



## Wombats Run News Letter

April 2014

Ladies and gents, welcome to the April Newsletter.

Before I go any further, just a heads up that the AGM for the club is being held at the Mulgrave Club Wellington Road Mulgrave again on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. The meeting will commence at 8pm and you are more than welcome to join us downstairs for dinner prior to the meeting. On a further note the annual subscriptions for the club were due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April so if you have not renewed you are now technically un-financial. I would also like to add that this information was forwarded by email to the entire membership earlier however there is a huge number of you that have changed your email addresses and not notified us. It is difficult to get news to you if we do not have current contact details.

As mentioned in the last newsletter the committee has put together a management and improvement plan for the club to cover the next five to 10 years. At this stage after requesting input from the membership the priorities for the next five years have been determined and set. For those of you who have had to contend with constantly malfunctioning, mistreated or broken vacuum cleaners, a fully ducted system is now fitted to the lodge to cover all areas. Every mattress in the lodge except for the Queen in room 7 (Only two years old) has been replaced with commercial hotel quality mattresses which also have a high fire rating and fitted mattress protectors. By the 17<sup>th</sup> of April the two couches in the games rooms will be moved to the south facing window area and the area around the T.V. will get 4 new leather couches to resist spillage and make cleaning easier. These comprise 2 x 2 seaters and 2 x 2.5 seaters. A full range of improvements have been set for every financial period for the foreseeable future to ensure that our valuable property and assets are kept to a high standard.

I wish to thank all those persons that were kind enough to email us with compliments regarding the new web site and upgrade. This was greatly appreciated. I also wish to thank Club member Brendan Godwin who has been scanning his collection of old club news letters that appear to go back to the clubs formation. These are being collated and will be made available for viewing on the web site eventually. Some of those early editions are very interesting reading.

As a final reminder please see if you can attend at least one working bee a year for us. Lately we have had committee only attendances and

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this is very draining on our time and resources. It is very disappointing when we get no help at all from the membership who are so eager to reap the benefits of the lodge but not willing to assist in any way. At this stage we are looking at engaging professional trades persons etc for the type of maintenance we would normally do ourselves. As such these costs will be passed onto to the accommodation rates.

John Blaikie  
Club President



## Building fund members

Building Fund members who participated in the loan scheme enabling the club to undertake and complete the renovations 5 years ago have now been recognised with a plaque at the lodge



## Editors Report

It been some time since the last newsletter so I hope you enjoy this April mail out. The April newsletter is a mail out to all members to keep in touch and remind you that it is time to pay your fees for the next year. August and September saw John and myself travelling to Alaska as far north as Prudhoe Bay and then across to the East coast of the US, down to Fort Lauderdale then to Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico. Once we were back home we were hit with a couple of working bees at the lodge followed by Christmas. It is difficult to find the time to do a newsletter and difficult to put something together that is both fresh and interesting every time. I know each time we ask for input for the newsletter from our membership but without stories from our members it becomes difficult.

Once again I ask if there is a member of the club interested in becoming Newsletter editor. For a younger member of the club, who has the interest and possibly a future in editing, journalism or marketing it would look great on your CV. Contact me and I will be happy to get you rolling.

I would also like to thank Brendon Godwin who has gradually been supplying me with a number of digitised newsletters for our archives.

Whilst I will happily continue maintain the club website, it is time for a new Editor and maybe a new fresh look.

Pam Blaikie

## Vision for the future

# Strategic Forecasting 2013-2018

Our Vision is 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.

Your Committee of Management strives every year to maintain and provide a Club and Lodge facility that all members can be proud of. We are self-funded and not for profit and once expenses are covered ensure that money is put back into the facility.

Looking forward our Strategic Plan now gives us some set objectives and a time frames. As well as required maintenance, in 2014 you will see purchase of new mattresses, new furniture in the TV room, repairs of the billiard table, reverse cycle air-conditioning in the games room and some wind and shade protection in the back recreation area. In 2015 we have scheduled laundry renovations.

It is always appreciated if anyone wishes to provide the Committee with any further suggestions we ask you to either contact a member of the committee or use the feedback form <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html>

## 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.

We have had several complaints over the last 12 months from other members and guests regarding the behaviour of some people staying at the lodge. It is not fair that some take responsibility for their cleanliness and other don't seem to care at all and leave it all for others to clean up.

The committee of management has discussed this issue and guests or members who leave the lodge dirty are now being invoiced with cleaning bills. Repeat offenders are now also having to pay a forward bond on their accommodation booking.

### Remember:

- All members and guests MUST complete the sign in book on arrival; this is a requirement of our liquor license and our Auditors.
- Vacate your room by 10am. Leave your luggage in the laundry or drying room if you will be returning to the lodge that day.
- Remember to turn off heaters and any electrical appliances, before you leave for the day

## Cleaning

### A new ducted Vacuum system has been installed for your convenience

Vacuum your room and the living areas, wash floors, wipe benches, especially bathrooms and toilets and take out the rubbish. If you have been at the lodge with a large group, ensure everyone pitches in and the place will be clean in no time.

