

# SKI TRACKS

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## Presidents Report

What a turbulent year this has been for all of us, the share market is down the economy has major hurdles and there are less people visiting the snow. It should all be better next year if you have been saving your money for a special event. The snow is looking good, the village has achieved some difficult challenges and we have kept our rates down for the season to keep you all happy.

This last year is the first year we have had negative returns from our business and it does not feel good as a Director to be part of it. There are a number of factors that have lead to the reduction in income and the number of visitors to the resort over the past few years and we can dwell on them or look at what is currently happening and is planned for the future.

Some of these include:

- Improved transport with reasonable guarantees to the on time approach and friendly service (CPV has put approx \$1.5mill into the equipment and has employed some good maintenance staff so that they have experienced the lowest downtime for many years)
- New snow making equipment that started operating this year and more new equipment for next year for the Guthrie lift. This should help with the early season grooming if weather permits.
- New season passes to encourage return visits at much reduced pricing See

Brochure attached but you must enlist by 15th December this year).

- Our own low accommodation Rates to help to keep your visits affordable.
- Internet services inside the lodge if you bring your computer.
- Quality staff in the village that promise to be helpful in most situations.

It should be noted that Pygmy Possum lodge operates very different to most of the other lodges and because we are self catering we need to bring in heavier luggage. Don't make it hard for the village transport as there is a 23Kg limit on baggage and we either need to pay a little more or bring less, it's an easy choice.



Having spoken at length this year with the Village Owner, Kevin Blyton, I am convinced that our lodge is part of the village's long term plans and the new lease, which is expected by 2013, will provide us with the opportunities we need to keep skiing in the valley. What the Directors need to see from the rest of the members is a commitment to use the facilities for their benefit and for the financial wellbeing of the club. I am personally of the opinion that if club members do not use the facilities we will have to open the membership to others at an appropriate rate to ensure we have active members in the future.

**Richard van Putten**

## Treasurers Report

Unfortunately at no stage during this winter snow season was the lodge full and it wasn't till mid August that we actually were more than half full, this resulted in a drop in winter accommodation of in excess of \$30,000.00, which is a bit of a shock to the financial position, whether this is caused by a fear of no snow due the threatened global warming or for other reasons, however a report from a group who were XC skiing the 1st week in October said it was the best skiing that they had had at that time since the lodge opened in 1985 and the amount of snow still around for the October work party would make for a great trip for intrepid adventurers.

### Members Loans To The Club

Due to the success of the Loan Scheme the Board have decided to continue this while ever we have a Bank loan (this will benefit members rather than the bank). From time to time some member wish to withdraw some of their money and any member may lend money to cover the money exchange.

Thank you again for all those members who have participated, your credits have been added to your accommodation credits list issued with this newsletter, if you would like more information 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. The equivalent interest rate as from 15/11/2010 is 6.54%, this rate is determined by the bank Interest charged on our 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 or add additional money to their Loan now, Credits earned to the end of March will be also be added to your Balance and will be available. If you have any queries, or problems, please ring me at any reasonable time on 0425 216 477.

**Geoff Mathie (Hon.Treasurer)**

## Pygmy Possum Lodge

Pygmy Possum lodge heating or lack of it was again an issue this winter; the main reason was that the Air Conditioner remote control had been reset to 18 deg C, the remote should be set at 28 deg C as the thermostat on the side of the switchboard actually turns the AIR Conditioners on and off. The games room heater thermostats had been turned down and the rear curtains had been pulled across the windows resulting in one large window breaking under the heavy snow load against it fortunately it was found and heaters fixed, thermostats turn back up and the curtains opened to prevent all of the windows breaking. Also of note was that the plastic table and chairs were left out the rear of the games room prior to winter, result lots of little bits of broken up plastic, please ensure that all furniture is stored back in the lodge when you leave whether it be summer or winter.



A reminder to all lodge users there are toll free numbers in the telephone booth if you are concerned about any of the heating in the lodge please ring these numbers, failure to report a problem may require getting someone to come in to repair or readjust something that has been tampered with, which may even require someone to have to come down from Sydney (it is only 500 kms away) (no problem) to try and find out what has been changed and then repair any damage that has been caused.



