



Bogong Bulletin

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Bogong Rover Chalet. PO Box 774 Mt Waverley 3149

bogongroverchalet.org.au

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ROVERS VICTORIA

Bogong Bulletin Editor – Travis Nisbet

Letter from the Alpine Rover Crew Chair

Wow. What an end to last decade, and a tumultuous start to this one. Traditionally, our first access to the Chalet after winter is the Melbourne Cup Weekend, thankfully 2019 wasn't any different. But come December we lost access for a more concerning reason; bushfires. We had fears for the Chalet being consumed by the Victorian/NSW Megablaze fires in December/January, which echoed the summer of 2002/2003. For the curious and/or nostalgic amongst you, check out Bogong Bulletin Autumn 2003 Issue #41 for the harrowing tales of the party that was at the Chalet when the fires started, and the dash to the Chalet to secure high value assets before the fires hit

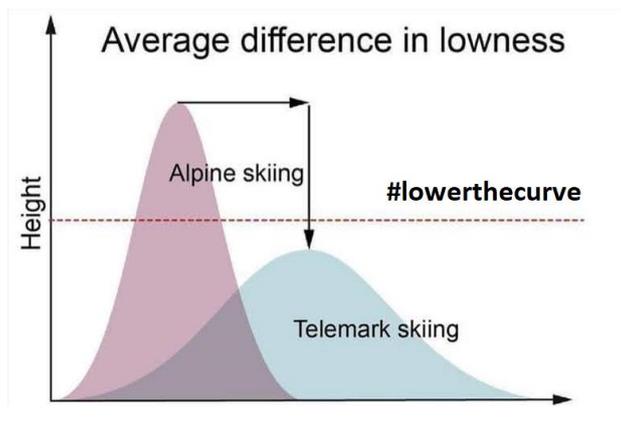
info.bogongroverchalet.org.au/uploads/bogongB

[ulletinIssue41.pdf](#). Come end of February we were given permission to access the Chalet again. This allowed us to host NOBS training and a working bee over the Labor Day long weekend. Sadly this period of access was short lived, as in the days preceding the Easter Long Weekend the state government closed all State and National parks in Victoria in response to COVID-19 and trying to arrest its spread. Which leads us to our closure for this coming winter. Read on for what went into that decision (next article).

Whilst we can't get you physically to the Chalet this winter, we will try to bring it to you. One way you can experience winter at the Chalet is to check out the amazing snow cam that Chris Gunther (Bogong Rover, and of Venturer Mountain Biking Fame) set up for us at the Rope Tow hut. Whilst the website

(bogongwebcam.gunther.com.au/) and camera have been around since 2015, he's recently revamped the website and you can now navigate to see previous photographs. Bonus points for the person that manages to find a candid of a BCMG committee member in *one* of the snapshots from this Easter. We will also be bringing you updates, information, and photographed nostalgia via our socials (Facebook, Instagram, Bogong Bulletin, and website).

Travis Nisbet, Alpine Rover, Alpine Rover Crew Chair.



Message from the BCMG Chair

The Bogong Rover Chalet has had a very interesting summer season this year, with first the bushfires that passed near to the Chalet; the first near Shannonvale, and then later on another near Strawberry Saddle. Finally, we now have the horrible COVID-19 Virus spreading around that has forced our hand in closing the Chalet for the season.

We generally split the Chalet into two seasons, the winter season, which covers our usual thirteen ski weeks from June until September, and our summer season which generally (weather permitting) spans from Melbourne Cup weekend in November, until ANZAC weekend in late April. Over the summer months we spend our time developing, maintaining and stocking the Chalet for the upcoming winter, these activities are generally done at working bees over long weekends. Our usual working bee schedule is; Melbourne Cup Weekend – BCMG Planning Weekend, Australia Day – General Working Bee, Labour Day – NOBS Training, Easter – Firewood

and finally our Food Weekend which is now over the ANZAC weekend (we traditionally held it later, however have increasingly experienced weather problems and road closures, so have moved it forward to be safer). Of course, every working bee has a huge variety of tasks carried out, but the listed items are the major and regular ones.

