



## Wombats Run News Letter

March 2013

March is here and I don't think anyone would disagree that this has been a very long, hot dry summer and certainly not without its fire dangers. The lodge has for the previous two summers retained a very lush green however the grounds have been a very dry and dusty brown since late December. Buttercup Road earlier this year received a very large grass fire which was stopped at Stony Creek thanks to the quick work of the CFA. As most of you would know there have been extensive fires in the high country this year with a very large one burning for some weeks on the south side of No 3 track. Just a reminder to be very careful and prepared whilst at the lodge.

The last few months have seen the completion of the final payouts to the Building Fund members who participated in the loan scheme enabling the club to undertake and complete the renovations 5 years ago. Now that this has been completed the committee of management is looking at a Strategic plan for our future. We have identified a need to set continuous short and long term goals in order to keep the lodge and its assets in top condition. This plan will be assessed on a yearly basis to keep our goals and maintenance current. The ultimate goal being to keep the club facilities as up to date and modern as possible. There are further details later on in the newsletter expanding on this plan and we are requesting input from our membership via email or the feedback link that is available on the home page of the club website. If you are viewing this newsletter on your PC then cut and paste the following link into your browser to gain direct access to the feedback form. <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html>

If you have accessed the club website lately you will notice that it has had a complete overhaul. The redesign and implementation has taken a considerable amount of work and I must thank my wife Pam for the time and effort she devoted to put the new site together.

The club has two working bees coming up prior to the winter season. The ever popular wood Collect: **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April** followed by General working bee: **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**. The working bees are generally left for the committee members to run so please see if you can assist on at least one of these, even if it is only for one day.

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The annual General Meeting for the Victoria Police Alpine Club will be held again at the Mulgrave Club at 8pm on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The Mulgrave Club has an excellent restaurant so feel free to come along early for a meal and drinks prior to the meeting.

John Blaikie  
Club President

## Editors Report

It seems like a long time between Newsletters, but I was busy during January publishing the new website and with other commitments, decided to publish the regular newsletter in March. It is difficult to create a newsletter that is both fresh and interesting every three to four months. We have lots and lots of visitors who do many interesting things when they are up at the lodge, but very few share their experiences with us.

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. Contact me and I will be happy to get you rolling.

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. In the past 10-12 years we have seen extensions and renovations to the kitchen and bathrooms making the lodge is 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 format and it is planned to be presented at the 2013 AGM, the Committee seeks further suggestions and ideas from our members.

Anyone wishing to provide the Committee with any suggestions is asked to send their ideas and the rationale behind them to us by the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Please go to the website homepage and put any ideas into the “**feedback form**”. It would be appreciated if you include your name, so that if we have questions we can contact you, or if you wish you may remain anonymous. Follow this link to 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

- 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

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. 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 arrive and the bins get nasty quickly, so please REMEMBER your rubbish.

## The Plug page

Whilst redeveloping the website, I removed a number of possibly outdated plugs.

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

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.

Pam Blaikie

# Dates to Remember 2013

## Annual General Meeting – Monday 8 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 2013 is at the end of this newsletter.

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## Club Working Bee

Wood Collect: **Book in for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

General working bee: **Book in for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 25<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.

Our goal is to knock over at least 20 trailer loads of firewood...!!!! This should see us through the winter without the need to purchase additional tonnage. 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...! Sunday's usually pretty relaxed, but if time permits & we have the opportunity of getting another couple of trailer loads, then those that can stay & help it would be greatly appreciated. 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.

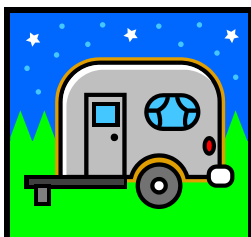
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Club annual Lake Albacutya (Big Desert) camping Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June (Queens Birthday weekend)



We have had an extraordinary response and commitment to this annual camping trip this year. 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.



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

[www.mansfieldonline.com.au/index.html](http://www.mansfieldonline.com.au/index.html)

**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](http://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](http://www.the-mac.com.au) or call the Cinema on 5775 2049 for program and session times.

## **Mansfield Festival - November**

November also sees the running of the Mansfield Festival. The festival runs over a few days, and incorporates a grand parade of local groups. For the second year running Jack Johnson's Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club took out the award for best sporting group. Congratulations kids on a job well done. All the kids put in effort to look 'wild on wheels', donning crazy wigs & helmet additions to make them really stand out in the crowd. As part of their participation in the parade the kids got to ride 'legally' down Main Street on their motorbikes!

If you've got kids that are into Motorbikes & want them involved in a Motorbike Club in the local Mansfield area please give Club Captain Greg Johnson a call on 0437 685 050. Mansfield Junior Motorbike Club especially caters for kids from 4 to 15, meets are held once per month just down from the VPAC lodge at 'Bally Patrick' (behind the Rodeo Grounds – opposite the Hunt Club).





