to help us in running the Chalet by doing a bit to make things easier for us.

On a more pleasant note, new maps have been laminated and placed in the Dining Room and History Room (next to the radio) so we should be able to see the red lines on the new maps for a few years to come, unlike the old faded one.

In the future, a few other changes are being considered. One that may offend a few "I come to the Chalet to get away from it all" types (and I include myself in this group) is the purchase and installation of a radio. We get AM/FM reception of sorts at the Chalet and AM radio can be a very useful information source in times of emergency such as fires etc. I am currently looking for a radio that can run off mains and 24 volt power, alternatively it will be one that works off mains and batteries. For those who know more about radios and power sources, I would appreciate some advice at r.j.white@bigpond.com on the subject.

Ray White

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Week 9ers Catherine Koralewski and Mike Hurley on their recent wedding



Wedding Bells too

Congratulations to management group members Linda Merrall and Luke Moore on their upcoming wedding

Maintenance Update

For those of you who have been into the Chalet in the last few years, you will be pleased to know that the floor in the Dining Room has been replaced in the week following Australia Day long week end. It is a Tassie Oak hardwood floor and has been laid with secret nails. What does this mean we hear you ask ??? Secret nailing is done with nails through the tongue that slots into the groove on the side of each board. The end result is that there are no nail holes filled with putty on top of the board. It looks better and is possibly less time consuming to put down. I wouldn't go so far as to suggest that it is a less painful or any quicker method but Pete and I reckon it looks pretty damn good. Photos of the end result can be seen on our website at www.bogongroverchalet.org.au and I urge you all to have a quick look. For those of you who were hoping to see twister dots or a painted line for matchbox games, we hope that you can learn to get over your sense of disappointment. No twister dots are contemplated, however, for fans of matchbox games, we have thought of you all and come up with a solution. We laid two very dark boards in amongst some very light boards that will take the place of the old, ratty piece of duct tape that has served in the past. These boards are over towards the stairs down to the Drying Room as Pete Rossborough and I am convinced that it is easier to play these games West to East, as opposed to East to West as in the past.

It will be fully sealed in the week following the Labour Day long weekend and should look a million dollars. Additionally, the non slip dirt, gravel and very small rocks have been removed from the stairs to the Drying Room and will be sanded, sealed and proper non slip tape put down. Yet another 3 minute talk substitute gone from the arsenal, no longer can we get people to mop the stairs clean.

The pile of rubble that served as the external stairs from the games Room has been demolished and is currently sitting in a trailer in Mt. Beauty. A galvanised platform and stairs has been made and installed. The platform and steps are similar to the steps down from the Wallace's End balcony. Daniel Wilson has come up with a nifty solution that sees the steps fitted with a moveable hand rail. In the off season, the rail fits into slots parallel to the wall, in winter the rail can be lifted out and placed into slots on the kitchen side of the platform.

The Winter Entry has been painted as has the inside of the Wood Shed, the blind windows in the Dining Room stripped back and revarnished. Over the Labour Day Weekend, lots of painting, re-rendering of the exterior walls, started completing the cladding on the exterior of the dining room, ran some pipe work in preparation for the water tank and moved two truckloads of fire wood into the wood shed. Thanks to all those that attended.

Future plans are to install the Water Tank before winter and if time permits, more cladding will go up on the outside of the building around the large window in the Dining Room.

Ray White



Working on the chain gang



Whole lotta wood.



A work in progress

New Ski Runs Uncovered

The bushfire of 2003 has cleared a lot of low vegetation and during the 2003 ski season there was a lot more skiing to both near and further away from the chalet. The tree skiing was a little challenging with some quick turns often required but the telemarks and Christies were becoming very polished by the end of the winter parties. Some of the runs discovered on 9th week included

- From the summit of Basalt Hill around the cornice (not over it!!) over the aqueduct and keep on going down. There are large clear areas quite low down and we were able to ski to an elevation of about 1200 metres – the snow was down quite low and well into the Mountain Ash. It is very steep and only for the experienced. The intermediates had a great time skiing in the summit area. That was a vertical drop of at least 400 metres – 2 or 3 of these had the heart pumping quite hard

Above the aqueduct

Below the aqueduct
- From the top of the home slope head ever so slightly to the right where the home slope flattens out. Climb up to the summit of this ridge on your left and then in an easterly direction ski down initially in a quite open area but then through snow gums and follow a small creek down and you will come out on the aqueduct near the point it opens up. This area stayed dry and powdery for days after the heavy snow received on week 9.
- Anywhere down from the aqueduct between the chalet and the Wallaces Hut Footbridge. These runs can be a little deceiving and appear quite innocuous initially. The runs steepen out very quickly and are double black at the bottom. There was some great powder skiing in deep bowls that had the intermediates skiing like champions very quickly in some deep deep snow
- The area above the tow hut up to the Alpine Walking Track all the way to the road has a huge variety of runs ranging from beginners to double black. There is a large cornice that you should watch out for (cornice skiing is fraught with danger!) in the area. Where you had to stop because of the trees you can now ski down to the bottom of the creek with little to slow you down
- The east side of Mt Nelse was great with slopes to suit all skiing abilities. The day we skied Mt Nelse the weather was little average but we dropped below the tree line and skied the area down toward Johnstons Hut.

If your winter party found some great skiing please share it with your fellow Alpine Rovers and Venturers.