This year, the COVID-19 virus impacted our Easter and Food weekends. Easter was fully booked with volunteers, with a waiting list and all; however, in the weeks leading up to Easter we started seeing the impacts of the virus, and the Government started implementing restrictions. In response, we cancelled the weekend and allocated a group of sixteen to attend and carry out the usual tasks. We contacted the Scouts Victoria Coronavirus Emergency Management Team (COVID-EMT) and maintained contact as things progressed. As time and restrictions progressed we limited ourselves down to nine attendees (the bare minimum to get the job done safely) minimising our risks by pulling people from same household groups.

In the meantime we had still been trying to sort our food out. Our usual practice is to order what we can from certain suppliers and then purchase the rest in bulk off supermarket shelves. With the buying restrictions brought in by all supermarkets, this was no longer an option. We contacted new suppliers, and even discussed getting our committee members to all buy individual items at a time, though this would expose them to potential risks.

Finally, it became apparent that we wouldn't be able to stock the essential firewood and food, and that the likely timeline of restrictions easing meant that we had to fully cancel the working bee and therefore the winter season.

With the Chalet no longer opening for the season, our new priority was to carry out our "Winter Shutdown", which we carried out over the Easter weekend with a small team of five from two separate households. With all of us ready to go, on the Wednesday before we left, we heard the news that the Alpine National Park was closed

indefinitely. We hurriedly reached out to our contact within Parks Victoria, were granted an exemption, and were allowed in to the park to carry out our winter closure.

For us at the BCMG while the winter season will not proceed, we still intend to remain active as a committee, and will be spending our time on the less physical side of running the Chalet. This includes reviewing our paperwork, documentation and procedures, to try and make the upcoming years of the committee (and Chalet) as seamless as possible. We'll also begin planning our 80th Birthday celebrations (while monitoring the evolving situation) so that we all have something to look forward to.

I would like to give a big thank you to all of the committee members, whom have been extremely responsive in adapting to all of the changes that have been occurring. We are now operating our meetings remotely via Zoom, which is a brand new experience for most of us.

To everyone else, thank you for being patient with us, and we look forward to having you all at the Chalet in the future.

David Nicholls, Bogong Rover, BCMG Chair.

COVID-19 Shut Down #Stayhome

For the first time in the history of the Bogong Rover Chalet, we will be unable to operate the Chalet over the winter months. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), across Australia we are currently experiencing stage 3 restrictions. People are not allowed to leave their homes except for shopping for essentials, medical care or compassionate needs, to exercise, or for work or education if you cannot work or learn remotely.

For the Chalet, this means that we are unable to complete tasks that are essential for winter operations to proceed; including stocking up wood or food. Instead, we have a skeleton crew here to perform the winter shutdown, making the chalet safe and sound for its lonely cold winter ahead.