**A group in January from Nunawading taking advantage of the extensive bike trails via Lake Eildon.**

**Below, another successful club trail bike weekend in February.**

**Below left, 4x4 visit March 16<sup>th</sup> to the high country huts. This is the visit to the Upper Jamieson Hut**



## A presentation to the club

Late last year Silas Valciukas in appreciation of his stay at the Victoria Police Alpine Club presented the club with a pair of North American Indian snow shoes that were originally presented to Silas whilst serving in the air force on his departure from Wright Patterson Air Force Base in 1995. Club member Peter Bruce who served with Silas in the Air Force introduced Silas to the club and assisted in the mounting of the snowshoes and plaque.

The brass plaque inscription is as follows.

These Algonquin Snow Shoes  
Have been presented to  
The Victoria Police Alpine Club  
In appreciation from  
Silas Valciukas and Family

for the privilege of being able to stay at these excellent facilities.

These snow shoes were presented to WGCdr Silas Valciukas on his departure from the Wright Patterson Air Force Base,  
Dayton, Ohio, by  
LTCOL Robert Piercey, the Canadian Armed Forces Liaison Officer,  
July 1992 to July 1995

These are Algonquin Nonimikatikwek or round head-headed snow shoes.

The Algonquin word for snow shoes is Akim. The word Akimak means "Snowshoes wood" which is also the Algonquin word for ash, which was the preferred material for making snowshoe frames. The cross pieces, usually made out of cedar or red pine, were called Okwik. The strings of leather webbing used for lacing snowshoes were called Ashkimaneiab. These strings were made of raw leather cut from hides of moose, deer or caribou (and on rare occasions, sturgeon).

Several steps involved in snow shoe manufacture, the most important were the following;

*Waginakwe*, bending the wood  
*Okwikike*, making the cross pieces  
*Panipakwaige*, making holes in the frames  
*Ashkime*, making snowshoe webbing  
*Wappitakime*, lacing snowshoes

There were many different kinds of snowshoes, adapted to the many different types of terrain or snow conditions. For example, narrow snowshoes with long tails were used for long distance river travel, while short round snowshoes were used in deep snow.

The names of some of the other different snowshoes are as follows:

*Ashawekatikwek*, square headed snowshoes  
*Kakakingwewakimak*, cross-eyed snowshoes  
*Makwasakimak*, bear pawed snowshoes



The club is extremely grateful to Peter Bruce, Silas Valciukas and Family for this excellent inclusion to our club rooms.

## The Committee 2013-2014

<b>President</b> , John Blaikie	Wk. 9871 4119;	Mob 0421 634 335
<b>Vice President</b> , Geoff Always	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;	
Steve Tate	Mob.0432683591	

## From the Booking Officer – Adrian Healy

### LODGE BOOKING SYSTEM

As we exit the summer of 2012 – 2013 the end of the Club's Financial Year is fast approaching (*March 31<sup>st</sup> for those who aren't sure*). Since I took over the role of booking officer in April last year I have considered ways in which we can improve the lodge booking system both from a club management perspective and also for you, the system user.

Our Club is unique in many ways and that includes our booking system. I like to think we offer a personalised and timely service so members and their guests can make bookings with a minimum of fuss and in a timely manner but having said that, we always look at ways of improving our systems.

Whilst we continually consider ways of making the process easy and quick to use, we need to remember the club is totally operated by volunteer members and the impost with any change needs consideration. Volunteer management and operation helps to keep running costs (and therefore accommodation costs) to a minimum. I think a number of factors currently exist which preclude any radical shift from our current system, those being:

1. The club allows members to book a room whilst not occupying or paying for every bed in the room. An automated system could not make this discretionary decision.
2. Outsourcing bookings to a commercially available booking system would incur a cost of anywhere between 7 – 10% which would result in an increase in accommodation fees.

Having the club managed by the volunteer committee does allow us to keep costs to a minimum and achieve the main reason for our existence and that is to provide low cost accommodation to our members (*and guests*) to enjoy whatever pursuit they choose in Victoria's high country.

We are always interested in your views and I am happy to hear of any gripes or suggestions for improvement you have with our current system. I will certainly raise all responses at committee meetings for discussion.

Thanks in advance and happy Alpine Clubbing.

### **Adrian Healy**

Booking Officer (0417 568 523)

[healsaj@hotmail.com](mailto:healsaj@hotmail.com)

[adrian.healy@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:adrian.healy@police.vic.gov.au)



<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		

### 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 \$25for 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](http://www.vpski.com)([Booking form available](#))

**Booking Officers:** [Adrian Healy](#)

**Telephone:** [03 9510 0454](tel:0395100454)

**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.***

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

**Don't forget your renewal for 2013-2014.  
Form below.**

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.

### **Changed your email address**

Ladies and gents, we have great trouble trying to keep in contact with you all via email. 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 include the new one on the membership renewal form. It is prohibitively costly to perform a postal mail out to the entire membership so we reply on email to keep you all up to date. Those that don't have email will receive a postal mail out as a matter of course.

## Renewal of Membership for 2013-2014

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are **due by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**

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**

