



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

THE BLENHEIM BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

Chairman: Des Ashton Mobile: 021 664 920 Email: des.ashton@outlook.com
Secretary: Harvie Morrow Mobile: 021 555 066 Email: harvie2807@gmail.com
Treasurer: George Jensen Mobile: 027 294 4116 Email: jensengp@xtra.co.nz

Speaker – John Saunders

The Curtiss Kittyhawk – Rebuilding History

Thursday 12 December 2019 at 7.00pm

**Hangar 22C Omas Aerodrome (adjacent to Aviation Heritage Carpark)
Aerodrome Road, Omas**

Members, non-members, interested persons and guests welcome - please forward this notice

Refreshments Supplied, Dress - Casual

A voluntary gold coin donation is welcomed from non-members to defray supper costs.

John Saunders is a professional and licenced engineer with forty years' experience around the world.

He and his wife Lisa, who is an EasyJet pilot, live mostly in Italy and sometimes in New Zealand, but his work takes him to many countries. Apart from his engineering work John is a pilot who owns and flies his own aircraft.

John trained as an Engineering Officer in the RNZAF where he completed an Engineering Degree at Canterbury University and Aeronautical Engineering training at RAF Cranwell. He served for ten years before commencing a varied civil aviation career.

This has included roles with Air Vanuatu as Engineering Manager, Air New Zealand as a Structural Design Engineer, six years in Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific as a Project Engineer and Maintenance Controller, Safe Air in Blenheim and in USA as a design engineer with the Kaman Helicopter Project and finally becoming a Lease Consultant in 2000 based in Europe.

Along the way he gained Type approvals on 737,747,767,777 – A320, A330 & A340 and valuable Heavy Check and Project experience. Since 2000 he has worked on most airline types and many of the normal lease transfer, bankruptcy, and outright sale situations

John's passion is rebuilding old aircraft and he is currently rebuilding a P-40 Kittyhawk and SE5a biplane.

John will talk about some of the history of the Curtiss company and of the local 16 Sqn RNZAF and the current rebuild of his Kittyhawk aircraft followed by a 'poke & prod' of the fuselage and engine of that impressive aircraft.

As his career record shows he is ideally qualified to deliver this presentation.

The presentation will be followed by light refreshments and in recognition of the time of year this will not be confined to the usual tea and coffee.

Future Presentations and Events