

THE ROTARY Flyer



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THE WORLD BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

World President 2008 – 2010

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FEROZ WADIA - New President

I am honoured to have been chosen to lead and represent the membership of this exceptional Fellowship. Over the next two years I have tough acts to follow, and plan to build on the experience and commitment of the previous World Presidents.

Pilots make excellent Rotarians. By their very nature they enjoy a challenge and head out to get things done. Rotary welcomes people who are movers and shakers to achieve projects in their local communities. Friendships and bonds formed through IFFR worldwide can only benefit both Rotary and the individual through our close-knit flying fraternity. It is no coincidence that pilots who have accompanied us to IFFR events have joined Rotary and serve their clubs well.

Let us make this the time when we each take at least one person with an interest in aviation to an IFFR event. Once they have met your fellow members and enjoyed the flying, fellowship and fun, our experience is that they are hooked. Joining Rotary soon follows and both organisations benefit.



President Feroz at the controls of his Bonanza

Spread the word of our existence amongst pilots and friends, at Rotary clubs and airfields, so others can share this fellowship that we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Both Raye and I look forward with enthusiasm to meeting our many friends worldwide and making many more during the years of my Presidency.

Do share with me any ideas that you may have in order to advance our fellowship. Look frequently at www.iffr.org to see what is happening in your organization and feel free to contact me either by telephone or by e-mail at president@iffr.org. I am here to listen.

Have fun – be safe.

Feroz Wadia



Past President Brian Souter installs Feroz Wadia as President.

Governor of Jersey inducted as Honorary Member

At the suggestion of Past World President Charles Strasser His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey was invited to become an Honorary member of IFFR.

Accepting the invitation the Governor said that he considered it a great honour to be invited to join our Fellowship.

His flying experience goes back 40 years – first gaining his private pilot's licence and then qualifying as an Army Pilot in helicopters. He served in a number of theatres including Central America and Northern Ireland.

He hopes very much to join the Fellowship in one of their aviation events in the future.



Past World President Charles Strasser inducts HE Lieutenant General Andrew Ridgeway watched by President Feroz and UK Section Chair Colin Walker as an Honorary Member of IFFR



A Tribute to Our Friends



Marinella Ferrari and her husband Vittorio Rosetti

For those who did not see it on the IFFR website, Past President Brian Souter wrote

“It is my very sad task to inform our membership that four of our friends died in a tragic accident last Sunday, June 1st during the Italian Section FlyIn at Venice. Marinella Ferrari and her husband Vittorio Rosetti John Ritchie and Kevin Young.”

Marinella was a member of the Milan Fiera Rotary Club and also the new District Governor Assistant for 2008/9....a lovely lady and a keen Rotarian. Her husband Vittorio was an excellent pilot with nearly fifty years flying experience. Not only were they actively involved in IFFR they were also keen participants in IFBPR the Bridge Fellowship. In true Rotary style when they heard that John and Kevin were without transport to get to Trento for the Museum visit they offered to take them. Both Marinella and Vittorio were involved with the University of Milan and their funeral on Saturday 7th June was attended by Rotarians and Faculty and students of the University.



Kevin Young

Kevin Young was a New Zealander who had practiced dentistry in the U.K. for the last thirty years and was one of the keenest members of IFFR, attending meetings whenever his hectic schedule would allow it. He was invariably accompanied by his wife Belinda, daughter Elisha and son Dominic. Members

of the U.K. section were always pleased to see the children’s smiling faces and commented on how well behaved they were. Kevin eventually shared an aircraft with John Ritchie and the pair worked as a perfect team... John with the time, patience and experience to do the planning and Kevin always keen to go with him and do much of the flying.

John was one of the founding members of the U.K. section of IFFR in the mid seventies, held one and often two offices for the whole of his time in IFFR and was still editing the U.K. section bulletin until his sad demise.

With his vast experience of IFFR and his enthusiasm in joining fly arounds all over the world he became a legend in IFFR and was awarded not one but two Paul Harris Fellowships. For over thirty years U.K. section members would often assume “John will know” whenever a question cropped up. For many of us it seems unnatural not to have spoken to him for even a couple of weeks.

