



OGC Captain's Log ~ Full Moon 6th November 2025

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Tasman River looking up the Jollie

Alex Boyes and Malcolm Wright wave flying in GOD 25th Oct 2025

Big News! The Omarama Gliding Club elected a new president at our AGM on 26 Oct 2025

Who is Mike Epton?



Mike has been busy since being elected President. He held his first executive meeting on Saturday Night. I phoned him Monday night, and he agreed to a brief telephone interview there and then.

Mike was born in England and came to NZ in 1991 at the tender age of 27 years old. He planned to stay one year and is still here! He drove through to the McKenzie Basin and fell in love with the mountains. He lives in Spreydon, Christchurch with his wife and has 3 adult children. Mike is a medical doctor working as a sleep and respiratory specialist. He works with lungs and breathing. Mike has been flying 8 years. He was brought up on a farm next to an RAF base with aircraft flying overhead all the time. He was always looking at the sky and wanted to fly. He realised his dream when he took a gliding course with Glide Omarama. Phil Plane was his first instructor. "I fainted and puked on my first flights but slowly got better". During Covid, I started working towards my microlite licence. I have a share in LS4 Mike Tango.

I asked what his thoughts are for the future of the OGC: Mike says the club has a wonderful group of passionate and skilled people. He thinks it will be fun to work with these people and reenergise the gliding community in Omarama. What a completely awesome place Omarama is to fly!

Thanks for the interview, Mike and here's wishing you a long and rewarding flight as our President.

See *'the minutes of the minutes'* later in this issue.



Entrance to Omarama on Highway 8 coming from Wanaka, Queenstown and Cromwell.

Omarama is 1,400 feet above sea level with a local population of around 370. A character filled wee town nestled at the entrance to the Waitaki Valley on the edge of the magnificent McKenzie Basin. Surrounded in stunning mountains, Omarama boasts some of the best gliding conditions in the world, some of the best fly fishing in the world and some amazing cycle trails. It is a beautiful place for a holiday or to stop a few days, relax and soak up the mountains. Omarama has a special magic and you feel it the first night you sleep under the stars of the milky way. This place relaxes and replenishes you. Then it offers you fun and adventure!

With quite a few out of town pilots, family and support crews arriving this month, I thought a few tips and ideas were in order. These pictures were taken in town two weeks ago simply to give you a few ideas of where to eat and cool things to do in and around Omarama. It is simply a taste to get you thinking. Any businesses or activities not mentioned is unintentional. I thoroughly recommend checking out this excellent website for more in depth information about beautiful Omarama.

<https://www.discoveromarama.co.nz/>



The Boots and Jandels Hotel with its distinctive 8 sided bar is arguably the social hub of the town. They have a big restaurant, bar and bottle store. Great food, relaxing atmosphere and awesome people watching. They also have several self contained apartments available.

4.



On the apron of the Omarama Airfield is the all new **Glider Café**. You can literally land on the Omarama Airfield and taxi up for a coffee. Perfect timing with their opening too; in time for the South Island Regional Gliding Championships (from 15th to 22nd Nov.) and the busy holiday season. Pilots, locals, travelers, friends and kids will all welcome this relaxing place to be.

Early reports say “the coffee is excellent” and they serve “the best pumpkin soup”.

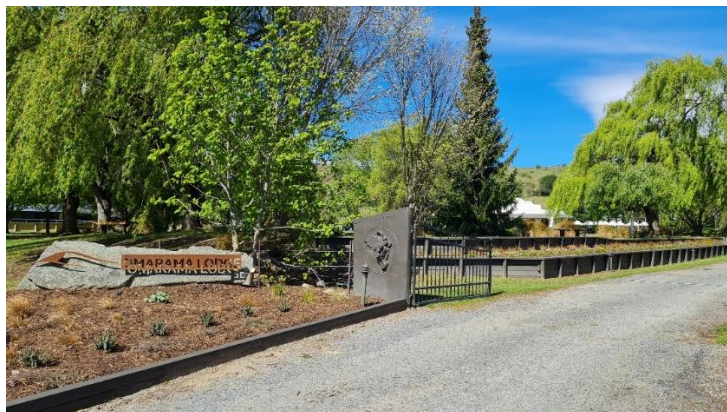




The Wrinkly Rams is an institution in Omarama. Beautiful big breakfasts, yummy lunches, snacks and coffee in a cool farm like atmosphere. Check out their website: <https://thewrinklyrams.co.nz/>



