



## OGC Captain's Log ~ Full Moon 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### Twelve!

Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the OGC Captain's Log. Where did that year go?!

In this edition: Hagen adds a beautiful glider to our member's fleet. The rather glamorous GNZ 75<sup>th</sup> Gala Dinner where several members of the Omarama Gliding Club were presented with prestigious trophies. Some winter viewing tips for you with links to a few cool YouTube videos and old television productions. A few words about my first few weeks as a new OGC executive member. Lastly, a quick overview from Griz of how summer crew plans for the next season at Omarama Airfield are progressing.

### Enthusiasm knows no bounds:

Our new hang gliding member Hagen Brueggemann, from Dunedin has been moving through his training with incredible enthusiasm. He has turned up in Omarama most flyable weekends this year and thrashed the Youth Glide Skylaunch winch and our newly purchased tow plane OMA. There is a trend for older hang glider pilots taking up gliding and they are not mucking around learning how to fly gliders and buying wings. Rod, John and Hagen have all purchased gliders and become very active OGC members. And now Hagen has purchased RS, a beautiful ASW20. You can only admire Hagen's attitude and newfound love for gliding.



Hagen took this shot high above Omarama Airfield after fresh snow in early June. Looking East flying ND.

2.



Hagen smiling in his new ASW20 with instructor Terry Jones smiling on.

### **75th Gala Dinner celebration for GNZ:**

A beautiful night at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron, Westhaven Marina Auckland. 105 people attended and dress was 50s style. Our Youth Glide team looked the part! Steve Wallace took us through 75 years of history with a grand slide show on the big screen. A yummy buffet dinner was enjoyed by all. Then we heard some amazing stories about amazing glider pilots told by amazing people. The OGC hauled in the trophies with Phil Plane winning the Angus Rose Bowl for outstanding services to the sport. New Youth Glide President Felix Harper received the Air New Zealand XC Trophy for flights in the South Island last season. John Smith won the Air NZ Soaring Award for the most significant improvement in their personal standard of flying. Dan McComack accepted the Buckland Soaring Award for Kelvyn Flavell. Rod Stuart won the friendship cup for outstanding contribution to the gliding movement. Nigel Davy was appointed our new GNZ President. And to top it off the Americas Cup was in the same room as us! What a grand night!



### 3.

Outgoing president Steve Wallace gave an excellent introduction with a giant screen showing historical photos. New Zealand's first known glider flight was in 1909.



Abbey Delore gave a superb presentation about New Zealand's great female glider pilots.



Nigel Ackroyd described Keith Wakeman's stunning 1957 flight across Cook Strait in a Slingsby Skylark 2.



Simon Gault gave a colourful description of Doug Yarrall's World Absolute Altitude record of 37,288 feet at Masterton in 1968 in an SHK.



4.



Bruce Drake talked about setting a World Goal & Free Distance Record of 1,254 km in January 1978, flying from the bottom of the South Island to the tip of the North Island's East Cape with David Speight and Dick Georgeson



Terry Delore gave an enthusiastic talk about the inspiration for his memorable flights. The big screen showed some very cool pictures from his flight with Abby from Bluff to Cape Reinga.



Jill McCaw informed us about progress on her coffee table pictorial book about the History of Gliding in NZ. This book sounds like it will be well worth the wait!

5.



Phil Plane receiving the Angus Rose Bowl from Steve Wallace for outstanding services to the sport.



Felix Harper received the Air New Zealand XC Trophy for flights in the South Island last season.



On behalf of John Smith, Rod Stuart accepted the Air NZ Soaring Award for the most significant improvement in their personal standard of competition or record flying during the year.



6.



On behalf of Kelvyn Flavell, Dan McComack accepts the Buckland Soaring Award from Max Stevens.  
Kelvyn and the trophy are both missing in action!



Rod Stuart received the friendship cup for outstanding contribution to the gliding movement.



Sheena Naughton and incoming GNZ President Nigel Davies celebrating at the 75<sup>th</sup> Gala Dinner  
Derek Krak and Mike Oakly in the background.

