

Elouera Ski Club Ltd



**Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass
Kosciuszko National Park
And
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay
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Spring 2019 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again, welcome to our Spring newsletter. It is pleasing to report that members and guests that have stayed at Pygmy Possum Lodge over the last few months have enjoyed a great season of fantastic snow coverage.

Once again the Lodge has been operating at capacity or close to capacity and this will continue until mid October. If you missed out on a winter trip to Charlotte Pass you might like to consider booking a spring or summer holiday. There are quite a few weeks with lots of available space. Visiting the Lodge over the coming months is a pleasure, as the days are longer and getting warmer but still retaining the crisp clean and fresh air.

For those of you who missed the Club's Annual General Meeting, a brief summary of the key messages is set out below:

- There were 16 new members who purchased memberships and 6 memberships transferred,
- 2018/19 was our first year operating under the new lease arrangements,
- To date we have paid \$54,000 toward the Lease grant fee of \$81,000,
- The average occupancy was about 35 percent during the year with approximately 65 percent occupancy during winter including seven weeks at full capacity,
- The installation of an NBN satellite dish providing members and guests with access to the internet has been well received,
- A Telstra 4G tower has been installed in the village benefiting members using the Telstra network with later model smartphones,
- We have moved to an electronic payment system for the Food store,
- Installed a new front door with keypad lock, improved under-floor ventilation, revised internal stairs, improved insulation and painting.

The Board are planning on maintaining and upgrading the Lodge so it is safe and enjoyable for all visitors. Refer to detail below.

Unfortunately the Charlotte Pass Ski Lodge Association has been dissolved following a survey of members and two lodges opting not to take out new sub-leases. We have joined SLOPES as an associate member. It is an organisation of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega lodges and is more active.

Volunteers and Directors

It is great that we have so many enthusiastic volunteers, members and directors of the Club who support the ongoing activities of the Club including managing our bookings, restocking the Food Store, managing lockers and trunks and attending working bees at the Lodge.

I would also like to thank the directors of the Club and acknowledge Richard van Putten who retired during the year and we welcome Michael Quinnell to the board.

The Board comprises:

President: Ross Wheatley
Secretary: Jon Barber
Treasurer: Mark Epper

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

Ross Wheatley, President

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM

With the new 40 year lease confirmed, we are committed to improving the amenity and safety of Pygmy Possum Lodge. A five year plan 2019-2024 for improvements has been developed.

Phase 1 is scheduled to commence in early 2020 and will include installing the remaining new stoves in the kitchens; improving fire safety access and egress; improving bedroom comfort and increasing storage.

Detailed description and the precise schedule of works are currently being finalised. This ambitious program will require the lodge being closed for some weeks in March through to mid April 2020.

Continual Improvement

There have been several changes over the last two years. Many of these changes are relatively minor but in total improve the safety and utility of the lodge.

In addition to the examples below the following changes have simplified lodge usage: coin boxes have been removed from the dryers and washing machine and the phone is now free with the exception of international calls.



A new keyless front door. Improving lodge security & assisting with trades people access.



Two new stoves in the East wing featuring gas cooktops and electric ovens. Four more to follow.



New front door.



Extra head room for the taller members in the east wing; west wing to follow.



A 2018 addition. The NBN satellite dish providing free lodge WiFi.



Rear fire stair safety rails

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

Do you have family or friends who are interested in purchasing memberships? Member benefits include access to priority bookings, member booking rates and accommodation credit points for work undertaken for the club and bringing non-members to the lodge.

Contact the board for further details membership@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

A reminder that in order to sell a membership any outstanding money owed to the club needs to be paid in full, inclusive of annual membership subscription payments.

To qualify to go on the "for sale" list which the Membership Secretary passes to prospective buyers, members who are selling all of their units are required to give up any storage facilities they currently hire from the club.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS INCLUDING CREDIT POINTS BALANCE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Members are able to obtain an email of all the details of their membership by going to the "Membership" tab of <https://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/>. You will need to enter your membership number and the correctly matching surname on your membership record then click to have the details sent to the email address on record.

Contact membership@eloueraskiclub.asn.au to notify us of any changes in your address (or with other membership queries). Note that we will not be sending out the usual December notification of the credit points accounts now that members have access to their credits information at any time.

Credits used on bookings are debited immediately a booking is Confirmed fully paid. Credits bonuses for booking guests in with you are only credited once per year, usually in late November.

