



VICTORIA POLICE SKI CLUB NEWS LETTER

September 2005

As I write this report the ski season for 2005 is only days away from closing. The ski season started out slow but picked up just when I thought it wasn't going to happen at all. Fortunately it did and some very good skiing was had for those that took advantage of it.

The V.P.S.C. after a one year absence again held the Emergency Services Ski Championships at Mt Buller. The races this year were run in conjunction with the Australian Defence Forces which allowed us to take advantage of some very generous discounts available due to their purchasing power. A huge dump of snow a few days before hand ensured that the skiing was on an excellent cover. Emergency services attending this year were, Police, Ambulance, M.F.B, Prisons Victoria, C.F.A, and a mixture from the various armed services. A great time was held by all and our Club Captain Tom Kelleher has supplied a report detailing the results a little further on in this news letter. I wish to personally thank Tom for all the hard work he put in and the organising he did to enable the races to be coordinated so well with the Australian Defence Forces. His hard work ensured the races were a success.

On a different note, it was disappointing that there was very little interest shown in the club races. I do understand that some of our younger skiers have now grown up and may no longer be interested. We held on as long as we could and it was only at the last minute that we cancelled the Friday's races. With only half a dozen or so members wanting to race it was obviously financially unviable

to run the races as planned. Hopefully next year more members will be interested.

Over the years the interests of the membership change as was shown by the decreasing interest shown in the end of year Christmas functions as they were previously run. We try to cater to what people want so this year we are proposing a couple of alternatives. We can run a BBQ as in the past or another suggestion has been a rendezvous at a licensed location in the city or elsewhere for a club get together with some food and drinks supplied. We are also open for suggestions. One thing we do want however is an indication that you would attend as we need to cater for those attending. This is again mentioned a little further into the newsletter so please decide if you are interested and let us know.

The club has been talking about an extension for the last 18 months or so and this is still on the go. It is a long and involved process with various authorities to consult and plans, quotes etc to obtain. Bill NASH has supplied some information which is a bit further on in the news letter. Please digest what he has to say as the decision to go ahead with this is not a light one. This extension will go a long way to improve our conditions at the club. Bill has put a lot of work into this proposal and I thank him for his efforts. Please note that there have been some slight alterations to the plans for the extension compared to what was originally displayed on the web site. These revised plans are now on the site for your viewing. A copy is also attached in the news letter.

John Blaikie (Club President)

From the Editor

Here I am racing to get another newsletter to you all, as the snow melts and the warmth of spring and summer is on its way.

This newsletter is packed with events and important news, the committee knows what's happening, but it is you - the members; I am trying to keep up to date.

If you have any news, a product to plug, please email me at vpscpres@iinet.net.au

Pam Blaikie, Newsletter editor

On the Mountain 2005

Visit the Mt Buller website to find out more

Although the season is just about done, keep up to date with the Mt Buller website.

www.mtbuller.com.au

The Committee 2005-2006

Please contact any member of the committee if you have any concerns or ideas for the club

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

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 7th & 8th

Christmas Get together

Unfortunately last year due to a declining interest we did not have a Christmas BBQ.

It has been suggested that we have a get together at a venue such as the **Celtic Club** or some other premises (does not have to be in the city) for a pre Christmas get together and drinks.

The club will supply finger food / nibbles etc and tokens for a Christmas drink or two for all.

A BBQ or similar will still be considered if we get a suitable response from the membership. The proposed date at this stage if we proceed with a function such as an evening get together at a licensed premises has been tentatively set for **Thursday the 24th November 2005**.

RSVP: vpscpres@iinet.net.au or **0421 634 335**

Some of us may even choose to party on and have dinner.

2006 Dates to Remember

Get in Early for these popular events!



4WD Weekend

January: Friday 20th. Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd

Some members will remember the great times they have had in four wheel drive touring through the hills near Merrijig. Come along and join the fun!

The proposal is to leave the lodged about 9.30am on the Saturday and head down Buttercup Road into the hills coming out at the beautiful Lake

William Hovell. This lake was formed after a dam was built in the upper reaches of the King River to provide water for irrigation for tobacco growers. Now there is less tobacco grown in the valley but fortunately its place has been taken by grape growing. There's nothing like bottled grapes!

At William Hovell we will stop for a picnic lunch at the serviced picnic ground. Assuming the day will be quite warm, it's an ideal location for cooling off in the water. We'll continue on down the valley and take the track up to Power's lookout where there are magnificent views of the King Valley. The Sunday will be spent driving back to Melbourne via the Big River Valley and back to Warburton. There are some excellent views, picnic areas and swimming spots all along the Big River and it is well worth doing if you have never been along this road before.

