



## OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025



When the sky looks like this over Omarama glider pilots smile.

### **Autumn flying is great!**

This season still has a few weeks left in it yet! There is plenty of time for some thermal or wave flights before the winter paints our mountains white. We are lucky to have commercial gliding operators at Omarama. A tow plane is often available when they are launching. Be sure to turn up for the 10am briefing for more info. There are some great chances to launch using the winch over the next few weeks too.

22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> March ~ Youth Glide Weekend.

29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> March ~ Omarama Airfield is hosting the annual AOPA fly in = lots of power planes about!

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> April ~ Otago University Gliding Club Weekend.

18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April ~ Youth Glide Easter Weekend.

Roger Read tells me everyone is welcome to join in, help out, launch and fly these weekends!

The next two pages are from an article in the recent Omarama Gazette.

A great read if you get a moment!

<https://us3.campaign-archive.com/?u=f6fa543027a0ae76ab0106fb7&id=cfcf195dff>

## Ōmārama base for new varsity gliding club



*The Otago University Gliding Club which will have Omarama as its base for instruction is the brainchild of glider pilot and student Amy Smith. Photo: Supplied.*

If there is any such thing as a healthy addiction then this could be it and it's one well worth sharing, new gliding club organiser Amy Smith says.

Amy is in her third year at Otago University, studying law and commerce with finance "But don't hold that against me".

This year she has been instrumental in founding a new university club – the Otago University Gliding Club which has 35 members and counting.

This past summer Amy has been in Omarama working with the Omarama Gliding Club as a winch operator.

British born, she moved to Kapiti when she was nine-years-old and was in the control seat of a glider by 15 flying solo.

She was taught to fly gliders by her father, who is also a powered aircraft pilot and became a member of the Wellington Wairarapa Gliding Club.

"I grew up around gliders, ...going to lots of competitions...that was how my summers were spent."

As far as she was aware, there was no other university gliding club in New Zealand.

Amy set up a stand introducing gliding to potential members at the University's clubs' day during orientation week.

About 200 people called to the stand to find out more and [the new club was born.](#)

"A lot of people don't know what gliding is,"

### 3.

Her goal was to get as many as possible signed up to the 'introduction to flight packages' which gave people the opportunity to take three flights over an organised club weekend trip to Ōmārama.

The first flight experience weekend is at the end of this month and nine have signed up for that. She hopes to repeat this multiple times during the year and "keep them coming back and learning".

Amy said she put her flying aside when she first began her studies but is now starting to "get back into it".

She has her Cross-Country Pilot (XCP) certificate from Gliding New Zealand which is the qualification needed to fly a glider beyond the airfield's range.

This means she can "expand distances" and "adapt to the environment" beyond the reach of the airfield.

Of course, in Ōmārama it was all about "mountain soaring" - cross country soaring in the mountains.

Looking ahead she would "love to do her instructors licence".

When considering taking up flying the sail planes many think that it is more expensive than it actually is.

It was still affordable on a student budget but often it was time which was the biggest barrier she said.

For those who are keen, if you were under 26 then joining [Youth Glide New Zealand](#) has definite benefits, financial and otherwise. "It's what makes it more affordable.

"But when you're just so addicted you just really want to keep going back ... it's definitely better than cigarettes."

"Gliding's so amazing. Once people get hooked and realise how awesome it is [They also] realise how much there is to benefit from it. There's so many personal development options ... I'd be a completely different person if I wasn't hooked into the sport.

"You learn so many different life skills - you can't stop once you start.

"Throughout the time you're working up to go solo, you're in a team environment, you're given responsibility and you're practicing decision making skills.

"The sense of responsibility and sense of purpose that you get when you're part of that team, it really helps develop you as a person," Amy said.





**The history of ZK-GAB**

Have you ever looked up at the beautifully restored old glider hanging in the terminal building at Omarama Airfield. What is it? Where did it come from? What is its history? Fairfax recently sold off some old media photos offering a glimpse of South Island gliding history. Edwin from the CGC uploaded the catalogue of gliding pictures onto a club media group. Each photo had some dates and original newspaper text pasted on the back. I spotted two photos of ZK-GAB among them! I then made a Google search and found lots more about this stunningly well preserved example of a Slingsby Prefect Glider. Read on!



