



# Bogong Bulletin

Issue 53 Autumn 2006

The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter

## Snow Snow Snow

Three weekends in a row the high country has been blanketed in snow plus more is forecast for this weekend. There was a significant dump at Easter and it is still just April. Though the early snow is hampering the efforts of the tow hut reconstruction gang it is auguring well for a great season— much more and the skis will need to be dusted off!!! The sudden switch from summer to winter has finally put some water in the dam. Get those application forms in as soon as possible to reserve your place on a winter party!!

## GOOD NEWS: The Tow Hut is Nearly Finished!

After many hours of toil, many in undesirable weather conditions, the tow hut is just waiting for some finishing touches and the snow season. An extraordinary effort from a passionate group of Chalet users has resulted in the construction of a far superior hut to the one destroyed by the bushfire of '03. The design, functionality and safety have all been drastically improved. It is a showcase of what we can achieve with the wide range of skills and backgrounds of the Bogong Rover Chalet community. Hopefully plenty of people are able to enjoy the new tow facilities this winter as well as be inspired about the possibilities for further improvements to the Chalet in the future. One more working bee is being held on the Mother's day weekend (5-7 May). Please contact Cameron ([cameron.cook@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cameron.cook@optusnet.com.au)) if you wish to assist in the final stages of this project.  
Cameron Cook, Bogong Rover Crew



## SKI FUN DAY

**Sunday 16th July 2006**

W.F. Waters Lodge, Mt Baw Baw, or The Old Day Shelter, Lake Mountain, depending on Conditions – Meet at 10.00 a.m.

For Details Contact

Luke Moore - 0419585433

Or checkout our website:

[www.bogongroverchalet.org.au](http://www.bogongroverchalet.org.au)

## MATRESSES

New mattresses have been purchased for the chalet this year. The BCMG is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to make some removable and washable mattress protectors to prolong the life of the new mattresses. Please contact Matt Anderson if you can help with your sewing skills and sewing machine.  
0407 681340

## What's on in 06?

April 22-25

Anzac Weekend Working Bee

May 5-7

Food Weekend Working Bee

June 9-12

Queens Birthday Weekend

Official 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 Closed!

Sep 9-16

Week 12 Open Week

Sep 16-23

Week 13 Snow Venture

Sep 24

Summer Bookings Open

Oct 13

Alpine Rover Crew AGM

## Bogong Menu for 2006

If anyone has any alternative recipes that they have used at the Chalet during winter, using the basic ingredients that are supplied for each meal, I would love to hear from you.

I am in the midst of placing the food order for 2006 and would love to cater for the alternative ingredients used, so that other weeks later in the year don't miss out on anything.

For example: Those of you that have Chicken Parmagiana instead of Apricot chicken (and there are lots of you!!)- the cheese and tomato that you use means that some weeks later in the year don't have enough cheese to use with the normal menu – if you use it for dinner, you need to take it out of another meal during your winter party.

If most of the weeks have the same sort of meal instead of what's on the menu, we will change it for 2007. I can only change the menus if I get told that the alternative is more popular and that everyone is happy with it.

Please email Donna at [mdando@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mdando@optusnet.com.au) your alternative recipes.

### Alpine Rover Crew & Bogong Chalet Management Group

## Ski Expo

Wed. 14th June 2006 from 8:00pm

Ski Expo will be held again this year at EMC.

Ski Expo is a great chance to buy all sorts of quality outdoors gear, not just ski's, and get expert advice.

Its also a chance to catch up with friends before winter over supper, and listen to an interesting guest speaker, and checkout all the latest ski gear.

This years guest speaker will be our Historian, Sue Tanck, who will show some of our collection of old ski gear and artefacts, and talk about there future.

See you all there on the 14th.

- X-C Skis poles and boots
- Telemark Skis
- Plastic Boots
- Downhill Skis & Boots
- Gore-Tex Jackets
- Tents
- Sleeping Bags
- Stoves
- Packs
- Books
- Maps
- Waxes



Alpine Rover Crew  
&  
Bogong Chalet Management Group

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**EMC**

68 Whitehorse Rd  
Deepline  
Melway Ref 46 A7

Plenty of parking is  
available in Barnsbury  
Rd

**Great Deals**



**¿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!

<http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au>

# BRAG SECTION

## WHAT ALPINE ROVERS HAVE BEEN DOING OVER SUMMER!

### The Youngs - Ski the Canadian Rockies

Chris ( ABC Rovers ), Lea ( Scout Leader ) , Gordon & Matt ( Ken Tickell Rovers ) had a fantastic time skiing Cypress, Lake Louise, Silver Star and Sunshine over a three week period in Jan/Feb. One week in Silver Star was a highlight with 15cm of fresh snow every day for a week, and scenery to die for, attached photos' say it all. Temperatures of -20 deg C required 2 layers of gloves and a lesson not to leave your wet boots in the car overnight, it felt like putting your feet into a freezer the next day.

