

Elouera Ski Club Ltd



**Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass
Kosciuszko National Park
And
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay
ACN 002 703 988**

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Spring 2020 Newsletter

AGM 2020 – Attendance record & new President!

We are always looking for a silver lining during COVID-19, and the AGM provided one! Generally, about 25 members attend, this year we had an incredible 53 members, including a member in the USA and one in Tasmania. Thanks everyone for attending. Held over Zoom on the 28 July 2020, the meeting was coordinated by Stafford van Putten (Membership Officer) and a special thanks for his efforts. Voting was seamless and immediate.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020 (ABRIDGED)

Firstly, I would like to welcome all new members to our Club.

Pygmy Possum Lodge

A few key events have taken place in 2020:

- We have paid in full the Pygmy Possum Lodge Lease grant fee of \$81,000 guaranteeing our continued use of Pygmy Possum Lodge for the remaining 40 years of our lease,
- We have established a dedicated Board Sub-committee to consider and plan improvements to Pygmy Possum Lodge being mindful of the sensitive ecological environment at Charlotte Pass and Kosciuszko National Park while also considering the convenience, safety and security of members and guests,
- We have been forced to close our Lodge on two separate occasions due to various safety concerns including bush fires and COVID-19 restrictions resulting in what many are now calling the 'new normal', and
- For the first time we established an on-site supervisory role to manage safety issues during the 2020 winter season to ensure a COVID Safe environment for a reduced Lodge occupancy.
- OEH has completed the land survey of the Charlotte Pass village including the Chalet and Lodges. The Valuer-General has determined the land value for Pygmy Possum Lodge as \$405,000. Our annual rental cost will now be based on a percentage of our Land Value or gross income, whichever is higher.

Club Activities

As foreshadowed last year the CPSLA was dissolved in late 2019. We have joined SLOPES as an associate member. SLOPES is a Lodges association for Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega resorts. They have provided valuable information and resources to assist us during the last 12 months.

Given the continued restrictions on travel across Australian states we would love you to consider the Lodge or our Castaways unit at Shoal Bay especially if you are wanting to take a holiday within NSW.

I would like to thank club members and directors of the Club for their support during my time on the board both as a director and president. I would like to welcome Stewart Hilton and Nick Badger to the board.

The Board comprises:

President: Jon Barber

Secretary: Paul Greenfield

Treasurer: Mark Epper

Directors: Judy Jenkinson, Malcolm Mathie, Michael Quinell, Stafford van Putten, Ken George, Robin Griffiths, Richard Mason, John Rodger, Stewart Hilton and Nick Badger.

Ross Wheatley, President (retiring)

OFFER OF THANKS: Jon thanked Ross for his work and effort over the four years of his presidency and made special mention of Ross' contribution to the sale of the Castaways units, the completion of the new 40-year Pygmy Possum lease and the management of the COVID-19 process of running the lodge safely.

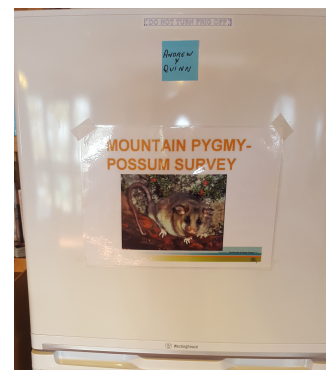
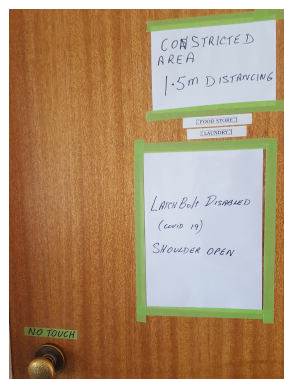
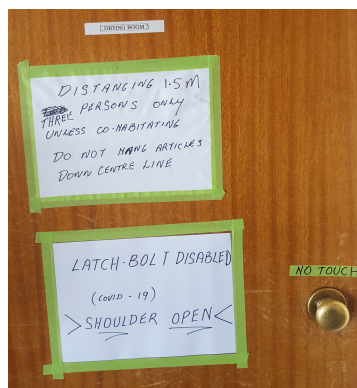
COVID-19 UPDATE – keeping Members safe

The COVID Safety Plan at Pygmy Possum has been implemented with reduced occupancy, increased cleaning and rostering of kitchen use. Limiting the lodge occupancy to 16 persons per wing limit is working well as the lodge doesn't seem crowded at meal or kitchen times and appropriate distancing is easily achieved. Four additional small tables have been purchased to help with meal times for smaller groups. To date the reduced number of guests have been achieved with the voluntary cancellation of winter bookings.

