

SKI TRACKS

NEWSLETTER of Elouera Ski Club

DECEMBER 2015

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

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

The Board would like to thank retiring directors Elizabeth Ters, Kyle McDermott and Larissa Reid for their valuable contribution to the smooth running of Elouera Ski Club. A warm welcome is extended to the newest board members, Ross Wheatley and Robin Griffiths.

The complete list of directors can be found under the Directors tab of the website:
<http://www.elouerskiclub.asn.au>

PYGMY POSSUM BOOKINGS 2016/17

The Board at its October meeting agreed to the accommodation rates for the 2016 winter and 2016/17 summer periods. The complete list of tariffs is attached, and is available under the Bookings tab of the website.

These rates are automatically applied with the online booking system.

Dates to Remember

- 16 February 2016 Priority Booking Night
- 22 March 2016 10% discount for bookings received on or before this date
- 30 April 2016 5% discount for booking received from 12 March to 30 April

Priority Bookings apply for the period 5 June to 18 September 2016

(Please note the discount rates are approximate. For accurate booking rates refer to the tariff sheet.)

BPAY ® TO PAY FOR BOOKINGS

The addition of BPAY as a method of payment for bookings at Pygmy Possum was introduced in June 2015, and has proven to be the popular choice of many who have made bookings since. It is still possible to pay by cheque or credit card, but if BPAY is used instead there is no need to post the paper form to the bookings officer, and consequently there is less delay for your booking to be confirmed fully paid. The use of BPAY provides you with a higher level of security as you do not need to divulge your credit card number to us, and you use the interface provided by your bank to effect the payment. The details required for you to use BPAY are included on the offer of the booking. Note that you should not pay for your booking until it is offered to you.

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TIPS FOR MAKING BOOKINGS FOR LARGER GROUPS

The online booking system has a feature that allows you to link together multiple booking applications under the same booking ID. If you are the group leader, first make your booking, then supply the booking ID number that is returned to you to the rest of your group. Other party members then fill in their own form linking to your booking. For full detail on how to use this feature read the article on the Lodge Bookings page of the website.

Advantages for you

You don't have to type in everyone else's details, and you are not responsible for the prompt payment of your friends' bookings. Your food store deposit and fees component will not be mixed up with those of the rest of the group. You will not need to pass on the Booking Offer, Confirmation and Room Allocation notices, as other party members will receive their own notification. Bookings of non-members that are linked to your booking will earn you bonus credit points, and are included in the priority bookings round where applicable.

Advantages for your Friends

The other members of your group will have their email address registered with their booking application, so they will receive the Booking Offer, Confirmation and Room Allocation notices. The fees and food store components of the booking are explicit for them and they can pay the club directly via BPAY, reducing hassle for them in getting money to you.

Advantages for your Club Officers

It will be easier to identify families that need to be roomed together, and post bookings processing of deposit refunds is also more straightforward if there is only one food store docket per booking form submitted. Remember the golden rule is that if you want the ease of filling separate food store deposit sheets, you need to fill in separate booking forms.

2015 POST BOOKING PROCESSING

With a most wonderful ski season behind us, it was time to attend to a number of administrative tasks. There were a few unexpected challenges this year. Firstly all food store returns needed to be located, as Lodge Captains did not receive consistent guidance as to where to send them. At the time of writing, a few of the returns are still A.W.O.L. Some of the returns were difficult to decipher - no doubt because the Lodge Captains found the forms supplied to them difficult to decipher. On that note, apologies if you are still waiting for a food store refund. We are no longer able to refund to the supplied credit card numbers, so all people due a refund will receive a cheque in the mail in the next few weeks. However members who paid for their bookings with points have been refunded in points. Any non member guests who were booked on the same form as you, or on a form with your name and address for the contacts information are likely to have their foodstore deposit refund included with yours and sent to you, so you may need to pass part or all of the refund to your guests.

