



Wombats Run News Letter

January 2011

Presidents message

Welcome to the first news letter for 2011. We have held off putting out this news letter until the publicised renovations were complete. I think everyone will be very pleased with the final result. The new bathrooms and extra facilities have certainly raised the overall tone of the club and given it a new fresh feel. A lot of work went into preparing the lodge for the renovations so we could save on costs. Bill Nash spent many weeks at the lodge ensuring all went smoothly and I thank all the other members that assisted in this work.

Victoria's weather has turned the tables on us over the last few months. What should be dry browned off grass at the lodge is presently a lush green lawn requiring vigilant mowing to keep it down. The amount of rain that has fallen in the state and around the high country can be gauged by the sudden filling of Lake Eildon with levels higher than in the last 15 years. Swollen rivers have caused havoc with numerous roads closed. Carters Road at the end of Buttercup Road is closed with a section approximately 100 metres long totally missing to a depth of four metres and the creek has been realigned due to the massive amounts of dirt and debris. Due to the extent of damage the D. S. E. has stated it is not scheduled for repairs until after November 2011. For those wanting to access that area you will need to travel to the Mt Stirling Circuit Road and follow No 3 track to Tomahawk Hut. Another indication of the amount of rain we have had is water over the bridge on our access driveway. This has occurred in the past perhaps once every couple of years but it has occurred three times in the last four months. The last time was a few weeks ago requiring repairs due to the height and speed of the water. Louise Jacobs managed to supply some photos of the last event. (See further in the news letter)

A lot of the surrounding long grass on other properties has been slashed allowing it to dry. This has in turn made the lodges green grass stand out like a beacon on the hill which probably explains the semi permanent kangaroo population that has taken up residence on our top block. Most mornings they can be found laying around under the trees and just munching on the grass around the lodge. They like to lie under the big gum tree at the front of the lodge and do not seem too perturbed by people taking their pictures. They will jump away if approached though. We have also had some quite large lizards appear on the veranda and a very lost Echidna which we relocated further down the block. As usual be aware that not everything sunning itself around the lodge is friendly. Another reason the make sure you keep the screen doors closed, we don't want any nasty surprise visitors. If you see

- *Presidents message*
- *Editors report*
- *Dates to remember*
- *Bathroom Renovations*
- *Birth Announcement & Floods*
- *Important Booking Information*
- *The Committee*
- *Solar installation*
- *Nature Abounds*
- *The Plug Pages*

something that looks like a lizard, make sure it really does have legs. If not keep right away. I will sign off now and hope to see you at lodge during the coming year.

John Blaikie
Club President

Editors Report

As we have come to the end of another year, it seems like not much has happened but in fact the last couple of months have been quite busy for the committee, John and myself. The solar panels have been installed and the bathrooms renovated, trips to the lodge have been frequent.

We look forward to a lovely summer at the lodge and hope you get a chance to get up and enjoy the Alpine region and support local tourism over the holiday break.

As always it can be difficult putting a newsletter together without input so if you wish to write an article or have photos from you trips to the club would be most pleased to use them in the newsletter.

Pam Blaikie

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.

Rubbish and Recycle

The council has provided recycling bins, so members and guests are reminded to put out your your recyclable bottles, cans and plastics in the bins. All other rubbish should be taken down on a daily basis to the bins at the front gate and on departure from the lodge. Often it can be a few days until the next guests and in summer the bins get nasty quickly, so please REMEMBER your rubbish.

Members and guests

- All members and guests MUST complete the sign in book on arrival; this is a requirement of our liquor license and our Auditors.
- Please only sleep in the beds allocated to you by the booking officer.
- Vacate your room by 10am. Please vacuum and dispose of any rubbish.

* Leave your luggage in the laundry or drying room if you will be returning to the lodge that day.

Tree Planting

Around 30 new native trees and a few non-natives have been planted behind the carport and around the grounds of the lodge. Disease is taking a few of the older trees, so it is time to get a few new ones going.

In the past two months, with the rain and good weather they have taken off from 30cm seedlings to nearly a metre in height, which is wonderful to see.

Please take care of our new friends and try to avoid injuring them in any way. The odd bottle of water during the hotter months will be appreciated.

Fires

No fires on the grounds of the Lodge at **any time**. Our firewood is collected yearly for the internal heaters only.



Dates to Remember 2011

Two 4 x 4 Weekends
19th – 20th Feb.
Book in for Fri 18th & 19th
and also 16th & 17th April
Book in for Fri 15th & 16th



Trail Bike Weekend 19th – 20th March.

Book in for Fri 18th & 19th



Club Working Bee

14th & 15th May
Book in for Fri 13th & 14th

General working bee / Wood Collect

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

AGM

Monday 2nd May 8pm
Venue to be advised

Any suggestions for a club weekend, please email us.

Want to keep up to date with “What’s On in Mansfield”

Try this website it may help you plan you next visit.

<http://www.mansfieldonline.com.au/index.html>

Mansfield area business, trades, services, community, and tourism-visitor information
for Bonnie Doon, Goughs Bay, Jamieson, Mansfield, Merrijig, Merton, Mirimbah, Mt Buller-Stirling,
Nillahcootie, Tolmie and Woods Point, and their outlying districts.

Bathroom Renovations

In late October we closed the lodge to enable the bathrooms to be gutted and renovated, bringing them into the 21st Century and giving a new lease of life. Although no major construction was planned, the Ladies, Gents and family bathrooms were all affected and all that remained for the workers was the toilets and the bath in the family bathroom for a wash. I think all members will be thrilled with the work that was carried out.

