

# Elouera Ski Club Ltd



Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass  
Kosciuszko National Park  
And  
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay  
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## NEWSLETTER Spring 2018

### President's Message

Welcome to our end of winter season newsletter. For the second year running there has been wonderful snow cover at Charlotte Pass. There were some strong winds in August but overall lots of snow and plenty of sunny days to enjoy the alpine region.

The Lodge was close to capacity on many occasions during the season. As you know the winter season has been extended to the long weekend in October. Which is good news because even in late September the snow depth was 206 cm.

The 2017/18 year will be remembered as the year we finalised negotiations for the new 40 year lease over Pygmy Possum Lodge at Charlotte Pass. During the year we had over 20 new members or transferred memberships

For those of you who have been to the Lodge recently you will have noticed that a new free wi-fi internet service has been installed. It is provided via satellite link because of the remoteness of Charlotte Pass. Installing new technology doesn't always go to plan but it is early days and we will be experimenting with this service over the coming months.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who undertake various tasks during the year including attending work parties, stocking the food store. I would like to make special mention of the work carried out by our booking officers, Gary Jeffery and Judy Jenkinson. They do a great job dealing with the many requests promptly and efficiently.

I also thank my fellow directors for their efforts during the year, in particular Graeme Sawtell who retired as a Director. During his time on the Board, 13 years, Graeme has undertaken many jobs including Minute Secretary for several years and more recently he and Peter Quinnell reviewed the use of and hiring trunks and lockers at PP Lodge. Graeme's friendly manner and wise counsel will be missed.

I would like to welcome John Rodger as the newest member to the Board.

### 2018 Annual General Meeting

It was pleasing to see so many members at our Annual General Meeting in late June. Member feedback on the night was very positive about the new sub-lease at Charlotte Pass.

Following the election the Board comprises:

President – Ross Wheatley

Secretary – Jon Barber

Treasurer – Mark Epper

Directors – Judy Jenkinson, Malcolm Mathie, Richard Van Putten, Paul Greenfield, Stafford van Putten, Ken George, Robin Griffiths, Richard Mason, Peter Hill and John Rodger.

*Ross Wheatley (President)*

## Ziggy Georges' Close Call

On Friday 31 August, Ziggy Georges, a well-known club member went snow shoeing in severe weather conditions. She was walking in the Wrights Creek area and as the conditions deteriorated she became disorientated and followed the ski poles away from the Lodge rather than back to the Lodge. At noon Ziggy stumbled on one of the old ski lift huts between the Ruins and the Thredbo Road and realised she was lost. Ziggy fortunately carries a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) which she deployed.

Jindabyne Police and SES mounted a search and independently three Pygmy Possum lodge members mounted their own search guided by the PLB coordinates. The three club members, Richard Mason, Dr Dan Ewald and John Roberts, found Ziggy late in the afternoon and the four safely returned to the lodge at 6pm.

If Ziggy hadn't been found, it's very probable she would not have survived the night. Conditions were true blizzard with high winds and zero visibility. Full details of Ziggy's ordeal and her rescue will be published shortly in newsletter section on our website.



An ecstatic Ziggy Georges with her rescuers

If you venture out of the Charlotte Pass patrolled area you are encouraged to review your safety procedures by checking National Parks *Safety in Alpine areas* at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/alpine-safety>

## Life down at the Lodge

Pygmy Possum Lodge is a great place to be in winter or summer, The Lodge common rooms and kitchens are ideal places to meet and share stories and enjoy each other's company. There is plenty of space to spread out or to find a cosy corner, and while away a few hours reading your favourite book.

However, the ideal holiday can easily turn into a disaster if members and guests fail to follow a few simple and friendly rules. Some of these basic rules are reduce excessive noise after 10pm, keep the kitchen clean and tidy so the next guest isn't annoyed and supervise children.

As you know we don't employ an on-site manager, we rely on our voluntary Lodge Captains to keep an eye on things and ensure the smooth running of the lodge. This enables the Club to maintain our low accommodation charges.

The last thing the Board wants is unhappy guests. We want our Lodge to be a happy and inviting place where everyone respects their fellow members and their guests. To achieve this we need everyone's cooperation.