Jan 1952

**ALTITUDE GLIDING RECORD.**—Mr S. H. Georgeeson, of Christchurch, recently flew a sailplane in the Mackenzie Country to reach a height which will probably be recognised as a New Zealand altitude record for gliding. This photograph shows the sailplane on Sawdon station. In the background is the ridge leading up to the summit of Mount Edwards (about 6000ft), along which Mr Georgeeson flew, gaining height after his craft had been released from a tow.



Sep 1950

ENGL... AT HAREWOOD.—The first glider to be imported into the South Island... and... this week. It is a Slingsby Prefect intermediate sailplane owned by Messrs J. O. F. Ham... and S... Georgeeson, of Christchurch. The glider has already made preliminary flights at Harewood airport, where this photograph was taken yesterday.

## 5.

It turns out this little glider has quite a history! The following was compiled by Dave Paul – (Unedited)

**Monday, 30 March 2020**

### **Slingsby Prefect ZK-GAB Amended**

Following on from the previous post about *Glide Omarama Soaring again* I thought a post on one of the early gliders based in the area would fill in a few minutes.

This post is based on the limited data I have available due to the present situation.

So corrections and additions are most welcome.

Additions and corrections have kindly been provided by the glider guru *Peter Layne* and have been added in blue.

The Slingsby Type 30B Kirby Prefect **ZK-GAB** c/n 642 imported by S H (Dick) Georgeson of Irishmans Creek Station not far out of Tekapo and registered I believe on 27-02-1950.

Other early owners include Peter Renshaw of Dunedin *from 10-10-1952*. (Peter went on to own four more gliders with Jack Hanlon - GBG, GBI, GBY and GDW).

Peter Renshaw *syndicated it with* H W F Jones and L G Brock of *Dunedin from 25-01-1957*.

Then to Harry Kindon and Partners of *Dunedin on 12-08-1957*. followed by the Slingsby Prefect Syndicate *of Mosgiel from 22-10-1958*.

*From 11-03-*1965 it joined the Canterbury Gliding Club and then *on 14th* March of 1968 it became the second glider for the Taupo Gliding Club.

Alas it didn't last long as it was damaged in *a ground loop on landing at the Taupo Gliding Clubs strip* on 04-08-1968 and its registration was cancelled on *14-11-1968*.

It returned to the register as **ZK-GGP** on *8th* September of 1969 with Carl Perham of Whakatane.

Carl was the Taupo Club's first instructor and was flown each weekend from Whakatane to Taupo by Bob Maisey.

On 03-02-1971 it passed to D J Towgood of Pahiatua.

*It was then known to have gone to the Kaikohe Gliding Club but appears never to have been registered to them.*

The ZK-GGP registration was cancelled, and it was restored back to its **ZK-GAB** letters on 02-07-1979 with D V King of Clydevale near Balclutha.

Bill Walker acquired it at an unknown date with it being withdrawn and its registration cancelled on 22-07-1991.

It came back on the register again on 23-12-1992 with Bill and Jan Walker only to be withdrawn again on 14-10-1999.

Next I know it was with Southair Ltd at Taieri being restored in September of 2005

The restoration work was carried out for Billy Walker

6.



It has been displayed suspended from the rafters at the Country Time Club at Omarama - above.  
*(Is this ZK-GAB at the Country Time? Some say it is not?)*



Then it was suspended at the Queenstown Airport terminal building for many years



ZK-GAB Slingsby Prefect glider and a Ford Prefect car on the Harewood (Christchurch) Airfield Dec 1950





**Feb 2025**

ZK-GAB is now fully restored and hanging proudly inside the Omarama Airfield terminal building ~ Home of the Omarama Gliding Club  
Malcolm, Brian and Fiona in the foreground.

### **A great wave day in Omarama ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025:**

Some days just pump! You know it is going to be a great day when the morning briefing is busy! Milan mentioned the word 'wave' during the weather briefing and the excitement was building. An early start was declared with both winch and aerotow available. The OGC had just mobilized its full launch ability, and we all happily scrambled!

The winch was already launching Youth Glide students skyward 2000' above the ground and showing us that the thermals had indeed started. I decided to give KJ a winch day.