MEMBERS STORAGE AT PYGMY POSSUM

The Club provides a limited number of storage lockers and trunks for hire by members. There is an increased demand for this storage by our newer and more active membership, whilst quite a few storage items are being held by some members who have not been to the lodge within the last five years or even the past 12 years, (which is as far back as we have easily accessed booking records for). This is a very unhappy situation, especially given the difficulties we are experiencing with luggage on the Charlottes Oversnow transport. We will be contacting the least active holders of storage to offer one year's hire fees refund in return for the storage being relinquished in advance of March 2020.

In addition to the lockers and trunks there is an area in the service tunnel with numbered bays for the storage of skis. This area is already in use by a number of people, but as it is all unofficial, any skis stored there without a clear indication of their ownership and the last date of use are in danger of removal by the club. If you have stored skis there please let us know (preferably with the bay number) and we will record your name against a bay number. From March 2021 we will require a hire fee for the use of the service tunnel ski bays and all users will be expected to have their skis and stocks well restrained or packaged to fit comfortably within their bay.

INTERNET

The Club provides a Skymesh satellite internet service that has capped data and is intended as a basic service only. Speeds may be very slow. Please restrict the use of social media as well as downloads and uploads to ensure optimisation of the service.

FOOD STORE

A food store deposit is no longer charged for either winter or summer bookings. We hope to continue without a Food store deposit but this makes everyone responsible for recording and **paying** for the food they use.

We are a volunteer run organisation and our sustainability and cheap rates relies on you.

It is your responsibility to record all food store items that are used and pay for them after your stay. We rely on your honesty to pay either by making a cash payment to the Lodge Captain or a payment directly to the club using the club BPAY Biller Code and the BPAY Reference number of your booking.

Please notify the Lodge Captain if essential items such as tea or hot chocolate are running low. We can then arrange for additional stock to be supplied.

PYGMY POSSUM LODGE BOOKINGS 2019/20

The lodge has been fully booked for most of winter and for the upcoming September and October school holidays. Bookings are available from 15 to 28 September. For immediate bookings use the Online Form at <http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/>

Paper copies of booking sheets can be obtained by contacting the booking officer at booking.officer@eloueraskiclub.asn.au or phoning 0425 256 255 after 5pm.

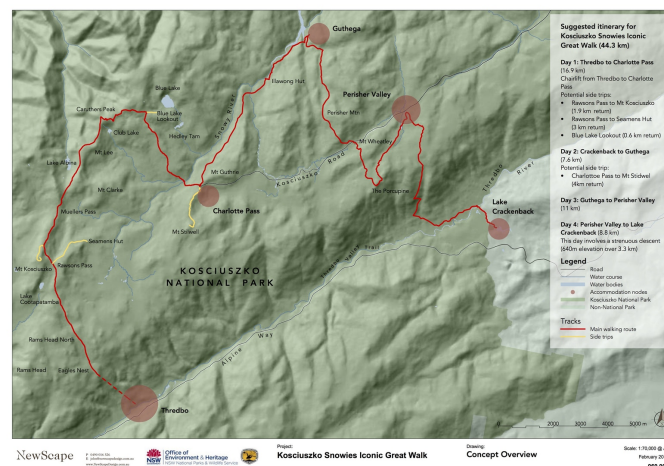
CASTAWAYS AT SHOAL BAY

Have you considered a holiday at beautiful Shoal Bay? Accommodation is available from mid January. Special provisions applies for members including a 20% discount on the <https://portstephensaccommodation.com/accommodation/Holiday-Apartment-Unit-8-17-Shoal-Bay-Road-Shoal-Bay/8178-Castaways-Unit-8-17-Shoal-Bay-Road/> advertised rates for periods other than the Christmas holiday and Easter Holiday peaks and payment of the booking fee or security deposit is not required.

NATIONAL PARKS NEWS

Snowies Iconic Walk is due to be completed in 2022. Upgrades include:

- Realignment of the existing Main Range Walk with an elevated platform of approximately 1.5km in length near Mt Lee. The track will be relocated slightly to the west to mitigate the existing impact to the critically endangered Windswept Feldmark plant community
- Construction of a permanent single toilet facility which will be positioned approximately 30m behind Seamans Hut. This will reduce the impacts of people camping near the hut. The toilet will be opened year-round



[HTTPS://WWW.ENVIRONMENT.NSW.GOV.AU/TOPICS/PARKS-RESERVES-AND-PROTECTED-AREAS/PARK-MANAGEMENT/COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT/WALKING-TRACKS-AND-TRAILS-IN-NATIONAL-PARKS/SNOWIES-ICONIC-WALK](https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/walking-tracks-and-trails-in-national-parks/snowies-iconic-walk)

Feral Animals

In recent years you may have seen deer, pigs, wild cats, foxes and rabbits when you have visited the lodge. Did you know that there is an app that allows you to notify the location of feral animals.

<https://www.feralscan.org.au/>