



www.vpski.com

September 2004

A word from the President.

This year's season has finally come to a close. I don't think anyone could possibly complain about the snow conditions this year. Over two metres in places with the season extended to take advantage of the huge quantities of white stuff.

This year the club entered two teams in the Age Corporate Ski Championships and we have a report from the Vice President Tom Kelleher a little further on in the news letter. The club also received some excellent sponsorship by way of transport to and from the venue at Falls Creek. (See the pics in the Vice Presidents report.) I had the privilege of attending the mountain as moral support and also had the surprised honour of receiving a rendition of "Four to the Floor" sung personally by Allan Briggs. I must admit however that being woken up at 1.30am just for the occasion did take the sparkle out of the moment and I still have to resist the urge to kick the stereo every time it is played on the radio. A little more therapy and I will be ok.

The lodge has been well utilised through the season and many compliments paid over the new kitchen. For those that attended the A.G.M. in May you will be pleased to note that the committee took on board the advice and suggestions made as to what the kitchen needed and we have endeavoured to grant those requests where possible. The club has also purchased a new fridge to replace the oldest fridge which has now moved on to become the new drinks fridge. The old drinks

fridge was really starting to struggle. The extra capacity will be a bonus.

Once again I will raise the issue of working bees. If you can spare just one day to help at working bees it will make the task of getting things done so much easier. The maintenance of the lodge is very important and if we can not get anyone to assist we will be forced to employ professionals at substantial cost to the club.

Last years Christmas function cost the club a considerable amount to arrange. Food and drinks had to be purchased and a lot of time donated to it by various committee members. The turn out by the membership was very disappointing and a huge amount of food etc was wasted. Unfortunately the great venue we used to have access to in "The basin" has not been available to us for the last two years and the membership has shown they are no longer interested in attending. After some deliberation with the committee it has been decided the money can be spent better elsewhere on the club so the Christmas BBQ will not be held this year. If in future sufficient members indicate that they are interested and will attend a Christmas function then it will be reconsidered.

John Blaikie
Club President



From the Editor

So we approach the end of another terrific snow season. Sadly the Blaikie's didn't get to ski this year due to health reasons, but we have been watching the cams with envy and look forward to another bumper year next year.

Once again I put fingers to keyboard to bring you all the newsletter and as much gossip as I can master. Please don't be shy if you have something for the newsletter.

We have recently changed our internet service provider so the new club contact email is vpscpres@iinet.net.au or just give us a ring.

We have now tripled the capacity we are allowed for our web site by changing our I.S.P. therefore we will be able to put far more content on the web site. So look out for a complete revamp of the site shortly.

Pam Blaikie
Newsletter editor

WE NEED YOU

The position of Club Captain and Vice Captain remain unfilled.

So unfortunately Club Races and the ESSS races did not occur this year.

I am sure there must be someone in the membership prepared to take on this role for 2005, given that the club is primarily a SKI CLUB.

If you require more information about the role of Captain or Vice Captain please contact a member of the committee NOW!!

VPSC represented in the 2004 Age Corporate Ski Races

Two teams representing the V.P.S.C. traveled to Falls Creek in July to compete in the Age Corporate Ski Races. A successful trip was had with team "**Arrest**" consisting of Andy Roberts, Tom Kelleher and Geoff Adams finishing in 20th place overall. Team "**Victoria Police Powder Hounds**" consisting of Ron Sinclair, Allen Briggs and Brian Jones produced a Herculean effort (with the assistance of a timing error !) by finishing in 18th position. Overall 129 teams competed in this competition.

A big thank you must go to the V.P.S.C for its generous sponsorship of the competitors and to Allan Briggs of the Public Relations Office for arranging sponsorship from **BMW Australia** in the form of a **BMW x 3 four wheel drive**.



(When traveling to the mountain, style is everything)

This promotional vehicle was outfitted in Victoria Police decals and was the talk of the mountain. Thanks also to Barry Jones of Pretty Valley Ski Lodge for his very generous assistance of equipment to competitors and amazing hospitality.



