



Wombats Run News Letter

May 2020

President's Report: Jeff Maher

Greetings all VPAC members and guests!

It has been an exceptionally busy year for your Committee of Management.

The entire lodge has been painted inside and out. The El fresco area has been updated. The driveway has been resurfaced. New lights are installed inside and out. New fans are installed inside and out. The lounge suite has been recovered and a new floor rug was added to the lounge.

A substantial number of trees have been planted and the Landscaping has commenced.

We assisted the Merrijig Residents Action Group with their request to Vic roads for a reduction to 80 km/hrs. to the Buttercup road turn off.

I would like to sincerely thank Kane and Amanda Lovick for their exceptional care-taking efforts. Many thanks to Andrew Foley and his team at AMF coatings for the great painting.

A REMINDER for members and guests that the speed limit in the driveway to the lodge is strictly 20 kphs.

The Victoria Police Alpine Club lodge is regularly professionally and thoroughly cleaned. Hand wash and paper towelling is supplied. It is member and guests tacit agreement and understanding when making a booking that they are in a shared environment and as such it is their responsibility to make their own additional steps to satisfy themselves of their own health, cleanliness and hygiene habits including regular washing of hands and use of hand sanitiser. Given the current issues, the club committee has ensured that our cleaners disinfect all used surfaces including doorknobs and handles.

We are following the recommendations of the Australian Government Department of Health for accommodation. The below link may be of assistance in assessing your travel and accommodation plans.
[coronavirus-covid-19-information pdf](#)

The VPAC Annual General Meeting was scheduled for Monday the 4th of May 2020, however due to the Corona Virus and restrictions of gatherings, the club committee has decided to postpone the AGM to a date to be fixed and the Committee of Management will run in caretaker mode until an AGM can be scheduled.

Section 30. Para 1 of the clubs constitution allows us to put back the AGM up to five months from the end of the financial year. We will review the possible date once more information is available regarding the ongoing Corona crisis.

Warm Regards and stay safe.
Jeff Maher
President VPAC.

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.

Over the last 12 to 24 months the committee has undertaken the following works.

- Complete gutting and rebuild of kitchen.
- Painting throughout the entire inside and outside of the lodge. (including the carport, water tank and wood shed)
- Resurfacing of entire length of driveway.
- Landscaping which is a current project partially done and waiting for summer to complete.
- Tree planting.
- Replacement of all chair cushions and new upholstery.

If you have any suggestions for improvements please contact the committee via our Feedback page <http://vpski.com/assets/Feedbackform.html> or [Click Here](#) if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Future plans and works in the pipeline.

The committee are continuing to make the surrounds of the lodge more attractive for those that wish to use the grounds. Apart from the well-received Alfresco alongside the wood shed, an art and nature trail is under development around the grounds of the club lodge so as to make use of the huge open space that the lodge sits upon. With five sites situated around the lodge grounds, they will provide a quiet and secluded area where visitors

can either have a picnic or cup of coffee or just sit and enjoy an aspect of the club and beautiful Merrijig countryside that they may not have appreciated.

These five sites will have a range of seating and two art sculptures have been purchased and will be installed by summer. These areas will also be landscaped to provide shrubs and trees to compliment the areas. The project allows for additional pieces of art or furniture to be installed in the future. It will also have provisions for a fire pit that will be installed and can be utilised during the winter (ski) season June - September. Unfortunately due to the dry summers and extremely high fire risk of this region, the pit will be removed and will not be used outside of these winter months. It is envisaged that once complete there will be an official opening and suggestions are canvassed for a possible name for the walk. One suggestion so far is the "Mick Millar reflection walk" Let the controversy begin.

The rationale behind the nature trail is to

- Reflect that the lodge is not just an accommodation building but a place where members can come to enjoy the amenities of Mansfield and the surrounding area.
- Enjoy the surrounding views and beauty from the lodge and appreciate the wide open spaces and grounds.
- Recharge the batteries, slow down a little and retouch our souls.
- Finally at the risk of being tautological- for those under work pressure the provision of a safe place to draw breath and refocus with new plans of action and direction.

Given the current environment we are all experiencing, the above points are all the more relevant than ever.

New upholstery and cushions.

Well done to our committee member Allison Mitchell for the work involved in sourcing the new cushion foam, upholstery and sewing it all together. They have come up a treat.



Our seasonal flooding

Last week our bridge was once again overtaken by a huge downpour completely flooding our drive and locking in our neighbours Katherine and Peter for most of the day. Unfortunately this larger than usual flood totally removed 15 centimetres of road base. Our neighbours Laurie and Louise stated that whilst this occurs once every couple of years this was the highest they had seen in memory. Works have already been implemented to rectify the situation in a more permanent way to prevent any further flooding from damaging our road.



Early snow at Bulla

Last week saw a massive snow dump on all the Alpine mountains. Mt Bulla was not left out of this hopefully being a good omen for a excellent ski season for when Covid restrictions are lifted.





After “Covid” 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 –

At this stage the annual General Meeting has been postponed due to the Covid restrictions. When the restrictions are lifted to an extent that allows us to have the meeting a date will be fixed and all members notified with greater than a month's notification. It is anticipated that the AGM will be held at the usual venue of the Mulgrave club corner of Wellington Road and Jells Road Mulgrave.



After Season working bees and general maintenance dates to be advised once the Covid restrictions are lifted. Check web site once restrictions are lifted for all relevant dates.

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' via email and your 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.

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 2020 - 2021

Renew your membership or apply for a new membership online.

Go to our home page at www.vpski.com or [Click Here](#) to go directly to our renewal form..

In the bottom right corner of the home page you will see the link to renew online. Alternatively we have also included in this newsletter the regular renewal page.

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.

Renewal of Membership for 2020-2021

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are **due by 1 April 2020**

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)

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Pls. complete all areas to update our records)

Telephone: _____ Bus. _____ Mob. _____

Priv. _____ Priv. _____

Email:

please print
clearly

Alt

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