

MAF NEWS

During September there was some bad weather, especially in the southern parts of the country. If nothing else it highlighted the importance of being able to operate the C208 Caravans under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) in the same way that the Twin Otters are. Several Caravan flights recently took a long time as the pilot searched for a way back to Hagen.

The primary difference between the two aircraft types is that the C208s are single-engined (so Single-engined IFR, or SEIFR for short), while the DHC6s are multi-engined, so there have to be specific safety precautions in case the very unlikely "What if?" of an engine failure did occur for the C208.

At the conference Michael attended in Kokopo during August, CASA PNG encouraged air operators to work towards SEIFR approval for passenger operations; SEIFR for cargo-only operations and private flights is already approved, it's the passenger flights that require the Regulator's permission.

A SEIFR working group has been formed (Michael is one of the team) but it now needs the time to start work on the proposal, building on a draft that William Nicol, the MAFI Aviation Director, has written.

Michael has started training one C208 pilot towards converting his Australian instrument rating to a PNG one.

- Please pray that the working group will be able to get together in the near future and make progress towards this important goal.
- Please pray that we'll be able to fit instrument rating training into the busy schedule.

It's Pilots' Meeting time again! From Nov 5-7 all the pilots will be in Mount Hagen for the annual recurrency training. Michael, along with Crew Training Manager Markus Bischoff, will be putting the schedule together during this month.

- Please pray that all the preparations for the meetings will go smoothly.

Doris Kelwau's official title is Flight Operations Assistant. In practice she does a lot more than assist and keeps the office running smoothly, as well as now having the Safety Administrator role that Nicki used to do. During September she had the devastating news that polyps removed from the nose of her daughter, Kyram, were malignant.

With much prayer from everybody she, her husband Terry and 7 year old Kyram went for follow up evaluation and treatment in Port Moresby. The consultant took some more samples and you can imagine everybody's joy when they came back completely clear – no sign of cancer at all.

- Give thanks with us for this tremendous answer to prayer.

Nicki has been working nearly full-time on editing the information provided to new staff. There's a lot of information that has to be assimilated, so she's rearranged it so that some is more relevant before arriving in PNG, and the rest after getting here. Putting in an index and cross-references is very time-consuming.

As well as that major project, she has taken the minutes for the safety action groups while Doris has been away.

- Give thanks for the major work Nicki has been doing. Pray that it will be indeed be helpful to new staff, and pray that the safety action groups will continually improve the way we do things, both in the air and on the ground.

It's been conference season for the women's groups of various churches. Large numbers of ladies came from Tekin and Telefomin in the west of PNG, joining with those from Mount Hagen and driving down to Lae.

One group of ladies from another denomination chose to have their conference in Wewak, on the north coast, while a Wewak group decided to hold theirs in Mount Hagen! It made for efficient flying with a full

aircraft in both directions. We commented that the highlanders obviously wanted to get warm by the sea, while the coastal folk wanted to cool off.



Glad to be home, and grateful to MAF, the ladies were welcomed back with traditional singing and dancing

- Give thanks for MAF's ability to support churches in remote areas, and even in some main centres, by providing transport to their conferences.

PERSONAL NEWS

Our very good friends Dave & Jane Lister are visiting us for ten days during the middle of October. For most of their visit we will all be in Telefomin as Michael is covering for Richie Axon as he and his family go to Australia. This will hopefully be the last check their son Stephen needs from the scald he had 21 months ago.

- Please pray that all Dave's & Jane's travel arrangements will go smoothly.
- Please pray that Stephen's amazing recovery from his scald will be confirmed and this will indeed be the last check-up that he needs.

We are planning our trip home, via a delayed Ruby Wedding Anniversary holiday in Australia and New Zealand, for next February/March. Sorting out the shipping for the belongings we'd like to keep is also in process. All this makes the reality of leaving PNG very real and daunting.

- Please pray for us as we make these arrangements. Pray for wisdom in knowing the best way to do things, and for personal strength as we inevitably have very mixed feelings about leaving.

With best wishes in our Lord

Michael

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