



Wombats Run News Letter

July 2011

Mid-year is here and the club is currently full of skiers enjoying a very good season so far. Bookings are running well and the new bathrooms are still receiving much praise. The wood collect working bee was run on the 14th May and I wish to thank all those members, committee and others that took the time to come up to the lodge and assist us with this very important task. The lodge is now once again well stocked for the next 12 months.

The annual General Meeting for the club took place at the Mulgrave Country Club this year as we thought it was time for a change. The turn up at the meeting was excellent and well above attendances of previous years. The venue was excellent with a large portion of club attendees arriving early for dinner in the restaurant. Considering the good reports I have received from those attending I would suggest that we will be back there again next year.

The A.G.M. went ahead without any major issues and a committee was elected with only one change from last year. I welcome to the committee Steve Tait who has been a member of the club since 2009.

Cleaning costs at the club are always an issue and we have reiterated what is required and expected of our guests once again with new signage in the bedrooms and kitchen. Most is common sense but some people do need reminding. We expect everyone to do their bit as far as cleaning goes and leave the lodge as you would like to find it. If we have to keep cleaning up after our guests then accommodation prices will go up to cover our costs. We published in the last newsletter guidelines re cleaning however it is apparent some people still think we are a serviced hotel so I have re published them again under "Guest Requirements"

We have published some club dates further on in this newsletter for general working bees, 4x4 and trail bike weekends for those interested.

I will sign off and leave you with the report I tendered at the A.G.M.

John Blaikie
Club President

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Victoria Police Alpine Club Presidents Report 2010 – 2011

As club President for the last 11 years I have seen the club slowly progress over this time from a declining membership to the very healthy and well patronised club that it is today. During this time through the continuous hard work of the various members of committee the merits of the club have been advertised throughout the dep't and other emergency services. This also includes a constant introduction of the clubs virtues via the Police Academy to new recruits prior to their graduation. This hard work has paid off with the clubs membership sitting at 203 which is just below the clubs highest ever recorded membership of 212. The majority of these being family memberships.

My report this year is very similar to last year in as much as the club is moving ahead in leaps and bounds. As reported last year we were in the planning stages of renovating all the bathrooms at the lodge and this has now come to fruition with the total refitting and remodelling of all bathrooms. An additional family size shower has been installed in the old family bathroom with an additional toilet. The toilet that was originally attached to the family bathroom has been segregated off and is now an extra which has been nick-named the "long room". The fittings used are of a very high standard and the result speaks for itself. The renovations to the bathrooms have raised the general standard of the club and there has been a large amount of praise from club members regarding the finish and high standard.

During the year a 5 kilowatt solar power system was negotiated and contracted for. This was eventually installed late last year. With some delays caused by Tru Energy and also S.P Ausnet the system was scaled back to 4.5 kilowatts due to the inability of the country infrastructure to handle 5 kilowatts of input. This system eventually went online full time in early February this year.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the initiation of the "Building Fund" memberships offered in order to raise funds for the games room and outdoor area extensions. This would have originally been when we would have commenced the payback instalments. For those of you that are building fund members you received an early part payout two years ago. A further repayment will be made this late this year and pending the financial state of the club it is hoped this will be a total payout.

Accommodation at the club continues to run strong with whole of lodge bookings being more popular than ever. As mentioned in my last newsletter report, members of the club will be aware we have certain rules regarding whole of lodge bookings, family bookings and how far in advance various members or non-members can book. Certain occurrences regarding whole of lodge bookings have required the committee to revisit our rules and there have been some clarifications made regarding family and whole of lodge bookings in order to make it fairer for all users of the club. These modifications were unfortunately introduced to stop the developing trend of every room in the lodge being booked for two or less persons which effectively prevented the lodge being used by others. Also as of the 1st April 2011 a family rate booking can only be made for the exclusive use of one room. If beds are required that exceed the capacity of an entire room then individual rates for each extra person apply at the appropriate member or guest rate.