*Chris Young, Bogong Rover Crew – Assistant Branch Commissioner (Rovers)*



### January in France

Hi, I'm originally from Victoria and spent much time in my youth in the Victorian and New South Wales high country. A "Mullumbimba" Rover I only managed two winter parties to Bogong - in 1988 and 1991. A career as an engineer has since taken me around Australia and so prevented much opportunity for skiing. However with a present job for 2 years in the Netherlands, the French Alps are only a day's drive away and I've taken the opportunity to have a few weeks at various French ski resorts. No words can really express just how good the skiing is, you have to see it for yourself to appreciate it. Bonny (my wife) also ski's, but downhill and the kids having just started are also on the downhill planks. But I've stayed with the free-heel sticks. Most people here have little idea what is going on and some people have repeatedly followed me just to watch. How humbling! One guy even started "trying to telemark" in his downhill gear with hilarious results, until I took the time to explain to him why he wasn't going to be able to do it. Anyway we all have a lot of fun.

Cheers to all in Roving, present and past, and wishing the best of times to those of you going to Bogong this year. *Blair Barton, Alpine Rover Crew*

### JAPAN !!!

*We had an awesome time in Japan and no doubt it will be back on the agenda again - despite the mortgage! I've got a pair of fat patternless tele' skis now so I'll have to make good use of my investment. The tree skiing at Rusutsu was fantastic and we skied in the trees all day everyday! Heaven. We also went to a place called Asahidake, which was like backcountry skiing with a lift. There was a cable car that took you near the top (of a volcano ...) and then we skinned up further and skied out along these awesome ridgelines - fresh tracks every loop and many a grin (and giggles from me of course!).*

*Kate Wingrove*



## 2006 Winter Party Reunion

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

**Wednesday 13th 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 in a big screen!

For Information on the Alpine Rover Crew, Alpine Venturer Unit and Bogong Chalet Management Group contact

Lucas Moore, ARC Chairman on (03) 9737 0094

# A Week at the Chalet

There I was sitting on the ground, for the third time in about 15 minutes, the wet snow starting to seep through my clothing. There were two planks still attached to my feet, both facing in different directions. I was not even a third of the way down, what seemed to be, the biggest hill in the world and all I could keep thinking - was this is what Scouting is all about?

Week 9 2005 at the Bogong Rover Chalet was my first experience of the chalet in winter and what an experience it was. There was heaps of snow, lots of falling over and cursing (on my behalf), some extreme challenges and lots and lots of fun. There are not many activities in today's Scouting where it is obvious that the aims and principles of Scouting are still relevant.

Physical - To get to the chalet you need to ski from Falls Creek. The Trek is 11 km's and you carry your pack (with the week's supplies, including a share of the week's fresh meat and vegetables) on your back all the way. For me that was challenging, as I have walked many times with a pack on my back, but skiing is different (it is far more difficult getting up on skis with a pack on your back). For the week we tour the surrounding areas and there are many physical challenges, like getting up hills on skis and then getting back down the hills. For the novices it is about learning how to ski, for those a bit more advanced it is learning how to telemark and for the advanced it is conquering the challenging hills. All of these things physically test you; sometimes you need to overcome the pain barrier to keep going, 'cos we are there to ski... The ski out was not as physically testing as we were better skiers and our bodies had become used to skiing, but there were still some challenging moments,

Intellectual - The chalet plays an important role in the training of Rovers, all responsible positions are held by Rovers and they learn how to run a week in the chalet. There are many things to learn, in our week there were water problems so the chalet needed to be drained and the water system cleaned. There is always something, like ensuring the water is hot, there is enough firewood, there is enough food for meals, the bread is baked correctly and the porridge is not burnt. For the novice skier the intellectual challenges are there as well, you learn very quickly the angle of the hill, so that you don't take off faster than a rocket and end up in a heap at the bottom of the hill.

