

# SAFARI NEWS

## Wednesday 31 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](mailto:racedirector@ihug.co.nz) or contact Anna in person or by calling or texting 021 0262 2933 or 027 856 7470.

## Diary

It was a chilly start to the day on Monday at Omaka, reminding everyone that we had indeed made it to the South Island. The weather was clear and flying conditions great for the flight down the coast towards Rangiora. Some teams elected to carry out a slight detour at Kaikoura and try their luck at a bit of whale watching, however it didn't appear that anyone had much luck. The course headed inland at Spotswood on the way to Hanmer Springs, seriously testing the navigational ability of some teams over the notoriously difficult visual navigational terrain of the Canterbury Plains. Aircraft arrived from all directions over Rangiora which kept the finishing time keepers on their toes. Over lunch at Rangiora the weather was the hot topic of conversation, as pilots received their route information and everyone became excited at the prospect of flying around Mt Cook. It unfortunately wasn't to be, with the final decision to fly the alternative route being made at the end of the briefing after receiving advice from local operators. Route B involved a zig zag course over the plains towards Timaru, as opposed to tackling the high winds and poor visibility that had been reported

over Route A which was to have taken us through Arthurs Pass, over Hokitika and around Mt Cook then on to Timaru. Some crews again elected to do their own thing with regards to the route and they reported great conditions around Mt Cook, although Arthurs Pass proved to be not navigable because of low cloud.

The early arrival into Timaru meant a bit of waiting around before dinner, but most were able to entertain themselves especially after the South Canterbury Aero Club opened the bar. Dinner was held in the club hangar.

Tuesday was another rest day and various pursuits were on offer. A ski plane flight was on offer up to the glacier at Mt Cook, but was cancelled because of the inclement conditions in the mountains. Some participated in an art tour, and others went off on a brewery tour. An event was organized by the New Zealand Precision Flying and Rally Association which attracted a number of entrants. Other crews reported a lazy day exploring Timaru. A lively dinner was held in the Timaru Hall on Tuesday night hosted by the Aero Club and attended by local dignitaries. A highlight was the great band enthusiastically received by the dancers on the sprung dance floor.



*Briefing at Omaka*

## The Travels of Harrison the Bear

Despite the best efforts to find him the whereabouts of Harrison continues to elude event organizers. However we continue to receive photographic evidence of his activities, and it appears he is having a great time. We have heard that he spent a day in Wellington, went on a brewery tour and even found time to get married!



*Harrison in Wellington*



*Harrison at the Wellington Police Station*

Harrison's son who joined us in Omaka has also been having a great time, spending the last few days meeting crews and checking out the aircraft.



*Harrison's son meets the crew of ZK-BEL*



*Harrison's son checks out the Catalina with pilot Dee Bond*



*Harrison's son indulges in a glass of red after a big day of activity*

Overheard on the Catalina while attempting to spot whales off Kaikoura: *"we didn't see any whales but we do have three Seales on board"* (in relation to the three members of the Seale family travelling onboard the Cat)  
Thanks to Neil Young for passing on the quote

