

December 2010

DEAKIN'S TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

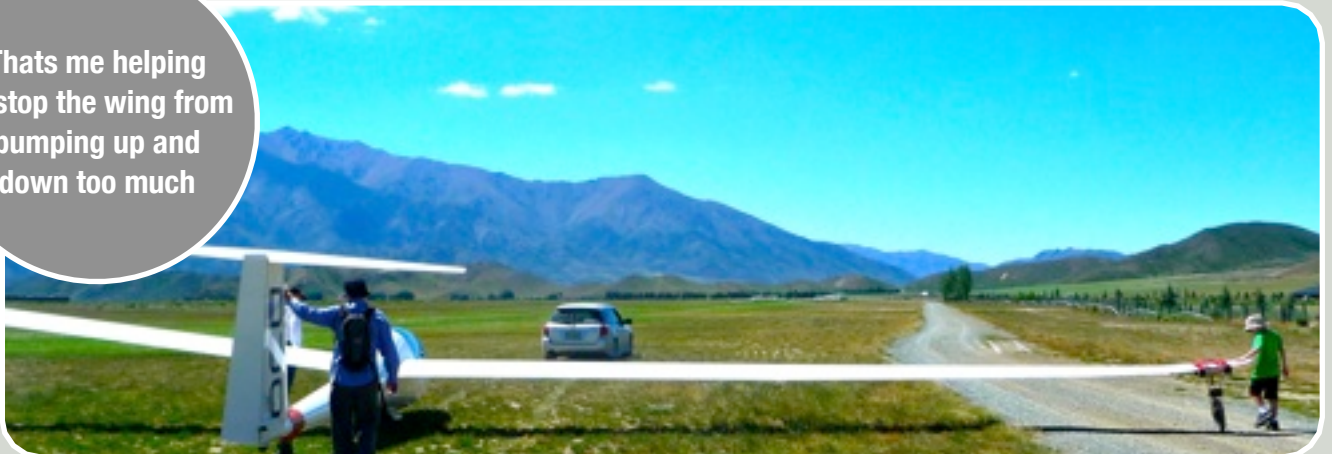
Facts about NZ

There is sea all around New Zealand.

The weather is colder than in Brisbane

It rains a lot.

That's me helping to stop the wing from bumping up and down too much



DAY 3

My dad is in New Zealand to try to fly over 2500 kilometers in a glider in one day. He is flying with Terry Delore who has many records. The weather is not good to beat the record. Tomorrow it is expected to rain.

Today was a fantastic day. For breakfast it was Nutri-grain because I did not recognise any of the other breakfast cereals.

We had the pilots briefing at 10:00am to see what the weather was going to like today. It was sunny with some clouds. Dad went for a fly and afterwards we went to the clay cliffs.

