

SAFARI NEWS

Sunday 28 March

Welcome to the Safari News, the daily newsletter of the Classic Hits Around New Zealand Air Safari. This newsletter is an informal way of sharing snippets of news, gossip, rumours, jokes and anecdotes with your fellow safari participants. Personal bios, great flying stories (true or otherwise), birthdays & anniversaries – pretty much anything goes. It is also intended that the newsletter be published regularly to the website so friends and family at home can follow what we've all been up to. If you have anything you would like to share please email racedirector@ihug.co.nz or contact Anna in person or by calling or texting 021 0262 2933 or 027 856 7470.

Diary

Gisborne put on great weather for the safari departure on Friday, dawning crisp and clear and perfect for flying. Crowds of people turned out to see us all off, and those that couldn't make it out to the airport were able to witness the start also as aircraft flew overhead the city after take off. A scenic flight to Hastings via Lake Waikaremoana followed. Lunch was hosted by the Hastings Aero Club, and again we were greeted by crowds of people who had turned out to witness the spectacle.

The weather remained clear although in places a little turbulent as the safari continued it's less than direct route to Masterton.

The Masterton Aero Club hosted dinner, and we were treated to a short talk by Chris Snelson, a foundation syndicate member of the Catalina, who spoke about the original acquisition and ferrying of the Cat to New Zealand.

Saturday bought with it a well earned rest day. Some chose to participate in organized wine tours or a trip to the Tui brewery, and a

contingent of aircraft headed over to Wellington to join in the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the Wellington Aero Club. Some engaged in more athletic pursuits - Rob Mackley won second place in the Carterton wheelbarrow race. Others who chose to remain in Masterton went shopping in preparation for the "wear something normally worn by a member of the opposite sex" themed dinner later on in the day. The local shopkeepers quickly wised up to the planned events, and were quick to identify those who were part of the safari. The Postie Plus store reported selling out of larger sized pairs of fishnet stockings.

Dinner at the Copthorne Solway Park was a great highlight of the day, with weird and wonderful costumes and clothing items on display. The mayor of Masterton welcomed us all to his region, and the president of the Masterton Aero Club coordinated the evening. A presentation was made highlighting the fantastic work done by the Life Flight Trust by a father whose newborn twins benefited from the speed at which the Metroliner was able to transport them to Auckland for urgent medical treatment. Dr Dave Baldwin gave an excellent talk about why he enjoys his work combining his medical profession with aviation. He was also promoting his book "Healthy Bastards".

Dented Diamond

VH-DIV, the Diamond DA40 from Australia safari number 39 suffered an unfortunate incident in Taupo when taxiing on soft grass they damaged their propeller with what appeared to be pumice or stones. While at one point it looked like this could have been the end of the line for the boys from Oz, a lucky weather delay saw engineer Pete McCarty work his magic to make the necessary repairs. A short test flight

reassured the team that the aircraft had been restored to serviceability and they were able to continue and join everyone else in Gisborne. It was further proven that they were satisfied with the repairs as they were heard making a "short" detour to Mt Ruapehu on the Gisborne – Hastings leg.



Female to Male costume finalists



Mayor Daniell of Masterton



My Doctor said "Only 1 glass of alcohol a day". I can live with that.



Male to Female costume finalists