It was a hard slog, but trenches were dug! Frames were erected! The workers had smiles!



From totally gutted to 5 star luxury



and the final product



Lighter floor tiles, white wall tiles and furnishings give the bathrooms a clean and fresh feel.
Left: The Gents
Right: Family bathroom, an extra toilet and a shower. The original family room toilet has been made into a "Powder" room. Fondly nicknamed "The Long room"



Birth Announcement

It is with great pleasure that we announce the healthy arrival of club and committee members Ruben and Renea Gilles baby daughter Shanaya Rose Gilles born 19/12/10. Congratulations to you both.



On the 8th of December the lodge surrounds were inundated with flood waters from a massive storm. This was the second time in two months but was by far the highest level for the creek that passes under the clubs bridge. Some minor restorative work was required after the water subsided on this last occasion.



Stoney Creek at the club bridge.



Stoney Creek behind Louise and Lauries



The Delatite River at Merrijig behind apartments.



The Delatite where it runs under Buller Road.

WINTER - 1st June-30th September			
Members		Guests	
Week Day	Weekend	Week Day	Weekend
\$14	\$17	\$27	\$32
SUMMER – 1st October-31st May			
Members		Guests	
Everyday		Everyday	
\$12		\$22	
FAMILY \$40		FAMILY \$65	

There are NO FAMILY RATES for winter

Tom & Cheryl Grambau

Telephone: 03 5968 9604

Booking times are Tuesday & Thursday

6.30pm-9.30pm,

(please leave a message at other times)

Online: www.vpski.com [Booking form available](#)

Send your accommodation fees to

Tom Grambau

P.O. Box 610.

Emerald. Victoria. 3782

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

Name / date of accommodation.

eg. Blaikie 04-04-2011

*****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.

Please note that receipts will only be issued on request.

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.
2. Direct deposit to our co-op account (Ask Booking Officer at time of booking for account details)
3. Direct BSB deposit from another bank (Ask Booking Officer at time of booking for account details)

BOOKING PERIOD

1. VPAC foundation members may book any time 4 months in advance.
2. VPAC general members may book up to 3 months in advance.
3. Guests may book up to 2 months in advance.

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.

The Committee 2010-2011

President

John Blaikie
Wk 9871 4119
Mob 0421 634 335

Vice President

Geoff Alway
9887 9798

Treasurer

Adrian Healy
Mob 0417 568523

Booking Officer

Tom Grambau
59689604

Secretary

Robyn Garrett
9738 0767

Assistant Secretary

Harry Hayes
0417312832

News Letter Editor

Pam Blaikie
Wk 03 99055377
Mob 0412 562340

Work Master

Bill Nash
96118501
0419 763348

Club Captain

Greg Johnson
0431 327334

Committee Member

Dave Mendes

Committee Member

Rubin Gilles
0417722417

Solar panels – 4.5kw of generating power

Moving with these Greener times, we have installed a 24 panel 4.5kw solar energy system. The location of the lodge and the wonderful sunny days will be a boon. Although not installed to make money the reduction of our \$3,000+ per annum bill will be well worth it.



Working Bees

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, how about booking into one of our working bees this year, they are always fun, never too taxing and you get FREE accommodation and a FEED on Saturday night.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Not just for the humans.

Perhaps it because John and I have spent a lot of time at the lodge in the past couple of months that we have managed to catch such a variety of creatures also visiting the lodge and grounds or is it that word is getting around that the Victoria Alpine Lodge is the place to be!

A turtle about to be run over on the Mansfield road, now happily living in our creek.



An Echidna recently out of hibernation, trying to get inside. Now living in Dees wood pile.



Lazing around the lodge a perfect pastime even if you are just passing by!



It's getting close to renewal time

Ladies and gents, it will soon be that time of the year when club renewals are due. (1st April)
Please consider renewing early to prevent your membership lapsing.
Attached is the 2011 – 2012 membership renewal notice.

***** Please ensure you print your email address clearly as we are getting a large number of incorrect email returns on our membership email list*****

Renewal of Membership for 2011-2012

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due by **1st April 2012**.

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. _____

Priv. _____

Email:

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 minimising 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 : (please circle one only)

**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

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After hours calls welcome



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Member of the Association of Civil Marriage Celebrants of Victoria

Diploma of Marriage Celebrancy 2004

Australian & International College of Celebrancy

Ph/Fax : (03) 9432 0105

mobile: 0423 764 778

Email:

wedding-ceremony@hotmail.com

Web site

www.wedding-ceremony.com.au



Club Member Doug McPhie has just opened an Office Supply business in Wangaratta. This business caters for all your office and business needs. Items available range through, Canteen, Janitorial & OHS, Print & Promotion, Furniture, Office Technology, Warehouse & Packaging and much more.

Doug is offering members government pricing less a further 5% and can also set up an account that allows members to order direct from him at the above pricing.

Follow the link for a full list. www.officenational.com.au

Doug can be contacted via

Monapet Office National

50 Reid Street Wangaratta VIC 3677

Wangaratta VIC 3677

Phone: 03 5721 4489

Fax: 03 5721 7045

Email monapet@westnet.com.au

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Australia 3460

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- * **Stay two nights get the 3rd free**
- * **20% discount mid week**
- * **10% discount on weekends/holidays**
- * **Free bottle of wine with 2 night stays**

Contact details as follows or check the link on the club web site.

Phone: 03 5348 6626, 03 9370 8813.

Estate **Mobile:** 0418 374854

Or Daylesford Information Centre 5348 1339

Email: sailorsfallsestate@bigpond.com

Web site www.sailorsfallsestate.com.au