

# SKI TRACKS

The Official Newsletter of Elouera Ski Club Ltd ACN 002 703 988

Charlotte Pass, Kosciuszko National Park

4 Leumeah Close WEST PENNANT HILLS 2125

**Notification of AGM 2005**

Issued May 2005

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors nor of the members of Elouera Ski Club Ltd. The Editor for this issue is Ian Warlters PO Box 156 MOOREBANK 1875. Ph (02) 8715 6255 . Fax (02) 9602 6290 or by Email at: [pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com](mailto:pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com)

## THINK SNOW

### **OVERSNOW LUGGAGE & the move to Sunday changeover**

Over the years Charlotte Pass Village (CPV) has threatened to impose an excess baggage charge but they have not been diligent in its imposition and all guests have simply added more and more to the pile of "Stuff" being brought in to the village. Our members are among the worst offenders and, because of the volume of luggage being brought in by guests of our lodge, the management of CPV is considering charging the "Freight" rate for excess luggage. They claim that there has been "a ridiculous increase" in the size and number of extra containers being brought in. One esky which was brought in must have needed a four wheel drive or ute to carry it to Bullocks Flat it was so big – unless they simply towed it behind their vehicle. It has four handles (instead of the usual two) as well as wheels it is so large. CPV staff claim that many of these containers still have food or drink in them on the way out.

To overcome this problem, people should consider using the foodstore for the staples. For example, bring the bolognaise sauce with you and get the spaghetti from the foodstore. To assist you with this, a copy of just what is in the store was in-

cluded with the previous newsletter. Additional copies are available from the Booking Officer (02) 8715 6255 or the Treasurer (02) 9441 2030 or by email by contacting the Booking Officer at [pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com](mailto:pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com) In discussions about this, CPV staff claim that some of the catered lodges with liquor licences are complaining that guests can bring in a case of wine for the \$5 excess baggage rate but that same case would cost them \$18 as freight.

Those lodges want the excess baggage rate increased to the freight cost. At freight rates, single bag / case costs are:- small box / bag \$18; medium \$24 and large \$26 (as at 2004). Those lodges claim (and with great justification) that an increase of this size would stop the wholesale importation of alcohol by guests as it would no longer be cheaper to bring it in than to buy it in Charlotte Pass.

The other thing which **may** well occur is that the excess luggage (your entitlement is **One (1) suitcase or bag. One (1) set of skis and One (1) boot bag per person**) will be stored at Perisher terminal and brought up to Charlottes in a freight trailer (probably with the 1800Hrs shuttle – but definitely **AFTER 1700 Hrs**). There is a proposal to put a freight trailer each per lodge at the terminal and all (excess) luggage would be stored the end of the day. It would then be brought in as bulk freight with the cost of such freight being charged to the relevant lodge with each lodge then having to recover these costs from the individual guests. Bulk freight

**PYGMY POSSUM LODGE IS A  
NON-SMOKING AREA.  
THINK SNOW**

(2004 costs) are \$300 for a full trailer; \$150 for ½ trailer and \$90 for ¼ trailer. This would be the second best outcome – the best would be the required reduction.

***The solution to most of our problems with luggage is for us to move to a Sunday changeover.***

At the May 2005 meeting the Board decided to move to Sunday as our changeover day. This will take effect from 1 Jan 06. Those at the lodge on that date will get one extra day for their week's tariff and vacate on 8 Jan 06 instead of 7 Jan 06. All subsequent bookings will be from Noon on one Sunday to Noon on the next Sunday. How could such a move help I hear you cry. Well, there are three un-catered lodges in Charlotte Pass and all three change-over on Saturdays. All of these guests have eskies and food containers (and some would have some grog too perhaps) on top of their skis and clothing. There are only three lodges which changeover on Sunday and of those two have guests who take CPV Packages and therefore have few skis and boot bags as well as Nil food-stuffs in eskies etc and therefore they do not have large amounts of baggage. This would allow for greater space for our guests to bring in their food etc. The excess baggage rates will still apply but at least that excess luggage will have the privilege of travelling with you (provided it is a *reasonable* amount).

