



### Presidents Report

We have come to the end of March and our club financial year. The past 12 months have seen another increase in our membership base and a tremendous year financially for the club. The committee and myself are very happy with the volume of use the club is getting and we have had nothing but praise for the extensions which have no doubt assisted greatly in the continued popularity and prosperity of the club. We are continuing to improve the grounds with upgrades to the old (top of the drive) cattle grid which is suffering from some serious corrosion and some more landscaping in the near future.

Our working bees have been well attended with a wood cutting weekend scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> of May already drawing bookings. No hard work required splitting timber on this weekend as we have the use of a hydraulic wood splitter.

It would appear we can't fit in enough four wheel drive weekends at present as the three run since December have all been very well attended with requests to schedule another one before the ski season commences. It has been suggested we run a weekend that takes in a tour of all the mountain huts so if you want to see some of the local history and the rebuilds to the fire damaged huts, come along on the next trip. We have a tentative date of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May with a possibility of some snow on the peaks so keep your eye on the web site for the confirmed date.

The year has certainly not been without its down side with the tragic loss of our long term booking officer Jim Garrett on Christmas day last year. Unfortunately I have more sad news. In our last newsletter, I reported that our caretaker Maurie after short illness was back on deck and had returned to his job as our caretaker. Sadly, this was not for long as Maurie succumbed to illness once again and passed away in January at the Mansfield hospital with his family and friends around him.

Many of you will know and remember Maurie as our always friendly, dapper, and smiling Caretaker with an infectious laugh and a LOVE of Red wine and of course his dear wife Dee. Our best wishes go to Dee, their children, grandchildren and friends. Dee has requested to stay on as our caretaker at present so please say hello when you see her at the lodge.

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I will keep this report short and hope to see you at the lodge during the next 12 months.

John Blaikie  
Club President

## Editors Report

Newsletter time comes around so very quickly, March being our regular mail out newsletter, with membership renewals due 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. It seems like just yesterday the March 2007 newsletters were spread across the table. We bring you a reminder for the AGM in May and a few important dates for 2008.

I was recently going through the membership list as it has been transferred to an Access database, and noticed that like us, many of our children are turning 18 this year, so don't forget if you've got a son or daughter about to turn 18, a Alpine Club membership is the perfect gift. Download a membership form and forward it to the Committee. There is no joining fee, just the yearly subscription for a single membership \$40.

Once again we try to bring you a newsletter of quality and as always I welcome any contributions or entries for the plug pages by email: [editor@vpski.com](mailto:editor@vpski.com)

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**We have taken the liberty to print some of the things said and excerpts from the paper regarding Jim Garrett and Maurie Millott as our way of remembering our lost friends and to also highlight what wonderful lives they lived.**

## Jim Garrett

James Moffat Garrett  
December 11, 1950 - December 25, 2007

Booking Officer 1996 – December 25, 2007

JIM Garrett had a big impact on the Victoria Police at both ends of the career scale. James Moffat Garrett served the force at that high level for the last 11 years of a 35-year career that included a wide variety of roles in uniform and plain clothes. As the inspector in charge of police recruiting during the mid-80s, he led an unprecedented drive which at one point saw a thousand aspiring recruits processed in one year. Later, as a chief inspector, he was staff officer to five deputy commissioners who all benefited from his tactical and strategic advice, wide general knowledge, networking skills and quick wit.

He liked people and loved a chat, and it was no surprise that his funeral service filled the chapel at the Police Academy where he'd earlier spent several fulfilling years as a law instructor. Three of the deputy chiefs he worked for (Brian Church, Bob Falconer and Neil O'Loughlin) were among the hundreds there to honour his memory.

Jim was only 57 when he died suddenly in the early hours of Christmas Day. The timing would have probably tickled his droll sense of humour and prompted an admission that

he had been carrying the same weight and same shape as Santa. But it would have also grieved him to know how much pain his passing, and its timing, would cause his close and loving family.

Born in Scotland, Jim came to Australia with his family as a child. He met his wife, Robyn, after the family moved from Perth to Melbourne. The couple had three children, Andrew, Robert and Julia and it was a source of enormous pride to Jim when the two boys also joined the Victoria Police.

Andrew told mourners his father, a proud Australian, had "a special smile, a caring heart, loyalty, friendship and a great sense of humour". "He was a trivia guru and thrived on knowledge. He was sought after by many for his information, intelligence, knowledge and wisdom. Jim constantly sought people to listen to, and laugh at, his lame jokes," Andrew said.

He recalled his father's love for a grey Kingswood station wagon he bought new in 1979 then handed down to Andrew, then Robert. Every year after the Kingswood came to an untimely end when it collided with a gum tree, Jim would ring Robert on the anniversary to remind him how old the car would have been.

Andrew said some of his father's many other passions and hobbies were a beer, fishing, camping, cricket, the horses, greyhounds, Tattsлото, poker, the Queen, George W. Bush, the Australian flag, Scotland, the Forth Rail bridge, movies, music, comedies and seeing as much of his adopted country as possible.

