

OMARAMA CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017



One month of winter gone with just a few weeks until the soaring season starts again! Time to get the maintenance and all the domestic stuff done that will leave the way clear to find important free time in the summer months!

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

The Gliding NZ Conference has taken place, the NZ Association of Women in Aviation held their Rally at Wanaka Queens Birthday weekend and there are exciting things happening on the NZ gliding scene.

Gliding NZ Conference



A main feature of the Conference this year was the presentation of the results of the Sport New Zealand Voice of participants' results. It was a very comprehensive survey - the key points being that 60% of pilots are satisfied with the overall experience of gliding at their club and 81% agree membership is well worth the money.

- In the last 7 years only 18% of new members have gained QGP
- Trial flights have achieved only 4% conversion rate to new members
- People tend to fall away at the 3 – 5 year mark – **the most critical factor at that point is keeping people on a development trajectory**
- At 10years plus, people's main focus is in investing in better gear.
- There is a real tension between what the movement respectively invests in coaching versus good gear.
- Are budding new members being given a realistic picture of
 - i) What could be achieved (i.e. soar the face of Mount Cook)?

- ii) What commitment is needed to acquire the necessary level of competence?
- Are we recruiting enough Youth Glide members to ensure a future pipeline?
- How do we deal with the big drop off age group (25 – 45)?
- Other than to fly, the 2nd most important reason people glide is to **have fun**, and the 3rd most important is to learn and improve skills

Like all surveys there is always room for improvement and your Executive will be giving consideration as to how to achieve this to improve the OGC experience for both potential and existing members.

South Island Regional Championships

At the Contest Pilots meeting the Omarama Gliding Club was approved to organise the 2017 and 2018 SI Regionals. A SI Regionals Management group has come together to do the hard work but volunteers will be welcome. **Those who would like to volunteer are asked to contact Nigel Davy – email address nigeldavy@clear.net.nz.**

The SI Regionals proposal is:

- Practice day on November 18
- 7 contest days commencing November 19
- Open, Racing and Sporting classes - all handicapped.
- Alternate day pair flying in any class

An emphasis on the sporting class in order to attract first time competition pilots:

Two seaters with multiple crews for the contest instructor/coaches or safety pilots encouraged to fly with first time contest pilots.

Tasking that matches the entrants experience with a “how to” briefing

A mentor for each first time contestant crew

The OGC is keen to encourage the participation of our members so contact Bruce Graham if you want to participate as a pilot flying club aircraft.

Important note: At the Gliding NZ AGM a remit was passed for a small increase in GNZ fees to ensure GNZ continues to covers its costs under a falling membership. Both the Affiliation Fee and the Glider Fee have increased by \$5 to \$100. Soaring NZ remains unchanged at \$75.00/year (*plus overseas postage*). Discounts for youths apply.

Canterbury Soaring Championships – a new event on the soaring calendar

The Canterbury Gliding Club is establishing a new soaring contest to be held 2nd to 9th December 2017. This is going to be a great event. There will be an emphasis on social and fun with flying finishing by 6pm to concentrate on social activity and a good programme is planned if there are non-flying days.

Coming soon - Our own member, Brian Savage, shared the work he is doing to create mini-tasks and a league table (*a bit like the on-line contest*) to help developing pilots set themselves achievable goals before they are ready for competing in the regionals or nationals. There is some very clever 'techy stuff' for people who want to get super competitive but also some really good bite-sized tasks for people who aren't.

Background – “We have been looking at the reasons we are losing pilots from the sport, in particular, those we have trained to solo and QGP, but failed to get them hooked on the cross-country drug, and they get bored and go off and do something else each weekend.

We have identified a 3-year dip, when pilots are most likely to leave.

One of the potential solutions to this is some software we have developed called “taskPilot”.

Put simply, it is a cross between the competition and display features of SeeYou, and the on-line aspects of the OLC.

