

OMARAMA CLUB NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020



If only it was that easy in these unprecedented times but we can be very thankful indeed that the lock-down occurred at the end of our soaring season rather than during the summer which would have had a disastrous effect on the club. We remain in good shape with some exciting things happening.



The Executive have been very busy following being offered the opportunity to buy another DUO purchased with us in mind by Keith Essex as being too good an opportunity to pass up. Selling a single and having one single and two DUO's on line was always a topic being discussed and suddenly the opportunity has presented itself to make such a change. Much decision making, updating budgets, close budget analysis, loan and funding applications completed and lodged now awaiting the outcome, has gone on behind the scenes. As an initial step we have made the easy decision to sell the Ventus DR as we needed to make a change to holding on to two under-utilised single seaters in any case so if you know of anyone wanting a really nice single seat glider we have one for sale.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT – Brian Savage

Where do we go from here?

Late last year when I agreed to take on the role of President, I thought that, sure, we had some hurdles to overcome, such as the fleet was a bit imbalanced and we needed to get the utilisation of the singles up, but the club was in pretty good

shape, money in the bank, generally happy members, ticking along nicely.

How wrong was I?

First the positive challenge of the brilliant actions by Keith to get us another Duo. A great step forward if we could achieve it. Much dissecting and evaluating by the OGC Executive followed, and finally, we reckoned we could, with a fair thermal and a following wind, managed to rework the fleet successfully and put OGC in even better shape.

Then a super new winch arrived at Omarama thanks to Youth Glide. How could OGC take advantage of this?

Then Glide Omarama folded. How would we tow in the future? What would happen to the airfield if the major revenue stream disappeared?

Finally, Covid-19 and the loss of the final two months flying put the other issues pretty much in the shade.

But, we must look to the future.

There is talk - very much to be confirmed - that GO will continue as a training and towing operation, but we must wait and see what September brings. There are other options.

Certainly now, we must take advantage of the new winch, especially if it is probably going to be one of the main launching options. We have been offered the opportunity to run the winch in the absence of a Youth Glide presence at the airfield, so we need to train up and get properly qualified OGC members as winch drivers, launch controllers and so on.

Finally, after another round of OGC Executive deliberations about whether OGC should risk purchasing the new Duo, it was decided that we should go ahead.

We may have a thin couple of years while the economy and Omarama recover, but if we believe in the future of Gliding, then we should keep the faith that the OGC future is better with two Duos. We have put off the GNZ loan decision to August, and Keith has kindly agreed to delay the sale agreement accordingly, so we won't make a final commitment until then.

However, to purchase the new Duo, we will have to increase revenue to be able to pay for it, and we need to adjust the membership and flying fees

accordingly. To amend the membership fees ahead of the new season will require an Extraordinary AGM, which we originally planned to hold in Omarama at Easter. Covid cancelled those plans for us.

Instead, we will shortly announce an online Zoom meeting date for you all to have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the membership fee change. The required motions and reasoning behind them will be made available with the invitation - along with instructions as to how you can participate in the Zoom meeting.

Again, let us all look to the future, we will get through this if we take on the challenges in a positive light.

Whatever happens, stay safe.

GLIDE OMARAMA

With the NZ wide publicity you would have had to be living ten feet underground not to hear the devastating news that Glide Omarama had permanently closed their business. Although what will happen going forward is unclear – whether Glide Omarama applies for Part 115 certification, is sold or dissolved and other ways of continuing gliding from Omarama develop, we do owe a big thank you to Gavin, Mandy and their team for the significant contribution they have made to growing their gliding business at Omarama to the benefit of us all and we wish them all the very best whatever happens from here.



NEW MEMBERS



A BIG WELCOME to new members:

Adrian Snow, Queenstown
Keith Essex, Omarama
Justin Wills, Omarama
Brad Newfield, Omarama
Brad Jackson, USA
Kelvyn Flavall, USA

INTRODUCING OUR VICE PRESIDENT - Alex Boyes



Alex flying with Nigel Davey

Age 48

Hometown: Queenstown

Flying experience. About 10 years off and on.

Total flying hours: around 400, I think - about 30h to 50h per year.

I would describe myself as a social pilot.

This is meant to be a few words about myself so to fill you in, I moved to the South Island when I was 19 years old to follow the snow, as

I am a keen Skier. I quickly settled in Queenstown and found out it had a lot more

to offer than just snow.

The summers were great as well and I spent my time tramping, rafting, rock climbing and waiting for the next winter to arrive.

Living in Queenstown is great because it's only an hour and $\frac{3}{4}$ away from Omarama.

I love driving up to Omarama in the summer through the Lindis. It's not just the flying that makes Omarama special it's the whole McKenzie country. It's a really special part of New Zealand.

For the last 19 years, we have been building up a group of restaurants in Queenstown which I am very proud to be part of. I work with some amazing people and we employ around 80 enthusiastic and energetic staff. I love being part of this amazing team.

Restaurant life is hard, but quite addictive. It's a mixture of stress, laughter and hard work, all mixed together with a good measure of food and wine.

I haven't done this alone, of course, my wife Jan and two great business partners have all played a big part in growing our businesses over the past 19 years.

This may all sound wonderful and you could compare it to the lovely February day with a high cloud base and five knot thermals everywherebut I am writing this six weeks into Lockdown Covid-19 style. In gliding terms the thermals have stopped,

sea breeze is in and I am stuck in a paddock on the wrong side of the ridge with no road retrieve possible.

It's fair to say that I'm not alone in this situation and for most that are in business the last few months have thrown up a unique set of problems. But I also think this is why we all love flying. Every day we go up in the sky and we have to make it work. Some days it is easy and some days it's hard.

So, what does gliding have in common with business?

- 1 Situation awareness.
- 2 Have a plan.
- 3 Have a back-up plan and a back-up, back-up plan.
- 4 When you're in a hole dig yourself out.
- 5 Never stop flying the Glider.
- 6 Always know where your next landing is.
- 7 Know when to cut and run for home.

Like all good land out stories, I'm sure this one will get better with time. There will be flooded rivers, grumpy farmers, flat tires, bumpy roads and anything else that will make for a good yarn.

I look forward to sharing the next episode of this Covid-19 land out story with you in Omarama next summer.

POST COVID-19

With all the money you have saved on petrol, café and coffees, restaurant and take away food and not being able to shop normally, hang on to it because spending it on gliding will bring you that much sought after "happy fix"!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER - YVONNE

