



Echo from the Mountains

Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc – A0043804Y

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IN THIS ISSUE



New Committee.....	1
AGM Report	1
Huts Maintenance Group	2
HMO Profile-Mick Vanderzalm.....	2
What's On.....	3
What's for Sale.....	4
Contacting Us.....	4

AGM REPORT

Sat. 5th Nov. 2005

Almost 30 members made the trek to Omeo for the third annual general meeting of the VHCHA, held on Saturday 5 November 2005 at the Golden Age Hotel in Omeo.

The committee members and HMOs present gave reports on the various activities undertaken during the year. A great deal of work has been done by the committee to enable hut maintenance activities to get underway. Boundaries for each Hut Maintenance Officer (HMO) have been drawn and huts in each area listed with a map of the boundaries circulated to all members with the Newsletter. HMOs are still finding huts that are not listed.

The VHCHA has been fortunate to receive a grant from Parks Victoria used to purchase log books and log book holders to be installed in huts and two first aid kits to be taken on work parties. There will be further grants over the next three years.

Interpretation Boards produced by Parks Victoria with VHCHA input are to be placed at six sites of huts destroyed in the 2003 fires and six at existing huts. These signs will be installed this summer.

All the HMOs have been busy assessing huts in their areas and specific work parties were organised by HMOs Bob Johnstone and Mick Vanderzalm. Significant work was done on CRB Hut Dinner Plain (HMO's Lee & Fiona Magnussen), as well as other maintenance and clean-ups at Horsehair and Fry's huts.

Federation and Michell huts were replaced by Parks Victoria and officially opened by Minister Thwaites in June, and a framed photograph of McNamara's Hut, Buckety Plain, rebuilt by VHCHA, was presented to him.

Dianne Carroll told members she would not be nominating for the committee but that she was proud to be one of the founders of VHCHA. Members thanked Dianne for her enormous contribution in establishing the VHCHA.

Peter Jenkins from ParksVic gave a presentation on plans for the future and our after dinner speaker was Ian Stapleton, founder of the Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre and author of Hairy Chested History.

NEW COMMITTEE

The new Committee installed at the AGM met immediately after the AGM to consider portfolios and a number of issues facing the VHCHA.

President	Fiona Magnussen
Vice President	Paula Tomsett
Treasurer	Sue Manneken
Secretary	David Oldfield

Ordinary Committee Members

Lee Magnussen
 Mike Shaw
 Greg Love
 Bob Johnstone
 Ken & Vicky Birch
 David Sisson



Rear l-r: Mike, Paula, Lee, Ken, Vicky & David S.
 Front l-r: David O., Fiona & Sue. Inset Greg.



HUT MAINTENANCE GROUP

The huts maintenance group is currently without a Coordinator with the recent decision by Barry Hazeldine to concentrate on family and other commitments. Barry remains a strong supporter of the huts and

will continue to work with the VHCHA through the North Eastern Task Force. We thank Barry for his efforts in the formative years of our association.

While we are looking for a new HMC the committee will work closely with HMOs to coordinate and promote maintenance activities this summer.

HMO PROFILE MICK VANDERZALM

Areas 4 Licola and 5 Baw Baw are the domain of Mick Vanderzalm, a founding HMO with the VHCHA.

Mick grew up in the Traralgon region where he still lives with his wife Lynne and son Jarrod – only 6 years old and he has already been to several huts maintenance weekends.

Mick is a Worksafe inspector for agricultural activities, and has a solid rural background and handy-man skills.



His Dad was a bit of a gold prospector and used to take him on camping and 4WD trips into the Licola area where he became interested in the huts and their history.

When asked what his motivation was for taking on the role of HMO for such a big area (80 huts including 10 more he has found which were not on any list), he said "Dianne Carroll asked me and since I have a little knowledge of local history and the area and would like to see the huts preserved it seemed like a good idea."

Mick has attended several work weekends in other regions – the Horsehair Hut re-build, the Rough Rider Hut project in Omeo and has enlisted the support of his good mate Leo in huts activities in his area and others. Leo was at the AGM in Omeo.

Definitely a pair of dedicated "hutties" and we thank Mick for his passion and enthusiasm for the huts.

