

#### Wombats Run News Letter

Winter greetings club members. The 2012 winter season is giving us excellent snow and superb skiing conditions. The club has just conducted its annual 4x4 snow hunt trip with lots of the cold white stuff to play in. There a few pictures of this further in the newsletter. On the activity note the club also conducted its annual camping trip to Lake Albacutya over the Queens birthday weekend in June which once again had an excellent turn out. This weekend really caters for the kids and they have an excellent time not to mention the big kids who also get to allow the inner kid out for the weekend. There are also some pictures of this trip further along in the newsletter.

The club AGM was held again on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at the Wheelers Hill International due to incomplete renovations at our preferred venue. All positions were declared vacant and a slight reshuffle of portfolios transpired with our long term Treasurer Adrian Healy now taking over the reins as our new booking Officer. Our previous Booking Officers, Tom Grambau with great assistance from his wife Cheryl have stepped down to concentrate fully on their own business. I take this opportunity to once again thank Tom and Cheryl for all their hard work over the years. The Booking Officers job is quite intensive and at time frustrating trying to accommodate constantly changing booking requests. I wish Adrian Healy good luck with his new role. Taking over from Adrian as Treasurer is Tania Allatt who I also wish all the best in her new portfolio.

Our long term Caretaker Dee Millott has decided to sell up and move to Mansfield. Our new Caretakers (Maureen and Greg Williams) have long time experience looking after lodges in the local area and fortunately reside within sight of our lodge. If you happen to run into them on their rounds please make them welcome.

I will leave you with the Presidents report tended at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

John Blaikie Club President

### August 2012

Presidents message

Presidents A.G.M Report

Editors report

News Flash

Dates to remember

Dee Millott Moving House

Club Function Pictures

Important Booking Information

The New Committee

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The Plug Pages

#### AGM May 2012, Presidents Report

Once again I have the pleasure of delivering a positive report for the Victoria Police Alpine Club. Memberships have further increased from last year with an increase to 212 recorded for this financial year. The ongoing use and patronage of the lodge is at a level that will ensure the club and its facilities can be maintained to an excellent standard for the foreseeable future.

The club over the last 12 months has conducted several individual weekends catering for four wheel drive trips, trail bike weekends and a four day camping weekend at Lake Albacutya situated in the Wyperfeld National Park. The club once again sponsored a table at the Police Amateur Sports and Welfare Society Sports Award night. Our attendance at this event helps support the Society and other clubs and is also taken into account as to the grant we receive every year from the Society. These events have all been well patronised and have proved to be very popular. Unfortunately the clubs working bees are very poorly represented by the membership with only one or two club members attending to assist the regular committee members. As highlighted in my report last year we request that members try to attend one working bee a year as the upkeep of the lodge is a full time job and volunteers help reduce the unnecessary costs incurred when employing contractors

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of September last year a further payment to Building fund members was made leaving one more payment to complete the payback in full. It is hoped that this will be completed during this financial year allowing the building fund members to access the entitlements as prescribed in the loan agreement. As reported last year the ongoing renovations had finally been completed and were receiving much praise. This praise has continued with numerous comments on the high standard that the new bathrooms have provided. This high standard has most certainly been one of the influencing factors in the high membership of the club and the continued high accommodation rate from non-members and conferences

Last year I mentioned in my report that the 4.5 kilowatt solar power system that we had installed at the club went on line in February 2011. We have now had over 12 months to gauge its effectiveness against our previous year's power consumption. I am pleased to report that the system appears to be performing well with our last two power statements giving our account a credit of \$536 and then \$1,106 respectively.

We have increased the price of accommodation this year to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June being the commencement of the winter season. This price rise is approximately \$2.00 across the board of all accommodation fees or \$5.00 on a family booking. Whilst this price rise is trifling on an individual basis, over the total of the year, this will greatly assist in the costs associated with our cleaning and ground maintenance which have increased considerably over the last few years.

The web site is an invaluable asset to the club with its use extremely high by members and prospective users with the majority of bookings coming via the online booking service. The web site has had 27,400 visits since its inception with the accommodation page and bookings service receiving 22,100 visits. We are planning a long overdue upgrade of the web site in the new financial year which will make it more user friendly and easier to view and use on smart phones and smaller screen devices. It is also anticipated shortly the club will have the ability to allow members to pay their subs or accommodation fees by credit card via the online booking page on our web site further streamlining the process. I spoke last year regarding the revision of the booking time frames for members of the club versus non-members to make it fairer on club members. This change appears to be working well and gives club members a full month longer to book in advance. The guidelines have been clearly highlighted on the booking page of the clubs web site.

