

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012



I wish to thank my fellow committee members, Karen Morgan (VP), Jenny Wilkinson (Secretary), Kevin Bethwaite, John Robinson, Jerry O'Neill and Pete McKenzie; and also our Treasurer Laurie Kirkham for their efforts in keeping the OSC going so successfully.

1. Camp amenities. Our thanks go to Kevin Bethwaite for completing the additional **wind-break east of the barbecue area**. With all the improvements over the last two or three years, this area is now looking good, and provides a great focus for after-flying activities.
2. Yvonne Loader continued to monitor the comings and goings of campers over the busy part of the season – one again a fantastic effort to make the camp welcoming and friendly and to ensure the **collection of Camp fees** – thanks Yvonne, very much appreciated.
3. The new arrangement last season whereby Countrytime staff looked after the **amenity block cleaning** worked well, albeit with quite a bit of effort by users on New Year's morning. However, the arrangements for rubbish removal and ground maintenance didn't really work out according to plan. So, for the coming season, we have extended the Countrytime contract to include the **emptying of the bins for recyclables, and ground maintenance** around the camp and chalets. **However, it should be noted that this contract does not include attending to the general rubbish bins outside the kitchen – we are now relying on the good sense of campers to move full bins over to the collection area just south of the terminal building and to bring empties back to the kitchen as required.**
4. I'm pleased to report that the **camp income was up 1% on the previous year, and direct expenses were down considerably**, giving a loss of \$1.2k after depreciation – a vast improvement on last year's \$8k loss! In terms of the overall OSC operation (ie including contests and chalets), Treasurer Laurie Kirkham has reported a **cash surplus of \$8.5k and an overall net loss of about \$1.4k after depreciation.**
5. Those who were in there at the time will recall the shock of the **sewerage over-flow** right in the middle of the camp. This was nothing to do with OSC, as it was caused by a blockage in the main sewer from the town, which runs through our camp. Fortunately, it was contained by some resourceful members and the drama was pretty well over by the following day. The original decision to site the camp over the top of the sewer line came into question, but we were told by those involved back then that it saved quite a bit in camp establishment costs. The Council has significantly increased their Rates this year, so let's hope they spend a bit more on sewer maintenance!

6. In order to improve the light and reduce the autumn leaves, we were planning to **top the trees** around the camp this year, except for those along the entrance avenue. However, we had difficulty getting a contractor in time, so the project was put on hold. We have since had a rethink about the problem and are now considering an alternative plan whereby (say) 10 metre sections would be taken out in the winter and replaced with a smaller more suitable species in the spring. Obviously, this would make it an on-going project over several years.

7. The **dead poplars** on the north side on the entrance road between the Countrytime and the camp have been removed and replanted in Acers to match those on the other side of the road. The cost of this, including a temporary wind break, is being split 50/50 OSC/OAL (under \$2k each). It is on OAL land leased to OSC. We owe our thanks in particular to Terry Jones and Nigel Davy for making this happen.

8. **Grassing around the new chalets** was completed in late autumn and achieved a reasonable strike. Although three chalets have not been completed internally, at least the grounds are now tidy.

9. We have bought a **new ride-on mower**, having been offered a very good price for our old one, thanks to Nigel Davy. The committee believes that doing a similar roll-over every three years or so is the most cost-effective way of containing mower costs.

10. After a **huge clean-up of the campground by Youth Glide Canterbury** as a fundraiser, we opened for business on Labour weekend. Roger Read's team cleared and dumped the leaves, mowed the grass, cleaned the kitchen ovens, fridges and interior, spring cleaned the showers and toilets, cleared the gutters and tidied and set up the BBQ area. Great job, guys!

11. It promises to be a **very busy season once more**; starting with Jerry O'Neill's cross-country course in mid-November, followed immediately by the Regionals (again organised by Canterbury), the Junior Development Squad camp in December and the Multi-Class Nationals in January.

12. Those with caravans are reminded to check whether their **electrical warrant** is current. An electrician has been organised during the Regionals – see Hugh Turner if you want to take advantage of this.

13. **Incoming Committee.** John Robinson and Kevin Bethwaite have decided to step down with effect from this AGM. I wish to thank John and Kevin for their general and particular contributions and their wise counsel to the committee. I'm very pleased to report that we have nominations for Warren Dickenson (Wellington) and Oliver Winkler (Canterbury).

Max Stevens
OSC President

17 November 2012