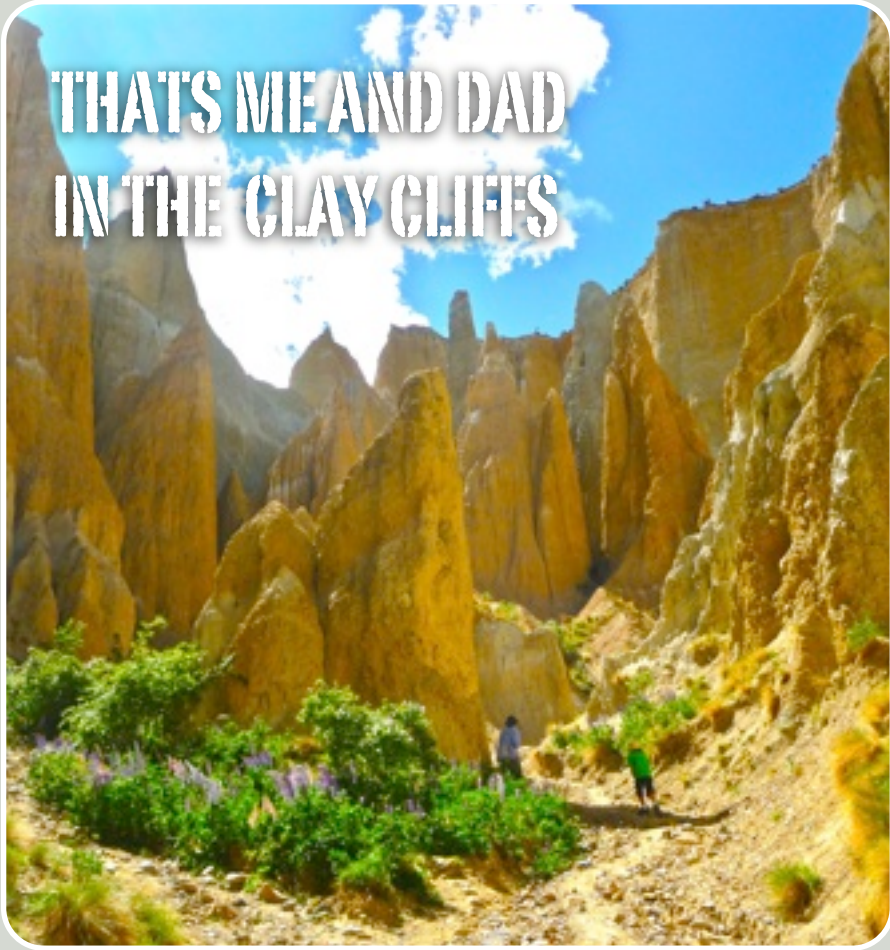


Dad's glider taking off

The tow plane pulls the glider into the air.

The mountains are very high.





We climbed the cliffs for hours but we did not climb to the top because it was dangerous. Big and little rocks fell down as we climbed so we came back down to the bottom. Our hands were very dirty so we went to wash our hands in the big blue river.

Walking and climbing is very tiring

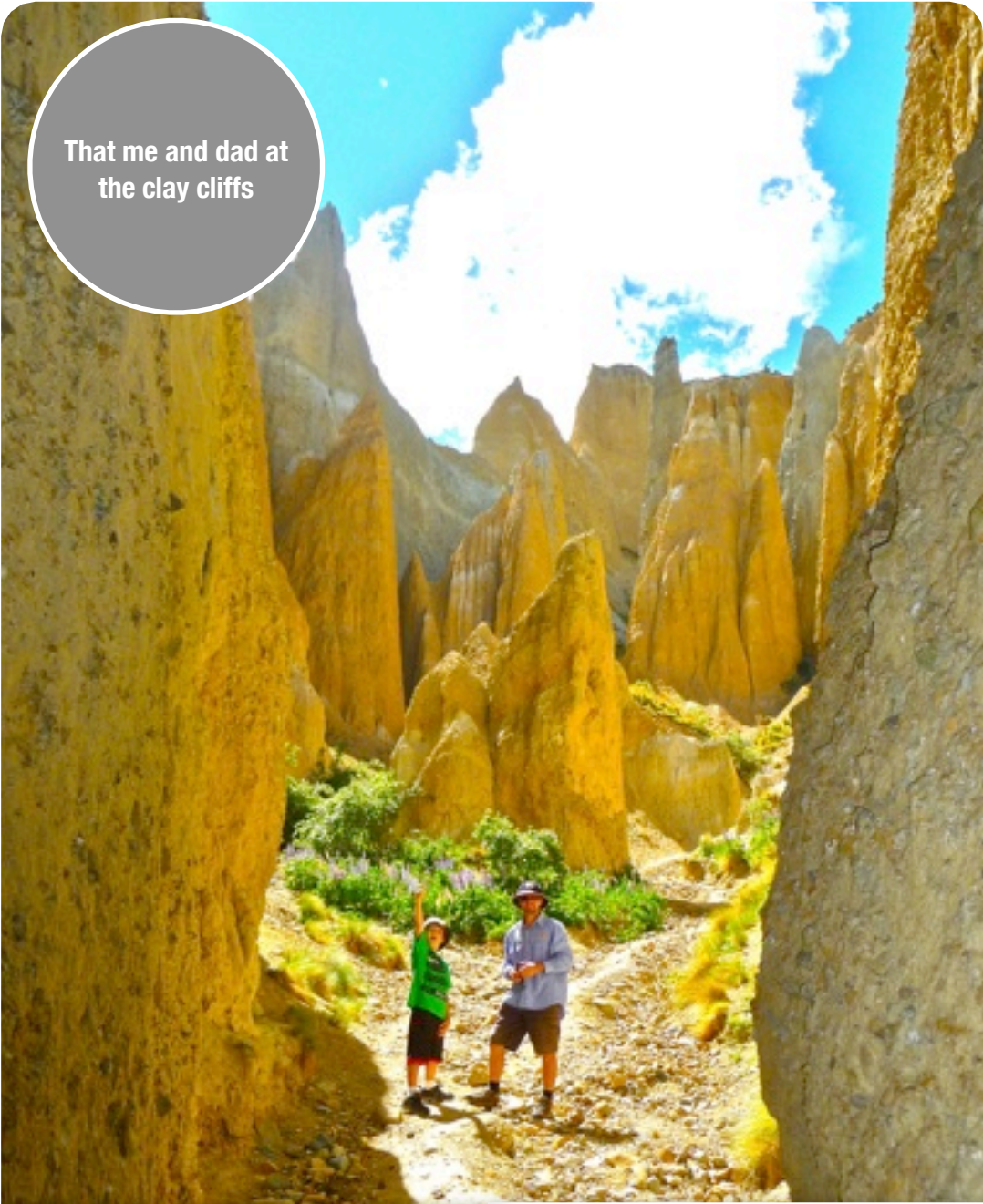
Dad showed me how to skid flat rocks along the top of the fast blue water. It was blue from the snow in the mountains. We drove back home to Omarama and dad went for one more fly while pop and I relaxed and had a very refreshing drink.



