



Wombats Run News Letter

March 2017

President's Report: Brian Jones

As the second year of my role as President draws near I have reflected over what has been occurring within the Club and lodge.

At the AGM last year there were again a few changes to the structure of the Committee. Pam Blaikie and Greg Johnson, did not stand for re-election. I would like to thank Pam for her tireless work over the years on the Committee and her work as editor of the newsletter. Sadly no-one has stepped forward to take on that role. Maybe it is because of the digital era that people no longer want newsletters. So at present we are only producing the one annual newsletter, unless so-one wants to step forward and take on the role. I would also like to thank Greg for his time and expertise over the years, as we have continued to make changes to the lodge. Even though Greg is no longer on the committee he is still continued to be a source of information as needed.

New committee members were elected into the role. Kieron Jones and Brad McLeod stepped forward to fill the gap. Unfortunately due to work and other time commitments these members have had to resign from the Committee. Earlier this year the Committee appointed Jeff Maher as a new Committee member to fill one of those vacancies. Jeff has brought new enthusiasm to the role. The time could not have been better as his partner, Anthea who is an interior designer has provided some invaluable advice as we plan for a major renovation of the kitchen at the lodge. Not only has she provided advice on aspects we had not considered for the kitchen, she has also in her own time provided a report on her impressions of the entire lodge. As she had not previously been to the lodge it was an unbiased and fresh approach to how the lodge could be improved.

After 2 years as President and 3 years before that as committee member I have seen the Club move forward in leaps and bounds to where it is today. This is in no small part due to the effort of all the committee members. Special mention to Mike Turner who has tirelessly managed several projects and JB for his continual work on the lodge

The laundry renovation has now been completed and is a cleaner, more organised space the old and tired laundry we had. The outdoor tiled area had some final touches and the furniture has been re-oiled. The Strategic Plan managed by Harry Hayes continues to steer the committee on our priorities for the future.

Working bees continue to be a bugbear of the committee. Without the committee and a handful of regular

President's Report

Editors report

Facebook is here

Strategic direction

Firewood

Quarry Application

Regular Reminders

Dates to remember

Important Booking Information

Guest Requirements

Membership Renewal

AGM Agenda

dedicated members the Club would have to outsource and pay for these works. It would be great to see some fresh faces at the working bees. If you have never been to a Working Bee they are a great opportunity to meet other members and the committee and get a great appreciation of what is involved in running the lodge. The job list varies from general cleaning, basic repairs, painting, to the odd project. My children love coming to these working bees and helping out as best they can to maintain their club. If you are not sure what is involved, please ask. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. The next working bee which is a wood cut is scheduled for 12-14 May, 2017.

The next Annual General Meeting will again be held at the Mulgrave Club, Wellington Road, Mulgrave on the 1st May, 2017. It is important we get a good turnout of members at the AGM and it is vital that anyone interested in joining the committee also attend. Please contact myself or any member of the committee if you are interested and want to know more.

The meeting will commence at 8pm, you are welcome to arrive earlier and join the current committee members for a meal and chat prior to the meeting. Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions for the Club are due on the 1st of April. If you have not renewed your membership by that date, you are un-financial, and therefore ineligible to vote at the AGM. It is also important to remind you to inform the committee of any change of address or contact details so that you can be kept informed.

In conclusion I thank all my fellow committee members for their dedication and continued support, John Blaikie, Adrian Healy, Robyn Garrett, Tania Allatt, Mike Turner, Harry Hayes, Lewis Rapley-Smith, Bek Gunther, Mandy Finnegan and Jeff Maher.

Editor's Report

This is the 2016-2017 annual newsletter, with up to date information about the club and renewal details. Sadly there has been no interest by any members willing to take up the role as editor and as Pam Blaikie has stepped back from the Role, so an Annual newsletter it is. Keep your eye on the website for updates throughout the year.

Brian Jones



Facebook is here

This year our younger tech savvy members of the committee set up a VPAC Facebook page. It is a private site by invitation only. Members with emails will receive an invitation shortly to join. It is completely up to you.

