



# Bogong Bulletin

Issue 52 Summer 2006

The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter

## What's On in 06

January 1  
Bookings Open

March 11-13  
Labour Day Discovery W/end

March 23-26  
Venturer Mountain Bike W/end

April 1  
Preferential Bookings Close

April 14-17 – Easter  
Easter Working Bee  
Nobs Training

April 22-25  
Anzac W/end Working Bee

May 12-14  
Food Weekend Working Bee

June 9-12  
Queens Birthday W/end  
Ski Season Opens

June 14  
Bogong Ski Expo

June 24-July 1  
Week 1 Snow Venture

July 1-8  
Week 2 Open Week

July 8-15  
Week 3 Open Week

July 15-22  
Week 4 Snow Venture

July 16  
Ski Fun Day

July 22-29  
Week 5 Open Week

July 29-Aug 7  
Week 6 Open Week

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 Open Week

Sep 9-16  
Week 12 Open Week

Sep 16-23  
Week 13 Snow Venture

Oct 13  
Alpine Rover Crew AGM

## Ropers Hut will be rebuilt!

"Approval to rebuild Roper's Hut will be sought from the Secretary of DSE and is not anticipated to be a problem. The project will be in the 2006/2007 financial year with on ground work to take place in that summer."

Sadly for those of us who find the new Michell and Federation Huts very comfy, the money has run out, so the new Roper's will be along the lines of the original.

Of the other alpine huts in Victoria not destroyed in the fires, 11 have been given a high priority for maintenance, 20 of moderate priority and 76 of low priority. The government has allocated \$60,000 for hut maintenance for Volunteers to cattlemen's huts over three years, this will include interpretive signs at burnt hut sites.

### Current Priorities

- Complete renovations to CRB hut;
- Post winter inspection and cleanup of huts;
- Assessment of all slow-combustion stoves and fireplaces;
- Purchase and installation of nine litre water fire extinguishers at nominated huts;
- Purchase and installation of smoke alarms at nominated huts.

There were fires recently in Federation & Bluff huts due mainly to carelessness and using a volatile fuel to light a fire.

(Source : VicWalk News)

## Chairman's Report

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate the incoming management group, and send out a big thankyou to the past committee for doing a terrific job. It should be a terrific year with many great PR ideas. We will be running the Rover first timers weekend again which was a great success last year, the venturer mountain bike weekend and focusing on better advertising. The big thing for this year will hopefully be the installation of the new ski tow, more on that later. With summer well and truly on us now is a great time to book your summer vacation at the chalet, call our bookings officer on 0407 CHALET (242 538). Finally I'd like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

## 2005-2006 Management Group

Name	Position	Represents
Sheena Rigby	Bookings	18-26
Stuart Bailey	Chairman	18-26
Mathew Slee		18-26
Tim Doyle		18-26
Dianne Job		18-26
Kyle Nash		18-26
Jason Paino		Venturers
Kathlene Pearce		Venturers
Bryce Gibson		Venturers
Matt Moore	Secretary	26-30
Mick Anton		26-30
Steven Cornish		30+
Peter Rossborough		30+

### Other Positions

Name	Position
Matthew Anderson	Warden
Linda Moore	Assistant Warden
Les Weibenga	Assistant Warden
Jody Freeman	Honorary Treasurer
Sue Tanck	Historian
Chris Gunther	Webmaster
Donna Anderson	Catering
Lucas Moore	ARC Chairman
Michael Simpson	ARC Secretary
Nick Wright	SA Rep
Brett Gardner	NSW Rep

# Tow Line Update

The tow hut project is now steaming along. The motor has been purchased and is currently being put together and the control systems have been designed and built with the new control cables being laid after new years. We are just waiting on final approval of the structure design. A Tow Line Working Bee is planned for The Australia Day Long Weekend (26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Jan.). Contact the Booking Officer on 0407 242 538 if you want to help, or email [bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au](mailto:bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au) for more details.



## Summer Blood Challenge

It's that time of year again - time to get competitive, time to roll up your sleeves, time to donate blood for the Summer Blood Challenge! It's time to introduce some one else to the donors program, perhaps one of your family! Thank you for your involvement in the 2004/2005 Summer Blood Challenge, which generated 4,272 blood donations. Challenges such as the Summer Blood Challenge are essential to ensure that the state has sufficient blood to meet the requirements of Australians. The efforts of generous supporters such as yourselves during last year's Summer Blood Challenge potentially saved the lives of over 12,000 Australians according to the Red Cross. This year is the 27th Summer Blood Challenge and we are counting on the support of Venturers, Rovers, Scout leaders and friends of scouting across Victoria to ensure that it's the biggest yet! Last year, Scouts Australia - Victoria finished 3rd in the overall total. Can we do better? The challenge will run from 1st December 2005 - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006, with awards presented to the organisations who:

- generate the greatest number of donations
- generate the greatest number of new donors
- are greatest advocates for the challenge and blood donation.

David Lyons - Journalist - Vic Rovers - [www.vicrovers.com](http://www.vicrovers.com)

## 2006 Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend

**Thursday 23rd - Sunday 26th March 2006**

The Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend is on again and will run for three days. The Bogong Rover Chalet is again offering this unique opportunity for Venturer's to experience Mountain Bike Riding in the Victorian High Country at a great price.

The trip will be an action packed experience, allowing Venturers to enjoy the thrills and spills of Mountain Bike Riding in some of the most highly regarded off road cycling areas in Australia.

