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June 2005

### **A word from the President.**

#### **2004-2005 Presidents Report as tendered at the 2005 AGM, 8<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Victoria Police Ski Club Presidents Report 2004 – 2005**

I will start this report by talking about our membership status. As mentioned in my previous reports membership has been steadily growing. Most of this can be attributed to some hard work by members selling the merits of the club throughout the force, the private sector and to friends. Once people see how good the club is it is hoped the process will be self generating. Inquiries on the club and its facilities have been very high over the last 12 months and the availability of the web site has proved its merits. It is our policy to stop claiming membership figures for a club year at the end of December even though we still receive new members in the following months preceding the new club year in April. The 2003 – 2004 membership topped out at 153 financial members. The 2004 - 2005 year has again improved on this figure with 173 memberships recorded as of December 2004. I have been reminded that when the club was formed and interest was very high, the Committee of Management at the time placed a ceiling on memberships at 200 which was believed to be the maximum the lodge could cater for. If we have one more year of membership increasing at the same rate we will be pushing close to this number once again. If this does in fact occur the club will obviously need to revisit the possibility of

more accommodation space. I shall speak of this topic a bit later in my report.

Last year saw one of the best improvements performed at the lodge for a large number of years with the total renovation of the kitchen area. For those members that have not yet seen the kitchen it comprises basically two kitchens, one each side of the centre cooking island. There are eight additional storage cupboards, a new six burner gas top fully accessible from both sides of the kitchen. New electric oven and two new microwave ovens. Also two dishwashers have been installed, one on each side. The open rubbish bins have been removed from the kitchen area and rubbish is removed now via two chutes in the bench top to a sealed area which is accessible only from the back veranda. This we hope will eliminate the problems associated with having large quantities of food scraps etc in a food preparation environment. The membership made several suggestions regarding the layout and contents of the new kitchen at the last A.G.M. The committee took this on board and adopted these suggestions. Further works to the club have included two reverse cycle air conditioners in the living area, one each side of the fireplace. Every bed in the lodge has been slightly lengthened to allow for the larger length of new inner spring mattresses. Spouting around the entire lodge has been replaced and an extra water tank will be installed before the end of the year almost doubling the current capacity.

I mentioned in my report last year that the club was looking at the feasibility of providing extra living area for the membership which would allow the relocation of the billiard table. This would allow members a far better choice

between a quiet area and / or an entertainment games type area. At this stage we have had plans drawn up and some preliminary quotes supplied. We have sought out suggestions and variations to our needs that would also allow us to expand with extra bedrooms if and when required. The exact configuration of any proposed extensions is certainly not 100% final at this stage. We have openly advertised for comments and improvement suggestions from the membership for a considerable time on the web site and in the news letters. All suggestions will be considered. It is hoped that if the configuration of the proposed extensions are finalised and satisfactory to our needs and costing is considered reasonable, we would commence works at the end of this winter season.

I will briefly touch on working bees. We have run working bees over the last 12 months and there is one more to go commencing the 29<sup>th</sup> May to finalise the wood and finish some lighting replacements. The working bees usually contain the same faces and I will take this time to thank the participants. Firstly my wife Pam, Robyn and Jim Garrett, Bill Nash, Geoff Alway, Adrian Healy, Trevor Williamson, Tom Kelleher, Geoff Adams, Brendan Godwin, Alan Briggs, Brian Jones and Cameron Grambau. If I have left anyone out I sincerely apologise.

Last year the previous Club Captain and Vice Captain announced their intention to stand down and did not run again for those positions. Unfortunately even after considerable notice before the A.G.M. in news letters and on the web site no one wished to take on these two positions and the committee ran for the full term under strength. The organisation of these events does take a considerable amount of time and work and any persons undertaking these duties needs the ability to allocate the time to it. I made it quite clear leading up to last years A.G.M. and also in my A.G.M report that if no one was prepared to step up and take on the role of Club Captain and Vice Captain then the races would not go ahead. As it turned out no one took on this role and consequently the club races and the Emergency Services races did not go ahead. It was very

disappointing to receive at a later date criticism levelled at the committee for failing to organise the races. I will turn the tables and say as President of this club I am very disappointed that not one of our membership was prepared to assist in running the races but so many appear to be more than willing to participate in them.

