



Echo from the Mountains

Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc - A0043804Y

A Quarterly Newsletter Volume 16 Number 4 December 2018

Greetings From The President

We continue!

After our AGM on the 17th November, we have a full team, with myself as President, Stephen Renfree as Vice President, Tim Davies as Secretary, Andrew Higgs as our Treasurer, Wayne Peterken as Huts Maintenance Coordinator, and Janet Skilton continues as Membership Secretary.

With much regret we have Sharyn McGregor stepping down from her Committee and Social Media roles, and Ross Daws from his Committee position. Ross will continue with his role developing and integrating a new database that will support the VHCHA well into the future.

Richard Hubbard once again fills an Ordinary Committee position as does Andy McGregor. I welcome back Shez Tedford to the Committee. You might remember the good work Shez completed in Area 5 just a few short years back.

This coming year has a number of large conservation projects starting. The first of them is Kelly's Hut on Holmes Plain. You can read about the initial work party on Page 2. Progress reports on all our projects will fill future pages so look out for them.

Thank you to all that have contributed through the year, thank you to all that have stepped up once again to continue the great work of the Association, and a big thank you to all our supporters especially our ever-faithful membership. Thank You.

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Allen Skilton



Congratulations To Our Two "Mad Hutter"

After a very short 8 week engagement, Andy McGregor married Sharyn Chambers on the 6th October in a beautiful ceremony at Gap Getaway in McAdams Gap. It was a case of once you make a decision, there's no point in delaying.

The High Country turned on a spectacular day for two of it's greatest fans. Blessed with glorious sunshine and not even a breeze, surrounded by their families, Andy and Sharyn tied the knot in a most appropriate setting for these two "Mad Hutter".

Even on their honeymoon - a cruise around Tasmania and Kangaroo Island - they couldn't help themselves, chasing huts around Cradle Mountain!

Congratulations and very best wishes for a lifetime of adventures from all of us at VHCHA.



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Kelly's Hut - Holmes Plain Conservation Works Begin

After more than two years in planning we have finally started major conservation work on Kelly's Hut, in the Tamboritha Moroka area of the Alpine National Park. This historic hut, built by Connolly and Howlett in 1934 on the then cattle leasehold for Jim Kelly, is now regarded as one of the pre-eminent examples of depression era bush huts. Much of the original hut still remains, from the ceiling, posts, hand hewn wall slabs, and flattened kerosene tins used as cladding on much of the hut.

An inspection by VHCHA and Parks Victoria in 2016 revealed that all the posts on the hut were rotted completely through at the ground level, and the hut had developed a concerning lean to the north and east. It had dropped some 300mm in places from its original height. It was apparent that some urgent action was required to prevent the hut from totally collapsing. As there was no Heritage Action Plan in place for this hut, Parks Victoria engaged consultants to undertake a survey and prepare recommendations. We were all hoping that the hut would survive the 2017 winter, which turned out to be a severe one.

The Geelong 4WD Club stepped up to the plate and committed to the multiple working bees that would be required to complete the work. The club also made a substantial monetary donation towards materials for the hut.

Final planning for the first working bee was begun in early 2018, and the release of the consultant report just this October confirmed the care that would be required while undertaking the work. As with other heritage huts such as Wallace's and MacNamara's, the principles of the Burra Charter are followed. As much of the original fabric was to be retained as possible, any new materials to be minimised, and introduced in sympathy with the existing fabric of the hut. The most urgent priority was to stabilise the main body of the hut by repairing all the supporting posts. This required detailed drawings and plans to be submitted, explaining how we would carefully "scarf" or join new pieces to the original posts. Two initial working bees in November 2018 and January 2019 were set, with others to follow as necessary.



The old post now joined to the new base log

In the background, as with any major project, logistics were planned in great detail between Parks Victoria, VHCHA and the Geelong 4WD Club. We have had great support from Parks Victoria Heyfield for this project, in particular Ranger Wayne Foon, who has put an enormous effort into organising materials and ensuring everything runs smoothly.

