

SKI TRACKS

The Official Newsletter of Elouera Ski Club Ltd ACN 002 703 988
Charlotte Pass, Kosciuszko National Pass
(PO Box 156 MOOREBANK 1875)

Priority Bookings winter 2005

Issued Dec2004

THEFTS FROM THE LODGE

During early September, a guest had a mobile phone stolen from a drying room in the lodge. There were other thefts from other lodges with phones, wallets and cameras all being stolen. The perpetrator was a 14 (or so) year old male guest at another lodge. The guest from Pygmy Possum called his phone company to cancel all calls and enquired when the most recent call had been made and to whom. He called that number, and got the person at the other end to identify who had called and where that person was staying. The police were called but the offender's father claimed that the youth had left the village – which he hadn't. The Board has decided to install a video camera to record the comings in and goings out of the front door. The loss of privacy will be advertised by a sign advising that the premises are under surveillance. From the time that the camera is fitted, all guests will be required to sign an acknowledgment and disclaimer form prior to occupancy (see next paragraph).

All guests are advised to remove valuables from the drying rooms and to exercise proper security for their belongings.

PRIORITY BOOKING NIGHT AND ACCOMMODATION RATES

Attached to this newsletter is a list of the Accommodation Credit Points available for bookings in 2005, along with the rates for accommodation at Pygmy Possum Lodge. Completed forms, together with **full** payment (this includes the foodstore deposit **and** the booking fee) duly marked "Priority Booking" are to reach the Booking Officer at PO Box 156 MOOREBANK NSW 1875 by close of business on Monday 28

Feb 05. They may be hand delivered to Sydney Markets Industries Club at Markets Plaza [1st floor, Western end] Flemington Markets, Parramatta Rd Flemington by 1730 Hrs on Tuesday 1 Mar 05. **Late applications will not be accepted.** These will be dealt with in order of receipt after those received in time for processing on the "Priority Booking Night".

Only **fully completed** bookings will be processed. To be "fully completed" the form must detail the names of all persons staying at the lodge and be accompanied by the full costs of the accommodation **and** the **signed** disclaimer as well as the foodstore deposit and booking fee.

RAY BARNES RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT

Ray Barnes has stood down as President of the club because of ill health. Ray had been the President of the club since its inception and will leave a massive hole for others to fill. On behalf of all members I wish to express my thanks to Ray and his family for the commitment they have shown to creating and preserving our wonderful lodge. I would also like to thank Ray for the foresight which the Board showed (well before I joined) in acquiring the units at Castaways in Shoal Bay – they are proving to be a real little 'Gold Mine' both with rentals and with capital growth. On behalf of all members may I wish Ray a speedy recovery and improved health for the future. Ray, thank you.

The newly appointed President is Ross Sutherland who will act as President and Chairman until the next AGM. Alexander Bailey has been appointed Vice-President.

"UNDERSTUDY" APPOINTMENTS FOR DIRECTORS

Ray Barnes' sudden illness and resignation caused his fellow Directors to 'take stock' and to consider just how badly our club could be affected if other Board appointments were to fall by the wayside suddenly. Therefore, at the July Board Meeting, it was decided that the main roles of the board would need to

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

have a “shadow” or understudy director who is to learn the ropes and to take over when the normal incumbent is unavailable for whatever reason. Alexander’s appointment as Vice-President was the first of these. Here is the full list of appointments:

Office Bearer	Deputy
President: Ross Sutherland	Vice-President: Alexander Bailey
Secretary: Merrill Ross	Assistant Secretary: Geoff Mathie
Treasurer: Geoff Mathie	Assistant Treasurer: Merrill Ross
Booking Officer P Possum: Ian Warlters	Assistant Booking Officer (PP): Peter Paske
Booking Officer – Castaways: Keith Kennedy	Assistant Booking Offr (C/aways): Pat Martin
Newsletter Editor: Ian Warlters	Assistant Editor: Ross Sutherland
P.Poss Lodge Captains’ reports coordinator: Doug Chapman	Assistant Lodge Captains’ reports coordinator: John Mawbey
Property Maintenance coordinator: John Mawbey	Assistant Property Maintenance Coordinator: Doug Chapman
Charlotte Pass Ski Association Delegate (Race Week co-ord): Mark Gillett	Alternate Delegate: Someone who attends “Race Week” may care to volunteer
Charlotte Pass Ski Lodges Association Delegate: Geoff Mathie	Alternate / Second Delegate: Alexander Bailey
Charlotte Pass Village (CPV) Liaison: Geoff Mathie and Alexander Bailey	Geoff Mathie and Alexander Bailey

These measures *should* ensure the continued smooth running and financial management of the Club.