Electricity is a dangerous and expensive item, a GPO (power point) had been replaced in one of the bathrooms and had been wired incorrectly meaning every time something was plugged into that GPO the Circuit Breaker tripped – all electrical work is only to be carried out by a licence electrician, as a result of this little exercise the October work party used up valuable time checking every power point in the lodge in case others had been tampered with as our duty of care responsibility. Remember things do go wrong from time to time, so please ring and a simple solution may be all that is required.



The preferred heating is by using the Air Conditioners as they give us between two and three times the heat per kilowatt as the electric heaters and it is available with no waiting (the Air Conditioners are time clocked off after 10.00pm) allowing the heat banks to add some heat during the night, the heat banks and most of the Hot Water Services are only supplied with power for 5 hours between 10.00pm and 7.00am.

If you think that the heating is not working properly, check that all units are plugged in and turned on (except the heater under the Air Conditioner in the lounge area which is only to be used if the Air Conditioner fails). Persons have been known to unplug the air conditioner so that they could plug in their computer or computer games unfortunately they have not re-plugged the air conditioner (this power point is controlled by a thermostat so that it will only work when everybody

is getting cold a new 4 outlet GPO has been installed in this area hopefully to eliminate this problem.

Apart from people fiddling with the electrical systems the lodge is in relatively good shape.

It is amazing how glasses, plates, cutlery and cooking utensils all seem to manage to have a get together in one wing, every work party one of our party is tied up counting and putting them back from whence they first came, (it does take up time that could be more gainfully used).

Last March drainage at the rear of the lodge was attended to along with the water that is gaining access to the inside of the building at the back hopefully now fixed.

### *Report on work party at Pygmy Possum Lodge in October 2011*

During the last week in October 2011 your Ski lodge in Charlotte Pass was maintained by 10 volunteers, (3 non members, and 6 members including 4 Board members). This group of interested members and guests undertook the following long list of everyday tasks that will make your visit to your lodge more enjoyable during this summer and next year's ski season.

If it had not been for the efforts of these hard working people the lodge would have been in a bad state for your visit, whenever you decide to go to the lodge. They have saved the club from a considerable financial outlay, as many of these jobs would have had to be undertaken by engaged tradesmen. So when you and your guests next visit the lodge try and improve its working and appearance, so as to make it a better place as a result of your visit.

The crew completed 34 activities in the following categories:

- Electrical 19
- Plumbing 5
- General 5
- Cleaning 5

**Peter Quinnell**

## Castaway Units

The castaway units have been well used during the year and we must give special thanks to Terry and Jan who again put in their spare time to attend the general maintenance and to Warwick who has installed new front windows into Unit 8. This following year we hope to complete some of the other restorations required if we can improve the clubs financial position. This is a great place to take your family for a cheap and relaxing holiday or go as a couple and splurge on the many treats that Port Stephens has to offer.

**Lyn van Putten**

## Late Season Family Fun

### **Dont forget the end of season snow!**

Its great for families and friends to enjoy on a budget.

The lifts are closed but that doesnt stop you enjoying some bush walking, cross country skiing, tabogan racing and snow ball fights!



October 2011



October 2010

## Escape Packages

**Australia's Highest Ski Resort is offering Australia's lowest priced unlimited mountain pass!**

**Get unlimited skiing or snowboarding at Charlotte Pass Ski Resort in 2012**

**for only  
\$499 for Adults  
\$299 for Children!!**

**This amazing offer is available exclusively for Charlotte Pass Lodge Members & Guests.**

Unlimited skiing and snowboarding at Charlotte Pass Ski Resort in 2012

- Save 25% on all food purchases in Arches Restaurant for lunch
- Save 10% on all food purchases in the Kosi Bar & Bistro
- Save 10% on Mount Stilwell & Groomer Tours
- Save 10% on Private Lessons
- Exclusive Escape Pass offers

**REMEBER YOU MUST ENLIST BEFORE DECEMBER 11TH 2011**

**The Escape Pass also offers the following exclusive add-ons:**

**Purchase unlimited Oversnow Transport in conjunction with your Escape Pass for only \$50!!**

**The Escape Pass allows you unlimited access to one set of hire equipment in 2012 for only \$199!!**

**The Escape Pass allows you unlimited access to a daily Group Lesson (Monday to Friday) for only \$199!!**