



# Echo from the Mountains

Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc – A0043804Y

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Committee .....1  
 Huts Maintenance Group.....1  
 New Federation and Michell Huts.....2-3  
 Contributions Welcome.....3  
 Copyright Information .....4  
 Protecting our cultural heritage.....4  
 Contacting Us .....4  
 Merchandise .....4

## FROM THE COMMITTEE...

Welcome to the first edition of *Echo from the Mountains* for 2005. The VHCHA was formed two years ago with a very clear mission **to care for high country huts that still exist and any future huts that may be rebuilt.**

How would we do this?

- Conduct a comprehensive inventory (data base) of hut status in National Parks and on State land, primarily in the bushfire affected areas, and then in non affected areas.
- Lobby stakeholders to have damaged huts repaired, and replace burnt huts that are in strategic safe havens.
- Obtain the appropriate authority to maintain, repair, and rebuild huts as may be required.

Since January 2003 we have notched up many achievements with Horsehair and McNamara’s hut rebuilds, the construction of the Roughriders Hut at Omeo, the tremendous effort being put in by HMOs to locate huts, assess their condition and commence clean-up and maintenance programs and one of the biggest jobs of all – the huts database. In the hands of Fiona the database has had major contributions from Dianne and Roger Sievwright, support from Barry Hazeldine and his team of HMOs and DSE & ParksVic. The importance of the database cannot be underestimated – it is a detailed list of the assets (huts) our association was formed to protect and preserve.

A great deal has been happening and the Committee is working hard to put in place a long-term maintenance program to ensure plenty of jobs each summer for members.

## HUTS MAINTENANCE GROUP

| Huts Maintenance Coordinator:<br>Barry Hazeldine<br>Ph: 02 6020 8595 OR 0407 109 950<br>Email: BARRY.G.H@bigpond.com.au |  |
|---|--|
| Area  | Huts Maintenance Officer   |
| 1   | HMO Wanted   |
| 2   | HMO Wanted   |
| 3   | HMO Wanted   |
| 4 & 5   | Mick Vanderzalm<br>Ph: 0429 024 445 mickv@net-tech.com.au                |
| 6   | Darren McRae<br>Ph: 0409 513 549 darrenm@the-shed.net                    |
| 7A & 7B   | David Sisson<br>H Ph & Fax 03 9380 8126                                  |
| 8   | HMO Wanted   |
| 9A  | Fiona & Lee Magnussen<br>Ph: 0427 596 554<br>fiona.magnussen@bigpond.com |
| 9B  | Bob Johnstone<br>Ph: 02 6056 9491 or 0417 680 758<br>bobj@bigpond.net.au |
| 10  | HMO Wanted   |
| 11  | HMO Wanted   |
| <b>HMO WANTED - IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING UP ONE OF THE VACANT AREAS PLEASE CONTACT BARRY HAZELDINE</b>           |  |



Huts Maintenance Coordinator Barry Hazeldine, foundation member of VHCHA, and a member of North East Freemasons Task Force. Barry has many years experience repairing, re-building and maintaining the huts of the high country.



## New Federation and Michell Huts

Federation Hut near Mt Feathertop and Michell Hut near Mt Bogong are now complete to ensure that people enjoying walking in the Alps over the summer walking period have the backup of adequate refuge in the event of an emergency or extreme weather.

The rebuilding has entailed a comprehensive assessment and design process that was detailed in the December 2004 edition of *Echo from the Mountains*. Following the completion of the design phase, Parks Victoria engaged via public tender, the accredited and experienced contractor Period Restoration Services located at Stanley, to prefabricate, transport and erect the huts.

Prior to the huts being flown to their mountain sites by helicopter, both huts were partially assembled off-site during November 2004 and inspected to ensure the prefabricated huts met project standards and guidelines. They were then dismantled again to await transportation.



**Trial assemblies at Stanley of federation Hut (left) and Michell Hut (right).**

Photo: Parks Victoria

Transportation of the hut components to hut sites by helicopter had to wait until early December 2004, when the snow had melted and weather conditions were favourable. In an intense one-day operation, a helicopter was used to airlift the components to the remote hut sites.