The aim of the site will be to keep members more up-to-date on activities and also advise of any last minute cancellations or availabilities at the lodge during the busy periods.

Strategic Direction of Lodge

The Committee has continued to use the Strategic Direction document "*Strategic Forecasting 2017-2021*" for the lodge, the purpose of this "living document" is to ensure that robust governance and a vision is maintained for the lodge for the generations to come.

Over the last few years the Committee used this document to rationalise and plan a number of improvements to the lodge and it is a pleasure to say that all were achieved plus an urgent replacement of outdoor furniture and all ventures were completed within budgetary estimates. See our achievements further in this newsletter.

The Vision statement of this document sets out *that the document has been developed to ensure that the Victoria Police Alpine Club continues to remain a viable and enjoyable facility for the generations to come of members and guests.*

In 2017 the process continues and discussions are ongoing to ensure we keep the appropriate standard for all guests. Some of which include painting the outdoor areas and ongoing maintenance issues around the lodge.

This is a living document and suggestions and solutions are always gratefully accepted from members and anyone interested in the future of the club is invited to take up a role within the committee.

So please contact the committee via our Feedback page <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html> or Committee members if you have further ideas for us.

So what's been achieved in 2016

Thanks go to the committee for all the organization involved in arranging the following, but especially to Mike Turner who has taken a leading role in much of the works this year.

Laundry – this renovation was completed and the finishing touches applied.

Outside tiled area - a few finishing touches were applied to this area.

Undercover entertainment area ceiling was painted as the bare timber and cement sheet was an eyesore.

Our next big plan is to completely renovate the kitchen. Although it has served the club well it is tired and at times congested when several groups are trying to prepare meals at the same time. We aim to open up the kitchen area to a more open plan design, making it a more inviting and useable place for several groups at the same time.

Firewood

Although it does grow on trees the money to purchase it doesn't. Last year we purchased a large amount of wood that was then split and stacked. This should have lasted several years. Instead a lot more was burnt than anticipated, and we will be required to purchase more again.

When you are at the lodge and using the fire please remember that the wood does cost the club and consider how much you are going through. There is no need to stack the fireplace to keep it burning all day long if you will be out all day. With the split Aircon and the fireplace the lodge does heat up quickly.

Proposed Quarry / Rock Extraction

Last year a planning permit was submitted to Mansfield Council for a quarry / rock extraction at 401 Buttercup Road. This was for the removal of truckloads of rock at a time from the property. The entrance to this property is several hundred metres down the road from the lodge, but the property is 400 acres and runs along the rear of all the small properties of Buttercup Road, including the lodge. The area that was originally proposed to have the works is over our rear fence and just over the top of the hill. This is a proposal that will affect all the residents of the Buttercup Road area and club members staying at the lodge. The committee lodged an objection to the granting of the planning permit, as well have many of the residents of the Merrijig area. This response came as a surprise to both the applicant and the Mansfield Council. Many of the locals have been very vocal in their objections. After a reconciliation meeting the applicant was required to provide further information to the Council. After a lot of delay and varying the application the applicant has advised the Council that he still intends to apply again for the permit. If this does occur the Committee again intends to object to the granting of the planning permit

If you feel that you will be affected by the approval of a planning permit there are a number of things you can do. At the lodge there is a petition that you can sign. You can also lodge your own objection to the planning permit direct with the Council.

Regular reminders when you are “At the Lodge”

The Committee values feedback from members on any aspect of club activities. Please advise a member of the committee if there are any problems that require immediate attention.

Members and guests

The Committee takes your responsibilities to others and to the club seriously, so please be vigilant and remember that our Caretaker checks the lodge after each group, so if you don't do the right thing we know.

