



Shortland Alpine Club Co-operative Limited

ABN 42 791 472 128

Mulubinba Lodge
Perisher Valley
Kosciuszko National Park

Postal Address:
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KAHIBAH NSW 2290



MULUBINBA LODGE

FOR ALL YEAR ROUND ENJOYMENT

2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER

EXCITING NEWS FOR MEMBERS – PROPOSED SAC SENIORS CATEGORY

During the Special Meeting being held on 21/10/2016 at the Belmont Golf Club commencing at 6:45pm the Board will be pursuing member's opinions and seeking endorsement, by way of a vote, on a proposal to reward long term members and their children / grandchildren.

As most of you will be aware, the club is over 40 years old and was founded on the principle of providing affordable on-snow accommodation for young families to enjoy what the Australian Alps have to offer - all year round. Anecdotal evidence indicates that visiting Mulubinba Lodge in winter remains one of the cheapest club lodges within The Valley and one of only a few that offers summer accommodation. The Board, and I am sure all members, want this to continue.

One of the Board's roles is to be looking ahead for ways to improve the operations of the club and the services it provides for members and visitors to the lodge and to remain effective and efficient into the future. The Board recently implemented the Family Rate Offer to encourage and maintain the original principle mentioned above.

Membership presently stands at 138. From many years of reviewing the membership numbers, indications are that this is only slightly less than the optimum. The Club's Constitution, together with The Department of Fair Trading stipulate membership must remain between 125 and 150.

The Board has examined the visitation patterns over the last fifteen years and has found a decline in members using the Lodge. The Board believes that a major factor for the decline is the aging membership base.

In an attempt to reward long term members and their families the Board is proposing to introduce a SAC Seniors category, which will be similar to the present Affiliates category but with some significant differences. Children of a member may join the Affiliates list when they turn 18 and are offered a reduced booking rate (only for themselves) for as long as they pay their annual subscriptions. They are not members and therefore have no voting rights. This option will still remain. A SAC Senior will be a previous member who has voluntarily relinquished his/her membership by passing it on to one of his/her children or grandchildren, and has had their application approved by the Board to become a SAC Senior.

It is relatively simple and inexpensive to transfer members' shares to a child or grandchild (\$10) and assistance can be provided by contacting the author or any of the present Board members whose contact details appear at the end of this newsletter.

BENEFITS FOR SAC SENIORS

Benefits for SAC Seniors include:

1. Senior Subs will be set at 75% of Members Subs;
2. Member accommodation rates for self and one guest at the lodge;
3. Priority bookings following Members and ahead of Affiliates; and
4. The member's child or grandchild becomes a full member with access to all member's rates and benefits.

OTHER THINGS TO BE AWARE OF

Other elements relating to SAC Seniors include:

1. Cannot hold a full position on the Board;
2. Can hold Ex-officio Board positions;
3. No voting rights - no longer a share holding member; and
4. If overdue Subs are not paid within 2 years they forfeit their position of SAC Senior forever.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a SAC Senior category, a member:

- Must have been a member for at least 30 years or a lesser period if serious illness or other extreme circumstances prevail. Re-classification to be at the Boards discretion OR
- Must have been a member for at least 20 years and have served as a Board member or an Ex-officio Officer or Attended working bees for a minimum of 5 years.

BENEFITS FOR THE CLUB

The benefits the club should gain from this proposal are:

- A younger membership base that should utilise the lodge more, delivering increased revenues;
- Encourage more non-member visitors to utilise the lodge, delivering increased revenues;
- Provides a means where older members can maintain an interest in the club, at a reduced cost, with no negative financial impacts for the club.

PROPOSAL

The proposal to include the category of SAC Seniors will be put to a vote by members at the 2016 Special Meeting being held on 21/10/2016 at the Belmont Golf Club at 6.45pm.

RECOMMENDATION

The Shortland Alpine Club Board of Directors unanimously recommends that members support the proposal and if passed will come into effect in 2017

ANNUAL DINNER

Please note that this Special Meeting will take place before the annual Dinner. More details about this later in the week. We are holding this dinner earlier in the year than usual in an effort to get more people to attend. It is a good opportunity to meet other members and reminisce.

CALLING FOR NEW MEMBERS

We have had a few inquiries about new memberships. We still have member vacancies and expect to be calling for new members next year so if you have any relatives or friends, who have been to the Lodge and would like to become members, please let them know.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - MEMBERS TO ACT AS LODGE CAPTAINS FOR VISITORS

The club sometimes receives requests from non-members and groups to stay at our lodge, both in summer and at the edges of winter, when no other members are present. The club cannot accept the risk of having non-members stay at the lodge without a member being present and therefore the club is not attaining valuable revenue.

The Board is seeking Expressions of Interest from members to act as Lodge Captains during such periods. On these occasions free accommodation will be granted for the member and one guest for the duration they are required to act as Lodge Captain.

Before everybody races to put their names down for free accommodation, there are certain conditions that apply.

Conditions:

- Being available a majority of time at short notice. The role of the Club's Booking Officer is a voluntary one and it is not expected that he should have to seek out numerous people to find someone available. Be that as it may, it is not expected that anybody has to be available 100% of the time;
- You must be prepared to carry out all duties of Lodge Captain which involves having an understanding of the layout and workings of the lodge, the pantries (food and cleaning products), the loft and being able to electronically transfer pantry monies collected;
- Understanding full opening up and/or full shutting down procedures of the lodge. Step by step instructions are provided;
- Full opening up of the lodge can be very cold at first with no hot water until the tank/s have heated up;

- It is preferred that you should be at the lodge to greet the visitors and it is mandatory that you be the last to leave;
- You must have a mobile phone to call relevant Board members as the lodge phone does not have STD facilities;
- Notification may be as short as one week;

Emailed applications to the Publishing & Distribution Officer, John Stuckey, will be received up to 30/11/2016 and considered by the Board.

If you wish to submit an Expression of Interest, please include a brief summary or history of past undertakings that you think might influence the Board to include you on the list.

Subject to the number and experience of individuals approved on the list, an induction and training package may be required at the lodge.

The pool of interested members will be kept with the Clubs Booking Officer, Graeme McCulloch, for when request for non-member visits arise.

REDUCED VISITOR CHARGES FOR 2017

For information only, the Board is also proposing to reduce adult and children accommodation charges for non-member visitors to the lodge for 2017 to encourage more non-member visitors.

2016 SKI SEASON WRAP-UP

What an unusual season. The first serious snowfall occurred during the week following the June long weekend with intermittent falls continuing until the second week of July, leaving about 130cm of cover on the ground. This promising start was short lived with the third week having significant rainfall reducing the cover back to about 65cm. The fourth week of July saw snowfalls taking the cover up to 150cm. The rest of the season had rain preceding almost every cold front or very strong winds with the cover being adversely affected. The cover eventually topped out at about 165cm in the fourth week of August; then alternating rain, snow, and winds.

For those who are interested in the long term records of snowfalls and trend go to: <http://gergs.net/>

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Board members can be contacted by Emailing: info@mulubinba.com.au

In closing, the Board hopes to see many members, affiliates, and friends at this very important meeting that will have significant benefits for members and the future of the club and we look forward to socialising with you at the dinner following.