We decided to fully cater the initial working bee, held over three days between 30th November and 2nd December. Shez Tedford from the Geelong 4WD did an amazing job with the menu and organising the food. Shez had able assistance from Sue Peterken and Allie Hamann with the cooking at the camp, providing three meals a day for the workers. Let's just say nobody went hungry. Another enormous bonus was being offered the use of a Forest Fire Management permanent camp near the hut, that had accommodation, kitchen and showers.

In all we had about 10 people, including two Parks rangers, Wayne Foon and Bernie Conor, VHCHA HMO Wayne Peterken, and the rest from Geelong 4WD Club. We achieved what we set out to do, that was repair the three main posts on the north wall. This was in no small thanks to the skilled people we had from the Geelong club, including builders, joiners, cabinetmakers etc.

Extraordinary care was taken to mark and document each piece of timber and iron as it was removed. Much of this original material has been removed to safe storage and will be reinstalled when the lifting and straightening of the hut is complete.

The hut currently has a lot of temporary bracing and propping in place. It is open to visitors, but we do ask that you take care, and do not use the hut or light fires in the fireplace for now.

We are hoping to have work completed in mid to late 2019. We will publish a major feature report on the Kelly's Hut work in a future newsletter.



The crew taking a breather. From Geelong 4WD: Shez and Wayne Tedford, Dave and Allie Hamann, Byron Willey, Don Bird, Peter Barrett. VHCHA: Wayne and Sue Peterken. Parks Victoria: Wayne Foon and Bernie Conor

Report: Wayne Peterken

Photos: Shez Tedford

Gooley's Creek Hut At Woods Point Gets a Makeover

Gooley Creek Hut was first constructed in 1974 by miner Bruce Gloz. The site was once the township of Gooley Creek that sprang to life before the nearby Woods Point. During the 1939 fires the town was lost with no building left standing. The hut can be found on Johnson Hill track just inside the Woods Point Gold-Mines Historic Area.

Recently, after months of planning, a team from the East Malvern Motorcycle Club, VHCHA members and Parks Victoria Rangers descended on Gooley Creek Hut to make good some urgent repairs.

The East Malvern Motorcycle Club continues to look out for this building, back in 2002 after the building was destroyed by collapse, the group collected and repaired what was left, returning the building to this site.

First order of the day (after the necessary safety briefings) was to remove the corrugated iron from the roof. We added some additional bracing to support the roof frame thus keeping the delicate structure together as we unfastened and lifted it completely off the building.



We marked the log walls with their special numbering system before we carefully dismantled, cleaned and stored each piece close by. The old chimney was removed, including the massive pile of ash, rocks and bricks.

We took some measurements from the last remaining bottom logs and recorded them for the new footings. With new bottom logs fitted it was just a matter of rebuilding the walls in reverse order, at the same time as keeping an eye on levels and adjusting as we went. Part way up we came across a conundrum with one log that just didn't fit. The numbering was correct and after some head scratching it dawned on us that there was one missing well before our work had started. We suspect that when the building was struck some years ago, the missing log fell out and likely used to keep someone warm one cold and frosty night.

Progress was slow but good through the afternoon. As our shade moved the sun started to zap our energy. The day

finished with the walls up and level, and the roof frame lifted back, fitted and fastened down.

Our rangers spent their day chipping away at post holes so to fit new bollards and with some help from the crew at times and vice versa the team dynamic was faultless, a great sign of commitment to the final goal.



Sunday started with an assessment of where we left off the day before. We had about 15 mm of rain earlier in the morning with the accompanying electrical storm. As we started work the clouds cleared giving us the best start. Some fine tuning to the walls, some additional compacting of post holes, we then turned our attention to the new chimney. With holes dug, the frame levelled and sighted with our structure, I think the term if it looks straight it is straight came to mind. Everyone was excited. Concrete was batched with many hands making light work as the team hand mixed on the ground before pouring the post holes and fire place slab. Roof sheets were put back on and the final sections of flashing applied before the site got a final clean, leaving the building in a much better state moving forward.



