

## Outdoor Expo 2003

The BCMG Outdoor Expo is on at EMC, 654b Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn on Tuesday 27 May 2003 from 7.00 pm. Please note that the date has changed from previous editions of the Bulletin and from the rover fixture card. It will be a great evening with a guest speaker from the Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad. EMC has also arranged for an expert from Fischer Skis to come along to answer your technical backcountry skiing questions. A light supper will be served afterwards. The Expo is always a great evening to catch up with Alpine Rover and Venturer friends before the snow starts falling. EMC has some great deals just for the Alpine Rover Crew and Venturer Unit and only on the night.

- ❑ General Outdoor and Bushwalking Gear 20% discount
- ❑ New Season Ski Gear 10% discount
- ❑ Other Ski gear 10-30 % discount
- ❑ A range of in store specials on the night

The Expo is always a great night so come along to update your gear, for an entertaining evening or just to catch up with some old friends

Mick Simpson  
Chairman, Alpine Rover Crew  
[smsimpson@virtual.net.au](mailto:smsimpson@virtual.net.au)

## Coming Events

- ❑ Food Weekend – 10-11/5/03
- ❑ Nobs Training – 17/5/03
- ❑ Outdoor Expo - 27/5/03
- ❑ Season Opens – Week 1 28/6/03
- ❑ Ski Fun Day – 19/7/03
- ❑ Bogong Rover Crew turns 70 – 7/9/2003
- ❑ AGM – 8/10/03
- ❑ Possible Weekend of Celebrations for 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Bogong Rover Crew – 7-8/11/2003

## Bogong Bulletin

The Alpine Rovers and Venturers Newsletter  
Bogong Chalet Management Group  
**Winter 2003 – Issue 42**

## Winter 2003 is ON!!!

*With just a few days to spare prior to Easter the BCMG was able to gain limited access to the chalet for the first time since January. Our immediate aim is only to prepare the chalet for Winter 2003. This will occur and it is time to get those applications in. There was a working bee over Easter to Anzac Day and the only other working bee will be on the Food Weekend in May. As a result the usual requirement for attendance at working bee is not needed for 2003 only. There will be no summer bookings taken prior to Winter. So the winter season for 2003 is on. There will be some spectacular skiing on some well-cleared slopes around the chalet and out on the high plains. The application form is on the website or you can contact the Bookings Officer on 0407 CHALET (0407 242538)*

**2003 marks 70 years of Rovers skiing the Bogong High Plains. See page 4 for some of the ideas being planned to celebrate this event**

**Ski It - Hike It - Bike It  
I Like It  
0407 CHALET  
0407 242538**

[www.rovers.scouts.com.au/vic/bogong](http://www.rovers.scouts.com.au/vic/bogong)

## Nobs Training

Due to the traumas of the last summer and the fact that the few working bees have been totally focused on winter preparation there has been no Nobs Training at the chalet this summer. However we have organised a Nobs training day at 6<sup>th</sup> Camberwell North Scout Hall, Doncaster Rd, Doncaster on 17 May 2003. It will be an all day event and will cover a wide range of things including changes to food handling regulations and the new generator. If you would like to be trained as a Nob (particularly if you are of Rover or Venturer age) contact Linda Merrall on the bookings line on 0407 CHALET (0407 242538) to register. You've already done Nobs Training?? – we welcome pre-trained nobs who feel they would like an update as well as those with a further interest in becoming a Nob on their winter party.

## "The bushfires...a personal perspective" by Greg Lee, Mt Beauty resident

The January/February fires hit home for me when the residents in Mt. Beauty became surrounded on three fronts. Many Chalet members may know me from either hiring a bike or touring skis whilst on their way up to the Bogong High Plains. The smoke lifted on January 16, enough to enable me to conduct a mountain bike tour along Tawonga Gap Ridge - January 16 (The range that runs between Mt. Beauty and Bright). Late in the afternoon we looked over towards Falls Creek and could see a huge fire racing South along the Grey Hills towards Rocky Valley Dam. We were shocked to see fireballs from probably skims away. I thought to myself "that's going straight for Falls Creek and the Rover Chalet!". Being a twilight ride I was shocked later in the ride to witness a front of fire the full width of Mt. Bogong burning half way to the summit. It was an unbelievable event for a Mt. Beauty local to see our majestic Mt. Bogong burn. This mountain is like our 'holy grail' - it looms over us like a big brother. It is to us what the Harbour bridge is to Sydney. Everyone in town builds their house to get a full vantage of the summit. To see it burn was astonishing. Although it has happened before - the 1939 fires -I never thought it would happen again.

