



Elouera Ski Club Ltd

Pygmy Possum Lodge
Charlotte Pass
& •
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay

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ACN 002 703 988 •

2024 Spring Newsletter

President's Message

Spring is upon us and the lodge provides access to great walking, biking and fishing, including parts of the almost-complete and fantastic Snowies Alpine Walk. The first stage of the planned building renovations was planned for this Spring, but approval delays mean we can now make the lodge available to members until early March 2025

Many members and guests were able to enjoy the lodge and Charlotte Pass this winter. The season started strongly but ended a couple of weeks early due to warm weather. Despite the shortened season, we reached 80% capacity over 10 weeks, so thanks, everyone.

All the best, Jon Barber

2025 Member Priority Booking Dates

The dates for our priority bookings are changing this year to fit better with the resort booking deadlines and let members take advantage of early-bird booking rates. These changes were flagged in a January 2024 mailout, and confirmed in another mailout in September 2024. The full explanation for these changes is in the September email. Copies of the emailed notices can be found on the [Elouera Ski Club website](http://www.eloueraskiclub.asn.au) under the Club News tab. These new dates are:

1. Member priority bookings will open on Friday, November 1, 2024.
2. Member priority bookings will close on Sunday, December 1, 2024.
3. The club will confirm member bookings by Friday, December 20, 2024.
4. Guest bookings will be confirmed by Friday, January 17, 2025.

2025 Accommodation rates

For 2025, lodge accommodation rates will increase by the Sydney annual June 2024 CPI of 3.81%. This increase is required to cover the costs of running the lodge. Some costs, including CPSR costs, are directly indexed to the CPI. Other costs, such as insurance, are indirectly linked to the CPI via labour and materials costs. The base rate (member Winter peak) for 2025 will be \$680 per week, including GST. The 2024 equivalent rate was \$655 per week. All other rates are based this member peak rate and will be increased in proportion.

Charlotte Pass Ski Resort 2025 Dates

CPSR have announced their 2025 ski season dates:

Open: Saturday, 21 June 2025

Close: Sunday, 14 September 2025

Pool Table Repairs at Pygmy Possum

The cloth of the pool table was damaged last summer and unfortunately, the search for a repairer has proved fruitless. Do any members have these skills or have contacts with these skills? If so, contact:

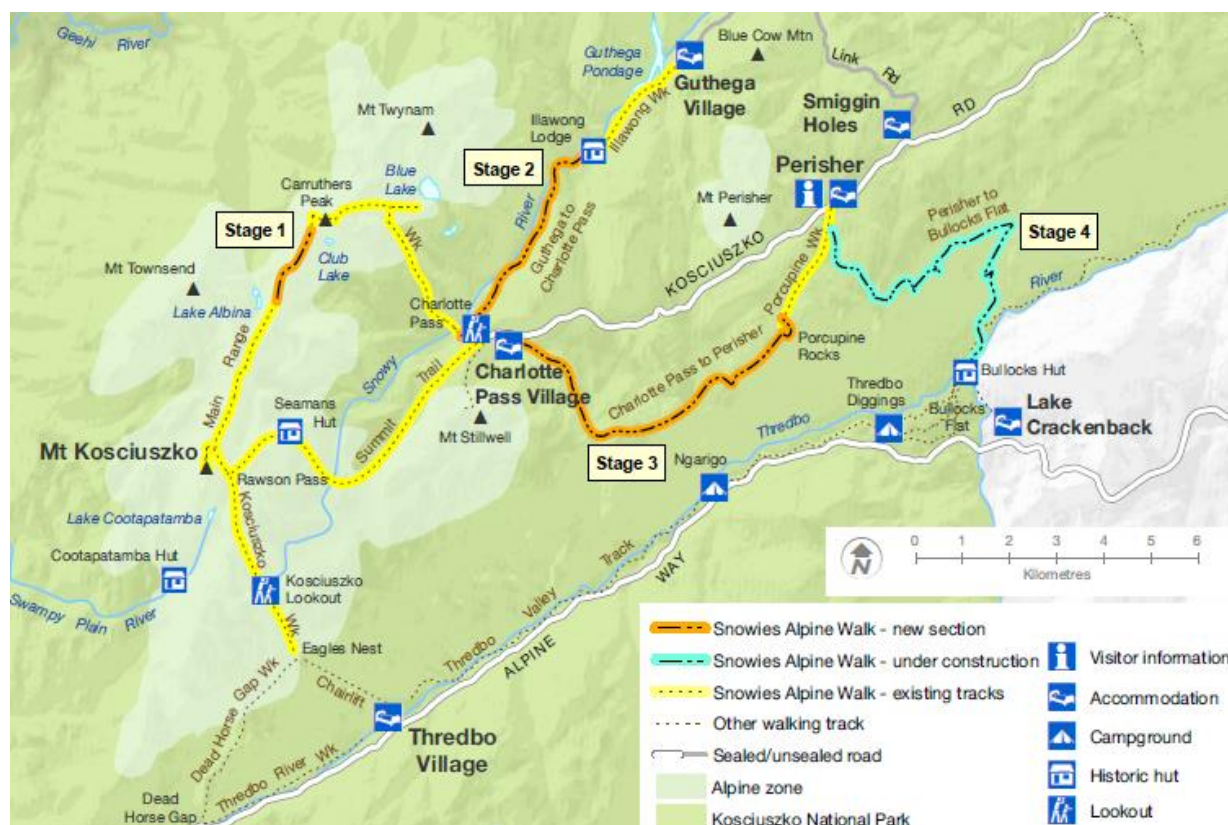
John Rodger (john.rodger@eloueraskiclub.asn.au)
or Ian Warlters (ian.warlters@eloueraskiclub.asn.au)