Huts Maintenance Coordinator: POSITION VACANT	
Area	Huts Maintenance Officer
1 & 3: East Gippsland & Dargo	Damian Crozier Ph: 03 5152 3147 motley70@ozemail.com.au
2: Nunniong	Michelle Shaw Ph: 03 5159 4246 Michelle_J_Shaw@national.com.au
4 & 5: Licola & Baw Baw	Mick Vanderzalm Ph: 0429 024 445 mickv@net-tech.com.au
6: Marysville	HMO Wanted
7A & 7B: Howqua	David Sisson H Ph & Fax 03 9380 8126
8: Barry Mountains	Daryl Owen
9A: Hotham	Fiona & Lee Magnussen Ph: 0427 596 554 fiona.magnussen@bigpond.com
9B: Bogong	Bob Johnstone Ph: 02 6056 9491 or 0417 680 758 bobj@bigpond.net.au
10: Dartmouth	HMO Wanted
11: Davies Plain	Richard Hubbard Ph: 02 6076 1570 hubbards@motherhubbards.com.au
HMOs WANTED - IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A HMO OR WORKING WITH ONE OF OUR EXISTING HMOs PLEASE CONTACT DAVID OLDFIELD	

NOTE: HMO area names are general geographic names only and do not reflect the extent or number of huts in each area. For this information see our website.

At the AGM we also farewelled the role of Huts Maintenance Adviser in the person of Noel Gough who provided invaluable help in setting up our system of HMOs. Thanks Noel.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME
 Send stories and photos to the Editor, Paula Tomsett,
 Email: paula@lynxgroup.com.au Fax: 03 9840 2594
 Post: P O Box 216 Blackburn 3130
 Paula can also be contacted by
 Ph: 03 9840 2595 or 0412 044 814

WE GIVE A HUT!

Yes, its official we care about the huts of the high country and our bumper sticker slogan for 2006 is WE GIVE A HUT! One of many submissions, some colourful and slightly irreverent but all indicators of the positive feelings about our huts. Congratulations to Chris Smolka, a back country skier who said of his win "This is very exciting, the last thing I won was a ski club colouring-in comp!" Your prize is on its way to you.





WHAT'S ON

HERITAGE SKILLS WORKSHOP

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee is conducting a heritage skills workshop from 28-30 March 2006 at Curango in NSW. Victorian members of the VHCHA have been invited to attend. See separate flyer with this newsletter.

SPRING/SUMMER WORKS

Works are planned on the Boggy Creek Hut (DSE) and Cope Hut (ParksVic) this coming Spring/Summer and along with installation of log book holders, interpretation boards and general maintenance/clean-ups there will be plenty to do to keep eager huts aficionados busy. Check out the website for details or contact the local HMOs – see pg 2 for HMO contact details.

FRY'S HOMESTEAD WORK PARTIES - SUMMER 2006

Substantial work needs to be done on Fry's Homestead, near Mansfield to replace rotten posts, stumps, wall plates, galvanised iron sheets (just about every aspect). Detailed planning is at an early stage but the Anzac Day long weekend (by taking the Monday) 22-25 April has been pencilled in for at least some of the work.

Interested members wanting to be kept informed of any short notice working parties before then, please contact Vicky & Ken Birch on:

Ph: 03-97505029

Email: vickyken@optusnet.com.au

CHANGED ADDRESS?

Planning a move or change of address? You are! Then don't miss the next issue of *Echo from the Mountains*...let our Secretary David Oldfield know as soon as possible so that we can update our records. See The Back Page for David's contact details.

OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

Thanks to Klaus Heuneke for his generous donation of \$500 from sales of his book, Huts in the Victorian Alps, and other generous members for their donations - Rob & Rosalie Chmelik, Mike Dore, Cath & Frank Fitzpatrick, and Richard & Rosemary Jenkins.



HALF WAY ROUND THE WORLD TO MEET IN OMEO!

Our newest committee member Ken Birch met Dee Alexander for the first time at the AGM in Omeo on 5 November 2005 – both were born at the Frogmore Nursing Home in Middlesex in the UK. How small a world we live in, it seems a love of our precious heritage (huts) brings people from all walks of life, and past lives, together with a common goal.

CHRISTMAS BBQ

Date: Sunday 18 December 2005

Location: Woodlands Historic Park
(Melway 177 / 178)

Time: 11.30 am for lunch at Somerton
Road Picnic Area (Melway 178 C6)

BYO EVERYTHING

Followed at 2.00 pm by visit to Woodlands Homestead (Melway 177 J9)

Come along and meet your fellow VHCHA members over a relaxing picnic or BBQ lunch. Electric BBQs, tables, water and toilets at the Somerton Road Picnic Area. Then a short drive (or you can walk) to the Homestead which is an example of an 1840s "Kit Home" with similarly ancient out buildings. That's at least 50 years older than our oldest hut, so come and see how it's all made. Meet the "Friends of Woodlands" who will take us on a guided tour and tell us how they go about helping with on-ground work in this Park. Visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au and look for Woodlands Historic Park.

