



President's report 2024/25

It has been another successful year with growth in membership, Turk usage and revenue. I enjoyed visiting the Turks often and reading the hut books to realise the amount of joy the club has generated. Talking to members and looking at the finance report a couple of things stand out about the forward direction of the club.

Turk usage is covering their depreciation but not by a lot, if it wasn't for non-club members (as part of a group containing a club member) this would not have been achieved. The Turks are utilised 10% of the time so there is ample room to grow usage. A common situation is for a tramping club approaching the club to do the Mahu Whenua Traverse but finding the day rate of \$75 too much or signing up as members at \$300 excessive. To address this issue, I propose introducing a mid-rate of \$45 per night that like-minded clubs can pay for summer usage, i.e. clubs who are members of Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC). This additional revenue will both strengthen the club and allow us to return more of a "dividend" to the Mahu Whenua Covenant where the Turks reside. This ability to "put back" into the land is an important principal that will help create opportunities for Turks in other locations.

We have accumulated a substantial financial reserve of \$130,000. We budgeted on a 10-year lifespan for Turks until they require substantial rejuvenation, but observation suggests we will get closer to double that. Part of the Turk concept is that when one gets too old and tired it's flown out and a new one placed on the existing foundation; this process combined with recycling some of the old Turk would cost about 70% of the original expense. The original Turks cost \$20,000 each including all materials, consents, foundations and helicopter time. Including inflation and doing a bit of math indicates we are well within covering depreciation costs required to sustain the club.

This year's financials include \$7740 from new members - previous years have included similar amounts. Roughly half of the financial reserve is for capital development to build new Turks, but the challenge to date has been finding land to put them on. Fortunately, an opportunity has presented itself as a companion project to the proposed expansion of the Remarkables Ski Area which is currently in the Fast Track process. I think there is great potential to gain more prime locations for Turks as part of this, and I hope the Club will support the idea.

On behalf of the members, I would like to thank my great committee: Katrina Gardiner as Secretary, Iain Phillips as Treasurer and Ian Howick as Maintenance. There are also many others who contribute in various ways who equally deserve a big thank you. It all helps make a successful club.

In summary things are looking good and I am hopeful that opportunities to grow the club will present themselves over the next year.

Erik Bradshaw

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