Social - We spent a week in a chalet with 35 people, there is bound to be Social interaction. Meal times are especially social and the dining room can get quite noisy with chatter of the days events. We are allocated into Crews that have different duties to perform from chopping firewood to cleaning toilets and showers to preparing and cooking meals for a day (not all at the same time, however). You need to be able to work with those in your Crew to get these jobs done quickly and efficiently so that you can get in as much skiing as you can for the day. One of the highlights of the week was everyone heading off on a tour to Ryders Yards and then enjoying a BBQ lunch cooked the fireplace in one of the huts, the day was completed with a snow fight, lots and lots of fun. There is usually a party night and some enjoyable games played by all. The social side also includes the more experienced skiers helping those with less experience and sometimes showing incredible patience. I struggled at times to get down hills and the patience shown by those with me was truly appreciated. Everyone pitches in and helps everyone else.

Spiritual - Sitting on a rock with no one else around and just staring into a snow filled valley, there is nothing more spiritual than that. I was privileged to attend an investiture ceremony at a place where the late Bill Waters ashes are spread; you can feel the significance of the place - a very special place and thank you to the Bogong Rovers for allowing me to be a part of it. The chalet is run to the traditions that have been in place since the 1930's, from the cup of tea in bed of a morning to the names of the duties for each Crew ie: Slavies, Slushies etc.. Every morning there is a refreshing opening parade in the snow and then in the evening closing parade is in the chalet. You can feel the Rovers of old watching over you to make sure that you are doing things "the Bogong way". The Chalet has a small room (more of a window box) where you can sit and look across a snow filled valley and just contemplate your lot in life, without being disturbed, or you can just sit on a rock for half an hour like I did (make sure someone knows you are there though)...

Emotional - You are 11km's away from any form of civilisation, you are with 35 other individuals for a week, you are tired and sore from skiing and you are getting frustrated with yourself for continually falling over - You are emotionally challenged. You are feeding 35 hungry mouths, you are trying to fix a major problem with a generator, you can feel all alone at stages and you are still tired - You are emotionally challenged. The other people in the party are very very supportive and understand that you will have times when your emotions take over, how you deal with it is the challenge.

So there it is a week at the Bogong Rover Chalet contributes substantially to the Aims and Principles of Scouting. I'd like to thank all the people on the Week 9 2005 Winter Party, for providing a fun and stress free week of skiing, camaraderie and an overall education, thank you to all those who showed amazing patience in getting me down hills, getting me back to the chalet and especially getting me back to Falls Creek in one piece. I'd especially like to thank Nicholas Smith (Kissing Point Rover Crew - NSW) for his leadership of the party and the support that he provided over the week.

So are you up for the challenge???? Why not book a week at the Bogong Chalet, from as little as \$275 you can go on the adventure of a lifetime... If a week seems a bit too much start off with, then you can book a weekend at the WF Waters Ski Lodge at Mt Baw Baw for around \$95... If you would like to try skiing booking are open now, there are even activities for Venturers. Check it all out at:

Bogong Rover Chalet [www.bogongroverchalet.org.au](http://www.bogongroverchalet.org.au)  
WF Waters Ski Lodge [www.vicrovers.com/bawbaw/](http://www.vicrovers.com/bawbaw/)

Craig Whan - Branch Commissioner - Rovers  
ALPINE ROVER CREW

*ps - This article was originally published in the March 2006 edition of 'Scout'. The five subjects mentioned by Craig are the components of the activity areas of Method B of the BP Award - the current book for the BP Award is available on the internet from the Scouts Australia website. Look for the front cover of the Rover Award Booklet for a couple of youngish looking Alpine Rovers on the snow at Bogong....!!!*

# 2006 WF Waters Award

The Victorian Branch Rover Council was proud to announce the recipients of the WF Waters Award on Founders Day, 22 February 2006. The WF Waters Award is presented to those who have provided outstanding service to the Rover Section over a sustained period of time. Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2006 Award:

- **Daniel Angus – Bill Waters Rover Crew:** Daniel has been actively involved in his Crew, Ryver Region and Bogong Chalet Management Group for well over five years.
- **Mandy Bannon – Berembong Rover Crew:** Mandy has been a committed Rover with her Crews, Hoadley Region Rovers, Mudbash, Mafeking Rover Park and was the inaugural chair of Rover Scout Motorsport in Victoria.
- **Graeme Bryar – Rover Advisor – Port Phillip Sea Rovers:** Graeme has been an enthusiastic Rover Advisor for his Crew over the past ten years, he has also co-ordinated the Winter Games Finals for the Branch Rover Council since 2002, assisting in the running of the finals prior to that date.
- **Gary Howard – Rover Advisor – Keith Farquhar Rover Crew:** Gary has been an active Rover Advisor with his Crew for the last ten years, he has assisted the Rover section at Hoadley Hide and Mudbash over a number of years. Gary has advised the newly formed Rover Scout Motorsport committee.
- **Simon Millar – Ex- Harrison Rover Crew:** As a Rover, Simon was very active within his Crew. He was instrumental in securing accreditation with CAMS for Rover Motorsport, he has been the inaugural vice chairman of Rover Scout Motorsport and is a member of the Branch Rover Council Risk Management committee.
- **James Stewart – Old Scotch Rover Crew:** James has been a committed Rover for over five years. He has been involved with his Crew in various positions, the Manibobar region (as chair for 2 years), the Bogong Chalet Management Group and with the Victorian Branch Rover Council in various positions. He was also the National Rover Council webmaster in 2005.

