

SKI TRACKS

NEWSLETTER of Elouera Ski Club

December 2016

**Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlottes Pass
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our final Ski Tracks newsletter for 2016.

This year has been an important one for the Club. We have adapted to life without Geoff Mathie, who guided the Club's direction for many years as Secretary/Treasurer. On your behalf, I would like to thank Peter Quinnell for the excellent job he has done as President. He has an in-depth knowledge of the Club and as your new President, I hope to learn as much as possible from Peter over the coming months.

The lease extension for Pygmy Possum Lodge expires in October 2017. We have actively participated in discussions and have made a submission to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage on the future management options for Charlotte Pass and Perisher Range. Expressions of interest are still being finalised. See more details below.

Early in the year, the Board decided to sell three of the one bedroom units at Castaways. This has been completed and has allowed the Club to repay all of the outstanding member loans and invest surplus funds for our future. The top floor unit at Castaways has been retained. It commands a magnificent position at Shoal Bay just opposite the beach. Bookings are now being handled through PRD Realty.

Maintenance at Pygmy Possum Lodge is ongoing. We have recently refurbished the lounges and fixed the coin operated washing machines and dryers. The review of lockers and trunks is now completed. Thank you to all who participated in the Food Store survey. Restocking is scheduled for March 2017 and we will take note of your feedback.

Streamlining systems and procedures is ongoing. Our By Laws are currently being updated as part of our governance review.

Thank you to all members of the Board and our many volunteers for your hard work during the year. There are two vacancies on the Board if anyone is interested in helping. No doubt we will be in for an interesting year negotiating our future lease.

Let's hope we have lots of snow during 2017 winter season and on behalf of the Board I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ross Wheatley - Mobile 0411 202 062

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Club's bank balance is healthy at the moment with \$200,000 in fixed term deposits. The funds are being set aside for expenditure that will be required when the new lease for Charlotte Pass is finalised. Members due a locker/trunk refund have been contacted and need to provide me their bank details so I return this to them.

Mark Epper

PYGMY POSSUM LODGE BOOKING RATES and CONDITIONS

A new rate has been introduced for whole lodge or single wing booking during "Low Season" summer period. The dates and rates are shown on the Booking Rates for Summer 2016/17 and Summer 2017/18. During the low season summer periods it is also possible to make nonstandard week long bookings (i.e. not necessarily Sunday to Sunday) and still qualify for the weekly rate after 4 days of stay. Low season summer bookings for longer than a week are charged at one seventh of the weekly rate times the number of days stay.

Take advantage of these great discounts to book in a group of non member friends. Non members can also make Whole Lodge or Single Wing bookings for themselves. Vacancies exist for all weeks except Christmas week and 15-29 January 2017.

Bookings now require a minimum of 25% of the booking fee to be paid in cash. This means is that credit points will no longer be accepted for more than 75% of the tariff.

LODGE KEYS

There are a number of lodge keys currently with Club Members that were either given to you by Geoff Mathie or you've forgotten to return after your visit.

The club is very keen to get all keys that are currently in use registered and if not used returned for the better management of the lodge. Can those members who have a key either return them to the Secretary at 53 Bridge Rd Blaxland 2774 or advise us by email to information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au so that I can update the register.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Board at its October meeting confirmed the methods for purchase of shares and transfer of shares as people make the decision not to continue with the club.

This is detailed on the website including all the required forms that need to be completed and sent to the Secretary. The Secretary also has a list of 5 or 6 memberships that are available for sale and will provide the details to any person who is keen to buy shares from other club members. Note the sale of a membership is a personal thing between seller and purchaser and the club will not be part of the negotiation process. However as with all new members to the club, the Board will vet the purchaser to ensure that he/she is a person of good stature and will not impact on other members.

The club has been selling new memberships to attract more people to the lodge but this has been suspended as we have sufficient memberships, we just need more members to use our facilities.

If you have friends who want to be members please contact the secretary on 0417 236 365 or email to information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au so we can send out the list of potential sellers and their details.

PYGMY POSSUM WORKING PARTY

The smooth operation of Pygmy Possum depends on the dedicated members and friends who attend the bi-annual working parties - one in October and another prior to the winter season. Tasks include building maintenance and repair, stocktaking and stocking of food store, kitchen and housekeeping tasks.

The next working party will be held from 15-22 March 2017 which includes one full weekend.

We need new people to help including team leader to look after the housekeeping teams. If you are interested in attending the work party, please email Peter Hill <mailto:peterh@uow.edu.au> indicating.

1. How many days you could attend
2. What skill set you may have etc

Please note numbers are limited for each working bee.

Other bookings will not be accepted during work party times.

NPWS LEASING AT CHARLOTTE PASS

The next phase of the NPWS engagement for the long-term sustainability of the Perisher Range Resorts and Charlotte Pass (the Resorts) is now underway with Charlotte Pass Village requesting support from the Lodges Association for their expression of interest (EOI) submission. We expect to hear the results of this early in the New Year. The NPWS process remains on track for the completion in September 2017.

Details of the process can be found on the government website at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/perisher-charlotte-market-engagement.htm>. At this stage we still do not have any idea of the final outcome of the process and can only wait for this phase of the process to be announced to be able to advise members of the clubs position. As a board we have been keen to put our support behind the process and have defended the work done by CPV to improve the operation to the village. However, we are aware that to make this a better facility it will take more money to enhance the operation to make it both more profitable and to ensure that we have a first rate facility for our guests. We will keep you informed of the future progress as it occurs.

2016 WINTER SEASON IN REVIEW

It was a good snow season in 2016 when compared to the last few years. Charlottes Pass Village reports that during their season the first snowfall was 22 June and the total snowfall was 331 cm with an average base depth of 113cm. Some of the heaviest snowfalls occurred at end of September and beginning of October. Snowy Hydro measured the deepest snow depth for the season on 6 October at 170.5 cm (Spencers Creek reading taken on the side of Mount Guthrie).

The first weeks of July and all of August were Pygmy Possum's strongest booking periods during 2016 Winter season. Everyone who visited our lodge during the season experienced the magic of fresh snow as snowfall were recorded every week. The challenges were magnified during September/October school holidays when cars were snowed in at the village and medical emergencies required extraordinary solutions with four ambulance vehicle changes required to transport an injured guest to Cooma. (See adjacent photos taken in October 2016 including the main road being cleared for the second time.)



Have you ever wondered about the chimney near the Snowy River crossing below Charlottes Pass?



It is Foremans Hut and built about 1920 and demolished after 1949. Drawing taken from photo by Frank Leyden, circa 1944