



Wombats Run News Letter

July 2013

It is now the end of July and the ski season is well underway. Whilst the snow gods have been a little slow to get started there has been some good skiing to be had and the bookings for the club lodge are running very well.

Since our last newsletter we have run two working bees, one of which was our ever popular wood collect. We were fortunate enough to get onto some very local wood which enabled 14 trailers to be collected. A very successful working bee indeed. We have also had a general maintenance working bee to get the lodge up to scratch for the ski season.

The club A.G.M. was held at the Mulgrave Club on the 6th May and the new committee confirmed. One change being the addition of Brian Jones to the committee. Brian is a serving member of the Police Force and a welcome addition to the clubs committee.

On a serious note recent occurrences have forced me to remind our membership that the club is run by an elected committee via long distance. As such our caretakers Greg and Maureen Sullivan are our proxy voices when it comes to the lodge management and wellbeing. They have the ultimate say when some form of intervention or management decision is required on the spot. Guests at the lodge must adhere to their allocated rooms to allow newly arriving guests clear access to their own rooms. A posted booking sheet on the club notice board showing a room empty will not reflect a last minute booking. Booking sheets are posted a week in advance so un posted guests will arrive expecting their room to be available. Spreading out into perceived unoccupied rooms is strictly forbidden. Guests who abuse the facilities, leave them filthy or choose to ignore requests from committee representatives including our caretakers will result in the accommodation being forfeit and the guests black banned. Please remember, if you book guests into the lodge, whether you are part of that booking or not, you are ultimately responsible for their behaviour and damage caused.

I will sign off now with my report presented at the club AGM on the 6th of May. **Please note there is a special notice further on regarding an extraordinary general meeting on the 21st October.**

John Blaikie
Club President

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Membership Renewal

Victoria Police Alpine Club Presidents Report 2012 – 2013

This year's annual report for the Victoria Police Alpine Club continues in a similar vein as the previous year with our continued excellent financial position and strong patronage. Our current financial position is very strong as will be reported by our Treasurer. Considering the loan we initially took out several years ago to do the extensions, the later bathroom renovations and the Building fund loans we were required to service it is indicative of the clubs success that these financial liabilities have almost been totally paid out. Going on the clubs average monthly income, it is predicted that by June this year the club will be totally debt free. We are now in a position where we can seriously look at substantial further improvements to the club facilities.

In order to facilitate maintenance and upgrade plan the committee has undertaken the formulation of a strategic five year plan to anticipate and forecast the clubs needs taking into account maintenance, future potential requirements and additions. This plan will be a documented rolling plan so we will always be looking at least five years into the future and will incorporate deadlines for individual tasks. Committee member Harry Hayes has undertaken the task of putting the plan together and incorporating the many suggestions and considerations put forward by the committee and the club membership. The last newsletter talked about this plan and requested comments and suggestions from the membership which will be incorporated. All suggestions will be looked at and the pros and cons of each will be considered and decided upon its merits.

As per previous years the club conducted several individual weekends comprising four wheel drive trips, trail bike weekends and a four day camping weekend at Lake Albacutya situated in the Wyperfeld National Park. The high patronisation of these events proves their popularity. The number of inquiries and intentions of attending the camping trip this year is extraordinary.

Most of the membership will have seen and used the clubs new web site. A lot of time and energy went into making the site more user friendly with considerable positive feedback being received. The rationale behind the revised site was to streamline the ability to use the booking process and reduce visual clutter. The new site is far more professional and gives a very modern feel. As an indication of the popularity of the club there has been 10,000 inquiries to our web site since last year's AGM which is just under a third of all inquiries since the web site first went on line. The automated booking section of the web site has received 345 on line bookings for the previous 12 months.

The club as usual has run several working bees over the preceding year. As mentioned last year working bees are not well patronised by the general membership and maintenance and general upkeep is left to the committee and a few die hard club members. I ask every year and will ask again this year that members try to attend one working bee a year as the upkeep of the lodge is a full time job and volunteers help reduce the unnecessary costs incurred when we have to employ outsiders.