~ 15 winch launches were made Bradan ND, Kelvyn OK, Angus GQ, Justin DMCC, Keith and Hannariina OD, Bradan ND, Aaron ZX, Griz MT, John ZS, Bradan OR, Rod KJ, Malcolm YT, Angus GQ, Terry and Karen TF, Rod KJ.  
~ 3 Aerotows were made by Milan DD, Roger VT, Warren ZC.

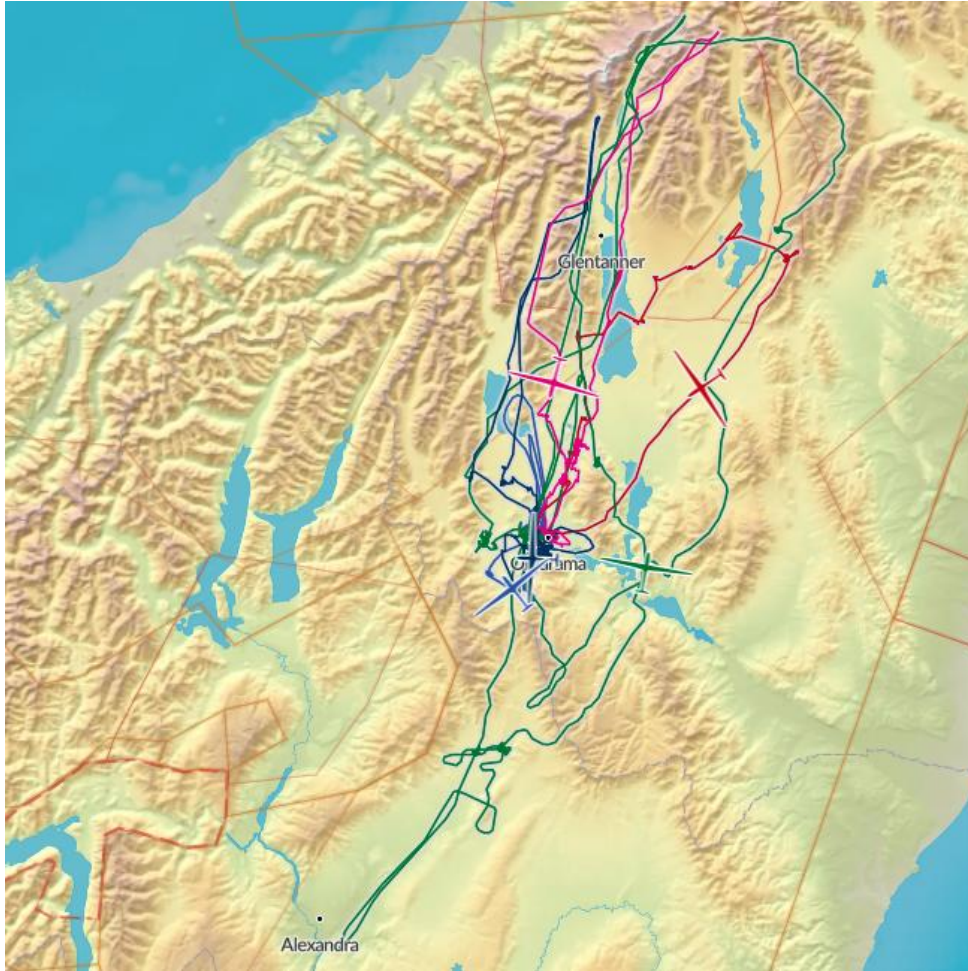
Everyone got away and the lift was smooth and plentiful. Thermals and ridge lift to 7000' and wave after that. Gliding can be a punishing mistress. I bombed like a shot duck on my first launch. After just 9 minutes in the air, I landed but was soon hooked on again and ready for more punishment! Second flight, I released straight into a thermal, climbed to 4000' and flew onto Mt St Cuthbert. My flight lasted for 2hrs and 45mins, I climbed to 13,300' in wave and completed a 143km cross country. Special thanks to Angus who gently coerced me into a stunning wave straight above Omarama. The highest I have been solo and my first time on oxygen in KJ. What a feeling! Ya-hoo-be-doo-be-doo!