Remember:

- Although we want you to treat the lodge as you would your home, we ask that you do keep it tidy throughout your stay as other groups and families may also be attending and will expect to arrive at a clean and tidy "home"
- All members and guests MUST complete the sign in book on arrival; this is a requirement of our liquor license and our Auditors.
- All Please only use the rooms allocated to your group as late bookings may not appear on the booking sheet and save them the embarrassment of having to get you to move out of their room.
- Vacate your room by 10am. Leave your luggage in the laundry or drying room if you will be returning to the lodge later that day.
- Remember to turn off heaters and any electrical appliances, before you leave for the day
- Guests, members or groups leaving the lodge in an unclean state will be invoiced for cleaning charges. Repeat offenders will be required to pay a forward bond on their bookings.
- **All other rubbish should be taken down on a daily basis to the bins at the front gate and on departure** from the lodge. Kitchen rubbish bins are accessed from outside
- Do NOT leave bag rubbish outside the lodge. Wildlife in the area can spot it a mile away and will scatter it across the yard in little time
- The council has provided recycling bins, so members and guests are reminded to put out your recyclable bottles, cans and plastics in the bins.
- Do NOT put **NAPPIES in the recycle bin. (This is both a health hazard and just revolting)**

Dates to Remember 2017 www.vpski.com/Calendar/dates.html

Annual General Meeting – Monday 1st May, 8pm,

Mulgrave Club corner of Wellington Road and Jells Road Mulgrave.
A Bistro is available for dinner prior to the meeting. Love to see you there!
The agenda for 2017 is at the end of this newsletter.

*New committee members and ideas are always welcome.
If you are interested contact any member of committee. (as below)*

Club Working Bee



General working bee: Book in for Friday 12 and Saturday the 13th May

How often do you say to yourself and friends “the lodge is just like my own holiday home”? Well like a holiday home it does take some maintenance.

Many hands make light work and fun is always had at a working bee with dinner on Saturday night supplied.



Book now: Accommodation free at all working bees with dinner supplied on Saturday night



2017

Club annual Lake Albacutya (Big Desert) camping (Queens Birthday weekend)



Pencil it in your dairies now. We have had an extraordinary response and commitment to this annual camping trip and it is an excellent venue for kids and a tremendous getaway for the whole family, relax at the campsite, 4x4 or trail ride through Big Desert.

Contact John Blaikie on 0421 634335 for further details.

Committee 2016 - 2017

All positions fall vacant at the AGM on Monday May 1, 2017 anyone wanting to become part of the vibrant team that keeps the club running is more than welcome to contact any of the following committee members and find out what it is about. There will be vacancies at this AGM for new committee members, so it's a great opportunity.

President, Brian Jones	0400 345 390
Vice President, John Blaikie	0421 634 335
Booking Manager, Adrian Healy	0417 568 523
Treasurer, Tania Allatt	0409 492 610
Secretary, Robyn Garrett	03 9738 0767
Assistant Secretary, Harry Hayes	0417 312 832
Committee Members:	
Mike Turner	0419 576 712
Mandy Finnegan	0403 324 055
Bek Gunther	0439 773 877
Lewis Rapley-Smith	0435 519 721
Jeff Maher	0419 746 411

Changed your email address

If you have changed your email please include the new one on the membership renewal form. Email is our preferred method of contact however this March newsletter is sent to all members' postal address.

The Plug page

Check our website to support our [members](#) and their business (www.vpski.com/Links/index.html) Please contact me (the editor) if you would like your business to be linked to from our website.

Local activities

- **Mansfield** - www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/
Chances are when you plan a weekend at the Lodge there will be something happening in Mansfield. If you want to keep up to date with "What's On in Mansfield" Try this website it may help you plan your next visit.
- **Merrijig**
Keep abreast of What's happening in Merrijig with the Merrijig Community Newsletter. Available as its supplied and posted on our website, newsletter page. Local events and news.
- **Mt Buller** - www.mtbuller.com.au/
In Summer walk, hike run and bike

In Winter Ski, snowboard and latte – keep up to date on the Mt Buller website

Lodge Booking procedure and information for members and guests

Before you book please work out how many double & / or single beds you require, and how flexible your preferences are. You can complete the online booking request at any time via the web site links.

