



Echo from the Mountains

Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc – A0043804Y

Vol. 3 – No. 3 September 2005

ISSN 1448 – 3769

IN THIS ISSUE

Bumper Sticker Competition.....	1
Our Generous Members.....	1
AGM.....	1
Huts Maintenance Group.....	2
HMO Profile: Fiona & Lee Magnussen.....	2
Heritage Skills Workshops.....	3
Spring/Summer Works.....	3
Main Range.....	3
Merchandise.....	4
Contacting Us.....	4

THE AGM

Sat. 5th Nov. 2005

The third annual general meeting of the VHCHA will be held on Saturday 5 November 2005.

Where: The Golden Age Hotel
Great Alpine Road, Omeo

What time: 2.00pm

AGM Dinner: 6.30pm - Golden Age Restaurant

RSVP for Dinner - See separate AGM notice.

HUG A HUT! OUR FIRST COMPETITION BUMPER STICKER

Many members have asked for a car bumper sticker to get the huts message into the wider community so the committee has decided to produce a high quality UV stable bumper sticker. We had many suggestions for the words from the committee but when we got to "hug a hut" we decide it was time to call in the experts – YOU! - our members - for help.

We ask all members to think about what you would like on your car to advertise and promote our huts and our association.

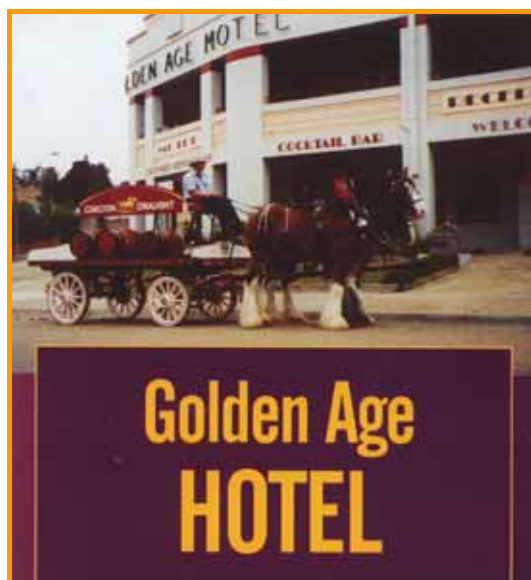
Send your ideas to Paula Tomsett by October 15th 2005 at P O Box 216 Blackburn 3131 or email paula@lynxgroup.com.au

Entries will be displayed at the AGM and the winning design re-produced in the December issue of *Echo from the Mountains*. There will be a prize of a book for the winning designer.

OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

Thank you to the following members who added a donation to their membership renewal:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Charles Burgess | John Foster |
| Chris Clarke | Keith Oxenbould |
| Geoffrey Paton | Kevin Hall |
| Helen Evans | Maurice Sexton |
| Peter & Felicity Druce | Terry & Margaret Foulds |
| Robbie Heritage | Tim & Marj Davies |
| Simon Crutchfield | Una Bektash |
| Sue Manneken | |



Omeo once attracted large numbers of prospectors and miners and was one of the toughest and most lawless goldfield towns in Australia, during the mid 1880s.

Not so now – Omeo is the home of mountain cattleman and is a delightful town where locals make visitors welcome. It has a wide variety of accommodation - country-style hotels, motels, a guesthouse, apartments and a caravan park – and plenty to do - white water rafting, fishing, 4WD tours, mountain biking, horse treks, visit historic precincts like Mt Wills, Cassilis, Anglers Rest, the Cuckoo Clock Shop, the Roughriders Hut and other huts along the Great Alpine Road.

For all the information you need about how to get to Omeo, what accommodation is available, and what to do when you get there, visit these websites: www.visitalpine.com or www.omeoregion.com.au or contact the Omeo Information Centre on telephone 0500 877 477.



HUT MAINTENANCE GROUP

The huts maintenance group is growing with and we welcome new HMO Daryl Owen a member of the CFA 4WD Club who has taken on the Barry Mountains area. Daryl's contact details will be published on our website very soon.

Fiona & Lee Magnussen met at Christmas in 1988 whilst serving with the Australian Army.

Completing their family is Lee's daughter Melanie Ann and granddaughter Zara Ann.

*Fiona & Lee live in the Dinner Plain Village between Mount Hotham and Omeo, where they own and operate the Accommodation Service of Dinner Plain:
www.accommdinnerplain.com.au*

Fiona was the founding President of the VHCHA and has had an interest in huts for twenty years. She remembers her first huts as Howitt Springs and Cope Huts and introduced Lee to the wonders of the high country in 1989 and worked on the old McNamara's Hut whilst in still in the Army.

Fiona was first attracted to the high country because it reminded her of the Irish moor country with its cottages built of local materials, in much the same way as many Alpine huts are also built of local timbers.

Fiona and Lee love the peace and serenity of the high country which is why they have chosen to make it their home.

They are members of the local Country Fire Authority Unit, the Mt Hotham Dinner Plain CFA, and the Mountain Cattleman's Association of Victoria.

They have taken on the roles of joint HMOs for Hotham Area and work closely with Bob Johnstone HMO for Bogong in looking after the huts in this part of the high country.

Lee manages the VHCHA merchandise (with Greg Love) and Fiona continues working on the database of Victorian High Country huts, a labour of love and constant work in progress and she is the author of "Victoria's Alpine Heritage – The Huts of the High Plains" – both are also members of the Committee.

