



# Elouera Ski Club Ltd

Pygmy Possum Lodge  
Charlotte Pass  
&  
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay

PO Box 135  
Darlinghurst, NSW 1300  
[www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au](http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au)

ACN 002 703 988

## Autumn 2024 Newsletter

### From the President

As we approach the 2024 ski season its pleasing to see snow on the ground already. Thanks to Richard Mason for the shot taken during the working bee in early April. The snow-covered roads made for an interesting trip out that morning!

I discussed in a January email the problems that were caused by the timing disparity between our priority booking notifications and the availability of CPSR early bird packages. This year, CPSR resolved this issue by allowing impacted club members. change booking dates at no cost. As flagged in that email, the club intends to move our priority booking dates forward, and 2025 booking allocations will be notified in December 2024. This will provide members comfort that they have secure accommodation prior to making non-refundable CPSR bookings. All member feedback has been positive and the board will make a final decision on the new booking dates mid-year.

The DA process continues to move forward. NSW Planning have done a review and site inspection and noted some minor issues. We are working through these now and will submit variations in May. The board expects that we will receive approval during the ski season and will close the lodge in October and November 2024 for the initial tranche of work.

March 31 is the end of our financial year and the date of our insurance renewal. Our total insurance this year totals almost \$150,000. This is the club's major cost. A pleasing aspect of the new policy is an increase in our bush fire insurance. Following the 2019/20 fires our bush fire cover fell to zero. It's now set at \$4.3 Million.

For 2024, the CPSR lifts are scheduled to run from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Following our 50% occupancy in the COVID impacted 2020 and 2021 seasons, the 2023 season rebuilt to near 100% occupancy across the ski season. However, this year's bookings are lower although we are two months out from the lifts turning. Over the ten weeks from 7 July to 15 September we have an 80% occupancy. Filling the remaining capacity is important for the club as it all goes to profit so we encourage to book one the available weeks before they all go. Hopefully we can fill the lodge and get a good snow season.

The working bee this week has been mammoth (and very successful). Thanks to all the members who volunteered. I will leave it to John Rodger to provide details.

All the best,  
Jon



## Membership Dues and Building Levy Fees

Membership fees, building levy and locker rental fees are due on 31 March each year and an email to this effect has been issued to all members. The Club would appreciate your early attention to payment.

## Kitchen Wash Bag

There are often grubby tea towels on the rail by the dishwashers and a “Kitchen washbag” for tea towels has been installed for tea towels that should be washed. These to-be-washed tea towels should be taken down to the laundry from time to time for washing and drying.



## Polivac

There is also a cover over the “Polivac” floor scrubber machine in the foyer stairwell of the West Wing. This machine is a replacement for the one that someone decided to throw out in 2022/23! Please don't dispose of this one or the cover!

## Bedroom Heaters and Showers

All bedrooms have new heaters, and the old temperamental strip heaters have gone into the skip. The new heaters are more efficient and need much less maintenance. The new heaters are timer-controlled via a push-button switch, and instructions can be found on the wall above each heater. The roll-out of the flexible shower heads has also been completed, and we're hoping leaking washers and random water spurts have been banished for a while.

## Family/Games Room improvements

We have had an on-going problem with heating in the Family/Games room that made it an unwelcoming and under-used space at times. The heating in this room has now been upgraded to a combination of off-peak storage heaters and reverse-cycle air-conditioning. This is the same heating model as is used in the dining/lounge areas and has been proven to be efficient and robust. Now that the heating issues in this room have been resolved, part of the space has been given over to family-friendly facilities – more on this below.

## Working Bee– April 2024

By John Rodger and Julie Dowsley

We had a huge team of volunteers this year: 28 overall and roughly 20 per day, both novices and old experience hands (aka. repeat offenders).

John Anderson	Kim Gollan	Martin Sima
Kerin Brown	Peter Gollan	Garry Smith
Bill Chadwick	Paul Greenfield	Jennifer Smith
Karl Conning	Roger Hook	Michael Stevens
Carol Conning	Richard Mason	Andy Varga
Julie Dowsley	Nick Mironov	Ursula Varga
Bill Dowsley	Margaret Mironov	Ian Warlters
Brian Evans	Maurice Ripley	Warwick Wilton
Ruth Evans	John Rodger	
Sarah Fitzherbert	Tony Segal	



## Maintenance

The Annual Working Bee attends to many routine activities and repairs: ceiling fans, air purifier and air conditioning filters, leaky taps and drainage, doors that aren't closing, curtains drooping, food store restocking. The list seems endless. In addition to the changes in the games room mentioned below, some special jobs this year included:

- John Anderson renovated the front-stairs by replacing and painting the handrails and repairing some damaged steps.
- Re-laying the rubber flooring near the front entrance that had lifted badly due to a water leak that had been fixed at the November working bee. The flooring repair was carried out by a team headed by Ian Warlters.
- The unwelcome recent ratty visitor to the west wing kitchen is, we hope, now excluded by blocking the apparent access points from the lower level. The rat inspected the work just after completion and was decidedly unimpressed – no more banana suppers!!
- The second washing machine which failed recently has been serviced. A replacement laundry tub with a by-pass drain for the washing machine is being installed. This should fix our problem with laundry flooding if this sink is blocked while the washing machine is running.

A highlight was the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for long-time member and working bee participant Michael Stevens. Warwick Wilton did a great job completing Michael's extensive list of jobs when Michael had to leave earlier than expected.

As always, the working bee crew were tireless in their efforts for the club, but this year seemed exceptional in both how we all worked together, and the amount of work done. Thanks to all who participated, both members and friends of Pygmy Possum Lodge. The working bee is essential to the ongoing function of the Lodge.