Two of his companions on an annual nine-day bus trip to far-flung parts of Australia over the past 20 years also paid tribute to their mate at the service. Patrick Hunt said that when the other seven passengers on Jim's first bus trip in 1988 discovered he was a non-practising (unfinancial) Presbyterian and they were all Catholics, they made him an honorary Catholic for a week. "He said he didn't mind being an honorary Catholic for a week because 'you Micks encourage alcohol at official functions'," Patrick recalled.

He also recounted one of the highlights of a trip to the Flinders Ranges in 1996, when Jim balked at the prospect of a joy flight over Wilpena Pound in a light aircraft. "Jim thought it a bit unsafe in those little planes, so he sat on a rail near the refuel shed and watched proceedings," Patrick said.

"A couple of the boys were already in the air and on their way back when a well-to-do family rocks up, the lady steps out of the cruiser and asks Jim if he is waiting for the next flight and what are the arrangements. "Jim, resplendent in hiking boots, shorts and blue singlet, points skywards with his stubbled hand to the approaching aircraft and informs the lady that as soon as it lands and he finishes his beer, he'll be available to take them up!"

Another of the bus trip boys, Brendan "Dinger" Bell, recalled that Jim always took Melbourne water, sat on the bus with a towel around his head "like Yasser Arafat" on hot days and assured them he could catch fish using a lamb chop for bait if necessary.

Supt Tony de Ridder said Jim had been his adviser, counsellor and mentor during their many shared trips home from work to the eastern suburbs. He said Jim was a "true blue" Australian with a great sense of justice. He seized any opportunity to set history straight by debunking the popular view of Ned Kelly, whom he regarded as a murdering horse thief, not a hero. Supt de Ridder said his friend was an avid collector of trivia, books, music and movies, and had "at least 25 movies in his Top Ten".

He said Jim, who was known for his practical jokes as well as his lame ones, often left messages with his many adopted nephews and nieces using a range of aliases, including his alter ego "Pik Botha, head of the South African security forces". "Often my sons were never quite sure if it was him or not, and you'd come home and they'd say 'I think Uncle Jim rang for you, Dad'."

Andrew said Jim, who retired only three years ago, would have passed with few regrets but had been robbed of many pleasures, including teaching his granddaughters how to fish, opening a TAB account for them, seeing his greyhound run its first race and taking Robyn to Scotland.

He concluded his eulogy with one of his father's favourite farewells: ``Drive carefully and watch out for idiots".

Jim is survived by his wife, Robyn, children Andrew, Robert and Julia and granddaughters Alisha, Nikita, Jasmin, Michelle and Madison and one more on the way.

## **Maurie Millott**

### **(Herald-Sun)**

Maurie Millott  
January 19, 1929  
January 18, 2008.

Caretaker for the Victoria Police Alpine Club

Maurie Millott was a skilled timber craftsman who designed and built more than two dozen house, "spec" homes and others on order.

A talented teacher he was a woodwork mentor for Mansfield Adult Continuing Education. Maurie also worked for charity and built a magnificent rocking horse for the Mansfield Hospital.

Born at Camberwell, Maurice Edward Millott was educated at schools in Surrey Hills and Box Hill. Although Maurie completed an apprenticeship as a lithographer, he couldn't wait to be become a builder.

His father was a teacher. Maurie married city dental nurse Denise Richards in 1952. He built their first home in East Doncaster, one of 13 they had.

Maurie's love of Mansfield began in 1953 when his father retired to a cabin he had built there.

Maurie died of cancer at the Mansfield District Hospital.

Survivors include Dee, four children, 10 grandchildren and three great grand children.



Maurie was a familiar face around the lodge and almost no visitor or guest at the lodge would stay without seeing or talking to him or his wife Dee. His talent at fixing or diagnosing potential problems was invaluable to our club. Our visits to the club were always made all that more pleasant with Maurie's presence and the odd bottle of homemade wine that he was so fond of. His invaluable assistance to us during the bush fires last year made all the difference to those staying at the lodge to protect it from spot fires. Maurie will be greatly missed by us all.

# Club Calendar

## Working Bee: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May

The next Working Bee will be a wood collect to consolidate our reserves for winter. As usual accommodation for working bees is free and dinner is supplied Saturday night. There will be no manual wood splitting as we have secured the services of a hydraulic wood splitter.

Book in Now! email [bookings@vpski.com](mailto:bookings@vpski.com)  
phone Pam Blaikie on 9754 5799

## Annual General Meeting

Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> May

Commencing 8.00pm, Celtic Club

See attached agenda and notification at end of newsletter

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## High Country Hut Tour 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May

**Last chance to see some of the high country before the tracks are closed. Come and join us on a tour of the high country cattlemen huts scattered throughout the ranges. Tentative dates at this stage are the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May. With the way the winter is shaping up a chance to see these historical huts with snow on the ground is hard to pass up.**

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## Are your children turning 18.

Remember if you have a family membership and one of the kids has turned 18 or is about to turn 18 they will no longer be covered by your membership. Consider joining them up to the club, so they have a membership in their own name.

