



N A A G

Northern Adventure Aviation Group

Volume 1 No. 2

Beer Can Museum

We have had a busy week again getting about the countryside. On the 29th August 3 of the group departed Thames for Great Barrier. I had a friend and his son that I was taking for a ride and what

Crowds gather at the Whitianga Scallop Festival

better way to do that than by combining it with more friends and lunch at Great Barrier Island.

After lunch we decided to over fly Whitianga where the annual Scallop Festival was in full swing. I made a pass down the estuary and was surprised at the thousands crowded into marquees and all along the waterfront. The people, looking like swarms of ants.

Matahina Hydro Dam North of Galatea completed in the late 60's

On the 2nd September 8 Aircraft descended on Galatea Airfield for a visit to the Beer Can Museum, just 5 km's from the airfield. Today we were joined by Brian Anderson from Hastings and Murray Smith and his wife from Te Awamutu. Our numbers are continuing to grow. Local aviator, Andrew Carter and the museum owners kindly collected the 14 of us from the airfield in 3 separate vehicles.

6 of the 8 aircraft lined up at Galatea plus the flying dog, Ellie

Arriving at the property we were shown into the first shed which





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contained 10 restored tractors. We were privileged to see two of these started for our benefit. The Fordson (right) was originally fitted with cast iron pistons and governed to 1500 RPM.

Early Fordson

If over revved, at 1700 RPM it would fly to bits. This example has been fitted with aluminium pistons allowing the revs to be increased, which has brought the power up from 35 to 75 HP! There was another shed over the road with more tractors that we never got the time to see. When we come back we will include this too. We then moved into the Beer Can Museum. Wow! If I had not been there myself, I would not have believed what we saw. To quote from the brochure, 12,000 beer cans from 120 plus countries, 10,000 brewery pieces, bottles, openers, labels, lights and the world's first beer can of which there were only ever two made! I won't be able to do justice trying to describe what we saw other

Barry Steiner proudly displays a small section of beer cans

We even found a Pilot's Beer!

than to say that this place is a "Must See" if ever you are ever in the district. I will let the photos tell more of the story.

The MKII Zephyr was purchased new and driven for three years before the owner passed away. The widow could not bring herself to sell it until 37 years later. Now still in its original state with just 20,000 miles on the clock! By now it was well past lunch time and some of us were getting





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hungry. It was decided that we would go to Opotiki for lunch. I made a call to Terry Rogers who operates a business close to the airfield and told him we were thinking of coming there for lunch. Our squadron departed Galatea in convoy and we were soon all on the ground again at Opotiki. Terry duly arrived and left us a car for the purpose of food gathering. A number of us made the short trip

An Alice Chalmers looking better than factory new!



MKII Zephyr

to town and collected a pile of food that we soon devoured. With stomachs satisfied and it getting late in the day, it was back into the planes for a quick departure to our various points about the country.



Once again we had unearthed a treasure in this little of country of ours. It never ceases to amaze me the efforts that people go to and how there are so many wonderful things tucked away in sheds. The NAAG will endeavour to uncover as many of these fascinating places throughout the weeks ahead.

From the 30's this Fordson is still in perfect running order



Good news, the Waihi Beach Airport Cafe (Swell Cafe) is now open again. Pictured on page four is proprietor, Lisa Peet, along with several of our group. We have met at the cafe a number of times and it's good to be back there again and able to enjoy some wonderful food too! If you are in the area make sure you drop in. If you are flying in, check on the strip conditions first as it has



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been extremely wet. There is also currently a huge dirt pile at the 31 end of the strip.

Our team and staff from the museum

We would love to see more of you on some of our future flights. Make it a plan to join us. Remember if you fail to plan, then you plan to fail.




Cliff McChesney
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Graeme Weck and Alistair McLachlan heading home

Bob Byal, Lindsay Brown, Bill Sisley with Lisa Peet of the Swell Café. Yes the Waihi Beach airstrip café is open through March, 2010

Cliff McChesney



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