

## **OCTOBER 2019 FLY IN**

**27 – 30 October, 2019.**

**Kangaroo Island, South Australia.**

Five aircraft and 32 people attended our Spring Fly-in.

People came from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Canberra and New Zealand.

Those who flew in their own aircraft were able to enjoy some activities on the way to Kangaroo Island.

We were pleased to be joined by a very busy World President Phil and Judy, having returned from IFFR activities in U.S.A. only days before.

Also in attendance were some member's guests, other members who haven't been able to attend for a while, guests from New Zealand and family members.

We started two days of sightseeing of Kangaroo Island with a very jovial Garry, the coach driver, who provided a safe journey filled with an interesting and whimsical commentary. First stop was Seal Bay where we walked on the beach among the sealions, many with pups. The information centre here had lots of information for those interested in sea-lions and their habitat.

Next stop was at Raptor Domain to get close and personal with a variety of birds of prey and others. Owls, Falcons, Eagles and Parrots flew in and around our seating, many landing on suitable perches such as people's arms or knees. It was wonderful to see all the birds uncaged and free to come and go as they pleased.

After a fine lunch of fish and chips at a country hotel, we visited the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park. Here we could see a huge variety of Australian wildlife, some only native to the island. We learned of the Koala breeding programs, as Kangaroo Island is free of the diseases that trouble the mainland koalas. On display were, reptiles, birds, mammals, monotremes, wild dogs, and almost anything you might stumble upon in the Australian bush.

The first day's visits ended at the premises of Kangaroo Island Spirits. A huge variety of local spirits were tasted and purchased to be enjoyed while reminiscing of our trip to Kangaroo Island.

Day two commenced with a long drive (145km) to the western side of the island to take in the beautiful landscape of the southern coast. First stop was the Remarkable Rocks a formation of subterranean rocks pushed to the surface some millions of years ago to be eroded into interesting shapes. Next stop was Admiral's Arch, the location of the New Zealand fur-seal breeding ground.

After a nice lunch break at the Chase Cape information centre it was off to the Hanson Bay Koala Refuge. Here we were able to observe the koalas in their natural habitat and learned all about the koala's eating and mating habits.

We learned why Kangaroo Island is a quarantined area for honeybee production at Clifford's Honey Farm. Bees imported from Italy in the 19th century are still purebred and uncontaminated by swarms of other bee species. A tour of the production facilities was most interesting including

modern materials used in hive construction. This visit was topped off with a rush on the honey ice cream.

The final visit was to the Emu Ridge eucalyptus distillery. Here we learned of the intricacies of steaming eucalyptus leaves to extract the oil which has a multitude of uses for cleaning and medicinal purpose