

Photo by Kate Trifo

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



Elouera Ski Club Ltd

Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte
Pass
Kosciuszko National Park
and
Castaways Unit, Shoal Bay
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Vale Kevin Blyton

Dear Members,

This is, unfortunately, a very sad email. Kevin Blyton passed away on Sunday, 19 October. As the owner of the Blyton Group, which includes Charlotte Pass Ski Resort, Selwyn Resort and multiple radio stations, Kevin needs little introduction.

Kevin's determination against many obstacles is legendary. To name a few, the 2019 fires destroyed Selwyn, COVID was then thrown at all the snow industry, and most recently, the STP fire could have destroyed the CP 2025 season. Kevin rose to all these challenges, and we, the Charlotte Pass customers, were the beneficiaries.

A Kevin Blyton quote I read today speaks of the man, "Over 500 people work across the group. Not one person lost their job, had hours cut or wages cut because of Covid." That's a real accomplishment.

Kevin was passionate about Charlotte Pass, and he will be greatly missed.

Take care everyone

Jon Barber

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President's Message

Dear Members,

With some relief and great pleasure, I am writing as the lodge refurbishments are underway. Work started on 7 October, and as of mid-October, the balustrades are complete and the sprinkler install is well advanced. We have a more detailed report later in this newsletter.

What a difference a year makes! After a couple of lean winters, 2025 delivered the goods – fantastic snow depth throughout the season, peaking at over 220cm in September, and those brilliant late-season dumps that kept the skiing excellent well into October. It was wonderful to see so many members and guests enjoying Pygmy Possum.

Priority bookings for 2026 are now live. As in 2025, we're again offering full 'any cause' refunds for bookings in the early and late season periods – if you book for late June or September and conditions aren't ideal, you can cancel and get a full refund. It's a no-risk opportunity to experience either the excitement of opening week or the magic of spring skiing when Charlotte Pass delivers. The CPSR 20% discount Lodge Package will open on January 5th. It's important you secure accommodation as the CPSR offer is non-refundable.

Head to <https://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/bookings/> to secure your accommodation booking. Current rates are at https://eloueraskiclub.asn.au/cgi-bin/ESC_booking_rates.py?year=2026.

All the best,

Jon Barber
Club President

Lodge Refurbishment

Pygmy Possum Lodge is 40 years old and a later point discusses that milestone. We have a lease to 2058 or a future of 33 years. Much of the lodge needs refurbishment sooner rather than later. This rationale has driven the board's planning. In September 2025 the DA was finally approved with multiple Consent Conditions. Most of these conditions were expected and with some scrambling we started work on October 7. The DA was approved but the process was long and frustrating. A recap on the history follows:

- June 2021, we requested a Building Code Australia report on the lodge.
- In July 2021, we presented the recladding plan to members at the AGM.
- In November 2021 the BCA report recommended sprinklers, new balustrades and other works.
- A July 2022 meeting with members approved going ahead with a \$747,000 budget.
- In October 2022 the DA was submitted.
- In September 2025 the DA was approved.
- Now in October 2025 the balustrades are installed, and the sprinkler install has started.

Now to the project work. The balustrades photos speak for themselves. The lightweight aluminium facilitated installation without the need for an expensive crane hire. We are now legal on height at 1050mm (the legal height is 1000mm) and fulfil the statement that *"no elements that facilitate climbing"*. The downside of the latter is that we need careful snow clearance, as the balustrades are powder-coated aluminium and prone to chipping.



The Bright Balustrades product and support has been terrific. Two of their staff visited in August 2024 and measured all balconies. When the four installers visited, everything went in perfectly. The total cost was \$63,000, including GST. As an indication of inflation, the original quote in November 2021 was \$35,000. However, Bright underestimated the remoteness of Charlotte Pass and underquoted on travel times and should have been \$45,000. Thus, costs rose from \$45,000 to \$63,000; an unfortunate 40% increase in four years.

The balustrade design detail is illustrated in the outside support post (right photo). This post is 100mm from the timber cladding. When the Colorbond cladding is installed, this gap will be reduced to 50-70mm to accommodate extra insulation, and the top rail will be removed and trimmed.

The Your Fire Protection staff commenced the sprinkler fit-out in early October. The team is working from top to bottom. On level 3, the sprinkler heads are neatly fitted into the ceilings. The ceiling pipework includes uprights that will soak the ceiling space if required. On levels 1 and 2, the pipework is exposed. As of November 4, the sprinkler system is fully installed and water connected. Certification will occur in mid November.



Ceiling space with foam lagging on some pipes.



Piping through hallway Level 2.



Sprinklers added to bathrooms.

The sprinkler project has a total cost of \$189,000, including GST. We began with an estimated cost of \$85,000 in April 2022 for a smaller project which covered the accommodation levels. In time the installation grew to include Level 1, viz: the drying rooms, food store and all corridors. We also added a sprinkler in each bathroom. The bathrooms are fibreglass, and while a bathroom fire is unlikely, it could spread. Yes the costs have increased significantly as has the scope.

November work includes replacing ten corridor and quiet lounge doors with smoke-sealed fire doors. The total budget in Stage 1 is \$400,000. Stage 2 work, mainly the recladding, is in the planning stage.

