Greetings again to you all

We in the Southern Hemisphere are approaching Winter and my last “Down Under” fly-in as President, which I am looking forward to, will be in Grafton, New South Wales in Australia 11-13 April. Like all fly-ins it will undoubtedly have a flavour all of its own, which is the wonderful thing about fly-ins; no two are the same. Not only do the programmes have their subtle differences, but there will be some new people whose company you will enjoy with the possibility of developing new and rewarding friendships in the years to come.

That is exactly how it has been for Jeannette and me in the short time I have been involved with International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR). The New Zealand section was formed in 1995 and our circle of genuine IFFR friends has expanded greatly since then. Jeannette and I have very much enjoyed meeting and broadening our circle of friends through our Fellowship. Like other New Zealand Section members, we remember the excitement when we heard that our first IFFR European visitors were to join us at an early fly-in at Whakatane. It was a big event to welcome Dieter and Gisela Uitken from Germany in 1997. They discovered about our fly-in through their bulletin. Today – it is the internet. It was through the internet and the IFFR directory that we met the new Section Chairman for North Central USA, Mark Hagan, and his wife Karen, when they visited Wellington and we all enjoyed the 50th Anniversary concert of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. What a night. Ask Mark or Karen about the concert! At our New Zealand February fly-in at Tauranga we enjoyed the company of Rodney Spokes, UK Section Chairman, and wife Pam, and I am sure they also enjoyed another fly-in with a completely different flavour from those they have attended elsewhere. Not better, not worse – but different - as they all are.

During my term of office, we have enjoyed the hospitality of two wonderful fly-about companions, Audun Johnsen of Norway and Past President Sam Bishop, with his wife Elena, with whom we flew with around Scandinavia and the North Western United States respectively – I wouldn’t have missed them for “all the tea in China”. It saddens me to think that so many of our members have yet to experience such wonderful fellowship and the camaraderie that envelopes all who take part in fly-ins and fly-abouts. To travel to an RI Convention and then get involved in the ensuing fly-about or fly-out is indeed something all members should strive to do at least once in their lifetime because it literally is a once in a lifetime experience. Some of our members have been extremely fortunate in being able to attend more than one fly-about. These folk are the people you should be thinking about as future officeholders in IFFR either within your national Section or the International scene as they will have much to offer. Participation and
Rotary fellowship are all-important – they are the raison d’être for joining IFFR in the first place.

As I write this it is March and I am looking forward to attending the Italian Fly-In and Fly-About and to flying again with our first-ever pilot host Ian Kerr (the Western Isles Fly-About after the 1997 Glasgow Convention) - as we wing our way from the UK toward Italy. The programme for Italy sounds fabulous as does the activities put together by Peter More and Sam Bishop for the Fly-About after the Los Angeles Convention; on this occasion Past President Tony Watson will be our pilot host.

As this will be my last opportunity to write to you all, I would like to thank everyone for just being members of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians. All of you are a constituent part of our Fellowship and without you there would not be a Fellowship and all of us would be the losers.

I have enjoyed immensely my time serving as your President and I thank you for the opportunity given to me. I close with my theme - Take the time, make the time and visit the IFFR websites and choose where you would like to make new friends, enjoy the company of like minded Rotarians and renew old friendships.

With many a kind wish,
Brian J Souter
World President 2006 - 2008

New Members

New Members to (member number also given) IFFR are:

From Australia: Mark & Natalie TOWNER (8262); and Garry & Lea RICKWOOD (8263).

From Belgium: Xavier & Myriam CASTIAUX (8243).

From France: Jean-Yves CANNESSON (8236); Thierry & Myriam DEMUYSEERE (8237); Yves GOURINAT (8238); Ludwig HOFMANN (8239); Charles & Bernadette IMBERT (8240); Joël LAUNAY (8241); Ernest LATTMANN (8242); and Pierre FONTAINE (8250).

From Italy: Paolo & Sistina BOTTURA (8252); and Cesare & Roos BAJ (8270).

From The Netherlands: Marc & Stephanie WELTER (8265); Henk SCHRIER (8266); Pierre RAYEN (8267); Daniel POELMAN (8268); and Walter LUIJSTERBORG (8269).