The Distinction Heritage Gateway has plenty of rooms to rent and a great resaurant to serve guests and visitors alike. Check out their website: <https://www.distinctionhotelsomarama.co.nz/>



The Omarama Lodge offers fine dining in a park like garden. You can take a leasurely walk up Ladybird hill with amazing 360° views. Check out their website: <https://www.omaramalodge.co.nz/>



GlenCraig's Clothing is the best wee shop and you will be surprised with the range and quality!



The Oasis Café is one of the oldest cafés in town. A Kiwi icon and they make great sandwich packs!



The Merino Country Café serves great tearooms type food and has quite a good tourist shop too.



The **local Four Square** grocer has everthing you need with a good selection of drinks in the far corner.



And a stay in Omarama would not be complete without a **kebab at Debs** and a **Coffee at Johns**.



SECRET spot! **The Ahuriri River Bank:** ~ an old hang gliding camp site. Drive over the Ahuriri River bridge north of Omarama and past the DOC camp. There is a gate on the left that says Oamaru Anglers Club Huts. This land is public but overnight camping was stopped by DOC about 6 years ago. Drive in and turn left at the yellow huts where you will find a very serene spot on the banks of the Ahuriri River. There are superb swimming holes in the area and lovely shaded walks under the willow trees. An ideal place to take the kids for a swim, dam making and rock skipping. Take a blanket and pack a picnic. Look out for A2O cyclists as the trail goes straight through here.



An old Nohoanga Site. Maoris camped here while they waited for the river to subside after a flood.



Such a serene spot! Marney and Bella paddling in the Ahuriri with River (our huntaway).

8.



The **Omarama Walkway**, a **SECRET** hidden in plain sight! Beside the Top 10 camping ground is a narrow walkway between two wooden fences. It leads down to the Omarama Stream where the millennial bridge takes you to a newly formed parkland wilderness. Ideal for dog walks with meandering tracks beside the stream. Sometimes you can see trout spawning here. You might get lucky and find the odd golf ball from the Omarama Golf Course across the road ~ visitors welcome!



The **Millennial Bridge** takes you across the Omarama Stream to park benches and wilderness walks.



The famous **Hot Tubs Omarama** ~ a soak in a wood fired stainless tub you will never forget! Book at night so you can look up at the stars! Website: <https://www.hottubsomarama.co.nz/>



Local cycle company **Trail Adventures** are located between the Omarama Fire Station and Police Station. They hire out bikes for numerous superb bike trails in the area. They told me you can hire a bike for a day and ride to Otematata taking you along the amazing A 2 O Lake Benmore ride. Check out their website and let Trail Adventures get you on your bike! <https://trailadventures.co.nz/>

Here are a few places to visit and things to do within a couple of hours drive of Omarama:

This list could be endless but here are a few cool ideas in no order. Enjoy!

Drive to Queenstown for a FERGBURGER. Drive to Wanaka, check out puzzle world and walk up Mt Iron. Drive to Cromwell for lunch in the Heritage Precinct. Lunch at Oliver Restaurant in Clyde. Visit Twizel and do a little shopping. Visit the Ed Hillary Centre at Mt Cook. Walk the famous Hooker Valley Track at Mt Cook. Drive to the head of lake Ohau and take in the views up the Dobson and Hopkins Valleys. Stop for a coffee at Ohau Lodge. Drive up the Ahuriri Valley and tramp up to Canyon Creek.

Go for a swim at Lake Ruataniwha. Drive through the Danseys Pass to the Maniototo, Nasby, Alexandra, Cromwell and back to Omarama. Visit the Benmore Dam and do the Mt Cook lookout walk. Drive across the Benmore Dam and go swimming on the north side of Lake Aviemore. Boating from Sailors Cutting and through the Lake Benmore channel. Walk the Quailburn Track. Visit the Clay Cliffs. Visit the Oamaru Heritage Precinct. Visit River-T Winery in Kurow. Take a deck chair and a book to the Ahuriri River and read. Take a dog for a walk.