As mentioned in the last newsletter our booking officer Tom Grambau is stepping down. Tom and his lovely wife Cheryl have performed an admirable job handling the bookings over the last few years and we thank them all for their dedication over this period. The bookings require an infinite amount of patience and people skills plus the ability to be available at the nominated times. Tom and Cheryl's previous experience running a large accommodation residence in country Victoria proved a most valuable asset.

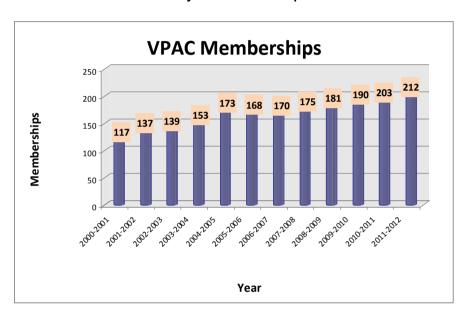
The club is currently also undergoing a change of caretakers due to our present caretaker Dee Millott selling her property and advising us of her intention to move into Mansfield. This month has seen a new caretaker employed on a trial basis who resides only a few minutes from the lodge.

In conclusion I wish to thank all my fellow committee members for their dedication and continued support, my wife Pam, Adrian Healy, Bill Nash, Robyn Garrett, Geoff Alway, Tom Grambau, Greg Johnson, Mike Turner, Harry Hayes, Dave Mendes and Steve Tate. I also thank our unofficial committee members who were always there helping, Cheryl Grambau and Tania Allatt.

John Blaikie Club President

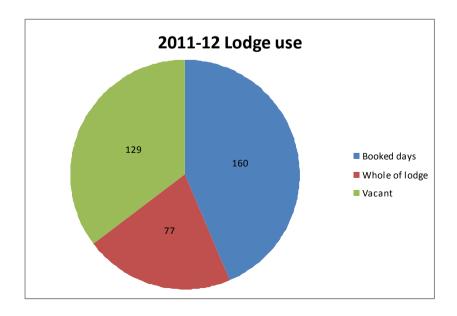
#### **Snapshot of 2011-2012**

Membership has grown over the past years. (A family is recorded as one membership for the purpose of membership statistics) Currently approximately 450 persons are covered by membership status.



### Below the chart shows comparison of lodge occupation

- 160 Booked days (when there is a minimum of 1 room booked)
- 77 Whole of Lodge bookings (where the lodge has been booked completely or for a function)
- 129 Days Vacant. (no bookings)



#### **Editorial Opportunity!**

Another newsletter hits the press, and having been editor of the newsletter for several years now I would like to extend an invitation to any of our younger members who may be interested in taking over the reins of the newsletter. We may have some budding young journalists out there would be interested or any other club member. You don't have to be a member of the committee, just be prepared to stay in touch and I am more than happy to help. A great opportunity if this is an area of interest and of course always a feather in your CV.

I hope there is a member out there who is interested and would be happy to chat about this prospect.

Email: pamjohn11@iinet.net.au

Pam Blaikie

# Don't slip through the cracks! 2012 - 2013 Renewals -

Have you paid your club membership for this year?

If you've forgotten! Please get your payment through to us asap!

If there are changes to your details please advise either by email or the form at the end of this newsletter.

#### Dates to Remember 2012



### **General working bees:**

### Saturday 19& Sunday 20 October

### Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 November

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, how about booking into one of our working bees this year, meet some new friends and you get FREE accommodation and a FEED on Saturday night. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Book now: Accommodation free with a BBQ dinner supplied on Saturday night.



**Trail Bike Ride to Jamieson** 

TBA
Watch the website for a later date





# **New Neighbours**

Dee our wonderful neighbour is moving to Mansfield. We wish her health and happiness in the big smoke and will see her around the coffee shop I am sure!

Welcome to our new neighbours. We hope that our friendships and goodwill continue.

### **Wood Working Bee 2012**

The wood collect working bee was held mid May and a small but reliable group of members turned up. A huge collect of 13 trailers of wood were delivered back to the lodge by our inhouse lumberjacks, split by the Hayes and Fisher team and then stacked by the stackers in the garage.

Although this seems like an awesome amount of wood, we will all be out there again next year.

In the evening we all tucked down to a BBQ selection of goodies, salad and chips followed by sticky date pudding and ice cream.

