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DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

THE WIND UNDER OUR WINGS.

1. December 4th. Maiden Flight of Steve Wynne's Fisher Replica DH82

A real Moth seemed too hard to qualify for, run and maintain, given that I am not allowed to do it myself. Life is full of compromises so decide to go for a kit build Fisher Replica Tiger Moth, as imported from Canada by Ivan Campbell in Christchurch.

Amy took to the air on her maiden flight on December 4th piloted by my friend Colin Jordan. After a few adjustments have been completed I hope to fly it regularly throughout the summer. It is pictured here with my 1925 Bentley. Steve Wynne.



2. Saturday 10th December. Kaipara Flats “Fly-In”.

Due to bad weather the “Fly-in” was held over until Saturday 17th December.

3. Dave Lennan’s Visit to Paraparaumu.

Quite an Adventure for a Brit.

Ticky Touring around home ground in Northland is one thing, but a trip to Blenheim in a Tecnam 2008 is quite an adventure for an ageing Brit, but encouraged and accompanied by our Chief Flying Instructor John Nicholls, anything seemed possible, even organising good weather.

Our three day adventure didn't quite work as planned as poor weather forced us down to stay in Taumarunui on the first night. We made a good landing into a deserted airfield about 6kms from the town. No problem said John “I’m sure one of the locals will stop and give us a lift” no such luck and a 6kms walk later we arrived at the first motel only to find it full. However the wonderful receptionist ran her own B & B “The Inn at the Convent” and she and her husband Geoff, picked us up, ran us around, picked us up again after several pints in the RSA and even took us to the airport the next morning. A real find and delightful place to stay for other adventurers.



The next morning we decided to take a look at Paraparaumu, principally because I couldn't pronounce it and thought it looked a good place to stay overnight, so firstly off to Stratford for fuel as nothing at Taumarunui. Stratford provided a bit of excitement with a slow take off run in mud, which made the strip seem quite short or the trees higher than average! but we lived to tell the tale and I did a go round at Parapara just to show John that I could do one, nothing of course to do with a high approach.



Para is a wonderful airfield and has a superb club. Once again we struck lucky with the receptionist Liz, who ferried us into town and found us a great motel. Our early afternoon arrival had the big bonus of being able to relax with yet another pint or two before a fantastic dinner in the local Italian restaurant.



A visit to the Paraparaumu Tower

The flight home was great sight-seeing day, with a fuel stop and lunch at New Plymouth followed by a trip up the west coast via Dargaville. We didn't make Blenheim but that's flying for you, we had a great three days viewing the east and west coastlines which provide one of the highlights of my flying career. Probably seems very routine for the experienced local pilots, but quite an adventure for me and lots to brag about when I get home. Next Year Queenstown!! that should put my mountain and low flying skills to the test. David Lennan

4. Sunday 11th December. Christmas BBQ.



The Christmas barbecue was a very successful event. There was no shortage of hands to get the work done. Kevin on the barbecue, Barry and helpers on the food and Willie and helpers in the kitchen. The food was excellent and not much remained by the end of the meal.

Alan and Liam battled it out on the dart board but unfortunately there is no photographic proof of the results.



Four geriatrics played a game of pool. The above photo shows Len instructing his partner, Betty, who had never held a cue before, while Malcolm and Lindy ponder their next shot. The result of the game came down to the sinking of the black which the opposition missed thus handing us an unexpected win.



Two venerable old club gentlemen (Alan Murgatroyd and Derek Ellis) seen here, probably recounting stories that would be best recorded in the “Line Book”. (For non-military members, the “Line Book” was kept in the Mess to record any unlikely exaggerated tale and the perpetrator required to quench the thirst of all present).

5. Saturday 17th December. "Fly-in" to Kaipara Flats

6 members and guests flew to the Kaipara Flats fly in. The event was well attended as can be seen from the aerial photo below. Willie and Walter flew in VAW, Steve and Colin in MBN and Barrie & John in NOL.



Five of the six members attending. Guess who took the photo.



Barry at the controls of NOL.



One of the Visitors: A Titan T51.

6. 31st December. Whananaki “Fly-in”.

Saturday dawned fine and a group from the club joined the “Fly-in” to Whananaki. Liam, Alan, Heath, Willie, Lorraine and John made up the party.



Heath Navigating to Whananaki.



Alan and
Liam arrive
at
Whananaki



The "Fly-in" was very well attended. A view of attendees.



View of the strip on very short finals.



Alan with two of our Junior Members. Heath and Liam.



Liam sampling the world of autogyros.

7 Pauanui Flyin. (Sorry for the short notice).

Saturday 7th January. Excellent food organised by Trevor Barrett. Bring a tent, book your own accommodation, or just come for the day. There is a relatively small charge of \$15 towards cost of the really exceptional food. Landing fee only \$5 if paid directly at the airfield office or honesty receptacle.

Tea and coffee from 10am.

Rain day Sunday 8th.

(Notification if postponed on or about Thursday 5th)

This year the event will be based at Trevor's end of the airfield, close to the beach and sea. Bring some bathers with you to cool down.

Street address for the house is : 3 Braddock Grove. It is right beside the runway on the north side and the second house in from the beach end.

Here's a bit of information that you probably need to become familiar with. Follow the links provided.

<http://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Services/Airfields/Pauanui-Airfield-NZUN/>

Make sure you have up to date charts as there may be a short fun rally for you to compete in. Still under consideration but it just might happen.

http://www.aip.net.nz/pdf/NZUN_51.1_51.2.pdf

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7. Reminder. Club Competitions.

These will be held on Sunday, 29th January. Both qualified and unqualified pilots are eligible to participate. More details will be provided nearer the time.

8. Games Night.

Friday, 20th January at 6pm. Come and wind down after the New Year madness.

New Newsletter Editor

W.E.F 1st January, Myles Taylor will be producing the monthly Newsletter. Please forward any contributions to Myles at <mtaylor@northernrfa.org.nz>.