There are plans to revisit the site before winter next year to check on how it has settled and to complete any repairs and changes, in the mean time a steel fire place insert will be installed, and the building will be ready for visitors.

Report: Allen Skilton

Photos: Allen Skilton and Bill Copley

Allen Skilton and Andrew Higgs have created a time-lapse video of the Gooley's Hut Restoration. You can view it on YouTube at this link which will also be on the Website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXQ37Kgn39c>

Where Did It Begin For You?

In the June Edition of "Echo" we started a series of introductions to let our members see how we all fell in love with the High Country and the many Huts that we now take great pride in helping to preserve.

Ross Dawes - Huts Database

I am what I guess I'd call an "accidental four wheel driver". My family bought our first four wheel drive after a few years of camping in the family station wagon, and finding ourselves in quite challenging terrain after a spontaneous decision to go look at this waterfall or that landmark. After jeopardising the undercarriage of the station wagon once too often trying to straddle ruts in a little front wheel drive with highway tyres on, I decided it was time to get a more capable vehicle, and so began our journey into four wheel driving.

My love affair with the huts started shortly thereafter. My kids prefer going for a drive if there's a destination we're shooting for, so I pulled out a map for the Marysville area, spotted Keppels Hut on the map, and so off we went. And it was standing there, surrounded by both the aftermath of Black Saturday and the evidence of recovery, that I witnessed first hand the love and dedication that goes into the maintenance and support of our high country huts.



Photo: Ross Dawes. Family at Marthavale Hut

Now I'm a man who knows his strengths and limitations, and handing me a hammer is only ever going to result in damaged huts and broken bones, so I've gotten involved with the VHCHA in other ways, serving on the Committee and working on the Association's database of huts.

On a personal front, my project for the next 20 years or so is to visit each and every hut that we have in Victoria. It's a fantastic part of our family holidays, giving us destinations to go to with places for the kids to get out and explore, stretch their legs and run off some energy, but I'm equally fond of throwing the hiking tent into the back of the 4WD and spending a weekend alone just wandering through the high country and stopping in at the huts along the way.

Mark Purves - HMO Area 5

As a very young lad I had two uncles from different sides of the family who were great mates and mad keen trouters. During the mid 1960's while chasing fish around the rocks in the Rubicon they stumbled across the Old Post Office at the top of the valley on Royston Road just as the road starts to climb away into the mountains, where the Rubicon and Royston Rivers meet. The fellow who had it had reached the end of his time with it so gave it to one of them as the other uncle already had his own shack over on the Goulburn.

Before 1970 it had been handed on to my father and finally to me after filtering through various family members who rarely if ever visited.

Originally traffic was light, every one seemed to get along well and you only came to the area if you were working, visiting locals, fishing or were getting into 4WD driving which then was still a fledgling recreational activity in the 70's (undertaken by devoted enthusiasts only). The logging in the area was fairly light and if memory serves we went for many years with none at all. Once I could drive I bought a 4WD and went camping all over the district finding many challenging tracks covered in fallen bark between tall trees all that seemed to lead to great little camping spots, abundant fishing and photography opportunities... all the while stumbling across, staying in and falling in love with the many huts dotted around the area and over into the high country.

I used to ride my bike up to this hut (*listed as Saw Mill Hut*) from our house as a kid, camp in it overnight and return to the house in time to go home to Melbourne with my folks the next day.



Photo: Mark Purves

It was the loss of some of these huts that started to really get my interest going because until then I'd never imagined them gone.

I don't recall how I became aware of 'Huts Vic' but knew straight away that they were for me so I joined and more recently when told they were after an HMO in the area that included my place it seemed like a good idea to offer my services.

I look forward to being of assistance and to helping maintain what has to me become a very romantic part of our heritage.