From New Zealand: Brian & Robyn RUDDELL (8271); Murray & Laurel SMITH (8272); Tony & Sue UNWIN (8273); and Terry & Maxine SUTHERLAND (8274).

From Switzerland: Markus & Esther BRONNIMANN (8251).

From the UK: Paul & Margaret HICKS (8261); (name) FARRAR (8264); James HULL (8276); and Ian & Anne McNEISH (8248).

From the USA: Jim APPLE (8260); David A THEOBALD (8259); Robert D MILLEN (8258); Gerd MEISSNER (8257); Michael LOVETT (8256); W.D. LEWIS (8255); Philip S GROSHONG (8254); John COOKE (8253); and Robert K. WHYTE (8249).

Rotary Ridge of Remembrance

Late last year, Angus and Alisma Clarke visited the UK National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield in the Midlands, UK. They had a specific family interest in going there but as they walked around the site they were very moved by the whole set up. Not only is it a point of remembrance for the military, it also embraces civilians, the latter not solely being lost in conflicts. Rotary has an area called Rotary Ridge where individual trees are dedicated to past Rotarians by their Clubs and by individuals.

Alisma and Angus thought it appropriate to remember those in IFFR who have lost their lives. They did this by sponsoring a tree and arranged for a plaque beside.

As Angus remarked, “Obviously our friends lost in both the Sintra and Groton accidents were very much in the minds of Alisma and myself in deciding to do this.”

Information on the Arboretum is at www.nationalmemorialarboretum.org, which majors on the military aspects of remembrance but does give considerable background to the venture.
Keeping the IFFR Directory Current

Roy Marsden
World Secretary/Treasurer IFFR

Last year I changed the process for updating members’ details, when producing the Annual Directory.

I found there was conflict between details I had recorded in international records and those that were forwarded from local section administrators.

Some of this comes about because members send direct to the international secretary, any change of details, but do not inform their local secretariat.

To formalise and streamline procedures, therefore, members should notify any changes of their individual details to their local secretary.

The full sectional membership details will then be forwarded to me each July, together with appropriate international subscription and this detail will form the basis of the Directory.

This will ensure there is an automatic confirmation that membership subscriptions are up to date and membership details for the Directory are the latest information.

When new members join during the year, secretaries will advise me so that I can allocate a membership number and welcome them on behalf of our International President. Sectional secretaries will have a supply of current Directories and lapel pins to supply such new members directly and save the costs and administration of international postage, which has become excessive.

Our International Bulletin will be produced on, at least, a six-monthly basis, one of which will be mailed to members with the new annual directory, hopefully in September each year. The other one will be mailed around March.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians

1.30pm 18 June 2008
at Omni Hotel
Los Angeles

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Salt Lake City Meeting
2. President’s Report
3. Secretary / Treasurer’s Report
4. Regional Vice Presidents’ Reports
5. Amendment to By-Laws (see below)
6. General Business

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO TWO SECTIONS OF BY-LAWS

A. Add to Article VIII, at the end:
“Article IX’s prohibition against sharing in corporate earnings may not be altered or amended as it affects the non-profit aims, personal benefit or winding up provisions of Article IX.”

Explanation
To enjoy tax-free status, individual members must be prohibited from enjoying any distribution of funds from the Fellowship.

Our present by-laws imply this, but do not prevent the alteration of such by-law provisions. It is necessary, therefore, to add to the by-laws so that this distribution provision is immutable.

B. Add to Article IX, at the end
“or the tax laws of the country in which the funds of the fellowship are held from time to time.”

Explanation
The present Article IX refers only to the US Internal Revenue Code.

Fly-Out following the R.I. Conference in Los Angeles

The IFFR fly-out following this year’s Los Angeles Rotary International Convention will cover some of the most beautiful parts of California, Oregon and Nevada.

The flying starts on 19 June and will run to 28 June and include Yosemite National Park and the historical town of Columbia. Rotarians at Mariposa will serve up a barbeque for which they are famous!

