



## **OMARAMA CLUB NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017**

**Hard to believe it is that time of  
the year again!**

**The 2017/18 soaring season is away to a great start with really good thermal days – such a change already from the dismal last season!**

**I have just returned from being present at the SI Regionals which this year was organised by the Omarama Gliding Club (well sort of) but in actual fact the hard work was done by Nigel Davy very ably supported by a brilliant team. Some very innovative ideas gave the contest a new zing and focus. Contest Pilots gained heaps from a daily debrief, sharing their ‘day before’ task flying experiences, chaired by Justin Wills. Stories told with funny self-deprecating descriptions – monumentally helpful to those still finding their contest feet to discover the “guns” can think they are the idiots for making the not so wise choices.**

**There was an emphasis on youth participation and it was great to see a table of 11 young people at the Presentation dinner. Gliding New Zealand had donated \$2,500 from the GNZ Umbrella Trust to provide young pilots with the opportunity to participate at subsidised rates and the experienced contest pilots gladly gave their time and effort to flying with, or helping, the less experienced. It is great to see young pilots taking an interest in contest flying which bodes well for the future of this aspect of our sport.**



**Alex Boyes did very well organising a busy social calendar with an opening night sausage sizzle, Pilots’ dinners at the Kahu, Immigrants Vineyard wine tasting accompanied by magnificent French cheese, a hilarious team competition involving backing a trailer along with other testing goals and a group bike ride to the pumpkin at Lake Benmore for a swim on the hottest day!!! The Wrinkly Ram was an excellent venue choice for the Presentation Dinner. Everyone had heaps of fun.**

Special acknowledgement needs to be made of the tremendous job Clive Geddes did as the Contest Director. Very sadly one of the contest pilots didn't come home on Tuesday – the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the contest. Clive gained huge respect for the way he handled the tragedy, sympathetically and professionally liaising with the

*Thank  
you*

family and crew and managing the formal process at the same time updating everyone on what was happening from day to day. No one under-estimated the personal toll this tragedy and its aftermath had on Clive.

The Omarama Gliding Club would like to thank all those who contributed to the work involved and success of the 2017 SI Regional contest. Special thanks to Clive Geddes, Lex McPhail, Neil Allison, Gavin Wills, Justin Wills, Glide Omarama staff, Karen Morgan & The OSC



***Congratulations*** to OGC member Alex Boyes for winning the Racing class and the Mount Cook Air Services Trophy for the best individual performance for a South Island Pilot which made him a very happy Chappie indeed. Well done!! You are a Champion of the First Order!!

**NEW MEMERS - A BIG WELCOME TO:**

Paula Morgan, Neal Irwin, Julian Stevens, John Peterson.





Paula on the right pictured with Yvonne

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW INSTRUCTOR – Paula Morgan.** We have been very fortunate to have Paula join our instructing team. Paula learnt to fly, and instructed with, the British RAF gliding section. She also Scuba Dives and accompanies Gavin Wrigley on his travels. Paula will be based at Omarama during the season and is looking forward to flying with OGC members.



### FROM THE EXECUTIVE

months.

We are purchasing three new generation SPOTS with a tracking service provided by TrackMe Kiwi, a New Zealand based company. One advantage is that we will not be required to pay for tracking during the winter

Funding will be sought towards the purchase of a new National back pack parachute to replace the very old spare and a new EDS system for UO.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**- Following the gliding accident which caused substantial damage to the single seat glider operated by Glide Omarama, the club has been approached with regard to possibly making a single seat glider available after Christmas to Glide Omarama for 7 days bookings . Our priority is to our members and for that reason all member bookings made will be honoured. Getting more utilisation on our single seaters will be beneficial to the club.

This prompted a discussion on reviewing our fleet requirements. It is obvious that we are under-utilising the two single seaters and we cannot meet the demand for the DUO. As it was felt two DUOs would be better utilised it has been decided to place Ventus DR on the market for sale towards the end of February and to source another DUO as a replacement over winter.

### **Following up the results of the Gliding NZ Survey**

Sheena, Nigel, Graham, Trevor and Yvonne attended the “Building our future workshop” held in Christchurch analysing the survey results across NZ clubs and for us the OGC specifically. We are keen to make improvements in the areas where members felt we weren’t doing so well and lack of social activity was one concern we are keen to address. We thought a Pot Luck BBQ to be held at Omarama during the Christmas/New Year period for members and their families and/or an OGC dinner at the Kahu or Wrinkly Ram sometime during the season would be nice. If successful they could become annual events giving our club members the opportunity to get to know each other and enjoy the comradery and specialness of our club. We also briefly discussed holding a fun flying day - ideas and suggestions welcomed.

Have a great soaring season and **Don't forget** to download your X-C flights on to [www.taskPilot.org](http://www.taskPilot.org).

**HAVE A GREAT SOARING SEASON AND AN ENJOYABLE  
CHRISTMAS - YVONNE**