It is based around the idea of gliding clubs running leagues amongst their pilots, using racing and AAT style tasks set up for varying experience levels and weather conditions.

A pilot can choose a suitable task, then access information created by experienced pilots about possible ways to do the task, review land out options and so on, and create a goal and a plan for the flight, rather than taking off and free flying and not going anywhere in particular.

On return pilots load up the igc file from their flight which is scored automatically using a simple time and handicapped distance scheme, then displayed on the club league table (pilots can opt for privacy if they want!). Unless the flight is set to 'private', all the flights are available for anyone to view.

Pilots then have a way of measuring how well they performed. Traces can be reviewed and compared with other pilot's traces to seek ways to improve.

Where clubs have a single seater which is flown by a number of pilots for an hour or so each, then short local tasks can be set up for, e.g. the 'LS4 class' which are speed only, again so pilots take off with a plan.

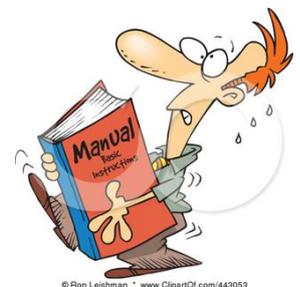
It is believed that by giving new minted pilots these tools to measure and improve their performance, and to land back with a sense of achievement, it will maintain their interest, hopefully moving on to longer flights, even competitions".

Check it out at www.taskPilot.org

Click on 'Help' on the top menu bar and choose 'Help with demo' which will take you to the log on details along with a walkthrough of the main features.

Evolution of the Training Syllabus: being undertaken by Martyn Cook.

Martin talked about how things are progressing with his re-write of the training programme (more than just a syllabus i.e. open and guided access to accurate and timely information to allow pilots at all stages to push their own development). Based on 5 different levels of competence it will include a wide range of reading materials plus potentially allow open lectures on Zoom.



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Martyn also shared a model/ acronym for well-being - '**PERMA**'

P – Positive emotion – *(in a gliding context – excitement, challenge, pleasure)*

E – Engagement - (*in a gliding context –intense presence in the moment – ‘Flow’*)

R - Relationships – (*always matter!*)

M - Meaning - (*in a gliding context – sense of freedom, a sense of being involved in something bigger than me*)

A – Accomplishment – (*bettering myself, making progress*).

NEW MEMBERS – A BIG WELCOME TO



Gee Dale, Annie Laylee, Nigel Maxey, Barry Wilson, Juan Garcia, Remi Beringer & Psylvia Hernandez

FROM THE EXECUTIVE



The Executive members held their first meeting via SKYPE which went very well following Graham hooking us all in! On the winter maintenance schedule will be Graham organising the standardisation of the wiring on the single seater's, with a rotary battery selector and new dipole Flarm antennas in all three gliders.

Trevor, in his role of CFI, expressed his main concern as being “the instructor dependence on himself and the need for extra Instructor back up”. We have gratefully accepted the offer of Paula Aitken to join our instructor panel over the summer.

NZ Association of Women in Aviation Rally

The cloud base was too low on the Saturday for Glide Omarama to get a tow plane and glider across to Wanaka for the gliding competitions however on Sunday it was possible for, Sue Telford, a local pilot, to fly them to Omarama. Glide Omarama had everything ready and Ally (Alexandra) Thompson, from Napier, and Laetitia Telford, from Wanaka, competed with both winning trophies. It was great to see High school age young ladies enjoying their gliding experiences.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Youth Glide AGM and social activity 22/23rd July, 2017 at Greytown
(*information circulated 23 June via online groups*). Everyone is welcome.

2017 SI Regionals will be held in Omarama, November 18th to the 25th.

Canterbury Soaring Championships: 2nd – 9th December 2017 to be held at Springfield.

Youth Soaring Development Camp – 7th – 16th December 2017

Advance notice -2018. The SI Regionals will be held in Omarama, November 17th to 24th



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YVONNE