



## Wombats Run News Letter

March 2016

### President's Report: Brian Jones

Ladies and gents, welcome to the March Newsletter. This is my first annual report as the new president of the Club.

I have taken over the role from John Blaikie, who tendered his resignation from the committee in early December 2014 after almost 14 years in the role. I would like to thank him for his contributions to the Club over these years. I would also like to thank Geoff Alway for stepping in as the Acting President in the interim, until last year's AGM where I was elected the new President. To introduce myself I am a Sergeant at the State Highway Patrol, and have been a police member for over 20 years and a club member for almost as long. I have been on the committee for 3 years. I am married with 2 primary school children, both of which see the lodge as our holiday house.

It is with sadness that I mention the passing of Club Life Member, Peter Sturtevant last December. Peter was a well-known and liked member of the Club and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to his wife Sue, family and friends

At the AGM last year there were a few changes to the structure of the Committee. Geoff Alway and Bill Nash did not stand for positions and I would like to thank both for their contributions to the club over the years. John Blaikie has stepped back into the role Vice President and also as my impromptu mentor as I learn the ropes. Mike Turner has taken on the role as work master. I would also like to welcome Mandy Finnegan, Bek Gunther and Lewis Rapley-Smith to the new look committee. This new committee has continued to build on the achievements of previous years, as the Strategic Plan, originally proposed by Harry Hayes continues to drive the direction on where to take the Club.

Looking back, over many years there have been some great decisions and some controversial ones. The renovation of the kitchen, bathrooms and even the extension to the lodge were not without their detractors. There was much debate about whether solar power was the way to go. As it turns out it was, and not only has it paid for itself, it will continue to reap benefits for the club for years to come. Financially the Club is still in a strong position and is well patronised throughout the year.

*Presidents report*

*Editors report*

*Facebook is coming*

*Strategic direction*

*Regular Reminders*

*Dates to remember*

*Important Booking Information*

*Guest Requirements*

*Membership Renewal*

*AGM Agenda*

The improvements have continued over the last year. Among the more noticeable changes, the fireplace hearth in the lounge room has been replaced with a more durable rock, and new carpet tiles installed. Mike Turner has done an amazing job, coordinating a major overhaul and facelift of the front entrance area. The picnic table area has been extended and gone are the old terracotta tiles. The whole area has now been paved with a sandstone tile and new outdoors settings purchased. Pam and John Blaikie have been instrumental in the refurbishment of the laundry which was completely gutted and currently being refitted. The committee now has the task of reviewing and revising the Strategic Plan to ensure the future viability of the Club. If you have any suggestions or ideas, they would be greatly appreciated and now is your opportunity.

In January this year during a windstorm the iconic tree with the swing suffered some major damage with a number of large branches coming down. The tree has been professionally assessed and is still viable although somewhat stressed.

Unfortunately, as has been the case in previous years, working bees continue to be a bugbear of the committee. These working bees continue to fall to the committee members and a handful of dedicated club members to attend to the general maintenance of the lodge and grounds. If these functions are outsourced they will put a financial strain on the Club, which will ultimately be passed onto the membership and an increase of fees. If you have never been to a Working Bee they are a great opportunity to meet other members and the committee and get a great appreciation of what is involved in running the lodge. The job list varies from general cleaning, basic repairs, painting, to the odd project. My children love coming to these working bees and helping out as best they can to maintain their club. If you are not sure what is involved, please ask. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. The next working bee which is a wood cut is scheduled for 8/9/10 April 2016.

The next Annual General Meeting will again be held at the Mulgrave Club, Wellington Road, Mulgrave on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016. 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 un-financial, and therefore ineligible to vote at the AGM. It is also important to remind you to inform the committee of any change of address or contact details so that you can be kept informed.

In conclusion I thank all my fellow committee members for their dedication and continued support, John and Pam Blaikie, Adrian Healy, Robyn Garrett, Greg Johnson, Tania Allatt, Mike Turner, Harry Hayes, Lewis Rapley-Smith, Bek Gunther and Mandy Finnegan.