See what you missed. Come along the next working bee – the food is fantastic!



Even the spirits weren't dampened when one tired worker mistook the caramel sauce for gravy!!

Not a new taste sensation!

Or

Master chef here I come!



# Good things come to those who wait!

After 5 years of searching, the annual VPAC 4WD snow hunt finally struck gold! After a week of real high country winter, and 48 hours of rain (!!!) our convoy on intrepid explorers set out - in search of the white stuff. They were admirably rewarded on the journey up to and across the top of the aptly named Mt. Terrible. Horrible to get to normally, and absolutely terrible in the wet!





After an open fire to warm up the hands and gen y lunch (pies from the 12v car oven!) to warm up the belly it was off again for the journey back to the lodge. Including a small river crossing on the way back, everyone had a ball!



#### The Queens Birthday Lake Albacutya Club Camping Trip

June once again saw a group of club members take the long drive up to the Wyperfeld National Park near Rainbow for 4 days of camping, trail bike, 4x4 driving and general kickback / relaxation and let your hair down activities. Here are some snaps of this great weekend.



#### Left

Mike Turner and Kirby Krstonosic.

Kirby relaxing after a ride around the Lake.

#### Below.

Vanya Krstonosic takes Tealah Morrisey for her very first bike lesson. The advantage of having some kids bikes to play on.



Tent & Camper city





Above.....The kids get set for a ride around the Lake



#### Left

Kirby explains the finer points of jumping 13 London Double Decker Buses to Jack Johnson who is pretending he already knows how.

Right

Some very curious Roos



### **Booking information**

**Preferred Booking method**: Online: <a href="https://www.vpski.com">www.vpski.com</a>(Booking form available)

Booking Officers: Adrian Healey Telephone: 0417 568523

Booking times are Tuesday & Thursday 6.30pm-9.30pm

(Please note this is a voluntary position and it may be necessary to leave a message)

Winter		Summer	
1 <sup>st</sup> June - 30 <sup>th</sup> September		1 <sup>st</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	
Club Members		Club Members	
Bookings 3 months in advance*		Bookings 3 months in advance*	
Weekday	Weekend		
Sunday-Thursday	Friday-Saturday	\$15 (everyday)	
		\$50 family rate*	
\$16	\$20	*For one room only, families exceeding one room,	
		will pay extra at individual rates	

<sup>\*</sup>Foundation members may book 4 months in advance

Guests Bookings 2 months in advance		Guests Bookings 2 months in advance	
Weekday Sunday-Thursday	Weekend Friday-Saturday	\$25 (everyday)	
\$30	\$35	\$70 family rate*  *For one room only, families exceeding one room,  will pay extra at individual rates	

### Whole of LodgeExclusive Bookings

If you want to book the lodge **exclusively** the following **minimum**costs apply.

**Summer**\$575 per night up to 23 persons, plus \$25for each additional person above 23 **Winter weekday**\$1020 up to 34 person (every bed) (Sunday to Thursday nights) **Winter weekend**\$1190 up to 34 persons (every bed) (Friday & Saturday nights)

#### Important Family Booking Guidelines.

A family booking can only be made for the exclusive use of one room. If you require beds that exceed the capacity of a room then individual rates for each extra person apply at the appropriate member or guest rate.

#### Family definition

A family are those persons under 18 yrs of age that appear on your Medicare card or those you have nominated as family on your current family club membership form.

#### \*\*\*IMPORTANT PAYMENT ADVICE\*\*\*

The club has in the past received on occasion's large bookings during popular long weekends. These bookings have then at the last moment been cancelled. This has in effect prevented other members of the club from using these popular long weekends. This is unfair on those club members as it is very hard to organise trips to the club on one or two days' notice. As such 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 requesting accommodation.

If you are making bookings for multiple persons, it is your responsibility to make the booking payment as a lump sum covering the entire booking. The club will not chase up individual guest payments on your behalf.

Please note that receipts will only be issued on request.

#### **Booking procedure**

**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 officer)

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

**Step 3**. The booking officer will confirm your booking.

Remember the booking officer 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 Officer, VPAC, P.O. Box 33, Blackburn South 3130*)
- 2. Direct deposit to our co-op account (Ask Booking Officer at time of booking for account details)
- 3. Direct BSB deposit from another bank (Ask Booking Officer at time of booking for account details)

If you do a Bank transfer please include a reference as follows Name / date of accommodation e.g. Blaikie 04-04-2012

#### **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 Officer 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.