The Monterey Peninsula is one of the most beautiful places in California, with much to do, so the schedule has been deliberately kept “loose”. A side trip to the Hiller Museum in San Carlos is on the schedule for aviation museum enthusiasts. A flight up the to Grant’s Pass allows an aerial view of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. On the journey to Reno, some may want to deviate over Crater Lake, a spectacular lake inside a huge extinct volcano.

To make the event easier for everyone, the fly-out registration is unique this year, as everything is posted on the IFFR website www.iffr.org. Members can check their registrations and their bookings for the various events, and they can see who is already registered. People are encouraging to register early and there is no cancellation fee until much closer to the events. Save $20 by registering before April Fool’s Day and the organisers will not start charging credit cards until after that date.

The fly-out can be flown or driven and there are already registrations for both. There are also seats available for those wishing to ride along with someone else and share expenses. The IFFR Fly Out Coordinator 2008 is Sam Bishop who can be reached via 831-274-4024 or home at 831-476-6451 or on sambishop@totalcom.com
Sezione Italiana 2008
Fly-In Venezia (LIPV) 30 May-1 June and Fly-Around 2 June – 8 June

This is an event for Flying Rotarians but non-Rotarian friends are also very welcome. Organisers advise that accommodation is limited so bookings need to be made without delay. This exotic-sounding fly-in/fly-around will include the following: Visit of Venezia, Italian Section work meeting, Official dinner at Lido, visit to Trento Airport (LIDT), visit to Caproni Museum. There will also be a visit by private boat of Murano, Burano, Torcello; a visit to Trieste Airport (LIPQ or LIPD), a visit of Trieste and Castle Miramar; a visit by historical boat “Burchiello” along Brenta River of historical Villas, and a visit to Ravenna Airport (LIDR), S. Vitale, S. Apollinare in Classe, Mausoleum of Gala Placidia, and a visit of Ferrara.

Costs:
- Participation Fly-In & Away €35; and the daily charges vary from €40 to €180.
- Accommodation: per room/night & breakfast
  - Hotel Mabapa **** Venezia Lido (see photo below) tel.+39 0415260590
double € 180.- single € 180.-
  - Hotel Buon Pesce *** Venezia Lido tel. +39 0415268599
double € 170.- single € 160.-
You have to book rooms on your own. Specify “option unitravel” for special rates.

You can join the fly-in and/or fly-away! Non Rotarian friends are welcome! Rooms are limited! You have to send your participation amount only in advance to our bank account using iban code! Payment of accommodation individually on site.

Deadline for rooms: 30 March – Deadline for participation: 16 May.
For further inquiries, please contact secretary & treasurer, Roland M. Marrek email marrek@studio-marrek.it Tel office p.m.: +39028693938 Fax:+390299981269

From the Americas Region
District 5730 Conference, Texas, April 2008.

This District Conference will be held in Lubbock, Texas, the weekend of 10-13 April 2008.
An invitation is extended to flying Rotarians worldwide to attend this event, which has a fly-in for the pilots, a show and shine car show for the auto enthusiast, an RV’s reunion for those who love to travel with their RV’s, a motorcycle show, a ride for those with motorcycles, a golf tournament for those who love to come and play a new course, a Rotary Fashion Show at Bergman’s exclusive clothing store.

There will be something for everyone, from a gathering and fly-in commencing at the WWII glider museum at Lubook International, to airplane rides for youths aged 8 to 17, to glider orientation and rides for the flying participants.
Meeting business will be taken care of with dynamic programs on Friday and Saturday mornings.
Plan to bring your classic car, motorcycle, aircraft, golf clubs. And boots.
The conference will conclude with a country-western dance.

A Word from the America’s IFFR Veep-Elect
In a recent letter to members of the Americas Region, the Vice President of IFFR Americas, Peter More, outlined his plans for the next two years. They are: to have two fly-ins in each Americas Section per year; to ensure a 3-medium form of communication with members (the IFFR Newsletter by mail; by email distribution, and via the www.iffr.org website); to build IFFR membership; to develop leadership; and to have a good successor in place by the time he leaves office in June 2010.

COMING IFFR EVENTS
Check websites for the dates and details of future fly-ins and/or fly-arounds. Visit other Sections for their fly-in/arounds.
The 2009 RI Convention will be in Birmingham, UK.