The fires shrouded Mt. Beauty in thick smoke for weeks, and caused many people to become ill. I sent my wife Carol and two young children away to Wangaratta for safety. Being unable to venture outside for weeks on end was quite depressing. The CFA trucks with their orange clothed fire-fighters helped boost our confidence that a major effort would be made to save the Village. All the action culminated on Sunday Australia Day 26th when a nasty Southerly wind whipped the fires up. The fire raced up from the East Kiewa, jumped the Falls Creek Road, then down the hill towards town. Fortunately the Fire-fighters were able to halt it's path only 200M from town.

The town is now starting to recover with the Autumn visitors returning. Velvet green grass, shooting gum trees and tree-ferns are now prominent. One bright spot amongst all the devastation is the discovery of some tracks that have become evident after being hidden from view by the build-up in vegetation. There were some 150 Miles of walking paths constructed by the SEC - ironically built for fire fighting purposes around the region. Walkers and bike riders have discovered some of these. Our Icon remains off-limits for walkers until a full assessment can be performed by park rangers. Business' such as ours are now starting to recover from the effects. We look forward to a busy Winter with plenty of snow.

**Note:** Greg & Carol are the proprietors of Rocky Valley Bikes & Snowsports. They have a range of x-rental back-country skis and bindings for sale. These skis are Karhu GT full metal edged with a fish scale base. The bindings are Riva Cable. This equipment has proven to be very reliable and Rover Chalet visitors have used these successfully. Price \$250 per set. You can contact him on 03 5754 1118 or [info@rockyvalley.com.au](mailto:info@rockyvalley.com.au) If you wish to hire ski-gear for your winter trip, give Greg or Carol a call

## Huts Update

We are still getting information on the fate of many alpine huts after the fires of 2003. I can confirm that Pretty Valley Hut, whose fate was unknown has been confirmed as being safe. As a result of the fires the Victorian High Country Huts Association was formed and they have a great deal of information on their website at [www.vhca.org.au](http://www.vhca.org.au) They are also looking for some photographs of some more obscure huts to complete their records. The list of lost huts as at 16 April 2003 is Batty, Beloka, Bogong Creek (2), Bon Accord, Briggs Logging Camp, Buckwong (2), Burnside, Carmody, Centennial, Charlie Creek, Damm, Dr Searle, Dunstan Logging Camp (5), Euco Stephenson, Federation, Horsehair (2), Huggins, Jacks, Long Plain, Macfarlanes Flat, McNamara (Bucketty Plain), Michell, Mt Leinster, Mt Selwyn, Mulhauser, Mussurie, O'Rourke's Paddock, Quintet Mine (2), Red, Red Robin, Rocky Plain, Roney Mac, Ropers, Springs Saddle, Sykes Dogman, West Humffrey, Worcester Mine. The list in NSW is Brooks, Delaneys, Bolton Hill, Pretty Plain, Patons, Orange/Diane, Old Geehi/YHA, Geehi, Happy Jacks, Kidman, Dr Forbes, Boobee, Pugalistic, O'Keefe, Verandah Camp, Olsens Lo Shelter, Opera House, Stockwhip and Grey Hill Café. Despite the devastation in the immediate area of the chalet the hut losses are remarkably low with only Battys and Ropers on Mt Nelse, Federation and Bon Accord on Feathertop, Bogong Creek and Michell on Mt Bogong, Huggins and McNamaras in the Bucketty Plain area as being lost – plus of course our tow hut. The tragic loss of the Mt Franklin Chalet (c1938) in the Brindabella Range in the ACT leaves our chalet as probably the oldest extant ski club building on the mainland. It is up to us to preserve the history in our chalet, as so much else has been lost in the fires.

