



Wombats Run News Letter

March 2018

President's Report: Brian Jones

Ladies and Gents, welcome to the newsletter for 2018. This is my third annual report as the new president of the Club.

At the AGM last year there were no changes to the structure of the Committee. Is it because no-one wants the job? Or, that everyone is happy with the way it being managed? I like to think it is a combination of both. The committee members are all unpaid volunteers who each give up their valuable time to manage and improve the Club. Most of the committee members have full time jobs and families, with a few being lucky enough to be retired. Although the retired members seem to have a busier life than the rest of us. The amount of time and effort that goes into performing these roles would cost a fortune if it was outsourced. The committee members deserve the recognition of their efforts.

Financially the Club continues in a strong financial position and again was well patronised throughout the year, with both small bookings and whole of lodge bookings.

Over the last year we have continued to maintain and improve the facilities. The list of items completed is later in the newsletter and the update of the kitchen is finally going ahead after a few hurdles.

As has been the case over recent years the working bees are mostly attended by the Committee and a few members. These are a great weekend to get up to the lodge and give some back to the Club. The next working bee is the weekend of the 14th and 15th April 2018

The next Annual General Meeting will again be held at the Mulgrave Club, Wellington Road, Mulgrave on the 7th May, 2018. It is important we get a good turnout of members at the AGM and it is vital that anyone interested in joining the committee also attend. Please contact myself or any member of the committee if you are interested and want to know more.

The meeting will commence at 8pm, you are welcome to arrive earlier and join the current committee members for a meal and chat prior to the meeting. Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions for the Club are due on the 1st of April. If you have not renewed your membership by that date, you are un-financial, and therefore ineligible to vote at the AGM. It is also important to remind you to inform the committee of any change of address or contact details so that you can be kept informed.

Presidents' report

Quarry Update

Strategic direction

Kitchen update

Regular Reminders

Dates to remember

*Important Booking
Information*

Guest Requirements

Membership Renewal

AGM Agenda

Proxy

*Notice of Special
Resolution*

In conclusion I thank all my fellow committee members for their dedication and continued support, John Blaikie, Adrian Healy, Robyn Garrett, Tania Allatt, Mike Turner, Harry Hayes, Lewis Rapley-Smith, Bek Gunther, Mandy Finnegan and Jeff Maher.

Proposed Quarry / Rock Extraction Update

In 2016 a planning permit was submitted to Mansfield Council for a quarry / rock extraction at 401 Buttercup Road. The proposed site is about 300 – 400 metres behind the lodge. This was for the removal of truckloads of rock at a time from the property. On behalf of the VPAC and the Committee I lodged an objection to the planning permit.

After conciliation meeting with local residents the applicant was required to provide further information. After a few amendments the application was again before Council. In the meantime, the Merrijig Action Group was formed. This Group lobbied the local Councillors and rallied the locals to fight against the proposal. Petitions were circulated including being placed at the lodge. Around 600 signatures were obtained, with half coming from our guests. Objections revolved around noise, dust, vibration, being an eyesore and traffic. Given that the lodge was one of the closest premises to the proposed site I extended an open invitation to all 5 Councillors including the Mayor to attend and see firsthand just how close it was. All the Councillors responded and accepted the invitation.

A further conciliation meeting was held in late 2017 but failed to reach any compromise. The application was finally added to the Council agenda for the meeting on 16th January 2018. This has been a difficult task for the Council due to various conflicts of interest and was in part handled by an independent planner. The final report by the Acting Governance & Development Services Manager, Dawn Bray supported the application. This was based around the State planning scheme and came with a staggering 49 permit conditions. It seemed like a fait accompli, that it would be granted.

John Blaikie and myself attended the Council meeting on the 16th January, along with dozens of residents. I was one of 8 people who made representations to the Council on the application permit. This was a coordinated plan so that each representation focused on specific aspects. It was put forward that there were issues with the report, which failed to address a number of planning schemes. There were issues with each of the separate reports supplied by the applicant, as simple as the distance to the nearest premises, varying by over a hundred metres. Traffic counts supplied were improbable. The route proposed as one of the permit conditions required an impossible left turn from Buttercup Road into Purcells Lane, which was less than 90°, and bounded by huge trees.

I spoke on tourism and the effect on the Club. I was able to show that in the previous year there was just under 3,000 bed nights. It wasn't hard to explain how much money we bring to the region with that number of people per annum.

When the motion was before Council it only had one Councillor move the motion and failed to gain a Second. Councillor Attley then moved a motion to refuse the application and was seconded by Councillor Olver. The final vote was 3 to 1 to refuse. The Mayor was not required to vote, as he only cast a deciding vote, yet spoke in favour of the refusal. This came as a surprise to the gallery.

