



Omarama Soaring Centre

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 15 November 2008

Campground Management

Last season's experiment in contracting management and servicing of the campground to Glide Omarama, while generally successful, gave rise to some complaints about the standard of the cleaning and the timing of it. For this coming year we have joined forces with OAL to jointly contract TRS logistics (Tom & Rose Shields) for full-time management and servicing for both organisations.

Campground Improvements

It has been suggested to us that extra sheltered dining area is needed, so one idea is to concrete pave (with wood batons like under the terminal sail area) between the end of the kitchen and the BBQ and put a sail overhead. This would provide sun and rain protection and extend the covered seating area for dining. We have received more than one comment on the camp ground upgrade ideas, which could be summarised as wanting to keep the existing BBQ area and having a functional and clean but not flash amenity block. Feedback was generally to keep costs minimal.

Campground Fees

Tip fees have increased substantially again – it now costs about \$120 each time the rubbish trailer is emptied (often daily in peak season). We are looking to find smart ways to reduce this. Unfortunately, because of the rubbish and petrol increases, camp fees have risen by \$1, taking us up to \$14 per night. This is still less than most other camp grounds which generally charge \$15 or more. The caravan rental rate is now \$20 per night.

Chalet Site Leases

The long-running saga of leases for the chalet sites is now over, with the execution of a 35-year lease of airfield land to the OSC covering the campground and chalets area. Sub-leases to the various chalet site holders have now been formally executed in all but one case. There is currently only one unimproved site available, with all others now taken up. A building programme on the unimproved sites is planned to commence in early February. A pleasing aspect of this development is that nearly all

of the new chalets will be owned by locals, as the recent downturn in global economic conditions caused the withdrawal of most of the foreigners holding sites or on the waiting list.

OAL Matters

OAL matters. We can report that OAL is still negotiating with the owner of the small strip of land between the new OAL land and the existing airfield. The two commercial operators are competing vigorously and both are pressing OAL for further office space. OAL does not want Portacabins to proliferate, so plans are being considered for a terminal expansion. The landing fee has increased to \$7, but the 5% OAL tax is working fine as it is self adjusting for inflation.

Committee

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

Due to an obvious conflict of interest, Tom Shields resigned upon our entering into the aforementioned management contract. I should mention that Tom stood aside from all Committee discussion on the contract. Tony Collins recently resigned for personal reasons. We wish Tony well and thank him for his contributions on Committee. Tony has given an enormous amount of know-how and time to the OSC over several years and he will be sorely missed. Thank you very much, Tony.

Happy Soaring!

Max Stevens
President