



## **CHRISTMAS 2007 OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER**



Christmas certainly came during the year for OGC club members with the upgrade of two single seat gliders to an LS6C (ZK GWC) and Discus CS (ZK GYF) giving us some very beautiful gliders to fly – arguably the best club fleet in NZ.

Following the AGM we have a new President, Peter Robinson, who was very instrumental in sourcing the Discus CS for us and we have two of our newer members joining the committee – Richard Hanschu and 'CJ' (Callum) McCaw. Phil Plane felt one job was enough and he relinquished the role of President to be our CFI.

Sadly Graham Erikson did not seek re-election to the Committee but after having been on the Executive for 30 years we really thought he deserved to be allowed to 'retire'. During his involvement with OGC (and in its previous life as Wigram Aviation Sports Club) Graham served as President and as an instructor for many years. We know Graham will still be around but would like to say a very big thank you for an outstanding contribution over many years.

David Laing has also stood down from the Committee. His contribution over the last few years has been very much appreciated and we will miss his valued input but certainly relate to his wish to have more time for soaring.

After having resumed the role of Treasurer in February this year Herb has relinquished the role of Treasurer to Chris Streat. Many thanks Herb for stepping in and taking care of the Treasurer's role for the majority of this year.

Steve Green, Don Mallinson, Hugh Turner and I have been re-elected.

### ***New Members***

A BIG WELCOME to  
'CJ' (Callum) McCaw  
Theo Newfield  
Landon Carter

### ***Membership address list***

It is time for the membership list to be updated and circulated. The first draft version will be sent individually for verification/amendment. Please take the time to check your details and any amendments required should be emailed to [loaders@clear.net.nz](mailto:loaders@clear.net.nz). The final version will be sent to all members and contact details for members (email addresses only) will be put on the website for your easy reference under the log-in section.

### ***The S.I. Regionals***



**Jenny Mollard, CJ & Yvonne**

Congratulations to Trevor Mollard and CJ, who being two Airline Pilots flying together (no secrets told as to who led who astray), flew the DUO to a very credible 4<sup>th</sup> placing in the 15m/standard class. However we cannot let the occasion pass without noting also they were the first to use our new Cobra trailer on its maiden retrieve to Pukaki air strip!! If you are wondering why they landed out with all that lift in the photo there was a huge CB between Pukaki and Omarama – rain, hail, snow – the lot! Chris Streat flew the LS6 in the contest but having to take a day off for work commitments and a few miscalculations----- oh well let us say he enjoyed the flying!

Richard Hanschu, Peter Robinson and I enjoyed ourselves trying out the new Discus.

**On Line bookings at - [omarama.com](http://omarama.com)**

What a success story this system is proving to be. *If you do not have your log in details let us know.* Well we did have some variances of interpretation on the rules – even among committee members! So here is “*THE WORD*”. Other than the five days minimum mid week booking for the DUO the maximum number of days that can be booked is up to *THREE* days. This can be across any gliders. The days booked must be consecutive and you must fly the days booked before booking up to another three days.

If there is no “on line” booking prior to 10am the glider is available on a first in first served basis however so everyone knows if someone has it for the day or not if you take a glider please enter a booking on the website. This is to ensure anyone making a decision to fly at say 11am because it is turning out to be a good day has a point of reference as to whether the glider is available or not.

The computer in the OGC club rooms in the Terminal building is set up to provide members with access to the On Line system. Phil, Hugh or Don can supply you with the club log-in – you only need to remember your own log-in details to make on the spot bookings.

Quite happy for “intentions” to be noted on the booking system eg booking made for three consecutive days with comment “going to be at Omarama for ten days” etc so other members are kept aware and informed. Once the bookings are flown “intentions” can be changed to “bookings”.

No On Line bookings between 25<sup>th</sup> December and 15<sup>th</sup> January – gliders will be allocated on a daily basis. Requests for gliders for contests need to be referred to the Committee.

Anyone with good reason for making a booking in excess of the three days can put their case to the Committee.

The cancellation period of three days prior without the imposition of the penalty remains applicable however reason will prevail and Phil and Don will be keeping an eye on this aspect of our club operation. Always remember safety and personal limitations is paramount and no penalty will be imposed if the weather conditions are outside the pilot’s experience level.

**On the Horizon -**

**Emergency Locator beacons** - Satellite monitoring and processing of 121.5MHz and 243 MHz signals will cease shortly. The limitations of the 121.5 and 243 MHz signal characteristics, together with the high number of false alerts have led the international agencies involved in search and rescue, to require ELTs and personal locator beacons (PLBs) to operate on 406 MHz. With many thanks to the **Lion Foundation** we have received full funding for these and on order is three new PLBs - it will be most re-assuring to know search and rescue will be able to fix your position to within a 5km radius should the unthinkable happen!

**FLARMS** (Anti collision devices). These are the hot topic at Omarama with lots of gliders using the same energy lines and the possibility of mid airs ever increasing. The Committee is working towards equipping all OGC gliders with these safety devices.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND THE BEST OF  
SOARING ALWAYS**

**YVONNE**