Changes to make it Easier for Everyone

- The Lodge Captain's "Summary of Food Used, Payments, Refunds" sheet has been revised. I hope it is easier to fill in.
- All booking holders will be sent a personalised "Summary of Food Used, Payments, Refunds" sheet with their booking confirmation and notice of room allocations. They are to fill in and give this sheet to their Lodge Captain in place of an empty food store docket if they made no use of the food store, and in addition to the food store docket if they did. If it is filled in correctly, it will make the Lodge Captain's task of completing their copy of the return a lot easier, and also the treasurer's task of effecting refunds will be a whole lot easier.
- All Lodge Captain returns (keys, reports, food dockets) are to be sent to the club secretary at 53 Bridge Rd, Blaxland NSW 2774

COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS

From December 2015, communication with members will be made via email wherever possible. This will simplify communication and reduce costs. Elouera Ski Club newsletters, Pygmy Possum Lodge Tariffs, individual accommodation credit details and other communication will be emailed directly to members using the email address we have on record. You can notify new email addresses by emailing information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

The Elouera Ski Club website <http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au> is continually being enhanced. It includes previous newsletters as well as lodge and booking information. STOP PRESS: It will be migrated to new hosting and there may be some interruption to service due to this. We will try to minimise that as far as possible. If you are having trouble getting onto the website, please email to elouera.skiclub@gmail.com instead of the usual booking.officer@eloueraskiclub.asn.au or information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au, as if the webserver is down, so is the email server.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CLUB

The Snowy Mountains are a magnificent place to visit at any time of year. Charlottes Pass is a convenient central location and has much to offer when the ski lifts are not operating. In late September and October the crowds have disappeared and snow shoeing or cross country skiing provide a way to visit the main range or explore Mt Stilwell. In January, alpine flowers transform the mountains so it is a delight to walk. Other activities are trout fishing, biking, painting, photography or just relaxing.

Castaways Units at Shoal Bay are an ideal location with Port Stephens at your doorstep, Tomaree Head a short walk away and surf beaches and Nelson's Bay a short cycle away.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year, 2015, has been a challenging time for the operation of the Elouera Ski Club. We are missing the expertise of Geoff Mathie, who during the past years of our operation always had all matters under control, not only as our Secretary/ Treasurer but also as the guiding figure in all facets of the Pygmy Possum Lodge operation.

For the first time in many years your club now has 12 Board members and a President. There were two vacancies when the 2015 Annual Meeting commenced. Two members present, who nominated after closing of nominations, came forward to fill the positions. We need to continue this trend to renew your Board, as there is still a need for younger new members to join the board and take on positions of responsibility. The present board is working extremely diligently to ensure we are able to progress the club into the future. We are hopeful of gaining a lease beyond October 2017.

Thank you to all the members who use their skill to make repairs to the minor matters that may occur while they are staying at the lodge. This helps make the upkeep of the lodge easier. Peter Hill is now co-ordinating the annual working bee, normally held in March, to keep the lodge in working order.

Lodge captains are another valuable resource that allows your lodge to operate successfully. Remember they are also on holidays and undertake this function voluntarily so all members are expected to assist them in their tasks.

As you are aware we provide a food store stocked with some non-perishable items. All members and guests pay a food store deposit when making their accommodation booking. At the end of your stay, accurately complete a food store docket and return it to the lodge captain, even if you made no purchase. We are unable to refund unused money if the food store docket is not returned. This is annoying to both the treasurer and the member/guest.

The migration of kitchen items from one wing to another is not only an inconvenience for other members, but also causes problems for guests who are new to the lodge and do not know to look for possible missing items in the other wing. If you find it necessary to borrow items from the other wing, please remember to return them yourself after they are washed up and before they have possibly been stashed in a cupboard by whoever clears the washing up in your group.

Transport Into Charlotte Pass Village

Just a reminder to all members and their guests that from the long weekend in June until the long weekend in October the road between Perisher Valley and Charlotte Pass is closed by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). During this period, all transport into the village has to be arranged with CPV by phoning 02 6457 5315 at least a week before it is required. Please do not turn up expecting to be provided with transport if you have not had confirmation from CPV management. This arrangement also applies to the period after lifts close until the RMS opens the road.

Peter Quinnell

TREASURER'S REPORT

A strong winter season enabled us to hold our net debt position with our banks. Summer bookings at Pygmy Possum look strong also. Bookings for the Castaway holiday units at Port Stephens are not as solid and these are a financial strain on the club. The Board is undertaking a strategic review on these facilities and closely monitoring the impact of the extended lease at Charlotte Pass to 31 October 2017.

Mark Epper