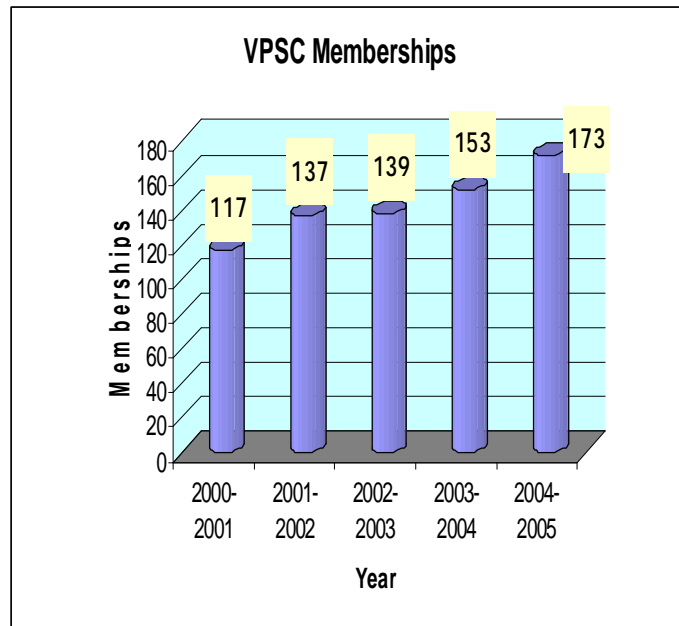
The club in lieu of running these annual races did offer free accommodation, free gate entry and half price children's tickets during the days the races were normally held. This also included a free dinner at the lodge. Perhaps not as much fun as racing but it was certainly huge savings for the members taking advantage of the offer.

The club also went ahead with the sponsorship of two entries in the Age Corporate Races. For the information of the membership and to pre-empt any criticism that our organising skills should have been directed towards the club races, the entries to this event do not require any organising on the clubs behalf. These events are already arranged and our participation only involved the supply of two teams of three participants of suitable competence. By participating in this event the V.P.S.C. represents and promotes the corporate identity of the Victoria Police. We are primarily a police club and such representation is a worth while activity. Our club gains excellent publicity and the donation of the BMW X3 fitted up as police vehicle also raised our profile on the mountain. A substantial portion of the sponsorship given to these two teams is derived from the grant that the Police Amateur and Sports and Welfare Society donated for this purpose. The results of this participation saw the V.P.S.C. place **20th and 18<sup>th</sup> out of 129** teams. This is not a small feat by any standing. I congratulate our representatives in this event for their excellent results, Geoff Adams, Tom Kelleher, Alan Briggs, Brian Jones, Ron Sinclair and Andy Roberts. As far as club races go for this up and coming year, I have received interest by some members in running for the positions of club Captain and Vice Captain so hopefully these events will return for the coming season.

Despite running an under strength committee this year I believe the club is stronger now than it has been for many years. The large membership has allowed us to undertake some drastically needed repairs, updates and additions. The momentum of this should not be allowed to falter and we need to capitalise on our strong membership and financial base to further increase the standard of our club assets and accommodations. There is more to be done at the club to enhance members experience and comfort. The club rooms will be 25 years old this June and no one would have failed to notice how much they were showing their age. For the improvements the club has undertaken over the last couple of years it has taken considerable time, energy, planning and capital. If we can keep this momentum up and continue to grow with our membership there is no foreseeable reason why our club premises can not be further improved and enhanced.

In summing up I am very pleased with the standing of the club and its membership base. I pass on my thanks to all those who have forwarded praise regarding the improvements to the club and the content and quality of our web site. I thank all those that have brought new members to the club and hope the trend continues. I thank the current committee, my wife Pam, Jim & Robyn Garrett, Bill Nash, Adrian Healy, Trevor Williamson, Geoff Adams, Geoff Alway and Tom Kelleher for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

**John Blaikie**  
**President V.P.S.C.**



#### **From the Editor**

Well here I am again for the year 2005-6. The newsletter and is an excellent way to keep in touch with club members and friends, so don't be shy, please email or ring me if you have anything to add.

I must put in an apology for John and myself not attending the Warren Miller film night, we had spent the weekend with other members at the Lodge Working bee, stacking wood and doing odds jobs and to top off the weekend John was on a 3pm shift. So it was just unfortunate we couldn't make it.

Another ski season is on the way, although the weather has seemed pretty mild so far, we all look forward to the winter dump. Look forward to meeting and seeing some of you up the lodge this winter.

**Pam Blaikie**  
**Newsletter editor**



Some days you just watch the sky go by!

## On the Mountain 2005 Visit the Mt Buller What's New website to find out more

If you visit the website you will find up to date info on what's happening at Mt Buller, But here are a few highlights from the Mt Buller What's new page

### Australia's only new chairlift in 2005

Mt Buller is the only Australian ski resort with a new chairlift in 2005 with the opening of the Emirates Discovery Chairlift.

The \$2 million Doppelmayr fixed-grip quad chair runs from the bottom of the Shakey Knees run to the popular Tirol Café on the northern side of the resort, opening up terrain in the Shakey Knees and Tirol area.

### A great snow holiday is child's play at Mt Buller

Mt Buller guests will be able to enrol their children in a creche for the first time in many years this season.