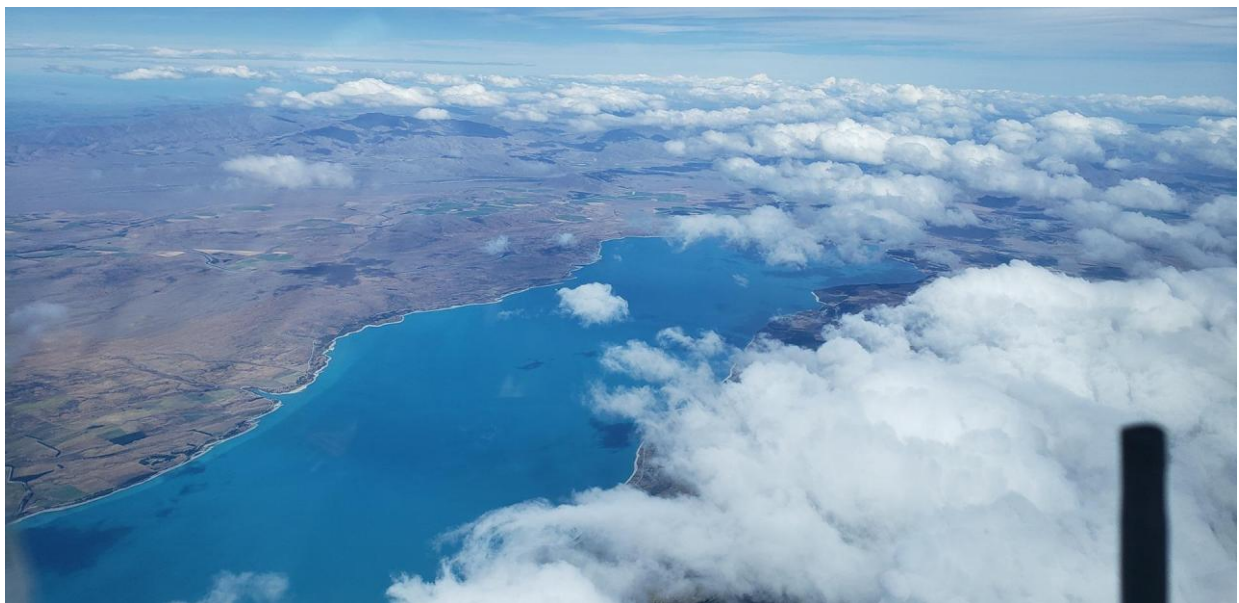
Check out my rather armature YouTube video taken in wave at 13,000'

<https://youtu.be/GS-4zTHcYxQ?si=PhWamk-bBsW3c6hz>

8.



Weglide tracks for Rod, Malcolm, Keith & Hannariina, John, and Kelvyn (green).



Kelvyn covered a staggering 808kms and took this photo in wave high over Lake Pukaki.





Roger hands Hannariina (14) her Solo Pilot Certificate and one seagull badge on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2025.

#### Links:

**Check out our website:** <https://www.omarama.com/>

**Check out our Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/Omarama.gliding>

**Check out our Airfield Calendar:** <https://www.omarama.com/general-8> Here you will find flying weeks, course dates and competition dates.

**Check out the OGC Planner:** [Click here to view the OGC planner](#) See when club gliders are available. You can book on our website or simply text Brian Sharpe on 0272481780.

**Join our club WhatsApp group:** Omarama Gliding Club ~ All current members can add others to this group. Text your first name to Rod 0274344822 ~ ask and I will join you. Please keep your posts and pics on topic.

**Get our weekly email newsletter:** <https://www.pilots.omaramaairfield.nz/Pilots/OmaramaMailing>



**Download the Omarama App:** Search for Omarama App in Google Play or Apple App Store

That's all from your club captain for now. Next full moon 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Easter holidays are the first weekend after a full moon.

Anzac Day is the 25<sup>th</sup> October ~ Why not take a week off and sneak in a last fly!

**First Aid Tip:** Check out the photo above. In the top left corner is our defibrillator location in the terminal building. These devices really save lives! If you find someone with no heartbeat. Run, grab the defibrillator and follow the clear instructions on the device.