



Echo from the Mountains

Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc – A0043804Y

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IN THIS ISSUE

Huts Maintenance Group.....	1
Our Generous Members.....	1
CRB Hut Dinner Plain.....	2
Horsehair Clean-up and other works.....	3
Contributions Welcome.....	3
AGM.....	4
Calendar for 2006.....	4
Merchandise.....	4
Contacting Us.....	4

FROM THE COMMITTEE....

Well what a few months we have had. The HMOs have been meeting, doing hut assessments, and organising maintenance (see middle pages for some of the stories).

The Victorian Huts Heritage Survey 2004-05 (often referred to as the Butler Report) has been released for public comment. This is an important document as it is likely to become the basis for future hut management.

Submissions close in June however there may be workshops arranged in some regional areas to allow people to view the draft (1400+ pages) and make comment. We'll keep you posted. In the meantime information can be obtained from:

*Graeme Butler
21 Alphington St, Alphington, 3078
Ph/Fax: 03 94813094
Email: graybut@bigpond.com*

The Burra Charter has been amended to include cultural and social aspects.

And...the Victorian Government has announced it will not be renewing any grazing leases. Many of our members feel very strongly about this decision and must make their own decisions as to what action they may take as individuals.

The VHCHA recognises that grazing in the high country and huts go hand in hand even though our organisation is primarily focused on the huts of the high country.

We will continue to put our efforts into the restoration and maintenance of the huts whilst working towards permanent heritage listing.

We welcome our members' comments and input on all matters pertaining to the high country – please email us at vhcha@dodo.com.au.

HUTS MAINTENANCE GROUP

Our Huts Maintenance Coordinator Barry Hazeldine is happy to report that we have three new Huts Maintenance Officers. Welcome to Richard Hubbard from Corryong, Damian Crozier, Secretary of the Bairnsdale 4WD Club and Michelle Shaw from Swifts Creek.

Huts Maintenance Coordinator: Barry Hazeldine Ph: 02 6020 8595 OR 0407 109 950 Email: BARRY.G.H@bigpond.com.au	
Area	Huts Maintenance Officer
1 & 3	Damian Crozier Ph: 03 5152 3147 motley70@ozemail.com.au
2	Michelle Shaw Ph: 03 5159 4246 Michelle_J_Shaw@national.com.au
4 & 5	Mick Vanderzalm Ph: 0429 024 445 mickv@net-tech.com.au
6	Darren McRae Ph: 0409 513 549 darrenm@the-shed.net
7A & 7B	David Sisson H Ph & Fax 03 9380 8126
8	HMO Wanted
9A	Fiona & Lee Magnussen Ph: 0427 596 554 fiona.magnussen@bigpond.com
9B	Bob Johnstone Ph: 02 6056 9491 or 0417 680 758 bobj@bigpond.net.au
10	HMO Wanted
11	Richard Hubbard Ph: 02 6076 1570 hubbards@motherhubbards.com.au
HMO WANTED - IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING UP ONE OF THE VACANT AREAS PLEASE CONTACT BARRY HAZELDINE	

OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

Our thanks to Una Bektash for her donation (sent in with her membership renewal) and to Helen Evans and David Oldfield for donating the reproduction fees for photographs used on the ParksVic interpretation boards.



CRB Hut Dinner Plain

The CRB (Country Roads Board) Hut at Dinner Plain was built in the summer of 1924/25 as a shelter hut for travellers of the then Alpine Road, but was also used by CRB road crews and later as the snow clearing station on the Omeo side of Hotham. For many years it was presumed burnt during the 1939 fires and replaced, but the current hut has inscriptions inside that indicate it is the original. The construction at the time of the works weekend in April was steep gabled corrugated iron roof over sawn timber frame with timber floor and iron lining. At the conclusion of the works the fireplace had been emptied and re-built, the old timber floor removed and the area cleaned-up up and secured – not easy for vehicles to get access.

An inspection of the site was carried out in early April by Enzo Brotto (ParksVic), HMOs Fiona & Lee Magnussen and Bob Johnstone and HMC Barry Hazeldine. It was agreed that a major work weekend would be held on Sat 16 & Sun 17th April 2005 with the following works planned:



- Expose window and frame. Install new glass.
- Apply wood preservative to exposed timber.
- Remove post 1972 graffiti.
- Dismantle and repair chimney.
- Re-attach external cladding as required.
- Remove litter.
- Repair door and coat with wood preservative.
- Fish oil external walls and roof.
- Repair or replace rusted iron on the south side as required.
- Improve drainage around building.
- Restrict vehicle access from GAR to the site.

CRB interior before the clean-up, photo by Barry Hazeldine

The call went out through the March issue of *Echo from the Mountains* and a large group of members arrived in Dinner Plain on Saturday 16th April to commence the CRB Hut clean-up and also some other odd jobs at Horsehair and JB (see next page for those stories). More arrived on Sunday to help finish the clean-up.

