



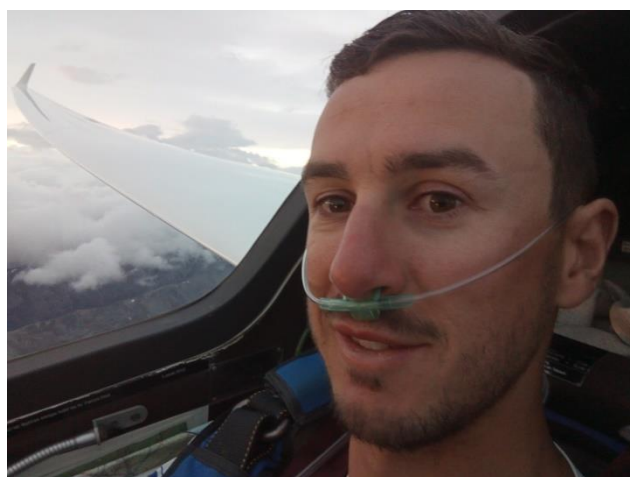
OMARAMA CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

Here we are at the start of a new year and hopefully some better soaring weather. From mid-November to Christmas just had to be the longest, wettest period we could remember. The Mackenzie countryside had never looked so green but what a disappointment the lengthy lack of soaring weather was! I have reproduced a photo below taken by Roger Read 3rd December as it is a rare picture of the Omarama airfield!



FUN, FUN, FUN

Introducing Alex Hewson, now a member of the Canterbury Gliding Club, who arrived for his first Omarama experience with his display model aircraft happy to put on performances that have to be seen to be believed. For those who don't know Alex you may



Alex Hewson

have seen his extra-ordinary displays at 'Warbirds over Wanaka'. He is an F3K World Champion (*F3K is a classification code for a type of radio-controlled model glider where competitors are required to launch the craft by hand, with a similar technique to a discus thrower, before completing several different endurance-based tests and stunts*). We were treated to an extremely fast model jet flashing by before Alex brought out his big display model and impressed us that with a 20 knot wind he could move it vertically across the ground - the tail within a hair's breadth between an expensive disaster and a great performance! As darkness fell we were treated to a rapidly moving "wing" that could change colour instantly, flipping around – simply magical. New Year eve was again very special with a wonderful Hawaiian party, organised by Abbey, combined with 3 model aircraft displays by Alex plus the ever changing coloured wing chasing through the fireworks making a very special & unique spectacle. There was no doubt we had the best New Year eve in NZ! The night finished with paper balloons, with small fuel fires underneath providing the heat to get them rising to about 1,000ft. Beautiful!

We were delighted to have as special guests this year Alfred and Agnes Spindelberger, the Cobra trailer manufacturers from Germany, who have assisted the club on several occasions. It was our desire to show our appreciation of their generosity and a dinner at



OGC Members enjoying dinner at The Pink Cafe

great to see its growing popularity with Mackenzie locals and visitors alike.

The Pink Glider was organised to provide the occasion to thank them formally. Unfortunately well laid plans go astray and Alfred had forgotten a Queenstown visit booking, but plans were quickly adapted to have a members' dinner with Yogan Peters and Myra visiting with Alfred and Agnes. (Yogan is the son of well-known German Pilot, Ernst Peters, who some may remember). It was a very pleasant evening spent with our international visitors, gliding friends, good food and wine.

For members who haven't managed a visit to Omarama recently, The Pink Glider Cafe is the completely renovated Kahu Café which is highly recommended for its baking fresh from the oven every morning and good quality dinners. It is

The Christmas camp period saw a predominance of westerlies providing good wave soaring conditions making lots of pilots very happy!!!



TO JONATHAN WARDMAN ON ACHIEVING HIS 500KM! WELL DONE!! SIMPLY BRILLIANT!

NEW MEMBERS



A big welcome to:

Mike Till, Marju Laukkanen (renewing her flying membership), Alan Pilkington, Toby Read (rejoining), Paul Marriott, Les Vorosmarthy and Sam Tullett.

IN BRIEF FROM THE AGM

The Omarama Gliding Club agreed to support Youth Glide NZ in its quest to purchase a winch to be based at Omarama.

The Otago Community Trust was acknowledged for their donation of \$1,000 towards a new EDS system for UO, and The Southern Trust for their donation of \$2,000 towards a new Parachute.

Subscriptions; There will be no increase for the 2019/2020 year.

The following were voted on to the Executive committee: **President;** Sheena Naughton, **Secretary;** Bruce Graham, **CFI;** Trevor Mollard. **Webmaster;** Oliver Winkler supported by Fraser McDougall. **Maintenance Coordinator;** Nigel Davy. **Committee Members;** Graham Erikson, Phil Plane, Gavin Wrigley, Yvonne Loader, Timothy Austen.

SI Regionals - Another successful SI Regional contest was organised by Nigel and team with Vivienne Bryner as Contest Director. Fortunately the contest was held a week earlier than usual which paid off as the next week saw the start of the abysmal weather. Once again it was good to be in a position to subsidize the enthusiastic youth participation, thanks to the Gliding NZ Umbrella Trust, and we pass on our thanks to all those who contributed in so many ways to the success of the event. A contender for 'best performance' had to be the Tesla, owned by Lex and Fe, doing its utmost to be a glider encouraged by thermal strength uplifting music!!



HAPPY SOARING FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON - YVONNE