Another advantage to the Sunday changeover is that those guests who get a cancellation or late booking for a weekend want Friday & Saturday nights which at present are in different weeks but once we change they would then be in the same week and *could* well be available for those guests. Once we go to Sunday these guests would be eligible for the "Weekend Package" from CPV which is NOT available (and could NEVER be with Saturday changeover) to any of our guests.

A Sunday changeover allows for a more relaxed pack up and move to the lodge after a week's working. Members and guests will now have the Saturday to prepare for the fray of travelling down to Bullocks Flat.

**POSITIONS VACANT – VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

At the May Board Meeting it became very clear that Lease Renewal, The Environmental Management System, Governance and Compliance matters are taking more and more of the Committee's time and effort and it was decided that the roles of Booking Officer and Newsletter Editor could be ex-officio from the Board, and while being responsible to the Board they could both simply report to the Board by phone or email or fax or whatever in time for each Board Meeting. As Merran and I are about to become "Grey Nomads" and head off into the great unknown of the drive around Australia for as long as it takes this will be my last newsletter – until after that adventure – if the new incumbent wishes to hand it back.

The Booking Officer's role requires email access and the discipline to check it regularly because there are a number of enquiries daily.

There *could* be a Summer Booking Officer and a Winter Booking Officer if two of you wish to share the load. The Newsletter Editor needs just write and compile the copy which is then printed by others. The distribution is a matter for discussion – but much of it *can* be electronic. The various Board Members provide the information for the actual newsletters. There are really only two – one in November / December to notify the new rates and to advertise the priority booking night and one in Apr / May to advertise the Annual General Meeting. So this is not as onerous a task as the Booking Officer.

Expressions of Interest for either job should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
4 Leumeah Close  
West Pennant Hill 2125  
(02) 9875 2665

but if you wish to discuss any aspect of either role please call me on (02) 8715 6255 or email me at [pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com](mailto:pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com)

## **Priority booking night and the use of credit points**

**Rule No 1** The Priority Booking Night is held on the first Tuesday of March each year.

See the “Early Bird Discount” section later in this newsletter

The booking applications are opened at 1730hrs on that evening and the priorities are decided. To achieve a priority members offer a number of their accumulated **Accommodation Credit Points**. The number of points offered is divided by the number of bedspaces requested and this resultant number is the Priority Rating. Those with the highest ratings get first choice of booking and so on down the list. Members’ families rate as two bedspaces regardless of the number of offspring involved. If you wish to have accommodation during a number of heavily booked weeks such as race week and the school holidays and if you don’t offer at least some points then there is very little likelihood of you getting what you want.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR BOOKINGS – PLEASE NOTE**

As I will not be in Sydney, my PO Box and Fax number will cease to be an address for Elouera Ski Club and Pygmy Possum Lodge. The email address and phone number will remain.

From the AGM onwards, and until a new Booking Officer assumes duty, the address for all bookings will be:

Booking Officer  
c/- 4 Leumeah Close  
West Pennant Hills 2125

Before I resign as the Booking Officer and there are a couple of parting shots (more broadsides really) that I would like to make before I go – in the hope of making life easier for my successor.

JACK McGREGOR must have been a SAINT (and so must his wife Betty) to have put up with being the Booking Officer for some 18 years, or maybe the membership has become more blasé about the lodge and therefore more demanding in the approach they take to the Booking Officer in regard to their requirements / needs / demands / hours of calling

***Following are some of the ‘complaints’ I would like to get off my chest while I still have the opportunity!!!***

1. A number of you will be aware that I was away in NZ for some weeks leading up to the most recent “Priority Booking Night” - and therefore had handed over the responsibility for all of the last minute panics to Peter Paske ( another of our volunteer Directors). When I returned and received back all of the paperwork he asked me if you, the membership, are always so demanding.

