



Wombat's Run Newsletter

June 2007

Welcome to the June edition of the club newsletter and the very first edition of Wombats Run for the Victoria Police Alpine Club Inc.

For those that do not know yet, at the May A.G.M it was voted overwhelmingly to change the name of the Victoria Police Ski Club to more accurately reflect the nature and variety of our club members and usage. It has been estimated that approximately 50% of our revenue comes from skiing but skiers are only about one third of our membership. We will never forget how the club originated and came to fruition by the dedicated hard work of ski enthusiasts. Snow sports are and always will remain a part of the clubs persona. What has come about though is a natural progression reflecting the club and club members' different alpine interests. A lot of us have overlapping interests and participate in more than one aspect of alpine activities. With the club more popular than ever during the non ski season we are seeing the club attracting a wide diverse range of alpine interests. We have individual four wheel drive enthusiasts, four wheel drive clubs, bush walkers, horse riders, trail bike riders, winery enthusiasts, an artists club which has been using the club several times a year for many years now. It is used extensively by people who simply want to get away and relax in the alpine environment.

The opening line on our web site states ***"The Victoria Police Ski Club is a self funded club dedicated to the promotion of all Alpine Sports and activities"***. What we have done is simply change our name to reflect our own philosophy.

Some discussion was expected over the proposed name change however on the night of the AGM, club member Bill Nash spoke for the name change and highlighted the reasons as mention here. When the vote was taken there was only one member who declined to vote either way. As such the motion was carried and here we are.

The club has not changed in any way and our goals are exactly the same as before. We have now simply recognised the diversity of our activities and members interests.

I have included my annual Presidents Report in this newsletter. Sadly I have to report that no one came forward this year to nominate as club captain or vice captain. Our previous Captain Tom Kelleher is overseas during this year's winter and therefore is not in a position to assist. The club captain and vice captain role is important as they are responsible for organising the races etc for the winter season. As the committee

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also have other responsibilities it is doubtful that races will be held without a volunteer to organise these events. It is not too late yet but time is running out for this season. If you wish to volunteer for this call me please.

President's Report to AGM May 27th 2007.

Victoria Police Ski Club Presidents Report 2006 – 2007

Every year I seem to start my annual report on the clubs status by indicating that we have had a successful and positive year. I am very pleased to say this year is no different. We have seen the successful completion of several years planning in the lodge renovations and extensions. Over the last four years the entire lodge has gone through a major upgrade of all internal fittings and the extensions at both ends of the lodge have received tremendous praise. After the down time we experienced during the extensions accommodation bookings picked up again without a hitch and appear to be better than ever with the popularity of the lodge being at a high level.

Over the last few years it has been noticed that there has been a change in the popularity of the lodge for certain months of the year. Several years ago the hotter months of the year were traditionally a major down time for the lodge with few visitors. This has changed dramatically with the non ski season months attracting large quantities of guests. The months of November – December are extremely sought after with inquiries already made for most weekends for these months. A major portion of the clubs revenue now comes from the non skiing guest with wineries, four wheel driving, horse riding etc being major draw cards. The club calendar has proved very popular with just on 2000 online inquiries since its inception prior to last season. Conference bookings are also on the increase with many bookings from various regions.

Most would be aware that last year saw a major threat to the lodge with the high country fires that burnt for most of December and January. The proximity of these fires caused the closure of the lodge for safety reasons. Several members of the club spent weeks at the lodge throughout the fires ensuring its safety and making sure spot fires etc were not a problem. I have already thanked these members in the January news letter however I will again thank Bill Nash and his son Philip, Jim Garrett, Sue Alexander, Tom Kelleher, Geoff Adams, Harry Hayes and Tom Grambau. The daily meetings held at the Merrijig Hall with the constant updated fire maps truly brought home just how bad the fires were. I apologise to anyone who had their December – January bookings cancelled due to this situation however it was unavoidable and safety was the most important issue.