NEW PHONE No FOR TREASURER

The Treasurer, Geoff Mathie has a new Phone Number. It is **(02) 9441 2030**. Please use this number in future.

RENEWAL OF THE LEASE @ CHARLOTTE PASS

The lease over Charlotte Pass ends soon. Elouera Ski Club Ltd holds a sub-lease from Charlotte Pass Village (CPV) and therefore our lease will expire at the same time. We, along with other lodges in the Pass, have been working to ensure that the necessary Environmental requirements as laid down by the NPWS Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation but there are forces working against us. Some other lodges (and some guests in our lodge) are refusing to sort garbage and to put the correct items into the correct bin. Some lodges are refusing to complete the work books which are used to monitor energy use. All of which means that the renewal *could* (and almost certainly will) be delayed until all of the requirements of the Environment Management Plan have been fully complied with and vetted. Any delay in fulfilling these requirements, by any of the lodges, can place the entire lease negotiations in jeopardy. The cost being bandied about for the new lease is \$10,000.00 per bed. We as a club will, therefore, need to find \$540,000.00 at the time of renewal. Thank goodness for the Castaways units which can then be used as collateral.

EARNING EXTRA ACCOMMODATION CREDIT POINTS

All members can earn bonus Accommodation Credit Points (and thereby defray their own costs) by booking in non-members. Each \$100 of non-member accommodation earns 2 credit points. Therefore, if **you** had booked in (or “introduced”) two couples during this August then your credit points account would rise by 41 (well 40.92 really) because each of your mates would have paid \$511.50 so the total for their accommodation (not incl. foodstore deposit or booking fee) is \$2046.00 and you qualify for 2 points per hundred ergo 40.92 points which is more than you get for being a member. Those extra points *could* be the ones which get you that booking in race week or the school holidays or whenever.

Those who use this wonderful way of bolstering their points account need to do a bit more than just tell their friends about our great lodge. They **should** (but some don’t) advise their guests of just what is entailed with the shared du-

ties (sweeping the kitchen, vacuuming the carpet, bagging & removing the garbage etc etc) as well as explaining about the foodstore and how the foodstore deposit works. A copy of what is in the foodstore (in general terms) is included in the letter which the Booking Officer issues when confirming receipt of a booking. But, because it is obvious that members don't read it and their guest don't get a copy, an amended way of promulgating this information will be trialled for the 2005 Winter bookings. In future years, a copy of the items held in the foodstore will accompany the newsletter advising the accommodation rates (The Priority Bookings Notice). If notified at the time of requesting extra booking forms, then another copy will be sent with the resupply of said forms.

We are going to give guests a fighting chance of knowing what is in the store and what the phone number at the lodge is (you'd be surprised the number of persons booked into the lodge by members who phone the booking officer thinking that they're calling the lodge – because the member simply doesn't pass on a copy of the confirmation) by insisting that each family be booked on a separate booking form with that family's full postal address and contact details. At present, when one member in a booking cancels then the letter advising of the cancellation is attached to the booking slip **but** the whole booking slip **has** to remain in the folder because there are other families on that same sheet. Also, if each family fills in the top of the form then we know that the postal address and contact details are correct and they can be contacted quickly in the case of something happening which will affect their booking. A number of members put their names at the top of the form (to ensure that they get their extra points) but really all that is needed is for them to sign the bottom section and insert their membership number (which will guarantee them their just reward).

All of that sounds complicated & pompous but really it's like riding a bike – easier to do than to explain. You as a member need to get extra forms for your guests and sign the bottom section (ensuring that you include your member number) then get the guests to complete the form with the correct spelling of given names etc {I copped a real serve from one woman because of what she described as my 'butchering' of her name when all that I had done was transcribe what her host had written} and get all of the forms in to the Booking Officer by the due date. QED

PACKAGE DEALS PROVIDED BY CPV

In 2004 Charlotte Pass Village (CPV) opened up their Lift / lessons / ski hire / oversnow-transport packages to all comers and not just those in large groups. And what a can of worms that opened !!! Guests to the village, not happy to have been given the benefit of accessing these deals, complained that they wanted the three day package to suit the days that they were not going Cross-country skiing or that they wanted the weekend package while staying either longer than the weekend or for a period other than the weekend. To clarify the situation, here are the rules:

The Weekend Package - sold with a two night weekend stay

Transport **In** on **Friday** and **out** on **Sunday**.

