

VCC Annual General Meeting 2026

When 22-09-2026 at 19:30

Location: Retreat Hotel, 226 Nicholson St, Abbotsford VIC 3067, Australia

Agenda

Item		Owner	Item	Time
1.	Open meeting	Steve Toal	For Noting	
	Attendees			
1.1.	Apologies received	Steve Toal	For Noting	
1.2.	Proxy nominations received	Steve Toal	For Noting	
2.	Noting of previous AGM minutes	Steve Toal	For Action	
	Motion: That the previous minutes of the previous AGM are accepted			
	VCC_Annual_General_Meeting_23-09-2025.pdf			
3.	Reports	Steve Toal	For Noting	
3.1.	President	Steve Toal	For Noting	
	To be presented at AGM			
3.2.	Treasurer	Greg Beanland	For Noting	

Treasurer Report for VCC for year ended 30 June 2026

This year, the VCC has broken even after the large writeoffs of old stock items last year. This is on the back of lowering membership fees, which has led to higher member numbers with a slight overall reduction of membership fees overall, but a healthier club.

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	Sales of the You Yangs guidebook were strong to members and our distributors, with advertising income assisting the overall result. An allowance as planned from the books of \$2,300 has been put aside for bolting, most likely at Arapiles with the planned changes there, to be most likely spent in the 2026-27 FY. Club trip income matched costs, which was primarily camping fees taken on by the club so trip organisers don't have to assume that risk. Other costs for the year include the regular items, such as insurance, the cost of running our accounting software Reckon, the TidyHQ software and Argus production. These were all within planned and expected costs. The VCC balance sheet remains very healthy with money in the bank, some book inventory and no liabilities.			

Treasurer Report for CliffCare for the year ended 30 June 2026

Cliffcare finances are healthy, despite few transactions, resulting in a \$7k profit for the year. The \$6k funding received some years ago and being held as a liability has now been cleared after committee agreement in August 2026, resulting in a profit for the year.

The balance sheet also is very healthy, and we continue to seek suitable projects to support with these funds. Another small contribution to CliffCare was received to make up the balance.

The GST tax status of CliffCare has now been removed as there was no benefit for this any more and it reduces BAS returns as well.

[CliffCare_BS_-_2025-26.pdf](#)
[CliffCare_P_L_-_2025-26.pdf](#)
[VCC_P_L_-_2025-26.pdf](#)
[VCC_BS_-_2025-26.pdf](#)

Item	Owner	Item	Time
CliffCare Trust CliffCare is the environmental arm of the Victorian Climbing Club (VCC). In 1998, the VCC established the CliffCare Trust Fund to organise and promote hands-on environmental projects at climbing areas and to educate climbers on protecting the natural environment. Activities CliffCare remains active, despite ongoing difficulties working in key climbing areas such as Arapiles (Dyurrite) and the Grampians (Gariwerd). As trustees of the fund, the VCC committee has taken an active role in CliffCare activities and operations. The CliffCare 'Access is no accident' posters were reprinted during the year, and distributed at Arapiles (Dyurrite) over Easter in association with Crag Stewards Victoria. Following a request from a climbing group in New South Wales to use content from these posters, the committee discussed formalising Creative Commons licencing of these posters. Governance The committee has been reviewing the current Trust Deed, which was originally prepared in 1999. During this review period, actively soliciting donations was suspended. The VCC committee has agreed to update the Trust Deed and will continue the suspension of donations. Finances The CliffCare Trust Fund maintains substantial cash reserves, holding over \$50,000 as at 30 June 2026. The committee continues to simplify and tidy the accounts, and remains committed to CliffCare taking an active leadership role in environmental projects across climbing areas.	Cliff Donohue	For Noting	
3.4.	Trip Coordinator	Michael O'Reilly	For Noting

Item

Trip Program

Owner

Item

Time

In the calendar year since the 2025 VCC AGM, there have been 23 VCC trips. These include day and weekend events, as well as some extended trips. This is a significant increase on the program last year.

