



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Exciting things have been happening so a good excuse for another Newsletter!

Outcomes from the AGM - We have a new President, Brian Savage, and Vice President, Alex Boyes, to introduce.

The Youth Glide winch has arrived and the Omarama Gliding Club has been proud to support this project

Sabrina has kindly given us details of her record breaking flight to share with you.

The Youth Soaring Development camp was yet another success story

So here goes:

We are very grateful to Brian Savage and Alex Boyes for accepting the President and Vice President roles which they are going to co-share between them following Sheena's desire to step down. Fortunately Sheena has agreed to continue on the Executive as a committee member which is all good news for the club.



INTRODUCING BRIAN SAVAGE

I was born in Woolwich in the East End of London, if you are wondering how I ended up as President of a gliding Club in NZ, then this is how it happened.

Colleen, my partner, and I worked in London and sailed around Europe together for many years before the conditions were right to follow our dream, sell up and go sailing. We left the UK in 1994 on board our yacht Theta Volantis, intending just to go where the wind took us. We fetched up in the Caribbean for 4 years, chartering the boat, and writing for yachting magazines and creating 3 diving guides for the Caribbean (sales plug! www.caribdiveguide.com).

It was 1998 and the Americas Cup was coming to NZ for the first defence in 1999 when Yachting World, the main magazine we wrote for, asked if we wanted to cover the event as journalists? "Sure, why not" we said, and embarked on a trip across the Pacific to NZ

It was on a beach in Bora Bora (name dropping I know, but picture the scene, gently smoking BBQ backed by swaying palm trees, smoky glass of rum in hand, golden sunset in the distance) with a group of yachting friends, discussing what we were all going to do on reaching NZ when one of them said he had discovered that they could moor the boat in Tauranga which was a short distance from the airfield, and he was going to learn to fly gliders.

Wow, I thought, I have always been interested in aviation, at a young age I investigated joining the RAF, and my first job was working with computers in what became the UK's CAA, so I was sold.

And that was what happened, we fetched up in Tauranga for a year or so, and I learned to fly gliders. I also got my PPL and after we left NZ we flew around Australia in a 182, but that is another story.

We also travelled all around NZ, came to the South Island to go skiing and discovered Queenstown, which we fell in love with and where we now live. I spent many years flying out of Alexandra and bought my ASW19 KD, then moved across to Omarama and joined OGC several years ago as only flying on Sundays at Alex was very limiting. We have a caravan in the campsite and spend perhaps 50 or more nights a year at Omarama. I am also on the OSC committee (the committee responsible for the campsite).

My vision for OGC: with the recent arrival of the winch and increased YG presence we are in for changes and I want to make sure OGC is well placed to take advantage of them.

There are issues with the fleet, for example usage of the singles and covering their costs, plus the idea of acquiring a second DUO has been debated off and on for some time. So initially I will be focussing on reviewing the fleet and working toward a 5-year plan for the club that includes the feasibility of reorganising the fleet in line with members' needs and aspirations for OGC.

I agreed to take on the presidency on a rolling swap year by year with Alex Boyes, who is now Vice President, so we can spread the load and try and stay fresh. Alex will be introducing himself in the next issue.

I can't finish this without saying many thanks to Sheena who has done sterling work as President. I am very pleased she has agreed to stay on the committee as I am sure I will need her help.



Love it Brian! - Very impressive



Brian in his own glider KD finishing with a flourish



If you haven't met Sabrina Schels yet she is a new member of the Omarama Gliding Club and works for Glide Omarama as a Gliding Instructor. Earlier this year Sabrina set her sights on setting new gliding records in her spare time. In August, she set new 100km out-and-return and 200km out and return task records. As well, she gained her "Diamond Height" badge climbing to 22,000ft to make sure she achieved the required height then having to descend quickly as the air became moist and the wave gaps started to close up.

On the 8th November Sabrina set off in ZS. The forecast was good, "the reality was different". In all she made three attempts that afternoon with the first run – the record breaker. Sabrina's confirmed speed was 122.99 kmh.

From Omarama, Sabrina made for her starting point at about 14,000ft at Alexandra and headed to a turn point 150km north east towards Lake Tekapo, and from there returned to Alexandra.

"Because of the bad visibility I couldn't see, when I was somewhere around the St Bathans airstrip, what was going on in the lee of the Benmore Range and therefore decided to take the safe but very slow route. From St. Bathans I pushed into 70 kts of headwind to get onto the Omarama Saddle ridge but wave there was not very organised and I lost almost 10,000ft.

"Finally, at 8000ft over Killermont/ Dunstan Peaks airstrip I finally found some usable lift again and climbed back into wave.

"The whole 'looking-for-lift-and-pushing-into-wind' cost me about 30 minutes - a complete disaster in terms of speed but I did not want to turn back and restart since I feared that the wave would not get any better and I would still not be able to tell if I was able to take the shorter and much more direct route via the lee of the Benmore Range.

"So, I kept going slowly along the edge of the wall of cloud coming over from the main divide.

"Luckily, I found reasonable wave around my turn point to get the required height to give the direct route a go on the way back.