## Rubbish and Recycle

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)

**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. Often it can be a few days until the next guests arrive and the bins get nasty quickly, so please REMEMBER your rubbish.

*Rubbish left in the backyard gets shredded by local foxes or dogs, you will be charged @\$50 per hour for the extra time it takes the Caretaker to clean up the mess*

## The Plug page

Check our website to support our [member businesses](http://www.vpski.com/Links/index.html) (www.vpski.com/Links/index.html)

Please contact me if you would like your business to be linked to from our website.

## Dates to Remember 2014

### Annual General Meeting – Monday 5th 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 2014 is at the end of this newsletter.

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

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## Club Working Bee

### General working bee: **Book in for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

Firewood is a priority every year and it is always available when you visit the lodge. This year due to the poor attendances at working bees it has become almost impossible for committee members only to cut and collect an entire seasons worth of firewood. As such the club will purchase firewood rather than cut and collect it, so helpers are still required to assist in stacking. Lots of other jobs to do too! Many hands make light work!



**.Book now:** Accommodation free with a BBQ dinner supplied on Saturday night.

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## 4WD & Motor bike weekend

Book for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Into the alpine huts. Bring a picnic lunch.



## 4WD Snow HUNT trip to Mt Skene,

Find the last of the snow

Book for Friday 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August



2015

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



The above trip for 2014 had to be cancelled due to the extensive damage and devastation caused to the entire area by bush fires earlier this year. Hopefully it will regenerate enough to make 2015 a grand trip. 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.

## Club donation for auction to the Triple "0" Heroes



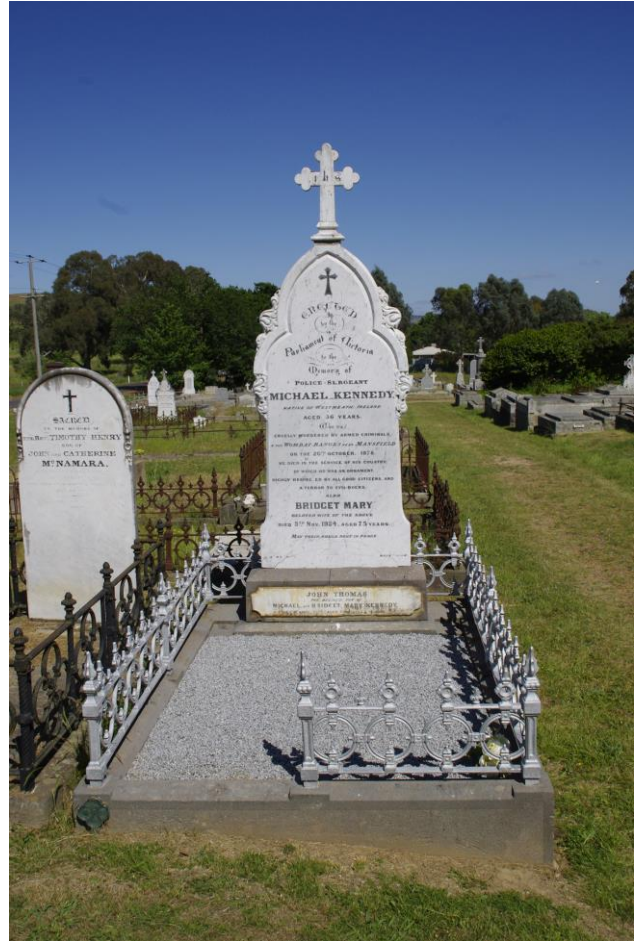
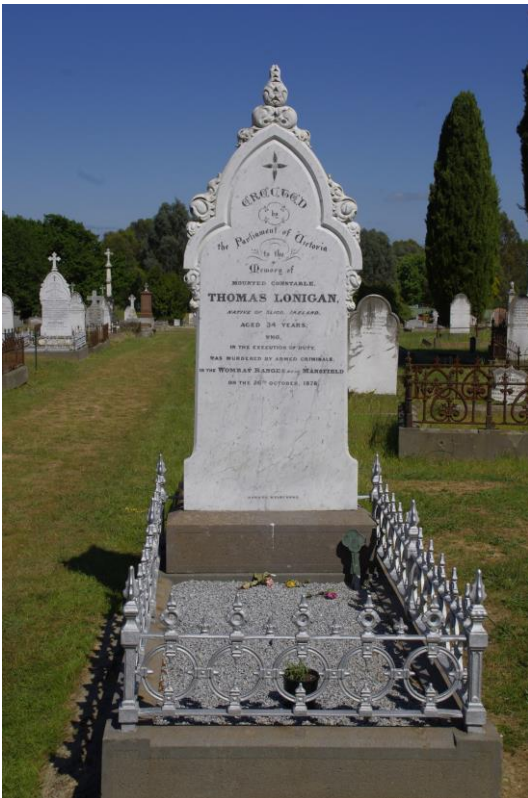
On the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 three members of the Victoria Police were seriously injured in an explosion as they responded to a call from a member of the community.