In a first for many years, the always popular Mt Buffalo trip organised by Steve and Paula Toal wasn't our biggest trip! That prize goes to the Northern Grampians trip on the March long weekend, organised by Glen Donohue. This trip included a return to Summerday Valley (SDV) by the VCC. Since the Gariwerd/Grampians crag closures, access to Summerday Valley has been limited to groups using Licenced Tour Operators (LTOs). We used two Guides from Absolute Outdoors in Halls Gap to allow us to climb on Back Wall and BARC Cliff. This proved to be very popular. Members did have a smallish cost to attend this trip, but not significant when compared to the cost of fuel needed to drive to the Grampians! This day at SDV also included a Skills Development Session for our attending club members. This session taught by Matt Brooks was well received.

Glen is following up with a reprisal of the Northern Grampians/Summerday Valley trip in March next year. He is looking at a similar format as the successful trip this year. Hopefully this will include climbing on the left side of Wall of Fools and another skills session. Start training your face climbing endurance for a lap of Kevin Lindorff's magnificent Soweto** 21.

The 'staple' of our trips calendar is our regular End of the Month (EOM) trips – mostly to Dyurrite/ Mt Arapiles. These are very social trips and provide a great opportunity for members to catch up with each other. Dyurrite obviously provides superb trad climbing encompassing varied styles. The bonus is that there's usually a cliff that has sun,

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shade or shelter when it is needed. The Natimuk Hotel provides shelter, warmth and meals on Saturday nights in winter too!			
In unsurprising news, our day trips to the crags around Melbourne have proved popular. Camels Hump, Werribee Gorge and the You Yangs provide some great climbing and opportunities for participants to develop their skills and experience, without having to commit to a full weekend away. Special thanks to Phil Gynther who has been the trip organiser for a few of these popular day trips.			
Having day trips on our calendar helps to provide options for members, both new and old. Hopefully we can continue to have trip organisers willing and able to offer day trips.			

Trip Organisers

Thank you once again to all the very generous trip organisers for their efforts. The club really values and appreciates the efforts of our trip organisers. I am always looking for trip organisers, so if you're interested in the role, please contact me for more information.

As day trips to the crags closer to Melbourne are always popular, I'm always looking for trip organisers to run these day trips. Trips can be organised to Werribee Gorge, The You Yangs, The Cathedrals and Camels Hump, or to our northern granite crags. The skills needed for climbing on granite at Black Hill, The You Yangs, Mt Alexander and Mt Beckworth are very transferable to the sandstone of the Gariwerd/Grampians and Dyurrite/Mt Arapiles.

Self-Rescue Course

In terms of skill development, last year in August we organised a Self-Rescue Course for trip organisers and members looking to become trip organisers. This course was instructed by Simon Mentz and was

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	well received by both our experienced and less experienced participants. Part of being a climber is that you can always learn new techniques and skills, no matter how long you've been climbing. The cost of this course was mostly met by the club, with a smaller co-payment provided by participants. In return, the participants committed to organising two trips for the club. This model has been successful as it has fed more trip organisers and trips into our calendar. Our bigger program of trips this past year is partly due to these new trip organisers. We are looking at organising another of these courses, so keep your eyes open if you're interested.			

Digital Booking and Trip Register Process

We have made several improvements to the process over the past 12 months. While many of these improvements are behind the scenes and not visible to members, they are making the organisation of our trips more efficient and consistent. Hopefully they are making the tasks of being a trip organiser easier. For those trip organisers not so keen on the technology, we are still happy to use a paper trip register and the former processes.