"It was now marked with a couple of clouds and I had a tailwind pushing me back towards Alexandra.

"I still had to stop over Lake Benmore to get a lot of height for the jump back into the wave in the lee of the Dunstans.

"Unfortunately, the wave in the lee of the Dunstans had shifted downwind by then and was not very good anymore. It probably just reformed itself and I got there exactly at the wrong time.

"So, I fell again out of the wave and had to climb over Omakau back into it."

After her first attempt she decided to give it another go to see if she could better her initial speed. But the "original very powerful" Dunstan wave "got weaker and weaker", allowing her to only maintain height at 70 kts airspeed.

"In the first try I could go northbound after my start with about 120-130kts and was still climbing like crazy.
"Additionally, the smoke from Australia made visibility really bad and pushed me lower and lower.
"At heights around 10,000 to 12,000ft over Pukaki I decided that with this massive north-west wind I would not be able to get to the down-wind turn point and make it back.
"So, I gave up and came back to Omarama."

Check out the details here:

<https://www.onlinecontest.org/olc-.../gliding/flightinfo.html...>

The flight qualified for 300km O/R female NZ record for 15 and open class; Silver Badge, Gold Badge and 1 Diamond for the 500km distance having achieved the Diamond Height Gain some weeks before that. *Congratulations Sabrina!*

INFO FOR MEMBERS

FUTURE DIRECTION FOR THE OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB

Over the last couple of years concern has been mounting over the lack of single seat glider utilisation and it was decided to postpone action and to review the situation based on this season's utilisation. Disappointingly our single seaters continue to languish in the hangars and the Executive have been discussing selling DR and optimistically aiming towards a fleet of two DUO's and holding on to ZS.

As a starting point we are asking members to let us know if they have any objections to the sale of DR.

THE NEW ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

Following the failure of the previous system prior to Christmas, Brian and Fraser have been very busy re-establishing a new online booking system which looks really good.

YOUTH GLIDE WINCH - is now operational and we can report is performing superbly.

The Omarama Gliding Club is fully in support of this project and agreed at the AGM to donate \$2,000 from club funds. In addition the Omarama Gliding Club raised a further amount in excess of \$5,000 from their running of the South Island Regionals from fines, donations, proceeds of an auction and the profit, making a total donation to the Youth Glide winch of over \$7,000.00.

For those wishing to gain currency on their winch rating or obtain a new winch rating the club will dedicate two days to winch training during Waitangi weekend to be followed by a BBQ (BYO). (Further details will be conveyed via email).

CARAVAN

Due to lack of use and the need to spend money to upgrade electrics to get an electrical warrant of fitness, it has been decided to sell the caravan to Youth Soaring Development Charitable Trust. They will be setting up a caravan booking system that OGC members will be welcome to use.

Australian bush fire smoke. Although we have had smoke pollution from Australian bush fires in the past it was nothing like we saw on New Year's day when it was so thick you couldn't see the Benmore Hills a mile away from Omarama!!

NEW MEMBERS



To Blake Wilson and John Gorringer, (*who is changing from social to full member status*).

WELL IT HAD TO HAPPEN - Last New Year the theme was 'Hawaiian' and the temps were miserably cold. The 2020 New Year theme was "Winter" and the evening temperature was a tropical 27 degrees! It has to be said few really dressed up to the winter theme for obvious reasons! Again we were treated to a great model aircraft display by Alex Hewson. He now has a model that whips around at 400kmp!! Have to admit my eyesight couldn't hack the pace!! Neat to see four parachutes and lollies descend from a C172 model delighting the kids and adults alike.



THE YOUTH SOARING DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Roger Read presents some quick stats from the camp:

26 students

358 flights were flown during the 10 day camp; one full day lost to heavy rain

241 hrs gliding were flown using 13 different gliders

There were 5 First Solos and several re-solos after last year;

6 A Certificates completed; 6 B Certificates were completed;

2 FAI Silver Distance flights

6 FAI Silver Height Gains,

1 FAI Gold Height Gain;

Numerous type conversions and ratings; including 2 basic aerobatic ratings

Roger started instructor training with Tim Hughes

Kim and her team raised over \$1500 by providing extra catering for the two fund raising dining events held in the terminal as well as catering for the 60 attendees and volunteers for the 10 days.

They went through 100kg of spuds!!



YSDC Instructor Jenny Wilkinson and Yvonne Loader pictured with the female pilot YSDC attendees



We pass on Christmas card greetings to the members of the OGC received from Hiroko Suzuki. Lovely to hear from Hiroko and we wish her well with her ongoing recovery. Our thoughts are with you. We really miss your smiling face Hiroko!

Billy Walker's sculpture has been officially named by Jan, Sony and Angie to be known as "Launch Billy". It is nice that something that was special to Billy will provide us with ongoing memories of the times we shared with him at Omarama.



THANKS TO GEE DALE AND SHEENA NAUGHTON FOR A WONDERFUL MUSICAL EVENING AT THE PINK GLIDER!



PLENTY OF THE SOARING SEASON STILL TO GO!

ENJOY THE BEST OF SOARING - YVONNE