Where Did It Begin... Cont:

Alan Sellars - HMO Area 4

Early in 2013 I was involved with the Pajero Club Of Victoria. The Pajero Club was critical in the rebuilding of Store Point Hut which was going to be bulldozed by then DSE, now DELWP due to its poor condition.

This all came about when a Pajero Club member got a call from Peter Townsend from QLD. He is a mate of Ben Kesper. Ben built two huts around the area in early 1970.

The Store Point Hut was the one we knew about. I had seen it before a couple of years earlier. Back then it was a rusty pile of tin. We had to get in touch with DSE and they got in touch with VHCHA.



Photo: Dave Howard. Alan Sellars at Store Point Hut

I had been looking at joining the association around the same time as I had a keen interest in the huts. I had travelled through the high country over a couple of years, and found many of the Cattlemen's Huts along the way

That is where I got to meet Wayne Peterken and a couple of other VHCHA members, and got involved in rebuilding Store Point Hut. I found out about its history and I had the great pleasure of meeting Ben Kesper last year. Ben is now in his nineties.

I enjoy looking after the Huts and I am now the HMO for Area 4.



Photo: Sharyn Chambers. Alan Sellars opening the rebuilt Junction Hut

Richard Hubbard - HMO Area 12

Well it all started back in 1982 when I brought an old Range Rover and we began exploring the mountains around Corryong.

On one of our sorties into the high country we discovered an old logging camp (Dunstan's Huts), which was overgrown and basically forgotten. To get there we had to walk about 300m along what was the original track in. There were five huts in total, all in a very sad state of repair.

So Sandra and I and my two boys, then aged 11 and 7, began a task that would take a couple of years, clearing the track in, but making it look blocked, and we got two of the huts habitable. There was one hut that a tree had fallen on, so we used iron and timber from that hut to do repairs to the others. Sadly they were lost in the 2003 fires.



Photo: Richard Hubbard. Dunstans Huts

It was not long after the 2003 fire that I was approached by Noel Gough from the VHCHA and asked to be responsible for the huts in area 12. Noel had retired from the Snowy Hydro Scheme and was living in Tallangatta; I had known him for many years. I was still teaching and we were running a B&B in our spare time, so I was hesitant about taking on the role.

Noel said "I will pay you" and with that he handed me an old cardboard box full of manila folders filled with scraps of paper with rough notes on them; birth certificates; marriage certificates; death certificates and more. It was all his research on the Man from Snowy River. Given that ever since we had moved to Corryong in 1980, I had developed a passion for discovering the true identity of the Man from Snowy River, I became a HMO and Noel's work gave me the impetus to get the book started. It took me until 2016 to get the book published.

I'm interested in where it all started for you. Which was the first hut you visited? Do you have a favourite? I would love to hear from our members. Please drop me an email to Editor@hutsvictoria.org.au

Snake Season Is Here

No one likes snakes... well maybe the odd, in both senses of the word, person does. I certainly don't. They terrify me. However I always keep my eyes open and I know how to treat in the unfortunate event that someone gets bitten. Do you know what to do? Stay safe this summer.

This article was written by Rob Timmings. Rob runs ECT4Health, a medical/nursing education business in Queensland teaching nurses, doctors and paramedics.

3000 bites are reported annually

300-500 hospitalisations

2-3 deaths annually

Average time to death is 12 hours. The urban myth that you are bitten in the yard and die before you can walk from your chook pen back to the house is a load of rubbish.

While not new, the management of snake bite (like a fire evacuation plan or CPR) should be refreshed each season.

Let's start with a basic overview.

There are five genus of snakes that will harm us (seriously) Browns, Blacks, Adders, Tigers and Taipans.

All snake venom is made up of huge proteins (like egg white). When bitten, a snake injects some venom into the meat of your limb (NOT into your blood). This venom can not be absorbed into the blood stream from the bite site. It travels in a fluid transport system in your body called the lymphatic system (not the blood stream). Now this fluid (lymph) is moved differently to blood.

