The Kiwi Chiefs
World Newsletter

December 2019

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**News from the President**

Warmest greetings from New Zealand where we are preparing for our summertime Christmas – something that would no doubt seem quite strange to those of you in the chilly Northern hemisphere.

Celebrations will be a little muted this year. I’m sure you’ve seen that New Zealand has been in the news following the eruption of the active volcano at White Island, where 18 people tragically lost their lives and still more were badly injured. Our thoughts will be very much with the survivors and the families who lost loved ones over the Christmas period.

Several local helicopter pilots flew to the island to search for survivors in the immediate aftermath of the eruption which was very brave and almost certainly saved lives. Way back in 1997 I visited White Island with the NZ section of the IFFR and it is a spectacular sight to see an active volcano up close. The smell of sulphur is quite pronounced, even from the air.

On a happier note, we’ve had a very enjoyable time seeing many of you during our travels these last few months:

Judy and I were delighted to be invited by the American South West Section to attend the Reno Air Races. During our 18-day stay we met up with many members we had not seen for a while and met many others for the first time. George and Carol Chaffey kindly accompanied us by road to Nevada – unfortunately 4POB and luggage do not fit in a Luscombe! We all stayed with Tim and Vicki Puliz at their magnificent home in Reno.

Just like Oshkosh, the Reno Air Races are definitely something all pilots should attend at least once in their lifetime – it’s an amazing spectacle, with impressive flying and some really cool gear on display. I noted four jets owned by Australians, one of which was a de Havilland Vampire from the 1950s, which won its heat. Incredibly, about 50% of it’s fuselage is made of wood!
There were hardly any aircraft in the Unlimited Gold Class so I asked one of the owners why there were so few. He told me that the aircraft are worth more in stock-original condition, so many owners are now re-modifying them back to their original state.

The racing itself was fantastic, especially the STOL (short take off and landing) demonstrations, which were so well received by the crowds they will become a permanent event from 2020.

Our hosts, Tim and Vicki put on an outstanding BBQ at their home and enjoyable fellowship was had by all.

Tim, George and I, along with Penelope Cornwall did an exploratory flight over the Golden State fly away route and without giving too much away, I can confirm that it’s one to look forward to. The West Coast, Yosemite and the Golden Gate Bridge all look very different from the air.
We took the opportunity to have a look around and learn something about the history of the area while we were there. Tim and Vicki kindly drove us to Lake Tahoe where we enjoyed a boat trip to Vikingsholm – one of the finest examples of Scandinavian architecture in the US. I learnt a lot about Nevada’s Continental Mountain weather – we experienced heat, driving rain and even a blizzard in a short period! Back in Reno we had the chance to visit Virginia City for a taste of wild west history.

Next, we headed down south in Tim’s Comanche, picking up George on our way to a marvelous little airport called Flabob with many surprises hiding in the hangars. Flabob is also home to Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter #1.

Flabob is also home to the biggest hamburger I’ve ever seen – Penelope got through it like a real trooper!
We rounded off a wonderful trip by staying our final two nights with Alan and Jennie Dias in Los Angeles, where we visited the Ronald Regan Library. To my amazement it has a real Air Force One Boeing 707 inside the building, which is even at the top of a hill!

It was a really enjoyable trip, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to spend time with members who have become friends and meet many members for the first time. Fellowship is what our wonderful organization is all about. Special thanks to George, Carol, Tim, Vicki and Penelope, Alan and Jennie for all the effort they put in to organizing things and for the hospitality they showed us.
We arrived back in New Zealand for just one day, before heading to the Australian Sections’ fly-in at Kangaroo Island in South Australia.

From there it was back to New Zealand for our own fly-in at Rotorua in the Central North Island. Both were very successful events – see the newsletter for full reports.

As you can see, September and October were quite busy months for us! Since then it’s been fairly quiet if you don’t count selling our family home of 38 years, buying a new section and starting the plans for a new house!

Next year is also shaping up to be an exciting time - we look forward to seeing many of you at the Golden State fly-away and the AGM in Hawaii. More on those plans in the next newsletter, but for now Judy and I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year wherever you may be celebrating over the holidays.

And remember,

Fly Well
Fly Safe
Fly Often

All the best,

Phil Pacey
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Australasian Section | Kangaroo Island Fly-In | Ian Jenner

As Christmas approaches, it is time to reflect on the great year Marlene and I have had, and the many events we have shared with our IFFR friends around the world. We have attended memorable events in New Zealand and Australia, with the biggest and best being the post-convention fly-around in Germany. We are so very lucky to have such a wide variety of wonderful IFFR friends to enhance our lives.

During September we flew to Adelaide and then went by ferry to Kangaroo Island to join in the Australian Section fly-in.

Kangaroo Island is the third largest island off the coast of Australia. It is 155km long and 55km wide, covering an area of 4,500 sq. metres and the home to approx. 5,000 people. Of interest is that KI is a sanctuary to the only pure Ligurian bee population in the world, consequently you are not allowed to bring onto the island any honey products nor are you allowed to bring unwashed or dirty potatoes onto the island due to their very large seed potato industry.

