Victoria Police Alpine Club Inc.



Wombats Run News Letter

Report : Acting President, Geoff Alway,

Ladies and gents, welcome to the March Newsletter.

It is with much sadness that I open this newsletter with news that much loved, long time Club President, John Blaikie, tendered his resignation from the committee in early December 2014 for personal reasons. As you most of you would be aware, John has served the Club exceptionally well as President for the past 14 years. The personal loyalty, commitment and positive contribution John and his wife Pam (both life members) have made to the Club over many years simply cannot be understated.

In lieu of John's unexpected resignation, I have stepped up from the Vice President's role to assume the role of Acting Club President, until a new Club President can be elected and other committee positions filled at the upcoming Annual General Meeting to be held at the Mulgrave Club Wellington Road Mulgrave on the 4th of May 2015. It is important we get a good turnout of members at the AGM and it is vital that anyone interested in joining the committee also attend. Please contact myself or any member of the committee if you are interested and want to know more.

The meeting will commence at 8pm, you are welcome to arrive earlier and join the current committee members for a meal and chat prior to the meeting. Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions for the Club are due on the 1st of April. If you have not renewed your membership by that date, you are technically un-financial, and therefore ineligible to vote at the AGM. I would also like to remind you that it is crucial that you notify us of any address and/or contact detail changes (including telephone numbers and current email addresses) so that we can keep our membership records current and keep you all apprised of committee activities and achievements.

The issue of working bees continues to be a challenge for us. As a committee we do all we can to ensure the lodge is maintained and serviced effectively to meet the needs of the membership and guests when they visit there. Over the past few years it seems the working bees are attended primarily by committee members and an ever reducing pool of the same club members time and time again. Unless we can improve the level of commitment to working bees by the broader membership, we will have to pay for the services of professional tradespeople to complete the maintenance and running repairs that have been previously completed at the working bees. This is partly the reason for the price increase from April 1 2015, along with general rising costs. We usually hold working bees three times per year, so it would be great to see some new faces there during the next 12 months.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their work over 2014-2015 and look forward to a new and vital committee forming for 2015-16.

March 2015

Acting Presidents report

Retiring Presidents report

Editors report

Strategic direction

Regular Reminders

Dates to remember

Interesting articles

Important Booking Information

Guest Requirements

Membership Renewal

AGM Agenda

Retiring president's report

Ladies and gents, this will be my final contribution to the Victoria Police Alpine Club Newsletter. As mentioned above in Acting President Geoff Always opening paragraph I have decided to resign as President of the club after almost 14 years. When I was co-opted by the Late Jim Garrett to run as President in 2000 I considered that I would do the job for a couple of years and then someone else would come along and take over the reins as has been the routine of past. As the years went by it became apparent that no one really wanted the job despite putting feelers out there and canvassing prospective club members. I can only assume that the membership was either happy with the way the club was run or it was considered a task too onerous to take on. I hope it was for the first reason.

After nearly 14 years in the role of President I decided it was time to force a change and retire. I won't deny that running the club has been exceptionally rewarding however at times a challenge and very frustrating. Whilst I don't consider myself ancient, I am not getting any younger and the club has taken up a considerable amount of my time over the last 14 years. As a shift worker I am lucky to get two weekends off out of every six and when you use these to attend working bees and unscheduled maintenance that always comes at the worst times you can see this has eaten into my personal family life considerably. After the December committee meeting I took a look at my personal situation and decided "this is the day". If any of you have seen the start of the movie "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" you will understand the reference. Suffice to say I have had enough and it's time for younger people to step up to the plate and be counted. In case you have not noticed, most of the committee of management are now entitled to senior's discount (no offence meant to the hard working committee members) and an injection of energetic youth would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to become a part of the committee and steer the club in its continued prosperous direction then please nominate for a position on the committee at the next AGM.

In closing I wish to say that I have enjoyed working with all the various members who have arrived on committee and then moved on over the last 14 years. You have all helped make the club the successful entity it is today. Without these dedicated volunteers there would be no club.

I finally wish to thank my wife Pam for all the help she has given to me and club over this time. I also wish to thank the current committee Acting President Geoff Alway, Treasurer Tania Allatt, Club Captain Greg Johnson, Vice Captain Mike Turner, Booking Manager Adrian Healy, Secretary Robyn Garrett, Assistant Secretary Harry Hayes, Work Master Bill Nash and Committee member Brian Jones.

John Blaikie Retired Club President

Editors Report

Yes I know, it has been 12 months since my last newsletter, and as you will all see the theme of this newsletter is to encourage some new blood into our committee and that of course includes a newsletter editor. I asked before with no response, ever hopeful that 2015 will be the lucky year and one of our younger members see the value in taking this on.