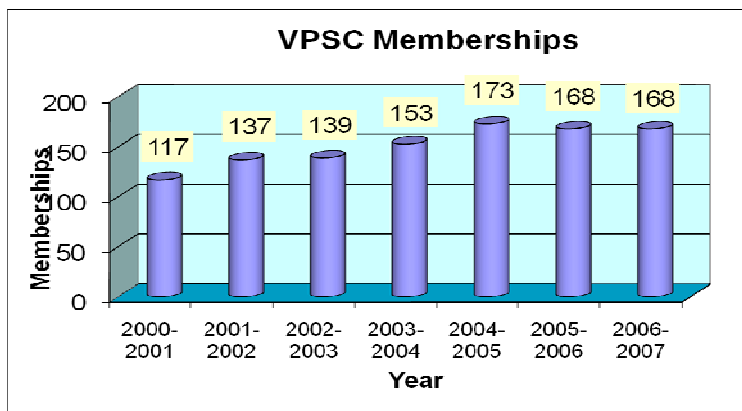
Every year the club has a small but constant loss of members who for various reasons find they can not allocate the time to use the clubs facilities. This natural attrition is very small and has gone on since the clubs inception and is always taken up with new members etc which keeps the clubs membership steady. This year is no different with membership maintaining at 168. The membership of the club is its lifeline and without the support of our members we can not grow. I ask all our members to continue introducing new people to the clubs facilities. With this assistance the club will maintain its financial status enabling us to keep growing and maintain the excellent facilities we now have.

The club during the year hosted the Emergency Services Races and fielded a team for the Age Corporate Ski Championships. The club Captain Tom Kelleher will talk about these races later in the evening. Also held was another successful four wheel drive weekend which unfortunately had to be postponed on two previous occasions due to the fires. After these false starts this weekend was very successful which allowed participants to see first hand the

devastation caused by the fires which included the loss of several historical huts and of course Craigs Hut on Mt Stirling.

Throughout the last club year we have run several working bees to assist in keeping the renovation costs down and also to maintain the clubs facilities. I thank all those have attended during these working bees. I recognise the time and efforts involved in these weekends and thoroughly appreciate your dedication to the club.

I wish to thank all of the 2005 – 2006 committee for their assistance over the last year. My wife Pam, Jim & Robyn Garrett, Bill Nash, Adrian Healy, Geoff Alway, Trevor Williamson, Geoff Adams, Tom Kelleher, Tom and Cameron Grambau.



Reminder 2007 - 2008 Fees overdue!

Fees are due April 1st every year.
So if you haven't paid up for
2007-2008 please do it NOW!

Editors Report

Well here I am bringing you all the first edition of the Victoria Police Alpine Club newsletter. Wombat's Run will always stay with us, but it's exciting to have a new header and name.

More exciting is SNOW and hopefully the promise of a great ski season. But as the Alpine club we are now not only supporting our ski bunnies, but also our snowboarders, walkers, 4 wheel drivers, fishing friends, artists, wine connoisseurs' and all those just wanting a retreat from the pace of the city.

As always I welcome any contributions or entries for the plug pages by email:
www.editor@vpski.com

Working Bee Friday 28th, Saturday 29th of September – Free Accommodation

Come along and lend a hand, there are always jobs to be done. The spring working bee has been booked in for this weekend Accommodation is free and fun is guaranteed, we'll even feed you on Saturday night.

A number of jobs will have to be attended to, but nothing too onerous.

Please check your diary and see if you can assist. These are good weekends that achieve a lot for the club and facilitate good communication between members.

Anyone interested in being the “work master” for the working bee is welcome to volunteer. This is a chance to make a name for yourself. Are you a friendly boss or a sadist?

One club member will never forget his first experience at a working bee when club member Rob McDonald was the resident work master. Rob asked the poor unfortunate (sucker) member to go out in the drizzling rain to pick up stones from around the concrete water tank. The sucker performed his task while he morosely hummed and sang various spirituals made famous by cotton pickers in the U.S.A. in the early 20th. century. Later in the night he was consoled by the work master with some lovely red wine.

Make this a date if you can.

Rain and snow

Good rain has fallen in the Merrijig area. Our tanks are full and any overflow goes down the hill to the bottom tank and then any overflow from that goes into Louise and Laurie’s tanks. Snow on Mt Buller is excellent and it looks like it will be a great season. Check the club website under accommodation for an indication re booking availabilities.

Interestingly, Lake William Hovell is currently at about 104% capacity. That means it is overflowing and indications are it will be at capacity early in summer. Previous four wheel drive excursions have made the lake a destination and it could be an interesting drive next summer when tracks are open again. Think about a four wheel drive trip and even if you don’t own a 4wd, speak to a committee member about hitching a ride with another member.

