

August 2024

Issue No. 156

Note from the President

The big news is that our new website is up and running. The link is www.kapitiaviationmuseum.nz

It looks fantastic! Particular thanks to our member Keith Mackersy who worked with Joe Byrne, the website developer, to expedite the project.

Thank you, Keith. Now we need to spread the word, so pass the link on to friends and contacts. We are also working on keeping our Facebook page up to date.

Wilson

Tuesday Morning Talk – David Thomas – 13 August 2024

David returned to give a very interesting talk about Business Jets. He was involved for many years in the servicing of corporate aircraft at Heathrow and Luton airports in the UK.

Some of our preconceptions of this class of aircraft were significantly expanded when he described some of the fleets operated by top-end operators who use various Boeing and Airbus models all the way up to B747's and 787's and an Airbus A380. Fit-outs can be unbelievably luxurious.

In his various roles with his employer he often had the chance to rub shoulders with a wide variety of VIP's from rock stars to royalty, including Bill Clinton, Freddy Mercury, and Princess Diana.



Photo from istockphoto

Tuesday Morning Talk – Stu Brown – 30 July 2024

Stu started off his talk about Collectible Aircraft Models with a bit about the history of Frank Hornby, the British inventor of the Meccano model construction system back in the early 1900's as it was his company that also developed and marketed Hornby clockwork trains and the Dinky Toys range of cast metal models. Most of us had owned Meccano and Dinky toys during our younger years so there was plenty of reminiscing.





The Dinky aircraft range is the main focus of Stu's collection and he has accumulated some 30 or more items, mostly in sound condition, which is testament to their quality. Each one had a story and a few of us failed aircraft identification tests along the way.

Overall, an absorbing hour or so, with the possibility of future talks by Stu on some of the other collections he has tucked away. Thanks, Stu.

Photo selection – Wilson Lattey

We're hoping to show some special historical photos taken by members. We've included many by Stu Brown (and here's to including many more in future), but here's a special selection from Wilson Lattey's collection.

Right: PanAm Clipper Lightfoot; at Paraparaumu, probably mid-1950's. Wilson remembers a family journey from Levin just to see it.



*Spitfire and Corsair, dropped in to PPQ
15 August 1995*

*Waco ZK-ALA at Rotorua aerodrome,
January 1956*



*Mustang 2420 in hangar at Ohakea,
open day 1955*



**The Brown Archive:
Armstrong Whitworth
AW.650 Argosy**

*Stu Brown reports on the
AW.650 Argosy ZK-SAE.*

In March 2024 whilst on our trip to the South Island to explore the Nelson / Marlborough regions we visited ex "SAFE Air" Argosy 200 ZK-SAE "Merchant Enterprise" which is reposing alongside "The Runaway Café" at Woodbourne, Blenheim.

In 1991 “The Argosy Trust” acquired ZK-SAE when plans were afoot to scrap the two Argosies left in New Zealand. For eight years the aircraft was stored outside before it was returned to the SAFE Air workshops for external renovation. In November 1999 it was finally towed down State Highway 6 to its present display location.

The Argosy aircraft was designed post-war as a transport aircraft – AW650 civil and AW660 military and first flew in 1959 as the series 100 civil version. In all 74 were built in total with 56 being acquired by the RAF. The series 200 came later with a larger freight hold and Rolls Royce Dart 532/1 turboprops. Only seven of the 200 series were built with ZK-SAE being the only complete example of the type left though part of the fuselage and wings of ZK-SAF are in a farm field close to where ZK-SAE is on display.



ZK-SAE was originally built and delivered to BEA [British European Airways] in March 1965 and flew as G-ASXN. In July 1970 it was acquired by the Canadian firm “Transair” and registered CF-TAJ until bought by SAFE Air in June 1974. With a comfortable passenger capsule installed the aircraft was often used on the service to the Chatham Islands.

This particular aircraft gained media fame after the alleged sightings of UFO’s over the Kaikoura Coast in December 1978. Piloted by Captain Bill Startup and with a reporter and media crew on board they managed to film the lights. Many theories re the sightings were offered, but the mystery still remains unsolved.

On the day of my visit I had unlimited access to all areas. Interestingly all the cockpit instrument panel dials have been removed, but cardboard inserts act as clever substitutes. The passenger capsule has been reconfigured as a theatre where films relating to ZK-SAE are shown and refreshments provided. Further forward a Rolls Royce Dart 532/1 is displayed. Overall condition of the aircraft is remarkably good, but ideally a covering from the elements would be the answer.

*Acknowledgements for some copy to:
"Aviation Tours NZ"
"Planespotters.net" "argosy.org.nz"*



Planespotting

We try to record some of the most novel local aviation activity from the month. Thanks to Stu Brown for the photos here.

Right: ZK-IFY, Kawasaki BK117 B-2. The BK117 is interesting since it can also be known as a MBB, a Eurocopter, or an Airbus. Wikipedia describes it thus:

"The original BK 117, Eurocopter EC 145, and Airbus Helicopters H145, are typically thought of as being in one design family, despite different marketing and naming."



Also a BK117 B2, ZK-HLF is the local Life Flight aircraft.



Two interesting visitors:

*Left: Auster J1N Alpha
ZK-ATS*

*Right: Waco UPF-7
ZK-UPF*



Left: Sikorsky S-76B ZK-IBI



Left: BAe Jetstream 31 ZK-GSH



Above: Bolkow BO-208C Junior ZK-CJL.

Addenda: Stu Brown took this photo (right) of a model Bristol Freighter (in SAFE livery) and Harvard (RNZAF) at a model railway expo in Palmerston North in 2021. Good to see that there are NZ aviation modellers out there still!



Upcoming Meeting Programme

Tuesday 27 th August 9:30 AM	Warren O’Keeffe: National Film Unit
Tuesday 3 rd September 9:30 AM	Open programme
Tuesday 10 th September 9:30 AM	Stu Brown: NZ Aviation Postcards
Tuesday 17 th September 9:30 AM	Open programme
Tuesday 24 th September AM	Wilson Lattey: Aviation Museums overseas
Tuesday 1 st October 9:30 AM	Open programme

MUSEUM HOURS:

SUNDAYS 1pm to 4pm

PRIVATE AND GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

PHONE: 021 037 1937

ADDRESS: 227 KAPITI ROAD, PARAPARAUMU

POSTAL: C/- P O BOX 248, PARAPARAUMU 5254

WEBSITE: www.kapitiaviationmuseum.nz

EMAIL: wilson@otaihanga.co.nz

FACEBOOK: Search **Kapiti Aviation Museum** on FB