Friday night was spent catching up with everyone over a dinner at the hotel and Saturday morning we left for a full day's tour of the island. This consisted of a visit to Seal Bay to observe the sea lions in their habitat, followed by a Birds of Prey show, a visit to the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park, then a most relaxing time spent at the KI Spirits, tasting their gin, after which we returned to the hotel for dinner.
Sunday morning saw us back on the bus for another full day of visiting the island’s attractions which included the Flinders Chase National Park, a Koala walk in Hanson Bay, a guided tour of the Clifford’s Honey farm and a visit to the Emu Range Eucalyptus Distillery, all very interesting attractions in their own unique way.

We now look forward to the next Australian fly-in in Winton in May 2020.

During October, the NZ Section held a fly-in to Rotorua, which, for most, was a drive-in, due to the weather.

Marlene and I send our very best wishes to all members for a very Merry Xmas and a great year in 2020. We are looking forward to a momentous year.

We also send our thanks to WP Phil and First Lady Judy for their leadership during 2019.

*Ian Jenner*
*Australasian Vice President*
For the 23 members attending the Rotorua fly-in on 11-14 October 2019, camaraderie was the highlight.

We gathered at the Millennium Hotel during the Friday afternoon, reminded of the smells of sulphur that are a trademark of the Rotorua geyser land. There was plenty to catch up on when everyone gathered at the bar at 6pm for pre-dinner drinks – including some snatching glimpses of the motor racing at Bathurst on the big screen. And then a ‘welcome’ dinner.

Saturday morning we were admiring the majestic 118 year old Redwood forest from the Treewalk. Suspended 20m above the forest floor and crossing 28 swing bridges gave a great view and time to contemplate these great trees and the fern undergrowth. A ring of a 2,000 year old Californian redwood on display put time in perspective – it started life around 4BC.

In the afternoon we boarded our 4-seater rail cruisers at Mamaku – on the now disused railway line that crosses the Mamaku Ranges between the Waikato and Rotorua. Chugging along at 20kph we got a (watery) view of the farm and forested areas that a few decades ago were the privilege of only those on the train – eventually getting a great view of Lake Rotorua. The electric vehicles, with petrol assistance for the return uphill leg, were fully automated – one of the rear-seat passengers controlling only safety brakes and a simple stop-start!

It was interesting to hear that Ian Jenner has refurbished two of the “trucks” that were converted for pulling logs out of the bush on the railway and they are now on display at a railway enthusiasts’ track near Auckland.
Wayne Scott, one of our own members and former NZ Section chair, entertained us with a great after-dinner talk that evening outlining his aviation career since dreaming of flying as a young lad. He spoke of special people he has flown with, special people he has flown for, and special planes that he has flown. He also shared lessons learnt during that time – when things had gone wrong.

On Sunday morning we boarded “the duck” – a genuine World War II amphibious truck! Our driver was an entertaining conductior. Our first dip was into Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) admiring lake frontage properties valued in the millions. Then on up to Lake Tarawera with a grandstand view of Mt Tarawera from the water, the volcano that last erupted in 1886.

Coffees and morning tea before heading back into Rotorua where the formality of an IFFR meeting was brought forward in the programme. Incoming NZ Section chair Chris Allison helped the meeting flesh out an exciting programme of Fly-in destinations through to 2022!

And then - you guessed it - more food, lunch at Café Capers where Fred and Eileen Bain joined us. Some early leavers said their farewells from here.

The rest of us took an afternoon stroll around the magnificent gardens and lake frontage that surround the main Rotorua shopping area. A day for contemplating mud pools and steam, topped off with ice creams and watching the world go by!

Sunday night dinner was at the “Pig and Whistle” – a restaurant now occupying Rotorua’s former Police Station. On the big screen NZ’s Scott McLaughlan took first place at Mount Panorama.

The weekend had been planned by Greet van der Helm and Murray Smith – a resounding success that was appreciated by all who attended. Next up is Timaru – our 25th anniversary in March 2020 – a “must go to” fly-in!

Garry Goodman
New Zealand Chairman
Pre-Convention Fly Away | California & Nevada | George Chaffey

The 2020 Pre-Hawaii Convention Fly-Away—Friday May 29 through Thursday June 4—will be centered in the San Francisco Bay Area. It will include some of the most beautiful and diverse places in California and Nevada…. And you never have to move… each day ends up back at our hotel.

The Fly Away is limited to 52 participants. Cost is $1,100 per person. First come-First served… for the first 52 who register and pay. There are a few slots still available.

IFFR has a block of rooms at the Crown Plaza hotel in Concord; registrants make their room reservations directly with the hotel.

Summary Itinerary:
- May 29—Welcome dinner.
- May 30—San Francisco
- May 31—Carmel, California Coast
- June 1—Gold Rush Country
- June 2—San Francisco/ Sierra Nevada Mts., Lake Tahoe
- June 3—Sacramento
- June 4—Napa Valley Wine Country, Closing dinner

To register and pay, contact Steve Henderson.

Pay by:
(1) check (made out to IFFR, sent to Steve Henderson, 561 Auto Center Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076) or
(2) PayPal to ifframericas@gmail.com using “send money to friends or family”, or
(3) credit card info (you can give Steve credit card information over the phone).
Steve Henderson (831) 818-1488.