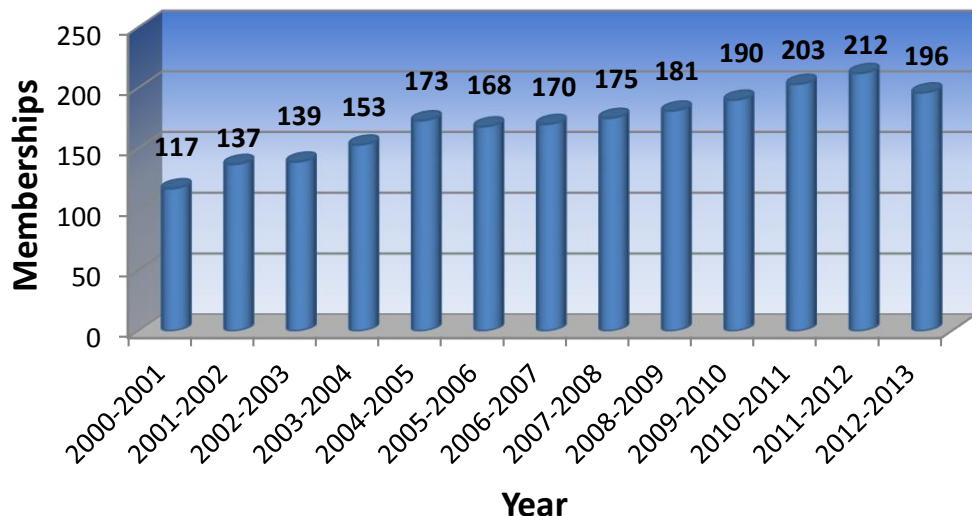
V.P.A.C. continues to be a sponsor the V.P.A.S. & W.S. at their annual sports award night. Last year the Society's President Dave Wilkins made special mention of our club in his opening address to the awards night. He was extremely complimentary to the club and appreciative of our sponsorship and support.

I will reiterate that the running of the Police Alpine Club is a joint effort by the committee of management without which the club would cease to function. Some Committee members will attend the lodge 15 to 20 times a year solely to attend to club matters, working bees and maintenance. Without this commitment they club would not be able to function.

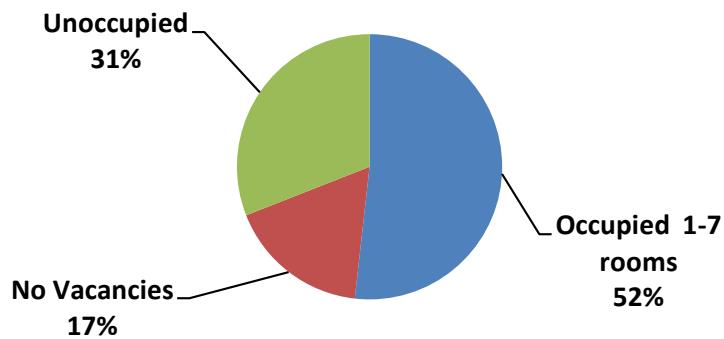
In conclusion I thank all my fellow committee members for their dedication and continued support, my wife Pam, Adrian Healy, Bill Nash, Robyn Garrett, Geoff Alway, Greg Johnson, Tania Allatt, Mike Turner, Harry Hayes, Dave Mendes and Steve Tait.

John Blaikie
Club President

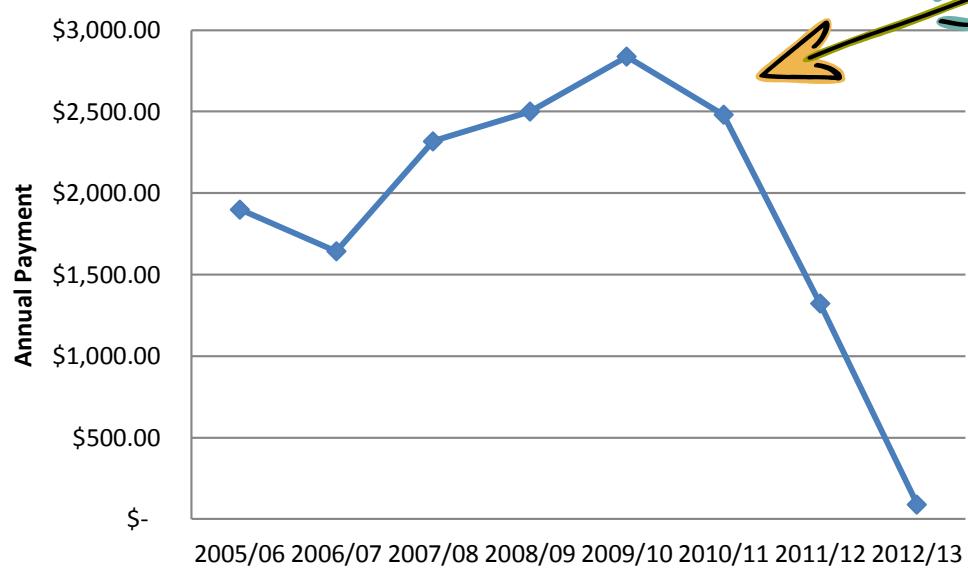
VPAC Memberships



2012-2013 Occupancy



VPAC Electricity Costs



Installation of Solar Power

2005/06	\$ 1,900.33
2006/07	\$ 1,643.02
2007/08	\$ 2,319.76
2008/09	\$ 2,500.00
2009/10	\$ 2,837.66
2010/11	\$ 2,481.33
2011/12	\$ 1,323.15
2012/13	\$ 90.87