See you on the slopes in '04

Mick Simpson (Secretary, Alpine Rover Crew)

Snow Venture

Victorian Snow Venture Weeks 1 and 13 – 2004

- **When:** Week 1: Friday 25 June - Saturday 3 July (1st week of July school holidays)
Week 13: Friday 18 Sep. – Saturday 25 Sep (1st week of September school holidays)
- **Cost:** \$400 (provided 1st payment is made by 1 April 2004)
- **Who:** Venturers and Guides over 15 years at the time of event
- **How:** Download the [Snow Venture Application Form](#), and [mail](#) it to us

South Australian Snow Venture Week 3 – 2004

- **When:** Friday July 9 - Sunday July 18 (2nd week of July school holidays)
- **Cost:** Just \$600 (provided the 1st payment of \$265 is made by 4 July. 3 days away from school. Over 15 years old)
- **How:** Download the application and applications contact on 8388 5852 or 0407 222 222 or snowventuresa@yahoo.com.

Sold Out!

Snow Venture, is held each year at the Bogong Rover Chalet, and is an awesome opportunity to learn how or to improve your skiing. (You soon learn if you haven't skied before). Only Venturers and Guides over 15 years at the time of event are eligible to attend.

The Bogong Rover Chalet, owned by Victorian Rovers, is located in the spectacular Bogong High Plains 11km south of the Falls Creek Ski Resort in Victoria. The Chalet is unlike any other Chalet found on Australia's Snowfields. It has a unique atmosphere where everyone as a team work together to make Snow Venture a great success. Chalet facilities include 240volt diesel generator power, fully equipped kitchen and dining facilities, washing machine, drying room, hot showers, and upstairs dormitories that include mattresses and pillows.

Snow Venture is unbeatably the best value for money you can get for eight days skiing, however also gives you a wonderful experience to appreciate some of Australia's awesome High Country in the snow and cross country skiing with other Venturers. We all travel together to the Chalet from Melbourne by hired bus to Mt Beauty-Victoria, and then commercial five star coach up to Falls Creek. The final leg of the trip is accomplished on cross-country skis for 11km. Yes, you need to and must be physically able to ski the full 11km into the chalet carrying all your gear and share of food.

Exciting day ski trips are conducted out to explore summits and historic huts on the Bogong High Plains, one of them being "Wallaces Hut", is the oldest on the Victorian High plains built in 1889. Venturers are encouraged to take part in the organizing of the evening activities for all Venturers and leaders to participate in back at the chalet after the days skiing adventures.

Snow Venture is organized and led by an experienced team of leaders that have attended several winter parties at the chalet and have being trained in the running of the chalet to make Snow Venture not only a wonderful experience for all, but also to ensure the SAFETY of everyone.

You may count Snow Venture toward part of your award scheme provided all criteria are met.

Snow Venture is a Venturer activity and strictly limited to a total of 35 people. Apply now... Don't miss out!!

Price and Dates

Cost includes:

- Travel to Falls Creek from Melbourne (or Adelaide), includes fuel and parking during the event
- all meals
- accommodation
- ski hire, (skis, stocks and boots)
- and an absolutely unforgettable amazing experience with other Venturers and Guides in the snow!

S.A. Young Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to Nicholas Wright, Alpine Rover who was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for this year's Australia Day Honours for his work as a Scout Leader, S.A. Gang Show, running school camps, teaching, and running the S.A. Snow Venture. Well done and keep up the good work.



Historical Update

Things are progressing with the Historical work and the recent loss of Wilkinson's hut highlights the need to ensure that all our gear is appropriately cared for.

After the 70th reunion, I have much work to do, especially from the Rovers from the 40's and 50's who are now thinking of donating their skis, photos, slides etc to the Chalet. I am slowly making copies of all the slides/photos I have been recently given and hope to get the originals back to the owners in the next month or so.

Negotiations are progressing well with the Scout Heritage Centre, Mt Beauty Historical Group and the State Library, all of whom have an interest in what we are doing.

The photo boards taken from the chalet during the fire threat should be returned at the Easter working bee, I have removed the original photos and 'blue prints' and replaced them with copies.

Many thanks to those who are continuing to ring me with their queries about what to do with their photos and slides, without you we would have no history (Note: nudie runs seem to be a bit of a trend that dates back years.....)

On a sad note, Ted Bedgood from 2nd Ivanhoe passed away recently. He was a solid supporter of the Chalet, although not a mad skier he always attended the working bees on Australia Day.

Thanks once again for your constant support,
Sue Tanck (Historian)

Nobs Training

Why are they called Nobs? Many think it's a derogatory term due to the way some people behave when they get some apparent power, in fact, the term Nob comes from Nobility, with the rest of the winter party participants being Plebs. (from the Latin 'plebian' the public)

The Bogong Chalet Management Group runs Nobs training to instruct people on the safe running of a winter party and the chalet systems. Nobs training is essential for those that will fill any of the nobs positions on a winter party, and also very useful for those wanting to book the chalet over summer.

This year the management group will be running Nobs training at the chalet over the Easter Long Weekend, and a one day session in Melbourne on Saturday 19th June. If you are interested in participating in these sessions contact me bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au If you are a Pleb, remember that the Nobs are on Holidays too.



Pre Season Checklist

With the 2004 Ski season approaching its time to get your gear out of storage and give it a once over before the first falls (or go what a few alpine rovers have done, and ski the Northern Hemisphere).

Skis:

- Scrap off any storage wax.
- Inspect skis & get any base repairs done.
- Apply wax for winter.

Bindings:

- Inspect for damage
- Check and tighten screws
- Clean and lubricate moving parts with silicone spray

Boots:

- Inspect for damage (especially the 3 pin holes)
- Replace worn laces
- Clean and Snow seal leather boots
- Clean and silicone spray or Armourall plastic boots

Stocks/Poles

- Inspect for damage
- Clean moving parts on collapsible poles

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 (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 190
Carlton South 3053



Wilkinson's Hut 1932 - 2004