Online booking - use the link from the accommodation page



Step 1. Check Bed Availability via our Calendar link

(This calendar is designed to help you plan your stay at the lodge, confirmation is still required from the Booking Manager)

Step 2. “Submit your booking request” via the link and supply details to all relevant questions.

Step 3. The Booking Manager will confirm your booking.

Remember the Booking Manager is a voluntary position and the phones are not manned 24 hours a day.

PAYMENT METHODS

1. Cheque made out to the Victoria Police Alpine Club.(post to: Booking Manager, VPAC, 1 Moodie Place, St Kilda 3182 or P.O. Box 33, Blackburn South 3130)
2. Direct deposit to our co-op account (as advised on booking invoice)
3. Direct BSB deposit from another bank (as advised on booking invoice)

If you do a Bank transfer please include a reference as follows

Name / date of accommodation e.g. Blaikie 04-04-2015

PLEASE NOTE

- Bed allocation is booked as tentative until the Booking Officer receives payment. **Payment for bookings is required within two weeks of making the booking** or if made at short notice less than two weeks from date of stay, then payment is required immediately.
- Names of **all persons attending** Lodge are to be given to the Booking Manager at the time the booking is made.
- Confirmation of bed allocation is displayed on notice board at Lodge and must be complied with.
- Vacating of rooms by 10am day of departure is required so incoming guest can unpack.

Lodge rooms

There are eight rooms in the lodge configured as follows. There are not guarantees that you will get the rooms you request, as it is at the discretion of the Booking Manager when fitting bookings into the lodge. Your allocated room may change between your booking and arrival and will be recorded on the allocation sheet at the lodge – however, it is worth visiting the website booking calendar to check before you leave home.

Room 1 – 4 single bunks

Room 2 – 2 double bunks

Room 3 - 2 double bunks

Room 4 – 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

Room 5 – 2 single bunks

Room 6 - 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

Room 7 – 1 queen bed

Room 8 - 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

*****IMPORTANT PAYMENT ADVICE*****

The club has in the past received on occasion's large bookings during popular long weekends. These bookings have then at the last moment been cancelled. This has in effect prevented other members of the club from using these popular long weekends. This is unfair on those club members as it is very hard to organise trips to the club on one or two days' notice. As such Payment for accommodation must be made within 14 days of booking. If payment is not received in 14 days the room will be allocated to the next party requesting accommodation.

If you are making bookings for multiple persons, it is your responsibility to make the booking payment as a lump sum covering the entire booking.

Please note that receipts will only be issued on request.

******IMPORTANT GUEST REQUIREMENTS******

The Victoria Police Alpine Club is run by volunteers and provides extremely cheap accommodation for our guests. Many hours are devoted freely to the upkeep of our premises by just a handful of members. We are not a serviced hotel or apartment and unfortunately not everyone leaves the lodge as they find it which has necessitated us employing expensive cleaning services. As such we feel we need to reinforce the following requirements.

In order to keep the accommodation rates down our guests are expected to play their part in keeping the lodge premises clean, tidy and in a condition you would wish to find on your arrival as a guest.

We require our guests to follow these simple guidelines prior to departing.

- Ensure that the bins under the kitchen bench (accessed from outside) are emptied on your departure and the plastic bin liners be replaced from the supply that is kept in the enclosure. Rubbish to be placed in the wheelie bins at the bottom of the drive. All glass, cardboard and plastic to be placed in the recycle wheelie bins on the back veranda of the lodge.
- Empty the waste paper bins in the kitchen and bathrooms and replace the plastic bin liners from the pantry supply when required. Rubbish to be placed in the wheelie bins at the bottom of the drive near Buttercup Road.
- Sweep the tiled areas of loose dirt and if required mop the tiled areas (including bath-rooms) with the equipment supplied in the laundry.
- Vacuum your room with the vacuum cleaners supplied and stored in the drying room and laundry.
- Turn off all electrical switches (including the kitchen urn) on departure.
- Keep the kitchen area and benches clean and sanitary by wiping them down with the cleaning equipment supplied under the sinks. Ensure you remove all food from fridges upon leaving as there may not be another guest for several days. Ensure nothing was spilled in the fridges.