The role call for the weekend included HMC Barry Hazeldine, HMOs Fiona & Lee Magnussen and Bob Johnstone, Paul from ParksVic, and more than twenty willing workers from VHCHA and Northeast Freemasons.

After a long day's work on Saturday, Lee & Fiona Magnussen hosted a BBQ at Mayford (their home in Dinner Plain) and this social occasion added to the camaraderie of the whole weekend.

The original CRB hut did not have a timber floor and the existing floor which has been there since the 1960s was removed and ParksVic has decided to leave it as a bare earth floor for this winter and review the situation in the spring.



Paul from ParksVic and HMO Bob Johnstone contemplate the clean-up, photo by Paula Tomsett



What a difference a couple of weekends and willing workers make, photo by Barry Hazeldine



OTHER HUTS BUSINESS



Before the big clean-up, photo by Sue Manneken



Another successful site clean-up, Editor Paula photographed by Mike Shaw

Right: The tank at Horsehair goes into place, photo by Sue Manneken.



April 16th & 17th was a big weekend for huts in the Dinner Plain area.

Whilst many hands were working hard down at CRB Hut a crew spent Saturday and Sunday morning at Horsehair Hut where a major clean-up took place as well as the installation of a rainwater tank (down the hill and out of site).

JB Hut also got the treatment from Sue and her family who picked up litter from around the hut and gave it a good old fashion Spring (in Autumn) clean inside. It is now ready for winter visitors.

URGENT WINTER MAINTENANCE AT FRY'S HUT



The missing slab and broken window, photo by Fleur Smith ParksVic.

On Friday 27th May HMC Barry Hazeldine and HMO Bob Johnstone responded to a request from ParksVic at Mansfield for emergency repairs to Fry's Hut. The work involved the replacement of a missing slab and window pane with the main purpose of keeping out winter rain and snow and members of the local wombat population.

Barry & Bob met local ranger Fleur Smith at the Mansfield ParksVic Office and travelled out to the hut site, demonstrating the commitment of our huts maintenance group and the VHCHA's ability to respond quickly to requests of this nature. Fry's Hut requires some major remedial work and a scope of works for this heritage site is being developed by ParksVic.

WHAT'S NEXT? Hotham HMOs Fiona & Lee and HMO Bob Johnston (wearing his Northeast Freemasons Taskforce hat) have assessed the Boggy Creek CRB Hut as part of the preparations for a submission to DSE for restoration work approval in the Spring.

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 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



THE BACK PAGE

THE AGM Sat. 5th Nov. 2005

Put this date in your diary now! The third annual general meeting of the VHCHA will be held in the Omeo/Benamبرا region on Saturday 5 November 2005.

The venue, camping/accommodation options and details for the annual dinner will be advised in the September issue of *Echo from the Mountains*.

AGM AGENDA ITEMS

Please advise Secretary David Oldfield of any AGM Agenda items as soon as possible:

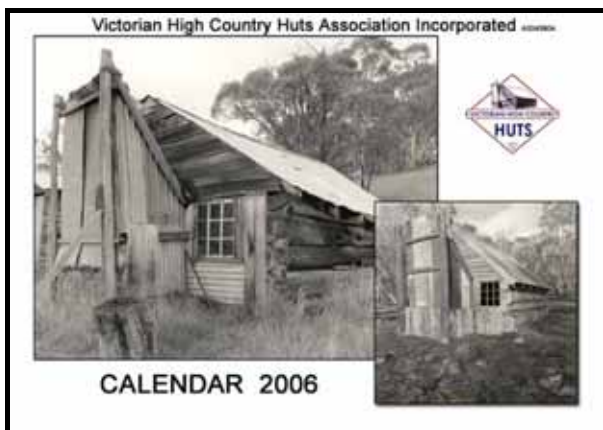
PH: 03 9747 1411 FX 03 9747 1418

EMAIL: dsoldf@netconnect.com.au

RENEWAL REMINDER

Membership renewals are due now and for the VHCHA to continue repair, maintain and save our Alpine huts we need your continued support.

2006 CALENDAR



The VHCHA will produce its own calendar for 2006 highlighting the beautiful black and white photography of David Oldfield and will include ten huts lost in 2003 and two that we have rebuilt.

The 2006 calendar will feature photographs that have never before been published and as such it will surely become a collector's item.

The cost will be \$10 including \$2.00 for postage and handling...BUT... there is a SPECIAL MEMBER'S PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE ON OFFER. See separate flyer with this issue of *Echo from the Mountains*. You will be able to order your calendars when renewing your membership.

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.

We have recently re-stocked the ever-popular padded vests – very warm for the coming cooler months. Available with yellow or red lining. Order early as the first dusting of snow will see these items sell very quickly.

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

CONTACTING US

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