



TALARIA SKI CLUB Inc.

Circular No.215, April 2015

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Dear Talaria members

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of that mountain stalwart, Eryl Williams, a character etched into the history of the mountain. Although his tow operation on occasion also appeared to have a character all its own, it's obvious Eryl's love for the mountain and skiing were primary motivators for him when lesser mortals would have thrown up their hands and walked away. I believe an arrangement has been made for the continuance of the tow, which comes as a relief and gives us confidence going into the ski season.

Membership

The Committee has introduced several incentives to attract new members over the past couple of years but we require every one of you to encourage new memberships amongst your friends, acquaintances and people you just happen to run across if we are to remain viable. While your Committee is actively formulating ideas to promote use of the lodge, we need those of you who either still enjoy the snow, or who perhaps prefer a quiet summer retreat, to utilise the lodge, invite your friends, and support our Club at the same time.

New applicants for club membership are Zoe and Dan Magnus and their children Hugh and Harry, proposed by their friends Kate Chappell and Greg Schwarz. The Magnus family's application will be voted on for acceptance at the upcoming AGM.

Talaria Website

Don't forget that the Club's primary source of information is now the Talaria website, where you can view the latest webcams, check the weather forecast, view the Club calendar and other activities at Ben Lomond, see who is booked to stay at the lodge, and book nights with Duncan on-line. Please also feel free to make a suggestion if you feel if there's something you'd particularly like to see added to the site.

The following link will take you there ... <http://talaria.weebly.com/>

Re-cladding the Lodge

The balance of the lodge re-cladding fund sits at just over \$4000. There was a proposal last year to complete the lodge re-cladding over a single week provided there was sufficient assistance forthcoming from the active membership but, due our resident re-cladding meister being unavailable next summer due to a change of profession (or was that a mid-life crisis), this is now in abeyance. The Committee will, however, revisit this on a regular basis.

Treasurer's report

The financial statements for last financial year (ending 30 September 2014) have been finalised and are provided for information of members along with this circular and will be presented at the upcoming AGM. Last year was a very quiet year at the lodge due to the unusually poor snow season. This is reflected in the accounts which show minimal lodge fee receipts. In this situation, with the current membership levels, the club's income approximately balances our costs.

Following its annual review of finances, the Committee has determined that all annual subscription rates, the joining fee, and lodge fees will remain unchanged from last year. This is only possible through the ongoing savings made by the decision to discontinue the lodge insurance. Subscription notices will be sent out over the Easter weekend. The use of electronic payment by almost all members is very much appreciated by the Treasurer as it saves multiple trips to the bank, and mostly members have been successful in including their subscription reference number with their electronic transfer. This year there were only a couple of unknown transfers that needed to be matched up with members! Thank you everyone.

As part of an on-going process of simplification of club procedures to reduce the burden on office-bearers, the decision was taken and ratified at last year's AGM that auditing of club accounts will no longer be required. The option of not auditing accounts for clubs with less than \$40,000 revenue in a financial year has been available for some years now and this will now be adopted by Talaria. This requires that a special resolution is passed at a special general meeting annually to request exemption from auditing. This will be carried out now and in future years at the annual general meeting. Of course members could require auditing in any year simply by not voting to pass the exemption motion for that year when the motion is presented.

Following many years of providing the message that debenture balance repayments were no longer possible, the committee has made the decision that this situation is permanent and accordingly debenture records have been archived and will no longer appear in the subscription notices or in the accounts. I trust that members will understand the long-term changes in circumstances that have made this necessary and will feel that over their long membership they have benefited greatly from their membership in the club.

Booking information for winter 2015

A reminder to all members that it is imperative to book before staying at the lodge. Duncan remains booking officer, and will provide the lodge manager with the appropriate information and forms to be returned after each visit. A reminder to lodge managers to ensure the lodge is closed down properly, gas turned off at the source, and oil levels recorded. For an accurate reading, it is important that the level be taken before turning off the oil valve under the stairs, and that the level be read from the bottom of the red indicator float.

Duncan can be contacted on 6234 8243

Email: duncanbradley@bigpond.com

Lodge fees

Lodge fees were increased prior to the 2014 ski season to cover usage costs and now stand at \$20 per night for individual members, candidates and junior members at any time, and \$58 for a member family per night at any time. The adult guest individual fee is \$58 per night during a ski weekend, and \$162 for a guest family. Note that the individual guest student/children fee is \$37 during the ski season. As noted in the Treasurer's report, the executive committee has determined that lodge fees will remain unchanged for the coming season.

Election of Office Bearers for 2015

Office bearers were determined at the 2013 AGM held in March 2014 as listed below. We welcomed Kate Chappell as Membership Officer, and the welcome return of Karl van Drunen as Lodge Warden. The election for office bearers for 2015 will be held at the upcoming AGM for 2014, which will be held on Thursday 23 April 2015 (for details please refer to the notification of AGM at the end of this circular).

President	Ian Smith
Treasurer	Gordon Clarke
Secretary	Andrew Hudspeth
Booking Officer	Duncan Bradley
Lodge Warden	Karl van Drunen
Membership officer	Kate Chappell
Committee Member	Tim Jones

Working Bees for 2015

Given the modest attendances at recent working bees the Committee has scheduled a single pre-season working bee on May 23rd in order to encourage participation. This is to be held on the weekend of May 23rd and 24th, to be led by Tim Jones, and there will be a social component. In the absence of a second bee when fire extinguishers would normally be returned to the Lodge following maintenance, members are advised that the next member and lodge manager booked to stay at Talaria will be required to take responsibility for collecting and returning the extinguishers to the Lodge. As the lodge cannot be occupied at any time that fire extinguishers are not available, this procedure will avoid interruption to availability of the lodge for use.

Social Activities

Tim has promised to reinvent entertainment at the Lodge by presenting a mountain film festival on the Saturday evening of the working bee. Not to be missed, this treat promises to be a fine reward for active members who are prepared to make the trip up the hill to ensure the Lodge is ready for the upcoming season. If you have used the Lodge in the past couple of years, your participation is essential to ensure the Club's ongoing viability.

Please register your interest in this weekend by contacting Tim or Ian.

Ski Swap

The annual ski swap has been foregone this year, and for the foreseeable future, due to poor turnouts in recent years.

Notification of AGM and Special General Meeting for Thursday 23 April 2015

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 23rd of April, preceded by an executive meeting.

This is to provide preliminary notification to members that the AGM will be held at the Royal Hobart Yacht Club, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay, commencing at 7:45pm. This meeting has been called as a Special General Meeting in accordance with the Rule 29 of the Rules of Talaria Ski Club. The purpose of the Special General Meeting is to consider and vote on resolutions on the following:

1. To make rule changes to simplify club membership applications that were previously discussed and agreed at executive and general meetings in 2011, but must be voted on at a Special General Meeting to become effective.
2. To make some minor additional rule changes for simplification of procedures.
3. To request audit exemption for the 2014 financial year.

Club members will receive an additional notification for the AGM and Special General Meeting closer to the meeting date in accordance with club rules which stipulate notification is to be provided between 7 and 14 days prior to the meeting.

Email Addresses

For those few members who are still not receiving the Club circulars via email and would now like to, please send your email address to Andrew Hudspeth at hudspeth@iprimus.com.au

For online Ben Lomond info

For all the latest info, including management plans etc try the Parks and wildlife Ben Lomond site at

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=4551>

Andrew Hudspeth
Secretary