The Swing



A number of club members have registered their interest in having the swing replaced on the big gum tree in the front yard at the Merrijig Lodge.

A few years ago, (in about the year 2000) club member Geoff Adams conducted a security audit of the Merrijig property. A number of item of risk were identified. One of the risks was the swing on the tree in the front yard.

The tree in the front yard and the tree just outside the front yard have both dropped big branches in recent time. The latest branch to fall has been sawn up and stored in the woodshed. It was estimated to

weigh in the region of one and a half tonnes and it fell just where the swing used to be. Geoff's estimate of a risk from falling branches has been confirmed. Alternative ideas for outside recreation facilities will be gladly received by any committee member.

The Committee values feedback from members on any aspect of club activities. Please continue to get your message to committee members who are there to help you enjoy your club.

For the Four Wheel Drivers.

The club 4X4 weekends have proved very popular with a call for an additional 4X4 weekend that takes in a more challenging type of terrain suitable to those with purposely fitted out off road vehicles. At this stage I have a commitment of approx 10 vehicles willing to go on a trip of this type. It is anticipated that the last weekend of November will be set aside for this trip. If you are interested and have a vehicle that has good ground clearance and suitable off road suspension and would like to attend, please let us know so we can get a better feel to the numbers involved. Remember this will be fairly rough terrain so the vehicles must be suitable. We will still run the February / March 4X4 weekend which is suitable to the more sedate off roaders and vehicles.



Bookings are coming in thick and fast for winter. Get in Now!!

| WINTER | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Members | | Guests | |
| Week Day | Weekend | Week Day | Weekend |
| \$12 | \$15 | \$25 | \$30 |
| SUMMER | | | |
| Members | | Guests | |
| Everyday | | Everyday | |
| \$10 | | \$20 | |
| FAMILY \$35 | | FAMILY \$60 | |

BOOKINGS:

Telephone: 9738 0767
(preferred booking times are Tuesday & Thursday 6.30pm to 9.30pm)

Fax: 9738 0767 (anytime)

Email: vpscbookings@hotmail.com (anytime)

Send your accommodation fees to
Jim Garrett
10 Allambanan Drive,
Nth Bayswater 3153

NOTE:
 There are NO FAMILY RATES for winter and the "Season" is from the Queen's Birthday to the **LAST LIFT Closure** on Mt Buller or the 1st October.



Online Calendar

Go to our website at www.vpski.com or www.vpalpineclub.com.au and click on the link to the bookings calendar.

This calendar is designed to help you plan your stay at the lodge. You will still need to contact the booking officer to make bookings.

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 wishing accommodation.

Avoid Disappointment

Please try to anticipate your accommodation needs and contact the Booking Officer a few weeks before you need accommodation.

Remember:

- There are far more vacancies for Sunday nights through to Thursday nights than there are for weekends. Members (or their guests) who are shift-workers should give mid-week visits consideration.
- The lodge sleeps 34 people, to make the most of our resources, depending on bookings you may be required to share a room.

At the Lodge!!!

Outdoor fires are not permitted on the lodge grounds at any time.

Over the last couple of months some guests have decided to raid the wood shed and have campfires around the lodge grounds. **This is definitely not on.** Whilst our firewood does grow on trees it is very time consuming collecting and cutting and we cannot afford to waste our hard earned timber on outdoor camp fires.

Help us to cut costs!! Be sensible!

- Ensure all appliances are turned off when you leave the lodge.
- Leave the lodge clean and tidy.
- Take your rubbish down to the bins and replace bin liners.



During the April working bee members spread 20 metres of dirt around the lodge extension to ensure no one could step of the edge and injure an ankle. It was great to see a few weeks down the track green grass actually growing on this.

Other members wielded paint brushes and the chainsaw was used to clear up low hanging branches.



😊 😐 😞 **Feed back** 😞 😐 😊

If we don't know the problem we can't fix it. Please tell the committee if you have encountered any problems or even if you just want to let us know we're doing a good or bad job.

Any minor works required should be written up in the book on the board. Anything that needs immediate attention should be referred to our Caretakers, Maurie and Dee, or a member of the Committee ASAP.