## **BCMG Annual General Meeting**

The BCMG AGM will be held at Victorian Branch HQ, 50 Barry Street, Carlton on 8 October 2003 at 8.00 pm. Full uniform please. If you want to get involved in the management of the chalet this is your chance. There are 7 Rover positions, 2 Venturer positions, 2 26-30 year old positions, 2 30 + positions and the chairman of the Alpine Rover Crew to elect. Contact Mick Simpson on 03 9729 6607 for further information. This is your chance to get involved so please come along.

## **SKI FUN DAY 2003**

The BCMG will be running a ski fun day on 19 July 2003. There is no charge from us only resort entry fees to pay. Just turn up at 10.00 am at either Lake Mountain at Gerraty's or at Mt Baw Baw at the W.F. Waters Ski Lodge for a fun social days skiing. The exact location will be determined by the snow conditions in the week prior to the fun day. Please register with the Bookings Officer and you will be informed of the location prior. It will also be posted on the website notice board on Thursday prior. For this fun day please contact Linda on 0407242538 to register. The 2002 Ski Fun day was held at Baw Baw the freshest snow and everyone honed their skiing skills and had fun to boot! See the flyer on page 5

## **Historical and Other Stuff**

While at the Chalet after Easter some people from Wilkinsons dropped past and mentioned that 'Old Tom's Hut' site was clearly visible after the fire. As we had never heard of 'Old Tom' Peter Rossborough, Penny Van den Berg and I went exploring and located the ruins of a hut just down from the aqueduct below the spillway under Wilkinsons Lodge. It is complete with cooking pots, dam, chimney ruins and the handle of a Gladstone bag. A search of the W.F. Waters biography revealed that a bloke called Joe Holsten lived in a hut just south of the SEC hut (Wilkinsons) at the time the SEC had staff in Wilkinsons for surveys for the hydroelectric scheme in the 1930's. We assume that this is one and the same. Does anyone know anything else of 'Old Tom' or Joe Holsten and what happened to him?

Many Winter Parties create their own CD's of digital photographs. If anyone has a CD of photo's could they run a copy and send it to the Chalet Historian, Sue Tanck. Contact 0409787733. On the subject of photographs there are some recent post fire photo's on the website in the gallery.

All of the chalet's pillow slips were used for protecting items during the fire rescue so we have no spares. Any donations of some older pillow slips for emergency use at the chalet will be gratefully accepted.

Also the fire has revealed a lot of other items around the chalet that had been buried under scrub for years. Once the soil consolidates with some new vegetation it will be necessary to conduct a clean up to correct some previous waste disposal practices that are now discredited! There is an amount of broken glass, which we will try and clean up on food weekend for obvious safety reasons.

The Shannonvale Track or 'Hill 60' is also clearly evident with the footpad visible for some distance down the valley. All the blackberries lower down the Middle Creek valley will also be gone so it will be possible to walk down to Shannonvale for some years. It will not be possible to walk on any burnt area until there is substantial regrowth as the soil needs a chance to recover and the revegetation process to occur. Some snow gums are regenerating already from their base, as is the occasional bush, however some of the vegetation appears to have been killed by the fire. Only time will tell regards the amount and degree of permanent damage that the fires have caused. In the meantime please be very careful in the burnt areas and do not leave the formed trails at all. The dead trees maybe dangerous and drop limbs without notice – so take care and be very gentle on our environment.

*Mick Simpson (Chairman, Alpine Rover Crew)*

*Some items will be returned to the chalet for winter however the history room, Nobs Room items, old log books, uniforms, snow shoes and the skis will not as they require either copying or photographing. Some of these will never be returned however. The dining room will be completed for winter however it has a distinctly different feel as some of the decoration is absent. It is still very much the chalet dining room and is much cleaner and neater. Sue Tanck (Chalet Historian)*



Bookings this year are coming in fast, so don't hold back or you may miss out!! A present we have received 116 applications and some weeks have less than 10 places left! Get your applications in now!!

