

# OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2015



*What a winter it was in Omarama with record temperatures of Minus 21degrees being recorded over more than a day or so which resulted in significant frost damage to water pipes etc. The campground amenities block did not go unscathed and lessons were learned how important it was to ensure all water catchment traps in pipes are well drained prior to winter in future. So far the Spring has been a very mixed bag of weather with unseasonal low temperatures BUT with an El Nino predicted we could get a stellar year of great soaring. Already we are off to a good start with Terry Delore establishing a new World record – speed over a 500K triangle at 187 kph and on the same day Alex McCaw and Nick Oakley both did an undeclared 1,000km flight on the practice day of the Regionals.*

### REGIONALS



Brian Savage, Trevor Mollard and Yvonne Loader participating in the SI Regionals

*Many thanks to Trevor who kindly took some lucky OGC members, with far less soaring talent than himself, in the DUO in the Regionals giving them the experience of SI Regional racing tasks and being shown 'how it is done' by an expert. While the final placing did not reflect the team's 'outstanding soaring abilities' (due to one day of not getting around the task), our best placing was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Open Class on the first day. Not a bad effort!*

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Tony Collins



*A recent health scare has put long term member Tony Collins in our thoughts as he recovers from a Stroke which happened at his Chalet just a few days after returning from his annual overseas excursion. Tony has a very positive approach to his recovery which is progressing better than expected and we all wish him the speediest of recoveries.*

*No doubt members have seen Tony “around” as he lives in his Chalet over summer. Tony has led a very interesting life and we thought you would like to learn more about him.*



Tony has engaged in many interests including being involved in climbing and tramping and Search and Rescue with the Hawkes Bay Heretaunga Tramping Club in the early sixties but perhaps the place to start is with his love of vintage cars owning and restoring a 1927 Essex and a 1928 Chevrolet. He crewed for a year on a yacht in the Pacific then decided to travel overland. He sold the 1928 Chevy sedan to purchase a derelict 1926 One Ton Chevrolet truck in 1969. Tony built a “self-contained big box camper” on the back of the vintage truck he restored and over-coming many mechanical

problems set off with his new Wife, Sue, and heaps of spare parts to travel around the world in 1,000 days. Travelling across Australia they continued on to Europe, driving through a number of countries there eventually arriving in the UK where they had to find work being down to only \$10 in their pocket.

While in the UK for two years Tony worked for a country estate that was being developed into a recreational facility - Heathfield Wild Life and Country park in Sussex. Soon he was designing and building animal enclosures, a paddle-steamer and simulated fun-trains to carry visitors through the park. On resigning to travel on he received a Testimonial attesting to his "astonishing skills and original creative thinking". (This work experience was to pay dividends a few years later when he became Project Manager for establishing 'Science Alive!' in Christchurch designing and building the working exhibits).

After another journey through Baltic countries it became time to head the truck to the United States and Canada before returning home. So many miles were not without their challenges (especially mechanical ones), 22 different countries were visited and the uniqueness of their travelling style generating much interest in the long journey made in such a vintage and extra-ordinary vehicle which now resides at the Southwards Motor Museum, Paraparamu.

Tony and Sue retreated to live water access in the Marlborough Sounds and commuting by 16ft Cabin inboard boat to his Teacher positions. Tony set up an import business in Reno Nevada and moved there for a year. He returned to be Principal at the Tua Marina School Marlborough. He had always wanted to learn to fly as he had lost interest in sailing his 25ft Kauri hard-chine Keeler. Tony joined the Woodbourne Aviation Sports Club and on his first flight on 8<sup>st</sup> August 1982 flew in a K7 and soloed on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1984. Tony came down to Killermont and took a flight on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1984 with Eion Coutts and his second flight was with Roger Read. In January 1987 Roger Read took him through an Instructor's rating. Unfortunately the Woodbourne Aviation Club suffered from a lack of members and the Base Commander at the time allowed Tony to be on the committee but not to hold an Executive position! The club eventually folded. Tony then trekked down to Omarama in the summer and flew for a month from Killermont with the Wiggies.

Later, now living in Blenheim, in conjunction with John Sinclair and other enthusiasts, decided to establish a new gliding club and funds were raised by selling hundreds of boxes, for \$1 each at the local market, that had been intended for cheese packing which had become redundant with the introduction of vacuum packing and so the Marlborough Gliding Club was established with Tony as Inaugural President. For a glider the ATC bought a Blanik ZK-GPJ and the club used that. Tony was also Convenor of the Tua Marina Rodeo and Vintage machinery field days and worked on Cruise ship promotions for the Marlborough Harbour Board.

Tony, Sue Heidi and Ryan moved to Christchurch as it offered better educational facilities and Tony became a partner in a light engineering Company, worked for 'Science Alive' before becoming a Lecturer at Teachers College. Tony was on the Wigram Aviation Sports Club executive for many years and Secretary of the Canterbury Gliding Club for two years during which the Janus PB was purchased. Tony was also President of the Omarama Soaring

Centre for five years during which the plans were drawn for the hangar conversion to the present Terminal Building today and serious fund raising was required. He purchased a half share in Speed Astir UB in 1993 with Paul Barrett and remains a member of the OGC to this day.

Tony's current interests include two Steam-boats (one from the early 1900s). He uses one regularly on Lake Benmore – a love inherited from his Marine Engineer Grandfather. His NZ winters are spent travelling to many countries. Crete is often included (where his Rear-Guard Father was missing in action presumed dead for three months in WW2 before escaping in a sub-marine to Africa), Borneo (4 wheel driving, building solar water heating, ovens and much else be side) and Japan (where he spends three months of every year following teaching in a Japanese University 2007-9). He has always enjoyed travel – latterly nearly always by himself being very resourceful, self-sufficient and very travel experienced.

Tony's life has been a very interesting one with lots of stories to tell if you take the time to spend time with him as he has done far too much to be covered here!

## **Kahu Café**



***Congratulations to all involved in the recent upgrade of the Kahu Café to comply with Waitaki District Council requirements needing to be met to keep the Café operating. We are sure you will all agree the Arch-Gola and new deck is stunning and especially so when all this was achieved on a minimum budget.***



**NEW MEMBERS - A BIG WELCOME to:**

Mike Marra, Dr Juan Garcia, Peter Nicholas (Nick) White

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

***Vintage Kiwi will be holding their annual Rally at Springfield 13<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February. Not often this rally is held in the SI. All are welcome to come to view some unique vintage gliders or bring along your glider and fly alongside.***

***Club Class National Contest - to be held at Omarama starting 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016.***

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**AGM** – The AGM will be held 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8pm in the Terminal Building. Please note your diaries. Topics for discussion welcome and can be passed on to the Secretary, Bruce Graham, for inclusion on the Agenda.



**On line bookings** - The Executive have made the decision to change the date of the Christmas period of the non-booking period and on line bookings will recommence from the 12<sup>TH</sup> January 2016.

**CFI Trevor Mollard** will be away (sea cruising) from the 13th December to the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016. In his absence the CFI duties will be undertaken by Phil Plane.

**Utilisation** - The Executive is concerned about the lack of utilisation on our single seat gliders. We request your assistance by informing us your intentions this season on our gliders so expect a questionnaire in your email box shortly. Please help by completing and returning this.

**Revised SOPS and references** will be posted on the Website in the next week or two. Please take the time to read these.

**OUR THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES GO TO ALEX MCCAWE AND NICK OAKLEY FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONTEST COMPETING IN THE WORLD JUNIOR GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NARROMINE, AUSTRALIA OVER THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.**



HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

YVONNE LOADER

