

Elouera Ski Club Ltd



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

PO Box 135
Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Phone: 0412 163 460
information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we get to December and celebrate another year, it's usual to reflect a little. We thought 2020 was a bad year but 2021 was worse. The local area lockdowns made a mess of the ski season. Ironically nature didn't lockdown and we had a bumper ski season, which few of us got to enjoy. Despite the year, we should keep some positives in mind. Our large lodge size and self-catering model means we will survive financially and quickly bounce back. A lodge survey by SLOPES covering Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega indicates some lodges won't survive. Lodges providing meals, unfortunately had salary and food waste costs which we avoided.

We recently paid our insurance which this year totalled \$90,000; 14% above 2020. As per 2020 we again have no bush fire insurance. Bush fire cover is capped at \$250,000 with an excess of \$100,000. Call a spade a spade, it's no bush fire cover. The board's position is we won't get bush fire cover again, unless the government steps in as the underwriter. We therefore need to manage and mitigate this risk. To that end we are progressing with the Development Application to re-clad the lodge in steel Colourbond. We will keep the members informed on this topic with an update in February or March. We are also progressing plans to recarpet and paint the lodge interior. We should update you all in January or February.

Thanks to the membership for your continued support and thanks to the board. Thanks of course to Gary; with all the cancellations Gary's workload has been worse than normal. A final thanks to Richard Mason who not only took on the COVID safety officer role again, but then got locked out of his home state of South Australia.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and are hoping to see as many of you as possible at Charlottes in 2022.

COVID UPDATE

All members recently received an email detailing the Board's Pygmy Possum Lodge Risk Minimisation strategy requiring all Members and Guests over 12 to either:

1. Be fully vaccinated or,
2. Have a timely negative Covid-19 test prior to arrival (currently 3 days prior based on NSW Health guidelines).

For latest details and any changes refer to <https://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/lodges/PygmyPossum/COVID-19Safe/>

CHANGES TO RATES IN 2022

In mid-November each year the Board reviews and agrees the Rates for the coming year. This year the Club's financial position was again impacted by the cancellation and refund of many winter and spring bookings due to COVID stay at home orders in NSW and ACT. However, we recognise it has been a difficult year for many.

After extensive consideration, the Board approved the following changes in 2022:

- Annual subscription fee: No change, details are below.
- Accommodation rates: A general rate increase of 5% will apply across both summer and winter periods.
- Locker and trunk charges remain unchanged: Locker fees \$100 and trunk fees \$50.

SUMMER IN THE SNOWIES

There are currently very strong bookings for the summer period. Some vacancies still exist for the end of December 2021 and January 2022. Get in quickly!

During your stay, please be mindful that Copper Head and Red Belly Black snakes have been seen close to the lodge and are known to live near the front stairs. We have not been successful in relocating these reptiles to date.

FOODSTORE USE

The Food Store is stocked with non-perishable community items and items for purchase by members and guests. The purchasable items are intended for the convenience of our winter visitors, to help reduce the luggage burden given that in winter it is not possible to drive to the lodge and it is also not practical to travel out to a supermarket to get extra stocks if your supplies run low during your stay.

Summer guests are encouraged to purchase and help us use left-over stocks up until the restock in March. Members and guests staying between the March restock and the winter season, please consider the winter guests and minimise your use of the store in that period.

WINTER BOOKINGS AT PYGMY POSSUM

Winter Priority bookings for members and their sponsored guests can be applied for between NOW and the priority bookings closure at 5:00pm 15th February 2022. 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.

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

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

CHARLOTTE PASS SKI PACKAGES

At the time of publishing, Charlotte Pass ski packages for 2022 were not yet available. These can be found at <https://www.charlottepass.com.au/buy-now/> after they have been released by CPSR.

MEMBER'S ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 2022 Annual Subscription fee is unchanged from the 2021 fee of \$110 (incl GST). The invoice for the year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 will be sent in February 2022 and is due by 1 April 2022.

Payments for subscriptions must be made in cash and **cannot** be made using accommodation credit points. After two challenging years, the club needs the 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. Please note that membership rights will be suspended if fees remain outstanding. After 5 years of non-payment membership will lapse.

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 contact's 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

CLUB'S HISTORY

We had a great response for images about the early days of the club and the stories are slowly coming together. Here are some early photos of Pygmy Possum Lodge under construction!