Special General Meeting – Monday 21st October, 7.30pm

Mulgrave Club, corner of Wellington Road and Jells Road Mulgrave.

Due to changes in Consumer Affairs regulations the Club is required to hold an extraordinary General Meeting prior to November 26, 2013 to align our Constitution with the new model rules. We need to incorporate in the new rules the areas particular to our own club. These then require voting on to accept. The meeting has been set for 7.30pm the 21st of October at the Mulgrave Club in the same room we held the May AGM. We will email the membership a copy of the new proposed Constitution at least 21 days prior to the meeting to allow its contents to be digested. It is anticipated that this will be the only item on the agenda. A copy of the new Constitution will be made available on our web site when it is finalised.

If you have any comments or questions please contact Harry Hayes or Geoff Alway (as per committee contact page). Please note John and Pam Blaikie will be overseas until end September.

A Bistro is available for dinner prior to the meeting. Hope to see you there!

Editors Report

Newsletter time comes around very quickly and I am happy to get this one out before John and I go on extended leave to Alaska and the east coast of the U.S. Hoping that the snow season continues to be a bumper for you all.

As indicated in the last two newsletters, I would very much like to hand the reins of the next Newsletter to someone new, be it a younger member of the club, who has the interest and possibly a future in editing, journalism or marketing. At the end of the year 2013 the **future of the newsletter** will have to be considered and it may be all Club news will be on the website only. Contact me and I will be happy to get you rolling.

If you haven't received an email from us recently, have you changed your email address? Whilst being an excellent medium for information it is unfortunately the last thing people think of when they change to a new email address. If you have changed your email please shoot us a quick email or note it on your renewal notice.

Pam Blaikie, Editor

Archiving our history

Whilst I have been producing newsletters for some years now, I have recently been thinking that it is important for us to archive our history of newsletters. I would be interested to hear from any member who has copies of our early newsletters in paper format. We would like to scan these documents to pdf, so that we can make up an electronic archive for posterity. We would also make these old newsletters accessible online.

There are also a collection of photos and newspaper articles, some of which we hold, which would be nice to scan and save before they deteriorate in paper format. If there is anyone interested in helping with the project it would be wonderful to hear from you. If you have any ideas please contact me.

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. In the past 10-12 years we have seen extensions and renovations to the kitchen and bathrooms making the lodge a better place.

Ongoing maintenance is always an issue, but the Committee realises that there needs to be an ongoing Strategic Plan for the future, which will give us some set objectives and a time frame. Each objective needs to be reviewed for its strengths, weaknesses and advantages.

Whilst this document is in draft form was presented at the 2013 AGM, the Committee is still open to further suggestions and ideas from our members. Follow this link to the feedback form <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html>

When completed the final document will be available to the membership via the website.

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.

All members and guests should remember that our Caretakers Greg and Maureen are acting on the behalf and with the approval of the Committee of Management and it is expected that you follow their directions and advice at all times.

During the winter months please ensure you “top up” the wood supply from the garage using the wheel barrow supplied.



SLOW DOWN on the drive



The club now has a lovely new young family as neighbours and we extend them a hearty welcome. Dee has settled nicely into Mansfield and is very excited about the new residents.

Our new neighbours share our driveway at the bottom of the hill, they have already noticed a number of people speeding up and down the drive.

Whilst we are assured the children won't be playing out on the drive, it only takes a run away ball

Please be aware of the young children and animals at both residents on either side of our drive

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.
- **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
- When using the driveway, keep to 20km, do not speed.