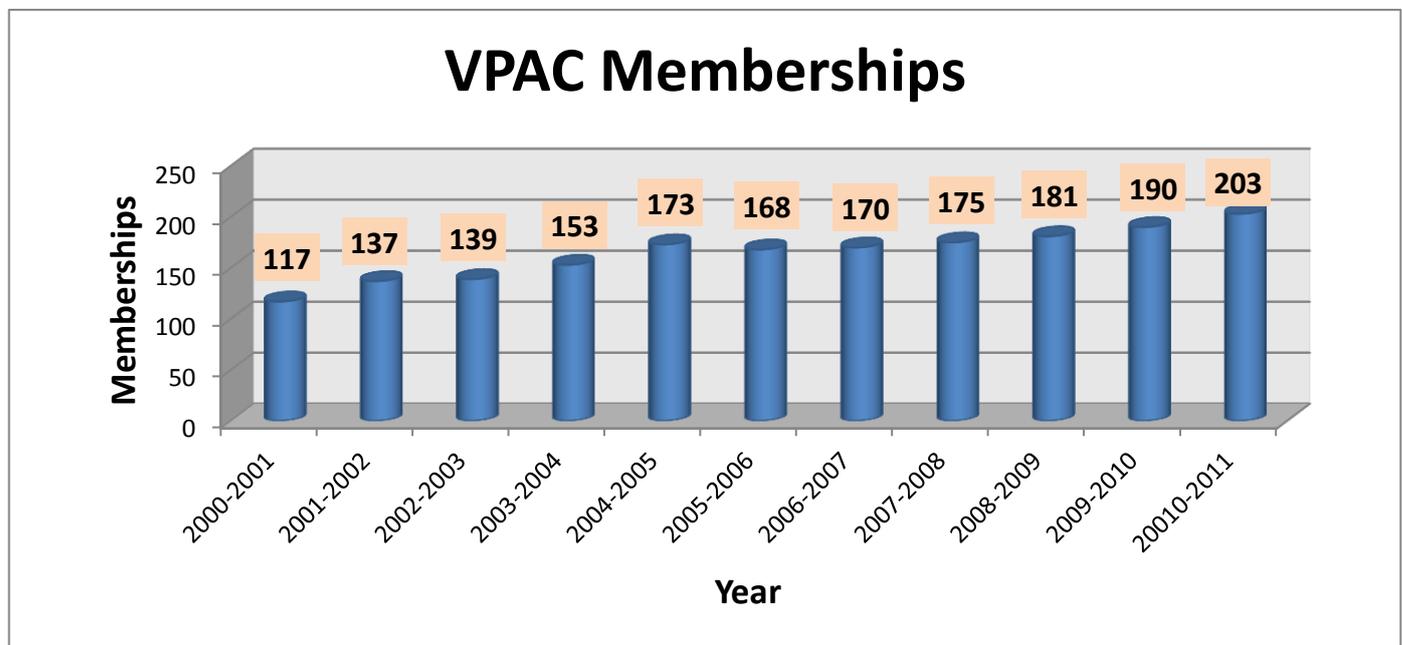
The popularity of the clubs web site cannot be understated with the accommodation inquiry page having received its 17,100th inquiry and the clubs home page itself currently sitting on just over 22,700 inquiries. Whilst not everyone is confident in using our automated booking service via the web site, the online booking service still processed 242 individual bookings over the last 12 months and approximately 700 bookings since its inception in April 2008.

The club continues to run every 2nd month a function catering for four wheel drivers, trail bike riders and those interested in camping away from the club. The clubs annual trip to Lake Albacutya went ahead last year and was very well attended. The same trip will go ahead again this year during the Queens Birthday weekend.

Working bees are unfortunately not well patronised by the general membership and maintenance and general upkeep is left to a few dedicated committee members. I would request 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. also continues to sponsor the V.P.A.S. & W.S. at their annual sports award night.