# 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

- 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

#### **Cleaning**

Vacuum your room; wipe benches, especially bathrooms and toilets and take out the rubbish. If you have been at the lodge with a large group, ensure everyone pitches in and the place will be clean in no time.

Often there will be a group following the next day and the lodge is not "serviced" every day by a cleaner. This year our cleaning costs have skyrocketed and although we have cleaners come in on a demand basis, this can still cost us \$180 a visit.

#### **Rubbish and Recycle**

The council has provided recycling bins, so members and guests are reminded to put out your recyclable bottles, cans and plastics in the bins.

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. Often it can be a few days until the next guests and the bins get nasty guickly, so please REMEMBER your rubbish.

#### **The Committee 2012-2013**

President John Blaikie Wk. 9871 4119 Mob 0421 634 335	Vice President Geoff Alway 9887 9798	Treasurer Tania Allatt Mob 0409 492610	Booking Officer Adrian Healy 0417 568523
Secretary Robyn Garrett 9738 0767	Assistant Secretary Harry Hayes 0417 312832	News Letter Editor Pam Blaikie Wk. 03 99055377 Mob 0412 562340	Work Master Bill Nash 0419 763348
Club Captain Greg Johnson 0431 327334	Committee Member Dave Mendes 0457 555145	Committee Member Steve Tate 0432 683591	Committee Member Mike Turner 0419 576712

### \*\*\*\*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 bathrooms) 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 inspected by our caretaker on departure of guests and if the lodge is found to be in a filthy state requiring a cleaner to 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.

John Blaikie Club President

# **Membership Renewal Reminders**

In case some of you have missed your membership renewals we have included a renewal notice in the newsletter. If you decide to stay at the lodge and are not current financial members you will miss out on the significant savings over the guest membership rates.

# Renewal of Membership for 2012-2013

Club members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

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

Address:			
		(Pls. complete	all areas to update our records)
Telephone:	Priv.	Bus. Mo	ob.
Email:	Priv.		
Lillalli	Alt		Email
body/members	without the individua	acy and will not divulge personal details including al's consent. E-mails to members will be forwarded	BCC (blind carbon copy) so no
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MPORTAN <sup>*</sup>	<b>T:</b> All Family mer	mberships must complete the following:	
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PO Box 33

**BLACKBURN SOUTH VIC 3130** 

### Kerrie Laing, Tel. Email: Klaing@Lucidity.biz / Web: www.lucidity.net.au





Club member Tanya Johnson can assist with all your parts requirements at PAJA Automotive.

Call their National Call Centre on 1300 55 90 86 for immediate service and excellent advice. Australia's largest range of steering & suspension featuring O.E.M. Products and Japanese '555'



**Harvey World Elsternwick** would like to offer a discount to all members

of Victoria Police and all current members of the Victoria Police Alpine Club.

Please call Renea Gilles on mobile 0421278367 After hours calls welcome

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1073 Telegraph Road Sailors Falls, Victoria Australia 3460

They are offering V.P.S.C. & members of the Police Force generous discounts including.

- Stay two nights get the 3rd free
- \* 20% discount mid-week
- \* 10% discount on weekends/holidays
  - Free bottle of wine with 2 night stays

Contact details as follows or check the link on the club web site.

**Phone:** 03 5348 6626, 03 9370 8813. Estate **Mobile:** 0418 374854 or Daylesford Information Centre 5348 1339

**Email:** sailorsfallsestate@bigpond.com Web site www.sailorsfallsestate.com.au

Club member Cameron Grambau has a one stop shop for all your two way radio needs. His web site also caters for 24 hour on line purchases.

#### www.twoway-radio.com.au



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wedding-ceremony@hotmail.com Web site

www.wedding-ceremony.com.au



Club Member Doug McPhie has an Office Supply business in Wangaratta. This business caters for all your office and business needs. Items available range through, Canteen, Janitorial & OHS, Print & Promotion, Furniture, Office Technology, Warehouse & Packaging and much more.

Doug is offering members government pricing less a further 5% and can also set up an account that allows members to order direct from him at the above pricing.

Follow the link for a full list.

#### www.monapetofficenational.com.au

Doug can be contacted via Monapet Office National Rear 45-49 Reid Street, Wangaratta, 3677 Wangaratta VIC 3677

Phone: 03 5721 4489 Fax: 03 5721 7045

Email monapet@westnet.com.au