

Australian Air-Ferry

Ferry company of choice for all the major manufacturers

November Newsletter

Pacific Princess

It all started with a phone call, as often these amazing adventures do. Jet lagged and still half asleep our ferry controller discussed details of a Piper Saratoga that had to be moved from Houston (Texas) to Brisbane (Australia). He said something about the owner (pilot) going along and that she'd be making the journey back to Australia with the aircraft.



Carolyn Lewis on Christmas Island

A few hours later I climbed out of bed and started on a list that consisted of one hundred good reasons why another pilot should not come along, and especially a female whom I'd never met.

So a meeting was arranged where by I could deliver these common sense issues. The following day we met and I commenced my reasoning and thirty minuets later I found myself saying, “well I’ll see you in Hawaii, thanks for the coffee.”

As I drove home I wondered what had happened, my excuses were shot to pieces and were of little interest to an extremely enthusiastic Carolyn who was determined that she’d be a part of this relocation.

The first impressions of this Turbo Saratoga, was that it had a very low total time, with only a few hundred hours on the current engine. All the instruments were top-of-the-line and the navigation equipment was state-of-the-art.



Carolyn Lewis on Western Samoa

Our two-day journey across the USA was uneventful and we arrived in California around midday, and so we got started on the ferry equipment installation.

Other than the three hours of (un-forecast) 20-knot headwinds the trip across to Hawaii was uneventful. We’d departed at daylight and arrived in Hilo just before dark.

As planned Carolyn was waiting in Hilo for the aircraft to arrive and after an overnight stay in Hilo we started our trek homeward.

It turns out that Carolyn is a courageous aviator, she quickly becomes a valued contributor to the day to day tasks associated with aircraft relocation.

Our journey homes takes us through Christmas Island, Western Samoa and Fiji, landing in Brisbane.

Carolyn Lewis operates a business from Hamilton Island, a fleet of luxury boats (Riviera's) are available for hire, and there are several options, you could cruise throughout the Whitsunday's yourself or the company will provide a complete crew.

If your thinking about taking a holiday on a luxurious motor cruiser contact Ocean Dynamics on 07 32684074.

Glass Mooney

Australian Air Ferry delivered a late model Mooney Freedom from California to the Gold Coast earlier this year.

This aircraft had a glass cockpit (Garmin) and had been fitted with air-conditioning, and oxygen from the factory.



Ovation Cockpit

This was not the first late model Mooney to be ferried into the country by Australian Air Ferry, during the past two years we've managed to bring in four late model Mooney's. One of these deliveries was directly from the factory in Texas.

The Mooney company has experienced difficulties in the past, but they continue to deliver a world-class product.

We look forward to ferrying the new twin-turbo Acclaim model, said to be the fastest single engine production aircraft in the world.



X - Factory Mooney on its way to Australia

Mooneys are much loved and cherished by their owners, they have an impressive safety capsule (cockpit) and the new engine gives a sports car feel to an impressive airframe.

One of our Mooney deliveries to Townville featured the “Screamin Eagle” modification - the aircrafts engine was modified to output 310hp instead of its original 285, there are only a handful of these aircraft globally.

Bonanza

Recently we arrived in Dallas Texas, where we took delivery of a very low time Bonanza for a company based in Northern NSW.

After leaving Dallas we headed for Amarillo in the Pan Handle area in northern Texas to get the second aircraft.

Both these aircraft are modern low time A36's, however, the second aircraft which we picked up in Amarillo is equipped with top-of-the-line instruments. Digital fuel flow gauge, and fuel used, EDM for engine management and a moving map to name only a few of the many features.

Both these aircraft were ferried recently by Australian Air Ferry to Australia during the USA winter, which at times can present strong headwinds across to Hawaii, during these months careful planning to avoid unnecessary delays due weather is imperative.



Bonanza's in Bull Head City Arizona

Bull Head City Arizona is situated on the river that separates Arizona from Nevada, you can see the Casino's in the background of this photograph.

From the airport you can take a short ride across the river in a taxi into Nevada – Its closed now, but six months ago you could taxi the aircraft down to the rivers edge and catch the courtesy river taxi across to the Casino's, which provide cheap accommodation and meals for pilots on ferry flights.

These are only a few examples of modern aircraft making their way to Australia. Australian Air Ferry is proud to be actively involved in the delivery of modern aircraft

globally. These new low time aircraft help to reduce the national fleets average age and represent a modern and very safe future for General aviation in Australia.

Security Gone Mad

September 11 has been the cause of security tightening around the globe and it's getting harder and harder to get through the airports and onto your flight, but sometimes you'd have to wonder what they're thinking and whether they have a master plan or whether they're winging it.

Recently we were navigating the many hurdles in **Brisbane (Australia)**, when at the very last point where the extra security personnel pull everything out of your bag and riffle through it, all the while we're thinking we've done this one hundred times previously and there's nothing in there.

The Security guard says, while holding a yellow highlighter pen skyward, "this cannot travel." To which I smiled, thinking he was joking. But he insisted that if the highlighter had to go then I could not. "This is full of gel," he exclaimed." "No I think it's full of ink," was the reply.

In an attempt to avoid any arguments he was allowed to keep the Highlighter pen, we purchased another at the other end.

In another incident a few months prior a security guard confiscated a role of copper wire which we use to make HF aerials.

The guard explained that we could tie it around someone's neck and chock them – If this was the case you'd have to confiscate every laptop cord, cigarette lighter charger etc. And yes the security guard could see my point, but then if someone was intending to kill a passenger during the flight they might even train them to do it with their bare hands, so will we all need our hands bound before traveling in the future.

The reality is that if someone was intent on bringing down an aircraft, and they had the resources to do so, they could.

So lets hope the bad guys never get sufficient resources to do it again, coming home in your own aircraft is way less stress, and everyone around you seems to make way more sense.

In another bizarre security incident in Kempsey NSW – A six-foot fence has been erected around the airport, and our maintenance facility.

Unfortunately they forgot to put in a gate corresponding to the office door, so we cannot get into the office. Hopefully we'll have a resolution to this dilemma soon. Keep ringing we'll get in somehow.

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