A new Children's Centre has been built in the Ski & Snowboard School that will cater for 150 children aged from six months to under six years.

### Redevelopment of Mt Buller and Mt Stirling resort entry gate

Significant upgrades to the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling resort entry, including the replacement of the Delatite Bridge at Mirimbah, will further improve visitor access to Mt Stirling and Mt Buller Resorts.

### Trail fees abolished at Mt Stirling this winter

They say the best things in life are free, and that's certainly the case at Mt Stirling this winter. Trail fees have been abolished, giving cross-country skiers free access to the mountain's 65km of scenic and peaceful trails.

### AND MY FAVOURITE ONCE AGAIN in 2005!

Mt Buller is offering teenage students the opportunity to ski and board **at children's prices.**

All students up to Year 12 can buy lift tickets, take lessons and hire equipment from Buller Sports.

**Teenagers have to present a valid student card to receive the discount.**

For Tertiary students there is also a **half-price lift tickets on Tuesdays** (\$42.50) and up to **20% off lift and lesson tickets, and equipment hire** on other days of the week.

For more price details go to the Mt Buller website at [www.mtbuller.com.au](http://www.mtbuller.com.au)

### Welcome to the Committee 2005-2006

Welcome to the new committee for the next year. It's nice to see a couple of new faces.

President                      John Blaikie  
**Wk 9871 4119**  
**Mob 0421 634 335**

Vice President              Geoff Adams  
**Wk 94575777**  
**Mob 0409 165020**

Treasurer                    Adrian Healy  
**9247 5617**

Secretary                     Robyn Garrett  
**9738 0767**

Assistant Secretary       Geoff Alway  
**9887 9798**

Booking Office     Jim Garrett  
                              **9738 0767**

Committee Members  
    Pam Blaikie (Newsletter editor)  
    Cameron Grambau  
    Bill Nash  
    Trevor Williamson (Workmaster)  
    Tom Grambau (nomination accepted  
    at Committee meeting 6/6/05)  
Club Captain         Tom Kelleher  
                              **0408 352919**

Vice Captain         Alan Briggs

## **Emergency Services & Club Race Day**

Come up to the lodge and enjoy!  
Ski the slopes with fellow club  
members!  
Catch up with old friends and make  
new ones!

- *free accommodation for participating  
club members from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August  
to Saturday the 13<sup>h</sup> August.*
- *free BBQ meal on Friday evening*

## **Club Calendar 2005**

### **Spring Working Bee**

After the ski season come and join in the fun  
of a working bee.

Free accommodation & BBQ provided.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **Opening of the Ski season Queen's Birthday Weekend June 10-13th**

Book into the lodge and hope for snow or sit  
back and enjoy a social weekend by the fire.

### **Age Corporate Races Fall's Creek**

#### **Age Corporate Races**

2005 (28th, 29th, 30th & 31st July)

Enquiries & Nominations for the ACSRS

Contact : Geoff Adams

### **Emergency Services Races**

12th August 2005.

**See our web site for continued updates or  
contact Club Captain Tom Kelleher**

**0408 352919**

### ***Book in NOW!***

*Contact for bookings for both  
these events are through the  
club Captain Tom Kelleher on  
0408 352919*

### **Memberships are Overdue**

Please remember that membership fees  
should be paid up by now. If you have not  
got you membership fees and renewal form in  
please do it straight away.

Renewal forms are available on our Club  
Information page on the web.

If you have a regular co-op payment it is  
appreciated if you return the renewal form so  
we can keep our records up-to-date.

## Rates for VPSC Lodge

WINTER			
Members		Guests	
Week Day	Weekend	Week Day	Weekend
\$10	\$12	\$20	\$25
SUMMER			
Members		Guests	
Weekday/Weekend		Weekday/Weekend	
\$8		\$14	
FAMILY \$25		FAMILY \$45	

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Send your accommodation fees within 7 days to:**

**Jim Garrett, Booking Officer**  
**10 Allambanan Drive,**  
**Nth Bayswater 3153**

### BOOKINGS:

**Telephone:** 9738 0767

(Tuesday & Thursday 6.30pm to 9.30pm)

**Fax:** 9738 0767 (anytime)

**Email:** [vpsscbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:vpsscbookings@hotmail.com) (anytime)

### Avoid Disappointment

Please try to anticipate your accommodation needs and contact the Booking Officer a few weeks before you need accommodation. The lodge is already booking fast for 2004.

### Remember:

- Ø 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.
- Ø The lodge sleeps 34 people, to make the most of our resources, depending on bookings you may be required to share a room.

For your skiing needs try

## Ski Centre Mansfield

131 High Street Mansfield

T: 5775 2859 F: 5779 1096

Email: [scm@connect.net.au](mailto:scm@connect.net.au)

Email your booking and receive 10% discount. Open daily from 6am until 7pm. Fridays we are open until late. Service outside these hours can be arranged in advance. Ski racks are free with your ski and or snowboard hire.