Cost : Accommodation rates as published (Member \$8 pp per night, guest \$14 pp per night) Meal on Saturday night gives us the option of a communal effort or we can have a three course meal completely catered for around \$20 per person if there are sufficient numbers.

Interested?

Ring Jim - 9738 0767

Tuesday or Thursday nights between 6.30pm and 9.00pm.



Winery Visits

It is proposed the weekend of 10th & 11th February be dedicated to an organized tour of the nearby wineries and two or three others in the King Valley.

We will visit two of the wineries between Merrijig and Mansfield – The Delatite and Kinloch at Booroolite, between the Delatite & Howqua Rivers.

We'll also go over to the King Valley which has developed a fine reputation for quality wines and in fact one grower, Otto Dalzotto won a prize for world's best shiraz a few years ago. We'll visit Otto and one or two others.

Cost : Accommodation rates as published (Member \$8 pp per night, guest \$14 pp per night)

Meal on Saturday night gives us the option of a communal effort or we can have a three course

meal completely catered for around \$20 per person if there are sufficient numbers.

Bus Hire: *To be advised.*

Interested?

Ring Jim - 9738 0767

Tuesday or Thursday nights between 6.30pm and 9.00pm.

The Races 2005

Late July saw two teams from the Victoria Police Ski Club converge on Falls Creek for the annual Age Corporate Ski Race Series. Racing consisted of two runs of the Giant Slalom discipline on the Friday followed by two runs of the Slalom discipline on Saturday. Skiing was fast and furious on good snow with the Falls Creek Racing Department pushing through some 370 skiers each day. Both VPSC teams represented the club honorably with 'Team Arrest' comprising Andy Roberts, Geoff Adams and Tom Kelleher finishing a credible thirteenth overall- just four seconds out of the top ten, and one of the club's best ever results. Team 'Full Force' comprising Allan Briggs, Brian Jones and Alistair Cooke finished in 38th place. Both these placings were excellent given 120 teams competed in these races.

Special mention should go to Andy Roberts who finished 16th overall in the Giant Slalom and 18th in the slalom discipline - a great effort by anyone's standard. Quiet celebratory drinks were enjoyed by all team members at the official function on the Saturday night.

Special thanks must go to the VPSC, which again sponsored it's members to compete in these games. Participation in these games over the years has given the VPSC/Victoria Police a well-respected profile amongst other competitors and organisers. Thanks must also be extended to BMW for assisting in transport to and from Falls Creek, and Barry Jones and staff of Pretty Valley Alpine Lodge who again supported the teams in any way he could. Let's hope we have another successful series again next year.

The Emergency Services Ski Races were held on the 10th August 2005 in conjunction with the Australian Defense Force Alpine Snowsports Association (A.D.F.A.S.A). The skiing was hot on Little Buller Spur with competitors from Vic Police, Emergency Services Communications, the M.F.B., Prisons Victoria, the C.F.A and the Ambulance Service, as well as all the Armed Services competing.

Later that day, a presentation function was held at the Aborn with an excellent time had by all.

The Open Men's Division was won by CFA representative Hannes Grimus, with **Vic Police/VPSC member Andy Roberts winning the Master's Division**. Karen Doenson of the Emergency Services Communications won the Women's Division. All place getters were presented with medallions at the function by Air Vice Marshall Kevin Robinson.

These races were a huge success with plans for an even bigger event next year. Special thanks must go to Major Scott Harris of the A.D.F.A.S.A who gave me every assistance.

Unfortunately the Club Races scheduled for Friday the 12th August were cancelled due to a lack of competitors. However, a good time was had by all members who attended the lodge that weekend, with the Club providing a BBQ and refreshments.

We all look forward to a good season and good racing next year.

Tom Kelleher
Club Captain.

Received in the Mail recently North American Police Ski Championships

March 11-18, 2006, Aspen Colorado

"Race against law enforcement officers of your own ability, age, and sex. Individual and team awards are given in various ability classes, events, the North American Champion, and to the Nations Cup winner.

Socialize with your friends and guests at the four cocktail parties, the mountain lunches, the final awards banquet, and at a variety of other functions.

Funds raised at the championships are donated to the Winter Special Olympics for the training and development of athletes."

**Contact: email: napsc@earthlink.net
Website: www.napsc.org**

For those of you who want to know more!

The Audits :

2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004

Prior to the year 2000, the Victoria Police Ski Club had used a number of different auditors to audit their books on an annual basis. These audits were generally conducted by an individual known to a club member who operated a sole practice with the audit conducted on the 'cheap'.

