Treasurer’s Report 2026

Christiania Ski Club Incorporated

11 November 2026 · Kerry Jones, Treasurer

Overview

2026 was another financially challenging year for the club, with our sixth loss in a row. The loss is mainly due to catching up on provisions after a couple of lean seasons, rising baseline costs such as electricity, and an accumulated rates bill passed on by DOC, which is covered later in this report.

We are still feeling the effects of recent low-snow seasons. We are not the only club affected; the operating conditions on the mountain are a widespread issue for all clubs.

On a positive note, our subscription income grew this year. Our efforts to attract new members are working, in a highly competitive market among the clubs. Most of our new members have young families and have taken up free subs for under-10s and free bed nights for under-5s. It could be argued that this has reduced short-term revenue, and that charging for these would have given us a cash injection and possibly a break-even result. But our strategy is not a short-term sugar hit of cash; it is to attract new members who will stay with the club for many years and rebuild a sustainable membership base for future income.

Rates

DOC, which reissues rates invoices for the wider Whakapapa Ski Area, has passed on $2,074.88 of Ruapehu District Council and Horizons Regional Council rates to all clubs. Christiania Ski Club has paid its bill. A number of clubs have not, and RMCA, with the support of Whakapapa Holdings, is challenging the charges on the basis that we are in a national park and do not hold a valuation reference for each parcel of land.

Whakapapa Holdings

Whakapapa Holdings is actively engaging with the clubs about future activities of mutual benefit. In simple terms, Whakapapa Holdings sees the clubs as potentially 1,500 skiers and snowboarders on the mountain every day, and wants to promote this.

Whakapapa Holdings’ “snow experience” activities have been particularly successful this year with the improved Snowland. While some of us may miss the top carpet area of Happy Valley, it is providing a large source of funds for Whakapapa Holdings, which has short-term plans, subject to consent, to improve and extend snowmaking on the upper mountain. This will benefit the ski and snowboard community and give a more reliable skiing environment on the upper mountain.

A working group has been formed between Whakapapa Holdings and the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA), and Viv is a member. We expect this to pay dividends in 2027 and 2028 and give a boost to all clubs on the mountain. Its work includes looking at how to combine and reduce two key costs for clubs: insurance and electricity.

Key figures – income

	2026	2025	Difference
Lodge fees	33,831.07	34,969.83	−1,138.76
Subscriptions	19,853.15	17,450.00	+2,403.15
Interest	1,813.13	5,374.42	−3,561.29

Lodge fees

Bed nights rose to about 680 (676 on Jenny's count), up from about 600 in 2025, but lodge fees dipped slightly. Te Awamutu Intermediate stayed for two weeks this year instead of one, and we had a new school group for a night. But more of our nights were free stays for young children, and we had fewer non-member bookings than in 2025.

Subscriptions

Subscription income rose by over 10% on the previous year, which was good to see after a fall last year. We continued to lose some long-standing members, but we had a better year attracting new members to the club, which is a positive sign for the future.

Interest

Interest income fell significantly, for two main reasons:

- term deposits rolled off higher rates onto lower ones
- we reduced the amount on term deposit to fund operations, and kept a portion on three-month terms so it is readily available if needed.

Key figures – expenses

	2026	2025	Difference
Electricity	12,943.89	11,033.17	+1,910.72
Insurance	12,318.22	16,385.00	−4,066.78
Provisions and firewood	13,623.09	10,286.83	+3,336.26
Rates	2,074.88	0.00	+2,074.88

Electricity

Electricity prices continue to rise, and this affects the daily charge, which makes up over half of our annual electricity bill. The Lines Company calculates the daily lines charge from several of the highest-use days over the previous 12 months, which disadvantages seasonal users like ski clubs. There is little we can do about this, as whichever power company we use, The Lines Company remains the network operator. Finding ways to reduce this cost is one of the tasks of the RMCA working group.

Insurance

Property insurance has come down across the country. Steve McLennan works tirelessly with our brokers to get the best deal for the club, and this year, after many years of substantial increases, we have seen an equally significant reduction.

Provisions and firewood

We ran lean on purchasing in 2024 and 2025 and had to catch some of this up in 2026, along with higher food costs and higher helicopter hourly rates to deliver the food and firewood. We have been told to expect higher operating costs again in 2027.

Rates

As noted above, this is a catch-up of rates on-charged by DOC. RMCA is currently challenging the rates charges and the on-billing with DOC.

Net result

The club made a net loss again this year, both on a cash basis and overall.

	2026	2025	Difference
Net loss	(17,554.27)	(10,967.99)	−6,586.28

These figures include depreciation, a non-cash cost of $10,896 in each year. Before depreciation, the 2026 loss was about $6,660.

Cash position

The biggest change in our balance sheet is our cash position, which has fallen broadly in line with the net loss before depreciation.

	2026	2025	Difference
Cheque account	20,277.61	11,514.96	+8,762.65
Custodian account	423.52	111.95	+311.57
Online Saver	0.04	0.04	0.00
Term deposit	60,000.00	75,000.00	−15,000.00
Total cash	**80,701.17**	**86,626.95**	**−5,925.78**

Conclusion

2026 was another tough year financially for the club. Costs during the season were contained where possible, and there were no large maintenance projects. None are planned for 2027 at this stage, other than urgent or necessary repairs to keep the lodge running.

We did see promising signs, with higher subscription income in 2026 and closer working with Whakapapa Holdings that should bear fruit in 2027 and beyond. We need to stay focused on gaining new members and keeping existing ones, to reduce membership turnover. This will keep improving bed nights, and only small further improvements are needed to return us to an operating surplus.

Kerry Jones
Treasurer