

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007



REMARKABLES LODGE

QUEENSTOWN • NEW ZEALAND

## ABOVE AND BEYOND THE OFT BEATEN TRACK

*"Thank you for such a lovely few days here. It's recharged the batteries and and what a fabulous backdrop to do it in. The lodge is spectacular on all levels. We'll see you for Warbirds in 2008."*

Patricia and David, Dublin, March 2007

### REMARKABLES LODGE PEOPLE PROFILE

Travellers often convey their travel experiences in terms of the people they meet and the unexpected bonus that comes from discovering hidden treasures through those contacts.

Brian, co-owner and co-manager of the lodge, has a passion for aviation – he has a private pilot's licence and is a keen glider pilot. After 10 years living on a yacht it's not surprising that riding the atmospheric waves holds an appeal for Brian and the Otago region is well-known for having some of the best gliding conditions in the world – Steve Fosset is just one celebrity pilot who has attempted world gliding records here. So guests keen to give gliding a try can mine Brian's local knowledge.

His interest in this area also means we offer a few aviation experiences from the lodge above and beyond the well-trodden path of scenic flights to Milford.



Brian prepares for take-off

### AN AUTHENTIC TASTE OF NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

New for this season Brian has brought his passion for aviation to bear, offering guests the opportunity to relive the 1930's travel lifestyle with scenic flights over Fiordland in genuine - and perfectly restored - 1930's airliners.



Choose from a four passenger Dragonfly biplane (an early "Corporate aircraft", designed for the business men of the day. There are now only 2 of this type left flying in the world) or an eight passenger Rapide biplane.

The Rapide flew in New Zealand for NAC (the forerunner of Air NZ) on the main Intercity routes, and also played a large part in developing early tourist air travel in scenic areas.



To add to the experience, transfers are in Classic Jaguar cars. Transfers from the lodge to Old Mandeville, where the aircraft are restored, and from Queenstown airport back to the Lodge are in Classic Jaguar cars.

*"The great thing about New Zealand is that it is still unspoilt but even so our guests want to get off the beaten track and experience something different, a different way of seeing things and an experience to tell their friends about"* comments Brian.

*"And these beautiful old planes remind people of the pioneering spirit of the country plus the grace and elegance of these vintage aircraft remind everyone of how travel used to be – and that's the type of experience we try to achieve at the lodge".*

As well as enjoying a scenic flight, landing at Milford Sound, guests can wander round the restoration factory and classic aircraft hangar where the engineers are only too willing to share their knowledge and experience.



Back at the lodge guests enjoy a glass of champagne in the lodge bar where 1930s fly fishing and ski equipment decorate the walls. Though completely restored in 2005, like the aircraft, the lodge still has all of its original character.

Gracious hosting and country estate comfort characterise the lodge which traces its history back to the 1860s and the early gold mining days in Queenstown. It was gold that bought the original land and subsequently developed it into a prosperous sheep station leading, in the 1930s, to the building of the estate house, now Remarkables Lodge.

See [www.remarkables.co.nz/Vintage\\_scenic\\_flight.shtml](http://www.remarkables.co.nz/Vintage_scenic_flight.shtml)

**STOP PRESS** The lodge's resident chef, Demian Che Dunlop, was awarded another silver medal for his cuisine this month. Demian was judged by his peers at the NZ Chef's Association Salon Culinare in a live demonstration preparing: *"Roasted fillet of Beef with mushroom tartin accompanied by beetroot and goat's cheese with truffle oil infused mash potato."* The competition dish was presented exactly as served at the lodge and has been enjoyed by many of our guests this year.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

The following excerpt was published on the Sydney Morning Herald in June 2007

Should I go or shouldn't I go? I rang where I would be staying and warned them that I might have to abort the trip. I didn't want to. Remarkables Lodge is one of those upmarket places with every creature comfort, a warm fire in the lounge room, a billiard table, heating in every room, a gifted chef named Damien Che Dunlop (middle name courtesy of radical parents - Oh! What we parents of the Sixties did to our children) and he had a roasted fillet of beef with a mushroom tartin accompanied by beetroot, spinach and white truffle-infused whipped potato ready to be cooked upon my arrival.