Barry has a first class lodge and members should consider accommodation there when planning a trip to Falls Creek. Thanks also to the VPSC President John Blaikie who assisted the teams, at Falls Creek.

A highlight of the trip was Ron Sinclairs spontaneous bagpipe performances which kept everybody highly entertained. All competitors represented the V.P.S.C. and Victoria Police in a positive and well mannered way and it is hoped that next year's event will be bigger and even more successful for the club.

Tom Kelleher,
Vice President, VPSCC

Club Family Fun Snow Day Friday 6th August

On a fine snowy Friday a number of club members gathered at the lodge for the **Club family fun snow day**. With the lack of a Club Captain to arrange races this year the inaugural family fun day was established for our members to get together and enjoy skiing and a social weekend. Gate passes and ½ price Child tickets were reimbursed to encourage our younger generation of skiers and as customary of the Ski races a BBQ dinner was supplied on the Friday night.

A fun day was had by all and we look forward to this becoming an annual event alongside our Ski Races.

Contact the Committee 2004-2005

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with any comments, complaints or compliments. We need your feedback!

President John Blaikie
 9871 4119
 97545799
 0421 634335

Vice President Tom Kelleher
 0408 352919

Treasurer Adrian Healy
 9247 5617

Secretary Robyn Garrett
 9738 0767

Assistant
Secretary Geoff Alway
 9887 9798

Booking Office Jim Garrett
 9738 0767

Committee Members

Geoff Adams

94312413

94575777

Pam Blaikie (Newsletter editor)

97545799

99055377

0412 562340

Bill Nash

9877 2709

95266666

Trevor Williamson (Workmaster)

9871 4133

0414786350

**Club Captain &
Vice Captain**

VACANT

Club Calendar 2004

Keep your eye on the website for our 2005 planning calendar - www.vpski.com

Because of the Federal Election
our
2004 Winery Weekend
Tour the King Valley wineries!
Has been postponed to 2005.
Please watch the Web and the next
newsletter for a new date

**Christmas Get Together????
Children's Christmas Party**

Advertised tentatively for 28th November

**THIS FUNCTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED
DUE TO A LACK OF ATTENDANCE AT
THE LAST 2 YEARS EVENTS.**

Sadly the bulk of our membership are just not prepared to make the effort. John & I personally have shopped, bought drinks, lollies for the kids, loaded the BBQ on the trailer, and toddled off for a great day, only to have less than a dozen turn up at the event. As a result the committee has decided that without the support of the membership then this event will not be run. If in future we get members indicating they wish to attend then we will re visit the concept.

Pam Blaikie

However, for the adventurous, those of you who would like to get together for a pre Christmas Drink, please contact Jim Garrett by 18th November and if it is viable we will organise a small get together.

vpscpres@inet.net.au

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 1st 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: vpscbookings@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.

Have you the expertise!! Can you Help!

Some of the things the committee would like to look at and consider in the next 12 months in the lodge is replacing the carpet, which has served us well, but it definitely starting to show wear. If any of our members have contacts in the carpet trade who can give us advice please let us know.

Also, anyone with expertise in the air conditioning field who would be able to advise us on air conditioning the lounge area and costings. The committee would also love to hear from you!

Hey kids.....did you hear!!

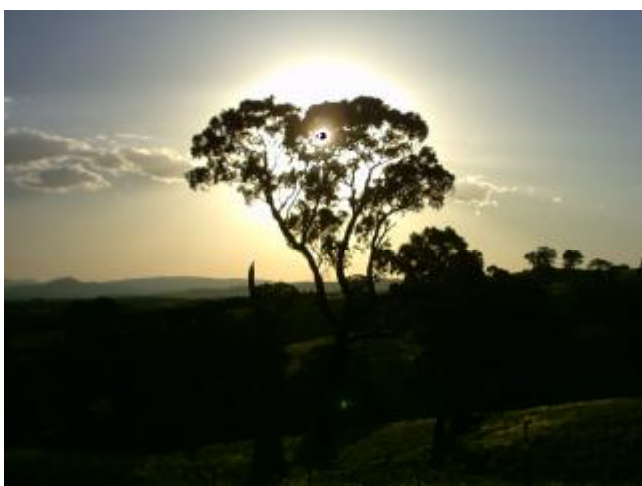
About the person who had a bonsai business.

