

SKI TRACKS

The Official Newsletter of Elouera Ski Club Ltd (CAN 002 703 988)
Charlotte Pass, Kosciuszko National Park
Priority Bookings—winter 2004

The views expressed by the editor are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors nor of the members of Elouera Ski Club Ltd. The editor is Ian Warlters PO Box 156 Moorebank 1875. Ph (02) 8715 6255 Fax (02) 9602 6290 or email to: pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com

Change of Phone # for Castaways Bookings

Because of the type of phone which we have for the Booking Officers, the one for the Castaways Officer had to have the number altered when the Booking Officer changed. The new number for Keith Kennedy, the Castaways Booking Officer is:

(02) 9441 2039

Thanks to the Paske family

A very special thank you to Peter Paske who stood in for me as Booking Officer earlier this year. Thank you to Peter and his family for allowing the bookings paraphernalia to take over the entire dining room for about three months.

Left Equipment / Clothing etc (Lost & Found)

Some items have been sent to me as things found in the bedrooms – probably left by those in the room the week before. But ... I don't want these

items at my place any more **S-o-o-o-o** ...if you can identify the item and describe it to my satisfaction then you may have whatever it is that you may think that you've left behind be it your spare tooth waiting for the tooth fairy or your tooth fairy's tutu or whatever. Call me (02) 8715 6255, write to me (PO Box 156 Moorebank 1875) or email me

(pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com) but please claim your things back.

Close of 2003 Season

2003 season came to an interesting conclusion. Once the lifts closed and the road was cleared we expected that the road would be "open" all the way to Charlotte Pass. Not so!!! The road was blocked at Spencers Creek by a locked gate (to which we do not have a key). We eventually found that Mel at the Chalet would open the gate if folks contacted her. Some guests found the gate open – others found it locked and we cannot find any reason for why it was one way or the other. Because of this, the secretary has contacted the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to try to get some definitive ruling for next year. One guest simply picked the lock !!! All of this on top of

the lifts closing on 27 Sep !!! We have been assured that the lifts will operate until the October long weekend in 2004 – as well as there being special low lift pass rates during September.

Priority Bookings – 2004 Winter Season & 2004/05 Summer

Attached to this newsletter is a list of the Accommodation Credit Points available for bookings in 2004 along with the rates for Pygmy Possum Lodge. Rates for Castaways Units at Shoal Bay will be decided and notified separately. Completed forms, together with **full** payment and marked "Priority Booking" are to reach the Booking Officer at PO Box 156 Moorebank 1875 by close of business on Monday 1 Mar 04. Or may be delivered to:

Sydney Markets Industries Club,
Market Plaza, [1st Floor Western end]

Flemington Markets,
Parramatta Rd

Flemington by 1730 hrs on Tuesday 2 Mar 04.

Late applications will be NOT accepted. (They will be dealt with in order of receipt after those received in time for processing on the "priority booking night")

Think snow

Only **fully completed** applications will be processed. To be fully completed, the form *must* be accompanied by the full cost of the accommodation and the foodstore deposit. These costs may be paid by Cheque, Credit Card or by Accommodation Credit Points. Those forms which are not complete in *every* detail will be returned without being processed. The discount rate for accommodation is available up to and including 30 Apr.

2004 / 05 Accommodation Rates

Another November – another newsletter advising of a number of changes to bookings details. The Summer rates have been reduced for members – but the “two adults” rate has been abolished. Those paying the ‘one adult’ rate seemed to be under the impression that they could have a room to themselves because there was a rate for two adults sharing a room. Because we don’t wish to offend anyone {but we don’t want to reduce the sleeping capacity of the lodge by allowing a large number of rooms to be occupied by just one person as well} we have removed that possible interpretation of the rates. **All** members and guests are reminded that accommodation is sold on a “**twin share**” basis and if any person wishes to be housed alone then the payment of the single supplement is available to ensure privacy.

The extra “medium shoulder” rate for the start of the season is mirrored at the end of the season (remember that CPV have said that there will be lower lift prices too).

Booking Fee

A \$2.20 booking fee has been introduced. This is a “per booking” fee and *not* a “per person” fee. Therefore the whole of each ‘family’ would pay just one fee of \$2.20. This fee will be payable for all bookings received on or after 2 Mar 04. The booking fee is not reflected in the prices shown on the attached list – it must be added to each booking as an extra in the “**OTHER**” column at the foot of the booking form / tax invoice. If one is using credit points, then just one (1) point will be accepted as payment for this fee.

Weekend and Part-week Bookings

At present, weekend and part-week bookings can be made within fourteen (14) days of the arrival date at the lodge. From now on, weekends and part-weeks will be available after 30 Jun each year. This gives members the opportunity of booking their desired “whole week” periods and makes us comply

more with industry standards.