Or totally relax and breath crystal clear mountain air.



Omarama Walkway west of the Omarama Stream ~ nice clouds over the Benmores!

10.



A potluck dinner for Terrys 70th in the camp kitchen.
It is great to see a tradition that Brian Sharpe started carry on!



Celebrating Charlies 21st birthday at Ohau Lodge.

Minutes of the Minutes:

The main take aways from our club AGM held 26th October 2025 in the Terminal Building.

~ Alex welcomed everyone. Meeting opened 7:30pm

~ We remembered members who passed away this year with a minute's silence.

Roger Harris, George Marbot, and Brian Sharpe.

~ Apologies noted and the minutes of the last AGM were accepted.

~ The presidents report was accepted.

Alex spoke about how the formation of a new club and negotiations with OAL had taken its toll on the executive with many standing down.

~ The Treasurers report, financial statement and budget, were read out by Karen and accepted.

~ The CFI report and Glider Maintenance reports were read by Terry and accepted.

~ The Club Captain reported on the GNZ Gala dinner and how many trophies the OGC received.

~ The Youth Glide report, written by Felix was accepted.

~ Election of officers:

President: Mike Epton

Treasurer: Karen Morgan

Secretary: Hugh Colton

Youth Glide Representative: Tuulianna Lukenan

Committee Members: Nigel Davy, Milan Kmetovics, Terry Jones, Taylor Renshaw, Kelvyn Flavell.

Captain: Rod Stuart remains captain and not an executive member by choice.

~ No auditor was appointed.

~ Amendments to our constitution were accepted.

Aims and objects of the club have been changed to reflect current operations.

~ Discussion on the purpose and future direction of the club. Phil Plane recommended the incoming executive have a meaningful discussion about our goals and how to operate sustainably.

We operate from a world class soaring facility - the biggest advantage for all of the parties that operate from the airfield - and it is up to all of us to make it an enjoyable experience for all.

~ A vote of thanks to all outgoing executive members was passed. Especially Alex as President and Yvonne who has served for many years as our club secretary.

~ Meeting closed at 8:50pm

The latest GNZ newsletter has an article near the end by Tim Bromhead regarding tracking and HEX codes. Below is a link to the GNZ newsletter where you will find Tims article: It is well worth getting your head around this as OAL use tracking information to help with invoicing your tows at Omarama.

<https://kor.qwilr.com/GNZ-November-2025-pEBDyQiyTYim>



Phil Plane is now setting tasks on Whio Glide on taskable days.

Keep an eye on his website: <https://whioglide.nz/>



When you arrive at the Omarama Airfield Camp please register at the Kitchen (in the background).

Next big event on the Calendar is the Regionals. Nigel tells me Richard has agreed to be Director. That is great news because he was an awesome director last Regionals. I intend flying at the back of the grid and I sure hope others will be keen to tag along behind our competitors.

The Omarama Soaring Centre is running an advanced cross-country course with Terry Delore 12th to 17th Jan 2026. Another great week to be flying in Omarama even if you are not part of the course.

I am sure Mike Epton and our new executive will have a settling effect on our club.
Looking forward to some awesome Omarama Air!

Happy landings

Rod Stuart rod.tropicool@gmail.com

Links:

Email: flying@omarama.com

Omarama Gliding Club: <https://www.omarama.com/>

Omarama Airfield: <https://www.omaramaairfield.co.nz/> **NEW!**

Gliding New Zealand: <https://gliding.co.nz/> and <https://gliding.net.nz/>

Whio Glide: <https://whioglide.nz/>

Omarama Airfield Calendar: <https://www.omarama.com/general-8>

Here you will find flying weeks, course dates and competition dates.

Omarama Gliding Club Planner: [Click here to view the OGC planner](#)

A new booking system is currently being developed and will be implemented before the season starts.

Omarama Gliding Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Omarama.gliding>

WhatsApp group: Omarama Gliding Club. Current members can add others.

Please keep your posts and pics on topic and friendly, Admin.

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