Cleaning

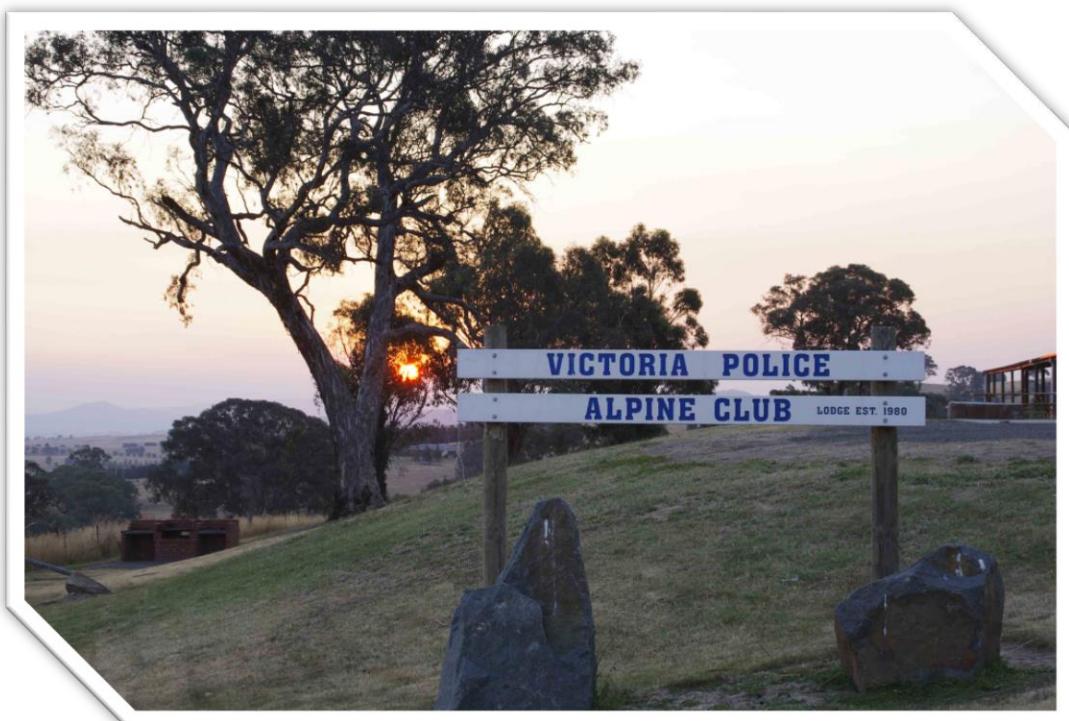
Vacuum your room; wipe benches, especially bathrooms and toilets and take out the rubbish. If you have been at the lodge with a large group, ensure everyone pitches in and the place will be clean in no time.

Often there will be a group following the next day and the lodge is not “serviced” every day by a cleaner. Large groups especially are requested to leave the lodge clean and tidy, and if it is found unsatisfactory to our caretaker, you will be sent the cleaning account.

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.

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.



Dates to Remember 2013

Special General Meeting – Monday 21st October, 7.30pm,
Mulgrave Club, corner of Wellington Road and Jells Road Mulgrave.

Due to changes in Consumer Affairs regulations the Club is required to hold an extraordinary AGM

A Bistro is available for dinner prior to the meeting. Hope to see you there!

The agenda for this special meeting will be emailed out late September and will be available on our website.



**General working bees, Book in for
Friday 18&Saturday 19 October
and /or
Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November**

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 maintenance. Come along there are jobs for everyone, cleaning, painting and general repairs.

Saturday night we will put on a dinner at the lodge, and every one can have a relaxing night, stretch out the weary muscles & bones and have a great night sleep ready for Sunday...!

Many hands make light work – and when it comes to the wood collect this certainly rings true.

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



**4x4 Weekend
Friday 20 and Saturday 21 September**

Go find snow: a 4x4 trip into the high country in search of the last of the seasons snow, bring a picnic lunch and have lots of fun.

Book in now!





Trail bike Weekend Friday 8 and Saturday 9 November

Visit the High Country by trail bike, bring a picnic lunch.
Book in now!

**Want to keep up to date with “What’s On in Mansfield”
Try this website it may help you plan your next visit.**

www.mansfieldonline.com.au/index.html

Mt Buller – Be on top of the world – Visit the Mt Buller website for up to date weather and snow reports. Live cams and the latest news and activities.

www.mtbuller.com.au

Mansfield Zoo - Lion feeding at the Mansfield Zoo is at 5pm every day of the January school holidays. Hand feed most of the animals in the zoo, including the monkeys. Open daily 10am. Don't miss the chance to see the Chicken Run! See over 400 free range hens and the bus they live in at night! Daily pass entry so you can come and go as you like on day of entry. Call Bronwyn 5777 3576.

Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail is open to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Head out with the family and enjoy the delights of a trail with spectacular scenery, traversing through farming country and crossing Lake Eildon at Bonnie Doon. Drinking water is limited along the trail so please carry food and water with you. Visit www.victorianrailtrails.com.au for the latest trail updates.