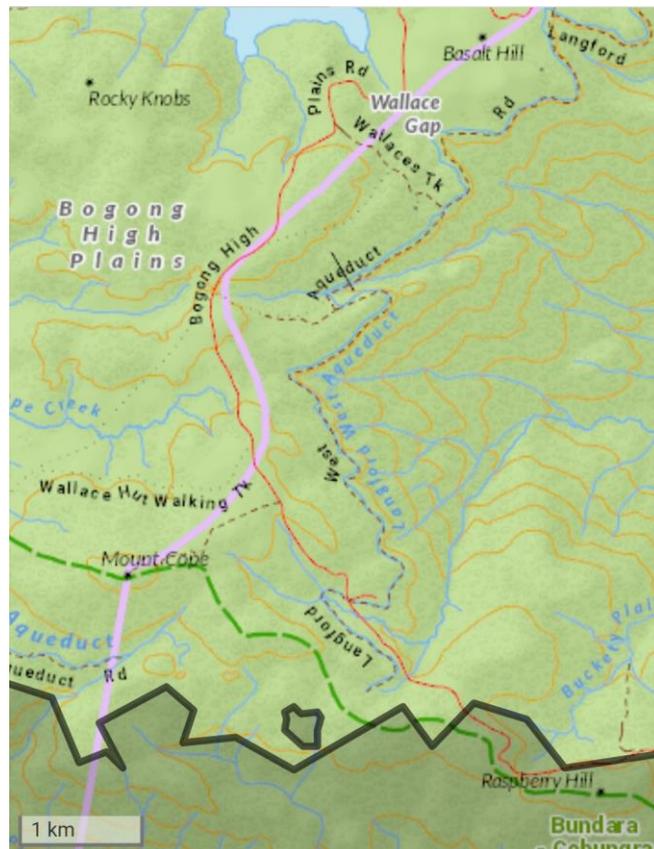
In addition to the Coronavirus pandemic, our access to the Chalet this year to perform maintenance has been severely restricted due to the catastrophic bushfires that raged over the summer.

The Alpine National Park was closed for two months over summer due to risk of bushfires, with one burning less than 5km away near Mt. Cope. The park has now been closed again for indefinite future to encourage people to stay home and reduce the spread of coronavirus.

While we can't predict what the future will bring to us next, we plan to be back up here to reopen on Cup weekend in November.

It's likely the world will change a lot between now and then, but we hope people stay as safe as possible, and find community in different ways than normal.

*9-11 April 2020 Chalet Log book entry
Melissa Nisbet, Alpine Rover, BCMG member.*



NB. The line through Aqueduct is a depiction of our Rope tow.

<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

2019/2020 BCMG Committee

Alpine Rover Crew warmly welcomes our new Bogong Chalet Management Group (BCMG) committee for 2019/2020.

Rovers (7); David Nicholls (Chair)
Jesse Lang (Asst. Chair)
Connor Ammet
Emily Kinrose-Smith
Bonnie McLaren
Jasmin Pratt
Lucas Conte

Venturer/ Liaison (2); Zoe Herrera
Position 2 Vacant

26-30 Year Old (2); Chris Park
Melissa Nisbet

30+ Year Old (2); Peter Rossborough
Bryce Gibson

Warden; Matt Anderson

Assistant Wardens; Linda Moore
Les Weibenga

Hon. Booking Officer; Jill Rossborough

Hon. Treasurer; Peter Linnell

Hon. Historian; Jack Waterhouse

Alpine RC Chair; Travis Nisbet

Alpine RC Secretary; Luke Moore

We still have a Venturer position that is vacant. If you are eligible and interested, please get contact with us at bogong@vicrovers.com.au.

This is an amazing committee, with a wide range of experience (and age), full of energy and enthusiasm. Which is definitely going to be relied upon through these trying times.



Photo: Bogong Chalet Management Committee, 2019/20

Winter Party Feedback

Following the 2019 winter season, our new BCMG is keen for *any* feedback participants may have regarding their week(s) at the Chalet. Suggested feedback includes winter party highlights, expectation vs. reality, suggestions for NOBS (and why), or something you wish you knew before coming. Please provide your feedback to bogong@vicrovers.com.au

Adult Recognition Awards

At our 2019 Bogong Rover Chalet ARAP & AGM, three Adult Recognition Awards were presented. It is great that Bogong Rovers continue to be involved in serving Scouting in Australia.

Jill Rossborough – Outstanding Service Award

Jill Rossborough has provided an outstanding contribution to the ongoing management, administration and operation of the Bogong Rover Chalet. Her commitment and dedication over the last six years as Bookings Officer has been a considerable asset to the Chalet as the interface between the Chalet and our members, Jill has been incredibly consistent, persistent, reliable and dedicated to the task.

Jill has been an adult member of Scouts Victoria for 17 years, including six and a half years as an Assistant Scout Leader, which included attending our major events of Cuboree and Jamboree.