As I headed out of Te Anau the landscape was beautiful beyond description. Everything was covered in white. The fences were like fine lacework. The trees were heavy with snow which intermittently fell from the branches. I



Bruce Elder is a journalist, writer and commentator. He is currently a full-time journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald specialising in travel and popular culture. His other areas of expertise include film, television, and popular music. He has written extensively around Australia and has a passion for Australian history. You can follow the blog of his trip at <http://blogs.smh.com.au/trampaboutnz/>

reached the so-called Devil's Staircase only to find that it is nothing more than a gently winding road around the edges of Lake Wakatipu and, after about three hours of careful driving, I arrived at Remarkables Lodge.

The fire was warming the lounge room, the Remarkables - a particularly beautiful run of rugged mountains - rose immediately behind the lodge and the welcome was warm and friendly.

I am, as I have often reported, a sucker for luxury and this was about as good as it gets. Good company from Colleen and Brian who run the lodge, fine dining, friendly service from Abby (an English girl who has fallen in love with New Zealand) and a room where I could relax and simply enjoy the back garden which was white with snow.

**Bruce Elder, Sydney Morning Herald staff writer**

## HAVING FUN IN HELICOPTERS

Many of our guests see their trip to New Zealand as a once in a life time experience – though of course they become so captivated with the place that they leave swearing to be back – and taking a helicopter trip will often be part of that.



We offer a 2-night package at the lodge which includes a helicopter trip to the top of Remarkables Mountains with an option for a flight to Skippers Canyon, landing at the original gold mining pipeline to visit the Gold Mining museum.

See [www.remarkables.co.nz/2\\_night+heli.shtml](http://www.remarkables.co.nz/2_night+heli.shtml)

And for guests who are looking for a bigger challenge they can always have a go at flying themselves. Novices can have a lesson or those who have done a bit of flying can take the controls on their own scenic flight. Now that is something to tell the friends back home about.

## WINTER WONDERLAND AND FAMILY FUN

The snow arrived the day before the skifields were due to open so a resounding sigh of relief could be heard throughout Queenstown. However the snow did give some of our visitors a challenging time reaching us.

However such conditions are not common – usually confined to one big storm per winter and the winter months are a joy to be in Queenstown. Settled conditions, sunny days and less crowded activities are the norm.



Many families travel to New Zealand at this time of year while the children are off school and as it is our off peak season we offer families a special deal with one room for parents and a second room at half price for the children.

See [www.remarkables.co.nz/Family\\_friendly.shtml](http://www.remarkables.co.nz/Family_friendly.shtml)

## WARBIRDS OVER WANAKA - EASTER 2008

What a wonderful spectacle this is, attracting visitors from all over the world for 3 days of stunning aerobatics, formation flying and the opportunity to see Spitfires, Messerschmidts and a host of vintage and modern aircraft strutting their stuff.

Warbirds is run bi-annually with the next show at Easter 2008.

The vast numbers attracted to the show do mean that traffic congestion, accommodation shortage and packed restaurants are the drawbacks so we offer Queenstown accommodation at the lodge with daily



A Spitfire being put through its paces at the 2006 show

helicopter transfers and gourmet packed lunches.

Our package also includes exclusive VIP access at the show to stadium style seating and a DVD of the event.

Taking a helicopter from our garden direct to the airshow is a very cool way to travel



**Queenstown's Luxury Lodge**  
595 Kingston Rd P.O. Box 2144  
Queenstown 9197 New Zealand  
Tel: +64 3 442 2720 Fax: +64 3 442 2730  
Email: [contact@remarkables.co.nz](mailto:contact@remarkables.co.nz)  
Web: [www.remarkables.co.nz](http://www.remarkables.co.nz)