Or alternatively

## PJ's Ski Hire

149 High St, Mansfield.

Both stores can be reached on 1800 647 754

[www.skicentremansfield.com.au](http://www.skicentremansfield.com.au)

Discounts to members and long time supporters & sponsors of the VPSC.



Pullen's Ski Hire

[www.pullins.com.au](http://www.pullins.com.au)

**"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. Also their site has a direct link to the Mt Buller **"SNOW CAMS"** so you can check the conditions before you go.

**Telephone**

03 5775 2380

**Fax**

03 5775 1770

## **Two new life members – observations by a member of committee**

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting, Pam and John Blaikie were granted life membership of the Victoria Police Ski Club.

Pam and John live in the Dandenongs with their daughters Teagan (18 years and now a member of the VPSC in her own right) and Stacy who is 15.

Pam is a Librarian with Monash University and John is a Sergeant of Police at Nunawading Police station.

Pam and John have travelled extensively in the Australian Outback and are regular users of the Merrijig lodge for short breaks away from everyday life.

Both have been long time members and contributors to the club but for the last four years in particular, have been immersed in Club activities and administration. John became President in 2001 and Pam became Newsletter Editor at the same time.

Before John took over as president a gloomy future was being predicted for the club with membership at less than 110. Since appointment as president, John has:

- § Been a highly visible president
- § Engaged a positive attitude to club matters
- § Introduced many new members to the club
- § Attended all events requiring his presence
- § Attended all working bees since appointment as president
- § Been tireless in contributing to all facets of club
- § Through his time as president he has suffered severe spinal problems but didn't reduce his commitment to the club
- § Through his time as president Pam has suffered severe medical problems but he still didn't reduce his commitment to the club
- § Endured frustrations and obstructions over the four years
- § Seen, over the last year, extensive improvements and maintenance initiatives at Merrijig
- § With Pam developed the excellent web site.

You've heard the saying "behind every good man there is a good woman" and in this case that has been well and truly demonstrated. All of the above points also apply to Pam who has given as much support to the club as you could imagine and, quite rightly, is acknowledged for her contributions.

There are various guidelines regarding what should be considered when awarding Life Membership of a club. A common theme in the guidelines is that an individual should have demonstrated significant, sustained and high quality service enhancing the reputation and future of the club. Pam and John pass this test with flying colours. Their contribution and leadership have led to the club now having memberships up by about 70 since 2001.

Life membership can be bestowed on a club member at an Annual General Meeting on nomination by the committee. These nominations, by the 2004-2005 committee were unanimous. Both Pam and John are modest people who accepted their life memberships with humility.

Congratulations to each of you on your appointment and thank for your support of the club.

Jim Garrett.

## **The Audits :**

**2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004**

**After a lot of hard work by our auditors to bring these up-to-date.**

**All the financial audits for the above years are now complete. If you would like a copy of please contact. John Blaikie.**

**Any member is entitled to view the audits however, it is a decision of the committee not to publish them on the public domain of the website.**

## J K L Feed back L K J

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.

## At the Lodge!!!

Users of the Lodge are reminded listed chores need to be attended to on a daily basis and remember facilities are to be shared in a co-operative manner and that no user has exclusive access to the facility.

The lodge should always be left clean and tidy, as you would expect to find it.

Please remember the lodge does not supply any additional bedding, blankets or pillows. You need to take your own!

### Firewood

There is plenty of firewood in the garage, please remember to restock the firewood in the lodge as you use it.

### Rubbish Bins & Recycling

Please remember a few simple tips

- Do not overfill the bags as you just end up with a bigger mess.
- Please remember that you need tie up the rubbish and put it in the bins at the bottom of the driveway.
- Always put a replacement rubbish bag in the bin after you empty it.
- There are recycle bins outside the door, please separate bottles and cans.

## U The Plug Page

Our Newsletter is for our club members so if you have a service or a business you would like to recommend to other members.

### Sailors Falls Estate "Villas & Vines"

Long time club members Rob and Margaret McDonald have developed a vineyard / B&B retreat near Daylesford.

[www.sailorsfallsestate.com](http://www.sailorsfallsestate.com)

Their web site should be up and running by the end of June

About 5 km south of Daylesford, Sailors Falls Estate is at 1073 Telegraph Rd, Sailors Falls.

For further information.

Give Rob or Margaret a call on  
**9370 8813** or **0418 374 854**

### Club Polo Shirts



### Club polo-shirts are available.

Navy Blue with a white VPSC embroidered logo. An absolute bargain and great quality at \$10 per shirt

There are also a few Club stubby holders available for \$6.00 each. Red ONLY

**Please contact:** Jim Garrett or any member of the committee.