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: 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	Darren McRae Ph: 0409 513 549 darrenm@the-shed.net
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
HMO WANTED - IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A HMO OR WORKING WITH ONE OF OUR EXISTING HMOs PLEASE CONTACT BARRY HAZELDINE	

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.

Echo from the Mountains starts a new regular section featuring the HMOs, and this issue it is Fiona & Lee Magnussen of Dinner Plain.





HUTS ARE SPECIAL

CALENDAR 2006

To highlight just how special our huts are and as a lasting record of those huts lost in

2003 we have produced a special calendar for 2006 which features the beautiful black & white photography of David Oldfield (our hard working Secretary). All proceeds from the sale of our calendars go to the VHCHA and we thank David for allowing us to use his photographs. To order your 2006 Calendar see The Back Page.

To sell this collectors edition calendar in your shop or office contact David to arrange a bulk delivery and wholesale price.

David Oldfield

Ph 03 9747 1411 Fx 03 9747 1418

Email: dsoldf@netconnect.com.au

HERITAGE SKILLS WORKSHOP

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee is planning two heritage skills workshops during April 2006 at Curango in NSW. Victorian members of the VHCHA will be invited to attend – details in next issue of *Echo from the Mountains* and on our website later in the year.

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. There will be more details at the AGM and on the website as the HMOs finalise the work programs.

RENEWAL REMINDER

Membership renewals are now overdue. For the VHCHA to continue to repair, maintain and save our Alpine huts we need your continued support, please renew now and if ordering calendar/s at the same time you will still be able to obtain the special members price.

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.

LOG BOOKS

The program to install log books in huts will begin this coming summer. A design has been agreed upon which meets all the requirements:

- not too much signage in the huts
- not too big
- able to be placed discreetly in visible locations
- contains a log book to record your visit
- name of the hut prominently displayed (very important for search and rescue situations)
- displays code of conduct to ensure the preservation of the huts and the surrounding wilderness

A poem from the Tin Hut (NSW) Log Book (September 2004)

MAIN RANGE

6 days of snow,
The last blank eyed,
We shuddered across ribs office
Gouged by searchers,
A futile month before.
All day we barely seemed to move
Floating in a world with no horizons
Until our minds were rimmed with white.
At dusk, descending, we stumbled on a
sunset
The valley drowning in darkness below,
Trailing vapour wisps caught in the last
fingers of light.
And in the rising gloam,
Came hints of turpentines, and loam
And journeys end, to us stamping snow
But that night we dreamed of lost
children
And cold deaths. V.W.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

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

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

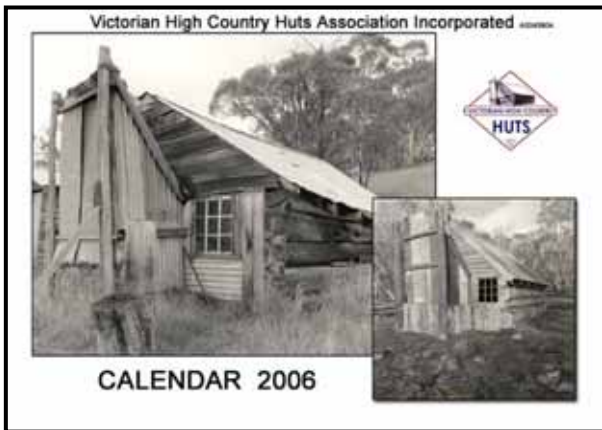
Email: paula@lynxgroup.com.au OR post to P O Box 216 Blackburn VIC 3130

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



THE BACK PAGE

2006 CALENDAR



The VHCHA has produced its own calendar for 2006 highlighting 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 will surely become a collector's item.

The cost is \$10 including \$2.00 for postage and handling – place orders through the website. Special members price of \$8.00 still available if ordering before the AGM or when you renew 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.



may take up to six weeks.

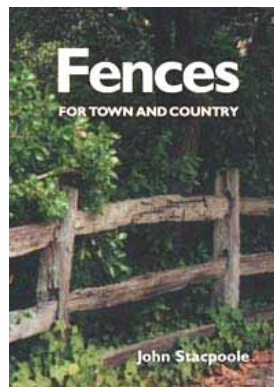
For information about purchasing any of the items see our website, www.vhcha.org.au or phone 0428 591 964. Please note, we have limited sizes, and delivery of those sizes not in stock

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)	

PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT 10% DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

John Stacpoole, a retired storage systems engineer, DIY devotee and a member of VHCHA, has a keen interest in all things rural that require construction and his book *Fences for Town and Country* was first published in 2000 with a wealth of information about fences, fencing materials, DIY and some history.

In the 2003 edition John was able to include information about the newly formed VHCHA and in the revised 2005 edition John has included more information as well as sections on vine trellising, dry stone walling and pet enclosures.



Published by The Worsley Press, VHCHA members can purchase this book with a 10% discount.

Here's how:

On the Web

- Go to www.worsleypress.com
- Click on the Fences book
- Click on the BUY NOW box
- Click on Australian Web Store
- Select book and quantity plus any packing and postage
- Click on Voucher box and enter 11205101 then be sure to click on "**here to recalculate**"
- You can then pay by credit card or print order form and post with cheque to **The Worsley Press, P O Box 160, Mentone 3194**

CONTACTING US

VHCHA Phone: 0428 591 964

Visit our website: www.vhcha.org.au

Secretary: David Oldfield

Ph 03 9747 1411 Fx 03 9747 1418

Email: dsoldf@netconnect.com.au

President: Dianne Carroll

Email vhcha@dodo.com.au

Ph 0428 591 964