### **Bogong Gossip**

- ❖ Congratulations to Bruce and Lauren Durant on the birth of Darcy on 10 March 2003
- ❖ Congratulations to Matt Franzke and Katie on their engagement in 'Ueschinnen Hutte' while skiing by the moonlight in Switzerland. What is it about the snow?
- ❖ Congratulations to our Warden and Food guru Matt and Donna Anderson on the birth of their third daughter Tamioka on 15 April 2003
- ❖ Congratulations to CJ and Rebecca on the birth of their son also on 15 April 2003
- ❖ And special congratulations to the BCMG Chairman, Paul Sheer and former BCMG chairman, Liz Mishura on their wedding on 14 March 2003

### **Bogong Bulletin**

The Bogong Bulletin has a circulation nearing 600 copies. It is compiled and mailed by volunteers from the BCMG and helpers. Despite this volunteer labour, it takes over 30 hours to copy, fold, address, stamp and stuff in envelopes and costs over \$1000 a year to send out. Emailing links to those with internet access means the number of Bulletins that actually go into envelopes has been reduced to about 300. So if you have an email address you haven't told us about please send it to me at [smsimpson@virtual.net.au](mailto:smsimpson@virtual.net.au) and I will add you to the email address list. You will stay on the email address list as long as you want to with no 3 year cut off. The electronic version is in full colour and has the odd colour photograph. If I have lost your email address or you were getting the Bulletin via email and then started getting it via snail mail please remind me with your email address. The money and effort we can save goes a long way to keeping costs down for future years. Older editions of the Bulletin can always be accessed at the website at [www.rovers.scouts.com.au/vic/bogong](http://www.rovers.scouts.com.au/vic/bogong) as well as application forms and latest issues.

Disabled Winter-Sport Victoria is holding their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski and Second Hand Gear Sale on Saturday May 24 between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm. It is to be held at the Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Always a good chance to pick up a bargain and also a chance to sell your pre loved gear. (Sale information 98649237).

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

All proceeds to Disabled Winter Sport Victoria

## **The Bogong Rover Crew turns 70 years old on 7 September 2003.**

2003 marks 70 years of winter parties by rovers and the BCMG is looking at a number of ways to celebrate this significant event. Planning had been severely hampered by the lack of certainty but is now well underway.

We are looking at a re-entment on the day and also one for each week. A Melbourne based weekend of celebrations is also being considered for 7-8 November with a Bogong reunion at the Old Rovers Ball on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a get together at a central location on the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

There is a lot to plan and not a lot of time so we are looking for volunteers to help. Please contact Mick Simpson on 0419599964 or Sue Tanck on 0409787733 if you can help or have some other ideas.



The area near the tow slope – starting to recover. There are more photos on the website at

[www.rovers.scouts.com.au/vic/bogong](http://www.rovers.scouts.com.au/vic/bogong)

Bogong Rover Chalet Invites you to

FOR ROVERS  
WHO WANT TO  
GIVE CROSS-  
COUNTRY  
SKIING A GO!

# Ski Fun Day 2003!

Sat. 19th  
July

The event will be held at either Mt. Baw Baw or Lake Mountain. (depending on where the best snow is at the time.) Register your interest and you will receive information on which resort the event will be at, what to take and where to hire skis from.

## COSTS FOR THE DAY

- Ski Hire \$20
- Gate Entry \$22 per car ( 4 passengers = \$5.50 each)
- Trail Fees \$ 0 (Mt Baw Baw)  
\$10 (Lake Mountain)

**THAT'S ONLY \$25.50 IF WE GO TO  
MOUNT BAW BAW OR \$35.50 IF WE  
GO TO LAKE MOUNTAIN!**

*For more information,  
or to register your  
interest,  
Contact Linda on  
0407 242 538*





**PRESENT THE**  
***Outdoor Expo***  
**2003**

**The Bogong Rover Chalet's Outdoor Expo is on again at EMC, 654b Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn on Tuesday 27 May 2003 from 7.00 pm**

**EMC is offering great deals on all outdoor equipment with up to 30% off on some ski gear. There will be an expert from Fischer Skis on hand to answer your technical back country ski questions and the guest speaker is from the Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad. The outdoor expo is a great night to catch up with Alpine Rover and Venturer friends and to snap a great bargain on some outdoor equipment. For the non skiing Rover there are some great bargains on packs and other outdoor equipment  
Supper will be served with tea and coffee.**

**Come along for a great night.**

**Mick Simpson**  
**Chairman - Alpine Rover Crew**  
**[smsimpson@virtual.net.au](mailto:smsimpson@virtual.net.au) 03 9729 6607**