The Smith Family: Alison (7), Carolyn (4) and David (1) with mother Jennifer. Jan 1985



Third floor construction: 1985

MYSTERIES SOLVED (From the September newsletter)

- The Cigana Lady is a photo of Kerryn Rim - she represented Australia at the 1992, 1994 and 1998 Winter Olympic Games in biathlon. Her best result was 8th place in Lillehammer, and she was one shot off a bronze medal!
Dave and Angela Cigana made active sportswear in Berridale, then Cooma during the 1990's and early 2000s. The suit photographed is one they designed and made for the Olympic team in 1994.
- The fashionable skier is Joanie Mathie, skiing the Porcupine Track;
- The mystery horseman was an award winning picture taken of a stockman at Bullocks Flat by club founder Geoff Mathie.

We are still collecting stories, oral histories and quotes from members about the club to colour the chronicles. Do you have outstanding memories of times spent in Charlotte Pass? What do you love about the Lodge?

Send them through to: selina.springgett@elouerskiclub.asn.au

MOUNTAIN PYGMY-POSSUM



Once again Dr Linda Broome and her team of volunteers stayed at the lodge to undertake their spring monitoring of the endangered mountain pygmy-possum around Charlotte Pass and nearby boulder fields. Read the blog about her important work.

<https://blog.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-real-superhero-dr-linda-broome-a-threatened-species-expert/>

NATIONAL PARKS NEWS

Annual Pass

Visitors can no longer buy Annual Passes from entry stations and will instead need to pre-purchase their new digital annual pass online before leaving home (<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/passes-and-fees>). For concessions and discounts, apply at least 3 days before travel to allow for approval and processing. Day passes can still be purchased at Entry Stations and from NPWS visitor centres in Jindabyne, Khancoban and Tumut.

Snowies Alpine Walk Update

Alfred Wainwright in "A Coast to Coast Walk" wrote "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing". Very true of the English Lake District and very true of Charlotte Pass. But what about the feet, walking in mud and slush isn't great, regardless of the gear.

The Snowies Alpine Walk is rapidly fixing that problem. As of November 2021, two tracks near the lodge are near completion. The walk from Charlotte Pass to Trapyard is 80-90% complete. The last kilometre has steel bridges and requires some extra flagstones. Work from the Perisher end is also advanced. The full walk from Charlotte Pass to Perisher via Porcupine Rocks is scheduled for completion in early 2022.

The second "local" walk starts below the Charlotte Pass lookout and goes to Guthega. This is virtually complete and is about 9k one way.

The Perisher to Bullocks Flat walk is in a planning stage but with a vertical descent of 600m and an 11 kilometre distance, it's \$10M budget is well justified. Helicoptering rock and steel isn't cheap.



Credit to Parks and Planning. These tracks are a mix of granite paving, steel walkways and bridges to keep you dry and above the water, mud and heath and sympathetically set in the landscape. For our lodge these tracks will extend our summer occupancy and open up some great areas to explore.

For additional information please visit [Snowies Alpine Walk](#)

Other News

Ten of the iconic tin and timber huts in the New South Wales high country that were destroyed in the bushfires of 2019/20 will be rebuilt. For more information go to <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-22/historic-huts-in-kosciuszko-national-park-will-be-rebuilt/100556890>

The main summer food source of the pygmy possum, the **bogong moth** has now been declared **endangered** by the world's leading scientific assessment of species vulnerability

Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan aims to reduce the wild horse population from an estimated 14,380 horses to 3000 horses by 30 June 2027. Under the plan, there will be no wild horses across 68% of the park.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/pest-animals-and-weeds/pest-animals/wild-horses/kosciuszko-national-park-wild-horse-management>

NEW MYSTERY



Do you know the lady at the far left of this photo?

With her are some of the founding members of the club including (from right to left) Geoff & Joan Mathie; Ken & Beverley George; Ray & Maureen Barnes.

STORAGE AUDIT

We are looking at ways to better utilise the basement level so we can offer more storage opportunities for members. The first step is to audit the gear currently occupying the various passages and nooks and dispose of unclaimed property. For example, skis stored randomly in the locker room but not in lockers. Early next year we will send an email to all members asking them to identify whether and where they are storing equipment outside lockers and trunks, so it can be tagged and not thrown out. We anticipate this step will take about a year.



NEW WOOLLEN BLANKETS

Woollen blankets have been purchased for the Lodge, so each bed is now equipped with a warm winter doona, a cotton blanket and a woollen blanket for year-round comfort.