As stated every year, the running of the Police Club is a joint effort by the committee of management without which the club would cease to function. Committee members can attend the lodge from 15 to 20 times a year solely to attend to club matters, working bees and maintenance. I thank all my fellow committee members for their dedication and continued support, my wife Pam, Adrian Healy, Bill Nash, Robyn Garrett, Geoff Alway, Tom Grambau, Greg Johnson, Mike Turner, Harry Hayes, Dave Mendes and Ruben Gillies. I also thank our unofficial committee members who are always there helping, Cheryl Grambau and Tania Allatt.

John Blaikie
Club President



Editors Report

Another Snow season, another newsletter bringing you the Presidents report and up to date news from the club. Visit the Mt Buller website to get all the seasons' current info www.mtbuller.com.au/Winter/

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.

Cleaning

In order for us to maintain affordable accommodation for all our members and guests, please be aware that it is essential that you are considerate of everyone and make sure that before you leave the lodge it is clean and tidy. Vacuum your room; wipe benches, bathrooms and toilets, especially if you have been at the lodge with a large group. Often there will be a group following the next day.

The lodge is not “serviced” every day. This year our cleaning costs have skyrocketed and although we have cleaners come in on a demand basis, this can still cost us \$180 a visit.

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 and 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.
- 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

Dates to Remember 2011



Sept 30th & Oct 1st
4 x 4 Weekend

A 4x4 trip into the high country,
bring a picnic lunch and have lots of fun.

Club Working Bee

15th & 16th October
26th & 27th November

General working bee

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, meet some new friends and you get FREE accommodation and a FEED on Saturday night. Looking forward to seeing you there!



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



Trail bike ride

2nd & 3rd December



Get together with like-minded bike riders and head for the hills. Enjoy a picnic lunch.

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

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

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 0414181426	Committee Member Steve Tate 0432683591	Committee Member Mike Turner 0419576712

Yes we now have Digital TV

There have been a few disappointed sporting fans recently when TV reception seemed to be non-existent and analogue TV was turned off in May – we have had a digital expert come and replace our antenna and now you can pick up the digital channels. The original and first TV in the lodge also stopped working and was replaced post haste. How did we survive!

Winter 1 st June - 30 th September		Summer 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>	\$12 (everyday) \$40 family rate* *For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates	
\$14	\$17		
*Foundation members may book 4 months in advance			
Guests Bookings 2 months in advance		Guests Bookings 2 months in advance	
Weekday <i>Sunday-Thursday</i>	Weekend <i>Friday-Saturday</i>	\$22 (everyday) \$65 family rate* *For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates	
\$27	\$32		
Whole of Lodge Bookings			
If you want to book the lodge exclusively the following minimum costs apply.			
Summer \$506 per night up to 23 persons, plus \$22 for each additional person above 23			
Winter weekday \$918 up to 34 person (every bed) (Sunday to Thursday nights)			
Winter weekend \$1088 up to 34 persons (every bed) (Friday & Saturday nights)			
Important Family Booking Guidelines.			
As of the 1 st April 2011 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: Tom & Cheryl Grambau			
Telephone: 03 5968 9604			
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 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. The club will not chase up individual guest payments on your behalf.

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: Tom Grambau P.O. Box 610. Emerald. Victoria. 3782)
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)

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

Name / date of accommodation e.g. Blaikie 04-04-2011

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

There have been quite a few non-financial members booking in this winter believing they are still financial. For those of you that have forgotten we have included in this newsletter the membership renewal once again.

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. _____

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: _____

- 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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mobile: 0423 764 778

Email:

wedding-ceremony@hotmail.com

Web site

www.wedding-ceremony.com.au



Club Member Doug McPhie has 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.monapetofficenational.com.au

Doug can be contacted via

Monapet Office National

Rear 45-49 Reid Street, Wangaratta, 3677

Wangaratta VIC 3677

Phone: 03 5721 4489

Fax: 03 5721 7045

Email monapet@westnet.com.au

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- * **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