

SKI TRACKS

The Official Newsletter of Elouera Ski Club Ltd

CAN 002 703 988

Charlotte Pass, Kosciuszko National Park

Issue December 2014

2015 BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE NOW

**DON'T FORGET
PRIORITY BOOKINGS
MUST BE MADE BEFORE 5PM
TUESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY
2015**

The preferred method of payment is by Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard only). We do not have a Bpay or Direct Deposit facility. Credit Card details for online bookings or bookings totally paid for by credits may be emailed to geoffmathie@bigpond.com or faxed to 02 9875 2706.

If you are posting & paying by cheque or Money Order please allow several days for delivery. All bookings whether online or manual must be complete in all details and be accompanied with payment including Food Store Deposit.

Postal address is P.O. Box 3157 Thornton 2322

Members remember you get bonus points for taking non-members to the Lodge. For more information please ring Gary 0425 256 255

Categories for ages this year for Charlotte Pass Resort packages a child is 13 years and under – an adult is 14 years and over – a senior is 65 years and over. For more details of prices log on to www.charlottepass.com.au/skipackages.html

REMINDER: BOOKINGS FOR PYGMY POSSUM ARE WEEKLY FROM SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

Members have we got your email address ?

If you have not received an email from the club this year would you please send an email to quinnell@bigpond.com and acknowledge that you have received this Newsletter. This will allow us to update your details.

WE HAVE A SUBLEASE EXTENSION

Elouera Ski Club has signed a sublease extension until October 2017, after that date we are not sure what will happen.

NPWS is determined to go to open tender for a new Head Lessee for Charlotte Pass Village. If the current head lessee, Kevin Blyton, is successful in gaining that lease we are certain to get a new sublease, however if someone else gets the head lease they may not want to give the club a sublease. Only time will tell, so please keep up the pressure on the Government and NPWS to enter into direct negotiations for CPV as they have done for Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes, Guthega and Thredbo.

Elouera Ski Club was formed in the early 1980's with a lot of enthusiastic skiers wanting to invest in their own ski lodge and make it the best in the snow field. It still remains one of the best with a wonderful area for families to ski, good access to the white wilderness beyond and comfortable, cheap accommodation. The problem is that 29 years have elapsed and we still have a majority of the original members most of whom are no longer as eager to take to the slopes.

The Board of the club has always taken a long term view and the club is in a good position to get a new sublease and to start to rebuild the membership. New younger skiers will want to use the lodge for the same reasons we did when we first joined. The Board is now made up of some 12 very dedicated people, but the majority are still over 65 years old and some want to retire. We have two positions available. If you are able to join the Board please ring Peter Quinnell on 9521 4562.

We currently have 391 members who own a total of 600 memberships. In our current position, a limited number of new memberships will be offered for sale to new non members, and if we are not successful in gaining a new sublease after October 2017, will be repurchased by the club in April 2018, less an amount equal to the savings enjoyed by having a membership, If you know anyone interested please have them contact Geoff Mathie on 9875 2665.

WORK PARTY 12 - 19 OCTOBER 2014

Routine work was undertaken, by the very small group who were able to attend. The mattress and pillow protectors on all beds were washed and pillow cases washed and ironed. Kitchen community cupboards were cleaned out and restocked from store. Kitchen equipment was more evenly allocated back to each wing. All en-suites were checked for correct cleaning items and restocked where required. The telephone was reinstalled and additional battery pack and voltmeter fixed to booth wall. The telephone was reprogrammed for hot key calls to Treasurer, Maintenance Manager, Castaways Booking officer and Pygmy Possum Booking officer. Shower arms which were leaking in 12 en-suites were fitted with the correct size washers. East wing Heat Pump (Air Conditioner) was checked by Andrew Solomon, Jindabyne Refrigeration, he determined that board in outside unit was faulty, causing the ELB to trip out. The A/C is no longer in use & we are looking at a replacement. The 100W globe in E2 bedroom was replaced. Removed mildew from walls in E11, E13, W14. Removed faulty series 41 switch from West wing quiet lounge, the Dimplex wall heater is now without a switch, but working. Clothes Dryer 2 was fitted with a new filter from spares in drawer marked "Dryer Parts" in workshop. Leaking white plastic kettle in West wing replaced with last spare from PP3 trunk. Emergency Lights tested. Stocktake of food store and community cupboard. Time clocks on heaters set to Daylight Saving Time and thermostats set for summer settings.. Vacuum cleaners were checked for efficient operation. The bookcases in both wings were tidied, damaged literature was removed. All the hard surface floors throughout lodge and the shelves in each wing drying rooms were washed.

AIR CONDITIONERS – HEATERS

The operation of this equipment does not require the use of the remote control unit, the Air Conditioners are controlled by the thermostats on the Switch Boards and are used for heating only. The East Wing Air Conditioner is to be replaced. If you have a problem with the heating at the Lodge please ring the free call on the phone to either Peter Quinnell or Geoff Mathie.