## **Editor's report**

This is the 2015-2016 annual newsletter, with up to date information about the club and renewal details. Sadly there has been no interest in the newsletter, by any members willing to take up the role, so an Annual newsletter it is. Keep your eye on the website for updates throughout the year.

Pam Blaikie



### [Facebook is coming](#)

This year our younger tech savvy members of the committee will be setting up a VPAC Facebook page soon. It will be a private site by invitation only. Once this is done, tried and tested for privacy, members with emails will receive an invitation to join. It is completely up to you.

The aim of the site will be to keep members more up-to-date on activities and also advise of any last minute cancellations or availabilities at the lodge during the busy periods.

## Strategic Direction of Lodge

Last year we brought you up to date with the development of 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.

Over 2015 the Committee used this document to rationalize and plan a number of improvements to the lodge and it is a pleasure to say that all were achieved plus an urgent replacement of outdoor furniture and all ventures were completed within budgetary estimates. See our achievements further in this newsletter.

The Vision statement 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.**

In 2016 the process continues and a February meeting of the Committee at the lodge has set out a working list of priorities to ensure that the lodge remains at an appropriate standard for all guests. Some of which include painting the outdoor extension area and updating the grease trap which is always a delight to clean at working bees.

The document is a living document and suggestions and solutions are always gratefully accepted from members and anyone interested in the future of the club is invited to take up a role within the committee.

So please contact the committee via our Feedback page <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html> or Committee members if you have further ideas for us.

## So what's been achieved in 2015

*Thanks go to the committee for all the organization involved in arranging the following, but especially to Mike Turner who has taken a leading role in much of the works this year.*

Reverse cycle air conditioning in the games room – made life a lot nice on those hot days, when you just want to sit in front of the TV or have a quiet game of pool.

Safety fencing the water and gas tank areas – this has been a concern for many years, watching the little ones on the tanks and hoping they do go off the edge. Fencing around the tank with a childproof latch keeps our tanks and our kids secure.

Additional Concreting and tiling - has created a bit more space for unloading and a larger sitting area, which has now also been tiled for our enjoyment.



← Laundry – our tired laundry had a renovation, new heavy duty laminate, new trough and Ikea cupboards and bench installed. Looking amazing!

↓ Fireplace – Our hearth has been redone, many of the slate slabs had come loose, so an experienced local stonemason has rebuilt the hearth in local stone.





Carpet – the lounge area has been re-carpeted with durable carpet tiles, which enable the worn areas to be replaced easily – looks great



### Outdoor Tables

On a visit to the lodge we discovered that our outdoor furniture was becoming a bit unstable, and although there have been many fixes over the years, two new robust Ironwood sets have been purchased. For the history buffs, I believe the outdoor furniture was lovingly made for the club around 1980, so it has lasted well, and the table is still standing, but undercover.

New tables and chairs needed oiling for long term preservation so they were kept off the new tiles for a few weeks to stop staining.



## Outdoor upgrades

Outdoor unloading / drop off area and seating areas have all been upgraded and made substantially larger. Extensive ground works were involved to allow additional parking for unloading and drop offs and to increase the outdoor entertaining and seating area. This also included the removal of all the very tired tiles running the length of the front verandah. New tiles were laid along this area and also over the entire entertaining area in front of the lodge. The overall result is outstanding. Again many thanks to Mike Turner for coordinating all these works and the singlehanded removal of all the old tiles via jackhammer.





## Final Result of all the work.

### 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)**

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**Dates to Remember 2016** [www.vpski.com/Calendar/dates.html](http://www.vpski.com/Calendar/dates.html)

## **Annual General Meeting** – Monday 2nd 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)*

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### **General working bee: Book in for Friday 8 & Saturday 9 April**

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.

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



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

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**2016**

**Club annual Lake Albacutya (Big Desert)  
camping (Queens Birthday weekend)**



After the fires of 2014, 2015 was a great camping weekend at Lake Albacutya. 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.

