

# Mountain Turk Club

Operating manual – 2020-21

## Introduction

This document provides the operational framework for the club. It aims to supplement the club's constitution and details membership classes, operation of the Mountain Turk Club and maintenance of the turks. This document aims to be both readable and accessible and is approved yearly at the Annual Meeting.

This version is proposed for approval at the AM on the 28th October 2020.

## Club's objectives

- Build, install and maintain Turks in public areas
- To use Turks as a means of enabling people to get into backcountry areas
- Develop opportunities for more Turks that support the objective of enabling people to get into our backcountry areas
- To bring outdoors people together building and maintaining Turks and supporting conservation work in the vicinity of the Turks.

## Membership categories

All memberships are life memberships, however different benefits are applicable at each level.

Membership Class	Membership Description and Benefits
<b>General Members</b>	<p>General membership is gained by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contributing a minimum of \$300 towards the materials to build a Turk (listed on website)</li><li>• completing 10 hours of voluntary work toward the construction and/or the installation of a Turk(s)</li><li>• 10 hours of professional services required to get the permission to install a Turk or similar work for the benefit of the club</li></ul> <p>The concept is that membership is through contribution to growing the club and not a simple purchase.</p> <p>General members must pay a nightly bunk fee of \$20 to use a turk.</p>
<b>Family Members</b>	<p>A Family Membership is a family of General Members who have paid a Family Contribution (currently \$2,700) to fund the material costs of a Turk. Benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Membership for the whole Family including children (including when they become adults but not the next generation).</li><li>• No nightly bunk fees for the Mahu Whenua Turks for family.</li></ul> <p>Definition of a family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The member who paid the Family Contribution;</li><li>• Their partner (at the time of membership).</li><li>• The parents of the member and the partner's parents.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The children of the founding member (for their lifetime).</li> </ul>
<b>Founding Members</b>	<p>A Founding Member pays a Large Contribution (currently \$10,000) to fund the building and installation costs of a Turk and enable the Mountain Turk Club objectives to be realised. Benefits for founding members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No nightly bunk fees for the Mahu Whenua Turks for family (as per family membership) and friends who accompany the Founding Member using the Turks</li> <li>• Preferential booking of 5 Turk nights including one weekend (Friday/Sat night) in the winter/peak season per annum.</li> <li>• If the Founding Member wishes, a plaque, with a simple sentence, inside their selected Turk (informal naming rights rather than official) or note as a Founding Member of the “Mahu Whenua Tour”</li> </ul>
<b>Honorary Members</b>	<p>An Honorary member is a person who has contributed significant support to the construction and installation of the turks. Honorary membership is at the discretion of the President as approved by Committee.</p> <p>Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owners/Directors/Manager of the property used by a Turk or to access a Turk</li> <li>• people who have provided a resource that incurs a significant cost to the provider such as helicopter usage</li> </ul> <p>The benefits of honorary membership are the same as a founding member except restricted to the period that the person is actively involved in the club.</p>

## Using a Turk

The Turks are a club asset so should be used in a manner that respects Turk usage by all club members. The following sets out the core requirements for Turk Club members to access and utilise a Turk:

- The booking process guarantees you a bunk.
- For General Members, the bunk cost per night is \$20.
- If there are other people in the Turk they should be members. The Mountain Turk club expects you as a member to enforce this rule on behalf of other members.
- The Turks are unlocked and open for respectful day use by non-members.
- Make sure you write in the hut book even if it is just a day visit! It is an important part of history and enjoyment for other users.
- Follow all instructions in the Turk. This includes only using the burner provided, no candles, leaving no rubbish, leaving door, windows and solar power unit as instructed.
- Hut Etiquette – treat with a bit of love and if possible, leave in a better condition than when you found it.
- Leave no trace – inside or out. Pack out all rubbish – do not deposit in the toilet or bury anywhere. That includes taking out any organic matter/fruit skins, nut shells etc. as they will take a long time to decompose.

- Access through commercial operators' land – comply to all of their Health & Safety requirements and restriction on use of the access roads.
- If a Turk is found to be unoccupied and conditions force a non-member to stay the nightly charge is \$75 per bunk (indexed to the bunk cost on the Great Walks/Milford Track).
- No commercial use (this is defined in our constitution, resource consent, recreation permit and agreement with the managers of the Mahu Whenua covenant).

## Maintenance of Turks

The Turks will be maintained to the standards defined below. If a shortcoming is identified, club members will be notified asking for suggestions to remedy the situation. The committee may approve expenditure up to a total of \$1,500 per Turk to remedy the situation (without need for a special meeting for approval). The following items set out the core functionality of a Turk:

- The structure is a safe and secure refuge meeting engineering and safety requirements.
- It is weatherproof and draft free with well-functioning doors and window.
- The installed water tanks are functioning properly.
- The solar panel, lighting and cooker are all working as expected.
- The seats, chairs and floor are sound and secure.
- The mattresses, blankets and other soft good are clean.
- The hut interior is clean, tidy and an enjoyable place to occupy.

It is anticipated that an annual pre-winter Turk audit will be completed to ensure any maintenance is completed before the weather gets too severe.

## Booking system

The Club will run a booking system for the Turks to facilitate bookings by Members. The system will be funded by an additional charge when bookings are made. Cancellations of bookings must be made by emailing [admin@mountainturk.nz](mailto:admin@mountainturk.nz) and if made within 48 hours of the travel date, no refund will be given. Cancellations made outside of 48 hours will incur a charge to cover transaction fees with the remainder being refunded. Alternatively a credit can be held for later use.

## Committee direction

The club members ask the following of the Committee:

- To manage the club in a manner that benefits the greatest proportion of the members.
- To manage the club assets for the benefit of the members.
- To restricts the club's responsibility to the Turks and their immediate surrounds.
- Encourage safe use of the mountain area surrounding the Turks.
- To investigate new Turk sites for future installation.
- To reward people who have done a large amount of work (25+ hours) by:
  - Balancing up hours worked between a person and their partner as long as the partner has attended at least one work event
  - Offer a waiver of hut fees for a maximum of 2 years
  - Allow the person to invite the parent/partner/friends to use the Turks when accompanied by the person in question within a period of 2 years (parents/friends will pay regular hut fees).

## Club communications

Membership communication will be facilitated via the club website, newsletters and through a social media account. Members are encouraged to subscribe to the social media account to ensure they receive information regarding the operation of the turks, facilitate the booking of turk nights and the logging of turk maintenance requirements.

## Annual membership fees

An annual sub may be calculated by the Committee to partially or fully recover the Operating expenses of the Club including FMC levies, insurance, IT and admin costs. Any balance will be funded out of bunk fees. Any sub will be calculated by 31st March and must be paid by all Members by 31st May. No annual sub will be payable by Founding or Honorary Members.

The annual subs for the year ended 31st March 2020 were General Members nil and Family Members nil.

## Other notes

The Mountain Turk Society Incorporated (“Mountain Turk Club” or “The Club”) was incorporated on 17 February 2020 with Incorporation Number 50026820 and NZBN 9429047943926. The Club’s Rules appear on the Incorporated Societies register at NZ Companies Office and detail the Club’s objectives, governance, meeting requirements, application and termination of membership and administration.

Mountain Turk Club is not responsible for the safety of Members while accessing or moving between Turks. Members must take responsibility for ensuring they have the skills and equipment necessary to complete mountain travel and have taken necessary precautions including, and not limited to, checking weather, avalanche conditions and appropriate route choice.