Email addresses

I find it difficult to believe that there are just 27 members of the club who have email access; but that is the total number now listed on the electronic mail-out. If you should decide to enrol for this form of the newsletter, please give your name as well your email address as I have enough on my plate without chasing up the cuty-gurl181, funkyspunky, bigfella, and iam type addresses which arrived last time.

One of those who registered her email address with me asked for an explanation of how one accumulates and can expend Accommodation Credit Points. So here goes:

Care and feeding of Accommodation Credit Points

To become a member of the club, one must own two \$1,000 subscribed capital units (commonly known as shares – but they are NOT actually shares). Each capital unit attracts 20 points per annum i.e. 40 points per membership. These are added in time for the members’ holdings to be published along with the booking rates newsletter and are cumulative. So that folk know how many points they have to bid for the week they want / need. To use the points is easy. As they are worth \$2.00 each, they can be used to buy any Elouera Ski Club accommodation (Castaways as well as Pygmy Possum) or to pay membership fees or to pay the foodstore deposit at Pygmy Possum Lodge. They can also be used to gain priority of booking on priority booking night. To assess your priority you divide the number of bed-spaces into the number of points offered (except that a family – regardless of size counts as two (2)). As an example, you, your family and another couple are all going for the school holidays and you wish to be absolutely sure that these folks will actually get in so you offer 200 points. Your whole family of mum, dad and five kids under 17 count as two (2) and the other couple with their toddler of 16 months count as another two (kids under two years are free) so the total bed-spaces for the sums are four (4). 200 (the number of points offered) divided by four (the number of bed-spaces needed) is 50 ergo your rating is 50 and you have priority over all folks with a rating of 49 or less but you will still be behind those with a rating of 51 or higher. If the toddler were over two (2) then she would occupy a bed and be counted in the bed-spaces to divide into the 200 points. The rating of this booking would be forty (40) - not the 50 mentioned above. Assuming that your application has been successful, all 200 points are then converted to their discount value and \$400 is deducted from the value of the accommodation. Partial points can be accumulated as well as spent. All members can gain extra credit points by lend-

ing the club money (see previous letters from Geoff Mathie the treasurer) as well as by introducing non-members to the joys of our accommodation. We credit two (2) points per \$100 of non-member accommodation to the member who arranges for those non-members to use the lodge. If you can fill an entire wing of the lodge then we will give you three (3) points per \$100 and you can earn four (4) points per \$100 by filling the entire lodge. We have some members who pay their own accommodation costs in this way. Board members are credited travelling allowance to attend the committee meetings in points and folks can earn points by participating in working bees or similar at the lodge. One does not need to be a builder nor plumber or other tradesman type person to earn these points as those who wash all of the shower curtains or redistribute the

The new phone number for Keith Kennedy, the Bookings Officer for Castaways is (02) 9441 2039

crockery and cutlery etc so that it is evenly spread on both wings also gain points. These points and those for travelling are a fraction of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) rate for travelling and meal allowances as applicable. So one can see that the credit points are available, flexible and handy.

The best laid plans of mice & men etc

The village is in the process of preparing an Environmental Management Plan to tie in with the NPWS requirements as detailed in their new rule book – the **Perisher Range Resort Environmental Management System (PRREMS)**. To this end, we are attempting to minimise the environmental “footprint” of not just Pygmy Possum but also the entire resort. Some of the requirements are the sorting of garbage, minimization of usage of water, gas and electricity and the recycling of such things as paper, glass and aluminium. We have provided new garbage bins (suitably marked with the purpose to which they should be put) but a significant number of the guests fail to separate the refuse into the correct bins. Because of non-compliance by lodges, NPWS have indicated that they may well institute spot checks to ensure that the garbage is correctly sorted – they wanted six [count them six (6)] different bins not just the three we have now. So ... do the right thing – or watch out for the garbage nazis.

We are still using the same black garbage bags for all three types of ‘rubbish’. These are sorted at Perisher

into the correct group (the contents are obvious by their feel)

As an additional economy measure we opted for five litre containers of dishwashing liquid hoping and believing that people would refill the 500ml dispensers from the large container. Oh no ... what they did was throw out the small containers and either buy new lots of 500ml containers from the supermarket at Perisher and include the bill with the final money reconciliation or else just slurp a cup full or so into the sink from the BIG container and proceed with a very frothy wash up. The nett result is that instead of saving money by having an economy of scale we lost heaps. It seems that when some people go on holiday to the mountains their brain goes walkabout too.

There seemed to be an excessive usage of laundry detergent too. There was over **45 Kg !!!** of detergent used this season. Although we use a biodegradable detergent, it still goes to the Sewerage Treatment Plant (Shakespeare Lodge) and if eve-

ryone in the vil-
lage uses detergents at this rate it will just be a matter of time until another evacuation is necessary as the plant will not be able to cope.

Please reduce, reuse, recycle.

Lodge talks by Ranger Dave.