Contact: David Oldfield Ph 03 9747 1411 or email dsoldf@netconnect.com.au

PHOTO WEEKEND

Dates: 11 – 13 March 2006 (Labour Day Weekend)

Location: Bentley Plains Picnic Area

Map: Omeo – Bindi 8423 – N (1:50 000)

Reference: 818 792

Directions: Bruthen – Omeo Road to Ensay, then Little River Road and Bentley Plains Road.

Bring: Everything you need to camp for the weekend. Camera, tripod (optional), batteries, film, spare memory, and photos you have taken of huts or whatever you fancy.

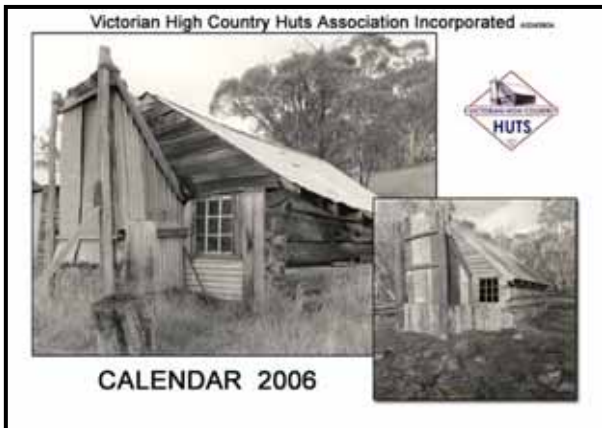
Leader: David Oldfield, 03 9747 1411

There are several huts near Bentley Plains, including Moscow Villa, an ideal location to explore the ways to photograph huts both inside and out, without using flash! Relax with like minded members and friends and share your hut experiences.



THE BACK PAGE

2006 CALENDAR



Sales have exceeded expectations so you need to buy now to ensure you have a copy of the very first calendar produced by the VHCHA. This 2006 Calendar highlights the beautiful black and white photography of David Oldfield and includes ten huts lost in 2003 and two that we have rebuilt.

The 2006 calendar features photographs that have never before been published and as such it is already a collector's item.

The cost is \$10 including \$2.00 for postage and handling – place orders through the website.

VHCHA MERCHANDISE

Credit card facilities (Bankcard, Mastercard and Visacard) are now available.

Committee members in charge of our merchandise are Greg Love and Lee Magnussen. All items for sale are of high quality and incorporate the VHCHA logo.

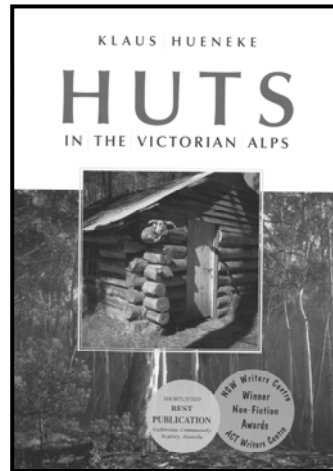


For information about purchasing any of the items see our website, www.vhcha.org.au or phone 0428 591 964. Please note, we have limited sizes, and delivery of those sizes not in stock

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
2006 Calendar	\$10 (incl. P&H)	

THE PERFECT XMAS GIFT



Huts in the Victorian Alps by Klaus Hueneke (RRP \$44.95) is about the people who built the huts and care for them. A hardback book, 256 pages, 180 B&W photos, 7 maps, many poems, a dozen drawings, 14 personal experience essays, references, index. For each

book sold Klaus kindly donates \$1 to the VHCHA, \$1000 has already been donated.

Klaus has a six book special for only \$150.

1. Huts in the Victorian Alps (2003) RRP \$44.95
2. Huts of the High Country (1092, 83, 86, 96, 99, 2003) RRP \$35.00
3. Kosciusko – Where the Ice-Trees Burn (1990) RRP \$29.95
4. Kiandra to Kosciusko (1987, 89) RRP \$35.00
5. One Step at a Time (1999) RRP \$22.95
6. People of the Australian High Country (1994, 98, 2003) RRP \$29.95

TO ORDER books from Klaus add \$7 for 1 book and \$10 for a bigger parcel and send money order or cheque (sorry no credit cards) with your name, address and phone number to TABLETOP PRESS, 2 LAMBELL CLOSE, PALMERSTON ACT 2913.

To arrange a bank transfer contact Klaus by email khueneke@bigpond.com, fax 02 6242 0674 or leave a message on 02 6242 0995.

CONTACTING US

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