Lift tickets 3 days from day of arrival (Friday) to day of departure (Sunday)

Ski hire 3 days as above if applicable to the package bought

One ski lesson (Saturday) if applicable to the package bought.

The Midweek Package – sold with a five night (Monday – Friday) stay

Transport in on Day one and out on day six of the package

Lift tickets for six days from day of arrival up to and including day of departure

Ski hire six days from day of arrival to day of departure (if appropriate to package)

Five group lessons (if appropriate to package)

The Weekly Package – sold with a seven night stay.

Transport in on day one and out on day eight of the package

Lift tickets for eight days from day of arrival up to and including day of departure

Ski hire for eight days (if appropriate to package)

Lessons (if appropriate to package)

All packages must be paid for by credit card or direct deposit *at least* ten days prior to date of arrival at Charlotte Pass.

There are **NO REFUNDS** on any part of a package once the package has been booked.

There are **NO REFUNDS** on any components of a package not utilised.

The weekly package is the only package available to guests at Pygmy Possum Lodge because we sell weekly accommodation packages. Please do your homework concerning the cost of day tickets and the cost of packages etc before committing yourself to any purchase. Travel Insurance is highly recommended for all persons travelling to the snowfields.

READING THE NEWSLETTERS and other correspondence (or lack thereof)

At least four Lodge Captains have written in their report that we should send out a list of the items included in the tariff and what is available from the store when people book their accommodation. **WE DO !@!#\$%^& send out such a list!!!** All those who supply a separate address on a booking form receive a confirmation of their booking and the back of that sheet lists the items available for sale and those included in the tariff. If members elect not to supply the names and addresses of their guests then don't blame the management for those guests not knowing what's in the foodstore etc etc. A couple of other Lodge Captains complained that there is no bin for the waste paper and cardboard. **Again, READ THE @#\$%!@^\$##@ING newsletter !!!** I spend hours preparing these tomes and to have all of these terribly helpful suggestions proposed by folk who haven't bothered to read what I have written is not really very satisfying. The information about waste paper etc is included again for all: Paper and cardboard is to be flattened and placed into a carton until that carton is full. It is then to be placed into the garbage trailer along with all other plastic bags – Black for non-recyclables and Green for recycling.

Here is a copy of what Geoff Mathie wrote about Garbage this time last year:

"GARBAGE - Garbage has to be sorted much more diligently into the correct bins - Paper & Cardboard in one; recyclables (bottles & cans) in another and Non-recyclable rubbish (landfill) into the third. Recyclables (bottles & cans) go into the (new) GREEN bags and non-recyclable (landfill) rubbish into the BLACK bags. All paper & cardboard is to be compressed & packed into a carton. In Summer, each bag / carton is to be placed into the appropriate bin. In Winter, all bags & cartons are still placed into the same bin (trailer) because the contents are readily identified by feel at the sorting depot. Any bags which are opened and which contain mixed garbage will add black marks against the *entire* village's attempt to have the lease renewed."

SHARING OF FRIDGE & FREEZER SPACE

There is limited space available for all of the foodstuffs and drinks which one needs for an entire week so to use the fridges for beers and wines (and then to complain about not having sufficient space) is not the best utilization of that space. One particular family had six bottles of wine and a dozen bottles of beer as well as a dozen cans of pre-mix in the fridge and complained that someone else had milk in the door of the fridge. **Not good enough !!!** That white stuff that we go to Charlotte Pass to play in is **COLD**. Use your brains and put beers, wines, premixes and soft drinks in the snow and use the fridges for food & milk. Duh !!!

CHEQUE PAYMENTS & CREDIT CARD CHARGES

All cheques must be made payable to: **ELOUERA SKI CLUB LTD** and not to any other payee (such as the lodge). Those cheques made out to any wrong payee will be returned 'unactioned' and if the drawer misses out on a booking then so be it. The use of credit cards will attract a surcharge of 3% for all bookings from those opened at the Priority Booking night in 2005 viz 1Mar 05. If you wish to use a cheque but there are very few vacancies and you need to act **NOW**, then the booking can be confirmed with a credit card and held for seven days to await the arrival of a cheque. No cheque within seven days then the credit card is processed for payment and **the 3% surcharge applies.**

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 is Ian Warlters PO Box 156 MOOREBANK 1875. Ph (02) 8715 6255 . Fax (02) 9602 6290 or by Email at: pygmypossumlodge@yahoo.com

THINK SNOW