[VCC_Events_2025_-_2026_AGM.pdf](#)

3.5.	Historian Work continues on the digitisation, preservation and storage of information and records held within the Club's archives. This collection represents a remarkable trove of information relating to the Club, its members and climbing activities over an extended period of time. An important part of this process is establishing where records originated, who created them and how they have been passed down. Maintaining this provenance will help ensure that the historical value	Robbie Martin	For Noting
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and context of these records are retained for future generations. To date, 523 files have been created, uploaded and organised into appropriately designated folders on the VCC Portal. The aim is to create a practical and accessible working resource that can be accessed by members at any time. Early informal discussions have also taken place with Keith Lockwood, Curator of the Arapiles Climbing Museum, regarding the possible donation of the VCC's ARGUS hard-copy collection to the Museum for long-term preservation. Should this proposal proceed, a formal process will be required to establish an appropriate arrangement that provides a permanent historical reference point for both the VCC and the Museum. The Future In 2027, the VCC reaches a significant milestone — its Diamond Anniversary: 75 years. Three quarters of a century is certainly something worth reflecting upon, celebrating, and using as an opportunity to set a bearing for the journey ahead. In 2052, just 25 years from now, the VCC should reach its Centenary Anniversary. I can remember the 50th Anniversary — and that was only 25 years ago! I guess the question is: will we make it to 100? By all accounts, there is a pretty good chance. Looking back over the history of this organisation, we can see the enormous contribution made by the many talented people who, over the years, rolled up their sleeves and simply got on with the job of helping the VCC reach this point. So, let us ALL keep fighting the good fight. Let us bring forward the experiences, knowledge and enthusiasm gained over the years — not because we had to, but because we wanted to and pass it			

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	on. In doing so, we can help ensure that the VCC continues to keep alive the love of adventure, exploration, friendship and the outdoors for generations yet to come. The journey continues! Snapshot_of_Past_Events.pdf			

3.6. Membership Glen Donohue For Noting

Total Membership Growth

Active membership expanded from 318 members in June 2025 to 397 members in June 2026. This represents an overall increase of 79 members or 24.8% (~25%).

Pricing Restructure Impact

Membership fees were lowered last year by around 40%. This fee reduction saw an influx in Ordinary member registrations following the announcement at the previous AGM last year..

Student Membership

Student membership was introduced last year and there was a consistent uptake each month. Student members now represent 5.5% of total members, compared to Ordinary 51.0%, Concession 8.8% and Family 30.4%.

3.7. Motion to receive committee reports Steve Toal For Action

Motion: That the reports be received as presented

3.8. Motion to receive and consider financial statements Steve Toal For Action

Motion: That the financial statements submitted by the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, in accordance with the Act, be received and considered

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4.	Election of offices and committee members	Steve Toal	For Action	
5.	Business	Steve Toal	For Action	
5.1.	Membership fees for coming year The proposed membership fees for the coming year are: ● Ordinary - \$40 ● Concession - \$30 ● Student - \$20 ● Family - \$70 The committee proposes the membership fees for 2026-27 remain unchanged from last year. The membership fees reflect the strong financial position of the club. The fees are set to minimise any significant contribution to the existing cash reserves. No affiliate membership fee will be set this year, though affiliate membership is retained in the club rules. It is the committee's view that affiliate membership would be offered by the club to suitable organisations and should not be a publicly available membership type. Motion: That the proposed club membership fees for 2026-27 are accepted	Glen Donohue	For Action	
6.	Close meeting	Steve Toal	For Noting	

End of agenda.
Summary of matters arising are tabled on the following page.

Minutes of VCC Annual General Meeting 2026 on 22-09-2026

Summary of Attachments

Attachments

Item	File Name
2.	VCC_Annual_General_Meeting_23-09-2025.pdf
3.2.	CliffCare_BS_-_2025-26.pdf CliffCare_P_L_-_2025-26.pdf VCC_P_L_-_2025-26.pdf VCC_BS_-_2025-26.pdf
3.4.	VCC_Events_2025_-_2026_AGM.pdf
3.5.	Snapshot_of_Past_Events.pdf

Attachments can be found under your TidyHQ admin account at:
Storage > Meetings > [VCC Annual General Meeting 2026](#)