

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019



1. Campground

Camp revenue was about 14% up on last year, despite the low number of entries in the Nationals. Profit was \$4k, so there will be no change in camp fees for the coming season.

As mentioned last year, the 11 kV power line into the camp is causing headaches. The acute angle between the power lines to the transformer and the adjacent tree line is the culprit. Also, the existing transformer supplying the airfield is getting close to reaching capacity at peak times.

We have a quote from the lines company for a ground-based transformer with the high-voltage overhead line being placed underground. In addition to future-proofing capacity, this would have obvious safety advantages in terms of eliminating potential interference from trees and the general risk to camp occupants; but the capital cost would be around \$50k.

With about \$90k in the bank, OSC has more than sufficient funds without borrowing. On that basis, the Committee decided to commit \$30k to the project, on the understanding that we could get the balance from the other electricity users on the airfield, principally the chalet owners and the airfield company. However, despite initial encouragement for the upgrade, when pressed, the airfield company declined to make any significant financial contribution.

Arguably, the entire north line of trees should be removed anyway because they are now not providing much of a wind break and are blocking sunlight in the campground. They would be replaced by a more suitable species, with Kohuhu (*Pittosporum Tenuifolium*) under active consideration as it is a hardy leafy evergreen growing to about 5 metres.

There are other improvements in the pipeline as well, such as upgrading the kitchen and re-grassing, some of which has already started.

To assist the OSC Committee, camp users are invited to express their views on these issues! Please feel free to discuss them with a committee member.

2. WiFi

We upgraded to new Unify mesh radios at the start of last season. Income was down, partly due to the time left to run credits issued while transitioning to the new charging system so, combined with the cost of the upgrade, the broadband ran a deficit of \$2.5k last season. Nevertheless, we will run with the same charges for the coming season, in the expectation of a catch-up to modest profits in the coming years.

3. Omarama Airfield Ltd

The company has a number of projects under way:

- Establishment of a winch launch strip
- Terminal renovation
- Spring clean – getting rid of unused vehicles and equipment
- Discussions with adjoining landowners re the airfield entrance
- Investigation into a joint venture garage
- A marketing plan for the airfield.

4. Camps and Competitions

Competitions this season are the Regionals and National Club Class Championships 9-16 November, run by the Omarama Gliding Club and now underway. 'Jerry's course' was run by Glide Omarama in the week prior to the Regionals, and the Youth Soaring Development camp will be 5-14 December.

5. OSC Committee

The other committee members are Pete McKenzie (VP), Neal Irwin (Secretary), Alex Boyes, Brian Savage, Oliver Winkler, Craig Keenan and Warren Dickinson; with Laurie Kirkham as our Treasurer.

Max Stevens
OSC President

11 November 2019