The next stage, if he wishes, the applicant has 60 days to lodge an appeal via VCAT, which is late March.. It is probable that this will occur. Whichever way the Council vote went, it was likely to go to VCAT. This way we are on the same side as the Council and not fighting them and the applicant. Stay tuned.

Minutes from the Council Meeting

<http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil/councilmeetings/council-agendas-and-minutes.aspx>

Strategic Direction of Lodge

The committee continues to refer to and update the Strategic Direction document for the lodge. The purpose of this "living document" is to ensure that robust governance and a vision is maintained for the lodge for the generations to come.

The Vision statement of this document sets out **that the document has been developed to ensure that the Victoria Police Alpine Club continues to remain a viable and enjoyable facility for the generations to come of members and guests.**

So please contact the committee via our Feedback page <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html> or Committee members if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Firewood

This year we again purchased a truckload of wood which had to be stacked. It seems that the more wood we have the more that gets burnt.

When you are at the lodge and using the fire please remember that the wood does cost the club and consider how much you are going through. There is no need to stack the fireplace to keep it burning all day long if you intend to be out all day. With the split Aircon and the fireplace the lodge does heat up quickly.

So, what's been achieved in 2017

Thanks go to the committee for all the organization involved in arranging the following.

Kitchen update

The Kitchen is to be completely remodelled. After a lot of hurdles, we finally settled on a design and builder and work is due in March. It has been a long slog, which was compounded by distance, with many phone calls and emails back and forth, often trying to explain things that would be very simple in person

A huge thank you goes out to one of the committee member's partner, Anthea Putt. Anthea is a professional interior designer and has given many hours of her time and expertise to help in the design. Anthea put forward many points that would likely have overlooked and without her help we would still be going around in circles.



Anthea Putt
Interior Design
0428 379 368

Pergola area

Next to the wood shed we have constructed a pergola which will be a nice quiet place to sit and watch the sunset. The final touches will hopefully be completed at the April working bee providing we get enough of a turn out. Work to be done here will be to line the ugly back wall to give it a country feel and hide the reflective steel. Landscaping and plantings have taken place since these photos were taken.



Painting of the rear wall.

At the working bee in May 2017 we painted the rear wall of the lodge. Although it looks like a cosmetic touch up the wall was suffering from years of exposure to the harsh Merrijig weather, with the extremes of freezing cold to the dry and scorching Sun. The wood was suffering and cracking and was in desperate need of protection. After fixing and replacing a few of the logs it was given 2 coats of paint to preserve it. Thanks to everyone who came and helped with this task. I'm sure everyone would appreciate the effort.



Regular reminders when you are “At the Lodge”

The Committee values feedback from members on any aspect of club activities. Please advise a member of the committee if there are any problems that require immediate attention.

Members and guests

The Committee takes your responsibilities to others and to the club seriously, so please be vigilant and remember that our Caretaker checks the lodge after each group, so if you don't do the right thing we know.

Remember:

- All members and guests **MUST** complete the sign in book on arrival; this is a requirement of our liquor license and our Auditors.
- Vacate your room by 10am. Leave your luggage in the laundry or drying room if you will be returning to the lodge that day.
- Remember to turn off heaters and any electrical appliances, before you leave for the day.
- Guests, members or groups leaving the lodge in an unclean state will be invoiced for cleaning charges. Repeat offenders will be required to pay a forward bond on their bookings.
- **All other rubbish should be taken down on a daily basis to the bins at the front gate and on departure** from the lodge. Kitchen rubbish bins are accessed from outside.
- The council has provided recycling bins, so members and guests are reminded to put out your recyclable bottles, cans and plastics in the bins. Do NOT put **NAPPIES in the recycle bin.** (This is both a health hazard and just revolting)

CLEANING OF THE LODGE

Whilst the clear majority of club members and guests leave the lodge clean on departure, occasionally people do not fulfil their obligations. One of the reasons the cost of accommodation is kept so low is due to members doing the right thing thus reducing our need for professional cleaning. We are all aware that some guests do not do the right thing. If you attend the lodge and it is not up to scratch then obviously you are going to be annoyed at the last guests. Please do not be one of those guests. If the lodge needs to be cleaned professionally after your departure you will be invoiced for these costs.

If you are staying for several nights you are obliged to keep the lodge neat, tidy and clean on a continual basis. Leaving dirty dishes and unwashed glasses etc until the next day is not acceptable. The lodge is equipped with two dishwashers so pack them and set them going before bed. Guests arriving to find the lodge in a mess is not acceptable.

Annual General Meeting – Monday 7th May, 8pm,

Mulgrave Club corner of Wellington Road and Jells Road Mulgrave. A Bistro is available for dinner prior to the meeting. Love to see you there! The agenda for 2018 is at the end of this newsletter.

