



## OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

Hot Hot Hot – booming thermals and soaring skies to die for. What a brilliant soaring season it has been. Do hope everyone got at least one or two of the best of soaring flights!

I managed to get to Omarama for a week during which I did my farewell to being a current PPL in power flying. Please indulge me in telling you about my super special flight. Ross Sparks taught me to fly way back in 1972 and has been a much loved family member since that time. When he had his Piper Cub at Omarama and asked me if I wanted to go for a fly of course I said yes. He asked what I wanted to do and it just felt the right time to do my last flight as a “hands on” PPL power pilot with him celebrating 45 years of many hours of power flying with so many memories. We flew around the family house at Twizel too much waving by those on the ground and then headed off to Lake Ohau before completing the flight with some circuits. Of course I will still be a willing passenger at any time! I intend to keep gliding and managed two soaring flights – unfortunately not on the ultimate soaring days as all the gliders were well and truly spoken for, but I had a lovely day at Lake Ruataniwha water skiing with Ross and my ‘special family’ and their young friends.



**Yvonne photographed with Ross Sparks. (Note the brilliant ‘soaring sky’ in the background!). Thanks to Jill McCaw for taking this photo**



The 2018 New Year got off to a tremendous start with a great party at the Taj Mahal, Omarama. The 'Taj Mahal' was fantastically decorated with Indian motifs, silk drapes and lights by Abbey Delore, Sonny Walker and many others, it was a night to remember as Indian costumed revellers saw in the New Year followed by Tim Tarbottom heralding in the New Year with his amazing musical expertise on the Bag Pipes. We are lucky to have a Bag Pipes player of Tim's amazing calibre as he makes the bag pipes really "talk" with an amazing range of notes. Jill McCaw was heard to comment he was the best pipes player she had ever heard - thoroughly endorsed by the rest of us. A really fun evening!



*To The Southern Trust Foundation who have donated \$2,000.00 towards a new National 490 back pack parachute which is "on its way"...Grants like this really enable the club to maintain the best standards of safety equipment for which we are very grateful.*

We have another funding application in the pipeline for an EDS system for UO.



**Omarama will be a great place to spend Easter this year with the Warbirds over Wanaka Air Show happening combined with a gliding Task Flying event.**

Brian Savage is very keen to organise a flying task event over Easter at Omarama that utilises Task Pilot, the software programme he's been working on. The main goal of the event is to encourage pilots to tackle tasks (particularly for those who aren't yet active competition pilot), in order to improve their flying. There is a spirit of competition to using Task Pilot (for those interested in seeing how they go against others) although this isn't the main aim.

The idea is to have two tasks – one for less experienced pilots and one for experienced X-Country pilots, and then tiers of handicap within each task. The IT wizardry of the Task Pilot software means that there is no fancy scoring system, no rules other than those we normally adhere to when flying – literally the software works out everything. The Omarama Gliding Club is keen to support this event and we look forward to seeing our members get the most from this opportunity.

## **A BIG WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**



Rob Garlick. Will be well known as he has been a glider pilot for many years, is a private owner who resides in Wellington and has a hangar space just along from ours. He has been a regular presence at Omarama.

Michael Wolff –Hails from Italy and originally came to NZ for the Worlds in the mid 1980s. He has recently been accepted as a NZ economic citizen and looks forward to importing a new two seat glider later this year and spending time soaring at Omarama.

Fraser McDougall – Lives in Wanaka and has been a youth glide member for several years. Fraser is well known for his international success and reputation as a free style legend in skiing.

## **Glider Bookings**



The club provides an excellent glider booking system and from all accounts our Pilot members' value being able to book a glider and to have it for the day but unfortunately we are finding some members are misusing the system. There is an expectation that if you book a glider – cancelling the glider booking with very short notice or worse – deciding not to fly on a soarable day- is not acceptable and if you are one of the culprits you are having a very adverse effect on glider utilisation. This in turn results in less income generated and worst of all is affecting other members being able to fly. Just to be clear booking cancellations should only be done as a last resort eg you are ill or something unexpected has come up. Always be aware that if you cancel with short notice the chances of the booking being picked up by someone else is slight as most of our members need to plan a few days in advance. While there is an understanding that safety comes first and soaring conditions do not always match a Pilot's personal experience level, simply deciding, without a really justifiable reason, not to fly on a soarable day when you have booked the glider is UNACCEPTABLE.

As a result of a few members not using the booking system as intended the Executive will be putting in place a much more monitored system so expect a financial penalty in future if you are an offender!! You will be charged for one hour flying cost applicable to the glider booked.

Lack of utilisation is a major concern for the club right now and misuse of the booking system has been identified as a contributing cause. Please do your bit by adhering to the intentions and spirit of the booking system.

## **SI Regionals**

The innovative and visionary 2017 SI Regional organising committee, headed by Nigel Davey, wanted to put in place financial initiatives to encourage young people to gain the competition flying experience and hopefully get hooked and become the contest

pilots of the future. To that end Gliding NZ contributed \$2,500 from their Umbrella Fund to assist with the costs of the 2017 SI Regionals YG participants and the surplus that was accrued from the contest will be made available to YG members to participate in the 2018 Regionals.



***Congratulations*** to Youth Glide winners of the SI Regionals contest scholarships.

***SI Competition entry packs of \$1,000 each were won by:***

Sam Tullett, Tim Tarbottom, Alexandra Thompson, Lars Stephenson

***SI Regionals 2018 entry fee prizes were won by:*** Laura Wagstaff, Laetitia Telford, Toni Thompson

*Should prize winners elect not to use their prize they can pass it on to another YG member.*

*Plan on Omarama for Easter! I will see you there!*

YVONNE