Your heart pumps blood around, so even when you are lying completely still, your blood still circulates around the body. Lymph fluid is different. It moves around with physical muscle movement like bending your arm, bending knees, wriggling fingers and toes, walking/exercise etc.

Now here is the thing. Lymph fluid becomes blood after these lymph vessels converge to form one of two large vessels (lymphatic trunks) which are connected to veins at the base of the neck.

Back to the snake bite site.

When bitten, the venom has been injected into this lymph fluid (which makes up the bulk of the water in your tissues). The only way that the venom can get into your blood stream is to be moved from the bite site in the lymphatic vessels. The only way to do this is to physically move the limbs that were bitten.

Stay still!!! Venom can't move if the victim doesn't move.

Remember people are not bitten into their blood stream.

In the 1980s a technique called pressure immobilisation bandaging was developed to further retard venom movement. It completely stops venom /lymph transport toward the blood stream.

A firm roll bandage is applied directly over the bite site (don't wash the area).

Technique: Keep them still!

Step 1: Apply a bandage over the bite site, to an area about 10cm above and below the bite.

Step 2: Then using another elastic roller bandage, apply a firm wrap from fingers/toes all the way to the armpit/groin.

The bandage needs to be firm, but not so tight that it causes fingers or toes to turn purple or white. About the tension of a sprain bandage.

Step 3: Splint the limb so the patient can't walk or bend the limb.

DO NOTS: Do not cut, incise or suck the venom. Do not EVER use a tourniquet Don't remove the shirt or pants - just bandage over the top of clothing.

Remember movement (like wriggling out of a shirt or pants) causes venom movement.

DO NOT try to catch, kill or identify the snake!!! This is important.

In hospital we NO LONGER NEED to know the type of snake; it doesn't change treatment.

5 years ago we would do a test on the bite, blood or urine to identify the snake so the correct anti venom can be used.

BUT NOW... We don't do this. Our new Antivenom neutralises the venoms of all the 5 listed snake genus, so it doesn't matter what snake bit the patient.

Read that again - one injection for all snakes!

Polyvalent is our one shot wonder, stocked in all hospitals, so most hospitals no longer stock specific Antivenins.

Australian snakes tend to have 3 main effects in differing degrees.

- Bleeding - internally and bruising.
- Muscles paralysed causing difficulty talking, moving & breathing.
- Pain

Some snake bites result in severe muscle pain in the limb, and days later the bite site can break down forming a nasty wound.

Allergy to snakes is rarer than winning lotto twice.

Final tips: not all bitten people are envenomated and only those starting to show symptoms above are given antivenom.

Did I mention to stay still.

~ Rob Timmings

Email: rob@ect4health.com.au

Phone: (07) 4696 7117



Common Brown Snake. Photo taken at Mt Samaria, Victoria by Peter Robertson © Museum Victoria

Order Now! Calendars Are Still Available

The reviews are in... "My calendars arrived safely today and it looks like the best ever. Well done to all involved." David Oldfield AFIAP FRPS AAPS and foundation member of VHCHA.