*New committee members and ideas are always welcome.
If you are interested contact any member of committee.(as below)*

Club Working Bee

General working bee: Book in for Friday 13th and Saturday 14th April

How often do you say to yourself and friends “the lodge is just like my own holiday home”? Well like a holiday home it does take some maintenance.

Book now: Accommodation free at all working bees with dinner supplied on Saturday night



2018

**Club annual Lake Albacutya (Big Desert)
Camping trip (Queens Birthday weekend)
8th – 11th June**



Pencil it in your dairies now. We have had an extraordinary response and commitment to this annual camping trip and it is an excellent venue for kids and a tremendous getaway for the whole family, relax at the campsite, 4x4 or trail ride through Big Desert.

Contact John Blaikie on 0421 634335 for further details.

Committee 2018-2019

All positions fall vacant at the AGM on Monday May 7, 2018, anyone wanting to become part of the vibrant team that keeps the club running is more than welcome to contact any of the following committee members and find out what it is about. There will be vacancies at this AGM for new committee members, so it's a great opportunity.

President,	Brian Jones	0400 345 390
Vice President,	John Blaikie	0421 634 335
Booking Manager,	Adrian Healy	0417 568 523
Treasurer,	Tania Allatt	0409 492 610
Secretary,	Robyn Garrett	03 9738 0767
Assistant Secretary,	Harry Hayes	0417 312 832

Committee Members:

Mike Turner	0419 576 712
Mandy Finegan	0403 324 055
Bek Gunther	0439 773 877
Lewis Rapley-Smith	0435 519 721
Jeff Maher	0419 746 411

Changed your email address

If you have changed your email please include the new one on the membership renewal form. Email is our preferred method of contact however this March newsletter is sent to all members' postal address.

The Plug page

Check our website to support our members and their business (www.vpski.com/Links/index.html) Please contact the committee if you would like your business to be linked to from our website.

Local activities

☐ **Mansfield** - www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/

Chances are when you plan a weekend at the Lodge there will be something happening in Mansfield. If you want to keep up to date with "What's On in Mansfield" Try this website it may help you plan your next visit.

Merrijig

Keep abreast of What's happening in Merrijig with the Merrijig Community Newsletter. Available as its supplied and posted on our website, newsletter page. Local events and news.

☐ **Mt Buller** - www.mtbuller.com.au/

In Summer walk, hike run and bike

In Winter Ski, snowboard and latte – keep up to date on the Mt Buller website

Lodge Booking procedure and information for members and guests

Before you book please work out how many double & / or single beds you require, and how flexible your preferences are. You can complete the online booking request at any time via the web site links.

Online booking - use the link from the accommodation page



Step 1. Check Bed Availability via our Calendar link

(This calendar is designed to help you plan your stay at the lodge, confirmation is still required from the Booking Manager)

Step 2. "Submit your booking request" via the link and supply details to all relevant questions.

Step 3. The Booking Manager will confirm your booking.

Remember the Booking Manager is a voluntary position and the phones are not manned 24 hours a day.

PAYMENT METHODS

1. Cheque made out to the Victoria Police Alpine Club.(post to: Booking Manager, VPAC, 1 Moodie Place, St Kilda 3182 or P.O. Box 33, Blackburn South 3130)
2. Direct deposit to our co-op account (as advised on booking invoice)
3. Direct BSB deposit from another bank (Ask as advised on booking invoice)

If you do a Bank transfer please include a reference as follows

Name / date of accommodation e.g. Blaikie 04-04-2015

PLEASE NOTE

- Bed allocation is booked as tentative until the Booking Officer receives payment. **Payment for bookings is required within two weeks of making the booking** or if made at short notice less than two weeks from date of stay, then payment is required immediately.
- Names of **all persons attending** Lodge are to be given to the Booking Manager at the time the booking is made.
- 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.

Lodge rooms

There are eight rooms in the lodge configured as follows. There are not guarantees that you will get the rooms you request, as it is at the discretion of the Booking Manager when fitting bookings into the lodge. Your allocated room may change between your booking and arrival and will be recorded on the allocation sheet at the lodge – however, it is worth visiting the website booking calendar to check before you leave home.

Room 1 – 4 single bunks

Room 2 – 2 double bunks

Room 3 - 2 double bunks

Room 4 – 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

Room 5 – 2 single bunks

Room 6 - 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

Room 7 – 1 queen bed

Room 8 - 2 double bunks and 2 single bunks

******IMPORTANT GUEST REQUIREMENTS******

The Victoria Police Alpine Club is run by volunteers and provides extremely cheap accommodation for our guests. Many hours are devoted freely to the upkeep of our premises by just a handful of members. We are not a serviced hotel or apartment and unfortunately not everyone leaves the lodge as they find it which has necessitated us employing expensive cleaning services. As such we feel we need to reinforce the following requirements.

