

Australian Air-Ferry

Ferry company of choice for all the major manufacturers

December 2005 Newsletter

Australian Air Ferry was called to help when Royal Tongan Airlines folded and the Shorts 360 operated by them had to be moved to American Samoa.

Royal Tongan Airlines appointed Price WaterHouse Cooper sin 2005 to work on some of their problems. Price WaterHouse Coopers contacted Australian Air Ferry to help in the relocation of their recently acquired Shorts 360.

This poor old Shorts had been the backbone of Royal Tongan Airlines operation for several years, and now it was abandoned, going cheap there were few who took a second glance.

One company that could see through the dust and neglect was an American Samoan company who wanted to set up an airline running between Western Samoa and American Samoa.



Australian Air Ferry was called in to relocate the aircraft, so that it could return to active duty, so to speak.

After a couple of days in Tonga the Federal Aviation Authority were about to issue a permit for this bird to be moved. It was very close to Christmas and everybody was keen to see the relocation completed.

The FAA was on their last day before the holiday season and the fax machine started to print, but typically, when you most need it the power failed and only half the permit emerged.

Now all the air-conditioning units were down and the temperature was a very sticky 45 degrees Celsius.

In accordance with island time, someone eventually activated the back-up generator and the power was returned to the airport alone.

Now the question on every bodies mind was whether or not the fax machine had a memory or not, luckily for everyone concerned it did. Several seconds after the power returned the fax machine burst into life again and out came the complete permit, we we're ready to go.

One of the criteria was that the battery be fully charged, but unfortunately one of the staff members had the GPS running the day before and they'd managed to flatten the battery.

Undeterred, Australian Air Ferry arranged for a ground power start and shortly before midday we were airborne and destined for Samoa.

The leg from Tonga to American Samoa did not require ferry tanks, we could make it with standard tanks, three and a half hours later the Shorts was sitting on the ramp at it's new destination and Australian Air Ferry was on their way home for the Christmas celebrations.

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