Good News



Whether you love it or hate it, a television was included in the new extension games room. Some of you would have noticed that it was faulty from day one with some very unusual colours. We had huge problems getting the manufacturer to repair it however it has finally been replaced and the new unit is working fine.


The Plug page available on our website

Our Newsletter is for our club members so if you have a service or a business you would like to recommend to other members please drop us a line. New services or businesses will be loaded to the page as they become available.

Some of our contributors

Skiers Edge, Grays online; Janine Pike, Marriage Celebrant and more ...

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|---|---|
|  <p>www.pullins.com.au</p> <p>Telephone:- 03 5775 2380 or Fax:- 03 5775 1770</p> <p>"PULLINS SKI HIRE" has continued their support of our club by advising that any person mentioning they are staying at the "Police Ski Lodge" will receive 10% off the hire of any goods. A full range of their equipment is available on their web site mentioned below.</p> |  <p>www.skicentremansfield.com.au</p> <p>Ski Centre Mansfield 131 High Street Mansfield Telephone: 5775 2859 Free call: 1800 647 754 E: kay@skicentremansfield.com.au</p> <p>Email your booking and receive 10% discount. Open daily from 6am until 7pm. Fridays we are open until late.</p> |
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Police member Heather Faragher and her husband Adrian are the owners of the Preston store for SKIERS EDGE and are offering all members of the club 20% off any purchase. Their web site is www.skiersedge.com.au

Please remember that this offer is for the **PRESTON** store only and not available at any other franchise.

Wayne Ritchie' Skiers Edge Preston. Corner High St and Bell Street Preston. Ph 9480 4324

Email: preston@skiersedge.com.au



Club member Tanya Johnson can assist with all your parts requirements at PAJA Automotive.

Call their National Call Centre on **1300 55 90 86** for immediate service and excellent advice. Australia's largest range of steering & suspension featuring O.E.M. Products and Japanese '555'

Web site www.oem-products.com



For all your electrical needs see club member Greg Johnson at Australian Technical Services.

Contact details:-

National Customer service number

1300 ATS NOW

Toll Free Call 1300 287 669

Web site www.atservices.com.au



Club members Rob and Margaret McDonald have a lovely winery with accommodation situated at

1073 Telegraph Road
Sailors Falls, Victoria
Australia 3460

They are offering V.P.S.C. & members of the Police Force generous discounts including.

- * **Stay two nights get the 3rd free**
- * **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



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The Committee 2007-2008

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| President | John Blaikie | Wk 9871 4119 Mob 0421 634 335 | vpscpres@vpski.com |
| Vice President | Geoff Adams | Wk 9439 8349 Mob 0409 165149 | vicepres@vpski.com |
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| Secretary | Robyn Garrett | 9738 0767 | secretary@vpski.com |
| Assistant Secretary | Geoff Alway | 9887 9798 | assistantsecretary@vpski.com |
| Booking Officer | Jim Garrett | 9738 0767 | bookings@vpski.com |
| Committee member (Work master) | Bill Nash | 95266581 0419 763348 | billnash@vpski.com workmaster@vpski.com |
| Committee member | Tom Grambau | 0402 120 957 | tomgrambau@vpski.com |
| Newsletter editor | Pam Blaikie | 0433 773 520 | editor@vpski.com |
| Committee member | Tom Kelleher | 0408 352919 | captain@vpski.com |
| Committee member | Cameron Grambau | 0411 379403 | cameron@vpski.com |
| Club Captain & Vice Captain | VACANT | | |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Ladies and gents, some members have not renewed their memberships yet and are only finding out when they book in for the ski season. If you have inadvertently forgotten we have included a membership renewal form below. We do ask that when renewing please take the time to complete all the details on the form so we can keep our records up to date.

Renewal of Membership for 2007-2008

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due by **1st April 2007**.
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 or NO * - YES**

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Telephone: Priv. _____ Bus. _____ Mob. _____

Priv. _____

Email:

Bus. or alternate. _____

Please Print

The VPSC 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 VPSC, 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:

| | | |
|-------|----------------|-------|
| _____ | 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 : (please circle one only) ★ Police Credit - Regular payment form
★ Cheque made payable to VPSC.
★ Personal details notification only.

Please mail this completed form/s to: VPSC [Inc.], PO Box 33, BLACKBURN SOUTH VIC 3130