2. There are still application forms arriving without post codes – **YOU** live there and therefore **YOU KNOW** what your postcode is – It is not part of the duty statement for the Booking Officer to look up **YOUR** postcode. This might sound like a little thing but there were 329 bookings on Priority Booking Night. That’s 329 lots of additions to be checked to ensure that the correct moneys are paid to the Treasurer, 329 booking confirmations to be posted out (all hand addressed) and 329 bed allocations to be sorted and written into the register. These tasks were completed on 18 Mar – some 17 man days of effort! All Board positions are honorary and voluntary so please be kinder to the Board members who have to sort through your wishes.

3. While not wanting to deter possible volunteers for the position of Booking Officer, the following is a classic, true (unfortunately) example of member thoughtlessness:

4. A member put in a request for space for one parent and two children for our most heavily booked week - the second week of the July school holidays. At least it was accompanied by the disclaimer (which a LARGE number failed to include) and a cheque. Fine you might say. Well, **NO!** The prices per person/ week were not inserted and therefore not added and carried across to give a subtotal from which any tendered credits could be deducted to arrive at the amount of the cheque **AND** there was absolutely no

indication that any credit points were to be used. There was no number shown in the request for points, no number shown in the space for the credit points to be deducted *and no indication of the membership number*. What had been shown was the room number to be allocated – a *Double* bed for the parent (but no single supplement payment for taking two bedspace for one person) and a neighbouring twin share room for the offspring. As there was no indication of any credit points on the form, a zero priority was allotted at the ‘Priority Booking Night’ and therefore the family missed out on their booking (72 people wanted the 54 bedspaces so something had to give). There was no second preference indicated so I rang to tell them that they had not got their ski trip this year. Well, it was the board’s fault for not seeing that the cost of the accommodation (not noted *anywhere* on the form) was far greater than the cheque and therefore the shortfall *must* have been credit points – even if that had not been indicated on the form either. By yet more rearranging, they got their booking.

5. Another pet hate of mine is the practice of requesting child rate for young adults – claiming them as “Dependent Students”. The ages for the child rate are stated quite clearly on the tariff rates. One ‘gem’ goes even further. One parent accompanies two offspring and the request for accommodation has a request for a Queen sized bed for the parent (not even prepared to share with the offspring of the same gender) and separate rooms each for the son and the daughter – with never a cent of single supplement offered, just the child rate paid for the students. Yes, I know it’s about kids at Uni and the costs etc – and I know about that too. Been there – done that! ... But when the “kids” are over 21 ???

6. It is fine to indicate your preference for a particular room or wing but the magic word ‘please’ would help your cause. And, please be realistic. If you ask for the peak season and offer nil points just what hope do you have really of getting a ‘Presidential Suite’. The rooms are allocated by Priority too. The front “family” rooms go to those with **little** kiddies (2,3 and 4 year olds) and if there are none of those then to the highest priority bidder and so on down the pecking order. I have had no favourites, but have tried to accede to people’s requests where it fitted without inconveniencing others. Remember, members with a zero rating have priority over non-members with a zero rating so **always put your membership number on the application form** or you could miss out.

7. There are a number on non-members with credit points which we require them to use and therefore their bookings could well “Bump” members who offer fewer points.

OK, I’ve got that off my chest! Now – Please will someone out there consider taking over as the Booking Officer? There are **LOTS** of really pleasant members you can get to know.

### **NEW DOONAS & COVERS**

The following is a message from Merrill Ross – the Secretary concerning the provision of new doonas and covers.

“All double beds and queen beds have new doona. All beds have new doona covers and pillow slips. We have also supplied some cotton blankets. All doonas, doona covers and pillow slips have been marked with the room number. This makes for easier handling when laundered. Please do not move these items to another room. Pillow slips are for presentation only so please remove and use your own during your stay and replace on leaving.”