Her unrecorded contribution to the chalet goes back many years before this service.

Jill Rossborough is a committed and reliable supporter of Scouting, particularly the Bogong Rover Chalet, whose management team value and appreciate her significant contribution.

Peter Rossborough – Outstanding Service Award

Peter Rossborough has provided an outstanding contribution to the ongoing management, maintenance and operation of the Bogong Rover Chalet. His commitment and dedication over at least the last twenty years has contributed significantly to the effectiveness of this important Rover Asset.

Peter has undertaken a large number of significant maintenance and improvement tasks at the chalet, contributed significantly to meeting discussions and brought new ideas and projects to the management group for consideration.

His reliable service, commitment to the tasks at hand and many man hours of work over many years if not decades is immeasurable in terms of his contribution to the success of the Bogong Rover Chalet.

Luke Moore – Certificate of Merit

Lucas Moore has provided consistent and measured service to the Bogong Rover Chalet for over fifteen years. Specifically, this has been as the Alpine Rover Crew Secretary, and as Manager of the IT communications infrastructure.

As a key supporter of the Chalet, Luke has attended many working bees, worked tirelessly each year with his wife Linda to prepare and supply the chalet food supplies and has delivered on a number of other ad-hoc projects over the years.

good conduct. The Crew has no permanent place nor wealth and membership is strictly honorary. All those invested into the Bogong Rover Crew are invested on skis during winter and within sight of Mount Bogong, Victoria's highest peak.

To be eligible for investiture into the Bogong Rover Crew, Alpine Rovers must have completed three winter parties over three years, have significantly contributed by the way of work or organisation to the Bogong Rover Chalet and/or Rover Skiing, be nominated and seconded by two members of the Bogong Rover Crew, and have their nomination approved.



Photo: David Nicholls (left) & Ross Millward upon their Bogong Rover Crew Investiture, July 2019.



Bogong Rover Crew investees winter 2019

Congratulations to both Ross Millward & David Nicholls who were invested into the Bogong Rover Crew during week 2 of the 2019 Winter season.

From 1940 onwards the Bogong Rover Crew has existed as an award for outstanding service and

All Bogong Rovers are able to nominate new members to the Bogong Rover Crew. It is asked that nominations be forwarded to the Chalet Warden prior to the commencement of the winter season for consideration. Nomination forms are available from the chalet, the website, or the warden.

So while the season is remembered fondly in your mind, please consider Bogong Rover Crew nominations. All Bogong Rovers can nominate, so if you have someone you think should be considered, please nominate them now!

Although the Chalet is not opening for winter bookings this season, nominations should still be put forward.



Vale Andrew Haines

Eulogy by Colin Jones.

To Andy: Telemarker! We can't believe you are gone. There is no member of the Crew who has done more than you in the cause of Rover Skiing, and the Chalet in particular. You called it Home for a reason – that's the way we all feel about it too.

Whether in winter or summer, Skiing or Working Bee or just walking the Plains, time spent with you was the best of all. You had the gift of making the absolute most of every opportunity and if the phrase "no slope left unturned" applied to anyone, it applied to you. Basalt, Widow-maker, Batchelor-maker, The Rock, Cope, Pinnacles, Rocky Nobs, Nelse, Spion – nothing was safe when you were about. And when we got Home there was no rest either – a couple of hours on the Tow at least to finish off the day. Then inside for a cuppa, a port, and usually a helping hand to the Chief Engineer who had been trying all day to fix yet another "Rover-Proof" disaster.

You were also one of the most generous, unselfish souls it was ever our good fortune to meet. Always giving willingly of your time – you taught hundreds of Rovers to ski and put in years of work to the Chalet itself. Most tellingly, if there was someone who was struggling or straggling out on a trip – or on the way into or out of the Chalet – there you'd be. Not for you the easy way of "I'm alright Jack I'll get myself in". You would be there in the worst of weather for 6, 8, 10 hours encouraging and guiding everyone and if

there was a hand being lent to someone it would more often than not be yours.

