

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013



1. Campground

Yvonne Loader once again did a great job of monitoring the comings and goings of campers over the busy part of the season – thank you heaps, Yvonne. Overall, it was a comparatively busy season, with camp returns up about 30% on the previous year – no doubt due to the Multi-Class Nationals, which enjoyed a good number of entries with many from the North Island. We also had a few campers who couldn't be accommodated at the Lake Benmore Motor Camp, who were sent to us.

We did have a significant problem with visitors taking casual showers without paying. The committee has considered installing coin-operated meters for the showers but, besides the cost, these would be a considerable inconvenience to our loyal regulars. So we have decided instead to install a money box near the shower entry to see if that makes the honesty system work any better for casual showers. We've also had the odd case of "freedom campers" parking on the road, using our facilities then slinking off without paying.

The Countrytime staff again did a good job looking after the cleaning of the amenity block, emptying the recycling bins, and mowing. For the coming season, this arrangement has been replaced by a contract direct with Rudi de Ridder. Rudi was doing the mowing under the hotel contract, but is now looking after the amenity block cleaning as well, so the hotel is no longer involved.

Just a reminder that it makes good sense for campers to assist with looking after the general rubbish bins during the very busy periods, by moving full bins over to the collection area just south of the terminal building and bringing empties back as required.

2. WiFi

A high-power broadband internet WAP system has been installed, with good coverage from the hangars, right through the campground and all chalets. It has a pay-wall, offering alternative plans for daily, weekly, monthly, season or full year. [The season rate, Sept-Apr inclusive, is \$60.]

3. Caravan Electrical WOFs

In past years we have tried to facilitate renewal of electrical WOFs for caravan owners, but we have found there are just too many coordination hassles, so this service is no longer offered. The onus will now be on caravan owners to make their own arrangements. Any caravans found to be without a current Electrical WOF will be unplugged until they are certified – this is a liability issue for the campground.

4. Dogs (again ☹)

Please note once again that dogs are not permitted in the Omarama airfield campground.

A number of dogs arrived last season, and the owners had previously been asked not to bring their dogs, but brought them anyway. So please do not think that OSC is happy with dogs in the camp, we are not and we wish to support the OAL policy on dogs. Some North island pilots asked if they could bring their dogs, and were declined. When they complied and left their dog behind and then saw other dogs upon arrival they were not impressed. Committee members do not want the stress of responding to complaints and having to ask people to take their dogs away, so please don't put them in that position. It is a private camp and the rules regarding dogs have been set with consideration for Stu Cain's quiet companion, and are intended to work towards eventually having no dogs in the camp at all. So please, everyone, do not bring your dogs into the OSC campground.

5. New OAL director

I am pleased to advise that Pete McKenzie has replaced Alan Holgate as one of the two OSC-nominated directors of Omarama Airfield Limited. Pete is an active glider pilot and is also Vice President of the Soaring Centre.

6. Camp opening

Once again, in lieu of an OSC donation, Youth Glide Canterbury did a fantastic spring-cleaning job prior to the camp opening on Labour Weekend. Thanks guys.

7. Camps and Competitions

Competitions this season will be the Regionals in November and a new fun event, Enterprise Omarama, modelled on the UK's Competition Enterprise. Enterprise Omarama will be organised by Gavin Wills and will be held late December/early January in the slot vacated by the Club Class Nationals, which this time have gone to Nelson in February.

The Youth Soaring Development Camp will be 12-22 December.

8. OSC Committee

The other committee members are Pete McKenzie (VP), Jenny Wilkinson (Secretary), Karen Morgan, Jerry O'Neill, Oliver Winkler, and Warren Dickinson; with Laurie Kirkham as our Treasurer. After many years of sterling service on the committee, Karen Morgan will be standing down at our AGM in November. So, we're now looking for a volunteer to fill Karen's shoes.

Max Stevens
OSC President

16 November 2013