Order your calendar at <https://hutsvictoria.org.au/product/2019calendar/>

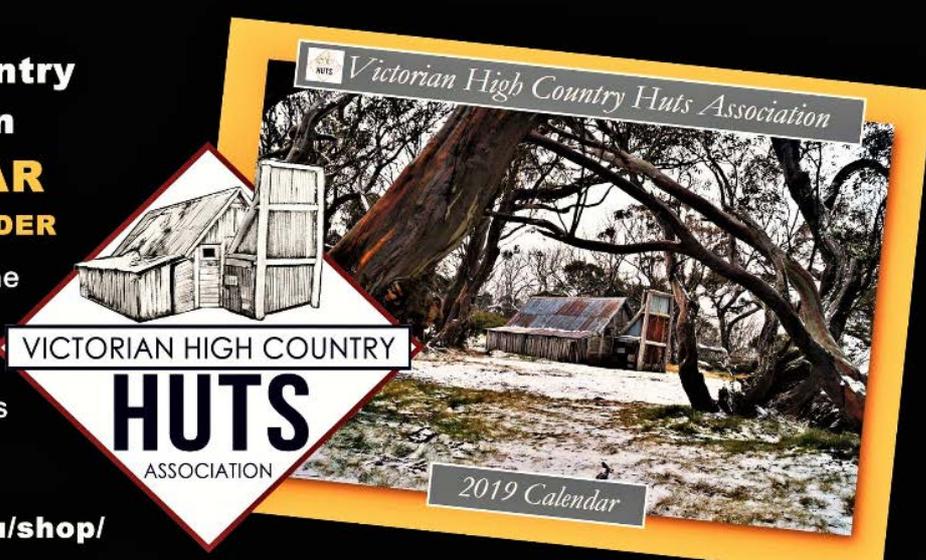
**Victorian High Country
Huts Association**

2019 CALENDAR

NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER

All profits from the sales of the calendar go toward helping look after the huts of the Victorian High Country. Find out more about the huts and how you can help by becoming a member

<http://hutsvictoria.org.au/shop/>



Your Donations Hard at Work

Donations from individuals and organisations make an enormous difference to our ability to work on huts. We are masters at recycling however there are always some materials that need to be procured and all donations go directly towards hut projects.

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their support:

Geelong 4WD Club (\$1000 donation to Kelly's Hut Project)

Scout Association Bogong Rover Chalet Management Group (\$500 donation to the Association)

Bev Blamey

Geoff Giles

Ralph Moran

Terry Torrison

Colin MacDonald

Brian Slee

Bill Sherriff

Carol Buswell

Ken Couch

Justin Celentane

Bev Blamey

Michelle Calvert

Kevin McDonald

Les Christian

Bernie Sambell

Ernest Harders

Geoffrey Paton

Mike Dore

Michael Cooke

David Chalkley

Ronald Connley

Mary Goldsworthy

Peter Roper

Carol Richardson

Michael Scala

Welcome New Members

It is always a joy to welcome new members to our Association. We hope you enjoy your involvement in whichever form that may take, from getting down and dirty on a work party, or reading our newsletters and knowing that your membership fee goes towards preserving a part of our Alpine Heritage.

A hearty welcome to:

Jim Coleman

Helen McLaren

Michael Buggy

Thank You Andrew Higgs!

For stepping in and producing the last newsletter whilst I was overseas.

Sue Paterson - Editor

200 HUTS

200 ADVENTURES

HMO Contact List

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11 Dartmouth	hmo11@hutsvictoria.org.au
12 Davies Plain	hmo12@hutsvictoria.org.au
<p>Area names are general geographic names only and do not reflect the extent or number of huts in each area.</p> <p>Existing Hut Maintenance Areas remain unchanged, however your committee has reviewed and re-defined all areas so that there is now a more even distribution of huts within each area.</p> <p>Changes to areas have been minor, however it may take some time for our hut maintenance officers to become familiar with changes. During the next few months we ask that all enquiries be directed firstly to our Hut Maintenance Coordinator at hmc@hutsvictoria.org.au, Wayne will respond or redirect enquiries to the appropriate area on your behalf.</p>	

FACEBOOK FOLLOWING

If you're on Facebook and not yet following us, you're missing out!
Or page is currently being enjoyed by over 40,000 people!

The albums continue to fill with photos old and new, contributed from far and wide.

You can have your photos added to the galleries too!

<https://www.facebook.com/hutsvic>



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Newsletter Contributions:

Please send stories preferably by email as a **"Word document" (doc or docx)**. When sending photographs please don't include them in the text document but attached them as a separate .jpg or .pdf file, to

editor@hutsvictoria.org.au.