## Foodstore

The efficient operation of the foodstore relies on the honesty and support of all visitors by recording purchases and submitting docketts in a timely manner so refunds and deposit reconciliations can be managed. The online electronic web entry system implemented to make this an easier task for lodge captains was not widely used. 76 food store docketts have not been submitted (at September 16) so many people may be waiting for their food store deposit refunds. It would be appreciated if the lodge captains who have not yet submitted a return, could do so electronically. All you need to access the entry form are the booking identifiers of your own booking. Please check it out under the "Pygmy Possum Ski Lodge" tab of <http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au> website. Look for the "Resources for Lodge Captains" section. After careful consideration of the administrative overhead of the current deposit system, at the September 2018 Board Meeting it was decided to trial the removal of the food store deposit in the 2019 winter season. This system has worked reasonably well for the past few summers. Guests will pay the lodge captain for items that they have used during their stay.

## Castaways Unit at Shoal bay

Members are reminded that we have a seaside unit at Shoal Bay and members and their guests are encouraged to book the unit for a few days or a week or two. It has four bedroom and the lounge and dining rooms provide a gorgeous view of the fantastic Port Stephens which is just across the main esplanade. The unit is also very close to the surf beaches at Fingal Bay.

You can check out when the unit is vacant and book your next beachside break on the PRD Port Stephens website <http://www.holidaysportstephens.com.au/accommodation/157>.

Members can obtain a 20% discount (excluding peak periods such as Christmas and Easter) and use credit points towards their booking. Just follow the instructions on our website <http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au/lodges/Castaways/>

## Annual Membership Subscriptions

A number of members have not yet paid their annual subscription. The annual subscription is \$55 (including GST) and is payable at 31 March each year. As indicated earlier, it can only be paid on a cash basis because we have significant one-off costs associated with the new sub-lease at Pygmy Possum Lodge. Accommodation points are no longer accepted as payment for annual subscriptions.

If you have not yet paid your annual subscription please do so promptly to avoid any restrictions being placed on your membership privileges.

Note that Member accommodation credit point balances will be emailed to all members in December.

## Charlotte Pass Plans for Future

As part of the new lease arrangements at Charlotte Pass, the Head Operator, Charlotte Pass Ski Resort (CPSR), has announced a 10-year capital investment program. CPSR plan to spend \$10 million upgrading facilities at Charlotte Pass.

The key aspects of the plan include:

- An increase in the chair lift capacity and the expansion of accessible terrain, through:
  - installation of a brand-new surface lift towards Mount Stilwell, and
  - replacement of the Basin Poma with a new surface lift.
- Extension of the snow season to operate from the June to October long weekend each year, with automated snowmaking to cover the Kosciuszko Triple Chair (to Mid-Station), Kosi Carpet and Basin Poma areas.
- A major refurbishment of all guest rooms, food and beverage outlets in the Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel .
- Expansion of the oversnow transport fleet, with 2 additional vehicles.
- Investing in a range of initiatives to improve the environmental performance of the resort.

In addition, CPSR intend to develop year-round activation of the resort, including the construction of conference and multifunction facilities at the Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel and provision of year-round accommodation, food & beverage facilities, and operation of the Kosciuszko Triple Chair during peak periods.

## Chairlift operations over summer/autumn

For those of you who are already planning to be at Charlotte Pass over Christmas or Easter, CPSR has announced that the chairlift will be open during the following periods:

- Christmas/New Year from 10am to 2pm on 26, 29, 30 December 2018 and 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 and 26 January 2019
- Easter from 10am to 2pm on 19 - 22 April 2019.

You can keep up to date with the latest news by subscribing to CPSR newsletter via their website <http://www.charlottepass.com.au/sign-up-for-news.html>

## Kosciuszko Snowies Iconic Walk

The signing of the new lease corresponds to the announcement of more than \$17 million investment in the *Kosciuszko Snowies Iconic Walk* – to develop a new 25-kilometre section of track which will ultimately link up with other tracks to create a world-class 44-kilometre multi-day walk which will allow visitors to hike all the way from Thredbo, via Charlotte Pass, Guthega, and Perisher, to Lake Crackenback. This may provide a new opportunity for increased use of our lodge.

To access full media brief, head to

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/multi-million-dollar-boost-for-kosciuszko>

## Hannels Spur

During March 2018, NPWS and volunteers undertook clearing and marking of the historic Hannels Spur track that had become severely overgrown following the devastating 2003 bushfires. This track is the greatest vertical ascent in Australia linking Geehi Flat (450m) on the Alpine Way to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko (2228m). While to most of us this will remain an elusive line on a map, to others with superior navigation and bushwalking skills it will be a challenge of endurance and a training ground for more extreme adventures.



A long climb out after a fantastic ski down to the trees for lunch, North West of Mt Townsend