The Victoria Police community united to launch a recovery fund to support Sergeant Tony Scully, First Constable Emma Quick and Constable Varli Blake who were badly injured in this horrific explosion.

On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April the club was proud to sponsor the Triple "0" Heroes charity event via a donation of one week's accommodation for a family to the club premises and a dinner voucher to the Mil Inn to be put up for auction. The event was a great success and we wish them all a very speedy recovery.

## Dedication service

A restoration of the graves of policemen Sergeant Michael Kennedy, Constables Michael Scanlan and Thomas Lonigan, who were killed by the Kelly Gang in 1878 was completed was attended by Police Commissioner Ken Lay, descendants and locals. dedication service at Mansfield cemetery



**Chances are when you plan a weekend at the Lodge there will be something happening in Mansfield.**

**Want to keep up to date with "What's On in Mansfield"  
Try this website it may help you plan you next visit.**

[www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/](http://www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/)

**Don't forget your renewal for 2014-2015.**(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.

## Committee 2013-2014

<b>President</b> , John Blaikie	Wk. 9871 4119;	Mob 0421 634 335
<b>Vice President</b> , Geoff Alway	9887 9798	
<b>Booking Officer</b> , Adrian Healy	9510 0454	
<b>Treasurer</b> , Tania Allatt	Mob.0409 492 610	
<b>Secretary</b> , Robyn Garrett	9738 0767	
<b>Assistant Secretary</b> , Harry Hayes	Mob.0417312832	
<b>News Letter Editor</b> , Pam Blaikie	Wk. 03 99055377	Mob 0412 562340
<b>Work Master</b> , Bill Nash	Mob 0419 763348	
<b>Club Captain</b> , Greg Johnson	Mob.0431 327334	
<b>Committee Members:</b>		
Dave Mendes	Mob.0414181426;	
Mike Turner	Mob.0419576712;	
Brian Jones		

## Changed your email address

If you have changed your email please include the new one on the membership renewal form. Those that don't have email will receive a postal mail out as a matter of course.

## Booking procedure

**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 officer)*

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

**Step 3.** The booking officer will confirm your booking.

**Remember the booking officer 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 Officer, 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 (Ask as advised on booking invoice)

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

**Name / date of accommodation e.g. Blaikie 04-04-2013**

## 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 Officer 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.

<b>Winter</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> June - 30 <sup>th</sup> September		<b>Summer</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	
<b>Club Members</b> Bookings 3 months in advance*		<b>Club Members</b> Bookings 3 months in advance*	
Weekday <i>Sunday-Thursday</i>	Weekend <i>Friday-Saturday</i>	\$15(everyday) \$50 family rate* *For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates	
\$16	\$20		
*Foundation members may book 4 months in advance			
<b>Guests</b> Bookings 2 months in advance		<b>Guests</b> Bookings 2 months in advance	
Weekday <i>Sunday-Thursday</i>	Weekend <i>Friday-Saturday</i>	\$25 (everyday) \$70 family rate* *For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates	
\$30	\$35		
<b>Whole of Lodge Bookings</b>			
If you want to book the lodge <b>exclusively</b> the following minimum costs apply.			
<b>Summer</b> \$575 per night up to 23 persons, plus \$25for each additional person above 23			
<b>Winter weekday</b> \$1020 up to 34 person (every bed) (Sunday to Thursday nights)			
<b>Winter weekend</b> \$1190 up to 34 persons (every bed) (Friday & Saturday nights)			
<b>Important Family Booking Guidelines.</b>			
A family booking can only be made for the exclusive use of one room. If you require beds that exceed the capacity of a room then individual rates for each extra person apply at the appropriate member or guest rate.			
<b>Family definition</b>			
A family are those persons under 18 yrs of age that appear on your Medicare card or those you have nominated as family on your current family club membership form.			
<b>Preferred Booking method</b> : Online: <a href="http://www.vpski.com">www.vpski.com</a> (Booking form available)			
<b>Booking Officers:</b> <a href="#">Adrian Healy</a> <b>Telephone:</b> <a href="tel:0395100454">03 9510 0454</a> (Please note this is a voluntary position and it may be necessary to leave a message)			
<b>***IMPORTANT PAYMENT ADVICE***</b>			
<b>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.</b>			
<b><i>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.</i></b> 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.
- Sweep the tiled areas of loose dirt and if required mop the tiled areas (including bathrooms) 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.

John Blaikie  
Club President



Please update the following  
membership form and return

## Renewal of Membership for 2014-2015

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are **due by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*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**