Winter 2003 was another busy one for “Ranger Dave” the NPWS Resort Division’s Environmental Liaison Officer. For the past three years, Dave has been venturing into the dark of night with slide projector in hand to show and talk about the wonderful and significant plants, animals and history of Kosciuszko National Park. He has given lodge members the opportunity to ask questions about Park management and special projects and especially to ask about the effects of the fires which raged through the area. Some 1600 folk across all resort villages have experienced a Ranger Dave Information night. Because of this, the service will continue. If you would like to know more about feral cats, foxes, mountain huts or the weed project or if you would like to pass on feral cat sightings or any of the other matters which concern the Park and Charlotte Pass then contact the NPWS Environment Liaison Officer Dave Woods on (02) 6450 5616 or by email: dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au He is available for talks during the Summer as well as the Winter months.

Perisher Range Resorts Environmental Management System

PRREMS

At present this scheme is in place in the Perisher, Smiggins, Blue Cow Guthega complex and is not yet mandatory in Charlotte Pass. It will be within the next couple of years (probably sooner rather than later). It requires the monitoring of usage of all resources and the completing of a Workbook for each "guest-night". At present we keep a guest register (which is a requirement under the public houses etc type act) which shows "guest-weeks" and we are hoping that this will be acceptable. This will add to the duties of the Lodge Captain and all guests are requested to assist in every way by reducing energy consumption (electricity & gas in our case), water use, waste, sorting garbage, recycling and by registering into the Lodge Register as soon as practicable after arrival.

Parking during the Summer period

This item was raised in the 2003 bookings newsletter but to no avail it would seem. At least one extended family has decided that the restrictions don't apply to them and the Board has been warned (again) that further breaches could see the road closed to non-CPV traffic at the Admin building. All members are responsible to advise their guests of these restrictions: Vehicles may be driven to the area adjacent to the Lodge for loading/unloading and then **must** be removed from the road which passes the Lodge and parked on the tarred area in front of the Chalet. If you honestly believe that you have a need for your vehicle to remain up outside Pygmy Possum then **you** will need to liaise with CPV management and get approval.

Because I'm a redneck nazi type, I'd like to see those vehicles which are not parked correctly "clamped" and an 'unclamping' fee of say \$500.00 applied. The message might get through that way.

Room Allocations and registration on arrival

As previously stated in this medium, we are trying to avoid replacing the carpet prematurely and to this end we are using the **West wing** when there is not a full lodge. The East wing should be used only when there are too many souls for just the one wing. Earlier this year we had a real mix up and folks booked into the West wing took themselves into the East (because there was more space there). When those booked into that wing arrived the rooms which had been allotted to them were now occupied by someone else. Another woman & her child assumed that a room was empty and took it – only to have the

guest booked to that room arrive on the Sunday instead of the Saturday. The usurper then argued that as she was leaving on the Monday anyway the person duly booked into the room should go to the other side for the one night and then move back into the room next to the rest of that group on the Monday after the 'interloper' had left.

Please, please, please DO NOT use a room which is not the one allocated to you. This applies also to the fridge and cupboard spaces. It may appear when you arrive at the lodge that there will not be any others arriving and that you can spread to your heart's content but the situation changes daily (if not hourly) and what looks as though it may be an empty room this morning may well be someone else's bedspace this evening.

On the bottom of the Room Allocation Sheet there is a message which tells all that the bed allocation is correct at the date of issue (which is *usually* some three (3) weeks prior to the date of arrival at the lodge. While I attempt to advise the Lodge Captains of any amendments (if there is time to be able so to do) I have no intention of reissuing the allocation sheets just because there are changes. If you have an issue with the allocation then call me (02) 8715 6255 don't take it upon yourself to move into another room.

One guest demanded, if that's not too strong a word, that I alter the room allocation because he "always has room E2". The fact that it is a family room and was already allocated to a couple and their children while he and his partner have no children (and therefore do not require a family sized room) seemed irrelevant to him. It's folks like this that I would love to hand the bookings to for a time and let them deal with such rude, inconsiderate, selfish, uncaring and unthinking individuals. Thankfully they are in the minority and virtually all of our members are wonderful, considerate and uncomplaining.

Even though you may think that you will be the only persons in the lodge, it is important to fill in the Lodge Register with the names of the occupants in *every* room that your party is occupying. Failure to do so could see someone else (be that another guest, or NPWS or Police etc) enter your room unannounced – which could be embarrassing for all concerned. Likewise, if it is apparent that others are in residence, when you arrive, a quick check of the register will advise exactly which rooms are occupied.

The completion of the Lodge register is one part of the Management System. For us to have any chance of a new lease this is one of the items which will be monitored and scrutinised over the next five-year period of assessment. A list of the other monitored items will be included in later newsletters.

Booking Forms are available by contacting Ian on any of the contacts shown earlier. **Please do not** call after 2000 hrs (8PM)