3D Cinema - Treat yourself to a gold class experience at the Mansfield Armchair Digital Cinema complex at 1 Chenery St. Screening selected latest release movies, some in 3D, visit www.the-mac.com.au or call the Cinema on 5775 2049 for program and session times.

Albacutya Weekend – Queens Birthday



Queen's Birthday weekend 2013, saw a great group head up to Lake Albacutya for a Camping/Biking & 4WD'ing long weekend.

With 15 families, the entire Western Beach Camp Site was taken over by VPAC.

Being a very family orientated weekend, the kids had a ball. With push bikes, motorbikes and four wheel driving to keep them entertained, they were also allowed 'up late' to go spot lighting, to identify the local fauna, from the back of the ute! Traditional Aussie fun sighting Kangaroos and Emu's on the lake plains!

More local fauna was found in the firewood, with the discovery of a very sleepy blue tongue, abruptly woken from his winter slumber. It took him a while to get moving, with the kids already planning his funeral thinking the worst!

A four wheel drive trip out to Chinaman's Well saw a variety of vehicles, and driver skill level, take to the sand, followed (and passed!) shortly thereafter by the rock apes (or in this case... sand crabs!) preferring to take out the motorbikes. No spills saw everyone come home happy & exhausted.

Even though the nights were super cold in the tents, most managed to stay warm, especially the snobby vanners. Seriously, who brings a caravan to the desert? More to the point... who brings an electric blanket! (Hi Kylie!) Yes, they may be words of jealousy from a 'tent person'

With roaring open fires, lots of camp oven cooking took place – with Bill & Jenny christening their new cooker with their first camp oven experience. Job well done by all accounts and a camp oven bonanza!

All the kids are looking forward to next year... so expect a boomer!

Anyone wanting to come along is most welcome. Please give JB or Greg a call to register your interest, so we have a rough idea of numbers.



The Committee 2013-2014

President , John Blaikie	Overseas Aug & Sept.	Mob 0421 634 335
Vice President , Geoff Alway	9887 9798	
Booking Officer , Adrian Healy	9510 0454	
Treasurer , Tania Allatt	Mob.0409 492 610	
Secretary , Robyn Garrett	9738 0767	
Assistant Secretary , Harry Hayes	Mob.0417312832	
News Letter Editor , Pam Blaikie	Overseas Aug & Sept.	Mob 0412 562340
Work Master , Bill Nash	Mob 0419 763348	
Club Captain , Greg Johnson	Mob.0431 327334	

Committee Members:

Dave Mendes	Mob.0414181426;
Mike Turner	Mob.0419576712;
Brian Jones	Mob.040345390

Winter		Summer
1 st June - 30 th September		1 st October – 31 st May
Club Members Bookings 3 months in advance*		Club Members Bookings 3 months in advance*
Weekday <i>Sunday-Thursday</i>	Weekend <i>Friday-Saturday</i>	\$15(everyday) \$50 family rate*
\$16	\$20	*For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates

**Foundation members may book 4 months in advance*

Guests		Guests
Bookings 2 months in advance		Bookings 2 months in advance
Weekday <i>Sunday-Thursday</i>	Weekend <i>Friday-Saturday</i>	\$25 (everyday) \$70 family rate*
\$30	\$35	*For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates

Whole of Lodge Bookings

If you want to book the lodge **exclusively** the following minimum costs apply.

Summer \$575 per night up to 23 persons, plus \$25 for each additional person above 23

Winter weekday \$1020 up to 34 person (every bed) (Sunday to Thursday nights)

Winter weekend \$1190 up to 34 persons (every bed) (Friday & Saturday nights)

Important Family Booking Guidelines.

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.

Family definition

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.

Preferred Booking method : Online: www.vpski.com(Booking form available)

Booking Officers: Adrian Healy

Telephone: 03 9510 0454

Booking times are Tuesday & Thursday 6.30pm-9.30pm

(Please note this is a voluntary position and it may be necessary to leave a message)

*****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 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.

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.

******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

The Links page

Sailors Falls Estate,
Janene Pike Marriage Celebrant
Officefurnitureon
Kicker Snowboards

Check the website for up-to-date offers from our member businesses.

New on the website for this newsletter is [Kicker Snowboards](#) an Aussie company offering discount to police members.

I would also like to hear from anyone who would be interested if we set up a small area on the website, to buy, sell or swap sporting equipment relevant to the alpine club.