

Elouera Ski Club Ltd



Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass
Kosciuszko National Park
And
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay
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Newsletter December 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As you know, 2020 has been a special year.

Bushfires dominated the start of the year

The Lodge was closed in January due to bushfires. Kiandra & Selwyn were destroyed in those fires and Charlotte Pass was very lucky to avoid a serious fire itself. A lightning strike near the sewage farm, destroyed a tree and started a fire which was headed towards the village. We were fortunate that Didge, from CPSR, was able to single handily extinguish the fire.

While CPSR and the Lodge dodged a bullet, the insurers were paying attention. The Lodge's annual insurance premium increased 50% from \$48,000 to \$74,000. More significantly, in the renewal the insurer has effectively removed our bushfire cover by limiting it to \$250,000 with an excess of \$100,000. In 2019 we had full bushfire coverage. A lot of energy and time was invested in seeking better insurance to no avail. All insurers are pushing up fees following their exposure to claims from recent fire, weather and cladding events.

Faced with these risks and costs, several actions have been taken. Firstly, we have sought and gained National Parks approval to remove any contiguous tree canopy, heath and dead timber within our part of the lease. This will reduce fuel loads and allow firefighter access to the back of the lodge. The board has made this decision to clear the area with reluctance. We have all loved having the heath nearby, however we must accept the new reality.

COVID followed closely behind the fires

The Lodge had to again close between March and June due to COVID. A COVID subcommittee was quickly convened and developed comprehensive COVID safe procedures and protocols to enable the Lodge to open during winter. One of the biggest changes was reducing the Lodge winter capacity by 50%, to comply with the 4 square metre rule. Thank you to all the Members who deferred their bookings in 2020 to help the Club meet its reduced capacity requirements and be COVID safe.

While we all hope we are closer to a vaccine, COVID will still have a major impact on 2021.

2020 created significant impact to the operating finances

This winter the Club made an approximate loss of \$33,000, a turnaround of \$125,000 compared to the previous winter profit of \$92,000. The Club balance sheet and cash reserves are strong; however, this result has required some difficult decisions to ensure the sustainability and strength of the Club in the future.

Changes to Rates in 2021

In mid-November each year the Board reviews and agrees the Rates for the coming year. This year the task was particularly challenging. Unfortunately, with a significant portion of 2020 deferments taken up in 2021 at 2020 rates, these changes will not have a full impact on our 2021 results but will be important from 2022.

After extensive consideration, the Board approved the following changes in 2021:

- Annual subscription fee: We will maintain the same \$100 fee in 2021 as 2020.
- Accommodation rates: A general rate increase of 10% will apply across both summer and winter periods.
- Early booking discount: The 10% discount for early winter booking payment will be removed. This discount makes no sense as the club can only earn 0.5% interest on these funds.
- Locker and trunk charges: Locker fees will increase from \$50 to \$100 and trunk fees will increase from \$15 to \$50.

Finally, to finish on a positive note the weather and wild flowers in the park are beautiful at this time of year. I encourage you to use the lodge and Castaways as much as possible, any bookings will assist the bottom line.

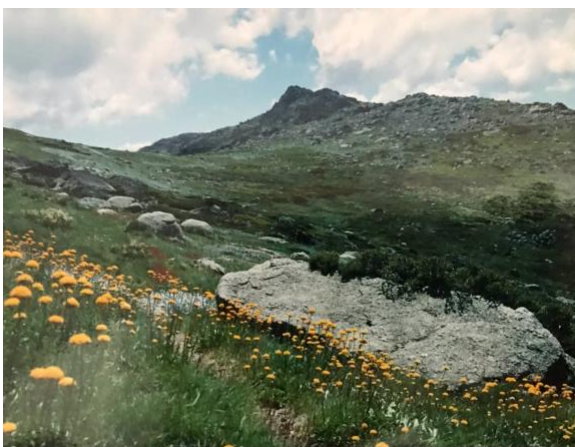
Jon Barber

SUMMER IN THE SNOWIES

There are some vacancies during Summer especially December prior to Christmas and February/March. The Snowies in summer is a beautiful place.

There are heaps of things to do right from the door of the lodge:

- challenge yourself to peak bagging (as it's called in Europe and America) - summit the highest peaks in Australia over one, two or three days – Mt Kosciuszko (2228m), Mt Townsend, (2209), Mt Twynam (2195m), Rams Head (2190m), Etheridge Ridge (2180m), Rams Head North (2177m), Alice Rawson Peak (2160m), Byatts Camp (2159m), Abbott Peak and Carruthers Peak (both 2145m);
- dip your feet into the only glacial cirque lakes on mainland Australia -Blue Lake, Lake Cootapatamba, Lake Albina and Club Lake;
- explore the Iconic Snowy Walk;
- give cycling, photography, painting or fishing a try; or
- relax as you watch the magnificent cloud formations pass overhead and enjoy masses of wildflowers at your fingertips as you lie on a mountain top.