Our sincere condolences go out to Marinella and Vittorio’s children, Matteo and Ilaria, Belinda Young and her children Dominic and Elisha and to John’s son George and his family and to John’s daughter, Jenny Gilbert and her husband. They have all left their footprints on our hearts.

Feroz Wadia

Charles Strasser also writes...



John Ritchie with the Nordic Aviation Trophy that he and his late wife Mary were awarded in 2007

John Ritchie was a good friend to me and countless others

John was one of the founders of the UK Section of the Fellowship in the mid seventies, and held one or more offices, with distinction, for the whole of that time and indeed was our esteemed bulletin editor from 1983 until his death. I was probably his longest-standing friend in IFFR. I met him on the very first European Mediterranean fly-about in 1978 and was infected by his adventurous spirit and true Rotary willingness to help others.

For his services to and for furthering the interests of the Flying Rotarians, he was in 2002 awarded Rotary’s highest honour – a Paul Harris Fellowship. Indeed he was uniquely awarded two Paul Harris Fellowships, one from the UK section and one from the European region of the Flying Rotarians. Typically

of John, he commented on this in the Summer 2002 UK section bulletin “It seems strange to be rewarded for doing what I have enjoyed most in Rotary and for pursuing a hobby that has taken me to so many interesting places and made us so many friends” and added “But I could not have done any of this without the encouragement and support of Mary who never misses a trip if she can help it.”

John treated his Rotary not only as a membership but also as a way of life and subscribed fully to the Rotary creed of “Service above Self” and the Rotary four-way test.

John Ritchie was suddenly and tragically taken from us but he will remain in our memory with appreciation and affection for ever. May he rest in peace in that great hangar in the sky.



News from the TOP of the World!

The New Zealand Section of IFFR enjoyed an exceptional two years under the gaze of our very own World President Brian Souter. Four fly-ins were held, Wanganui, Hokitika, Paraparaumu and Tauranga.



The elements were against us for the Wanganui fly-in so everyone drove in for a great weekend of fellowship. For the Hokitika gathering the weather was spectacular. On the Saturday morning after the fog cleared all aircraft departed for a day's fly-away to Haast via Aoraki Mount Cook, the highest mountain in New Zealand, then on down the southern Alps over some of the most spectacular scenery imaginable. It was then back to Hokitika where many of the local Rotarians had joined us for the fly-away. Returning to the birthplace of IFFR in New Zealand members were able to practice their skill at tying down their aircraft against formidable Paraparaumu winds however the local rail transport system and nearby capital city of Wellington

again provided a excellent venue for the continuation of our fellowship programme.

In Tauranga we were treated to two excellent experiences. On the airfield is a world class aviation café and museum but for many the absolute highlight of the weekend was the opportunity to listen to and talk with Squadron Leader Les Munro he is the last surviving pilot of the Dambusters Raid of May 1943 carried out by 617 Sqn RAF. Les enthralled everyone with his address that featured details of Operation Taxable – a simulation of a large "ghost" convoy of ships crossing the narrowest part of the English Channel immediately leading up to the D-Day invasions.

The past two years have been very successful years for IFFR New Zealand and hence we are on top of the world.

Blue skies,

Wayne Scott



Squadron Leader Les Munro with organiser of the Tauranga Fly-in Mark Sullivan



IFFR New Zealand group at Wanganui

Australia IFFR Grafton NSW Fly In

The April 2008 destination was Grafton in New South Wales. IFFR members arrived by air on Friday and were welcomed by members of the Grafton Rotary Club. Grafton is nestled on the banks of the mighty Clarence River.

Saturday morning saw our group boarding the bus for a tour of Grafton's distinctive architecture and the groves of huge Jacaranda trees.

We then headed for the town of Maclean which has a strong Scottish influence, and most of us discovered our names appearing on the local power poles, as each one is decorated with the distinctive tartan of the different clans living in the area.

Whilst visiting Maclean the driver decided to take us to the local lookout. This was the same lookout that Nancy Bird-Walton described to us in her speech at the Bankstown Fly-in some years ago.

From Maclean we again followed the river to the seaside town of Yamba. We set off back along the Pacific highway to Grafton, and a detour via Tucabia and Pillar Valley.