**Above: Helicopter at Mt Loch carpark with destination (Mt Feathertop) in background.** Photo: R.Skinner



**Right: Helicopter loading up with Federation Hut components at Mt Lock carpark.** Photo: R. Skinner



Following the delivery, skilled tradespersons from Period Restoration Services quickly began the work of assembling the transported components. Federation Hut was the first hut to be completely assembled on the former hut site on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

A final inspection followed the next week, by the project architect Ms Tonique Bolt (Underwood & Bolt Pty Ltd), local council building surveyor and Parks Victoria ranger Enzo Brotto. With Federation Hut complete to assist bushwalkers in times of need, the work focus switched to Mitchell Hut.



**The newly completed Federation Hut December 2004.**

Photo: Parks Victoria



**The newly completed Mitchell Hut, January 2005.** Photo: Parks Victoria

Michell Hut is of a similar design to Federation but slightly smaller. Construction of Michell Hut began in late December 2004 and was completed by mid January 2005. The completion of Michell Hut sees the finalisation of this Parks Victoria Bushfire Recovery Project that was a major achievement in strategy implementation and stakeholder consultation. The project was managed by Parks Victoria's Major Projects Branch, headed by Bob McGrath.

**Although the huts are now complete, please remember that their primary purpose is for refuge and emergency shelter. Visitors therefore, should always be self sufficient in the alpine environment and prepared for rapidly changing conditions.**

Our thanks to Sue Williames, Bushfire Recovery Communications Officer, Parks Victoria for putting together this story for *Echo from the Mountains*.

For further information contact Sue on 03 5172 2196.

### **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

The committee welcomes contributions to *Echo from the Mountains*.

Please send your stories and photos to the Editor, Paula Tomsett,

Email: [paula@lynxgroup.com.au](mailto:paula@lynxgroup.com.au) OR post to P O Box 216 Blackburn VIC 3130

Paula can also be contacted by Ph: 03 9840 2595 or 0412 044 814 and Fax: 03 9840 2594



## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

...for happy snappers and serious photographers alike.

For photographs taken **before 1 May 1969**, the period of copyright protection is 50 years from end of year they were taken.

For photographs (and films) taken **on or after 1 May 1969**, the period is 50 years from end of year of first publication. Protection is indefinite if the photograph has not been published.

"In this context, something is "published" if copies have been made available to the general public, whether by way of sale or otherwise."

"From 1 January 2005, the period of protection for any material still in copyright on that date will, as a result of the Free Trade Agreement, generally be extended. From that date, the period of 70 years, not 50, will be used to calculate the remaining period of copyright after the triggering event for the "copyright count down" (for example, by the death of the creator or by publication of the material – that is, by making copies available to the public)."

"On that same date, duration of copyright in photographs will generally be covered by the same rule as applies for other artistic works (that is, from 1 January 2005, for the life of the photographer plus 70 years)."

"Lastly, note that the amendments resulting from the Free Trade Agreement do not revive copyright in any material (including photographs) if the copyright in that material had expired under the current rules before 1 January 2005."

This information is taken from *Information Sheet G23, Duration*, August 2004, available from the Australian Copyright Council website [www.copyright.org.au](http://www.copyright.org.au).

### Protecting our cultural heritage PARKS VIC ANNUAL REPORT

For the Second Year running we scored a mention in the Parks Victoria Annual Report Summary 2003/04 under "Protecting our cultural heritage...."

A highlight of European cultural heritage works during the year was the reconstruction of McNamara's historic high country hut in partnership with the Victorian High Country Huts Association and Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre."

## CONTACTING US

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Visit our website: [www.vhcha.org.au](http://www.vhcha.org.au)



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## VHCHA MERCHANDISE

Two Committee members, Greg Love and Lee Magnussen, have taken on the task of looking after the VHCHA merchandise – selling, re-stocking, displays at events, etc. The items incorporate the VHCHA logo and are all quality items.

For information about purchasing any of the items see our website, [www.vhcha.org.au](http://www.vhcha.org.au) or phone 0428 591 964. Please note, we have limited sizes, and delivery of those sizes not in stock may take up to six weeks.



|                              |      |          |
|------------------------------|------|----------|
| Caps (baseball style)        | \$15 | One size |
| Short sleeved polo shirts    | \$35 | XS-3XL   |
| Cotton long sleeved shirts   | \$45 | S-2XL    |
| Vests (red or yellow lining) | \$55 | XS-3XL   |