CPSR handling of COVID Safety has been excellent. All guests are vetted and temperature checked prior to boarding oversnow transport where masks are required. Distancing measures are implemented on lifts and queues. Full details can be found on the CPSR website.

The arrival of a decent fall of good cold snow, on Wednesday August 19, coincided with the visit by a representative of NSW Health to Pygmy Possum Lodge to review our COVID Safe Plan and its implementation. He was particularly impressed with our ability to distance 1.5 metres and the lodge layout in general. NSW Health gave the plan its approval. This was of course reassuring after a significant effort by the COVID Safe committee to set up our COVID Safe protocols. It was also reassuring to have NSW Health visit a very remote part of the NSW ski fields and effectively audit our COVID Safe implementation.

The positive report from NSW Health is largely due to Richard Mason's excellent management as our COVID Safety Officer. The Board conveys special thanks to Richard and the members and guests who have supported him while holidaying at the Lodge.



SUMMER BOOKINGS UNDER COVID

The lodge will remain open after the winter season with limited lodge occupancy of 16 per wing. The current COVID Safety Plan will remain in force until otherwise advised by NSW Health. Lodge Captain(s) and visitors may have COVID Safety Officer responsibilities as there will not be a resident COVID Safety Officer and it is expected that all members and guests will comply with the COVID Safety Plan. This procedure will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it is operating smoothly.

PYGMY POSSUM LODGE BOOKINGS 2020

The lodge was fully booked, albeit at 50%, for most of winter and for the upcoming September and October school holidays. Unfortunately we lost some of the bookings due to the situation in Victoria. For bookings use the Online Form at:

<http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/> If you are unable to use the online system to make your booking, please contact the booking officer at booking.officer@eloueraskiclub.asn.au or by phoning 0425 256 255 after 5pm.

FOOD STORE – limited stock, check before you arrive!

Please check the food store docket for information on availability of items. The latest update was 13 September. There is limited stock this season due to restricted travel rules when the lodge would normally be restocked, and the uncertainty of whether we would be able to open due to COVID-19.

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 by paying directly to the club using the club BPAY Biller Code and the BPAY Reference number of your booking.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

During the year to 31 March 2020 we had 16 new members who purchased memberships and 6 memberships transferred within a family.

There are members who wish to sell their shares so if you have family or friends who are interested in purchasing memberships, they should contact membership@eloueraskiclub.asn.au for further details.

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.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS – get all your membership details online, including credit points!

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 do not send a printed notification of the credit points accounts now that members have access to their credits information via the web query.

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. Your guests need to have “joined” your booking by quoting your booking id when they fill in their form. We require all guests to fill in their own form, providing their own contact details. (We have reduced the number of people spaces per form to help prevent too many people being booked on the one form.)

MEMBER NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

Dave Phillips - Snow Chains Free

If there is anybody in the club that may need some "snow chains". I have some for free. They suit a Toyota 4x4 wheel. Not sure of the size, but I think they are adjustable. They are handy on icy roads. Pick up only from Dora Creek. Can phone me on 02 49734202.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB?

Elouera Ski Club was established 46 years ago with Pygmy Possum Lodge construction finished in 1985. Our membership base is changing so it is important that we begin to record the history of the Club.

The Board is hoping original members may be able to help:

- what was the original philosophy of the club;
- how were members 'recruited';
- do you have interesting or amusing stories or anecdotes about the early days in the lodge or ski fields; or
- is there anything else you think might be of interest.

Please send information to information@elouerskiclub.asn.au

CASTAWAYS AT SHOAL BAY

Bookings at Castaways have been impacted by COVID-19. A new cleaner has been contracted to improve the standard of cleaning between bookings.

Members are still able to take advantage of a 20% discount during most of the year, except for high demand times such as Christmas and Easter.

NATIONAL PARKS NEWS

Wild Horses

In accordance with the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018, a wild horse heritage plan of management will be finalised in 2020 and will take into account the impact of the summer 2019-20 bushfires that impacted a third of Kosciuszko National Park. Horses will be removed from the northern area of the National park around the Kiandra, Cooleman and Nungar Plains.

Snowies Iconic Walk

Progress was made on the Snowies Iconic Walk in early 2020 despite bushfires and COVID-19:

- Construction of a permanent toilet facility at Seaman's Hut is underway.
- 5.6 kilometre stage 2 runs parallel to the Snowy River between Charlotte Pass and Illawong (near Guthega) and will be finished in early 2021. Three different types of track construction have been used. The photos were taken in April 2020 (from National Parks News).



Gravel or natural material track



Rock paving.



Steel mesh elevated walkway

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Alpine-resorts/alpine-resort-round-up-newsletter-winter-2020-issue-42-200269.pdf>