Saturday evening, we joined the Grafton Rotary Club at the RSL, to participate in their regular meeting.

John Laffin, from the Rotary Club of Iluka, described his career as a pilot, from flying Spitfires in England during the war, to his time with a fledgling airline called Qantas. He informed us that he had survived four crashes during this time.

On Sunday, those who were not departing for home immediately joined some of the Grafton Rotarians for a barbeque at the South Grafton Aero Club.

Mal Hunter
Secretary.
IFFR (Australia)

IFFR members on the Saturday tour



Organiser PDG Dennis Green with Brian Souter and Past Australian President Trevor Steel





Los Angeles Post Convention Fly About



Group at the outstanding Hearst Castle

*Listen my children and you shall hear
the tales of pilots that knew
no fear
who gather for congress in
Los Angeles CA
who when they were finished
would go on their way
In the hotel of Omni they
gather together
they spoke of their schedule,
they studied the weather.*

*With blessing of SoCal we
took the air
off for Mariposa with narly a
care
Mariposa was nice, we like it
a lot
There was one disadvantage,
it was too damn hot.
On to the bus Yosemite
bound
no flying for us we were
stuck on the ground.*



George Chaffey supervising Herman's preparation for his performance as the Bard at the farewell dinner

*We saw rocks, birds and
flower and too many trees
a hot grounded flier is damn
hard to please.
The best thing of all was that
the fuel was so cheap
and under five dollars we
bought a heap.
Then off to the ocean to old
Monterey
the fog was no problem, it
was a nice day.
Then nature turned ugly and
down came the lightning
it got dark and stormy and
downright frightening.
The dry land ignited with fire
and flame
the storm clouds retreated as
fast as they came.*



Brian Souter and Marlene Marsden signing up a new member at the Convention booth

Words by Herman Hassinger



*We were jovial and happy all
in a great mood
there were plenty to drink
and lots of good food.
The next thrill we had was
our ride in a jet
not the kind that flies, this
one gets you wet.
The boat took us all to a
wonderful dinner
Mr Bishop and More came
up with a winner.
From Grants Pass to Reno
were mountains and hills
we all arrived safely without
any spills.*

*Monterey was delightful; the
seafood was great
But back on the bus to see
Hearst's estate.
The fire denied us the drive
by the sea
the bus took us inland, we
stopped only to pee.
The castle delighted we were
all impressed
We wanted to swim in the
pool all undressed
Hearst didn't allow it, he
was such a prude
he gave guest free swimsuits,
you couldn't swim nude.
His tootsie was Mariam, she
wasn't his wife
now I know what it means to
love the wild life.
Then off to the north it took
lots of gas
to battle the smoke to get to
Grants Pass.
On the way to the pass, we
went by Mount Shasta
we flew well to the west to
avoid a disaster.
Our Rotary host couldn't
have done better
it was sunny and balmy, it
was pure perfect weather.*

*We had wonderful rooms in
the city of Reno
It turns out our hotel is
really a Casino.
That very same night, off
flew Mrs. Hassinger
I go back to Block Island
minus my passenger.
Our trips was a memory of
friends and new places
We renewed old friendships
and met several new faces.
I've got memories aplenty
about every trip
some about flying but mostly
fellowship.
Our annual trek has memo-
ries dear
of places and friends we see
every year.
On the history of Rotary,
some day you will say
"Remember the great trip
after LA".*

**Herman Hassinger,
June 2008**

Rotary Convention — Birmingham 2009

Inspired by Herman's words to come to Birmingham in 2009? Chief Organiser Rodney Spokes is already well on with the plans to make this an outstanding experience.

The IFFR Convention Dinner will be held on Sunday June 21 in the National Motorcycle Museum situated two miles from the Convention centre. The Fly Around lasting from June 25 to July 4 will be based on three centres - York, Gloucester/Cheltenham and Cambridge. Throughout the Fly Around, we will have use of two coaches which will

carry excess baggage, operate airport transfers and excursions. Coaching will be available for those not flying the tour – no need to hire a car.

What next? To be added to the mailing list please send an e-mail to iff2009@spokes.biz with **Subscribe** in the subject line. Further details, prices and a booking form together with suggested accommodation for those attending the RI Convention, will be supplied in August.