

Australian Air-Ferry

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June 2006 Newsletter

Australian Air Ferry was called in to move a Partnavia from Santa Barbara to New Zealand.

This aircraft was turbo charged and it had no trouble moving the fuel required to get from California to Hawaii.



The trip had gone without incident and the final leg from American Samoa to Auckland loomed, Fiji weather forecasters said it was a perfect day, nothing in the way of weather at all.

A departure from American Samoa occurred approximately 6:00am in the morning and NZ seemed a short day away. Just south of Tonga a massive head wind hit the small craft and arrival into NZ was impossible.

Our only option was to turn back to Tonga, but we knew that the King had decreed that no body do anything other than go to church on Sunday. It was Sunday that we'd overflown the island and now we were about to trad on unknown ground.

After landing in Tonga without anyone in attendance, we emerged from the aircraft very apologetic. The security guard approached and after explaining what happened he said, "I don't know what we have to do, no one has ever landed here on Sunday."

This set the scene for three days of letter writing and apologizing; eventually they let us continue to NZ, not without parting with a large bundle of U.S dollars.

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