The lodge is inspected by our caretaker on departure of guests and if the lodge is found to be in a filthy state requiring a cleaner to be employed then this cost will be invoiced to the persons who left it in that condition.

If all our guests adhere to these simple tasks then we can avoid the expensive cleaning costs which we have had to pay in the past. If we have to continue to employ cleaners due to guests leaving the lodge filthy then we will unfortunately increase our rates accordingly.

Don't forget your renewal for 2017 - 2018 (Form attached).

Don't forget if you have children who have turned 18 in the last year they are no longer covered by your family membership. They can become members in their own right, without the joining fee. They need only send in their details and annual payment.

Please update the following membership form, make payment and return

Renewal of Membership for 2017-2018

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are **due by 1st April 2017**.

If payment is not received **within one month** from this date your membership will lapse. Please complete the renewal form below and forward together with your payment. **(If you have a regular payment from the Co-op we still require this form to be returned to maintain our records).**

* SINGLE - \$40.00

OR

* FAMILY - \$50.00

Police / Associate(* circle applicable)

*** Pls. indicate your privacy instructions - I wish my details to remain confidential – YES or NO ***

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ *(Pls. complete all areas to update our records)*

Telephone: Priv. _____ Bus. _____ Mob. _____

Email: Priv. _____

Alt _____

please print
clearly

The VPAC respects members' privacy and will not divulge personal details including e-mail addresses to any other body/members without the individual's consent. E-mails to members will be forwarded BCC (blind carbon copy) so no other individual sees other e-mail addresses. E-mail is an essential communication method of the VPAC, ensuring timely distribution of information/messages and minimizing running costs to keep members' subscriptions down.

Associate member, *please state occupation:* _____

IMPORTANT: All Family memberships must complete the following:

Name of spouse or partner: _____

Name/s of dependent children
under 18yrs:

Date of Birth: _____ Date

of Birth: _____ Date

of Birth: _____ Date

of Birth: _____

- A **fully dependent** child **under 18 years** is included under the family membership

Payment method: (tick applicable)

Police Credit - Regular payment form

Direct deposit Police Co-op account **901006 s1**

Bank transfer **BSB 704 230** Account **100 010 305**

Cheque made payable to VPAC.

Personal details notification only.

*****NOTE*** If making a direct deposit please ensure you reference your name otherwise it becomes an anonymous deposit.**

Please mail this completed form/s to: **VPAC [Inc.]**

PO Box 33

BLACKBURN SOUTH VIC 3130

Annual General Meeting Monday 1st May 2017

8.00pm

Place: The Mulgrave Club,
Corner Wellington Road & Jells Road Wheelers Hill

For apologies please contact any member of the committee

AGENDA :

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Minutes from the 2016-2017 AGM
- Business Arising
- Reports – President, Treasurer, Booking Manager.
- Maintenance report

General Business

Election of 2017 – 2018 Committee of Management

Election of Auditor

Nomination for Committee Members May 2017 – May 2018

I, _____ current member of the V.P.A.C. would like to propose
_____ for a current position on the Committee of
Management of the V.P.A.C. from May 2017 to May 2018.

_____ Signature

_____ Signature (Seconder)



VICTORIA POLICE ALPINE CLUB

Incorporated
ABN 927 949 311 34

P.O. Box 33 Blackburn South. Victoria. 3130
www.vpski.com



Proxy Voting Form

I, _____ being a financial member
of the Victoria Police Alpine Club for the year 2017 – 2018
appoint _____ or in his / her absence,
the chairperson, to be my proxy at the Victoria Police Alpine Club
Annual General Meeting to be convened on the 1st May 2017 and
to vote on my behalf on any Resolution and Election for the
incoming Committee of Management.

Signed: _____ Date: _____