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That me and dad at the clay cliffs



Chad's Monday Blog

Today I finally got hold of Terry as he was off fishing for the weekend which calmed my nerves but I was told that he had some issues at work so couldn't come out till later on in the week. This made me wonder how I could get some flying in while I waited. I spoke with Gavin Wills who said he was full today but the saviour was the gliding club here which gave me an hour in their Duo on the nursery ridge and around the corner where I got shown the local landout strips as well as being shown the ropes on the ridges. We also went around the corner to Hugo's elevator and further along (forgot the name) before climbing up and contacting the wave and getting to around 11,000ft before being called back down. I may end up hiring a single seater tomorrow to fly locally as they were happy with my flying which will be nice as I would love to explore around here in a single seater.

After landing I went off with Dad and Deakin to check out the nearby "clay cliffs" which were very spectacular. Maybe I did this to help forget how awesome the day was looking. I attached a Photo. If you look right down the bottom you can see Dad and Deakin. It was very steep and I wondered how I'd get down once I got up.

After returning to the club I got stopped by the Glide Omarama guys who said they now had a spare glider and the day was really nice. Oh well, lets throw away some serious cash just incase there is problems with Terry later on in the week. Off I go in

another Duo onto the nursery ridge again but this time bound for Mt. Cook.

The wave was dumping on Mt. Horrible which made life hard and it took an hour to get away but even then we had to set off the other direction to Hugo's elevator again and the long way around. I could feel the dollars ticking over. I looked down and saw the "clay cliffs" from 12,000ft with cloud in between us. Right lets go waste some money with a smile.....

I managed to equal my highest height so far by getting 14,500ft but this time in super smooth air. The strongest climb in the wave was 13.5 knots but it was generally broken. We ended up on the side of Mt. Cook at 10,000ft but kept getting chased away by cloud. In the end we gave up and headed home but 20km away we found some strong wave back to 14,000ft and my guide said lets go. I was getting worried about the flight time now but he said "forget about it, I'll only charge you for a maxium 3 hours because we took so long to get away". 180 turn and then we were ridge soaring at 12,000ft.

What took ages to get there only took a fraction to get home as we headed home at 120kt following the good air. Airbrake down to run along "little Ben" on the way home and we were down. I could go on for hours about the flight but it's late and I've got more to sample tomorrow hopefully. I'm hoping for Terry to turn up on Thursday so fingers crossed for the weather.

Who's a happy but
"broke" boy then ...



MT COOK