**PYGMY POSSUM LODGE IS  
A SMOKE FREE ZONE  
THINK SNOW instead**

### **VERY CLEVER (?) GUESTS**

During the Summer Season we had some very inventive and ingenious guests. They were able to modify the pool table by using a piece of metal from one of the table tennis nets to extend the bar which accesses the balls from their storage space – thereby making the use of money totally unnecessary (much to the chagrin of the Treasurer who was looking forward to banking those takings). One of the table tennis tables (which was not meant to fold) was folded and stored. It will take considerable effort to restore it to a useable state.

It *could* have been the same idiot who modified the smoke detector in a room on the East Wing so that it was screened from being able to detect the steam from the bathroom and/or the smoke from a smoker in the room. Whichever was the reason, it was an *extremely* dangerous action – and one which will result in disciplinary action should we be able to discover just who it was. This particular action could have resulted in a fire destroying all or part of our lodge.

### **FOODSTORE DOCKETS**

The foodstore contains items which attract GST and others which do not and unless a foodstore docket is filled in to indicate which is which then the law requires GST to be paid on the entire amount of the transaction. To save us from paying money unnecessarily, please ensure that the foodstore dockets are completed and returned expeditiously - the Business Activity Statements (BAS) refer to each quarter and GST is payable on activity in the particular quarter – not in the next one.

Some members and guests are failing to fill in a foodstore docket at all. The Treasurer is not a psychic and therefore he does not know whether the docket was not filled in or whether some items had been used but the docket was not returned so, I iterate: **No Docket No Refund.** The Treasurer does not know every post code in Australia. Nor does he know the address of every guest who uses the lodge. Therefore, if the docket is not correct in every detail i.e. Name Address **AND** post code then the refund cannot be processed.

It is obvious from the stocktaking which is done at the end of the season that some folks are taking items and forgetting(?) to enter them on the docket. This is particularly the case with soft drinks. There were a large number of opened cans – some empty others not – in the foodstore when the stocktaking was done. Some of these will have been snatched by kids who have been sent to the foodstore to collect something, by their parents. Those paying child rates **are NOT permitted in the foodstore without parental supervision.** Those parents who send their children to the foodstore without supervision risk being invited not to return.

### **Temperature of Hot water in our facilities**

Members and guests should note that the temperature of the hot water in the kitchen should be approximately 70 degrees centigrade (required for a reasonable level of hygiene). This applies to both Pygmy Possum Lodge and the units at Shoal Bay.

**PYGYM POSSUM LODGE IS  
GOING ONLINE  
WATCH THIS SPACE**

### **Early Bird discounts for bookings**

From Priority Booking Night 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of March ergo 7 Mar 06) there will be a 10% discount applied for all bookings processed on Priority Booking Night. A 5% discount will apply until 30 Apr of each year and the full rate will apply from 1 May of each year. So, missing getting your booking in on time will UP TO 10% (This is a change to the Booking Conditions and not a misprint).

### **Dates for full payment of summer 'bulk' bookings**

Where members or groups make bulk or block bookings of say a wing or a whole lodge during the Summer season then the following dates will apply for the final payments:

For bookings during December, January & February all payments in by 31 Oct

For bookings during Easter / April school holidays all payments in by 31 Jan

Failure to have the payments in by the due date will result in the booking being released for others.

### **Changes of Address**

We are required to send certain documents to all our members by snail mail, so if you have changed your postal address please let us know. A new address on a booking form will probably go unnoticed as we can not necessarily remember 400 odd addresses off by heart. If you have changed your address and make a booking the notation '**please note new address**' will help considerably.

If you are getting your newsletters by email, do we have your correct Postal Address?

**Current "Known Missing Persons" ...** (i.e. persons we know have not given us their current mailing address) are listed below. If you can help locate these members please ring Geoff Mathie (02) 9441 2030

Neil Dodd

Terry Gavagan

Robert Heal

formerly Canberra

formerly Rozelle

### **NEW WEB SITE FOR PYGMY POSSUM LODGE**

There is now a web site for Pygmy Possum Lodge (under construction). Bookings will (eventually—once we get the Bpay stuff all sorted out) be able to be conducted electronically. The site is [www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au](http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au)

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