It has been another booming year for the club and I sure many of you would want to congratulate our retiring President John Blaikie on receiving a life membership award to the <u>Victoria Police Amateur Sports and Welfare Society</u> for his work for the club. A well-earned award for John and also the Committee that has supported him over the years.

At this point I also want to thank and congratulate our wonderful daughters Teagan and Stacey who have grown up in the background as many of our club kids have. Teagan has worked hard to complete her PhD in Volcanology and Geophysics, and Stacey to become an Emergency nurse. And Yes I am trying to make this sound like my last newsletter and as much as I love the club and the lodge and it is one of the best places on earth, I would love someone to take on this role. Pam Blaikie, Editor



Image from VPAWS

Strategic Direction of Lodge and challenge to Membership – Harry Hayes

Over the 18 months the Committee have been developing a Strategic Direction document for the lodge, the purpose of this "living document" is to ensure that robust governance and a vision is maintained for the lodge for the generations to come. The Vision statement at the commencement of this document sets out that the document has been developed 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.

It has been an interesting process and started out ostensibly as an idea in late 2013 - early 2014, which has been the subject of a significant amount of 2014, discussion, rewrites, and edits by all the committee. As of the commencement of the new year, it has now rolled into the 2015 - 2019 plan and it is hoped that it will continue to roll over as each year passes. We have considered such issues as

- Vision
- Rational for developing such a document
- Financials
- Internal construction suggestions
- External construction suggestions
- Additional suggestions as a result of Newsletter request in early 2014
- Additional suggestions as the Plan evolves e.g.
- Current working plans of all facets of the lodge
 - Ongoing governance

Now that we have the basis of the document, which already has paid significant benefit in so much as we have a working list of priorities that the Committee have determined necessary for completion to ensure that the lodge remains at an appropriate standard for all guests. Falling out of all this work, is the realisation that as a living document, additional items for consideration will present themselves as have the two additional items listed above.

With respect these two issues the following work has commenced or is required:

- Development of current working plans of the mechanics of the lodge (such as drains, gate valves, pumps, electrical circuits to name a few) this work is well underway and it is anticipated that by the end of the first lodge working bee for 2015 (on the 21st 22nd March) the first draft will not be far away for the purposes of editing etcetera
- Ostensibly the second point of "ongoing Governance" is addressed in the Strategic document but one of the things that has the potential to become a challenge to the ongoing wellbeing of the lodge and its ability to meet the challenges that time to time present themselves is to ensure that there is an adequate pool of members that are willing to step up and become Committee Members. Currently there are a number of current Committee members who are the other side of 60 and there are a couple that are fast approaching that milestone; it is not unreasonable to assume that Committee renewal will be required in the foreseeable future.

To this end, I would ask of the younger members of the Club to consider if they would be interested in either stepping up to the plate to serve as a Committee Member, or to at least attending the odd Committee meeting to observe the machinations of the Committee and the various issues that it is required to deal with. If anyone is interested, or has a question they would like to raise could I suggest that you contact the various members of the Committee who I am sure would be more than happy to assist with any questions you may have or use our feedback form http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html

Tank.repairs.

In about October last year, for reasons unknown, the lodge lost the contents of the concrete water tank. While this was most inconvenient, it gave us the chance to get it cleaned out, and John was able to get up and into the tank to repair six large cracks that ran from the tank roof to the floor with Crystalfix, which is a substance that crystalises and repairs the cracks. Good work JB.

The tank filled quickly with spring and summer rains.

Regular reminders when you are "At the Lodge"

The Committee values feedback from members on any aspect of club activities. Please advise a member of the committee if there are any problems that require immediate attention.

Members and guests

The Committee takes your responsibilities to others and to the club seriously, so please be vigilant and remember that our Caretaker checks the lodge after each group, so if you don't do the right thing we know.

Remember:

- All members and guests MUST complete the sign in book on arrival; this is a requirement of our liquor license and our Auditors.
- Vacate your room by 10am. Leave your luggage in the laundry or drying room if you will be returning to the lodge that day.
- Remember to turn off heaters and any electrical appliances, before you leave for the day
- Guests, members or groups leaving the lodge in an unclean state will be invoiced for cleaning charges. Repeat offenders will be required to pay a forward bond on their bookings.
- 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
- The council has provided recycling bins, so members and guests are reminded to put out your recyclable bottles, cans and plastics in the bins. Do NOT put NAPPIES in the recycle bin. (This is both a health hazard and just revolting)

New Fridges

Our old and hardworking drinks and kitchen fridge finally had their day, the single fridge from the kitchen was moved to become our drinks fridge and a new matching pair of Fisher & Paykel "Active smart 519L fridge/freezers have been purchased.





Dates to Remember 2015

Keep up-to-date with club events on the Club calendar page of the website www.vpski.com/Calendar/dates.html

Annual General Meeting - Monday 4th 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 2015 is at the end of this newsletter.

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



General working bee: Book in for Friday 20 & Saturday 21st March

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.

