



Rat Tales

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Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

AMAZING ABSEILING: OCTOBER 29

On Sunday 29th October, 15 members of the Bushwalking Club went for a day of Abseiling and Rock climbing in The Grampians. We had experts who were helping us, they were Jono and Than. Over the course of about six hours we went Abseiling and Rockclimbing at two different sites. The first was a 20 metre wall, which was quite fun to climb up and abseil down. Then the second wall, which was around 40 metres high, was more challenging. The abseil was better than the first as there was some freefalling (where your feet don't touch the rock wall). All in all it was an amazing day. Thank you Vicki for all your organization.

Torin Kelderman

On the 29th October, Jean, Jason, Ashleigh, Vicki, Steven, Rob, Alan, Trevor, Barbara, Hans, Angela, Ron, Tzaadi (& Perry), Torin and I went Abseiling and Rock Climbing. Personally, I think half the fun was the fantastic feeling you get when you abseil down after you were terrified at the top. The first place we stopped at was the 20 Metre wall. I think everybody had a go at the abseil and the rock climb. The next one was a 40 metre wall. I thought it was brilliant once I got over my fear. However, there was a part, which was an overhang, and your feet didn't touch the wall and you spun around so you could see the magnificent view. Even if you didn't abseil or climb, but just came along to watch, it was still a splendid day. A big thanks to Vicki for putting this trip together.

Kushya Kelderman

MT BOGONG: NOVEMBER 20

What a wonderful way to finish Federation Weekend, a quick trip up Victoria's highest Mount. So it was with much jovialness that Frank, Anne, Angela and myself set off from Mountain Creek campground very early Monday morning.

It was peaceful and serene following the river along for the first couple of flat km's, then of course the hard part began. We regrouped at the bottom of staircase spur to set our plan of attack (which was crawl if necessary). Onward and upward we went making the most of the morning coolness. Frank always managed to get to the best seat first when a rest was needed. As the sun started to show through the snakes began to show their presence making us just a bit more vigilant. We reached Bivouac hut and investigated the non perishable food cupboard if you were game.

The views began to get better and we were just tall enough to see over the re-growth from the 2003 fires into the valleys. Another year and you would need to be 8 ft tall to see much. The snowgums started to become fewer and before long we had made our way to a me-

morial cairn for 3 skiers who perished in a blizzard. The top was now in reach and we arrived for a very early lunch except for Frank who still needed a bit more exercise and put in a run across to Cleve Cole Hut and back. The sky was clear and the view stretched all the way to Kosciusko.

After lunch we descended along the Eskdale spur to Mitchell Hut which is only two years old. It's a pretty flash looking tin construction that was very well equipped for emergency's. We left two other walkers there to enjoy the views and continued down and down and down. The track descended relentlessly all the way to the river where our toes and knees were definitely looking forward to some level walking.

We followed the river for about 8 km back to the campground and were met by a welcoming party of school children setting up for the night. We washed up said goodbye to Frank and settled in for the night feeling pretty pleased with ourselves we had had a wonderful walk.

Vicki.