In order to keep the accommodation rates down our guests are expected to play their part in keeping the lodge premises clean, tidy and in a condition you would wish to find on your arrival as a guest.

We require our guests to follow these simple guidelines prior to departing.

- Ensure that the bins under the kitchen bench (accessed from outside) are emptied on your departure and the plastic bin liners be replaced from the supply that is kept in the enclosure. Rubbish to be placed in the wheelie bins at the bottom of the drive. All glass, cardboard and plastic to be placed in the recycle wheelie bins on the back veranda of the lodge.
- Empty the waste paper bins in the kitchen and bathrooms and replace the plastic bin liners from the pantry supply when required. Rubbish to be placed in the wheelie bins at the bottom of the drive.
- Sweep the tiled areas of loose dirt and if required mop the tiled areas (including bath-rooms) with the equipment supplied in the laundry.
- Vacuum your room with the vacuum cleaners supplied and stored in the drying room and laundry.
- Turn off all electrical switches (including the kitchen urn) on departure.
- Keep the kitchen area and benches clean and sanitary by wiping them down with the cleaning equipment supplied under the sinks. Ensure you remove all food from fridges upon leaving as there may not be another guest for several days. Ensure nothing was spilled in the fridges.

The lodge is regularly inspected by our caretaker on departure of guests and if the lodge is found to be in a filthy state requiring a cleaner to be employed then this cost will be invoiced to the persons who left it in that condition.

If all our guests adhere to these simple tasks then we can avoid the expensive cleaning costs which we have had to pay in the past. If we have to continue to employ cleaners due to guests leaving the lodge filthy then we will unfortunately increase our rates accordingly.

Don't forget your renewal for 2018 - 2019 (Form attached).

Don't forget if you have children who have turned 18 in the last year they are no longer covered by your family membership. They can become members in their own right, without the joining fee. They need only send in their details and annual payment.

**Please update the following
membership form, make
payment and return**

Renewal of Membership for 2018-2019

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are **due by 1st April 2018**

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

Police / Associate (* circle applicable)

* FAMILY - \$50.00

*** 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: _____

Alt _____

please print
clearly

The VPAC 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 VPAC, 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 under 18yrs

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Birth: _____

- A **fully dependent** child **under 18 years** is included under the family membership

Payment method: (tick applicable)

- ☐ Police Credit - Regular payment form
- ☐ Direct deposit Police Co-op account **901006 s1**
- ☐ Bank transfer **BSB 704 230** Account **100 010 305**
- ☐ Cheque made payable to VPAC.
- ☐ Personal details notification only.

*****NOTE***** If making a direct deposit please ensure you reference your name otherwise it becomes an anonymous deposit.

Please mail this completed form/s to: **VPAC [Inc.]**

PO Box 33

BLACKBURN SOUTH VIC 3130

Annual General Meeting Monday 7th May 2018

8.00pm

Place: The Mulgrave Club,
Corner Wellington Road & Jells Road Wheelers Hill

For apologies please contact any member of the committee

AGENDA :

- Welcome
 - Apologies
 - Minutes from the 2017 – 2018 AGM
 - Business Arising
 - Reports – President, Treasurer, Booking Manager,
 - General Business
 - Special Resolution motion x 2 by Bill Nash (refer last page)
- Election of 2018 – 2019 Committee of Management

Election of Auditor

Nomination for Committee Members
May 2018 – May 2019

I, _____ current member of the V.P.A.C. would like to propose
_____ for a current position on the Committee of
Management of the V.P.A.C. from May 2018 to May 2019.

Signature

Signature (Seconder)



VICTORIA POLICE ALPINE CLUB

Incorporated
ABN 927 949 311 34

P.O. Box 33 Blackburn South. Victoria. 3130
www.vpski.com



Proxy Voting Form

I, _____ being a financial member
of the Victoria Police Alpine Club for the year 2018 – 2019
appoint _____ or in his / her absence,
the chairperson, to be my proxy at the Victoria Police Alpine Club
Annual General Meeting to be convened on the 7th of May 2018
and to vote on my behalf on any Resolution and Election for the
incoming Committee of Management.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Victoria Police Alpine Club

Annual General Meeting 7 May 2018

Notice of Motion

It is my intention to move the following 2 motions at the forthcoming AGM pursuant to section 33.2.b of the constitution:

1. That the Club employs a local contract cleaner to specifically undertake cleaning duties at the Lodge for at least 3 hours each week and that such duties include the periodic cleaning of:
 - (i) All surfaces inside the lodge
 - (ii) The external walls, veranda, rear pavilion and paved or concreted areas surrounding the lodge, and
 - (iv) Windows internal and external
2. That the Club employs the services of a qualified pest exterminator to attend the lodge at least annually (but prior to egg laying season) in order to spray or otherwise control or eliminate spiders internally and externally.

Bill Nash
0419 763 348