Snowies Alpine Walk

The Snowies Alpine Walk continues to be developed, with the final stage between Porcupine and Bullocks Flat scheduled to be finished this Spring. The project includes 27 kilometres of new walking track and realignment of existing tracks to protect threatened alpine vegetation. Each new track section is approximately 6 to 12 kilometres long. Walkers can choose to do any section of the track as single-day walks or combine sections for 2-, 3- or 4-day walks. The Charlotte Pass to Porcupine Walk is particularly stunning, with its vibrant, fragrant flora, sweeping views, snow gums and dramatic rock formations—high country in all its glory. Check out some of the walks on your next trip.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/charlotte-pass-village-to-perisher-valley-walk>



Our Accommodation at Shoal Bay, Port Stephens

Our Castaways unit has had a great facelift. The “before” and “after” really highlight the new white, sunny “beach” look and feel that this great unit deserves. While the timber beams are the obvious change, all ceilings and other timberwork have also been repainted. A big thanks to Malcolm Mathie and Adam Jaques for this renovation project.



Shoal Bay is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in Australia, perfect for swimming, paddleboarding, strolling the coastline, or snorkelling. This little village makes a fantastic base for exploring Port Stephens' natural attractions, including seeing koalas, dolphins and whales in the wild and going on walks that end in breathtaking views. The unit has four bedrooms and can accommodate 6-8 people, making it an ideal family destination.



The stunning view (left) from our Unit over the bay.

The Shoal Bay Country Club (right) offers great beach views and terrific dining minutes away from Castaways.



Occupancy of our Shoal Bay unit is important for the club. The unit is an important asset that covers its costs and helps contribute to the club's profitability. Please consider booking a stay and making the most of your membership!

Plus, members receive a 20% club discount on our public rates! All linen is supplied. To book and for more details, visit the website: Elouera Ski Club Ltd - Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay Port Stephens or email bookings@portstephensaccommodation.com

What **are** you waiting for?

Lodge DA Progress

The lodge DA approval process has slowed to a crawl! The main bottleneck is the Asset Protection Zone (APZ). Rural Fire Services (RFS) defines the APZ with two factors: a 15% canopy cover and a 10% shrub cover. Pygmy Possum can meet these values, but achieving them has required significant negotiations with National Parks, NSW Planning, and RFS.

All parties involved (Planning, RFS, and NPWS) are cooperating, and it appears we are close to approval. However, close is not a guarantee, and we therefore made the difficult decision to call off the upgrades planned for October and November. It is not fair to our contractors (who have set aside time) for us to cancel at the last minute.

Subject to the DA approval, we may do a tranche of work in March to June 2025. We will keep you posted.

Important Dates	
Priority Bookings Open (for the 2025 Winter Season)	01/11/2024
Priority Bookings Close (payments must be received)	01/12/2024 17:30
General Bookings Open (for the 2025 winter season)	01/01/2025
Pre-Season Work Party	TBD (late-March, early-April)
Members' Annual Subscription and Building Levy Fees Due	31/03/2025
Storage Hire Fees Due	31/03/2025

Last note:



A taste of wildflowers of the high country. Photo credit S. Springett

Do you have any iconic pics you would like to feature in the club newsletter?

Email them to information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au