She was so successful; she had to move into smaller premises.

And have you ever wondered.....

If an echidna was sick, would acupuncture be any good for it?

And why is the word abbreviation so long?



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!

Pool table

The Pool table is to be recovered again shortly. The table is free to use but this is a cost to the club, so please remember to take care of the facility.

Please take care and

- Supervise children
- Don't let children climb on the table
- DO NOT use broken cues. If there is a cue with a broken tip, please put it aside for repair.

ä Kitchen

Comments from members

Great feedback from regular users of the lodge who have supplied the following comments:

- *“The new kitchen is fabulous. It was so good I wanted to take it home!” CS*
- *“What a pleasant surprise. The kitchen has brightened up – we were really impressed.” TK*
- *“Well done to those responsible for the kitchen. As usual, we had a great time at the lodge.” IH*

Dishwashers

The dishwashers are there if you want to use them. But please remember we are on tank water, so ensure that you have a full load. If you only have a few dishes, use the sink. Please do not leave dirty dishes in the dishwashers for the next group, it may be several days before they arrive. YUK!!!!

Rubbish Bins & Recycling

Accessed bins via the lids in the bench. To empty the bins you will need to access them from outside.

There are recycle bins outside the door, please split your bottles and cans accordingly and Maurie will take them to the recycling depot.

Water

It has been noted that there is a couple of small leaks on the water tank, these will be seen to as soon as practicably possible.

Although there is plenty of water around at present, as we move into Spring and Summer please remember to be waterwise.



Some Police History that may be of interest to our old and new members alike!

Now the winter has gone the lodge changes from a ski facility into a great destination for relaxation and recreation. Bushwalkers, artists, fishers and sightseers are assured of great times.

Most members of the club are aware that a very important part of the history of the Victoria Police was played out at Stringybark Creek in 1878. A gang of outlaws were thought to be in the Strathbogie Ranges so a police party of four consisting of Sergeant Kennedy and troopers Lonigan, McIntyre and Scanlon set off from Mansfield to locate and arrest the gang. On the 25th. October, 1878 the police contingent camped at Stringybark Creek.

The gang of outlaws came across the police camp and after capturing the lone trooper at the camp the gang lay in wait for the others to return. A short time later three police were dead after being shot by the outlaws.

The story is well known; and depending on who tells the story it may seem the murderers were heroes! History shows that history itself suffers at the hands of those who twist the truth. It is amazing to note that some small N.S.W. and Victorian towns, struggling for a sense of identity, are proud to pronounce their bank was held up by this gang of thieving outlaws!

When you next stay at Merrijig and you wish to catch up on some of the facts of this story take in the following:



- Ø The monument in the middle of the main street in Mansfield – erected in memory of the slain police;
- Ø The cemetery in Mansfield where the three slain police are buried. (Sgt. Kennedy and Troopers Lonigan and Scanlon). Read and note the contents of each headstone for a chilling connection with reality. (Enter the cemetery through the gate and head in a general south western direction. The three graves are near each other towards the southern fence.)
- Ø On the way back from Stringybark Creek, go to Power's Lookout. There is a magnificent view of the King Valley from a landing on top of a granite outcrop.
- Ø If you require any information or directions regarding the above, please ring Jim (9738 0767 and leave a message) or e-mail to ypscbookings@hotmail.com

Drive out to Tolmie and take the road from there towards Tatong. You will come to the area at Stringybark Creek where the murders took place. Have a look at some of the big trees. Were they around at the time?

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.

A FREE PLUG
Please contact me with your details



Club Polo Shirts are still available
Navy Blue with a white VPSC embroidered logo.
An absolute bargain and great quality at \$10 per shirt

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



