Photo by Allen Caldwell

PRE-SEASON 2026 NEWSLETTER

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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President’s Message

2026 marks my sixth ski season as Club President and will be my last in the role: I’ll step down at our November AGM. A key to the club’s success is open communications, so I wanted to share my decision with you all today, rather than drop an AGM bombshell!

My stint on the Board has had its challenges, including COVID seasons, the STP failure and the slow DA process. But there have been so many positives as well, and support from club members for the current Board – and of course earlier Boards – has certainly been one of them. Thank you all for that ongoing support.

On DA matters: in September 2025 we received DA approval and split the work into Stage 1 (internal) and Stage 2 (cladding). Stage 1 is now complete and we’re working on the Construction Certificate for Stage 2. The cost estimate we received was a little high and we're currently seeking alternate quotes; more on that below.

With another ski season approaching, fingers are crossed for early snow and I hope to see many members at the lodge or on the new Guthrie’s chair.

All the best,

Jon

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Resort Updates

Winter Season 2026

- Opening: 20th June 2026
- Closing: 13th September 2026

Guthries Double Chair is Open

After a long period of regulatory delays and $3 million in costs, the new Guthries Double Chair opens for Winter 2026. The lift improves access to advanced terrain and overall lift operations efficiency.

More information:
https://charlottepass.com.au/guthries/

Activities in Charlotte Pass

- Night Skiing & Boarding: Every Wednesday and Saturday night, 6pm-8pm. Requires a valid day lift pass.
- Groomer Tours: One-hour behind-the-scenes tour, $49 per person. One adult or two children at a time. Book with CPSR Guest Services.
- Mount Stillwell Snow Experience: First tracks at sunrise on Mt Stillwell, Wednesdays only, $65 per person. Requires a valid lift ticket.
- Snowshoe Tours: Guided walks with picnic lunch. Routes vary based on weather conditions.
- Standard Race: Race against Snowsports Instructor times.
- Flare Run: Every Friday at 5:30pm. $5 entry, $10 flare optional.

Charlotte Pass Race Program (new for 2026)

Four-day race coaching experience, Tuesday to Friday, 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Capped at 8 participants, private race course, Level 4 qualified coach, video analysis. $849 per person.

Set dates are 21-24 July and 11-14 August, but CPSR can run the program on any Tuesday-Friday week during the season provided at least three participants are confirmed.

Participants must be able to ski confidently and ride the T-Bar independently.

Contact ski@charlottepass.com.au to register interest.

Make your enquiries with CPSR here: https://charlottepass.com.au/things-to-do/

Club Updates

June and September Special

Winter 2026 bookings are strong, with most peak weeks well filled. We have two periods still wide open, and the board has offered full any-cause refunds for both:

- Early season: 21st June to 5th July - barely anyone booked, so bring a group.
- Late season: 30th August to 13th September - around half full.

September skiing at Charlotte Pass can be excellent. 2022 saw deep snow well into the month, and 2025 recorded over two metres on 1st September. The last couple of years have been leaner, with warm spells ending the downhill season early. Every year is different.

For either period, the any-cause refund means you can book with confidence and cancel at no cost if conditions don't cooperate.

Don't Forget Your Oversnow Transport

A reminder to all members heading to Charlotte Pass this winter: book your oversnow transport early.

Seats on the oversnow transport fill up quickly during peak periods, and waiting until the last minute could leave you without a way to reach the lodge. Bookings can be made directly through the Charlotte Pass Ski Resort website or by calling their booking office.

The oversnow transport schedule may change throughout the season, so please check your confirmation details carefully and arrive at the Perisher terminal with plenty of time before your scheduled departure.

New Fridges and Freezers

After a run of failures across our older units - broken door shelves, leaking seals, and two additional fridge breakdowns - the board approved an upgrade. In April, we installed Williams commercial double-door fridges and Miele freezers. The new units increase storage capacity and should provide considerably better reliability going forward.

East Wing Kitchen Fridges

East Wing Freezer

Each fridge has been set up with a single shelf per room (with extra shelf space for family rooms), a designated container for communal food store items that need refrigeration, and a taller shared space at the bottom.

Fridge Interior

Hot Water System

In May, the lodge's hot water system was replaced in full. The tanks ranged from 1985 to 2000 vintage, and two failed last year. Twelve new tanks have been installed, and two previously non-operational spare tanks are now back in service. Two faulty shut-off valves were also replaced. Members should notice improved reliability and consistent hot water supply across the lodge.

Website

The club website has been migrated to a new server, completing a project that has been underway since early 2025. The previous server ran on ageing infrastructure hosted overseas. The replacement runs on a current, long-term Ubuntu Linux release, hosted in Sydney. The closer hosting location reduces page load times, and the updated platform will continue to receive security updates for the foreseeable future.

For members, the change is largely invisible - the site address, booking system, and member login are all unchanged. The migration has already

allowed some improvements to the accessibility of the public site on mobile devices, and lays the groundwork for further improvements in the coming months and years.

Fire Safety

Stage 1 fire safety works were completed in December 2025, on schedule. This included full sprinkler installation and testing, fire-proofing of slab penetrations, and replacement of corridor and lounge doors with smoke-sealed fire doors. The lodge reopened with an interim occupancy certificate.

Since then, several further improvements have been made. The fire alarm system is now monitored back-to-base by Chubb, with alarms automatically routed to Fire and Rescue NSW. Smoke detectors have been audited and repositioned away from bathroom doors to reduce false alarms from steam, and the board is investigating steam-resistant models for the kitchen area.

These call outs are charged at $1,700 each. Smoke alarms can be triggered by bathroom steam and aerosol sprays so be aware and be careful.