BOOKINGS

The club has an excellent Booking System which gives us all the information required to process a booking, the club has a credit card terminal which enables us to process a payment as soon as we receive the credit card details, Other methods of payment are possible Cheque and Bank transfer (these may be easier for the person booking) but not so for the club, unfortunately one particular bank likes to take 3 days for the transfer to go through and on 2 occasions the money has not arrived at all and the

non-members concerned have had their stay in the lodge and refuse to communicate any further, Cheques require 3 working days to clear and are not always for the right amount of money. When food refunds are required for these types of payments a club Cheque has to be drawn and posted to an address (that in most cases has not been supplied on the food docket). Payments made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) are processed immediately, food refunds for these are refunded back to that credit card.

There have been a couple of problems not with the booking system but with some people attempting to make the booking. The booking must be **submitted, (not just reloaded but submitted)** if the booking has not been submitted then we know nothing about it, as there has been no communication between your computer and anyone else. In one instance I have emailed a person a step by step set of instructions on how to make a booking, only to eventually receive a printed copy of the instructions I sent them along with a Cheque for the wrong amount of money pinned to the instructions without even mentioning the date of the booking or the names of the guests in the party – fortunately they did ask me for a receipt and please send it to their email address but as yet have had no response – so no booking has been made (I still have the Cheque),.

Some of our guests have been taking their room keys home with them, it is their responsibility to package up the key and forward back to the Treasurer who will jump in his car at the earliest convenient time and take them back down to the lodge (1000km round trip), Room keys should not be taken out of the Lodge, some people have just resorted to throwing the Key into an Australia Post Mail Box – this causes damage to Australia Post Sorting equipment and if the key is retrieved and sent back to the address on the key tag it comes with a very nasty note from Australia Post outlining the damage and inconvenience it causes, re-cutting a new key is expensive and extremely inconvenient. If you have inadvertently locked your key in your room you will have to wait for the lodge captain to come back from their skiing and tell them, they can then arrange to have the door opened without any fuss, or in an emergency you can ring either Peter Quinnell or Geoff Mathie as a free call on the club's phone who will explain what to do.

We have had people who have a limited degree of problem solving ! One cut the lock off the door (\$200.00 damage) someone else actually smashed the door frame (\$400.00) and these made the rooms unusable for the rest of the season.

CREDIT POINTS

Members are reminded that they can earn extra credit points by booking non-members into Pygmy Possum or Castaways or by lending the club money and receiving credits in lieu of interest.

For those members who would like a cash payment for loan money we can oblige but the Tax Office is notified of the transaction, the interest rate we pay is 5% paid in March and June each year.

If you wish to lend the club money by either method please contact the Treasurer Geoff Mathie 02 9875 2665 for further details.

DATES FOR 2015

Kosciuszko Chalet will open for food and beverages 9am to 4pm daily in the following periods :

Saturday 27 Dec 2014 to Monday 26 Jan 2015

Easter 2015 Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April 2015

Friday 19 June 2015 – first day for lift operations to

Sunday 13 Sept 2015 – last day for lift operations for season 2015 the Chalet will also open for dinner.

Pygmy Possum Lodge is open all year round. Summer is perfect for walking and winter is ideal for skiing. Depending on the snow you can ski outside the twelve week period that Charlotte Pass Village has allocated for operating the lifts, Cross country skiing is the answer and if you haven't tried it why not give it a go in 2015.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Unfortunately we had a lull in bookings end of July to mid August with only a few guests using the best snow we have had for many years. This resulted in poor winter booking money (better than last year though) still not enough to make large inroads into our debt reduction. Due to the success of the new system our priority Bookings, whereby bookings open in mid February with the priority discounted price remaining till mid March (by 24 Mar approx. 10% discount & by 30 Apr approx 5%) this will give those members wishing to get the benefit of the CPV Ski Packages time before end of February and also gives members the opportunity to look at the bookings on the website and invite friends to join them even it means changing the bookings from one week to another with no penalty in rates. If you take your friends with you, you earn extra credit points for their booking.

LODGE EXPENSES

Our Expenses are high. Most of our expenses are Flat Charges that we cannot control (Depreciation, Amortisation, Insurance, Rent, NSW National Park and CPV Community Services, Bank Repayments, Bank Interest, etc.) It is essential that our properties are fully utilised, especially during the off seasons.

So all our members should be actively promoting their club by encouraging their friends and business associates to utilise the facilities that we provide. Remember credits for bookings that you provide to the

club (2 points for every \$110 @ non member rate). Members can also assist by reducing our interest paid to the bank.

