

Places to Go: Feilding

Contributed by Ruth Presland

I WAS recently in the North Island to attend the Women in Aviation annual rally which is held each Queen's Birthday weekend. It was the 51st rally and we gathered at Feilding. www.awa.org.nz is a great group of flying women and well worth being a member

of if you are a lady flying already or just thinking about starting. On arrival to NZFI, we were greeted by the team at Air Manawatu which is the local flight training school and charter service, run by Michael Bryant. He is doing a great job, as we all commented how helpful and friendly his Instructors were. Flying into Feilding, although a busy airspace, is relatively straight forward as it is within a Common Frequency Zone 124.10. Standard overhead rejoin is at 1500 feet. Above 1500 feet is Ohakea class C airspace. Circuit height is 1100 ft and there can be microlights circuiting at 600 feet AGL. It is a very busy airfield so keep a very good look out and expect nordo aircraft, gliders and Ag planes. If you are not familiar with the area, read the GAP booklet about Manawatu. For the computer keen, check out www.ourairports.com/airports/NZFI

The airfield boasts no landing fees and has a seal and a grass runway plus plenty of parking. NZFI has an incredible 82 flying machines based on the field and there are also plans for the Manawatu Aero Club to move over from Palmeston North.

Travel into town is a 5 minute drive and if you need a lift, call Feilding Taxis ph 06 323 7117. Accommodation is varied including Manfeild Park motel and a new motel called South Street West Motel. They aren't right in town, so if you would like to be based in the centre then stay at the Feilding Hotel. Set right in the heart of the township, it is subject to some noise in the weekends but its grand exterior is superb, the location is perfect, and it is owned by a local pilot who is an excellent host. The rooms have just been done up, are comfortable and cost around \$75 to \$85, depending if you require an en-suite.

Phone them on 06 323 4134 or email: feildinghotel@xtra.co.nz

When I was thinking of Feilding, I thought of a very small town serving the rural community. When I arrived, I was stunned to find a beautiful town of about 15,000 people, wide streets like in outback Australian towns and ample free parking. The centre is a beautiful town square and Feilding has won the "most beautiful town" award 14 times over the years.

If you arrive on a Friday between 9am and 2pm, check out the Farmer's Market. I caught the end of a cheerful group selling yummy home grown food and a variety of other produce.

My second stop was the shoe shop, "MJ's". I have to say it is the best shoe shop I have seen for a long time. Inside was a great range and great prices and it was flat out. The shops here are just delightful. There is a mixture of bright coloured cafes but one really took my fancy, www.focalpointcinema.co.nz. Focal Point Cinema is set just off the main square and its frontage is a cute cafe with good coffee and tasty food for hungry pilots. Exploring out the back I discovered two boutique cinema rooms with regular daily sessions - perfect for a rainy day or a fun afternoon out.

If a trip away from the shops is more to your liking, try the Coach House Museum which is New Zealand's premier collection of horse-drawn vehicles and agricultural equipment. There are also a number of gardens to visit either by arranged tour or simply to walk around and enjoy. If you just can't get away from aviation for more than a day, visit Dr Dave's hangar at the Palmeston

North airport. It a great piece of Kiwi history in the making.. Do ring forward on 06 355 2879 and take your money as he has a great book and a brand new video that would be worth having in your library. Take care with your winter flying and remember if you would like to see a particular area in 'Places to Go', let us know.



The Feilding Hotel.



Attendees at the annual Women in Aviation rally held in June.



Feilding is a delightful town with wide streets, character buildings, and some great shops.

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