## Winter Entertainment:

Here are a few links to some cool videos to watch while we wait for the spring thermals to arrive.



~ YouTube video Wild South ~ Champions of the Wave. Do you recognize this person?

Click on this link: <https://youtu.be/J3-eig8ceuQ?si=17Zy6br6N9IjaE2>



~ NZ On Screen: Three part production about Richard Pearce

Click on this link <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/richard-pearse-1975#>

Please make sure you click on each of the three 20min parts shown under the screen in turn.



~ Gliding and Hang Gliding on the Port Hills, Canterbury, New Zealand in the 1970s.

Click on this link <https://youtu.be/-H4kNw8qpnl?si=c33mX6-Sshem8hpA>

~ A tribute to Brian Sharpe from his son: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360720815/life-brian-goodbye-dad>

A memorial service to celebrate his life will happen on 6 September at 3 PM at Clearview Winery in Hawke's Bay



~ A link to a playlist of 36 rather amateur YouTube gliding videos from highflyrod.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIYD3mLKKDdnxr2iMPV431QR3SgIW6l0M>

highflyrod says: Please subscribe ~ I currently have 617 subscribers and would love to get to 1000.

### **My first few weeks as an Executive member of the Omarama Gliding Club:**

I was recently voted in as an OGC executive member. I think there are a lot of exciting opportunities for our club right now. I want to work on improving club communications, supporting Team OGC to create a fun gliding experience for everyone on the airfield, and improving relationships with all gliding groups in Omarama.

The OGC Exec use an email group to communicate, and my inbox has become rather busy at times. I attended my first online executive meeting, 19 June 2025. A lot of business was covered in a professional manner.

Here are a few outcomes from that meeting that are noteworthy for club members.

~ Congratulations Charlie ~ You have been appointed our new manager from October 2025 to March 2026.

~ The loan for OMA has been approved. Thank you to our guarantors.

~ Rod was voted onto the executive.

~ Karen was elected as our new treasurer.

~ A \$40 per day service fee has been proposed for visiting pilots.

~ We agreed to email the 'Olive branch letter' to all club members and Youth Glide leaders.

~ Charlies Angels are currently planning. Watch this space!

### **Summer Crew Planning:**

Griz has been in England, and he has done an excellent job of rounding up some summer crew to help the OGC with operations this summer in Omarama. In a recent email he informed us of what is likely to be happening.

Andy Parrish, 'A' cat instructor, has agreed to be the CFI for the time he is in Omarama. Mid-october until late March. He has his own van/accommodation.

Georg Schulte, 'B' cat, will be arriving 24<sup>th</sup> October until December 21<sup>st</sup>. Georg comes well recommended by Drury and Springfield, and is an active Alpine coach. Club caravan needed.

Ian Willows, 'A' cat, will (to be confirmed) be in Omarama from sometime December until late March. Club caravan required ~ after Georg?

David Williams, 'B'cat, will be in Omarama for all of January. He desires the Glamping tent!

Andy Aveling 'B' cat, will be in Omarama for February, perhaps longer, will need club caravan or tent.

Lucas, the new dedicated tow-pilot, is also an instructor and will be there for the whole season, needing one club caravan for the whole time.

**AGM Date set:** At the Terminal building, Omarama Airfield Sunday **26<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm** (Labour weekend)  
This is traditionally a weekend where campers set up and gliding activities ramp up. See you there!

A big thank you to John McCaw who supplied me with the 75<sup>th</sup> Gala Dinner photos.



Auckland harbor bridge taken from the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron

Happy Landings  
Rod Stuart  
Captain





Charlie, Amy and Felix present Phil Plane with a 'Whio glide' blue duck painting.  
Phil is proudly holding the Angus Rose Bowl trophy.

#### Links:

Email: [flying@omarama.com](mailto:flying@omarama.com)

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

Check out our Facebook Page and 'follow': <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.  
A new booking system is currently being developed and will be implemented before the season starts.

**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>

Note: Our weekly email is currently having a winter holiday. The Captain's Log and emails will keep you informed.

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



John



Kelvyn