

SKI TRACKS

NEWSLETTER of Elouera Ski Club

September 2016

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

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

The Board would like to thank retiring directors Graeme Richmond and Terrence Slattery for their valuable contribution to the smooth running of Elouera Ski Club. A warm welcome is extended to the newest board member Peter Hill.

Two positions on the board remain vacant. Members who are interested in filling these positions should contact Richard van Putten for more information about these roles.

PRESIDENT

Peter Quinnell announced at the August board meeting that a recently diagnosed medical condition would prevent him from staying on as the club president. He will officially complete his duties on 25 October 2016.

Peter is a long-standing member, director and president who is passionate about the club and its ongoing viability. Peter's expertise and energy plays a vital role in ensuring that Pygmy Possum runs smoothly and continues to provide comfortable and economic accommodation for us all. Peter successfully guided the club through the challenging period following Geoff Mathie's death.

The Board unanimously elected Ross Wheatley from the Deputy President/Chairman to the position starting from 25 October 2016 for the remainder of this financial year.

CASTAWAYS

The sale of the three Castaways one bedroom units has been completed with settlement of the final sale occurring on 26 August 2016. The Board would like to thank Ross Wheatley for his efficient management of this process.

The club now retains only unit 8 in Castaways. This top floor four-bedroom unit occupies prime position in the block and has spectacular views over Port Stephens. It has good occupancy so members should book in advance to be assured of their stay.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Club's finances are in good shape with the settlement of Units 2, 3, and 5 banked.

We have used the proceeds from the sales to repay all Member Loans and the Club currently has no debt. The balance of the moneys will be set aside for expenditure that maybe required on Pygmy Possum lodge once the new lease is finalised.

Mark Epper

PYGMY POSSUM, WINTER 2016

There was snow, there was rain, and then there was snow again. Overall the cover at Charlotte Pass resort held out well for the whole season and in at least one week Perisher visitors had reason to be envious of the depth of the freshies at Charlottes. For the back country skiers wanting to access the main range, the snow bridge at the base of Mt Clarke didn't let us down (or drown?), and there was just enough cover for us to avoid the road in the upper Snowy basin right into September. I did hear a story of the snow bridge near Foreman's chimney collapsing just after being crossed by the second person in a party of two. That is a scary thought.

RACE WEEK By Karen Marshall

August 21-28 is known as 'Race Week' at Charlotte Pass and Pygmy Possum racers were more than up for the challenge, competing in both the Snowline Cup and Standard Race.

Southern Alps Ski Club did a great job of organising the race with a total of 58 entrants and prizes donated by Alberg, KAC and Targangil. The organisers had a battle on their hands with conditions on the day being less than ideal. When asked his race tactics, one racer was heard to say that when he could see a gate, he would turn, but seeing a gate might be an issue!

Pygmy Possum was well represented in the race with 11 competitors across the mens, ladies, kids and snowboard divisions. We were lucky enough to win the Mocko Trophy for the top placed lodge and pick up some medals.

Snow line Cup Pygmy Possum Result

Mens Division: 2nd Nick Milosevic, 4th Christian Druminson

Ladies Division: 2nd – Karen Marshall

Snowboard Division: 1st – Tom Hanlon

Boys Division: 1st Tom Marshall, 3rd Lachie Marshall,
4th Koda Druminson

Standard Race Days Pygmy Possum Results

Mens Ski Division: 3rd Christian Druminson

Ladies Ski Division: 1st Place – Karen Marshall

Kids Ski Division Under 12: 1st Tom Marshall, 2nd Charlie
Druminson, 3rd Koda Druminson

Kids Ski Division Under 9: 1st Lachie Marshall

Snowboard Division: 2nd Karen Marshall, 3rd Richard Bunn



Snow Line cup 2016 Boys Division winners (L to R):
Nicholas Hadlow; Tom Marshall and Lachie Marshall



Snow Line Cup 2016 Mocko Trophy - Pygmy Possum
Karen Marshall, Christian Druminson, Nick Milosevic

The Standard Race was held the following day and conditions could not have been more different with clear skies and bright sunshine – perfect for racing.....and seeing gates!