*The single membership is \$40 and as they were initially covered by your family membership there is no joining fee. Additional Club key \$4*

# Bookings

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

*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.*

**BOOKINGS:**  
*In the interim Pam Blaikie has taken over the bookings*  
**Telephone: 9754 5799 / 0421 634335**  
 (preferred booking times are Tuesday & Thursday 6.30pm to 9.30pm)  
**Fax:** temporarily unavailable (anytime)  
**Email: [bookings@vpski.com](mailto:bookings@vpski.com) (anytime)**

**Send your accommodation fees to**  
**Pam Blaikie**  
**49 Hume St,**  
**Upwey 3158**

***If you do a credit co-op transfer please include a reference as follows***

***Name / date of accommodation.***  
***E.g. Blaikie 04-04-2008***

**NOTE:**

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. Receipts will be issued on request.



## Online Calendar

Go to our website at [www.vpski.com](http://www.vpski.com) or [www.vpalpineclub.com.au](http://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.

**BOOKING PERIOD**

1. VPAC members may book for the winter period as of the 1st May each year; however Foundation members receive priority for bookings until 1st June.
2. Guests may book for the winter period as of the 1st June each year.

**BOOKING PROCEDURE**

Before you ring please work out how many double & / or single beds you require, and how flexible your preferences are. You can Email your request to the Booking Officer at any time.

- On phoning the booking officer, bed allocation is booked as tentative until the Booking Officer receives payment. Payment for bookings is required two weeks in advance.
- Names of **all persons attending** Lodge are to be given to the Booking Officer at the time the booking is made. Payment will assure your booking and details of room and beds allocated will be giving to person making booking at that time. 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. You can leave you bags in the lodge hallway baggage racks if you wish to use the facilities during your day of departure.
- The preferred method of payment for accommodation is a cheque made out to the Victoria Police Ski Club. Direct deposit tour co-op account is available on request.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT\*\*\* - Please only use the room allocated to you.**

## At the Lodge!!!

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.



**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.

### The Committee 2007-2008

**The Annual General Meeting will be held in May.** If you want to make a difference, be a part of a vital and energetic team, learn new skills and meet new people. Join the Committee!

Without the Committee of Management the VPAC will not survive. Many members have done their bit, why not you!!

President	John Blaikie	Wk 9871 4119 Mob 0421 634 335	<a href="mailto:vpscpres@vpski.com">vpscpres@vpski.com</a>
Vice President	Geoff Adams	Wk 9438 8349 Mob 0409 165149	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vpski.com">vicepres@vpski.com</a>
Treasurer	Adrian Healy	9247 5617	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vpski.com">treasurer@vpski.com</a>
Secretary	Robyn Garrett	9738 0767	<a href="mailto:secretary@vpski.com">secretary@vpski.com</a>
Assistant Secretary	Geoff Alway	9887 9798	<a href="mailto:assistantsecretary@vpski.com">assistantsecretary@vpski.com</a>
Booking Officer	Pam Blaikie (Temp)	97545799 0421 634335	<a href="mailto:bookings@vpski.com">bookings@vpski.com</a>
Committee member (Work master)	Bill Nash	96118501 0419 763348	<a href="mailto:billnash@vpski.com">billnash@vpski.com</a> <a href="mailto:workmaster@vpski.com">workmaster@vpski.com</a>
Committee member	Tom Grambau	0402 120 957	<a href="mailto:tomgrambau@vpski.com">tomgrambau@vpski.com</a>
Newsletter editor	Pam Blaikie	0433 773 520	<a href="mailto:editor@vpski.com">editor@vpski.com</a>
Committee member	Tom Kelleher	0408 352919	<a href="mailto:captain@vpski.com">captain@vpski.com</a>
Committee member	Cameron Grambau	0411 379403	<a href="mailto:cameron@vpski.com">cameron@vpski.com</a>
Club Captain	Harry Hayes		<a href="mailto:flyfish9@bigpond.net.au">flyfish9@bigpond.net.au</a>

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Plug pages for March 2008 are available on the Internet at  
[www.vpski.com](http://www.vpski.com)

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## Renewals Due

Please note that whilst our name has officially changed, the Police Credit Co-op is still processing under our old name so if paying by cheque please make it out the Victoria Police Ski Club.

The new Financial Year kicks off from 1st April and as such, renewals for the 2008/09 year are now due.

Cost: Family:       \$50  
      Single:        \$40

The preferred method is direct payment, but payment by cheque is also acceptable. Details are as follows

### If you have a Co-Op Account

Account Number:    901006 S1  
Account Name:    VPSC (Victoria Police Ski Club)

### When your bank is not the Co-Op

BSB                       704 230  
Account Number:    100 010 305  
Account name:      VPSC (Victoria Police Ski Club)

**\*\*\*BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE WITH THE TRANSFER (First & SURNAME), OTHERWISE IT WILL BE A DONATION FROM AN ANONYMOUS PERSON.\*\*\***

If people have any issues, contact the treasurer Adrian Healy on:

*Adrian Healy*

Treasurer

**Victoria Police Ski Club**

Ph: 9247 5312

Fax: 9247 6217

Mob: 0417 568 523

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



## Renewal of Membership for 2008-2009

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**.

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. \_\_\_\_\_

**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