WINTER BOOKINGS AT PYGMY POSSUM

Did you defer your 2020 booking to 2021? If so:

1. Your booking will be changed to the same week in 2021 as you booked in 2020.
2. You will receive a confirmation notice of the booking by mid to late December.

If you want to change the dates of your deferred booking, you should notify the booking officer before 2 February 2021. If you cannot take your booking in 2021, it is possible to get a refund. Please also apply for this before 2 February 2021. Refunds will not be given if you move from Peak to Shoulder. If you wish to move from Shoulder to Peak your booking request will be considered with the priority bookings.

Next season's simplified booking rates are on the club website under the Pygmy Possum Ski Lodge menu. <https://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/>

Winter Priority bookings for members and their sponsored guests can be applied for between NOW and the priority bookings closure at 5:00pm 16th February 2021. Your booking submitted and fully paid for by the closure time and date ensures your best opportunity to book the ski holiday dates you want. After the priority round decisions, the bookings are opened up to members and the general public. Details of the priority bookings system are available at

https://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/priority_bookings.php. Remember members receive accommodation credit points for taking non-members to the Lodge.

Book using the Online Form at <http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/>

CHARLOTTE PASS SKI PACKAGES

Full details of Charlotte Pass ski packages can be found at <http://www.charlottepass.com.au/lift-passes.html>

MEMBER'S ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 2021 Annual Subscription fee is unchanged from the 2020 fee of \$110 (incl GST). The invoice for the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 will be sent in February 2021 and is due by 1 April 2021.

Payments for subscriptions must be made in cash and **cannot** be made using accommodation credit points. More than in past years, the club needs a cash flow to ensure funds are available to satisfy the financial obligations arising from the new lease and the ongoing running costs at Pygmy Possum Lodge. The penalty for late payment of the fees is 50% (\$55.00) and will apply to fees not paid by 30 June 2021. Please note that membership rights will be suspended if fees remain outstanding. After 5 years of non-payment membership will lapse.

STORAGE AT PYGMY POSSUM

New storage lockers will soon be available. They are 102 litres in capacity compared to 83 litres for the trunks currently in use. They will cost \$50 per year. If you would like a locker, please send an email to information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

ACCOMMODATION CREDIT POINTS

All members with an email address on the register can access their accommodation credit points transaction report at any time by going to the Membership tab on the club website, then entering their member id and member surname. If these credentials match, a report is sent to the registered email address for the membership. The report includes transactions for the previous 12 months. The email also details the contacts information the club has on record for the membership, plus the payments due and made for storage hire and annual subscriptions. Credits are allocated for booking refunds, bringing guests with you when you book and compensation for costs incurred for work done for the club.

CASTAWAYS AT SHOAL BAY, PORT STEPHENS

Have you considered a holiday at beautiful Shoal Bay? There is limited accommodation available in December but plenty available in February. Special provisions apply for members including a 20% discount for periods other than the Christmas holiday and Easter Holiday peaks and no requirement to pay the booking fee or security deposit. <https://portstephensaccommodation.com/accommodation/Holiday-Apartment-Unit-8-17-Shoal-Bay-Road-Shoal-Bay/8178-Castaways-Unit-8-17-Shoal-Bay-Road/> [advertised rates](#)

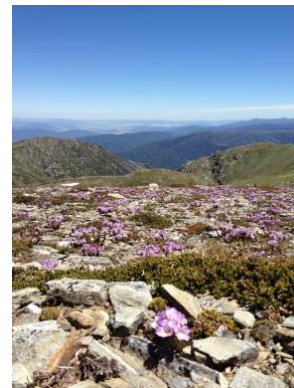
NATIONAL PARKS NEWS

Snowies Iconic Walk

Progress will continue during the summer period with:

- completion of the 5.6km track running parallel to the Snowy River on the south east side linking Charlotte Pass with the existing Illawong walk that leads into Guthega. Track construction has been mindful of the environment avoiding significant impacts on threatened species and communities, especially alpine bogs, threatened reptiles and Mountain Pygmy-possum
- Beginning the track linking Charlotte Pass with Perisher via Porcupine Rocks
- Rehabilitation of the Windswept Feldmark near Mt Lee will commence in spring 2020. This is one of the rarest plant communities in the world. The 1.7km raised mesh walkway protecting the Feldmark was completed in 2019.

For more information go to [snowies iconic walk](#)



From K7 Adventures website

Have you seen a Bogong moth, *Agrotis infusa*?

Please help with the citizen science project to track the seasonal movement of bogong moths which have environmental and cultural significance. They are the primary food source of the Mountain Pygmy Possum.

<https://www.swift.net.au/mothtracker/>



Image: Donald Hobern, Atlas of Living Australia

Shooting

A ground shooting program targeting rabbits within the Perisher Range Resorts and Charlotte Pass Ski Resort areas will be undertaken between 26 November 2020 and 16 December 2020. Targeted areas include

- Charlottes Pass village
- Perisher village (all areas incl. Blue Cow)
- Smiggin Holes village
- Link road
- Guthega village.