A general working bee, with Committee members also reviewing jobs and priorities for the 2015 Strategic plan.



Wood splitting & stacking working bee: Book in Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd May

Firewood is a priority every year and it is always available when you visit the lodge. Again this year the club will purchase firewood, helpers are still required to split and stack our years supply. Many hands make light work and fun is always had at a wood working bee.

Book now: Accommodation free at all working bees with dinner supplied on Saturday night



The above trip for 2014 had to be cancelled due to the extensive damage and devastation caused to the entire area by bush fires earlier this year. Hopefully it will regenerate enough to make 2015 a grand trip. Pencil it in your dairies now. We have had an extraordinary response and commitment to this annual camping trip and it is an excellent venue for kids and a tremendous getaway for the whole family, relax at the campsite, 4x4 or trail ride through Big Desert. Contact John Blaikie on 0421 634335 for further details.

5

A new wall to provide a windbreak

Have you ever sat out on the back entertaining area and found the wind from the back is just driving you mad.

Well after quotes for various café blinds the Committee decided to follow up on an idea, had over a few drinks. Bill Nash purchased all the windows and had pine logs split especially in keeping with the lodge.

There are still some finishing touches but I am sure it will make life out the back even more enjoyable.







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

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

www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/

Committee 2015-2016

All positions fall vacant at the AGM on Monday May 4 2015, anyone wanting to become part of the vibrant team that keeps the club running is more than welcome to contact any of the following committee members and find out what it is about. There will be vacancies at this AGM for new committee members, so it's a great opportunity.

Acting President, Geoff Alway Booking Manager, Adrian Healy	9887 9798 0417 568 523
Treasurer , Tania Allatt	0409 492 610
Secretary, Robyn Garrett	9738 0767
Assistant Secretary, Harry Hayes	0417 312 832
News Letter Editor, Pam Blaikie	0433 773 520
Work Master, Bill Nash	0419 763 348
Club Captain, Greg Johnson	0431 327 334
Committee Members:	
Mike Turner	0419 576 712
Brian Jones	0400 345 390

Changed your email address

If you have changed your email please include the new one on the membership renewal form. Email is our preferred method of contact, however this March newsletter is sent to all members' postal address.

The Plug page

Check our website to support our <u>members</u> and their business (www.vpski.com/Links/index.html) Please contact me (the editor) if you would like your business to be linked to from our website.

Our Treasurer tackles the rapids

The annual 10 Mile Kevington River Regatta took place over the Australia Day weekend. The annual event involves paddling down the Goulburn River, from Sailor Bill's Bridge down to the Kevington Pub. From inner tubes to kayaks, you can float or paddle, race or relax – whatever 'floats your boat'! This year our Treasurer (& family!) tackled the rapids, and scores of kids, paddling to victory in one hour & 20 minutes. The river was quite low, so it was a combination of kayaking & cross country required to complete the course. If you're interested in participating next year, it is a great day out for both adults & kids, river paddle in the morning, followed by a great lunch & entertainment at the Kevvie, only about 40 minutes from the lodge. So next Australia day grab your aussie day gear & something that floats & come in and join the fun!

Tania came in 1st



Left : Tyler came in 9th Right : Jack came in 10th



Greg came in 11th

Local activities

Keep abreast of What's happening in Merrijig with the Merrijig Community Newsletter. Available as its supplied and posted on our website, newsletter page. Local events and news.

Mt Buller

In Summer walk, hike run and bike

In Winter Ski, snowboard and latte - keep up to date on the Mt Buller website (www.mtbuller.com.au/)

Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club

Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club meets once a month in Merrijig (down near the Rodeo arena) at McCormack Park. Some Sundays' you will see the dust if you look out past the big gum tree to the hills in the distance! The Club is a Junior Motorcycle Rider Development Club. Our aim is to help children learn the necessary skills in order to ride a dirt bike safely while having fun in a safe environment.

We cater for ages 4 to 16 yrs. MMC is affiliated with Motorcycling Victoria (M.V) and operates under their regulations for Junior Riders. We have certified Motorcycling Victoria Coaches that provide free coaching on Club daysa Junior Motorcycle Rider Development Club.

So if you're up at the lodge & have some kids that are keen on motorbikes, go down & check out the Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club on any of their club days.

Please contact Greg Johnson 0437 685 050 for more information.



Keen on Mountain Biking

There are some great Mountain Bike trails on Mount Buller to suit all skill & bike levels. One of the fun, and relatively easy ones, is the 'Delatite River Trail'. It's a 12km trail from up at Buller (Corn Hill) down to Merimbah. It takes about an hour & a half with kids (age 10-12) in tow (probably a bit longer with younger ones – the guides to say to allow 2 hours). The Delatite River Trail is one of Mt Buller's most iconic rides that starts at the top of the mountain and winds its way down into the valley.