Working Bees with you were legendary. Everyone marvelled at your capacity for hard work, and were in awe of your ability to keep going when lesser Rovers would have crumpled. Then later on, when wood was needed, we'd just hear "Whack, whack, whack" from the woodshed and you'd emerge with enough timber to power a small city. Then it would be "do you reckon we'll see some decent centimetres this year?"

The love you had for the Chalet and Rover Skiing was bettered by only one thing mate, and that's the love you had for your family. Never has a man been more devoted to his family than you, and you were an inspiration to us all.

We won't keep you much longer mate – no doubt you've got fresh dry powder to ski up there. Keep an eye on us won't you? And when we're standing at the top of our next run we'll listen hard for a faint call of "Go for Telemark!!!" and we'll know you'll always be with us.

2020 Significant Dates

This is a drastically different year and season to anything that the Bogong Rover Chalet has ever had to deal with before. Sad to say, but this is first time that the chalet has been closed and not used for a winter since it was first constructed in 1940. However, given the current conditions and restrictions (relevant at time of writing), these are some of the events that we would like you to pencil into your diary or calendar (or at least, keep in the back of your mind). The list is in order of most likely, which happens to correspond with being reverse chronological.

Event	Date	Location
Melbourne Cup Working Bee	October 30 – November 3	Bogong Rover Chalet
ARAP & AGM	October 14 (2 nd Wed)	Vic Rover Centre
Snow Fun Day	August STC	TBA
Ski Expo	July STC	TBA

2021 Winter Party dates

Yes. It's not a typo. Your eyes do not deceive you. We are talking 2021. But we're keen to get in early, and assume you are too. So book your Annual Leave, line up your mates and start getting ski fit for the 2021 season. Amazingly, before we were forced to close bookings for the 2020 season (April 1), multiple weeks were already booked out. These included Venture Weeks 2 & 3, Ski Moot Week 4, Ski Week 5, & Snow Venture Week 13. Heads up, bookings open for Winter 2021 on Monday February 1 next year.

Week 1 Rover SkiMoot	Fri 25 Jun – Sat 3 Jul
Week 2 Snow Venture 1 VIC/NSW	Fri 2 – Sat 10 July
Week 3 SA Snow Venture	Fri 9 – Sat 17 July
Week 4 Rover SkiMoot	Fri 16 – Sat 24 July
Week 5 Ski Week	Fri 23 – Sat 31 July
Week 6 Ski Week	Fri 30 – Sat 7 Aug
Week 7 Ski Week	Fri 6 – Sat 14 Aug
Week 8 Ski Week	Fri 13 – Sat 21 Aug
Week 8a Ski half-week	Fri 13 – Wed 18 Aug
Week 8b Ski half-week	Tue 17 – Sat 21 Aug
Week 9 Ski Week	Fri 20 – 28 Aug
Week 10 Rover & YA SkiMoot (25-30)	Fri 27 Aug – Sat 4 Sept
Week 11 Ski Week	Fri 3 – Sat 11 Sept
Week 12a Ski Week	Fri 10 – Wed 15 Sept
Week 12b Ski half-week	Wed 14 – Sat 18 Sept
Week 13 Snow Venture	Fri 17 – Sat 25 Sept

80th Anniversary Celebration

2020 brings us to 80 years since the Bogong Rover Chalet was first established. To celebrate this milestone achievement we are doing something. Please watch this space for details as they unveil.



Contact Us

Bogong Chalet Management Group (BCMG)

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Instagram; [bogongroverchalet](https://instagram.com/bogongroverchalet)

In person; Bogong Rover Chalet, Langford West
Aquaduct Rd, Nelse VIC 3699

Our bookings officer can be contacted via email bookings@bogongroverchalet.org.au or on 0407 CHALET (0407 242 538).