Pygmy Possum was again well represented with 25 competitors across all divisions it would be fair to say Pygmy Possum Racers took home good haul of gold, silver and bronze. Karen Hardy, Fiona Druminson and Kelly Judd were all first time racers and all finished with a medal – well done ladies! All

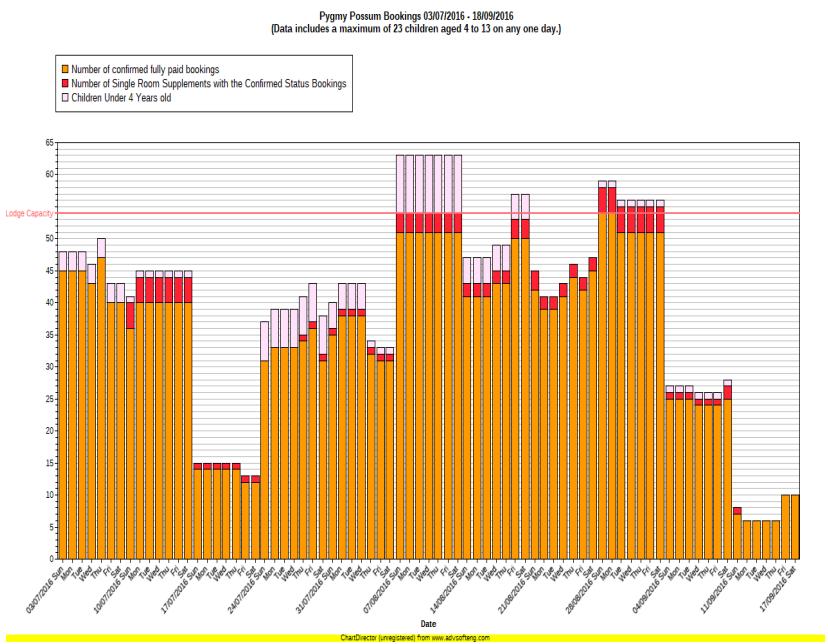
of our racers had a great time cheering each other on and I think it would be safe to say that Pygmy Possum had the loudest cheer squad at the presentation at the Chalet later that day



Pygmy Possum Racers 2016

LODGE BOOKINGS REPORT

Winter 2016 at Pygmy Possum Lodge was a busy affair for the 11 weeks from 3rd July to 18th September, with the lodge bursting from its seams for 2 weeks, 75% occupancy or better for 4 weeks and 2 weeks at 60%. Special rates were made available for the week after the July school holidays that had no bookings at all. This tempted 14 people to visit the lodge at quite short notice. Lodge occupancy can be viewed on the club's web pages for any period of time, past or future, via the entry of valid dates and clicking the View Graph button on the page
<http://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/>



The good news for the club is that already the spring and summer season bookings are looking healthy. There are still plenty of weeks where the lodge is empty - waiting for you and your friends to book in and enjoy the cooler mountain environment during the hot summer months.

BOOKING RATES FOR PYGMY POSSUM IN 2017/18

The expenses of Pygmy Possum lodge are considerable, and unless we can amortise the costs over a greater number of bookings, we need to increase the rates. The board has approved the booking rates for 2017 with an approximate 5% increase over the 2016 rates. A special summer rate for the Christmas/New Year and Easter holiday periods will also be reintroduced. To ensure a positive cash flow, the board has decided that at least 25% of booking fees are to be paid in cash (as opposed to accommodation credits). This will apply for all bookings made in the new year. The rates for 2017/18 will be available on the web site when finalised. They will also be included in the December newsletter.

LODGE CAPTAINS

Thank you to all the lodge captains through out the season. Without you the lodge would require a manager, and accommodation fees would need to rise accordingly.

ALL THINGS FOODSTORE

Most of the winter season foodstore refunds have been processed. There are still some returns which haven't come in. As usual – no return means no foodstore refunds, and we just have to hope the foods used were paid for. A big thank you to those people who chose to take their refund as accommodation credits or to donate the money to the club. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Foodstore provisioning is a big and difficult job. Thank you to those who have managed this in the past. In 2017 Karen Marshall will manage it, with support from Judy Jenkinson. To inform us as to what lodge users actually want we have put together a Google Docs survey. It is available via the club's website at http://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/lodges/operations/foodstore_survey.php. People who have booked into the lodge during the past 2 years will have already received an email asking them to complete the survey. The survey has only 15 quick to answer questions, so be sure to have your say.

WEBSITE NEWS

The <http://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/> website is your go to location for copies of newsletters, Pygmy Possum occupancy/vacancy data, Pygmy Possum booking applications, lodge information, etc.

CHARLOTTE'S PASS VILLAGE UPDATE

New management structure for CPV has been put to the market as an expression of interest where the NPWS Tenderers are required to develop their own model for running the valley. The Expression of Interest period ends in October 2016. This will be followed by a Request for Tender period.

Full details can be found at [perisher-range-and-charlotte-pass-resorts-management-review](#)