*John repairing front steps*



*Unimpressed rat after the inspection, not happy John.*



*Michael's 86th birthday*

## Housekeeping

The team did a superb job cleaning the lodge from top to bottom, inside and out. Special thanks are due to Roger Hook for managing the kitchen cleaning and doing most of the work himself! Ruth Evans did a marvellous job co-ordinating the bedroom cleaning and we were pleased that the laborious 28-room task was shared between many of the volunteers.

## Kitchen changes

- Kitchen cupboards: We are all aware of the ducking and weaving that happens in the kitchen when searching for what we need. There have been a couple of changes to the cupboards which may help when searching or unstacking the dishwashers. Let's see what happens....
  - All flat plates are now in one crockery cupboard, and all bowls are in the other. You will also find new small and mid-sized bowls that stack better in the dishwashers.
  - Similarly, saucepans and frypans now live in their own separate cupboards.
- There are now three new Westinghouse microwaves (and, yes, they all increment by 30 seconds when you repeatedly push start). The two failed LG units are under warranty and will be repaired and kept as spares.
- Hand towels have been introduced and are on hooks next to the tea towels. New wash bags for tea towels, dishcloths and hand towels can be found on a hook above the rubbish bins.

## Family/Games Room Refurbishment

By Kerin Brown

To quote one of the work party members, "After 40 years, we finally recognised that some families have kids", and there is now a mixture of toys, books, tables and chairs and play-mats etc. for our younger residents to enjoy. Sword fights with pool cues will no longer be the only possible game.

Last year John Rodger asked me to submit a plan for the Family Games Room. We wanted a comfortable space for adults and children to relax and play, with games, books and toys to supplement the existing table tennis table and billiard table. The result is a reading nook and play area in the Eastern end of the (now) Family Room.



*Reading Nook and Kids' Bookcase*



*Little table and chairs, with play shapes and Duplo mat*



*Kerin supervising Julie and Bill Dowsley at play*

Richard Mason first removed the old brown heaters from the east and west sides of the Family Games Room— a very dirty job that gave us much-needed room on these walls! Jennifer Smith and Carol Conning unpacked the bookcases, cleaned and polished them. We moved them into the family room - one at either end – one for adults (West) and one for kids (East). They came up a treat with a scrub and polish! We sorted through the old jigsaw puzzles and tossed out any with missing pieces. We tossed out many of the novels accumulated over many decades, and stacked the kids' bookcase with books I had gathered from various sources. I had ordered furniture from Ikea. Paul Greenfield and I picked up the first lounge from Canberra on the Tuesday. Martin Sima picked up the second lounge on the Wednesday. We moved the table tennis table and the billiard table across as per the plan. Carol and Karl Conning assembled the lounges, storage footstool, coffee table and display unit. We brought up all the games, toys and cushions from the workshop where we had stored them in January. The small folding table was already here, it only needed a scrub. It works perfectly with the little chairs. Moving the billiard table exposed a large rent in the carpet. Warwick Wilton patched the problem area so it is no longer a trip hazard. This will tide us over until the carpets are replaced.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this work!

## Member News

Anthony Lodge has let us know that his grand-daughter Lottie Lodge recently won the Downhill Freestyle (Moguls) Youth Olympic Silver Medal in Korea. She is the youngest member of the Australian Olympic team and has just travelled to Whistler for their April camp.

## Storage – April 2024

By Julie Dowsley

**Lockers:** There is always a long waiting list for storage and many thanks to the non-active members who have made the difficult decision to vacate their lockers on request. Members should be aware that the club's by-laws state that Storage Facilities will be forfeited and reallocated where:

- Members fail to pay the annual fee at the prescribed time,
- A Member does not stay at the Lodge during winter for five (5) consecutive years. (Note: Due to COVID19 there has been a one-year grace period).

Several other members are close to, or have reached, the non-use threshold and will be contacted soon. The next review date will be after the 2024 winter season.

**Ski Bays** in the Service Passage: We are making progress in improving this area:

- Name tags are now installed above ski bays to assist registration.
- More short chains have been attached to the wall for securing equipment, and redundant pegs removed from the wall (with thanks to Richard Mason).
- We plan to remove inappropriate or non-registered gear after the 2024 winter season, so please register before then.

**Trunks:** Three more trunks were emptied and now only three of the original 42 remain. All the empty trunks in the west wing foyer have now been removed from the lodge.

## Food Store - April 2024

By Kerin Brown

The food store has been fully restocked for 2024. We place a bulk order with Thredbo Foodworks and this is delivered during the working bee. A human conveyor belt is used to transport everything from the truck to the entrance corridor. Four of us (Kerin, Sarah, Carol and Paul) then moved the stock onto the shelves in the food store.

We had accurate stocktakes before and after the Winter season in 2023, and together with the sales data from Shopify, we were able to get better estimates on what stock levels we'd need to avoid running out of critical items mid-season. Aunt Betty puddings and Scotch finger biscuits shouldn't all be gone by the end of the July school holidays this year, and we should have enough paper towels and toilet paper to get us through until next year!!

We had very good compliance with the revised food store purchasing process in 2023, with most guests remembering to pay for almost everything they took from the store. Remember to write down your purchases on your white sheet as you take goods off the shelves, pay for them using Shopify at the end of your stay, and have your lodge captain note down that you have paid for your purchases. Some people were so diligent in 2023 that we actually sold more of some items than we had in stock!!

Changes:

- Olive oil has been added to Community, alongside vegetable oil. Small quantities of analgesics (aspirin, paracetamol, ibuprofen) are available through your Lodge Captain.
- Some traditional store items, such as tinned soups and oysters, are not selling well and so have been discounted to clear!