With high profile company collapses like HIH over previous years, the audit profession has come under close scrutiny from regulators and investors, leading to a more litigious environment and therefore higher insurance costs for the auditors. , One benefit of this was to weed out the poor performers making for a more professional industry. The downside, was increased audit costs.

The Club nominated and elected PKF Australia to conduct the club audits for the year 2000 - 2001. This audit was completed last year. PKF gained a firm understanding of the club operations and has since conducted the audits for the years 2001 - 2002 and 2002 - 2003.

PKF Australia is a specialist group of chartered accountants and consulting firms, with practices in every State and Territory in Australia. Together, they form part of the international accounting association of PKF, with some 242 firms in 114 countries worldwide. PKF is in the final stages of completing the Club audit for the year 2003 - 2004 (just waiting on some receipts from Mt Buller) and they will then complete the year just passed 2004 - 2005.

The auditor for the club is always voted on at the Annual General meeting, so all members have the opportunity to have input into this. Given that PKF now has a firm understanding of the clubs operations; it provides greater economies of scale to continue with this firm in the near future, as this lessens the time required, and therefore the cost of the audit.

All members are also reminded that the ski club books are presented at every monthly committee meeting, and can easily be made available to them, should they so request.

Any questions in relation to this should be directed to the Treasurer, Adrian Healy
Mobile: 0417 568 523

Adrian Healy
Club Treasurer



Up-to-date news about Proposed extension to the Lodge

Members may be interested to how the proposed extension to the lodge is progressing. At present a Planning Permit has been obtained from the Mansfield Council and a Building Permit has been applied for, but this cannot be approved until a builder has been appointed. A number of local builders have been approached with our proposal and have been requested to express their interest by submitting a quote. Unfortunately, this has been a slow process, but hopefully by early October the committee will be in a position to evaluate the quotes received.

The committee have decided to obtain separate quotes for the extensions to each end of the lodge. Obviously the eastern end (front games room) is the most important, but if finances permit, a large under cover area on the western (Mansfield) end of the lodge would also be an important addition.

A revised set of plans is included in this newsletter.

In support of our Building Application, the committee has requested a report from an engineering company to ensure geotechnical and structural specifications are to the required standards.

As most of you would know, the club has had a long association with the Police Credit Co-Op. We have borrowed from the Co-Op in the past and have had considerable investments with them over the years. Unfortunately the Co-Op will no longer lend to commercial organisations or "Clubs", so we are currently sourcing loans from other lending institutions.

To fund the extensions to the lodge, the club will have to borrow in the vicinity of \$100,000 and our treasurer is currently preparing a financial profile to ensure any borrowings can be properly serviced.

As an alternative to borrowing the entire amount required for the building works, the committee is considering a proposal whereby club members can participate by partially subsidising the project. This is provided for in the constitution under clause 4.3.4 where members can loan the club, say \$2,000, which could be repayable with interest after a certain period, as specified by the committee.

This proposal would operate in a similar way as the "Foundation Members Agreement" during construction of the lodge in 1980.

I have included below the applicable sections from the constitution for your information.

3.1.4 Foundation members and associate foundation members are members and their spouses who have loaned not less than One thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the Association such loan not having been withdrawn from the Association until directed by the Committee. Foundation members and associate foundation members are entitled to preferential bookings for the term of their financial membership and free accommodation on a casual basis when their loan has been reimbursed.

4.3.4 Any member may enter into an agreement with the Committee and advance or loan the Association an amount of money which shall not be less than fifty dollars. The conditions and terms of such advance or loan shall be determined by the Committee and shall include the period of the advance or loan and any applicable conditions of refund payment and/or interest payable as the case may be.

The benefits to club members participating in this scheme could be similar to those offered to current Foundation Members.

Please think seriously about this in the coming weeks as your support could be the difference between the project coming to fruition sooner rather than later. If any members wish to register their interest in the idea, without obligation, then please contact myself via the club's Postal address or to the email address below. It is anticipated that numbers would be limited to between 20 and 30.

Bill Nash
bill.nash@police.vic.gov.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 Allamban 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.

Handy Hints : Making a Booking

Times & Phone number as above

This is a fax/phone and the tones you will hear are not the same as on a normal telephone. You will hear a series of tones but please do not assume a connection is not being made. Please wait and your call will be answered or you will be able to leave a message.

When you call, if the line is already engaged, you should wait and you will be given prompts that will enable you to leave a message.

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!

Spring is here ! Summer will be next

The usual reminders to all to be waterwise, to be courteous to our neighbours and keep speed and dust to a minimum and of course as it gets hotter and dryer, watch those matches and cigarette butts.

Remember

- There are recycle bins outside the door, please separate bottles and cans.

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

Their web site should be up and running soon!

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 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.