## Committee 2015-2016

All positions fall vacant at the AGM on Monday May 2, 2016, 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.

<b>President, Brian Jones</b>	0400 345 390
<b>Vice President, John Blaikie</b>	0421 634 335
<b>Booking Manager, Adrian Healy</b>	0417 568 523
<b>Treasurer, Tania Allatt</b>	0409 492 610
<b>Secretary, Robyn Garrett</b>	03 9738 0767
<b>Assistant Secretary, Harry Hayes</b>	0417 312 832
<b>News Letter Editor, Pam Blaikie</b>	0433 773 520
<b>Club Captain, Greg Johnson</b>	0431 327 334
<b>Committee Members:</b>	
Mike Turner	0419 576 712
Mandy Finigan	0403 324 055
Bek Gunther	0439 773 877
Lewis Rapley-Smith	0435 519 721

## 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 members and their business ([www.vpski.com/Links/index.html](http://www.vpski.com/Links/index.html))  
Please contact me (the editor) if you would like your business to be linked to from our website.

## Local activities

- **Mansfield** - [www.mansfieldmtbulla.com.au/](http://www.mansfieldmtbulla.com.au/)

Chances are when you plan a weekend at the Lodge there will be something happening in Mansfield. If you want to keep up to date with "What's On in Mansfield" Try this website it may help you plan your next visit.

- **Merrijig**

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** - [www.mtbulla.com.au/](http://www.mtbulla.com.au/)

In Summer walk, hike run and bike

In Winter Ski, snowboard and latte – keep up to date on the Mt Buller website

## 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.

### 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 no guarantees that you will get the rooms you request, as it is 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

## Accommodation rates

<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>
\$18	\$23

\*For one room only, families exceeding one room, will pay extra at individual rates

\*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>
\$33	\$40

\*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** \$750 per night up to 23 persons, plus \$25 for each additional person above 23

**Winter weekday** \$1120 up to 34 person (every bed) (Sunday to Thursday nights)

**Winter weekend** \$1360 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 Manager:** Adrian Healy

**Telephone:** 0417 568 523

(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.

### **\*\*\*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 bath- rooms) 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.

**Don't forget your renewal for 2016--2017 (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 2016-2017

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are **due by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016**.

If payment is not received **within one month** from this date your membership will lapse. Please complete the renewal form below and forward together with your payment. (**If you have a regular payment from the Co-op we still require this form to be returned to maintain our records.**)

\* SINGLE - \$40.00

**OR**

\* FAMILY - \$50.00

**Police / Associate( \* circle applicable)**

**\* Pls. indicate your privacy instructions - I wish my details to remain confidential – YES or NO \***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Pls. complete all areas to update our records)*

Telephone: Priv. \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. \_\_\_\_\_ Mob. \_\_\_\_\_

Priv.

Alt

**Email:**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

**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 2015-2016 AGM
  - Business Arising
  - Reports – President, Treasurer, Booking Manager, Newsletter Editor.
  - General Business
- Election of 2016 – 2017 Committee of Management**
- Election of Auditor**

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### Nomination for Committee Members May 2016 – May 2017

I, \_\_\_\_\_ current member of the V.P.A.C. would like to propose  
\_\_\_\_\_ for a current position on the Committee of  
Management of the V.P.A.C. from May 2016 to May 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Seconder)



# **VICTORIA POLICE ALPINE CLUB**

Incorporated  
ABN 927 949 311 34

**P.O. Box 33 Blackburn South. Victoria. 3130**  
[www.vpski.com](http://www.vpski.com)



## **Proxy Voting Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ being a financial member  
of the Victoria Police Alpine Club for the year 2016 – 2017  
appoint \_\_\_\_\_ or in his / her absence,  
the chairperson, to be my proxy at the Victoria Police Alpine Club  
Annual General Meeting to be convened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2016  
and to vote on my behalf on any Resolution and Election for the  
incoming Committee of Management.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_