Hopefully with the reduced value of the Australian Dollar we would like to see more of you using the facilities that are yours to enjoy in 2015

MEMBERS LOANS TO THE CLUB (credits)

Due to the success of the Loan Scheme the Board will continue this while ever we have a Bank loan (this will benefit members rather than the bank). This scheme will add accommodation credits to your credits. From time to time some members wish to withdraw some of their money and other members lend the money to cover the money exchange. If Members wish to lend the club money or add additional money to their Loan now, Credits earned to the end of March will be added to your Balance and will be available for 2015 Bookings. Thank you again for all those members who have participated, your credits have been added to your accommodation credits list.

MEMBERS LOANS TO THE CLUB (dividend cheques)

A Loan Scheme has been introduced by the board whereby members may invest money with the club and receive dividend cheques, one in March and one in June the interest rate offered is 5% based on daily balances. To be eligible for this plan you are required to supply us with all your relevant details for the Tax Office, (Tax File Number, date of birth, and address) This information is then supplied to the ATO with our annual tax Return, so the interest is taxable. For any member interested in this type of loan please contact the Treasurer Geoff Mathie as this needs to be explained fully before we can accept money for this type of loan.

Money lent to the club is used to reduce the money that we owe the bank, interest is granted in the form of accommodation credits or dividend cheques.

The equivalent interest rate for credit loans as from 15/8/2013 is 5.3%, this rate is determined by the bank Interest charged on our Loan Accounts at the time, Loans are till the 1st April in the following year and notice to withdraw should be made in writing prior to 31st March in the current year otherwise the loan is reinvested till the following year.

If Members wish to lend the club money for either scheme, please ring Treasurer Geoff Mathie and the required forms will be sent to you.

For those members who would like a cash payment for loan money we can oblige but the Tax Office is notified of the transaction, the interest rate we pay is 5% paid in March and June each year.

Geoff Mathie

(Hon.Treasurer)

02 9875 2665 or email geoffmathie@bigpond.com

BOARD MEMBERS

NEW: We welcome Michelle Mawbey who joined the Elouera Ski Club Board on 20th October 2014..

CURRENT: Geoff Mathie is recovering from some serious health issues. His prognosis is positive at this time.

VALE DUSAN HORA

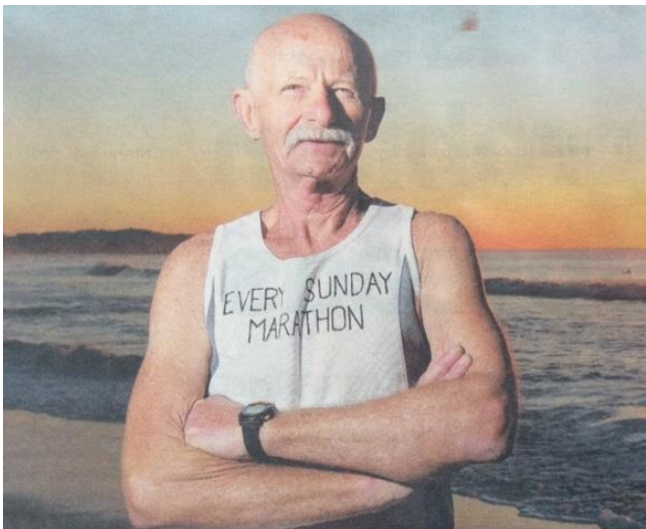
It is with regret that we advise the passing of Dusan Hora. He died, aged 69, in August near the end of a weekly marathon that he had run each week for 1026 weeks. Each Sunday he would run around the Sydney Northern Beaches or Ku-Ring-Gai National Park. Dusan was also a keen skier and as a member of Pygmy Possum was very involved in maintaining the lodge, undertaking some major repairs where his architectural training came in very handy.. He was always available for work parties and also organized marathon runs from Pygmy Possum to the Kosciusko summit.

He had organized a marathon for Sunday 28 December 2014 which will still take place.

On Saturday 27 December this year those staying at Pygmy Possum will take part in a Remembrance of Dusan and a celebration of his life at the summit of Mount Kosciusko.

Dusan was born in the Czech Republic and migrated to Australia in 1980. He loved competing in marathons and had raced in South Africa, Antarctica, France, New Zealand, Iceland, Easter Island and most recently in May this year in Prague.

He will be remembered for his energy and enthusiasm.



VALE DENNIS LANE

Sadly, one of our founding members, Dennis Lane, was tragically killed in a cycling accident on Sunday, November 23. He was aged 70. Dennis was an active man and loved participating in outdoor sporting activities such as sailing, tennis, golf and skiing.

He started his working life at the Electricity Commission, then onto Telstra and finally at Transgrid, where he retired at the age of sixty five.

His wife Dianne and three children paid tribute to his wonderful qualities as a devoted husband, father and grandfather and of the many holidays they had enjoyed over the years as a family.

Dennis' funeral was a huge event, showing how well respected and loved he was by all who knew him