The Bogong Chalet Management Group, Alpine Rover Crew would like to congratulate all of the above recipients and thank James Stewart and Daniel Angus for their service to the Bogong Rover Chalet

Any wedding, engagement or baby news is always welcome – or any article about anything of interest to Alpine Rovers and Venturers. Please email us photo's and or an article to [bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au](mailto:bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au). If you have an email address and you would like to receive the Bogong Bulletin by email please send it as well. The five hundred people who receive the Bulletin via email save the BCMG over \$1500 per year in postage and printing. Every little bit helps!!  
*Mick Simpson, Secretary, Alpine Rover Crew.*

## Bogong Rover Crew Investitures 2006

Bogong Rovers are reminded to nominate any suitable Alpine Rovers for membership of the Bogong Rover Crew as soon as possible. Early nominations allow sufficient time for the Nomination Committee to be appointed and report on the nominations to the Warden and the Branch Commissioner (Rovers) before the start of the ski season. Nomination forms are available on the website. Minimum requirements include membership of the Alpine Rover Crew, the completion of at least 3 winter parties over 3 seasons and ongoing commitment to the Bogong Rover Chalet and Rover Skiing. Full requirements are listed on the website

## Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend 2006

The Chalet was almost packed out with 19 Venturers, 6 Rovers and 6 Leaders. Fitting 29 bikes on three trailers was an absolute nightmare, and that was before one of the trailers started falling apart. The weekend really kicked off on Friday, as Thursday evening was spent traveling to the Chalet. The first ride of the weekend was around to Wallaces Hut, along the road to Cope Hut, then back down to Chalet. A simple ride to start with to ensure everyone's bike worked before we got too far from home. After lunch, the groups were split in two. The first group rode out to Langfords Gap and returned via Wallaces hut. The other group rode to Ryders Yards, then extended the tour to include Pretty Valley, and the Ruined Castle downhill ski run. It looked simple on the map, but the rough terrain, and lack of rideable trails extended the tour into a mammoth expedition. On Saturday, everyone rode to Shannonvale. The route was along the Aqueduct to Fitzgerald's Hut, past Kelly's Hut and then down the 4x4 track all the way to the Omeo Highway. Most of the track was very rough, and difficult to ride without being bounced off your bike. The last part of the 4x4 track had wash outs to divert the water from the track, which provided awesome jumps for the experienced. At the bottom, the Venturers were picked up and driven back to the top of the hill. Meanwhile, Chris and Matt spent the next 2.5 hours climbing the Bogong High Plains road back up to the Chalet. Sunday was pickup day. Once everything had been cleaned up, the Venturers headed along the Aqueduct to Falls Creek resort, via Wombat's Ramble ski run. From there, they rode down the main road to Bogong Village followed by the support vehicles. The bikes were once again strapped onto the trailers, everyone said goodbye and headed home. The weather was hot and sunny all weekend, making for perfect conditions. All up the Venturers rode over 75Km around the Bogong High Plains. Everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks to the Rovers and Leaders that made the weekend run - even if two of them didn't set foot on a bike! *The Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend is now a permanent*



Venturer Mountain Bike Weekend  
2006 at Wallace Hut



## New Arrival !!!

Hi all,

A quick note to let you know that our little stone and mudbrick house on the hill has a new resident

Jessica Louise Gallagher was born on Friday 17th of February at 4:22am. She was 9 days late, weighed 9lb, 2oz, and was 51 cm in length. For those that want all the 'gory technical details'.....well there aren't any. The labour went for 2 hours 20 mins, it involved one panadol and one shot of pethadine and the rest was relatively smooth sailing. Both Jessica and Meredith came out of it completely unscathed.

**Bogong Rover Chalet – April 2006**  
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