EVs and eBikes

The board is also developing a formal policy on eBike and vehicle battery charging at the lodge. Charging lithium batteries indoors is a recognised fire hazard, and a by-law amendment is being prepared to address this.

Electric vehicle charging at the lodge is strictly prohibited for safety, equity and legal reasons.

Stage 2 Refurbishment

The DA for Stage 2 works - primarily external recladding - has been approved. We have engaged an architect to prepare and submit the Construction Certificate documentation ahead of a regulatory deadline.

The board has received one recladding quote of $1.23 million, which is significantly above expectations. We are seeking additional quotes from builders with experience in remote alpine construction. If you have a relevant contact or can assist with builder introductions, please get in touch with the board at information@eloueraskiclub.asn.au.

The board is also developing a five-year internal refurbishment plan covering carpets, furniture, kitchens, and building management systems. Input from members on priorities is welcome.

Accounts and Financial Update

The club has maintained a sound cash position through the year, supported by strong winter bookings. A $600,000 loan facility with Westpac, secured against the Castaways unit, is available to draw on for refurbishment works as required.

The 2026/27 insurance renewal returned a 6.7% reduction in total premiums despite an increase in cover, which is a good outcome in the current market.

The club has also completed a transition of its financial year and notified ASIC accordingly, simplifying annual reporting.

Castaways

The board has formed a sub-committee to take a closer look at the Castaways unit in Shoal Bay and develop a business plan for the asset. The committee is reviewing occupancy performance, running costs, and options to improve the unit's financial returns.

Recent improvements to the unit include new Holland blinds and new beds. Some further maintenance items are in progress.

The broader strata body is undertaking significant remediation works on the building. A $100,000 strata loan has been approved to fund these works, which include structural repairs and brick repointing across the complex.

Memberships Available

Memberships are currently available for $3,400. Encourage your friends and family to join the club by directing them to our website to make their application.

Discounted Credit Points Available

A reminder that the credit point exchange portal is available for members to purchase accommodation credit points from former members. There are still some discounted credits listed. Access the portal via the Membership page of the club website.

By-Law Updates

Several by-law amendments were approved at recent board meetings:

Storage: By-Laws 25.1 and 25.3 have been updated to clarify that all personal items must be stored in a Club Storage Facility, and to set out the priority order for allocating lockers and ski bays.

Refunds: The refund by-laws now include a board discretion provision allowing a 100% refund on verified medical grounds.

Unbooked visits: Members wishing to visit the lodge outside a confirmed booking are now required to give one week's notice. This protects the privacy and security of guests already in residence.

Membership cancellation: By-Law 66.3, which previously provided for automatic membership cancellation after five years of unpaid fees, has been removed. The board determined it did not have the constitutional authority to cancel memberships on that basis.

Working Bee

The annual pre-season working bee ran from 19 to 25 April. Tasks included general cleaning and maintenance, food store restocking, removal of above-fridge cupboards to accommodate the new commercial refrigeration, installing push/pull signs on doors without latches, and painting around the new fire doors.

The Games Room also now has an old map of the Kosciuszko area, kindly donated by Victor von der Heyde.

John Anderson redying the kitchens for the new fridges

Pool table cover - thanks go to Glenn Torrens, who took the initiative to organise its installation

Group Photo

We had a great self-motivated team: Paul Greenfield, Kerin Brown, Phil and Maree O'Sullivan, Warwick Wilton, John Anderson, Robert Fox, Karen Gill, Sarah Fitzherbert, Maurice Ripley, Geoff Sharpe, Glen Torrens, John Rodger, Peter and Kim Gollan, Brian and Ruth Evans, Garry and Jennifer Smith.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and especially to Ruth Evans who took over the

organisation of housekeeping at short notice. The lodge is in good shape for the season ahead.

Board Changes

Jon Barber has advised that he will step down as President and leave the board at the 2026 AGM after many years of service to the club. John Rodger has offered to stand for the presidency.

Nominations for board positions will be called in the lead-up to the AGM. If you are interested in contributing to the club's governance, please consider putting your name forward.

How You Can Help The Club

- **Bookkeeping** - Support our Treasurer with managing accounts in Xero.
- **Booking Officers** - Support Gary and Judy managing lodge bookings.
- **Nominate** someone to join the board!

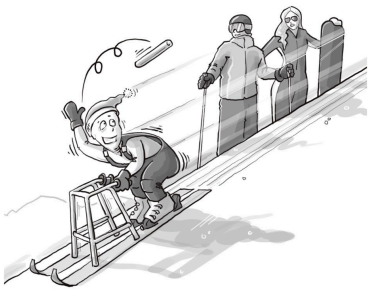
Perisher Historical Society

The Perisher Historical Society is inviting ski clubs to document their contemporary history, with a focus on the past 40 years. The initiative is aimed at younger members and associates, encouraging them to record how their clubs have changed across snow sports, technology, lodge development, and club life. The Society offers guidance on writing a club history, and will include completed histories in their e-Museum archive.

A free guide to writing a ski club lodge history is available at https://perisherhistory.org.au/resource/writing-a-ski-club-lodge-history/

If you are interested in contributing to an ESC history project, or want to know more about the Society's initiative, contact Donald Johnston at info@perisherhistoricalsociety.org.au or 0412 428 207.

Passing the baton of ski club history



Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter: Jon, Julie, Paul, Allen, John, Phil, Karl, and Stafford.

Club Calendar

Pre Season Work Party	March-April 2026
Annual Fees Due Date	31/03/2026
Call for Nominations for Board Positions, Notice of AGM	October 2026
Priority Bookings Open (for the Winter Season priority period)	01/11/2026
Post Season Work Party	November 2026
Annual General Meeting	24/11/2026
Priority Bookings Close (applications and payments must be received)	01/12/2026
General Bookings Open (for the winter season priority period)	TBC - approximately February 2027