40th Birthday Celebrations

This year marks a remarkable milestone – the 40th anniversary of Elouera Ski Club's Pygmy Possum Lodge at Charlotte Pass. From the dream of a handful of snow-loving friends to a thriving club of more than 400 members, our lodge has grown into a place of enduring friendships, family traditions, and unforgettable alpine adventures.

Construction was completed in just six months, and the lodge opened on 4 July 1985 – just in time for that winter season. Remarkably, several of those who first signed the Lodge Register that first season are still closely involved: three current Board members, Paul Greenfield, Karl Conning and Malcom Mathie, and one recently retired Board member, Mark Epper, were there in that inaugural season, supporting the club from its earliest days and carrying the baton through its 40th year.

As part of our celebrations, we aim to share and preserve the stories that make the lodge's life so rich. Do you have a favourite memory from the slopes, the dining room, or perhaps a spring ski race with snow gum "medals"? Photos, anecdotes, and recollections from members old and new are warmly welcomed and will be featured in the upcoming newsletters.

Let's celebrate not only the building, but the people, the lore, and the sense of community that has kept the fire burning for 40 years. Please send your ski memories and photos to the Board so we can showcase them as part of this anniversary year.

information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

2026 Priority Bookings Open

The 2026 ski season priority booking window is now open. The key dates are:

- Members and their sponsored guests can now submit their booking applications for 2026.
- All such bookings received and fully paid for by Monday 1st December 2025 will be considered in the priority round.

- The club will aim to confirm priority bookings by 31st December 2025, if not earlier.

CPSR Dates

"Charlotte Pass will be open from Saturday 20th June 2026 - Sunday 13th September 2026.

Our Lodge Packages will launch in January with the same discounts applied. We start with the 20% off in January 2026 - at this stage hoping to launch the 20% off on Monday 5th January and they will close one month later."

Lucy Blyton-Gray
General Manager of Charlotte Pass Ski Resort

Snowies Alpine Walk

A reminder that the spectacular Snowies Alpine Walk officially opened on 2 December 2024, offering world-class hiking right on our doorstep.

This 56-kilometre multi-day walk proves there's more to the Snowies than skiing. The walk links Guthega, Charlotte Pass (where Pygmy Possum Lodge is located!), Perisher and Bullocks Flat, taking you through stunning alpine and subalpine landscapes. You'll climb Australia's highest mountain, wander through wildflower meadows and walk through glacier-carved landscapes and snow gum forests.

The beauty of the walk is its flexibility – you can tackle this multi-day walk in full or in sections, making it perfect for those of us who are time-poor. Whether you're after a single day hike or the full four-day adventure, you can walk right to the top of Mount Kosciuszko at 2,228 metres above sea level.

During the summer months when the flowers are out and the snow has melted, this is an unmissable opportunity to experience the Park in a completely different way. And of course, with accommodation at Charlotte Pass, you're perfectly positioned to take advantage of sections of the walk.

More information available at:
<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/experiences/snowies-alpine-walk>

Memberships

Memberships available!

Memberships can currently be purchased for an unusually low price of \$3,000. Encourage your friends and family to join the club by directing them to our website to make their application. For any family visiting for only a few winter seasons, the benefits are significant.

Credit Points Available!

There are still a few discounted credit points available for purchase from past members on our credit point exchange. You can find the exchange via the [Information for Members](#) page on our website.

The opportunity to receive accommodation credit points through this process is open to members only.

Storage

Ski Bays in the Service Tunnel

There are plenty of empty bays available to hire for \$50/year — if you're interested, get in touch at storage@eloueraskiclub.asn.au.

Lockers aren't tied to a membership!

Nobody likes to give up their locker, but under the by-laws, storage needs to be handed back if you haven't stayed at the lodge for five winters or if you pass your membership on.

Some long-time members have been hesitant about this, especially as they would like to pass their lockers to their family. To make it easier for the next generation to secure storage, we suggest starting the transfer process early. That way the kids or grandkids can get on the waiting list and secure their own locker or cabinet. This has worked for some families already and the waiting list is currently not very long

Help Needed

Administration – Help keep the club running! Working bees are always oversubscribed, but if you still want to contribute, administration is the hidden magic we can't do without. More hands make light work – if you can spare a few hours here and there, please get in touch at secretary@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

Web Development – We're looking for volunteers with professional web development experience, particularly in Python and/or JavaScript. If that's you, we'd love to hear from you at webmaster@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

Big thank you to all who provided input into this newsletter; Selina, Jon, Paul, Ian and Stafford

Club Calendar

Call for Nominations for Board Positions, Notice of AGM	October 2025
Annual General Meeting	25/11/2025
Post Season Work Party	November 2025
Priority Bookings Open for the 2026 winter season	01/11/2025
Priority Bookings Close & payments must be received	01/12/2025
General Bookings Open for the 2026 winter season	01/01/2026 or when priority bookings are determined.
Pre Season Work Party	March-April 2026
Members Annual Subscription and Building Levy Fee Due	31/03/2026
Storage Hire Fees Due	31/03/2026
Start of the Winter Season	21/06/2026
End of the Winter Season	13/09/2026