

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017



1. Campground

As usual the campground continues to tick along quite well, with just minor maintenance issues to contend with. Again, we have renewed Rudi de Ridder's contract for looking after the cleaning and mowing etc for the coming season.

After last year's big voluntary effort, tree trimming will in future be coordinated with the airfield company contractor, who has more appropriate equipment than we used. Costs appear to be reasonable.

Despite lower entries and poor weather for last season's contests, the camp fees were only down 4%. As we gifted the OSC caravan to Youth Glide last year, we lost a little revenue there. The profit after depreciation was a small deficit (compared to a reasonable surplus last year). It is worth noting that non-gliding people make up about 20% of our income, so without them we would be making a significant loss.

2. WiFi

The internet WAP continues to be worthwhile. Multiple devices on one account are now enabled. Tree growth was starting to impinge on performance, so the primary antenna on Chalet No 7 has been raised by an extension pole and the system tuned up a bit. This has improved matters considerably, but this expense resulted in a deficit last season. Looking back over the 4 years since inception, the total income has been \$9,700 resulting in a surplus of \$1,900.

3. Omarama Airfield Ltd

Resealing the area around the terminal was completed on schedule, and is a great improvement. Chairman, Bill Gordon, who was a Council appointee, retired and the new chairman is Clive Geddes, one of the two OSC board appointees. Terry Jones remains the other OSC appointee. The Council appointed Glen Claridge as a new director. Glen was an Air Force engineer before becoming a sky-diver and a top-dressing pilot. He has aviation experience in Europe, Canada, China and South Africa and is now based in Oamaru.

The board is progressing a land use plan for the airfield and an airfield works programme for the next three years. Much thought is going into establishing non-aviation sources of income, in order to insulate the company as much as possible from a downturn in aviation activity.

Clive and Terry are working on SOPs to be adhered to by airfield users for their ground operations, including recommendations for flight following and SAR.

4. Terminal Building

We replaced the 10-year-old projector in the main public area of the terminal, splitting the cost 50/50 with Glide Omarama. The new one is much brighter and automatically adjusts for ambient light.

5. Camps and Competitions

Competitions this season will be the Regionals in November. This year we have a break in tradition in that these will be organised by the Omarama Gliding Club. On behalf of the Soaring Centre, I would like to take the opportunity to record my thanks to the Canterbury Gliding Club for very successfully running the Regionals every year without a break since 2007.

Following the Regionals we have the Youth Soaring Development camp in early December as usual, then in February we have the 4th Enterprise Omarama competition.

7. OSC Committee

The other committee members are Pete McKenzie (VP), Neal Irwin (Secretary), Jerry O'Neill, Oliver Winkler, Warren Dickinson and Brian Savage; with Laurie Kirkham as our Treasurer. As announced at the last AGM, Jerry O'Neill will be retiring this year. Our sincere thanks are due to Jerry for his most valuable contribution to the OSC Committee for the last 7 years. Alex Boyes kindly agreed to join the committee and, in anticipation of formal election, has already been taking part in committee business.

Max Stevens
OSC President

18 November 2017