Starting at the Picnic Table, Delatite dives off the side of the hill, weaving its way down to the Delatite River. The trail then hugs the riverbank, switching sides numerous times as riders speed over 13 river crossings and down towards Mirimbah Park. Once at Mirimbah Park, you can cool off with a swim, head to the Mirimbah Store for a bite to eat, or simply catch the Mirimbah shuttle back up to the Mt Buller Village (unless you've got a pre-planned car shuffle, which is sometimes needed – make sure you check the Merimbah shuttle is operating before you head off!)

On Lake Eildon



The lodge is very close to Lake Eildon! In fact, it's only a short 20 minute drive from Merrijig down to Goughs Bay, where you can launch, refuel & have a great day out on Lake Eildon. Whether in a boat, or paddling around, you can take advantage of the great location.

This year a lot of members made their way out onto Eildon, from the lodge, to partake in a huge variety of water sports. So next time you're up at the lodge, don't be surprised if you see a boat of two in the garage ready to head down to the lake.

Lodge Booking procedure and information for members and guests

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.

View my Calendar

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 Manager)

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

Step 3. The Booking Manager will confirm your booking.

Remember the Booking Manager 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 Manager, 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 04-04-2015

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 Manager 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.

Lodge rooms

There are eight rooms in the lodge configured as follows. There are not guarantees that you will get the rooms you request, as it at the discretion of the Booking Manager when fitting bookings into the lodge. Your allocated room may change between your booking and arrival and will be recorded on the allocation sheet at the lodge – however, it is worth visiting the website booking calendar to check before you leave home.

- Room 1 4 single bunks
- Room 2 2 double bunks
- Room 3 2 double bunks
- Room 4 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks
- Room 5 2 single bunks
- Room 6 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks
- Room 7 1 queen bed
- Room 8 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

Quick & Easy Dinner!

The Merrijig Motor Inn offer wood fired pizza's on a Friday night. So if you're keen on pizza, or just hungry for something good, head on down to the Merrijig Motor Inn.



This add is completely unsolicited... their pizza's are just awesome & so close & easy!!!

Accommodation rates as of 1st April 2015

1 st June - 30 th Septembe		Summer
	۶r	1 st October – 31 st May
Club Members		Club Members
Bookings 3 months in adva	ance*	Bookings 3 months in advance*
Weekday	Weekend	
Sunday-Thursday	Friday-Saturday	\$17 (everyday)
		\$60 family rate*
\$18	\$23	*For one room only, families exceeding one room,
* Foundation manshare may	, had a mantha in advar	will pay extra at individual rates
*Foundation members may	/ Dook 4 months in advan	
Guests Bookings 2 months in ac	tuanca	Guests Bookings 2 months in advance
5		Bookings 2 months in advance
Weekday	Weekend	
Sunday-Thursday	Friday-Saturday	\$30 (everyday)
\$33	\$40	\$90 family rate* *For one room only, families exceeding one room,
ψυυ	ψ+0	will pay extra at individual rates
Whole of Lodge Bo	okings	
		ollowing minimum costs apply.
	Important Family E	ry bed) (Friday & Saturday nights) Booking Guidelines. xclusive use of one room. If you require bed
	ty of a room then indi	vidual rates for each extra person apply at the
	appropriate men	iber of guest fate.
	*Family bersons under 18 yrs o	definition of age that appear on your Medicare card or your current family club membership form.
those you have nor	*Family persons under 18 yrs o minated as family on y	definition of age that appear on your Medicare card or
those you have nor	*Family bersons under 18 yrs o minated as family on y hod : Online: www.vps an Healy 523	definition of age that appear on your Medicare card or your current family club membership form. ki.com (Booking form available)

******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 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.

Don't forget your renewal for 2015-2016 (Form attached).

Don't forget if you have children who have turned 18 in the last year they are no longer covered by your family membership. They can become members in their own right, without the joining fee. They need only send in their details and annual payment.

Please update the following membership form, make payment and return

Renewal of Membership for 2015-2016

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due by 1st April 2015. 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*

Police / Associate(* circle applicable)

* FAMILY - \$50.00

* 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		
please print clearly			

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

Annual General Meeting Monday 4th May 2015

8.00pm

Place: The Mulgrave Club, Corner Wellington Road & Jells Road Wheelers Hill

For apologies please contact any member of the committee

AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Minutes from the 2014-2015 AGM
- Business Arising
- Reports President, Treasurer, Booking Manager,

Newsletter Editor.

• General Business

Election of 2015 – 2016 Committee of Management

Election of Auditor

Nomination for Committee Members
May 2015 – May 2016

L	, current member of the V.P.A.C.	would like to r	oropose
	,		

_____ for a current position on the Committee of

Management of the V.P.A.C. from May 2015 to May 2016.

__Signature

_____Signature (Seconder)