If you are pursuing your Queen's Scout it also offers a chance for Venturers to achieve their Outdoor 1 in Mountain Bike Riding. We will offer badge advisers, quality instruction and at least 15 hours of riding, which will include all aspects of Mountain Bike Riding including Down Hill, Cross Country, Obstacle Crossings, Bike Maintenance and Safety.

Whether you are a die-hard mountain biker or someone who would enjoy a casual ride in the scenic Victorian high country this weekend is for YOU. Venturer Leaders are encouraged to accompany their Venturers.

## History Report

It is something that we often take for granted that people/friends/acquaintances will be there forever, they are familiar faces that you see at events, you always stop to say a quick hello and then go your separate ways. For the old timers, this is something that they never take for granted for they know that there may not be another chance meeting.

For the boys and men that skied the High Plains with Bill, their ranks are getting thinner all the time, some unexpectedly, some timely but they never take chance meetings for granted. So next time you run into a person who may have been on a winter party with you a couple of years back or you met that crazy working bee weekend, take the time to stop and chat and enjoy reliving your experiences (and you never know who might be listening and get inspired to join in the fun!).

The main reason for my writing such a piece is that I have been sharing a fair bit of my time with a few of the old timers - especially Alan Ross (circa 40's and 50's). He has been assisting me in obtaining the most beautiful set of complete handmade Rover skis including skins, which I have ever seen. They are in immaculate condition and it shows that these boys and men were craftsmen as well as skiers and pioneers. The maker of these skis was Geoff Morris, who passed away very suddenly after deciding to donate the skis to the BCMG. He made his wishes known and through Geoff friendship with Alan, the skis eventually have been given to me. Geoff made his last winter party trip in the early 1990's (well into his 60's).

Gone Home - Geoff Morris

Another sadness for me this year has been the very sudden passing of Bert Jackson (Heathmont) he was an invaluable source of support to me and yarns/stories/tall tales about the Rover chalet. He too, was very active in assisting me in a variety of ways, including passing on parts of his collection to incorporate into the BCMG collection. He was a fundamental person in making the reunion at the Albert Park a few years back, a success for the old timers. He managed to find a number of people who had dropped off the radar.

Gone Home - Bert Jackson

But to end on a positive note, I am currently in negotiations with Museum Victoria and the State Library (and anyone that is going to give me loads of money - Government grants) to sort out the log book situation. Something to think about - a fair bit of our history is also the history of Victoria and our early men and boys were truly skiing pioneers. This may mean that some of our history ends up in the appropriate historical sections of the major museums not just Scouting museums. What are your comments about this? Do think that some of our collection should be donated to Museum Victoria and be available (on display) for all Victorians, not just Scouts/Rovers? I would greatly appreciate your views on this topic. Please drop me a line at

[bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au](mailto:bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au)

Yours in Rovering,

Sue Tanck - BCMG Historian

# Bookings

The Bookings Officer has one of the most demanding jobs on the Management Group. It takes a lot of time to process the bookings that come in, send out acknowledgements of receiving applications and acceptances once the winter party is open. This is done by the Bookings Officer and helpers between work, study and life, as all BCMG members are volunteers!

Winter Parties cannot be opened and acceptance letters sent until there are at least 10 people booked in, and party leaders chosen. We can all help the bookings officer (and maybe save ourselves some money) by getting applications in as early as possible, as this gives them more time to process the applications, pick Party Leaders and Nobs, run briefings, and give the catering officer a better idea of how many people need to be fed.

I know some people like to wait for the snow to fall before posting their application but due to the time it takes for the Bookings Officer to receive an application after it has been posted (sometimes 2 weeks), the Management Group asks you to apply at least 3 weeks before the start of a winter party, and ring the bookings officer (0407242538) to let them know your coming.

## Summer Activities around the Chalet



### Fishing

Waters around the Chalet hold Trout and Redfin, with no closed season in Rocky Valley Storage or Pretty Valley Pondage.

Further a field, you can try your luck for Murray Cod on the Kiewa River downstream of Mt Beauty or in the Mitta Matta on the Omeo side.

The Chalet now has 10 Fishing Rods available for use over summer.

Use of the rods is by gold coin donation, tackle kits are available for \$5, or BYO favourite lure.

Fishing Licences are available from K-Mart and fishing stores, Glenrowan BP service station, Mt Beauty and Falls Creek.



### Mountain Bike Riding

We all know there are some great bike rides around the Chalet. For some ideas on different routes visit <http://www.falls creek.com.au/summer>.

The more adventurous rider can try some of the downhill trails at Big Hill Park in Mt Beauty.

Mountain Bikes, Helmets and Trailers are available for hire from Rocky Valley Hire in Tawonga South.

If you are planning on hitting the trails, remember to tread lightly, you can only ride bikes on the roads, and management vehicle tracks in the Alpine National Park.



### Water Activities

Rocky Valley Dam caters for flat water paddling. The Mitta Mitta River provides plenty of opportunity for those after white water thrills. Various tour companies operate from Mt Beauty & Omeo.

When planning water activities keep in mind that even in the height of summer, the waters are very cold so wetsuits are required and due to their use for power generation, strong currents make the lakes and ponds unsuitable for swimming.



### Rock Climbing

Climbing has begun on crags on Mt Wills in the last 10 years. Mt Wills is a short drive from the Chalet on the Omeo side.

Information on the Climbs can be found at

<http://www.vicclimb.org.au/media/pdf/newroutes/eastern.pdf>.

Use the Chalet as a base for Climbing.



Congratulations to: Chris Gunther and Helen Sanderson on their engagement!

**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](mailto:bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au)

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**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
from the BCMG**

