

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011



It has been a year of steady progress for the OSC Committee. I wish to thank my fellow members, Karen Morgan (VP), Jenny Wilkinson (Secretary), Kevin Bethwaite, John Robinson, Jerry O'Neill and new member Pete McKenzie; and also our Treasurer Laurie Kirkham for their big efforts in that regard.

1. **Progress on campground improvements** continued, with the additional wind-break around the barbecue area being almost completed during the usual pre-season working-bee at the end of September. Measures were taken to remove the tree roots breaking into the ablution block drains and to prevent this happening again. Clearing leaves was again a huge task for the worker bees. We have now taken the decision to top some of the trees surrounding the camp, which should reduce the leaf problem a bit in the future.
2. We believe there has been a significant improvement in the **collection of Camp fees** since Yvonne Loader took on the job of monitoring the comings and goings of campers over the busy part of the season – a great effort Yvonne, very much appreciated. However, despite this, the abysmal weather last season resulted in camp fees well below normal for a Nationals year so the camp made a significant loss – I refer you to the Treasurer's report.
3. **OSC now has a web site** www.osc.net.nz. This is still under construction, but there is already a lot of information there and you can now book the OSC caravan on line. Any suggestions regarding the web site should be directed to John Robinson.
4. After Tom & Rose Shields gave notice that they will not be looking after **campground management** this season, the OSC committee made arrangements to split the work into separate components as follows:
 - Fee collection will remain on the present honesty system, with Yvonne Loader again riding shotgun over the busy period. Payments by cheque, cash or eftpos.
 - Amenity-block cleaning is being looked after by Guy Sanders, Manager of the Countrytime and Heritage hotels.
 - Rubbish removal, mowing and irrigation fixes will be done by Brad Newfield.
 - Tom Shields will be the initial contact point for any unserviceable facilities.
5. **Chalet building** is near completion at long last, with only the interiors to be fully finished on the last three. We plan to re-sow the area around the chalets in time for the autumn growth period next year.

6. A highly successful **Open Day was held on 1 October**, immediately after the working bee. This consisted of a flying day with displays plus a wine & cheese evening. Local farmers with airstrips that we regularly use were personally invited to take a trial flight and partake of the wine & cheese at no cost to them; while locals generally were invited to view the flying and perhaps take a trial flight on a paying basis. Many did, and Canterbury's winch was going all day.

For some time we had been thinking of a way to express our gratitude to local farmers on whose property we are sometimes unceremoniously dumped by Mother Nature, and the open day thus served a dual purpose in recognising these farmers and also promoting gliding to the locals by showing, at the start of the season, that "we are open for business". Glide Omarama-Southern Soaring was the prime sponsor, with an OSC contribution. Local businesses also donated prizes, which were auctioned off at the wine & cheese with the proceeds going to Youth Glide. The evening was fantastic and local feedback has been extremely positive, so much so that the event is likely to become a regular fixture.

7. Omarama Airfield Ltd reports that the **irrigation** problems mentioned last year seem to have been overcome with the use of a travelling irrigator, especially once the driving turbine was fixed (it was discovered that a previous owner had installed the jet back-to-front!). Mother Nature also helped out this last season with higher than usual natural rain. Nevertheless, it remains very important for hangar and chalet owners to adopt a responsible attitude towards water usage by using a timer to limit the use of sprinklers to no more than a few minutes per day. If the grass is green and lush, it is probably being overwatered, or there is a leak nearby. Leaving a hose on for hours is just not acceptable. Everyone is requested to be vigilant for such signs and to advise OAL or OSC personnel accordingly. In short – if you want to water, get a timer!

8. The **campground opened for Labour weekend**, with the first customers being a group of ATC cadets. It promises to be a busy season; with Jerry O'Neill's cross-country course, followed immediately by the Regionals 12-19 November (again organised by Canterbury), the Junior Development Squad camp 9-19 December and the Club Class Nationals, 14-22 January.

9. Committee member, Pete McKenzie, recently managed to **acquire three surplus computers** with LCD monitors from Contact Energy Clyde who have donated them to the OSC. These will replace some of the older competition equipment that Lex has been struggling to keep going.

See you at Omarama.

Happy soaring!

Max Stevens
OSC President

12 November 2011