



# Omarama Soaring Centre

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 10 Nov 2007**

### ***Logo***

The first thing to notice is our logo! We felt it was high time we had one – thanks to Laurie Kirkham for the basic concept and getting us started. Hopefully, in about one week's time you will see a colour version incorporated in a sign on the reception desk.

### ***EFTPOS Terminal***

Last season's experiment with the EFTPOS facility for camp and competition fees was found very convenient for everyone, including the Treasurer, so the Committee has decided to carry it on.

### ***Data Projector***

Our application to the NZ Community Trust for funds to allow us to buy a data projector was not successful. However, it was decided that a projector is so good for briefings that we should go ahead and buy one anyway – this was used for the last Nationals and hopefully will be a great asset for some years ahead.

### ***Campground Maintenance***

The showers in the ablution block have been leaking at the mixers and causing a mess behind the linings, but this has all been fixed thanks to Committee members. It had been expected that taking down the screen on the Eastern boundary of the campground for the winter would reduce the damming-up of leaves. Unfortunately, this experiment was a dismal failure – the leaves just spread all over the campground, making the clean-up much more labour intensive! Barbecue tables have been repaired. The irrigation has been completely replaced – there are now some 300 drippers placed where we hope they won't get knocked off by kids on bikes and pedestrians walking between the trees.

### ***Campground Management***

After several years of sterling service as our Campground Manager, Hugh Turner decided he would like a rest from the cleaning and mowing. After unsuccessful attempts to find a replacement for Hugh, we eventually accepted an offer from Glide Omarama to manage and service the campground in exchange for a suitable consideration that included the lease of the reception area in the Terminal building. An added advantage of this arrangement is that Glider Omarama will be providing a general reception service to airfield visitors, campground bookings and payments using the

OSC EFTPOS machine and, most significantly of all, a free flight-following service for itinerant glider pilots who register their flight intentions before take-off. But poor Hugh – because he is now working for Glide Omarama, he still has much of his old campground manager job to do!

### ***Landowner Relations***

The land-out protocol developed by OSC last year seems to be working well. In addition, OM landing fees are being paid for six local farmers with aircraft whose strips are important for gliding safety – this is jointly funded by OSC, OAL, GO and SS.

### ***OSC Bar***

During the year, Jenny Wilkinson and Max Stevens both gained the Liquor Licence Controller Qualification as a first step to bringing our bar up to scratch. We have obtained a Special Licence for the present Regionals and, as part of the requirements, will be providing a limited range of hot food to go with those beers after flying. Because a full Club licence is quite expensive and we couldn't really provide the necessary manpower, we will be operating on a Special Licence for each gliding event, as they arise, such as the Grand Prix and the Omarama Cup coming up.

### ***Chalet Site Leases***

This grey cloud is still sitting above us, another year on. Suffice to say the recent subdivision of land on the south side of the entrance road has caused a hiatus in proceedings because of the changes in rights-of-way etc. We will now be working to provide leases in time for chalet building ahead of the 2008 season. Our intention is to seek cash up front when the leases are offered, to enable the installation of the underground services.

### ***Water Leak***

Unfortunately, there was a huge water leak running undiscovered for some time over winter – we were alerted to this on receipt of a water rates bill for about \$8000! Diligent work by Terry Jones and others over two consecutive weekends unearthed not one leak, but three! The worst of these was at the connection between the chalet main and one particular chalet. In the circumstances, we have asked the Council for relief on the bill, which they have agreed to pro-tem, while we await a final answer.

### ***Committee***

The current committee comprises, Max Stevens (President), Nigel Davy (VP), Jenny Wilkinson (Secretary), Laurie Kirkham (Treasurer), Nigel Maxey, Karen Morgan, and Tony Collins.

Nigel Maxey has had to resign as a result of the dual pressures of a young family and a new business venture. We wish him well and thank him for his contributions on Committee. Similarly, our Vice President Nigel Davy is taking a rest from OSC business for now – Nigel has given an enormous amount of know-how and time to the OSC and he will be sorely missed. Thank you very much, Nigel.

Happy Soaring!

Max Stevens  
President